

**IFLA Section on Regional Activities, Asia and Oceania
Annual Report, 2000**

Section	Regional Activities: Asia and Oceania
Scope statement	The main objectives of the Section are to initiate, promote and facilitate the development of library and information services and the library profession within the five sub-regions of Asia and Oceania: West Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia and Oceania. The Section works in cooperation with the other Regional Sections and all of IFLA's Sections and Core Programmes, especially the Advancement of Librarianship Programme.
Membership	<p>Membership of the Regional Section: Asia and Oceania was 316 as at March 2000. Committee members are:</p> <p>Amelia McKenzie (Australia) Rashidah Begum Fazal Mohamad (Malaysia) A.P. Gakhar (India) Elizabeth Reade Fong (Fiji) Abbas Horri (Iran) Weiming Jiang (China) Thara Kanakamani (Thailand) Jayasiri Lankage (Sri Lanka) Russell Bowden (Sri Lanka) Harrison Perera (Sri Lanka) Ravinder Kumar Chadha (India) Khunying Maenmas Chavalit (Thailand) Olga P. Fedotova (Russia) Hilda T. Nassar (Lebanon) Anna Shirinian (Armenia) Beixin Sun (China) Sun Liping (China) Zhu Qiang (China) Gary Gorman (New Zealand)</p> <p>Corresponding Members Toru Koizumi (Japan) Mandana Sadigh-Behzadi (Iran)</p> <p>Special Advisors Dr Maria LaoSunthara (Thailand) Dr Shawky Salem (Egypt) D.E.K. Wijasuriya (Malaysia)</p> <p>Ex officio Dr Pensri Guaysuwan (Regional Manager)</p>
Officers	<p><u>Chair</u> Ms Amelia McKenzie Senior Manager, Technical Services National Library of Australia Parkes Place A.C.T. 2600</p> <p>Tel: + 61-2-62621483 Fax: + 61-2-62734492 email: amckenzi@nla.gov.au</p>

	<p><u>Secretary/Treasurer</u> Puan Rashidah Begum Chief Librarian Library, Universiti Sains Malaysia PENANG 11800 MALAYSIA Fax: + 60-4-6571526, Tel: + 60-4-6577888 ext. 3720 email: rashidah@usm.my</p>
Information Coordinator	<p>Ms Olga Fedotova State Public Scientific-Technical Library Russian Academy of Science Siberian Division 15 Voskhod St 630 200 NOVOSIBIRSK, Russian Federation Fax: + 7-383-2663365 email: fedot-st@online.nsk.su</p>
Meetings	<p>The Standing Committee held two meetings for the period under report:</p> <p>Mid-Year Meeting, Beirut, Lebanon 29 February-1 March 2000 Attended by the following members: Ms A. McKenzie (Chair, Australia), Ms Rashidah Begum (Secretary, Malaysia), Professor Russell Bowden (Sri Lanka), Ms Hilda Nassar (Lebanon), Ms Elizabeth Fong (Fiji), Dr Gary Gorman (New Zealand), Dr Pensri Guaysuwan (Regional Manager), Dr Maria Laosunthara (Thailand) and observers from Thailand.</p> <p>The Committee members present had a full agenda and good progress was made on several matters. Items discussed included outcomes of the Sri Lanka Networking Seminar, and the future structure of the Regional Division. Candidates for DANIDA grants were selected, as were applicants for ALP attachments and scholarships. Papers for the coming conference were selected and several new project proposals were discussed and approved.</p> <p>Meetings at 66th IFLA General Conference, August 12-18 2000 Attended by the following members: Ms Amelia McKenzie (Chair), Dr Gary Gorman (Member/Acting Sec'y), Dr Pensri Guaysuwan (Regional Manager – Ex Officio), Ms Birgitta Sandell (ALP Core Programme)</p> <p>A very poor attendance with only two full members present, two ex officio members and a number of observers. Most RSCAO members were not able to attend the Jerusalem Conference by the policy of their government or by personal or institutional choice. No decisions were possible as there was no quorum. Several information items were presented for the sake of the observers present.</p> <p>The RSCAO Chair and Secretary attended the IFLA ALP Advisory Committee meeting, Uppsala, Sweden, 12-18 October 2000.</p> <p>This meeting focused on discussion of the report of the Advisory Group on Division 8.</p>
Projects	<p>1 In-Service Training Attachments for Middle or Senior Level Staff Four attachments in the region were approved in 2000:</p> <p>2 Scholarships in Information Technology Four librarians from the Asia/Oceania region were awarded scholarships:</p>

	<p>3. 'Networking for Library Development in the Arab States' (2-4 March 2000, Beirut, Lebanon)</p> <p><i>This was the first IFLA seminar ever held in Lebanon.</i></p> <p>Objectives: share information on regionally based networking initiatives explore potential for regional networks in the Middle East region raise awareness of sources of assistance and expertise.</p> <p>Over 100 participants attended, from Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Jordan. RSCAO members from Lebanon, Australia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia and Fiji who had attended the Mid-Year meeting gave presentations at the seminar and chaired sessions.</p> <p>IFLA HQ and ALP were represented by Sjoerd Koopman and Birgitta Sandell.</p> <p>The Seminar content was as follows:</p> <p>Keynote speech on FAIFE Papers on recent networking developments in the Middle East region and overseas Papers on best practice in the Asia/Oceania region Panel session on regional and international cooperation through IFLA Vendor sessions Visits to Lebanese libraries</p> <p>A highlight of the visit was the opportunity to establish new links with Lebanese colleagues and raise IFLA's profile in the country.</p>
Conference Programme	<p>Open Session at the 66th IFLA Conference, Jerusalem Networking Partnerships in Asia and Oceania</p> <p>1.Global knowledge: a challenge for librarians CHRIS EDWARDS (British Council, UK)</p> <p>2. Asian library partnerships: applying the knowledge model for library networks DR GARY GORMAN and ROWENA CULLEN (School of Communications and Information Management, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand)</p> <p>3.Exploring cross-cultural issues in information studies education in Southeast Asia and the Pacific DR CHRIS KHOO and DR SUSAN ELLEN HIGGINS (Division of Information Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)</p> <p>4.Integration of Central Asian libraries into the international library society NURILYA A. DAVLETYAROVA (Foundation for the Development of the National Library of the Kyrgyz Republic, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)</p>
Relationships with other bodies	<p>The Section works closely with the other IFLA professional groups, with members contributing individually and as a group to a variety of activities. The Section's close relationship with the ALP Core Programme continued in 2000 with the organisation of the very successful Beirut networking seminar.</p>
Author	<p>Amelia McKenzie Chair, RSCAO</p>
Date:	<p>12 January 2001</p>