Congratulations and Good Luck!

The Asia and Oceania Region has passed a new milestone, with a new Regional Office, hosted by the National Library Board of Singapore, and a new Regional Manager, Ms Tan Keat Fong. From all of us at IFLA Headquarters, congratulations, and we look forward to working with you.

As we pass this milestone I would like to record IFLA’s thanks to Dr Pensri Guaysuwan, who until her retirement at the beginning of this year served as our dedicated and tireless Regional Manager in Bangkok. Pensri is well known to many of us and we hope that she will have a very happy retirement, during which she will still have time to keep in contact with us.

This is not the first time that an IFLA regional office has been moved from one country or city to another. However, it is, to our knowledge, the first time that the location of the new regional office has been decided on the basis of an open and competitive call for proposals. This elicited several excellent proposals, illustrating the strength of the library community in several countries in the region. Ultimately Singapore came out tops, but several other candidates were not far behind; some were so good that given the size of the region and the diversity of the countries that it comprises, we felt it was a real pity that we could not allocate regional offices to more countries.

As the world-wide voice for libraries IFLA strives for the fullest possible international representation. Ideally, we should have members in every one of the 191 member countries of the United Nations. Currently we have members in 145 countries. Many of the remaining 46 countries are small and have a rudimentary library sector with just a handful of trained librarians. The Asia and Oceania region has its share of such countries; the small island nations in the region come to mind. We need to reach out to them, for the colleagues working there badly need professional contact and interaction. This is also true of countries where IFLA does have members. Thus we are not merely concerned with representation. Engagement is of primary importance: supporting the development of the library profession and the capacity for high quality library services in all the countries in the region, regardless of whether we have members there.

An important mechanism for outreach and engagement is of course constituted by our Regional Sections and Regional Offices. These play a key role in library development in their regions. The selection of the new Regional Office for Asia and Oceania has set us thinking about the role of the regional offices. I am hopeful that, as the newest regional office, Singapore will join with the other two (Dakar and Rio de Janeiro) in helping us rethink that role for the 21st century.

But for now it is down to the nitty gritty. Serving as IFLA’s window on such a huge and diverse region, and serving as that region’s window into IFLA, is a challenge. I am confident that Singapore will do a great job.

Dr Peter Johan Lor
Secretary General
IFLA
Dear colleagues and friends at IFLA Headquarters and around the world – warmest greetings from Singapore!

It is a great honour for us here at the National Library Board Singapore to be appointed the IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania from 1 January 2006. The appointment adds impetus to our own mission: which is to provide a trusted, accessible and globally connected library and information service.

The Regional Office for Asia and Oceania will continue to promote and support IFLA activities, foster links between library associations and provide logistical and administrative support to members in the Region.

All of us in the Region have important roles to play. We need to leverage our relationship and build upon our global network to learn from one another and to promote understanding, cooperation, discussion, research and development in all fields of library activity and information science, and to make a positive contribution to society.

New pressures and new challenges have emerged in the first few years of the new millennium, heralding fundamental economic, technological, social and political changes to our increasingly connected global world. Libraries are repositioning themselves as hubs to power the knowledge economy that has become the pivotal driver of wealth in the 21st century. A great library is no longer judged by collection size, but by the information and knowledge services it provides to its audience.

Through our active collaboration and knowledge sharing across the Region, we will all become better positioned to serve the library users in our own countries. In line with this scenario, I am confident that IFLA and the Asia and Oceania Region will continue to grow from strength to strength.

I wish to express my appreciation to everyone who has contributed in one way or another to this publication, which I am sure will continue to serve as an important channel of communication for our members.

Happy reading.

Dr N Varaprasad
Chief Executive
National Library Board Singapore

Warmest Greetings!

In January 2006, the National Library Board Singapore (NLB) was appointed as the Regional Office for Asia and Oceania by IFLA and we would like to thank IFLA for giving us this wonderful opportunity. Mr Peter Lor, Secretary-General, IFLA and Ms Ngian Lek Choh, Deputy Chief Executive, NLB signed the Memorandum of Understanding between IFLA and NLB and the inauguration of the Regional Office was held on 6 April 2006.

On behalf of the region, I would like to express my thanks to Dr Pensri Guaysawan, who had served tirelessly as Regional Manager for 15 years in Bangkok until her retirement from the office early this year. Pensri has been most committed in her role and we wish her a very fulfilling retirement. I am also extremely grateful to both Pensri and Mr Sjoerd Koopman, Coordinator of Professional Activities, for taking time out of their busy schedules and making a trip to Singapore to hand over the office.

From 21 to 24 February 2006, I attended the Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania (RSCAO) meeting and Information Literacy Conference and Workshop in Hanoi. During the trip, I had the opportunity to meet Mr Gary Gorman, Chairman of RSCAO and the other members of RSCAO. In addition, I was pleased to meet with Ms Birgitta Sandell, Programme Director of ALP. At the meeting, together with the RSCAO, we reviewed the ALP projects that included conferences, scholarships and library travel grants applications. These projects will be sponsored by ALP for individual and institutions applicants in the Asia and Oceania region.

As I take on this exciting role of Regional Manager, I will be working with various Standing Committees and the Coordinating Board of Regional Division in carrying out IFLA activities and supporting library associations in the region. The Regional Office will organise communication between IFLA/ HQ and the region and seek sources for funding for IFLA projects.

We hope that with this newsletter, we can reach out and stay in touch with 322 members in the region. To date, we have 50 member countries, of which 38 are from the region and 12 are registered under Asia and Oceania Section. So, let us work together to actively promote IFLA so as to engage more of our colleagues and partners in the region. Furthermore, we would like to invite all members to submit articles and news on the various happenings in their countries and libraries to the Regional Office so that we can feature them in our future newsletters.

As we look forward to the World Library and Information Congress, held in August at Seoul, let us stay connected with each other!

From Regional Manager’s Desk
IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania in Singapore

The National Library Board Singapore (NLB) has been appointed the IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania. The Regional Office is located in the National Library on 100 Victoria Street, in the heart of Singapore’s arts, cultural and civic district. Opened in July 2005, the 16-storey building is home to NLB’s headquarters and comprises the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library, as well as the Central Lending Library. In addition, it houses a performing arts venue – the Drama Centre – within its premises.

Representing NLB as the Regional Manager is Ms Tan Keat Fong, a librarian with over 30 years of professional experience in a variety of roles in the library industry. She began her career in the public libraries and headed Singapore’s Integrated Library Automation Service (SILAS), or NLB’s National Bibliographic Services and National Union Catalogue to Singapore libraries. She also served in Library Support Services, or Technical Services as it is known in other libraries.

Over the past six years, she has been working closely with international and local libraries in her portfolio as Assistant Director, Professional and International Relations, helping NLB to build networks and relationships with the local and international library communities.

Role of the Regional Office and Regional Manager
As the permanent representative of IFLA headquarters in the region, Ms Tan will help promote and communicate IFLA activities, support the Regional Section and provide logistical and administrative support to the Asia and Oceania Section. The Regional Office will support 322 members.

About NLB
NLB is a statutory board under the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts and was established on 11 September 1995. Apart from the National Library, it also oversees the management of the public library network as well as over 30 libraries belonging to government agencies, schools and private institutions.

NLB’s mission is to provide a trusted, accessible and globally-connected library and information service so as to promote a knowledgeable and engaged society. It sees itself as an inspiring beacon of lifelong learning, bringing knowledge alive, sparking imagination and creating possibility for a vibrant and creative Singapore. One of the ways to achieve this is creating a network of borderless libraries by linking all publicly-funded libraries in Singapore to overseas libraries and information services through computer networking and collaborations. By bringing libraries closer to the public, NLB places the wealth of knowledge and information within easy reach of its users.

To improve its global reach and to seize collaborative opportunities, NLB has signed Memorandums of Understanding with various international partners, including The British Library, the Library Board of Victoria Australia, the national libraries of Australia, China, Indonesia and Korea, the Sarawak State Library, The Shanghai Library and The Xiamen Municipal Library.

NLB also organises international library conferences, the most recent of which was “Celebrating Knowledge: The Power and the Potential”, a three-day conference in November 2005 held in conjunction with the official opening celebrations of the National Library. It attracted over 25 international and local speakers as well as over 440 delegates from across 19 countries.

In the ASEAN region, NLB has been hosting the Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL) secretariat since 2000.
Information Literacy for All
News Release: March 2006

FLA has been heavily involved in the preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society, the first phase of which was held in Geneva, December 2003 and the second phase in Tunis, 16–18 November 2005.

The final report of the High-Level Colloquium on Information Literacy and Lifelong Learning, held at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria, Egypt, 6–9 November 2005, sponsored by the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the National Forum on Information Literacy (NFIL) and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), was released on 1 March 2006.

Building on an earlier international meeting of experts which was held in Prague, the Czech Republic, in September 2003, the report challenges international, regional and national organisations to move beyond an exclusive focus and concern for “Information for All” to “Information Literacy for All.”

The report argues that the existence of information holds little to no value to people who do not even know what information they need, much less whether it exists or not, or how to locate, evaluate and effectively use it.

According to Abdelaziz Abid, Senior Programme Specialist, Communications and Information Sector of UNESCO, “Information Literacy has become a global issue, and many Information Literacy initiatives are being documented throughout the world. Information Literacy forms the basis for lifelong learning. It is common to all disciplines, to all learning environments and to all levels of education…” The report makes a strong case that information literacy is part of the basic right to lifelong learning, and that it is far more than a library or education issue. The report acknowledges that Information Literacy is context specific to particular cultures and societies, and finds it crucial to dealing with issues of economic development, health, citizenship, governance and quality of life. The report makes practical recommendations that seek to promote far greater social inclusion of all races, religions, ethnic groups and cultures within today’s global Information Society.

The report is organised according to four primary areas related to Information Literacy: Education and Learning, Health and Human Services, Business and Economic Development, and Governance and Citizenship. It highlights recommendations for empowering citizens across the globe to be information literate. The report also describes numerous activities, strategies and approaches to promote cooperation between governments, NGOs, elements of the Civil Society, and international organisations, as well as opportunities for implementation and future plans.

The three major organisers of the High-Level Colloquium were:

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), which is the international lead agency for education, the sciences, and culture. For more information, go to http://www.unesco.org.
- The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), which is the leading international NGO body representing the interests of library and information services and their users.
- The National Forum on Information Literacy (NFIL), which is an U.S. based umbrella group of over 90 organisations from education, business, government and community service, plus international organisations. All are committed to the empowerment of individuals in today’s information society. Combined membership in the Forum member organisations totals over 5,000,000. For more information, go to http://www.infolit.org.

Contributions to the meeting were also made by the following: Bibliotheca Alexandrina and its Director, Dr Ismail Serageldin; Diane and Lee Brandenburg of California, USA, Information Today, Inc.; and the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS).

5th IFLA International Marketing Award 2007

The Award sponsored by Sirsi Dynix will honor organisations that have implemented creative, results-oriented marketing projects or campaigns.

The Award winner will receive airfare, lodging and registration for the 2007 IFLA General Conference and Council in Durban, South Africa, as well as a cash award of USD1,000.

The full announcement and application form will be made available on IFLANET shortly.

Last date for submitting applications: 30 November 2006. For previous years’ award please visit: http://www.ifla.org/VII/s34/index.htm

For further enquiries, please contact Ms Daisy McAdams at Daisy.McAdam@ses.unige.ch

Source: http://www.ifla.org
The IFLA World Library and Information Congress is traditionally held annually in varying parts of the globe. This year, the conference will be held in Seoul, Korea from 20-24 August 2006. The organisation is in the hands of IFLA Headquarters and the national committee. IFLA has also hired a Professional Conference Organiser who handles all the arrangements and also takes care of the on-site management of the event.

The general theme of the conference is “Libraries: Dynamic Engines for the Knowledge and Information Society.” The theme was chosen because IFLA believes that libraries should act as a dynamic engine for the knowledge and information society. This is to be the mission of library scholars and professionals worldwide in the new era.

In recent years, society has been changing rapidly with the onset of a new digital era and rapid developments in information technology and digital communications.

It is time for libraries to work together with library scholars and professionals in order to fulfill the role and functions of 21st century information centres to meet the challenges of this fast moving world.

Besides presentations of papers, the 5-day conference will include seminars, forums, satellite meetings, workshops, exhibitions, library tours, sightseeing tours and cultural activities.

In addition, IFLA Express, a daily newsletter which will be published during the Conference by the National Organising Committee in collaboration with the IFLA Secretariat to keep participants updated on the latest happenings. Two pre-conference issues of IFLA Express have also been published, one in February 2006 and one in May 2006 with the latest news on the conference.

For more information, please visit http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/index.htm.

IFLA Poster Session: Regional Office for Asia and Oceania

An alternative approach for the presentation of projects/work is available for conference participants. An area on the conference premises has been designated for the presentation of information regarding projects or activities of interest to librarians.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Schedule Of Poster Sessions:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Session 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Session 2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>22 August 2006, Tuesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>12:00 to 14:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>IFLA Corner, COEX Convention and Exhibition Centre</td>
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</table>

**Poster Coverage:**

- NLB as IFLA’s Regional Office for Asian and Oceania
- IFLA Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania’s (RSCAO) Achievements
- Action for Development through Libraries Programme Core Activity (ALP) Programme and the programmes awarded to the Asia and Oceania countries

We look forward to meeting you at the WLIC 2006 in Seoul! Visit us at the IFLA Corner.
Creating Prosperity through Innovation
– ICT at Work in Development

GKP International Forum On Cross-sector Partnerships 2006

By Russell Bowden
IFLA Honorary Fellow

[Re-edited and published with permission of the IFLA Secretary-General]

The Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) Forum was excellently-well organised by both the GKP Secretariat from Kuala Lumpur, the Hilton Hotel, Colombo and the local sponsors in Colombo – Young Asia Television, ICTA (Information Communication Technology Agency) and Sarvodaya. About 300 people (primarily non-Lankans) attended well-structured, tightly but amiably-chaired (mainly by the GKP Chairman Walter Fust also the D-C of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), democratic and transparently-open meetings for two days (8 & 9 May) and with the GKP AGM on 10 May 2006.

[Note: The Global Knowledge Partnership had been established by the World Bank, the British Council, IDRC and others at the end of the ’90s. IFLA was not then a member. After reporting on the Kuala Lumpur GKP II Conference for IFLA I recommended (2002) that IFLA join and it is now a member].

Developments
Since my last contact with GKP at the Task-Net meeting (British Council, Delhi November 1999) and the GKP II Conference (Kuala Lumpur 2002) the organisation has undergone many changes. The Secretariat is no longer provided by the World Bank but by an independent staff (in Kuala Lumpur) of more than 14 headed by an efficient Executive Director, Rinalia Abdul Rahim. Its funding (which seems assured) is, apparently, primarily from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and IDRC. Membership (including IFLA and The British Council) is around 100.

Changes in participants are noticeable. The earlier meetings were memorable for the youth and enthusiasm of participants coupled with impatience for progress and perhaps a little naivety regarding the necessity for some administrative formalities seen by some to delay achievements of objectives. The Colombo meetings in no way lacked enthusiasm but that younger generation was either older or had been replaced by people now in charge of longer-established organisations and so with a better appreciation of the benefits of good management. The fact also that GKP is now ‘owned’ by these participants resulted in much less sniping at organisations like the World Bank and provided greater seriousness and stability. Thus were released synergies and powerful energies for change and to achieve objectives. GKP’s relationships over the years have been successfully fostered with many global and influential bodies such as the ICTU, Unesco, UNDP and through successful participation in the WSIS (Geneva and Tunis) meetings. It is, more than before, a formidable organisation setting carefully conceived and ambitious targets, working speedily, through ICT, the Web and e-mailing, with democratically and transparently-reached objectives and with membership-approved decisions, to achieve many of them.

GKP Objectives and Libraries
Having painted a general picture of GKP and the Forum, I have to report that there was little that transpired concerning, specifically, libraries. Indeed the word was never mentioned and the opportunities to raise LIS issues in context were never present. One question submitted on IFLA’s behalf, regarding the establishment of tele-centres and village information centres in public libraries, was never addressed because of a change of programme. GKP has moved far ahead of such issues. Although tele-centres and village information centres (particularly in the context of the hugely-ambitious Indian Government’s plan to celebrate 60 years of Independence in 2007 with the establishment of over 7,000 village information centres and similar targets in the e-Lanka Programme) did figure on the first day. GKP’s current foci have advanced to concentrate on matters such as - social entrepreneurship; social innovations and their gaining access to
capital; persuading banks to share costs of social investments; community development; poverty alleviation; connecting non-profit organisations with soft-ware solutions; poverty alleviation; etc.

To achieve these it envisages partnerships (the theme of this Forum) between ‘civil societies’ and governments, other international agencies, the Development Banks, funding and lending agencies, NGOs, the public sector and, increasingly, the private sector and GKP has ambitious programmes to achieve these relationships.

**Where Does IFLA And Its Membership Fit With GKP Objectives?**

The answer for the majority of IFLA members not involved with public information institutions is hardly at all. For those related to the public libraries’ sectors, I would assess, a little although not much more. Only for a small minority of librarians, but not the IFLA ‘mainstream’ I fear, can there be perceived to be much relevance in these GKP objectives with those of IFLA.

GKP has advanced its interests and work into areas that, I assume, for the majority of IFLA’s members, will be perceived to be on the periphery of LIS professional concerns and not seen to be easily related to IFLA’s current objectives. I write of ‘most librarians’.

However I know there to be a minority of public librarians (or colleagues interested in the practices of this area of librarianship) who seriously and thoughtfully comprehend roles for public libraries in assisting in achieving objectives similar to those of GKP. These would be colleagues who do believe that public libraries have central roles to play in encouraging social changes. Such opinions can be found in minority groups in the American Library Association and, in the UK in ‘Librarians for Social Change’ and in ‘Link – a network for North-South library development’. However these enthusiasts represent a minority amongst the general memberships. (Although one needs to ask questions and obtain answers, from the ‘traditionalist’ majority, to: “what are public libraries about if they are not about encouraging social changes?” and “Why spend tax-payers monies on institutions that fail to comprehend that they have important and central roles in bringing about changes in societies?” “Should they not exist for far more serious social-engineering activities than simply encouraging the reading habit or increasing statistics of loans or improved book use?”). For those that share the more radical vision then IFLA needs certainly to remain as a GKP member. Although, if it is to be perceived by the other GKP members, to have contributions of value to make, a lot of work will need to be done to bring IFLA membership up-to-date with these philosophies and to envisage more precisely in what manner public (and other) libraries, through IFLA, can positively assist in achieving GKP objectives.

**Recommendation**

If these ‘minority’ views do not hold sway in the ‘corridors of power’ within IFLA’s top management then I believe that this points to the truth that the GKP has far out-grown IFLA and, therefore, IFLA can obtain little of value from remaining in its membership. IFLA should then consider leaving – although I, personally, would very much regret that having, myself earlier, originally championed most strongly IFLA’s joining GKP.

I have proposed - for IFLA’s consideration - that it agrees to send a senior Officer or Member to the next GKP III Conference to be held 11 - 13 December 2007 (to celebrate GKP’s ten years’ anniversary) in Kuala Lumpur to report on this event, after which IFLA will be better placed to take a decision to remain or to leave GKP.

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**Asked to comment, Peter Lor, Secretary General of IFLA, said, “IFLA is grateful for to Russell for attending the meeting of the Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) on our behalf. His interesting and thought-provoking report will be submitted to the Governing Board for its consideration. I do want to say that IFLA values its membership of the GKP, which provided us with excellent support during the World Summit on the Information Society. Although I think that Russell’s view of the social awareness of librarians and the role of libraries in society is too pessimistic, his comments are challenging and I hope that the librarians in the Region will take up the challenge. For its part, the Governing Board will continue to assess the benefits of its partnerships with various international organisations, such as the GKP, from time to time. Russell’s comments will be useful when we do this.”**
Inauguration of IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania at the National Library, Singapore

By Ambika Raghavan
Senior Reference Librarian
Lee Kong Chian Reference Library
National Library Board Singapore

The inauguration of the International Federation of Library Association and Institutions (IFLA) Regional Office for Asia and Oceania was on 6 April 2006. Officiated by Dr Peter Lor, Secretary-General of IFLA, and Dr N Varaprasad, Chief Executive, NLB, the inauguration was held during the dinner ceremony of the conference, “The Asia-Pacific Conference on Library and Information Education & Practice (A-LIEPI)” which was organised by the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) School of Communication & Information.

In his speech Dr Varaprasad said, “This is a great honour for the National Library Board and Singapore as we were chosen not only for our ability to support and promote IFLA activities in the region, but also because of Singapore’s good corporate governance and excellent infrastructure. Through the combined efforts of both IFLA and NLB, we can better serve more communities, promote library and knowledge education and innovation as well as support research in libraries. More importantly, we want to work towards a common goal of making libraries into centres of lifelong learning, where information is delivered in a seamless and affordable manner to all.”

The “Joint Collaboration Agreement for the Location of the IFLA’s Regional Office for Asia and Oceania in the Republic of Singapore” was signed earlier by Ms Ngian Lek Choh, Deputy Chief Executive and Dr Lor on 6 February 2006. The Office will be overseen by Ms Tan Keat Fong, the newly appointed Regional Manager.

The Lee Kong Chian Reference Library located in the National Library was also designated as the one-stop centre for all papers generated from IFLA Conferences and Council Meetings. This means that anyone who is interested in these documents, be it researcher, LIS educator or library administrator, can easily access them through the Library.
Welcome!
New Members of Asia and Oceania Region
From 1 January 2006 to 15 June 2006

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<th>City/Country</th>
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<td>INSTITUTION</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Capital Library of China</td>
<td>Beijing, China</td>
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<td>Department of Information and Communication, Shih-Hsin</td>
<td>Taipei, Taiwan</td>
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<tr>
<td>China Executive Leadership Academy Pudong Library (CELAP)</td>
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<td>Ministry of External Affairs Library</td>
<td>New Delhi, India</td>
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<td>National Institute of Informatics</td>
<td>Tokyo, Japan</td>
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<td>National Academic Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan</td>
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<td>Taylor’s College Subang Jaya</td>
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<td>Arabic Union Catalogue Centre</td>
<td>Riyadh, Saudi Arabia</td>
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<td>Singapore</td>
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<td>PERSONAL AFFILIATE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Jennefer Nicholson</td>
<td>Narrabundah ACT, Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof S.B. Ghosh</td>
<td>New Delhi, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Andy Fenton</td>
<td>Tawa Wellington, New Zealand</td>
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<tr>
<td>STUDENT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Somsri Vongdeelerd</td>
<td>Bangkok, Thailand</td>
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For more information on IFLA membership and activities, please visit http://www.ifla.org
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Second Election

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Second Election

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Second Election

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Mid-Conference Meeting of IFLA Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania

By Premila Gamage
Secretary
Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania

The Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania (RSCAO) had its Mid-Conference Meeting from 23-24 February 2006 in Hanoi. The meeting was hosted by the National Centre for Scientific and Technological Information (NACESTI). In addition to the meeting of the Standing Committee, members participated in a workshop and a two-day training programme on Logical Framework Approach (LFA).

On 20 February, the Faculty of Library and Information Science (FLIS), University of Social Sciences and Humanities (USSH), Vietnam National University (VNU), Hanoi organised a one day workshop on ‘Information Literacy’. This workshop was attended by nearly 450 participants and it was graced by the presence of Dr Nguyen Pham Hung, Deputy of Research Management and Postgraduate Department, USSH, Prof Nguyen Van Khanh, Rector of USSH and Dr Tran Thi Quy, Dean of FLIS, USSH. At the inauguration of the workshop participants were greeted by FLIS students in traditional attire with pleasant music and beautiful folk dances. Among the papers presented at the workshop, there were five papers offered by the members of the RSCAO. At the morning session, Prof Gary Gorman, Chair, RSCAO and Dr Dan Dorner, Senior Lecturer, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand jointly presented a paper titled ‘Factors affecting information literacy education in Asian developing countries’. This was followed by Prof Russell Bowden, Corresponding Member of RSCAO for Sri Lanka, who presented his paper on ‘Opportunities for Librarians as Information Literacy Educators’. Three case studies were then presented. Ms Elizabeth Reade Fong, Standing Committee Member of RSCAO for Fiji presented a paper on

the University of South Pacific Library’s information literacy programme, while Ms Rashidah Begum bt. Fazal Mohamed, Corresponding Member of RSCAO for Malaysia, and Mr Mohamed Sharif, Standing Committee Member of RSCAO for Malaysia, presented information literacy programmes in a Malaysian college library and a university library. There were also several papers presented at the seminar by Vietnamese experts, which described the development and current status of information literacy in Vietnam.

The two-day training programme on LFA was held on 21 and 22 February at NACESTI. This training was sponsored by IFLA/ALP for RSCAO members. Ms Kari Östergren did an excellent job as the resource person. Participants were given hands-on experience on how to write and evaluate project proposals for obtaining funds.

The next two days were spent discussing our programmes and activities for the future. We were very pleased to have Mr Sjoerd Koopman, from IFLA headquarters who is responsible for IFLA professional activities, and Ms Tan Keat Fong from Singapore, new Regional Manager for Asia and Oceania. Every one of our members, including several new members actively participated in the meeting and made valuable contributions to our discussions. We noticed that there has been an increased awareness of the role and work of IFLA as well as the RSCAO. We received nearly 32 abstracts for our open session programme for Seoul. We also received a considerable number of project applications, and scholarship and training attachment programmes. The minutes of the meeting will be available soon on IFLANET.

Our Vietnamese hosts very kindly included several other activities such as library tours and sight seeing in our programme. We toured NACESTI facilities, which
is clearly the most advanced scientific and technical information service in Vietnam. Mrs Tran Lan, Head of International Relations, very kindly accompanied us. Before the tour Mr Cao Minh Kiem, Deputy Director, gave us a valuable presentation explaining the functions, services and resources of NACESTI.

We also had the opportunity to visit the National Library of Vietnam (VNU). We were ceremonially welcomed at the entrance by the Mr Khang, Director General, Deputy Directors and several other officials. We were given a wonderful presentation about the VNU by a charming young lady dressed in traditional attire.

Dr Tran Quy and Mrs Thi Thuy Han accompanied us on a city tour where we were able to see a little bit of Hanoi, for example, First University of Vietnam and Ho Chi Min Museum and Mausoleum.

No IFLA event is complete without gathering for dinners. These gatherings allowed members to sample Hanoi cuisine as well as to meet many local professionals. In addition, it was an ideal opportunity for networking. Our sincere thanks go to Prof Nguyen Van Khanh, Rector VNU/USSH for the lovely welcoming dinner, and to Dr Ta Ba Hung, Director NACESTI, Mr Khang, Director General NLV, and IFLA/ALP for entertaining dinners.

We, RSCAO members, had a very productive meeting and also a very pleasant stay in Hanoi mainly because of our hosts’ hard work. Hence, we would like to record our sincere gratitude to Dr Ta Ba Hung, Director of NACESTI, and especially to Mrs Tran Lan, Head of International Relations and her young team (Mr Dao Manh Thang) for arranging on-arrival visa, transport, accommodation and various logistics. Dr Tran Quy and Mrs Thi Thuy Han of VNU/USSH were with us all the time attending to a thousand and one things, to make our stay a pleasant and comfortable one. Finally, all RSCAO members would like to express our deep appreciation on the thoughtful gestures and the warm concern shown by all those who contributed to the organisation of the programme and associated activities – thank you!

**Resolution**

“The full Committee (RSCAO) wishes to express their unanimous disagreement with the proposal to form a ‘Third World Caucus’. We believe that this would be an unnecessarily political move, that it would be divisive of the unity we are achieving in Division VIII, and that it would be counter-productive to omit those developed countries in our regions which may be working with less developed countries to help solve their problems”.
25 IFLA Members who are registered under Section 26 and located in non-Asia and Oceania Region

Member countries: 12
• Canada
• Egypt
• France
• Germany
• Italy
• Jamaica
• Netherlands
• Russian Federation
• Sweden
• Turkey
• United Kingdom
• United States
297 IFLA Members in the Asia and Oceania Region

Member countries: 38

- Australia
- Bhutan
- Cambodia
- China
- Fiji
- Guam
- India
- Indonesia
- Islamic Republic of Iran
- Israel
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Democratic People’s Republic of Korea
- Republic of Korea
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Malaysia
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Mongolia
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- New Caledonia
- New Zealand
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palestinian
- Papua New Guinea
- Philippines
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Singapore
- Sri Lanka
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Thailand
- United Arab Emirates
- Uzbekistan
- Vietnam
ALP Scholarships and Training Attachments for Asia and Oceania

Source: http://www.ifla.org

The purpose of these two programmes is to further the library profession, library institutions and library and information services in developing countries.

In many developing countries the status of the library and information profession needs to be strengthened. This can be done among other things by continuing education programme, especially in areas striving to keep up with the rapid pace of development in library and informationservices. This, therefore, is a priority area to which ALP addresses itself.

**Scholarships**

Middle level professionals and technical specialists (computing staff) working in libraries/information centres in Asia and Oceania may apply. The candidates must be less than 46 years old. They must have an undergraduate degree and basic IT skills. The scholarship will enable the recipient to gain experience and hands-on exposure in a professionally advanced environment at a recognized institution in Asia and oceania. The scholarship period will not exceed six weeks.

**Financial Assistance**

In addition to economy class return airfare, the recipient will be given a moderate per diem allowance to cover meals and accomodation.

**Report**

The recipient must submit a detailed report of approximately 2000 words to the ALP and host institution.

**Administrative Formalities**

Administrative formalities such as arranging leave, visa, etc. will be the responsibility of the recipient.

**Closing Date**

The applications should be received at the latest by 31 December each year. Selected candidates will be informed within three months of the closing date.

Please send your application to the Regional Manager:

**Ms Tan Keat Fong**

National Library Board
100 Victoria Street #14-01
Singapore 188064
Singapore
Tel: +(65) 6332 3347
Fax: +(65) 6332 3616
E-mail: keatfong@nlb.gov.sg

**Condition of Grants**

Applicants can apply for one grant only from ALP yearly.

**Checklist**

To make sure that your application meets the necessary requirements, please follow the checklist below:

- Letter of endorsement from your employer allowing you to go on study leave is enclosed
- Office and postal addresses are written clearly with necessary details
- Age is below 46.

It is important to send the file electronically if at all possible. If it is necessary to send a fax version, please make sure that the original copies of your application documents are sharp and clear enough to produce legible fax copies.

The application form can be downloaded from http://www.ifla.org/VI/1/admin/scholarasia.htm.
Training Attachments

The four-week Training Attachments are designed to afford an opportunity to middle-level library and information workers (below forty years of age) from developing countries who wish to gain experience and hands-on exposure from more advanced environments. The areas identified for such training are library management, information technology, preservation, rural librarianship and literacy work.

Financial Assistance
In addition to economy class return airfare, the recipient will be given a moderate per diem allowance to cover meals and accommodation.

Report
The recipient must submit a detailed report of approximately 2000 words to the ALP and host institution.

Administrative Formalities
Administrative formalities such as, arranging leave, visa, etc. will be the responsibility of the recipient.

Closing Date
The applications should be received at the latest by 31 December each year. Selected candidates will be informed within three months of the closing date.

Please send your application to the Regional Manager:
Ms Tan Keat Fong
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Fax: +(65) 6332 3616
E-mail: keatfong@nlb.gov.sg

Condition of Grants
Applicants can apply for one grant only from ALP yearly.

Checklist
To make sure that your application meets the necessary requirements, please place a checkmark before the criteria items listed below:

- Letter of endorsement from your employer allowing you to go on study leave is enclosed.
- Office and postal addresses are written clearly with necessary details
- Age is below 40.
- Application is sent to the Coordinator not later than 31 December.

It is important to send the file electronically if at all possible. If it is necessary to send a fax version, please make sure that the original copies of your application documents are sharp and clear enough to produce legible fax copies.

The application form can be downloaded from http://www.ifla.org/V1/1/admin/trasia.htm.

World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) 2006, Seoul Attendance Grant

The aim of the travel grant is to support 10 delegates from a number of countries in Asia to attend the World Library and Information Congress: 72nd IFLA Conference in Seoul, Korea, 20-24 August 2006.

ALP received 100 applications to the first grant, WLIC 2006 Seoul Attendance Grant, concerning only a few selected countries in Asia with the deadline 15 March. Beginning of April, we got the information that the Korean government had granted a substantial amount to support participants from developing countries in attending the upcoming IFLA WLIC in Seoul, and another sum from the national organisers of the 2005 Oslo conference. As it was quite late, a message was sent to all IFLA Officers instead of making a general announcement.

We put together a Selection Committee to review the applications and select candidates. Priority was given to speakers-presenters from developing countries, whose papers had been approved, but who had difficulties in raising funding for travel to Seoul, lodging and/or registration. We received many applications and only a part of those who needed funding got it.
Pacific Librarians Attend the Pacific IFAP Committee Meeting

Source: http://www.unesco.org

By Mark Perkins
Member
Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania

At the inaugural meeting of the IFAP Pacific Regional Committee which was held on 2 May 2006 in Wellington, New Zealand has called on Information and Communications Ministers from Pacific Islands’ countries to meet to discuss digital content issues.

At the Meeting of Pacific ICT Ministers in March 2006, the Ministers focused largely on the need to improve communications infrastructure in Pacific Island Countries. However, it is equally important that similar efforts be invested in developing the information skills of Pacific Islands’ communities as well as in the creation and preservation of digital content, said Laurence Zwimpfer, Chairperson of the IFAP Committee.

The Pacific IFAP Committee meeting was hosted by the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO. As efforts to establish national committees in Pacific Island countries proved challenging, given the limited resources of these countries, the UNESCO Office for the Pacific States in Apia approached the New Zealand National IFAP Committee to expand its terms of reference to encompass the Pacific sub-region.

Participants included representatives from New Zealand government and civil society agencies. The Apia office for UNESCO funded the participation of Sin Joan Yee, University Librarian at the University of the South Pacific (USP).

It was noted that the member countries of USP could be regarded a sub-region within the IFAP Pacific region. Joan also attended the meetings of the New Zealand Communication & Information Sub-Commission and Joint CI and Culture Sub-Commissions earlier that day.

The meeting endorsed the proposal to expand the scope of the NZ IFAP Committee to include all 17 UNESCO Pacific member states. Key information professionals in Pacific Island countries will be involved either in person or by teleconference in future meetings.

The Australian National Commission for UNESCO will also be approached to join this group at least until such time that they might wish to establish a National Committee. It was also agreed to link up with other groups working in the communications and information sectors in the Pacific including the University of the South Pacific (USP); International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA); the Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council of Archives (PARBICA) and the Pacific Association of Libraries (PIALA).

The meeting discussed and agreed to adopt the three strategic priorities identified by IFAP, namely Information Preservation, Information Literacy; and Information Ethics. These priorities would help to guide the development of a workplan for the Committee.

The meeting focused on “Information Preservation in the Pacific” and endorsed a proposal to establish a Pacific Memory of the World register. A project to register the “founding documents” (e.g. treaties, instruments of Independence, etc.) of Pacific Island nations was discussed and also agreed to.

Another candidate for registration is the Pacific missionary archives. PARBICA and the National Library of New Zealand agreed to assist in carrying out the project.

The meeting also approved proposals for a WSIS Summit Awards Road Show and a series of virtual seminars across the Pacific region aimed at increasing the understanding and practice of information ethics (InfoEthics) among academics, journalists, publishers, government officials, information professionals, etc. Budgets for all these initiatives now need to be prepared and the necessary funding secured.

The meeting noted the Wellington Declaration and Summary Outcomes of the Pacific Islands’ Information and Communications Technologies Ministerial Meeting held on 30 March 2006.

Whilst commending the promulgation of The Pacific Plan and The Digital Strategy, the meeting noted that “information content” issues were noticeably absent or missing. The Ministers’ meeting appeared to focus mainly on “infrastructure” issues, and while there is no denying the urgent need to improve access to digital technologies and the Internet, parallel consideration must be given to capability and content issues.

It was suggested that these areas could become the focus of a future meeting of Pacific Island Ministers.

The meeting resolved to request the Pacific Forum Secretariat to convene such a Ministerial Meeting on “Information Content” issues; this could possibly be held when the Communications Ministers reconvene during the first quarter of 2007.

Below a photo representing Penny Carnaby (National Librarian of NZ), Judith Tizard (Minister Responsible for the National Library), and Joan Yee (University of the South Pacific Library) at the launch of the Public Libraries Strategic Framework 2006-2016 in the Grand Hall of the Parliament Buildings, 1 May 2006.
The Pacific Islands Association of Libraries and Archives (PIALA) receives an IFLA ALP Grant for an Advocacy Workshop

By Arlene Cohen
Former Secretary
IFLA Management of Library Associations Section

IFLA Action for Development through Libraries Programme (ALP) has approved the grant application submitted by Arlene Cohen, former IFLA Management of Library Associations Section (MLAS) Secretary and Mark Perkins, a Standing Committee member of the IFLA Regional Section on Asia and Oceania, for a workshop to train library association leaders in the Pacific Islands in library advocacy and policy development.

The Pacific Islands Association of Libraries and Archives (PIALA), established in 1991, is a Pacific regional association of librarians and archivists formed to address the needs of librarians and archivists in the Pacific, with a special focus on Micronesia.

Micronesia is composed of several island countries and entities, covering an expanse of water almost as big as the United States of America. An Executive Board consisting of officers and representatives from each founding Micronesian island country/entity governs PIALA. These entities are Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Marshall Islands and the Federates States of Micronesia consisting of the states of Yap, Chuuk, Kosrae and Pohnpei.

Government officials, educators and the public in the Pacific Islands do not appreciate the role of libraries in our society. Thus, many Pacific Island laws and government policies relating to information access, literacy and education are being developed with little or no library community or association input. Therefore, library association leaders, activists and educators must understand the role of library associations as pressure groups for political action and policy decisions. This will then effectively influence government decisions in both basic funding for libraries and new emerging areas of information literacy and telecommunications technology. To do so, these leaders, educators and activists must have the requisite skills in policy development and implementation; including developing government relations platforms, monitoring government proposals, effective advocacy campaigns and public relations.

This grant will provide the funding to present a workshop at the PIALA 2006 Conference, 14–17 November 2006 in Palau that will discuss developing skills in library advocacy and policy development. During the workshop, participants will each identify at least two issues in their island (or country) for which advocacy work will be carried out systematically over the next year and develop a preliminary action plan for implementation during the workshop. They will then be expected to go back to their islands and utilise their new skills to promote, advocate and influence government policies relating to the identified issues.

Government officials, educators and the public in the Pacific Islands do not appreciate the role of libraries in our society. Thus, many Pacific Island laws and government policies relating to information access, literacy and education are being developed with little or no library community or association input.

In addition, the following participants will be funded by the grant:

- One participant from each Micronesian island entity represented on the PIALA Board;
- One other participant elected by each local Micronesian island library association;
- One representative from the Kiribati Library and Information Network (as Kiribati is considered part of Micronesia); and
- A library association leader or educator from Papua New Guinea.

Most of the participants are from the Micronesian islands. The participant from Papua New Guinea was given the grant too as the training provided at the workshop will equip him/her to initiate advocacy and policy development training and activities in his/her country.

Moreover, we hope that additional grant proposals could be submitted for similar workshops to be conducted in the Micronesian islands’ sub-regions, with possible venues on the larger island states of Papua New Guinea and Fiji.

MLAS and other interested library associations on the MLAS Standing Committee will also provide supplementary funding.
Book Donation to Aceh Libraries from Singapore Libraries

The Library Association of Singapore (LAS) and the National Library Board (NLB) jointly organised a special project to support the rebuilding of Aceh libraries affected by the 2004 tsunami disaster. A donation of 3,800 books were given to the libraries in Aceh from libraries in Singapore. Ms Sylvia Yap, President of LAS and Dr N Varaprasad, Chief Executive of NLB presented the donation to Mr Dady P. Rachmananta, President of the Indonesian Library Association and Director of the National Library of Indonesia. The presentation ceremony was held during the LAS and Persatuan Pustakawan Malaysia (PPM) Golden Jubilee Dinner at the Conrad Centennial Hotel, Singapore on 15 November 2005.

UNESCO Bangkok Publishes CD-ROM

Information literacy education survey is the subject of a new booklet and CD-ROM published by UNESCO Bangkok. The 12-page publication titled Development of Information Literacy through School Libraries in South-East Asian Countries sums up an 18-month project supported by UNESCO Information for All Programme concluded in December 2005. The booklet is accompanied by a CD-ROM containing country reports on IL and school library development from the seven participating countries in South-East Asia: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. The CD-ROM also contains a .pdf version of the booklet. For a copy of the CD, contact UNESCO National Programme Officer Ms Lapapan Choovong at c.lapapan@unescobkk.org or fax no. 66-2-391-0686.

Prof Ghosh Appointed President of IASLIC

Prof S.B. Ghosh, a member of the Standing Committee of this Section and Professor, Faculty of Library and Information Science, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) New Delhi has been elected as the President of the Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC) for the years 2006 and 2007. The IASLIC is a All India National Professional Association working in the field of Librarianship since 1955. During its long history of 50 years this is for the first time that a LIS professional will be holding the position of the President of the Association.
News from National Diet Library, Japan


Special Exhibition on the Iwakura Mission
A special exhibition titled “Japan Discovers Europe: Variety and Unity of Europe in the light of the Iwakura Mission 1872/73” was held in the National Diet Library (NDL), Japan from April 25 to 10 May 2006.

In 1871, Tomomi Iwakura, a noble and statesman, left Japan for the United States of America and Europe in a diplomatic mission. The purpose of the mission was to learn about the politics, social systems, economics and technologies of the “Western” countries. What they had witnessed and learnt during their visit contributed greatly to the reforms for the modernisation of Japan.

The exhibition displayed scenes which are assumed to have been observed by the delegation during the mission as well as related materials held by the NDL such as the notes of Hirobumi Itom who was also a member of the delegation.

Symposium “Library Reformation in Digital Era – Challenges and Prospects”
The NDL held a symposium titled “Library Reformation in Digital Era – Challenges and Prospects” on 26 January 2006. Attracting 280 participants, the symposium featured distinguished lecturers in the library field from both inside and outside Japan.

Three lecturers delivered insightful talks relating to the roles of libraries in the digital society: Mr Abdelaziz Abid, Program Specialist of the Information Society Division, UNESCO, gave an outline of UNESCO’s activities focusing on its role in creating “knowledge societies” utilising information communication technology. Prof Tamiko Matsumura, Professor Emeritus, University of Library and Information Science, spoke about the trends of the information society and the changes in library services. Ms Lynne Brindley, CEO, The British Library, presented on the challenges that the British Library faces in the new information environment focusing on how it has developed its strategy and what initiatives it is undertaking as part of the strategy.

After the lectures, the progress and future tasks of NDL’s digital library project were reported by Mr Kenji Uetsuki, Director, Digital Information Planning Office, NDL, and five panelists discussed information dissemination and access, followed by questions and comments from the audience.

Training Program for Information Specialists for Japanese Studies in FY 2005
Since FY2002, the National Diet Library (NDL) has jointly hosted the Training Program for Information Specialists for Japanese Studies with the Japan Foundation (JF), in cooperation with the International House of Japan (IHJ) and the National Institute of Informatics (NII).

This year’s programme targeted Japanese information specialists of countries where Japanese studies are in a developing stage. Held from 28 November to 16 December 2005, the programme was conducted mainly in the Tokyo Main Library of the NDL, the Kansai-kan of the NDL and the NII. There were a total of 11 trainees from 10 countries: Canada, China, Germany, India, Indonesia, Korea (Republic of), Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and the United States.

International Workshop on Information Literacy (IWIL2006)

7-12 June 2006, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia

By Mr Rajen Munoo, Specialist, National Library Board Singapore and Ms Peachy Limpin, Librarian, Philippines

IWIL2006 was jointly organised by Faculty of Information Management of the Universiti Teknologi Mara, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) / Action for Development Through Libraries Programme (ALP), the Librarians Association of Malaysia, Malaysia’s Ministry of Education’s Educational Technology Division, and Selangor State Educational Resource Center. International participant representation was from Brunei, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

This workshop was the third in a series of Information Literacy (IL) workshops, where the earlier ones being held in Patiala, India in 2005. [For more information: http://www.universitypunjabi.org/pages/teaching/e8/e8-main.html] and Sri Lanka in 2004. [For more information: http://www.cmb.ac.lk/academic/institutes/nilis/reports/InformationLiteracy.pdf].

The workshop was successful in bringing key stakeholders around the table to workshop and pledge their support in implementing and sustaining IL in educational institutions

During the first two workshops, the “Empowering 8” or “E8” IL model was conceptualised and tested with participants from South Asia. This was a significant milestone, as the E8 model was developed by Asians for Asians.

The objective of IWIL2006 was IL programme design and implementation. At least two and a half days were spent designing and developing IL curricular for selected subjects for primary and secondary schools in Malaysia. During this workshop, local participants, especially the educators were introduced IL, the different models and trends. The “Empowering 8” or “E8” was one such model. The adaptability and integration of the E8 model was tested where participants successfully incorporated most components for the different subjects and levels of students. The workshop was successful in bringing key stakeholders around the table to workshop and pledge their support in implementing and sustaining IL in educational institutions.

Associate Professor Norma Abu Seman chaired the workshop with lead facilitator, Professor Blanche Woolis, retired dean of Information Studies at San Jose University, California. Also facilitating at the workshop was Honorary IFLA Fellow, Professor Russell Bowden and Madam Rashida Begum, RSCAO representative. International delegates shared in their country reports, implementation of the E8 model and provided updates on their IL programmes.

The participant from the Philippines, Ms Peachy Limpin documented a day-by-day account of events and activities during IWIL2006. To read more about IWIL2006, please visit her blogspot: http://fliteachlibrarian.blogspot.com/2006/06/iwil-2006-day-1.html.

The resolutions put forward by the workshop urged librarians and key stakeholders present to take on leadership roles to advocate IL in their institutions and lobby for support.
Mr R. Ramachandran, Executive Director, National Book Development of Singapore has won the “CONSAL Outstanding Librarian Award”. The award was given by the Congress of South-East Asian Libraries (CONSAL) – a regional organisation of librarians in Southeast Asian Countries founded in 1970. CONSAL honoured Mr Ramachandran at its Conference Gala Dinner in Shangri-La, Manila, on 27 March 2006, for his contribution to library development in Singapore and the region.

Mr Ramachandran, former Director National Library and Deputy Chief Executive, National Library Board, joined the National Library Service in 1969. He spearheaded the early development of Branch Libraries, National Library services and library education in Singapore. He later played a pivotal role in the modernisation of the library system when it became a Statutory Board in 1995. He helped to set up the CONSAL Secretariat and was appointed its first Secretary-General. As Secretary-General, CONSAL, he travelled widely in the region providing training and promoting libraries and library cooperation intensively. On an international level he served in several committees dealing with different aspects of library development. For several years he was Chairman of CDNLAO (Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania.) and President of the Library Association of Singapore.

Following his retirement from the National Library Board, he was appointed as Secretary-General, International Federation of Libraries and Institutions (IFLA) in The Hague, Netherlands. Since returning to Singapore, Mr Ramachandran has been serving as Executive Director, National Book Development Council of Singapore.

Mr Ramachandran helped to set up the CONSAL Secretariat and was appointed its first Secretary-General. As Secretary-General, CONSAL, he travelled widely in the region providing training and promoting libraries and library cooperation intensively.

Mr Ramachandran paid tribute to his mentor, former Director National Library, Mrs Hedwig Anuar, and his colleagues at the National Library Board and the Library Association of Singapore “without whom libraries in Singapore could not have developed to a world class standard”.

Commenting on library development in the region, he said, “libraries in this part of the world have great potential as the region develops and focuses on education and training. Libraries will play a leading role in life long learning and along with schools will become the most important institution, impacting education, developing the potential of readers, students and researchers by facilitating ready access to relevant and reliable content worldwide.” Mr Ramachandran said, “the award was particularly meaningful as it was given by my peers whom I hold in high esteem and by CONSAL which has nurtured me since its formation in 1970”.

Mr R Ramachandran receiving his award from Mr Alex Byrne, President, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)
National Workshops on Empowering Librarianship in IT Applications

A series of national workshop on the above topic has been planned by the M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara, India. The details of the workshop are as follows:

- Database Management and E-Resources (10-14 July 2006)
- Web designing and Virtual Library (21-25 August 2006)

Further information regarding the workshop may be obtained from:

University Librarian
Smt. Hansa Mehta Library
The M.S. University of Baroda, Station Road,
Vadodara - 390002
E-mail: hmt_workshop@yahoo.co.in

15th Annual Conference of the Pacific Islands Association of Libraries and Archives (PIALA)

“Libraries, Archives, and Museums: Building Knowledge Networks for Vibrant Communities” is the 15th annual conference of the Pacific Islands Association of Libraries and Archives (PIALA). It will be held in Koror, Republic of Palau, 13 -17 November 2006. The conference will feature a two day pre-conference workshop on Library Advocacy, organised by Arlene Cohen and funded by IFLA.

For more information, please go to the PIALA website http://www.uog.edu/rfk/piala/piala.html, or contact:

Gretchen Reynolds, Overall Chair, PIALA 2006
Librarian, Palau Community College
Koror, Republic of Palau 96940
Email: gretchen@palau.edu
Fax: (680) 488 - 2447

IFLA ALP Course on Information Literacy and IT for Information Professionals in Asia and Oceania
Wellington, New Zealand
13 November - 8 December 2006

This four-week course organised on behalf of IFLA ALP is now in its fourth year in New Zealand, where it is held on the Victoria University campus. Focus is on information literacy, with special reference to needs and developments of countries in Asia and Oceania. The course covers the basics of information literacy and information literacy training skills needed by information professionals in a variety of settings, as well as current IT applications in libraries. Classroom participation and hands-on practice are interspersed with visits to leading libraries and information agencies in New Zealand.

The course is taught by leading educators in library and information management, including Professor GE Gorman, Dr Daniel Dorner and Mr Philip Calvert, with additional support from experienced practitioners.

LIANZA Conference 2006 – “Next Generation Libraries: He Huarahi Whakamua”

The Library & Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA) annual conference is a professional development event. The conference is held at the Wellington Convention Centre, Wellington, New Zealand from 8-11 October 2006.

It is an international programme led by lighthouse keynote speakers, which explores issues under the broad themes of confidence, content and connection, with a focus on technology for service improvements, marketing principles, information literacy, knowledge management and intellectual property rights. There will also be a first-ever LIANZA Conference E-Blog (sponsored by EBSCO), to enable discussion, digestion and debate of ideas and events where and as they occur. In addition, there is a chance to get an inside-view of some of New Zealand’s leading libraries, museums and archives.

For further enquiries, please contact Miriam Wilkins at +64 9 360 1240 or email lianza@tcc.co.nz. For details on the conference, please refer to http://www.lianza.org.nz/events/conference2006/
International Conference on Digital Libraries (ICDL 2006)
5-8 December 2006, New Delhi

The Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI), New Delhi is organising 2nd ICDL conference from 5-8 December 2006 in cooperation with ACM SIGCHI at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The theme of the proposed conference is Digital Libraries: Information Management for Global Access and it will focus on creation, adoption, implementation and utilisation of digital libraries (DL), e-learning and knowledge society.

TERI had earlier organised the first ICDL in the year 2004, which was inaugurated by Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, Hon’ble President of India. The theme of the Conference was Digital Libraries: Knowledge Creation, Preservation, Access, and Management.

The ICDL 2006 will aim at further strengthening the academic collaboration and strategic alliance in development of DL in the world and is expected to be a major forum focusing on digital libraries and related technologies and issues. This conference would, therefore, provide a platform to facilitate exchange of ideas and help bridging the knowledge gap in these areas.

Following are the major topics on which conference sessions, tutorials, poster presentations and parallel workshops will be organised:

- Planning, development, and management of digital libraries
- Online information management
- Content organisation and knowledge management
- System scalability and interoperability
- Semantics, thesauri, and ontology
- Information storage and retrieval for global access
- Open archives initiatives
- User studies and system evaluation
- e-learning
- Multi-lingual information retrieval
- system and unicode
- Digital divide
- Digital preservation
- Standards in digital library design and development
- Dublin core and metadata standards
- DRM and copyrights issues
- Digital library services
- Digital library network and information sharing
- e-publishing
- Economic issues of DL and e-learning
- Tools and techniques for DL
- DL models and architectures

Registration Information:
For details about the conference registration fee for all presenters and participants and other registration information, please refer to the conference website (www.teri.org/events/icdl)

For any queries, contact:
ICDL2006 Conference Secretariat
TERI, Darbari Seth Block
IHC Complex, Lodhi Road
New Delhi - 110 003, India
Tel: +91(11) 24682141, 24682111 or 24682100
Fax: +91(11) 24682144, 2468 2145
E-mail: ICDL@teri.res.in
Website: www.teri.org/events/icdl

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National Seminar on Open Source

The Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres will be holding its annual National Seminar at the National Institute of Financial Management, Faridabad, India from 26-29 December 2006. The theme of the Seminar is Open Source Movement: Asian Perspective. The Seminar will be presided by pre-conference tutorials on 25 December 2006. Further information about the Seminar may be obtained from:

Mr D.K. Nag
General Secretary
IASLIC
P-291 CIT Scheme No.6M
PO:Kankurgachi
Kolkata - 700054, India
E-mail: iaslic@vsnl.net

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The Library Association of Singapore Conference

The Library Association of Singapore (LAS) Conference will be held from 29-30 January 2007, and a workshop on library costing will be held on 31 January 2007. The conference and workshop will be held in Singapore.

The professional library conference will cover key areas that librarians are concerned about. The focus will be on global and local trends that impact libraries and librarianship, for e.g. geo-political developments, demographic, lifestyle changes, information industry trends, copyright and rights management, best practices in professional development, library costing, performance measurements, professional competencies, marketing and outreach, and needs of the teens generation. The conference will also provide networking opportunities amongst librarians in Singapore, and with librarians from the region.

Further details will be made via the LAS website at www.las.org.sg. For further enquiries, please email lasconference@las.org.sg.
Edited by Paul Genoni and Graham Walton
(IFLA Publications; 116)
ISBN 3-598-21844-3
Price: EUR 78 (IFLA Members EUR 58)

The papers collected in this volume have been selected from the proceedings of the Sixth World Conference on Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning for the Library and Information Professions, held in Oslo in August 2005.
Since the first one in the series was held in Chicago in 1985, this Conference has become established as the leading international meeting dedicated to the practice and theory of continuing professional development for library and information professionals.
It is testimony to the importance of the conference that the call for papers for this sixth edition attracted in excess of eighty submissions from all over the globe! Nearly thirty of these have been brought together in the current volume.
This collection presents a comprehensive overview of current continuing professional development theory and practice for those who manage and work in library and information services. Papers by academics and practitioners describe numerous innovative responses to emerging continuing education and training needs, including workplace learning, individual learning and learning organisations.

Handbook on the International Exchange of Publications
Edited on behalf of IFLA by Kirsti Ekonen, Päivi Paloposki and Pentti Vattulainen
5th completely new edition. 2006
Munich: K. G. Saur Verlag, 2006. 158 pages
ISBN 10: 3-598-11752-3
ISBN 13: 978-3-598-11752-7
Price: EUR 54.00

Since publication of the previous (fourth) edition of this handbook by UNESCO in 1978, drastic technological progress and very important changes in the political-economic sphere have taken place, with great impact on library work. The international exchange of publications continues to be an important mode of collection building and is practiced by almost all major libraries.
The 5th edition of this handbook addresses these changes in all three parts: Practices (sources of documents, organisation and methods), History and Current Examples (e.g. international book exchange: has it any future in the electronic age?) and the Directory (list of exchange centres, selected bibliography).
This book provides a very useful tool for libraries and librarians around the world.

International Newspaper Librarianship
Edited by Hartmut Walravens
(IFLA Publications; 118)
ISBN 13: 978-3-598-21846-0
ISBN 10: 3-598-21846-0
Price: EUR 78.00 (IFLA Members EUR 58.00)

This volume consists of presentations at recent events of the IFLA Newspapers Section (Oslo 2005, Canberra 2005, Buenos Aires 2004, Shanghai 2004, Berlin 2003 and Cape Town 2003) and documents the variety and intensity of newspaper activities worldwide.
Emphasis is put on two main focuses: regional activities and current work in the fields of preservation and digitisation.
Another essential subject covered in this volume is the very complex issue of newspapers and copyright.
This publication presents the current state of newspaper librarianship on all five continents. It reflects not only the remarkable progress made during recent years, but also the major challenges for the future.
Marketing Library and Information Services: International Perspectives
Edited on behalf of IFLA by Dinesh K. Gupta, Christie Koontz, Angels Massisimo and Réjean Savard
Munich: K. G. Saur Verlag, 2006. xvi, 419 pages
ISBN-10: 3-598-11753-1
Price: EUR 88.00

Marketing of library services has now been recognised as an essential agenda item for almost all kinds of libraries all over the world. As the term "marketing" has different meanings for different colleagues, the bundling of dozens of contributions from a truly international group of librarians which is present ed in this book, provides a broad overview on the topic.

Therefore this book offers a useful tool for both working librarians and future librarians to understand vital issues relating to marketing of library and information services at the local, national and international level. The book is divided into six sections:
- Marketing concept: a changing perspective;
- Marketing in libraries around the world;
- Role of library associations;
- Education, training and research;
- Excellence in marketing;
- Databases and other marketing literature.

By Ingeborg Verheul.
(IFLA Publications; 119)
ISBN 13: 978-3-598-21847-7
ISBN 10: 3-598-21847-8
Price: EUR 78.00 (IFLA Members EUR 58.00)

Safe storage of the digital heritage and ensuring access for future use, requires libraries to have a trusted digital repository system in place, and to have an ongoing R&D programme aimed at developing preservation strategies, such as migration and emulation.

In 2005 digital preservation in libraries has become increasingly important. Two national libraries already have a fully operational digital repository in place, and in several other countries, the development of digital repositories is well under way.

When planning digital preservation activities and improving cooperation in digital preservation, an overview of recent developments in the field of digital preservation issues could be a valuable aid: Does the day-to-day practice in storing and accessing digital objects illustrate a mutual need for certain standards? Are there currently any standards for the development and building of digital repositories, and how are these being applied? Are there common standards in research on permanent access? Or is it still too early to speak of standards, and is it only possible to distinguish best practices?

Read more on the state of the art of digital repositories, preservation strategies and current projects in the national libraries of Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

The Virtual Customer: A New Paradigm for Improving Customer Relations in Libraries and Information Services.
Edited by Sueli Mara Soares Pinto Ferreira and Réjean Savard.
(IFLA Publications; 117)
ISBN 3-598-21845-1
Price: EUR 128.00 (IFLA Members EUR 96.00)

For several years the concept of «virtual client» or «virtual customer» has been part of the world of libraries and information services. This publication contains the proceedings of a satellite meeting on this topic, organised by IFLA’s Management and Marketing Section and held in Sao Paulo in Brazil in August 2004.

It contains papers from more general points of view such as the democratization of access to digital information to more specific questions such as virtual libraries and new services, not forgetting user and librarian education, web site design, more specialized information, etc. The readers of these proceedings will find in these pages very stimulating content which will guide them towards better services for virtual clients.

Papers are presented in the original language of their presentation (Portuguese, French, Spanish and English) with summaries in these four languages.