



The IOJT provides its members with the opportunity to learn from one another, to share innovative approaches to judicial education, and to build a strong network of judicial educators.

Traditionally, judicial appointments assumed that a judge's legal knowledge and experience provided all the preparation needed for the bench. Additional training was thought to be unnecessary. This notion changed as the profession of judging began to be seen as a skill that needed to be learned and updated. As the idea of judicial training became more accepted, it also became clear that despite the many and various judicial systems around the world, there was a common denominator – a need for adult-centred, effective training. This led to the idea of creating an international organization to facilitate knowledge exchange between training institutes, and support countries as they established their own training schools.

The establishment of an international organization for judicial training institutes was first raised at a conference held in Sao Paulo, Brazil in 1997. The participants signed a declaration outlining the importance of international cooperation amongst judicial training institutes and called for the establishment of an international organization dedicated to this issue. This has become known as the "Sao Paulo Declaration", and was signed by representatives from 13 countries around the world to;

1. Improve the exchange of all useful information in the field of initial and permanent training and schooling of judges;
2. Work on the expansion and creation of a network;
3. Continue cooperation between training institutes; and
4. Organize a preparatory meeting of representatives of schools of judges and/or persons responsible for training and schooling of judges about this initiative.

Following the Sao Paulo meetings, representatives from 10 countries participated in a preparatory conference in Jerusalem, in December 1999. This conference resulted in the "Jerusalem Declaration," with the following goals:

1. To establish an international organization of Judiciary training organizations from around the world;
 2. To convene an international congress of judicial organizations in Jerusalem; and
 3. To establish a preparatory coordinating center in Jerusalem to prepare for the congress.
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In March 2002, the first international forum convened in Jerusalem with representatives from 24 countries, including the Council of Europe and the World Bank. The International Organization for Judicial Training – IOJT – was established, and its Statutes approved.

The General Assembly elected Dr. Shlomo Levin, Director of the Israeli Institute for Advanced Judicial Studies, as IOJT's first President. In addition to Dr. Levin, the Statutes provided for three officers – a Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and Treasurer, as well as an executive committee and 5 regional vice-presidents.

The second international IOJT conference, under the theme "*Judicial Education in a World of Challenge and Change*" took place in Ottawa, Canada in October, 2004, organized by the Canadian National Judicial Institute. At the conference, the Statutes of the IOJT were amended to establish a Board of Governors, with 21 global representatives. Moreover, a special committee aimed at assisting developing countries was formed. As a result of the conference, the IOJT's membership expanded significantly, reaching 60 member institutes.

The IOJT has now hosted a wide array of international conferences including:

- Barcelona, Spain in October, 2007
- Sydney, Australia in October, 2009
- Bordeaux, France in October, 2011
- Washington, United States in November, 2013
- Recife, Brazil, 2015 in November, 2015
- Manila, Philippines in November, 2017
- Capetown, South Africa in November, 2019
- Ottawa, Canada in November 2022
- Seoul, South Korea in November, 2024

Governance

The IOJT uses a joint leadership model. The president, a judge, represents and has overall responsibility for the organization, as well as leadership of the educational content of programs. The Secretary-General is responsible for the administration and governance of the IOJT. The position is an appointed one and is usually an officer in the institute that provides administrative and governance support to IOJT. The members of the Board of Directors are volunteers and are required to be affiliated with a member institute.

The IOJT also has the assistance of a member institute for administrative and governance support. That role has previously been undertaken by the Institute for Advanced Judicial Studies (Israel), then by the National Center for State Courts (United States) and is currently undertaken by the National Judicial Institute (Canada).