



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

## **Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania**

### **Minutes**

**of the Mid-Conference Meeting held in Singapore  
24-25 February 2004**

#### **Present**

Gary E. Gorman (Chair)  
Aree Cheunwattana (Secretary)  
Elizabeth Reade Fong (Member)  
Kalpana Dasgupta (Member)  
Mohd Sharif Mohd Saad (Member)  
P. E. Harrison Perera (Member)  
Qiang Zhu (Member)  
R. Ramachandran (Member)  
Zhang Xiaoxing (Member)  
Pensri Guaysuwan (Regional Manager)  
Gunilla Natvig (ALP Administrative Officer)  
Daruna Somboonkul (ALP Regional Coordinator)  
Russell Bowden (Honorary Fellow, A & O Special Advisor)  
Shawky Salem (Governing Board Member, A & O Special Advisor)  
Yan Xiangdong (Observer)

#### **Apologies**

Anjali Gulati (Member)  
Amelia McKenzie (Corresponding Member)  
Arlene Cohen (Corresponding Member)  
Hasna Askhita (Member)  
Hilda Nassar (Information Coordinator)  
Isabelle de Cours (Member)  
Rashidah Begum (Corresponding Member)

### **1 Welcoming Remarks**

The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed Committee members and on behalf of the Committee thanked R. Ramachandran, Azizah Zidek and their staff, for organizing

the Mid-Conference Meeting, and also members of the Library Association of Singapore for organizing the Workshop on *Lifelong Learning and Leadership in Libraries*. He emphasized the importance of the Mid-Conference as it, when compared to the IFLA Conference in August, allows more time for members to think, plan and work together. He expressed thanks and appreciation to members for their attendance.

## **2 Agenda**

The Committee adopted the proposed agenda.

### **3 2003 Confirmation of Minutes of the Meetings held in Berlin, 18 and 23 August 2003**

The minutes were confirmed subject to a few minor changes as follows.

Agenda 5--Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting, the last four lines starting from "As planning was already in hand..." were deleted.

Agenda 12--Mid-Conference Meeting in Singapore, "Regional Office" was amended to read "RSCAO." (Appendix 1)

## **4 Matters Arising**

P. Guaysuwan raised two issues. The first issue is whether financial reports need to be archived in hard copy. G. Gorman assigned A. Cheunwattana to contact IFLA HQ to find out the policy regarding this matter and inform RSCAO members. The second issue is that the outgoing officers should hand over their work (documents, records, etc.) to the incoming officers. The question raised is in what formats (print or electronic) the handover of work should be. The Committee confirmed that the handover is required to ensure a smooth transition; however, it can be in any format.

R. Bowden brought up a problem of interactions of A&O Section with other sections. He commented that the RSCAO could not yet manage to follow up and create strong links with Sections which expressed interest to work with A&O; therefore enthusiasm in collaboration waned. He advised that RSCAO target on sections it decided to work with and cultivate good relationships with them. Members discussed and proposed various sections which A&O could work with. The Committee finally identified four key sections which are well related to the A&O Strategic Plan and activities and members who will liaise with these sections. The sections and liaisons include Public Libraries (K. Dasgupta), Management of Library Associations (R. Bowden), Preservation (G. Gorman), and Continuing Professional Education (E. Fong).

## **5 Report from the Chair**

G. Gorman reported to the meeting progress of some activities, news and issues of concern from the Governing Board meetings and Division 8, and news from the region as follows:

### **5.1. Corresponding members**

In addition to Amelia McKenzie, Rashidah Begum, and Toru Koizumi, the Section's corresponding members currently include *Arlene Cohen* from the

Library University of Guam and *Ella Shapovalova* from Krygyz National Library (Krygyzstan). The current list of members and corresponding members (IFLA Asia & Oceania Section List) was already distributed to members. Russell Bowden serves the Section as a resource person.

## 5.2. IFLA/ALP Advisory Board

G. Gorman, Chair, as representative of A&O Section, has joined the IFLA/ALP Advisory Board. The purpose of this Advisory Board is to act in an advisory capacity to determine priorities, act as an advocate for ALP and to solicit financial and other support as necessary. G. Natvig informed that it was not yet decided who would be the Chair of the Advisory Board until March 2004.

## 5.3. News from GB

Jacinta Were, Chair of the Division 8 attended the GB meeting in December and informed that

5.3.1. The strategic plans of the sections under the Division 8 were approved so all sections can start implementation.

5.3.2. The ICT project (Malaysia) submitted to the IFLA HQ by A&O Section was approved. The budget is 1,360 Euro.

5.3.3. Some funding will be available for speakers from developing countries at the IFLA Buenos Aires.

5.3.4. It has been suggested that the Regional Offices should work closely with MLAS in addition to regional sections in strengthening library associations.

## 5.4. Messages from Chair of the Division 8

5.4.1. The Division 8 proposal on outside membership of the regional sections was approved. The Regional Sections will allow a minimum of 2 members from outside the region to be members of the section.

5.4.2. Please emphasize to members to take note of the Presidential theme and interests, how we can best implement such themes as literacy, advocacy, partnership in our regions.

5.4.3. Other matters: IFLA Priorities; IFLA Membership in each region; Collaboration with other IFLA sections; Projects for PC and CB funding for 2005

5.5. News from HQ--Translation of Public Library Guidelines into Indian languages  
Sjoerd Koopman informed that in December 2003, the PC approved the Translation Project in principle. Further implementation will be started depending on reaching full agreement between the Indian Library Association and IFLA with regard to areas in membership fee payments. Mr. Koopman suggested that K. Dasgupta discuss the matter at the RSCAO meeting.

5.6. Rashidah Begum submitted the report on the International Conference on Changes and Challenges of Public Library Services to Bridge the Digital Divide,

which was held in Penang, Malaysia, on 23-25 June 2003. (Appendix 2) The follow-up activity--Workshop on Public Library Service: IFLA UNESCO Guidelines for Development--will be organized in Penang from 26-29 April 2004. Mohd Shariff briefly informed the Committee about the workshop programme. (Appendix 3)

5.7. Directory of Libraries and Archives in the Pacific Islands (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) was published in December 2003. There are over 400 entries in this new print edition, made possible through an IFLA grant. Libraries in developing countries are welcome to request a complimentary copy. Copies are also for sale at US\$15.00 each.

5.8. News from Dr. Wu Jianzhong

There will be three international meetings held in Shanghai. Two (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Shanghai International Library Forum, DCMI <http://www.libnet.sh.cn/silf2004/>) in October and one in December (ICADL 2004) with cooperation of the Jiaotong University Library at Shanghai. Dr. Wu would like to know whether the Section could send a representative to attend these meetings or to organize some sort of business meeting in Shanghai during these meetings.

5.9. Pyongyang International Science and Technology Book Fair (PISTBF)

The Book Fair will be held from 12-14 September 2004 in Pyongyang, Democratic People Republic of Korea. The Organizing Committee of PISTBF would welcome the participation of the IFLA RSCAO members.

During the Chair's report, members offered comments and suggestions as follows:

The Section should consider doing model projects that could be transferred to other countries or regions. In addition, the Section should encourage alliances, seek high-level expertise within the region, identify countries we want to work with, and work through RSCAO committee and sub-committees (R. Ramachandran).

Asia & Oceania's projects should be multi-country type, horizontal rather than vertical as seen in the project proposals received. The Section should create good projects, tap funds, and seek partnerships (e.g. some organizations) for implementation (S. Salem).

A sub-committee was set up to plan and handle RSCAO multi-country projects. It consists of G. Gorman, S. Salem, and Mohd Sharif.

## **6 Financial Reports**

6.1. Administrative budget

The Chair informed the Committee that the former Chair, R. Begum tabled a report of administrative funds received in 2003 (Appendix 4). The remaining amount of 80 Euro was transferred to the present Chair who is also the Treasurer. The administrative funds received for 2004 is 1,350 Euro.

6.2. Meeting budget

P. Guaysuwan reported the meeting budget for 2003 as tabled in Appendix 5. This was accepted with suggestions that the ROAO's Statement of the Meeting Budget should be presented separately from the ROAO Report, and

that the budget should be shown in Euro as well.

## **7 Report from the Information Coordinator**

The Secretary introduced the Information Coordinator Report sent by H. Nassar (Appendix 6) as follows:

The current number of RSCAO listserv subscribers is 287. H. Nassar regularly forwarded to our listserv members messages she received from IFLA HQ listserv and other listservs to which she subscribed. For members who wish to post messages on listserv, they were requested to send messages directly to the listserv. Suggestions about how to make the listserv dynamic and well-used are welcome.

On behalf of the Section, the Chair appreciated the effort made by H. Nassar in developing and handling the listserv. He, however, commented that the membership was too low and requested members to encourage subscriptions to and use of the listserv in their countries.

## **8 Report from the Regional Office**

P. Guaysuwan summarized a Report from the Regional Office for Asia and Oceania (February 2004). This includes 1) On-going work at the Office; 2) Projects initiated and carried out by the Regional Manager; 3) Meetings, conferences and workshops which the Regional Manager attended; and 4) Other professional services and activities (Appendix 5).

The Committee members received the Final Report of the Regional Workshop on School Library Services in Southeast Asia, jointly organized by IFLA, UNESCO and the Thai Library Association, in Bangkok, Thailand during 8-12 September 2003 (Appendix 7).

There were discussion, comments and suggestions on the following issues concerning the ROAO Report:

### **8.1. IFLA RSAO Newsletter**

8.1.1. Since the printing cost and the postage cost are high, the Regional Manager should look for sponsorship to support printing. This will help reduce production and distribution cost.

8.1.2. The Newsletter should be more widely distributed. Efforts should be made to reach countries that are hard to reach, e.g., Mongolia and other former Soviet Republics. For region-wide distribution, the Newsletter membership should be categorized into sub-regions within the region.

8.1.3. Production and distribution costs should also be shown in Euros.

### **8.2. World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS)**

The question brought up by R. Bowden was how much success IFLA made in getting library and information issues before WSIS. RSCAO should follow-up to look for a clear direction from IFLA on this matter-- what is IFLA's

assessment about success or failure in influencing WSIS, whether or not IFLA provides guidelines on how to influence ITU people in the future, what would be the role of the Section in this global effort. The Chair requested R. Bowden to follow this up with IFLA HQ.

- 8.3. R. Ramachandran suggested that the Regional Office and RSCAO look for ways to increase IFLA membership. Information about who are/are not members of IFLA in the region, including national distribution of membership should be available. Members agreed that a "Membership" item would be added to the next meeting agenda.
- 8.4. The ROAO Report about the Regional Workshop on School Library Services in Southeast Asia needs a minor revision. The statement "while some seed money will be available to support follow-up activities in the region" should read "some uncommitted budget was set aside for report, proceedings and follow-up activities in the region."
- 8.5. S. Salem proposed a draft structure of the Regional Office Annual Report for consideration. (Appendix 8)

## **9 Report of the World Summit on the Information Society**

P. Guaysuwan attended the Pre-World Summit Conference *Libraries @ the Heart of the Information Society* in Geneva, Switzerland on 3-4 November 2003 and the World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva on 10-12 December 2003. Her report was included in the Report from the Regional Office. (Appendix 5). Some documents about WSIS were distributed for more information.

## **10 ALP Report**

The Committee received the ALP Strategic Plan 2004-2005 (Appendix 9), the List of Approved Projects and Planned Activities in Asia and Oceania (Appendix 10), and IFLA Travel Grant Applications from Asia and Oceania (Appendix 11).

With reference to the ALP Strategic Plan, G. Natvig reported that at their meeting in March 2004 the Governing Board will discuss a suggestion to change of the name of ALP from *Advancement of Librarianship Programme* to *Activities for Library Progress*, however, the same acronym is retained. She also pointed out that the mission was reshaped to attract donors. The Committee proposed a few minor changes of the strategic plan as follows:

Statement in 1.7 should read "Raise funds and administer grants."

Move 1.7 to 1.1 and rerun the numbers.

Add paragraph 4 to *Mission* as follows:

ALP achieves its mission through raising funds and administering grants to support the following actions.

G. Natvig reported that SIDA is still the main funding source of ALP. ALP was in the process of negotiating the contract with SIDA and would know soon how much ALP would receive for the next budget. SIDA had asked for a joint application

between ALP and IFLA, which is a five-year (2005-2009) contract. So ALP's financial situation looks more stable. IFLA has allocated 30,000 Euro this year for fellowships from developing countries to attend the IFLA in Buenos Aires.

SIDA has agreed to let ALP use the money leftover from the speaker grants last year for paying the registration fees for people from the Mercosur countries. The money will be enough for 37 registrations

Kay Raseroka has proposed a workshop on telecenters for Buenos Aires. The title is *Reaching further: Telecenters and libraries working together to create the shared knowledge society*.

The status of approved projects and planned activities was reported and discussed. Projects were reported to be proceeding according to plan, except for Project 269, 270 and 273. Project 269 and 270 were cut off due to long delays. The Committee agreed that there was no point in funding Project 270 due to the unstable library situation in Vietnam. However, G. Gorman will keep the Committee informed of any change. Project 275--Empowering Library Associations for Effective Management (Nepal)--was approved by ALP and submitted to SIDA in December 2003 to get the financial support on time.

It was also agreed from the point of procedures to keep the Committee informed of any approval of projects by ALP.

G. Gorman reported some problems in managing the IT Training Course at Victoria University of Wellington. Some of the trainees in 2003 were unskilled in the use of IT and had low levels of English. Therefore they could not understand the lessons and could not work well with the group. He gave the following suggestions for the improvement of future training course:

- Participants in the programme should be at the same level of IT and English skills.
- The course should be reshaped to focus on information literacy rather than ICT literacy so that contents can be designed to suit an individual's ability.
- Adjustment of training budget is needed due to fluctuations in currency exchanges.

With regard to the telecenter workshop, the Committee expressed concern at the possibility of forfeiting the development of libraries as telecenters and asked the President to ensure that rural public libraries remain in a situation to become telecenters.

A sub-committee was set up to select IFLA Travel Grant applicants. G. Natvig suggested that the following criteria be used in selecting applicants: 1) Age--under 45; 2) Member of IFLA; and 3) Member of library association.

On behalf of the Section, G. Gorman expressed thanks and appreciation to ALP. The ALP's role in supporting library and information development in the region has been well recognized and appreciated. He also encouraged members to think about how RSCAO can raise funds to support ALP.

## 11 Asia and Oceania Section's projects

### 11.1 PC Projects

#### 11.1.1. IFLA Asia & Oceania video project

A. Cheunwattana reported that the project team from Srinakharinwirot University received 1,000 Euro from PC in January 2004. The team has been collecting visual materials from members and has received some from G. Gorman, R. Bowden and Sri Lankan Library Association, and R. Begum. More materials are needed, especially from Oceania. It was agreed that the deadline for completion of the video project will be August 2005.

11.1.2. The development of methodology to assess the use of ICT and electronic information resources by the target population of public libraries  
The project was proposed by Dr. Diljit Singh from the University of Malaya, Malaysia. The PC approved the project. The amount of funds received is 1,360 Euro.

11.1.3. Translation of Public Library Guidelines into Indian languages  
The project was proposed by the Indian Library Association (ILA) and approved by PC. Prior to the mid-conference meeting, further progress in implementation was pending due to ILA's delay in paying membership fees of IFLA. However, K. Dasgupta reported that ILA had already sent payment to IFLA. She will keep the Section informed of project implementation and a definite timeframe.

### 11.2 ALP Projects

In addition to Project 275--Empowering Library Associations for Effective Management (Nepal), a sub-committee was set up to select the project proposals. After discussion of the Committee members, the following projects were selected:

Project 276-- Information Skills for Learning: South Asia Workshop (National Institute of Library and Information Science, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka)--was approved, provided that some changes are made to reduce costs.

Project 277--Setting up and Managing a Small School Library: A Pacific Regional Training Workshop--was approved, provided that some revision is made.

Project 280--Building Learning Communities through Libraries (Lourdes T. David, Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines)--requires a revision before approval can be given.

For unsuccessful projects, should the applicants wish to reapply, they must work through the process of revision and resubmission.

The Committee agreed that the dateline for submitting ALP projects should be moved back to 31 December so that the Committee members have enough time to look through them and make recommendations before the Mid-Conference in



February. Electronic copies of project proposals are required.

R. Ramachandran suggested that the Committee consider the following points in undertaking future projects: 1) Encourage project proposals from different countries; 2) Sustainability of the projects; and 3) How IFLA can be visible in these projects.

S. Salem suggested that the Committee should discuss and establish a sub-committee to set up a criteria to put standards, terms and conditions for selecting project proposals, scholarship/attachment applicants, speaker grants, and travel grant applicants. He drafted a set of criteria used for future selection of applicants for consideration (Appendix 12).

## **12 ALP Scholarship in IT Selections**

From 22 scholarship applicants (Appendix 13) a sub-committee selected three candidates and one reserve for ALP 2004 scholarships.

Ms. Manglal-Lan, Christine Mendoza, Philippines;  
Ms. Premila Gamage, Sri Lanka;  
Mr. Le Thuy Duong, Vietnam

One reserve will be selected from the following applicants, depending on the standard of English.

Ms. Luna Shree Upadhyay, Nepal or  
Mr. Ikhwan Arif, Indonesia

## **13 ALP Training Attachments Selections**

From 12 training attachment applicants (Appendix 14), the sub-committee selected three individuals, and two reserves, for ALP 2004 training attachments.

Three individuals:

Ms. Khin Zar Win, Myanmar  
Ms. C.N.K. Alahakoon, Sri Lanka  
Ms. Afsheen Karim, Pakistan

Two reserves:

Mr. Nafees Ud-Din, Pakistan  
Ms. Sarapee Srisuk, Thailand

D. Somboonkul reported that several application forms for scholarship and attachments were not complete. She had to send them back to the applicants for correction and resubmission. To handle the applications was thus time-consuming. The Committee agreed that applicants must be made aware that the application form has to meet the requirements, otherwise, it will be rejected. A clear instruction/check list provided will be helpful to applicants.

## 14 IFLA Travel Grant Selection

From 191 IFLA Travel Grant applications, the sub-committee selected six. Successful applicants include:

Zhang, Shu Guang (China)  
Vijayakumar, J.K. (India)  
Balabekova, Gulissa (Kazakstan)  
Pulparambil, Yunus (Kuwait)  
Weerasinghe, Shivanthi (Sri Lanka)  
Duong Thi, Dung (Vietnam)

## 15 World Library and Information Congress: 70<sup>th</sup> IFLA General Conference Programme, Buenos Aires

### 15.1 Asia & Oceania Section Programme

The theme of the programme is *Information Literacy for a Knowledge Society in Asia and Oceania*. Sue McNight from Deakin University, Australia had accepted to be the keynote speaker. The title of the keynote paper is *Making Information Literacy Legitimate*.

In addition to the keynote speaker, a sub-committee selected five speakers and two reserves from 35 papers submitted for selection. The successful papers are:

1. Global and regional phenomena and their projection on the models of developing information literacy. Olga L. Lavrik (Russia).
2. Laying paving stones for a knowledge society: Analysis of factors that affect information literacy level in rural Sri Lanka. Wathmanel Seneviratne (SriLanka).
3. Information literacy mission in digital environment--Prospects and plan for developing society in India. S. Kumar, Subhajt Choudhury, and Leena Shah (India).
4. Serious challenge, historic opportunity: Information literacy education in China. Zhang Hongxia (China).
5. Information literacy activities that meets changes in Iranian society. Zoreh Mirhosseini (Iran).

Two reserves:

1. Building a knowledge-based society: Addressing the digital divide. Ramli Abdul Samad (Malaysia).
2. Information literacy curriculum framework: Sultanate of Oman. May E. Moore (Oman).

The Committee agreed that a clear set of criteria for paper selection should be established in the future, e.g., quality of the papers, considering sub-divisions within region, and communication ability of presenters. Workable approaches of how to improve the quality of the paper should be considered. A call for paper should be announced as earlier as 1 September.

G. Natvig informed the Committee that IFLA ALP provides three speaker grants for each region. However, the speaker grantees are required to meet the criteria-- Age under 45, and not a regular attendee of the IFLA Conference.

#### 15.2 The Joint Workshop of Division VIII and the Social Sciences Section

The theme of the joint workshop is the *Changing Role of NGOs in Creating, Validating and Disseminating Information in Developing Countries*. It was agreed that G. Gorman and E. Fong would be speakers from Asia & Oceania Section.

#### 15.3 Poster Session

The theme of the poster session for all three regions under the Division VIII is *Promoting Information Literacy: IFLA Regional Activities*. P. Guaysuwan will be responsible for organizing the poster session. A short description of the poster session was sent to IFLA HQ and distributed to the Committee members. Comments and suggestions should be directly sent to P. Guaysuwan. (Appendix 15)

#### 15.4 Social Event

The Committee discussed an arrangement of social event in Buenos Aires. The Chair pointed out some problems of arranging the social event in Berlin. He suggested if the Committee agreed to arrange it, a sub-committee needs to be set up to raise funds. It was finally agreed that the Section would not arrange any social event in Buenos Aires because there will be several social events arranged by the host country in which we can join.

### **16 World Library and Information Congress: 71<sup>st</sup> IFLA General Conference and Council, Oslo, 14-18 August 2005**

The theme of the Congress is *Libraries--A voyage of discovery*. It was agreed that the Asia & Oceania Section would work with two other sections in arranging the programme: University Libraries and other General Research Libraries, and Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning. The focus of the programme would be University Libraries and Continuing Professional Development. E. Fong will make contact with both sections, identify possible themes, and inform the Chair.

### **17 Strategic Plan**

The Chair thanked R. Begum, the former Chair and A. Cheunwattana for preparing the Section's Strategic Plan for 2004-2005 (Appendix 16). The Plan was reviewed to ensure that current and future activities correspond to the Plan. The Committee agreed that most activities are well focused on the Plan. However, members made a few suggestions as follows:

Plan 4.3. To undertake or sponsor the translation of relevant LIM standards and guidelines for a minimum of two countries in the region.  
Suggestion: Member countries are strongly encouraged to take action.

Plan 4.5. To compile, print and distribute a brochure(s) of "tried and tested best

library practices/ innovations" of libraries in the region.

Suggestion: Professional associations should be tapped to sponsor the printing of brochures or other promotional materials.

### **18 Mid-Conference Meeting 2005**

The venue of the next mid-conference meeting in 2005 was considered. Syria and Alexandria were proposed. A. Cheunwattana will contact H. Askhita to explore the possibility of organizing the meeting in Syria. The meeting and workshop will be held on 21-23 February 2005

### **19 Other business: Closed session with R. Ramachandran, the new IFLA Secretary General**

The new IFLA Secretary General, R. Ramachandran offered a closed session for RSCAO members and advisors to discuss future directions for IFLA in Asia & Oceania.

R. Ramachandran opened the session by addressing the following preliminary thoughts:

1. Regional Office in three regions  
Kay Raseroka, the President expressed a great concern about information literacy and digital divide. The Regional Office must be more effective in promoting these issues of concern.
2. Training
  - 2.1. IFLA as leadership training organizer / sponsor--more training programmes should be initiated for potential leaders.
  - 2.2. Advocacy and profiling need to be strengthened.
3. Funding  
All Regional Offices should make effort to seek funding by themselves, not to depend solely on IFLA.
4. Membership
  - 4.1. What can IFLA do to promote membership?
  - 4.2. How to encourage the Presidents of library associations to join IFLA Conferences

The Committee responded and discussed as follows:

1. There is a common concern from the Committee about the Regional Office--what the Regional Office can do to operate independently. Besides, the responsibilities should be clearly spelled out, and the contribution and support from the Regional Office should be evaluated. (G. Gorman)
2. The whole area of leadership--how to create leaders in library and information profession--is not yet spelled out clearly. (G. Gorman)
3. Funding is essential, but we did not do fund-raising effectively. Skills in fund-raising are needed. We should look for an expert to teach how to create project proposals that will attract funding. (R. Bowden)
4. Committee members and Regional Office Manager have to work more aggressively to raise funds. A lot more lobbying needs to be done for fund-raising.

- (R. Ramachandran)
5. IFLA has not yet been successful in introducing new administrative mechanisms to manage professional issues more effectively. (R. Bowden)
  6. The Section should appoint members to do specific work, e.g., marketing, strategic planning. (S. Salem)
  7. Funds should be provided to enable presidents of library associations to join IFLA Conference. This may help promote / increase membership. (E. Fong)
  8. Sometimes members feel that they did not benefit enough from being members. IFLA publications, therefore, should serve the needs of members. (D. Somboonkul)
  9. The issues from Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) are not understood or appreciated as they can put librarians into physical danger. (R. Bowden). IFLA places emphasis on freedom of "access" to information and addresses basic issues not political ones. (R. Ramachandran)
  10. Communication from IFLA HQ is rather slow, e.g., issuing receipts, sending publications to members. (A. Cheunwattana, K. Dasgupta)
  11. Good communication can be the most important factor for good work in the region. (P. Guaysuwan)

## **19 Close of Meeting**

The meeting closed at 2 p.m., 25 February 2004

## **Appendix**

1. Minutes of the Meetings held in Berlin, 18 and 23 August 2003 (with corrections)
2. Report on the International Conference on Changes and Challenges of Public Library Services to Bridge the Digital Divide, Penang, Malaysia, 23-25 June 2003
3. Workshop on the Public Library Services: IFLA/UNESCO Guidelines for Development, Penang, Malaysia, 26-29 April 2004
4. Report of Administrative Funds 2003
5. Report from the Regional Office
6. Information Coordinator Report
7. Final Report of the Regional Workshop on School Library Services in Southeast Asia, Bangkok, Thailand, 8-12 September 2003
8. Proposed Structure of the Regional Office Annual Report
9. ALP Strategic Plan 2004-2005
10. List of Approved Projects and Planned Activities in Asia and Oceania
11. IFLA Travel Grant Applications from Asia and Oceania
12. Proposed Criteria used for Selection of Applicants
13. ALP Scholarship in IT
14. ALP Training Attachments
15. Poster Session--Short Description
16. IFLA Asia & Oceania Section -- Strategic Plan 2004 -2005

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