

# Utilization of Modern Technology at the Iraqi Council of Representatives (COR)

## Introduction

Many reasons prevented the Iraqi Council of Representatives (COR) to utilize the modern technology in a limited scope. The country was under dictatorship for more than three decades. The economical embargo after 1990 ceased all aspects of communications with the world. After the topple of the regime in 2003, the country has witnessed a deteriorated security situation. Therefore, many IT experts left the country. Scope of the administrative and financial corruption is very high in Iraq.

## Achievements

In spite of all the obstacles, capable Iraqi staffers work at the COR Technology Department could achieve the following:

1. Internet systems with all their accessories meeting the international standards.
2. Archive of all the old and new laws and agreements using high capacity servers capable to save such big information and can be accessed by the authorized personnel.
3. Hardware and software maintenance of the entire computers at COR.
4. Installation, operation and maintenance of the voting and sound systems at the main chamber and the other convention rooms. (the voting system is not functioning for the time being)
5. Creation and operation of databases and data entering system required by the other sections of the COR; Administration, Finance, etc.
6. Monitor the network operation and propose the best means needed to maintain efficiency and security of computers and internet.
7. Participation in training courses on software systems; C++, Visual Basic, Oracle, etc.
8. Design a website to the COR ([www.parliament.iq](http://www.parliament.iq))
9. Provide broadcast of the sessions (half an hour late to the live)

## Future Plans

It is in plan to maintain the modern technology at the COR for the following purposes:

1. Installation of screen system to the MPs to provide them with the various bills and other officials documents in the best and easiest methods. (under operation)
2. Installation of a computer based attendance system. (under operation)
3. Fixing the voting system.
4. Installation of a computer based registration of the records of the sessions.
5. Installation of personnel network system can be accessed partially or totally by different authorized persons according to their responsibilities.
6. Installation of a computer based security system.
7. Installation of intranet system through using new technologies like (YIMAX) and (VPN) so that the COR secretary sections can address their official letters to each other or to the government electronically. This step will save much of time and expenditure and it is very safe.
8. Installation of a computer based library system.
9. Create share drive on the main server to save time and minimize pressure on the network.
10. Servers connected to the network which is loaded with a lot of information so that they can provide the following services:
  - a. Secure access to the network through using reliable accounts with different levels.
  - b. Sharing printers, faxes and other devices connected to the main server or the sub servers.
  - c. Installation and management of database servers, intranet and web servers to browse internet websites hosted by the main server.

## Requirements

The above-mentioned goals can be achieved through:

1. train all of the COR Technology Dep staffers to enable them manage modern technology in the best way.
2. Provide the COR Technology Dep by IT experts; i.e. IT experts are needed to visit the COR. This step will enable those experts to have a close idea and give visions to promote utilization of technology at COR. It will expand the vision and capabilities of COR Technology Dep staffers as well.
3. Provide the COR Technology Dep with literature on various computer programs and systems.
4. It is worth to mention that the COR is in great need of the assistance of the participants at the World e-Parliament Conference to achieve the goals mentioned above.