



Inter-Parliamentary Union

Technical Cooperation Programme

PROJECT PROFILE:

ETHIOPIA



Created 1/12/2006

Project details	
Title:	Assistance to the parliament of Ethiopia
Status:	Closed
Duration:	Three years (1998-2001)
Budget:	Euro 512'000
Donor partner:	European Commission

Background

After long years of military rule, democracy was established in Ethiopia during the early nineties. The first free and fair elections took place in May 1995.

At the request of the authorities of the Ethiopian Parliament, the IPU fielded a mission to Addis Ababa in September-October 1996 to assist the Parliament in carrying out an assessment of its needs, with specific reference to the library, documentation and computer services, with a view to the preparation of a project of assistance to the Parliament.

Based on the recommendations of the mission's findings, a project was established for the development of the library, documentation and computer services of the Parliament, to begin in 1998 and to be funded by the European Commission.

Areas of activities

The activities implemented under the project fell into four main categories: study tours, consultancy missions, seminars and provision of equipment.

- Four study tours were organised for members and staff of both houses of parliament to get insight into the work of the Parliaments of Sweden, Norway, The United Kingdom, Zambia and South Africa.
- Three consultancy missions were organised: One to give advice on how to streamline and optimise the use of information technology. The project commissioned as a second step a local firm to carry out a detailed analysis of the Parliament and its various departments with a view to designing a system for upgrading the existing Parliamentary Information System. A third consultancy mission was fielded to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the library, research and documentation services of the Parliament.
- A total of four seminars for members and staff of both houses were organised, mainly on the use of information technology in the context of parliament but also on parliamentary administration.
- The project purchased and delivered to the parliamentary library a stock of materials, including books, periodicals and journals.



The plenary hall of the Ethiopian House of Peoples' Representatives

Target beneficiaries

The most directly affected beneficiaries were the members and staff of the Ethiopian Parliament, whose work was greatly facilitated by an improved access to information.

A well functioning parliament and good legislation will also prove crucial to the further development of the Ethiopian civil society.

Outcomes

The project strengthened the capacity of members of the Ethiopian Parliament to make informed decisions in the law-making process, interpret the constitution and exercise control of the government. It also enhanced the ability of parliamentary staff to provide adequate support and advice to members of Parliament.

More specifically, the project contributed to the modernisation of the Ethiopian Parliament in the areas of information technology and parliamentary information management.

Experts providing advice to the project included:

- Mr. Carl-Gerhard Ulfhielm, Information Technology Manager in the Swedish Parliament;
- Ms. Marianne Carlbom, Director of Information, Swedish Parliament; Ms.
- Brit Floistad, Head Librarian of the Norwegian Parliament;
- Ms. Inger Lorange Figved, Head of Information and Documentation Department, Norwegian Parliament;
- Mr. Rex Owusu-Ansah, Clerk of the Parliament of Ghana;
- Mr. Murumba Werunga, Deputy Clerk of the Kenyan Parliament;
- Dr. Geradl Kretschmer, former senior official of the German Parliament;
- Dr. Bob Gardner, Head of the Research Division of the Ontario Legislative Library;

Parliaments supporting the project were:

- Sweden, Norway, the United Kingdom, Zambia and South Africa