INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania

Minutes of the Mid-Conference Meeting held in Beijing
6-8 March 2002

Present

Ms Rashidah Begum (Chair)
Prof Gary Gorman (Secretary)
Ms Hilda Nassar (Information Coordinator)
Harrison Perera (Member)
Lai Yeen Pong representing R. Ramachandran (Member)
Ms. Elizabeth Reade Fong (Member)
Ms. Sun Liping (Member)
Dr. Aree Chuenwattana (Member)
Prof. Qiang Zhu (Member)
Ms. Kalpana Dasgupta (Member)
Dr. Pensri Guaysuwan (Reg. Manager)
Ms. Birgitta Sandell (ALP)

Apologies

Abbas Hory (Member)
Prof Russell Bowden (Special Advisor)
Dr. Maria LaoSunthara (Special Advisor)
Shawky Salem (Special Advisor)

1. Welcoming Remarks

The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed Committee members and on behalf of the Committee thanked Sun Liping and her team for organizing the meeting and Seminar on the Digital Library. Deputy Director General Yang of the National Library of China welcomed RSCAO members and emphasized the National Library's interest in co-operation and networking.

2. Agenda

The Committee adopted the proposed agenda.

3. Confirmation of Minutes of the Meetings Held in Boston, 19 and 24 August 2001

The minutes were confirmed subject to the amendment of two names, and the change of 'hospital' to 'hotel' under 5 (b). The changes are to be made by Hilda Nassar on the Web version of the minutes.

4. Matters Arising

The Chair agreed to prepare the Annual Report 2002/2001 if the former Chair, Amelia McKenzie, is unable to do this. Hilda Nassar agreed to contact Amelia McKenzie about this.

5. Report from the Chair

The Chair tabled (1) Briefing from IFLA/HQ, (2) Notes of a Meeting Held on 4 December 2001, and (3) Action Plans for Division 8 (PC 01-086).

Committee members were reminded of the call for nominations of new SC members in October 2002.

6. Financial Reports

The Committee received the IFLA RSCAO Meeting Budget from the Regional Office and noted that the account was US$8000 in credit. It was agreed that the Committee or Officers should decide how these funds were to be expended.

7. Report from the Information Co-ordinator

The Information Co-ordinator requested confirmation of her responsibilities. As a result, tasks of the Information Co-ordinator were reviewed and expanded somewhat. In addition to (1) collecting information for the Section Web page, the Co-ordinator is also to (2) manage the listserv to be created by the Chair as a means of informing interested parties of activities relevant to the region (see 17 below), and also to (3) serve as associate editor of the *Newsletter*, and to (4) co-ordinate information gathering and information sharing with the *Newsletter* editor.

8. Report from the Regional Office

The Committee received the Working Timetable (see Attachments) and accepted the timing of events as described. Discussion then was centred on the (1) the Newsletter, (2) use of funds, (3) new video production.

8.1 Newsletter. The Information Co-ordinator is to serve as associate editor, and an editorial committee is to be formed by the editor and associate editor. The associate

editor is to liaise with the editor in gathering information for the *Newsletter* and the Website; the editorial committee is to support the editor in providing text for issues, etc. The intention is to build on existing strengths of the Newsletter and to share the burden of putting issues together. It was noted that sometimes content is not directly relevant to the region, and that this should be reviewed to make the *Newsletter* directly focused on regional issues.

8.2 Use of Funds. It was noted that, with US$8000 available, it was possible to consider upgrading the IT of the Regional Office. The Committee agreed that there should be a clear move to 'e-office' procedures and documents to make operations more efficient. In particular e-copies of documents to be discussed at meeting should be circulated by the Regional Office in advance to facilitate discussion at meetings; this includes ALP scholarship applications, travel grant applications, proposals for conference papers, etc. E-documents should then be archived and not deleted. It was agreed by the Committee that up to US$3000 should be spent on a new desktop computer, printer and possibly a scanner. This should be purchased during 2002, and training would be provided if necessary.

8.3 Video Project. It was agreed that a new production be considered, and that the following individuals would provide input for the countries as indicated:

Hilda Nassar – photos and updates from the Middle East
Aree Cheunwattana – Thailand
Elizabeth Fong – Oceania region
Sun Liping and Zhu Qiang – China
Harrison Perera – Sri Lanka
Rashidah Begum – Malaysia
Gary Gorman – Vietnam, Combodia, Laos, perhaps New Zealand and Australia
Lai Yeen Pong and Ramachandran – Singapore

It was agreed that a new version of the video would try to incorporate more information from/about more countries, but this is entirely dependent on what members of the Committee provide to the producers.

9. ALP Report

The Committee received the 2001 Annual Report of the ALP Programme (prepared by Gunilla Natvig), the List of Approved Projects and Planned Activities in Asia and Oceania February 2002, and IFLA ALP Priorities (see Attachments).

Birgitta Sandell reported that the new ALP Advisory Board was being established but that the ALP Advisory Committee would continue. Also, there would be a meeting in Uppsala in October involving the regional section chairs, secretaries and regional managers. Concern was expressed over the continuing pressure in some IFLA quarters regarding the regional sections and, by implication, ALP. See item 15 below.

Elizabeth Reade Fong tabled a report on the now-complete IFLA ALP Project 256 (see Attachments). Two documents relevant to possible training attachments were tabled: one from the University of Queensland Library on its 'cybrary skills' training

modules, one from the Thai Library Association on WINSIS and WEBSIS training (see Attachments).

10. Selection for ALP Scholarships/Training Attachments

The Committee agreed to establish a Scholarships/Training Attachments Review Group to assess applications and report back to the full Committee. The Group consisted of the following:

Aree Cheunwattana (chair)
Harrison Perera
Elizabeth Fong
Lai Yeen Pong
Sun Liping
Kalpurna Dasgupta

In addition to following the ALP Guidelines for Applications, the Group developed these criteria for selecting candidates:

Quality of the application – well-stated objectives, all information provided, etc.
Previous training – priority given to applicants without previous training opportunities
Country situation – priority given to applicants from countries in which libraries are
    not well developed
Geography – applicants should represent a reasonable geographic distribution over time

10.1 Scholarship Selections. From 28 scholarship applicants the Group selected three candidates for ALP 2002 scholarships. There are now six people with scholarships and awaiting placement:

Ms. Ohn Mar Oo (Myanmar)
Assistant Librarian, Mandalay University Library

Mr. Gadagin B.R. (India)
Librarian, Veerashaiva College

Mrs. Shivanthi Chandrika Weerasinghe (Sri Lanka)
Assistant Librarian, Bank of Ceylon

Ms. Jing'an Feng (China)
Administrator of Circulation System in the National Library of China

Mrs. Pradnya Yogesh (India)
Librairan, Company Library Management, Mahindra British Telecom Ltd.

Ms. Wynn Lei Lei Than (Myanmar)
Librarian, Yezin Agricultural University

Members were reminded that, for various reasons, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) was no longer regarded as a suitable placement for scholarship holders, and that we needed to find alternative venues. This needed to be done by the end of 2002.

10.2 Training Attachment Selections. From 41 applicants the Group selected three individuals for ALP 2002 training attachments:

Iris Operario (Philippines)
Acquisitions Librarian, International Rice Research Institute

Pornthip Somrit (Thailand)
Systems officer, Silpakorn University Library

Sabitri Baral (Nepal)
Assistant Librarian, Tribhuvan University Library

11. Regional Section Projects

Five projects were submitted for funding, and one was recommended for 2003: Project 265, Information Management Curriculum Development in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Minor amendments are to be made by the submitting institution in consultation with Gary Gorman.

The sixth submission was tabled at the meeting but not accepted as it had not been submitted in the normal manner. Pensri Guaysuwan is to liaise with the submitting institution so that an acceptable application is made. It was emphasized that project submissions should be circulated as e-documents prior to meetings so that members would have time to assess them.

There was also discussion of an Indonesian project submitted in 2001; suggestions had been made for improving the project, but no follow-up communication had been received. Rashidah Begum agreed to pursue this to see if a new submission might be forthcoming in 2003.

12. Danida Travel Grants
The Committee agreed to establish a Travel Grants Review Group to assess applications and report back to the full Committee. The Group consisted of the following:

Gary Gorman (chair)
Rashidah Begum
Pensri Guaswayan
Hilda Nassar
Birgitta Sandell
The following criteria and scoring, devised by Birgitta Sandell, were accepted as standards for assessing future applications:

Education, 0-5 points
Work experience, 0-5 points
Motivation, 0-5 points

Age, must be less than 45
Library association, bonus point for membership

As a result of the scoring, about 35 potential candidates, from 250 applications, were recommended to Danida. The final selection would be made by Danida in consultation with IFLA ALP.

13. 68th IFLA General Conference Programme, Glasgow, 18-24 Aug 2002

13.1 RSCAO Open Session. It was noted that the number of proposals for papers was significantly lower than in past years and that the Committee needed to publicise such events more vigorously. Of the 10 abstracts submitted, the following five were accepted by the Committee:

Introducing Information Literacy and Skills to Undergraduates through Problem-based Learning: A Model for Sri Lanka, Pradeepa Wijetunge (Sri Lanka)

Librarians' Role in Teaching Information Literacy to Distance Students in Higher Education, Chutima Sacchanand (Thailand)

The Practice and Development of Community Libraries in China: A Case Study of Wuhan Area, China, Li Jingxia (China) – awarded speaker's grant

Developing Services for the Young: Lessons from an Experimental Workshop on Young Learners, Harrison Perera (Sri Lanka)

Designing and Implementing Information Literacy Programmes in Malaysian Public Universities: Observations and Recommendations, Mohd Sharif Mohd Saad (Malaysia)

13.2 RSCAO Workshop. It was agreed that the following workshop would be offered:

The Application of Metadata in Library and Information Services: An IFLA/RSCAO Workshop

In this workshop, intended particularly for librarians planning to introduce metadata into their cataloguing environment, participants will examine why and how metadata is used in libraries and information services. The workshop will focus on a range of metadata standards (eg the Dublin Core, the Encoded Archival Description) and it will examine metadata used for resource discovery, structural metadata, and preservation metadata. Using examples taken from appropriate national library and other library sites, the participants will be able to examine the steps the need to be taken to ensure that appropriate metadata standards are matched to different types of information resources and to different information management contexts. In particular, the workshop will be of interest to organizations that have a mandate to collect, preserve and make available digital material whether it be received via acquisitions, legal deposit, donation or as a product of the library's own digitization projects. The workshop will be hosted by Dr. Dan Dorner, Senior Lecturer, School of Information Management, Victoria University of Wellington and Mr. Steve Knight,

Business Development Analyst, Digital Initiatives Unit, Electronic Services, National Library of New Zealand.

13.3 Social Event. It was agreed to host a reception/dinner for delegates from the Asia-Oceania region. Gary Gorman, Rashidah Begum and Hilda Nassar would seek sponsorship, and numbers would be estimated at 150. It was agreed to ask Dr. Wu Jianzhong to open the event. Gary Gorman would contact him.

13.4 Division 8 Open Session. It was agreed to ask Dr. Wu Jianzhong to present a paper as representative of the Asia-Oceania region. Gary Gorman would contact him.

14. RSCAO Strategic Plan

Following extensive discussion, the Plan was revised and approved by the Committee (see Attachments).

15. Division 8 Advisory Committee

Discussion of the document prepared by Marjorie Bloss at the request of Ross Shimmon on further integration of Division 8 activities into Divisions 1-7 centred on the following points:

1 Most of the issue are already being addressed by the Asia and Oceania Section, and there seems little point in constantly reiterating these matters.
2 Much of the content of the document by Marjorie Bloss reflects the content of an earlier document prepared by Amelia McKenzie, former RSCAO Chair, and does not advance the discussion.
3 It is inappropriate for the same issues to be raised continually, and for failing to take into account the responses of at least this Section to the concerns of the original Division & discussion.
4 Should there be a need for further documents/reviews/position papers, these should be undertaken by appropriate persons within the regions covered by Division 8 and not by someone outside the regions.
5 The current document has effectively revived a certain amount of suspicion within RSCAO about the hidden agenda in the review of Division 8 and is seen to be counterproductive.

It was decided that the RSCAO Chair should convey these views, as well as a statement of RSCAO achievements, to relevant persons within IFLA.

16. Appointment of Corresponding Members

Under the new IFLA regulations Corresponding members serve a limited term. Here are currently five Corresponding Members who will serve until August 2003: Prof. R. Bowden, Ms. O. Fedotova, Dr. M. LaoSunthara, Ms. A. McKenzie, Mr. S. Salem.

17. Listserv for Asia-Oceania Region

It was agreed to create a listserv for the Section as a means of informing interested parties of activities relevant to the region. Emphasis would be on 'information

professionals' and not just librarians. Those on this listserv initially would be Committee members, past Danida grantees, ALP scholarship holders, etc. The list will be created by the Chair and managed by the Information Co-ordinator. All members are encouraged to submit names and e-mail addresses of interested parties to the Information Co-ordinator.

18. 69th IFLA General Conference Programme, Berlin, 1-9 August 2003

There will be no Division 8 Open Session in Berlin, but possibly a regional poster session to which our members might contribute.

18.1 RSCAO Open Session. It was decided to adopt as a theme for this session, 'Public libraries as communication and learning centres in the community'.

18.2 Other Activities. It was decided to investigate possible joint activities with other sections – Rashidah Begum will undertake this. It was decided to defer a decision about Berlin social activities until after the Glasgow social activities.

19. Next Meetings

19.1 Glasgow. There will be two meetings at the Glasgow Conference, as usual. These will be on 18 and 23 August.

19.2 Mid-conference Meeting. The next mid-conference meeting is to be held in Sri Lanka, approximately 3-6 March, including a workshop on Use of the Internet for Library Management and Services. Harrison Perera will be responsible for arranging the meeting.

20. Other Business

Kalpana Dasgupta tabled a report on the Workshop on the Electronic Library. 14-19 and 21-25 January 2002.

Pensri Guaysuwan tabled a pro forma meeting planner; this is to be discussed at the next meeting.

21. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at noon, 6 March 2002.

1   Beijing Meeting Schedule Prepared by the NLC
2   Briefing from IFLA/HQ
3   Notes of a Meeting Held on 4 December 2001
4   Action Plan for Division 8 (PC 01-086)
5   RSCAO Meeting Budget
6   RSCAO Working Timetable
7   2001 Annual Report of the ALP Programme
8   ALP Priorities
9   ALP List of Approved Projects February 2002
10 ALP Scholarships 2002

11 ALP Training Attachments 2002
12 University of Queensland 'Cybrary Skills' Modules
13 Thai Library Association WINSIS and WEBSIS Workshop
14 RSCAO Strategic Plan (included as e-file)
15 List of Papers Submitted for Glasgow Conference
16 Report on IFLA/ALP Project 256
17 Report on the Workshop on the Electronic Library
18 Pro forma meeting planner