



Press Release  
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## **UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ORGANISES STUDY PROGRAMME IN SINGAPORE FOR IRAQI HIGHER JUDICIAL COUNCIL OFFICIALS**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – Iraq Office organised a study visit to Singapore for the Iraqi Higher Judicial Council from 24 July – 2 August 2009 to study the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for the administration of justice. The 17 member delegation of senior judges, led by Chief Justice for Iraq’s Federal Supreme Court, Honourable Medhat Al-Mahmoud, gained a good understanding on the use of ICT deployment in the Singapore Judiciary and possible applications to Iraq; and discussed challenges that government faced in the eGovernment platform and the strategies employed by the Singapore Government in its eGovernment initiatives and applications. The study visit is part of the UNDP – Iraq project to support Rule of Law and Justice development in Iraq, funded by the European Commission, which aims to modernize two pilot courts in Erbil and Basra using computerized case management systems.

During the study visit, the delegation visited Singapore’s Supreme and Subordinate Courts, the Singapore Academy of Law, the Law Society of Singapore as well as the company of CrimsonLogic, which developed and has been operating Singapore Courts’ Electronic Filing System (EFS), considered one of the most advanced systems of its kind. Throughout the programme, the delegation witnessed a holistic view of Singapore’s eJudiciary including first-hand experience in courtroom sessions.

“The Courts in Singapore are more advanced than we have ever imagined. We intend to make this visit a bridge for more opportunities to exchange knowledge between the two judicial systems” said Iraqi Chief Justice, Honourable Medhat Al-Mahmoud.

Singapore’s Chief Justice, the Honourable Chan Sek Keong, hosted the delegation over an official lunch and expressed his hopes for this visit to be the start of a continuing cooperation between the judiciary of both countries. “We have always read about Iraq in the news. Now we feel more related to the situation there” the Chief Justice expressed.

