



ASIA AND OCEANIA SECTION

ANNUAL REPORT 2003

SCOPE STATEMENT

The goal of the Regional Section of Asia And Oceania (RSAO) is to represent the Asia and Oceania region within the IFLA divisional structure and promote the interests of countries in the region to meet the objectives of IFLA. The Committee carries out its responsibilities by facilitating and developing activities that assist the development of library and information services and the library profession in the region.

MEMBERSHIP

In 2003 the Section had 341 members, again ranking 3rd, out of a total of 45 Sections (this was after the former Round Tables gained Section status). As in 2002 the Section was outranked only by the University Libraries Section and the Information Technology Section.

STANDING COMMITTEE 2003/2005

Although there are 20 positions in the Committee only 13 positions were filled due to lack of nominations. This however is an increase of 10% over the positions filled in the preceding period. The new Committee has members from 11 countries and its members are as follows:

Gary Gorman, New Zealand (Chair/Treasurer)
Ms. Aree Chuenwattana, Thailand (Secretary)
Ms. Hilda Nassar, Lebanon (Information Coordinator)
Ms. Anjali Gulati, India (Member)
Ms. Elizabeth Reade Fong, Fiji (Member)
Ms. Hasna Askhita, Syria (Member)
Ms. Isabelle de Cours, France (Member)
Ms. Kalpana Dasgupta, India (Member)
Mohd. Sharif Mohd. Saad, Malaysia (Member)
P.E. Harrison Perera, Sri Lanka (Member)
R. Ramachandran, Singapore (Member)
Zhang Xiaoxing, China (Member)
Zhu Qiang, China (Member)

Ms. Amelia McKenzie from Australia, Ms. Arlene Cohen from Guam, Ms. Ella Shapovalova from Krygyzstan, Ms. Rashidah Begum bt. Fazal Mohamed from Malaysia, and Toru Koizumi from Japan were appointed Corresponding Members while Russell Bowden from Sri Lanka and Shawky M.A.Salem from Egypt were invited to be Resource Persons for the Section.

Ms. Pensri Guaysuwan, Regional Manager, Asia and Oceania continued to be an Ex-Officio of the Committee.

ACTIVITIES

Meetings

The Mid-Conference Meeting was held in, Colombo, Sri Lanka , 3 - 7 March 2003 and was hosted by the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) . It was attended by 82% of the SC members - Ms. Rashidah Begum, Gary Gorman, Ms. Hilda Nassar, Harrison Perera, R. Ramachandran, Ms. Elizabeth Reade Fong, Ms. Aree Chuenwattana, Qiang Zhu, and Ms. Kalpana Dasgupta. RSCAO/SLLA organized a one day workshop on *Bridging the Digital Divide* in conjunction with the meeting. Four members of the Committee made presentations at the workshop which was attended by about 40 local librarians.

Two meetings were held during the annual Conference in Berlin. Gary Gorman, Ms. Aree Chuenwattana, Ms. Hasna Askhita, Ms. Isabelle de Cours, Ms. Kalpana Dasgupta, R. Ramachandran, and Zhang Xiaoxing were present in Berlin.

The Chair and Secretary of the Section also attended Division VIII Coordinating Board meetings held during the Conference.

The Chair of the Section in her position as Chair of the Division VIII Coordinating Board attended the IFLA Professional Committee and Governing Board meetings held in March and August.

Strategic Plan 2003 – 2005

This Strategic Plan for the next 2 years focuses on the same areas as the previous plan as these have been identified as the current priority areas for the region.

Goal 1

To provide opportunities for regionally-based education and training in library and information management skills, with emphasis on information literacy.

Actions

1. To select 4 candidates and identify institutions for up to one month's in-service training in collaboration with the Advancement of Librarianship Programme (ALP).
2. To select 2-3 candidates and identify host institutions for information literacy training in collaboration with ALP.
3. To support 2-3 projects which are aimed at developing literacy activities and programs including the use of ICT or distance education to facilitate or support them.
4. To organize a minimum of 2 workshops / seminars to develop professional expertise in information literacy for librarians.

Goal 2

To enable and encourage Asia and Oceania Section (AOS) members to take part in the work of IFLA, and work together with other IFLA Sections and Core Activities to achieve AOS objectives

Actions

1. To identify relevant IFLA Sections for potential collaborative activities--i.e. School Libraries and Resource Centers Section, Public Libraries Section.
2. To develop joint activities with these sections..
3. To assign AOS members as liaison persons with relevant Sections.

Goal 3

To assist in strengthening the effectiveness of library associations or other professional groupings that might contribute to the development of information literate societies.

Actions

1. To facilitate 2 workshops initiated by library associations on information literacy in needy areas of library development in the region--i.e. School libraries and public libraries
2. To facilitate networking between two existing associations in the region with countries planning to develop associations.

Goal 4

To promote high quality library and information management (LIM) standards and guidelines among countries in the region.

Actions

1. To heighten awareness of existing LIM standards and guidelines (e.g. Public library guidelines, School library guidelines, Guidelines on information literacy programs).
2. To facilitate development of national level LIM standards and guidelines.
3. To undertake or sponsor the translation of relevant LIM standards and guidelines for a minimum of two countries in the region.
4. To facilitate a minimum of 1 workshop or seminar on LIM standards and guidelines.
5. To compile, print and distribute a brochure(s) of "tried and tested best library practices" / innovations of libraries in the region.

Goal 5

To disseminate and communicate information on library and information management relevant to the region.

Actions

1. To produce the AOS Newsletter twice per year
2. To update the AOS brochure
3. To maintain and promote the use of existing AOS listserv.
4. To update the AOS video
5. To improve the communication function of the AOS website
6. To encourage library associations, library and information science schools, and libraries to translate, abstract / extract, review, announce / publicise IFLA publications, news, articles, etc. in their library journals, newsletters or in local newspapers.

Training and travel awards

The Committee received 37 applications for the ALP Scholarships in Information Technology (IT) and In-service Training Attachments. Ms S Chowdhury from Bangladesh, Ms S Clayhan from Thailand, and Ms T. Panhgnathong and Ms K Yangnouvong from Laos received the IT scholarships, while L Zhan from China, Ms Bouakhaay from Laos, and Ms Korina Ibrahim from Malaysia were selected for the in-service training attachments.

The selections were made based on the ALP guidelines and the supplementary criteria

that was developed by the Committee last year.

The Committee agreed to continue to send recipients of the IT scholarships to the Information Technology program offered by the School of Information Management at Victoria University of Wellington which was held from 15 November – 10 December 2003.

Projects

An International conference on public library services in the ASEAN/Asia region with the theme *Changes and Challenges of Public Library Services to Bridge the Digital Divide*, organized by the Penang State Public Library Corporation was held in Malaysia from 23 -25 June 2003. This ALP sponsored activity was attended by 193 delegates from 13 countries. Philip Gill, Chairman of the Working Group on the *IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Guidelines* was the keynote speaker.

The range of experiences as conveyed by the presentations confirmed the reality of the digital divide in the region of South-East Asia.

A bahasa Malaysia translation of the *Guidelines* was published by the National Library of Malaysia shortly after the Conference and has been distributed to the relevant authorities in countries that use the same language.

As a follow-up to the Conference, a Workshop on the guidelines will be held in Malaysia in April 2004. The objectives of the workshop will be to assist in developing national standards, share experiences, and create awareness of all the issues related to public library development. It will be facilitated by John Lake, Secretary of the IFLA Public Libraries Section.

A Regional Workshop on School Library Services was held in Bangkok, 8-12 September. This workshop was organized by the IFLA Asia and Oceania Regional Office and the Thai Library Association with funding from IFLA and UNESCO. The IFLA School Libraries Section provided 2 of the facilitators. Sixty participants attended this Workshop that was focused on promoting the use of the *IFLA/UNESCO School Library Manifesto* and *Guidelines*. The outcome of this project was put on display during the poster session in Berlin.

The IFLA Regional Office also successfully completed a pilot project on the feasibility of printing children's books on fabric.

The National Library of China completed and published the Chinese translation of the *IFLA/UNESCO School Library Guidelines* (ISBN 7-5013-2143-4) in August.

The second edition of the *Directory of Library and Archives in the Pacific Region* was published by the University of Guam at the end of the year.

The Section approved a project on *International Symposium on the Research and Utilization of Chinese Local Chronicles* submitted by the National Library of China for ALP funding.

The Section also received funding from IFLA for a research project on *Use of ICT and Electronic Information resources Among the Target Population of the Penang Public Library Corporation* by Associate Professor Dr. Diljit Singh, Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, University of Malaya.

69th IFLA Council and General Conference, Berlin

Beginning this year the name of the annual gathering was changed to World Library and Information Congress. The new title is designed to make the event more visible and to ensure that it has a greater impact in the city where the Conference is held.

As in the previous year, there was a very large group from Asia and Oceania at the Conference. China had the fifth largest delegation of the Conference with 151 participants.

The Section's Open Session was on *Public Libraries as Learning Resource Centres* and had the following five speakers:

1. *The public library as a learning organisation* by Sue Sutherland, New Zealand
2. *Public libraries in the information society: what do information policies say* by Ms. Maria Luisa Calanag, Japan
3. *Libraries as cultural centers in large new communities in Guangzhou, China* by Huang Qunqing And Zhuang Xuhuang, China
4. *Tupu - Promoting 'new growth' through innovative resources and services to youth* by Daniel G. Dorner New Zealand
5. *The growth of community-based library services in Indonesia to support education* by Ms. Harkrisyati Kamil, Indonesia.

Between 80-100 participants attended the Open session.

ALP provided a speaker's grant to Ms. Maria Luisa Calanag, the speaker from Japan.

Division VIII organized a workshop on *Mapping our future: strategic planning for developing regions*. The following presentations were made by the former President of IFLA and representatives from each of the regional sections:

1. *Thinking about Strategic Planning: remarks* by Robert Wedgeworth, USA
2. *Facilitating strategic planning process* by Jesus Lau, Mexico
3. *Using strategic planning to support development activities* by Ms. Buhle Bmbambo, Zimbabwe
4. *IFLA's development priorities in Asia and Oceania: a position paper from the region* by Gary Gorman, New Zealand.

The Workshop provided the Division and Sections with strategic planning methodologies that could be utilized in support of development activities in the regions. Participants came up with a Strategic Planning Framework that took account of the regional needs, IFLA's professional priorities, core activities, and the Presidential theme. One of the outcomes of the Workshop was a mission statement for Division VIII – “To create knowledge societies by strengthening the library and information professionals and by developing services provided by these professions through close cooperation with all IFLA bodies”. In addition five goals were identified – to facilitate access to information and life-long learning opportunities among all members of society, to create a well-

educated, competent and self-renewing profession, to contribute to the creation of a robust information infrastructure in each member country, to create an information-literate population, and to improve access to funds for activities in the regions.

The Workshop was attended by a record 100 participants.

The Section participated in the Division VIII Caucus, which was chaired by Chair of Division VIII. Participants were updated on activities and library developments in the 3 regions as well as issues of current concern to IFLA. They were also provided information on voting procedures. There was also discussion on the need to build a strategy to increase regional participation the Committees and the Governing Board. The Caucus attracted about 150 participants.

The Section had a poster session display with the theme *Centers for Information – Contribution of Regional Sections in Local Communities and in the Global network*.

The Section organized a social event to bring together speakers and other participants who had contributed to the Section's activities. A sumptuous dinner, held at a Berlin restaurant, was enjoyed by about 50 delegates at this very successful networking gathering.

Publications

Two issues of the *IFLA RSAO Newsletter* were published and about 800 print copies were distributed to members of the Section and those on the Regional Office mailing list. The newsletter together with RSCAO-L listserv continued to be important avenues for disseminating information throughout the region, and communicating through the print and electronic media.

Liaison with other entities

Efforts by the Section to establish contacts and develop collaborative activities with IFLA Sections that are most relevant to our objectives and our current strategic plan were continued this year. At WLIC Berlin several SC members attended other SC meetings. In addition RSCAO members have been regularly in contact with other Sections throughout the year to seek their cooperation in projects in the region. However there still needs to be consultation and coordination in a more systematic and continuous way.

Conclusion

The level of interest and involvement by library and information professionals in the activities of the Section has been increasing over the years. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this trend by their participation, hard work, commitment and dedication.

Report prepared by Ms. Rashidah Begum bt. Fazal Mohamed

Chair 2001/2003

IFLA Regional Standing Committee for Asia And Oceania

 **Asia and Oceania Section:** <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s26/index.htm>