



**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS
AND INSTITUTIONS
68th General Conference
Glasgow, 17-25 August 2002
Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania**

Minutes of Meetings held in Glasgow, 18 and 23 August 2002

Meeting I

Committee Members Present*

Ms Rashidah Begum, Chair
GE Gorman, Secretary
Ms Hilda Nassar, Info Coordinator
Ms Pensri Guaysuwan, Reg Manager
Russell Bowden
Ms Aree Cheunwattana
Ms Kalparna Dasgupta
Ms Gunilla Natvig
Harrison Perera
R Ramachandran
Shawky Salem
Ms Birgitta Sandell
Ms Sun Liping
* See Appendix 1 for list of observers

Meeting II

Committee Members Present*

Ms Rashidah Begum, Chair
GE Gorman, Secretary
Ms Hilda Nassar, Info Coordinator
Ms Pensri Guaysuwan, Reg Manager
Russell Bowden
Ms Aree Cheunwattana
Ms Kalparna Dasgupta
Ms Gunilla Natvig
Harrison Perera
R Ramachandran
Shawky Salem
Ms Birgitta Sandell
Ms Sun Liping
*See Appendix 1 for list of observers

Apologies

Ms Maria LaoSunthara
Ms Elizabeth Reade Fong
Qiang Zhu

4 Welcoming Remarks

The Chair opened the pair of meetings by welcoming all members and observers (see Appendix 1) to Glasgow. She indicated that SCI and SCII had a very full agenda and that we needed to make firm decisions about our presence in Glasgow (who would attend what), about what we would plan for Berlin, and about the mid-conference meeting in Colombo. In addition it would be important for us to continue building up the networking that had begun to show benefits last year in Boston. The Chair reminded members that nominations were needed for Committee membership for the next election (February 2003), and encouraged people to re-apply if they were eligible, or to nominate active colleagues to fill the vacancies on the Committee. She also reminded members of our need to participate as RSCAO members in as many Glasgow meetings and activities as possible.

2 Agenda

The Committee adopted the proposed agenda (Appendix 2) without amendment.

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Mid-Conference Meeting Held in Beijing, March 2002

The minutes were confirmed with a minor adjustment to the placing of discussion concerning surplus funds held in the Regional Office. This would be moved on the Web-based minutes.

There was also discussion about use of the surplus funds. It had been agreed by the Committee in Beijing that the Regional Manager should use US\$3000 to purchase a new desktop computer and scanner to facilitate her work. However, she now disagreed with this decision, and it was decided to let matters rest for the time being. It was reaffirmed that the Regional Office needed to be more proactive in moving to e-documents in order to improve the decision-making process and to allow all committee members to be informed of applications, etc. in good time.

4 Matters Arising

There was some discussion of the Public Library Guidelines, and their translation into Chinese (S Liping to undertake), and also Indian languages (K Dasgupta to liaise). Also, the updating of the video was to proceed in a 2-year timeframe (A Cheunwattana to manage). As planning was already in hand for the Colombo Mid-Conference meeting to be held in March 2003, it was decided to defer discussion of the template for planning mid-conference meetings until the meeting in Colombo, when it would be reviewed and revised.

5 Financial Reports/Administrative Budget/Meeting Budget

The Regional Manager tabled her meeting budget report (see Section 8 below). The Chair informed the Committee that the Section had received EUR1430 for administrative expenses. The financial report that is to be submitted to IFLA by the end of October will be circulated to all members of the Committee.

6 ALP Report

B Sandell reported that funding of ALP activities was proving difficult in the somewhat changed political climate affecting donor agencies. In particular Danida Travel Grants would have to cease. These and other matters would be discussed at the ALP review in Uppsala in October; in the meanwhile ALP was continuing to look for new sources of funding. She also reported that plans for the IFLA IT Scholarships Workshop was well advanced and would be held at Victoria University of Wellington in November-December 2002 for four weeks, with six participants nominated at the Beijing meeting in February 2002. The ALP Strategic Plan 2002-2003 was tabled (Appendix 4).

7 Report from the Information Coordinator

The Information Coordinator reported that minutes from the previous meeting, newsletters, etc. had been uploaded onto IFLANET, with the assistance of a part-time student assistant in the Saab Medical Library. The Asia and Oceania Regional Listserv would also be operational shortly after the Glasgow Conference. Hilda Nassar was commended for her work as Information Coordinator, and especially for keeping the site up-to-date.

8 Report from the Regional Office

The Regional Manager tabled the IFLA RSCAO Meeting Budget Statement August 2002, which showed a balance of Baht239.990.79 (see Appendix 3). It was affirmed that, as agreed in the Beijing meeting, all future budget statements and related financial documents should be stated in Thai Baht and US dollars for the convenience of Committee members. As the principal Regional Office reports are now made at the Mid-Conference meeting, there were no other reports tabled in Glasgow.

9 RSCAO Annual Report

The Chair reported that she was preparing the Annual Report and would submit it to IFLA HQ.

10 68th General Conference Programme

10.1 Attendance at Meetings

The following Committee members agreed to attend meetings as RSCAO representatives and to report back to the Committee as appropriate:

SC Public Libraries	R Begum
SC Education and Training	R Bowden
SC University Libraries	H Perera
SC Acquisitions and Coll Dev	G Gorman
SC Library Theory and Research	R Bowden
SC Management and marketing	H Perera
SC Health and Biomedical	H Nassar
SC National Libraries	R Ramachandran
EC Management of Las	R Bowden
EC Women's Issues	R Begum
EC Mobile Libraries	A Cheunwattana
EC LIS Journals	G Gorman
Francophone Caucus	H Nassar

In addition various members agreed to attend Open Sessions as RSCAO representatives and to report back to the second RSCAO meeting. Overall the members managed to spread themselves across a number of sections, and the general view was that this was a useful way of becoming more integrated into IFLA activities, and also to draw people from other sections into RSCAO.

10.2 Workshop

The Application of Metadata in Library and Information Services: An IFLA/RSCAO Workshop would be offered by Dr Dan Dorner of Victoria University of Wellington and Mr Steve Knight of the National Library of New Zealand. Members were urged to support the Workshop by attending, and by encouraging others to attend, in view of the problems encountered with scheduling of the Workshop. Some 40 individuals signed up for the Workshop after it was decided by the Conference organisers that all workshops were to be signed for in advance; at the actual session there were 24 participants from Asia and Europe.

10.3 Division VIII Open Session

Dr Wu Jianzhong would be presenting a paper as a representative of the Asia and Oceania Region, and Rashidah Begum would be chairing the Session. Members were encouraged to attend as a means of showing support. In the event there was not a good turnout for this, even though the Session was held in a principal venue. After considerable discussion, members agreed that it was important to be more active in participating in the RSCAO's own activities, as well as those of Division VIII.

10.4 Regional Caucus

For some reason no Caucus had been organised for Glasgow, although Dr S Salem had queried this. It was agreed to seek clarification and to report on the future of caucus activities at a later date. S Salem to report.

10.5 Social Event

Because we had been somewhat slow in trying to organise a social event, it had not been possible to manage this in time for the Glasgow Conference, although we had been promised some sponsorship from Emerald/MCB. Therefore, it was decided to make this a priority for Berlin and to contact the organisers during the Glasgow conference. R Begum and G Gorman to liaise.

10.6 Poster Session

Dr Aree Cheunwattana and the Regional Office had compiled a substantial display for the Poster Session (see Appendix 5). This covered ALP in Asia and Oceania 2001-2002, RSCAO Meetings, Danida Travel Grants, field studies and Regional Office grants. This would be on display 20-21 August 2002.

11 69th IFLA General Conference, Berlin 2003

11.1 Open Session

Using 'Public Libraries as Communication and Learning Centres in the Community' as the Open Session theme, it was decided both to issue a general call for papers and also to nominate a keynote speaker. G Gorman agreed to contact Frances Awcock (State Library of Victoria) and Sue Sutherland (Christchurch City Libraries) as possible keynote speakers. It was also agreed to liaise with the Public Libraries Section; R Begum to contact Barbara Clubb; G Gorman to contact John Lake with a view to nominating speakers from the Public Libraries Section for the Open Session.

11.2 Workshop and Other Activities

It was agreed not to hold a Workshop in 2003 but to concentrate on liaison with other sections, given the high level of interest shown in the Asia and Oceania region at Glasgow. In addition to liaison with the Public Libraries Section, it was agreed to actively liaise with the following sections for the Berlin Conference: Preservation and Conservation (G Gorman to represent RSCAO), School Libraries (H Perera), Information Literacy (S Salem), Cataloguing (H Nassar), Bibliography (R Ramachandran), Mobile Libraries (A Cheunwattana), Health and Bioscience Libraries (H Nassar). In each instance we would try to suggest a speaker from the Asia and Oceania Region who might be involved in the relevant open session. It was agreed that a Division VIII Caucus will be held in Berlin.

11.3 Social Event

It was agreed to hold a social gathering, ideally a reception/dinner in Berlin and to begin planning this well in advance, using the MCB/Emerald sponsorship held over from 2002, and also seeking sponsorship from other sources: SilverPlatter (H Nassar), EBSCO (R Begum), Elsevier (G Gorman), etc. R Begum and G Gorman to liaise on this.

12 Mid-Conference Meeting in Colombo

It was agreed that this would be held at the beginning of March (2-6 March) and to include a short workshop on the digital divide, and also possibly a workshop on library associations in the Indian subcontinent. At least one workshop would precede the meeting. The Sri Lanka Library Association would be asked to co-host the meeting/workshop, with H Perera as the main organiser, assisted by R Bowden. It was confirmed that the Regional Office meeting budget would be used to support attendance by Committee members if possible, but that the bulk of the funds should go to the actual meeting organisation (venue, accommodation, meals).

13 Other Business

It was agreed that the RSCAO supported the Resolution on Palestine to be tabled at the Council meeting. G Gorman to convey this support to Ross Shimmon.

Appendixes

Note: All appendixes shown as (attachment) are available on the RSCAO Web page with the minutes.

Appendix 1. Observers at Meetings

Arlene Cohen, PIALA	acohen@uog9.uog.edu
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Appendix 2. Glasgow Agenda (attachment)

Appendix 3. IFLA RSCAO Meeting Budget Statement August 2002 (attachment)

Appendix 4. ALP Strategic Plan 2002-2003 (attachment)

Appendix 5. Poster Session, 68th IFLA Council and General Conference (attachment)

Appendix 6. ALA Resolution on Palestine (attachment)

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