



Asia and Oceania Section

www.ifla.org/VII/s26/

Annual Report

2006-2007

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 Activities, especially the Action for Development through Libraries Programme.

Membership: 309 members in 57 countries

Standing Committee members for 2007-2009

Hasna Askhita (Syria)
Roza Berdigalieva (Kazakstan)
Sanjay Kumar Bihani (India)
Libby Cass (Fiji)
Daniel G. Dorner (New Zealand)
S.B. Ghosh (India)
Anjali Gulati (India)
Bughdana Hajjar (Lebanon)
Fariborz Khosravi (Iran)
Yumi Kitamura (Japan)
Eun Bong Park (Korea)
Mihyang Park (Korea)
Mark Perkins (New Caledonia)
Michael Robinson (China)
Wang Shan (China)
Ashu Shokeen (India)
Diljit Singh (Malaysia)
Namtip Wipawin (Thailand)
Tendik G. Yermekpayeva (Kazakhstan)
Xiaolin Zhang (China)

Corresponding Members

Aree Cheunwattana (Thailand)
Gary E. Gorman (New Zealand)
Chihfeng P. Lin (Taiwan)

Advisors

Rashidah Begum bt. Fazal Mohamed (Malaysia)
Shawky Salem (Egypt)

Ex-officio:

Tan Keat Fong (Regional Manager for Asia and Oceania), Singapore

Officers:

Chair

Premila Gamage
Librarian
Institute of Policy Studies
99, St. Michael's Road
COLOMBO 3
Sri Lanka
Email: premilagamage@gmail.com

Secretary

M. Al Mamun
Sr. Information Officer/Librarian
Library and Information Services Unit (LISU)
Information Sciences Division
ICDDR, B
Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212
Bangladesh
Email: almamun@icddrb.org

Information Coordinator

Hilda T. Nassar
Director Medical Librarian
Saab Medical Library, American University of Beirut
P.O. Box 11-0236/36
1107-2020 BEIRUT
Lebanon
Email: nassarh@aub.edu.lb, hilda.nassar@aub.edu.lb

Meetings: The Standing Committee held two meetings for the period under report:

Mid-conference Meeting, Singapore, 19-20 March 2007

The mid-conference meeting was hosted by the IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania and the National Library Board Singapore. The meeting was attended by the following members and representatives:

Gary E. Gorman (Chair, New Zealand), Premila Gamage (Secretary, Sri Lanka), S.B. Ghosh (Member, India), Mohd Sharif Mohd Saad (Member, Malaysia), Namtip Wipawin (Member, Thailand), Tan Keat Fong (Regional Manager, Singapore), Sjoerd M. J. Koopman (Coordinator of Professional Activities, IFLA Headquarters), Aree Cheunwattana (Corresponding Member, Thailand), Janice Ow (Observer, Singapore).

The two-day meeting in Singapore was very successful and productive. All the committee members actively participated in the meeting with discussing and reviewing the matters related to IFLA Regional Section for Asia and Oceania, with those who were unable to attend participating via email pre & post meeting.

The RSCAO Chair Prof. Gary Gorman and Regional Manager, Keat Tan Fong presented financial and information reports. The Chair's report covered the matters related to IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania, Section's web forum, participation in Seoul conference, ALP activities and the work of the committee members. The meetings also included discussions on the Section's roles and responsibilities in the 73rd WLIC Conference Programme in Durban.

The Committee discussed possible themes for the Open Session for 74th WLIC Conference 2008 in Quebec, Canada and tentatively suggested the following theme for Asia Oceania Section : *'From Me to You to Us: How Libraries in Asia and Oceania Contribute to Global Understanding'*.

Mr. Sjoerd Koopman, Coordinator of Professional Activities, IFLA Headquarters, presented a brief report on Governing Board meetings held in December 2006. He informed about the proposed 'Regional Language Centres' and their role. The Committee discussed in-depth about the role and functions of the new Regional Language Centres.

Ms Keat Fong Tan, the Regional Manager reported about RSCAO newsletter, Regional activities on Seoul Conference. She also reported that the Regional Office, with assistance from Jamieson Teo, Assistant Executive (ICD) and Janice Ow, Executive (Corporate Office), has created a web forum (<http://forums.nlb.gov.sg/ifla/>) to enable RSCAO members to access and view all the documentation such as scholarships and training applications, project proposals online and to facilitate communication and information.

The RSCAO Chair expressed thanks and appreciation to Dr N Varaprasad, Chief Executive, National Library Board Singapore and Ms Ngian Lek Choh, Deputy Chief Executive, National Library Board Singapore for the support given to the IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania and for their hospitality during the meetings.

During the two-day IFLA RSCAO Meeting, Dr Varaprasad hosted a lunch at the Pod, in National Library Singapore. The IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania also organized social programmes such as sightseeing for the IFLA RSCAO Committee Members.

Meeting at World Library and Information Congress: 73rd IFLA General Conference and Council (Libraries for the future: Progress, Development and Partnerships)

Two standing committee meetings were held in the World Library and Information Congress: 73rd IFLA General Conference Programme, in Durban, South Africa. First Meeting was held on Sunday 19 August and the second one on Friday 24 August 2007. The following members were present in the meetings:

Premila Gamage (Chair, Srilanka), M. Al Mamun (Secretary, Bangladesh), Daniel G. Dorner (Member, New Zealand), Diljit Singh (Member, Malaysia), Fariborz Khosravi (Member, Iran), Michael Robinson (Member, China), Mihyang Park (Member, Korea), S.B. Ghosh (Member, India), Xiaolin Zhang (Member, China), Tan Keat Fong (Regional Manager, Singapore), Aree Cheunwattana (Corresponding Member, Thailand), Shawky Salem (Advisor, Egypt), Rashidah Begum bt. Fazal Mohamed (Advisor, Malaysia), Birgitta Sandell (ALP Programme Director), Gunilla Natvig (ALP officer).

There were 15 observers from India, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, United Kingdom, United States of America, and Vietnam were also attended the meetings.

Election of RSCAO Officers for 2007-2009 was held in the first meeting—Premila Gamage (Sri Lanka) was elected as the Chair and M. Al Mamun (Bangladesh) was elected as the Secretary.

Chair and Regional Manager presented the administrative and meeting budget, and information report. Birgitta Sandell, ALP Programme Director also presented a verbal report on Asia Oceania Section's project status, financial situation of ALP, and other grants information for the section.

In both the meetings the Chair and the Members of RSCAO discussed the section theme 'From Me to You to Us: How Libraries in Asia and Oceania Contribute to Global Understanding' and the Section's roles and responsibilities for the 74th WLIC (World Library and Information Congress) to be held in Quebec, Canada, in August 2008. It was also discussed in the meeting that the Regional Office will organize a poster session, focusing on the section's activities, for the next WLIC 2008, Quebec, Canada.

The Chair and the Secretary attended a training session and orientation programme for section officers and professional committee members on Monday, 20 August 2007. The Chair also attended two CB meetings, held on 17 and 24 August 2007. Several RSCAO members attended the Hearing Session of IFLA's Professional structure on Sunday, 19 August 2007.

A poster titled "Experience with Actions for Development through Libraries Programme (ALP) Core Activities" was presented by the Regional Office. It covered the mission and strategies of ALP, including experiences from award recipients for scholarship, training attachments, and projects. A brochure was also distributed with statements of ALP recipients about their experiences on how they have benefited from the ALP sponsorship, training attachment, and projects.

The social event was held on Tuesday, 21 August at the Sage Restaurant, the Westville Hotel. About 45 guests were attended at the event. The event was sponsored by Emerald, who expressed to continue sponsorship in the future.

WLIC, Durban, South Africa, 19-23 August 2007 (Libraries for the future: Progress, Development and Partnerships)

The Section Programme was conducted on Wednesday, 22 August 2007 and the theme was 'Information providers coping with disaster in Asia and Oceania'. More than 50 participants attended this open session. The keynote address presented by Prof. Graham Matthews. The following papers and a DVD screening were also presented in the open session:

- Keynote Address: Disaster management in the cultural heritage sector: a perspective of international activity from the United Kingdom: lessons and messages—Prof. Graham Matthews (Loughborough University, Loughborough, UK)
- Writing a new chapter - globalization: creating libraries across the globe - a case study in Sri Lanka—Nevanka Goonewardena and Melissa Aho (Metropolitan State University, St Paul, Minnesota, USA)
- Cooperative Disaster Salvage and Recovery in Aotearoa New Zealand: a case study of vacuum freeze-drying services—Pamela Najjar-Simpson (National Library of New Zealand, Wellington, New Zealand)
- Academic Institutions and Libraries of Pakistani administered Kashmir: a pre and post earthquake analysis—Maqsood Ahmad Shaheen (US Embassy, Islamabad, Pakistan)
- An analysis of the data archiving practices of selected scientific agencies in the Philippines—Carina C. Samaniego (Manila Observatory, Diliman Quezon City, Philippines)
- Rising from the Rubble (DVD screening)—Sri Lanka Library Association

The Division of Regional Activities and ALP Open Session was conducted on Thursday, 23 August 2007 and the theme was "Libraries at the forefront of grassroots development". Representing the region, following two papers were presented at the session:

- The Role of ALP in Facilitating Grassroots Development in Division VIII Countries—Birgitta Sandell (IFLA/ALP, Uppsala, Sweden) and Gary Gorman (Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand)
- Educating Information Literacy Educators in Asia-Oceania—Daniel G. Dorner (Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand)

ALP Steering Committee Meeting

The ALP Steering Committee consisting of the chairs and secretaries of the three regional sections and IFLA's regional office managers met for three days from 15 to 18 October 2007, in the Uppsala University Library, Uppsala, Sweden. The members presented assessments of the projects carried out for the period 2005-2006.

RSCAO Chair, Premila Gamage presented the project status 2005-2006 funded by ALP in this region and plan of activities for RSCAO for 2008-2009.

Projects:

Current projects are progressing well and the following projects are approved for the future:

299— International workshop on Information Literacy (Muhammad Hossam Haider Chowdhury and Mohammed Abu Khaled Chowdhury, Independent University of Bangladesh)

605— Digital Libraries in the Arab countries (Fawz Abdallah, Lebanese Library Association, Lebanon)

609—Workshop on Information Literacy (Hanna Latuputty, the British International School, Indonesia)

IFLA RSCAO Newsletter

During the period January - December 2007, two issues of IFLA RSCAO Newsletter were published in June and December 2007.

IFLA Asia and Oceania Section Newsletter won the IFLA “Newsletter of the Year Award 2007”. Ms Tan Keat Fong, Editor of the IFLA Asia and Oceania Section Newsletter received this Award from Ms Jacinta Were, Chair of the IFLA Professional Committee at the closing session in Durban, 2007.

*Reported by Premila Gamage and M. Al Mamun
31 December 2007*