

Progress Report on the Computerisation of Brunei Darussalam's Attorney-General's Chambers

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1. This reports on the progress of the pilot scheme for the computerisation of Brunei Darussalam's laws and law reports i.e. the creation of an electronic legal database network within the Attorney General's Chambers. The scheme was as a result of preliminary feasibility study which was undertaken between 1987-1990.

2. This scheme was implemented in 1991, with the first step being the transfer and conversion of the REVISED LAWS OF BRUNEI. This was done in the Printing Department and a sub-system is proposed to be installed at the Attorney General's Chambers.

Findings of the Pilot Scheme

3. Although the Printing Department has achieved the required level of expertise in operating the system to implement the actual scheme, especially the proposed sub-system at the Attorney General's Chambers, this would require special operational training to those wanting to manipulate/generate new materials on the system.

4. An alternative would be to assign experienced staff from Printing Department to assist and tutor the staff at the Attorney General's Chambers until the required level of expertise is required. The reason being the complex nature of the operational commands required for the generation of data for printing/publishing purposes.

Implementation of the Project

5. The proposed implementation of this project is towards the last quarter of 1993. In view of the complexity of its implementation, it was decided that the project be divided into 3 specific phases:

Phase I - Upgrading & Expansion

Phase I involves the upgrading and expansion of the pilot scheme equipment at the Printing Department, enabling it to handle the storage and manipulation of both the English and Malay versions of the Revised Laws of Brunei. The upgrades will also enable the storage and manipulation of the Law Reports. Phase I will include the upgrading of the current data storage facilities, purchase of current revisions of operating software and the purchase of an additional workstation to cope with the increased workload of the Phase.

Phase II - Sub-system for the Attorney General's Chambers

The sub-system is a duplication of the pilot system, which is intended to allow the manipulation of data in the Attorney General's Chambers environment. This will allow more efficient law revision and generation of new legal materials.

Phase III

This Phase involves the creation of an electronic legal database which will provide legal counsel/legal officers with more efficient research tools. The database would be derived from the database used for publication by the Printing Department.

Current Status of the Project

To date, the project has so far advanced to Phase I, with tenders pending on Phase II. Current work involves setting up the basis for the electronic legal database. This requires the compilation and storage of past Law Reports. In addition, other forms of legal data stored in the Printing Department and the records of judgments kept at the Judiciary, are also being compiled for inclusion into the database.

The final assembled database in the Printing Department will also be installed in the sub-system at the Attorney General's Chambers. It is hoped that Phases II and III can be implemented by the first quarter of 1994.

Conclusion

The computerisation pilot project has by early indications turned out successfully, barring setbacks should be fully operational by the end of 1994. The establishment of a network with an electronic legal database in the Attorney General's Chambers will prove invaluable efficient as well as providing the opportunity to become part of a computerised worldwide legal network.