



**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND  
INSTITUTIONS**

**Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania**

**Minutes of the Mid-Conference Meeting held in Colombo  
4-5 March 2003**

**Present:**

Ms Rashidah Begum (Chair)  
Gary E. Gorman (Secretary)  
Ms Hilda Nassar (Information Coordinator)  
Harrison Perera (Member)  
R. Ramachandran (Member)  
Ms Elizabeth Reads Fong (Member)  
Ms Aree Cheunwattana (Member)  
Qiang Zhu (Member)  
Ms Kalpana Dasgupta (Member)  
Ms Pensri Guaysuwan (Regional Manager)  
Ms Gunilla Natvig (ALP)  
Russell Bowden (Special Advisor)  
Ms Maria LaoSunthara (Special Advisor)  
Shawky Salem (Special Advisor)

**Apologies:**

Ms Sun Liping (Member)

**1 Welcoming Remarks**

The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed Committee members and on behalf of the Committee thanked Harrison Perera and his team, and also Russell Bowden, for organizing the Mid-Conference Meeting, and also members of the Sri Lanka Library Association Library for organizing the Workshop on the Digital Divide.

**2 Agenda**

The Committee adopted the proposed agenda.

### **3 2002 Confirmation of Minutes of the Meetings held in Glasgow, 18 and 23 August**

The minutes were confirmed subject to one minor change. The statement "As the principal Regional Office reports are now made at the Mid-Conference meeting, there were no other reports tabled in Glasgow" should read "Report from the Regional Office (August 2002) was presented. As the principal Regional Office reports are now made at the Mid-Conference meeting, such reports will no longer be tabled at General Conferences." The change is to be made by Hilda Nassar on the Web version of the minutes.

### **4 Matters Arising**

There was some objection raised to the inclusion of Israel in Asia and Oceania, particularly in view of the sensitivities of Arab country members. The Chair indicated that this was merely following UN protocol in such matters.

Members need to be emailed regarding nominations for the Standing Committee for 2003-2005, and a message should be placed on the RSCAO listserv. Hilda Nassar will do this.

Discussion of the Mid-Conference meeting template was deferred to a later date, as a revised template had been prepared.

### **5 Report from the Chair**

Rashidah reported that Governing Board has decided that all Sections are to be reviewed in the near future with a view to reducing the number of Sections. Therefore, it is important that Asia and Oceania Section continue its high level of activity and high membership to show that we are contributing actively to the work of IFLA in our region. It has been decided to send newsletters electronically wherever possible, and to keep both a hard copy and e-copy for archival purposes. This is the task of the Regional Office. Rashidah attended the meeting of the Professional Committee in The Hague. There it was decided that each Section Standing Committee would continue to meet twice at the General Conference, each meeting to last 2 hours. Also, each Section in future would have only one programme at the General Conference, beginning in Buenos Aires: an open session or a workshop, not both.

Rashidah tabled a financial report from Governing Board, with the following items relevant for RSCAO:

School libraries project -	Euro 1,535
Video project -	Euro 1,000
Pacific libraries Directory -	Euro 9,121
School libraries workshop -	Euro 15,000

The Chair tabled the 2002 Financial Report, which was also being supplied electronically to Hilda Nassar as an appendix to these minutes. Rashidah also tabled "The Role of IFLA's Regional Offices" (GB 02-114), which led to discussion of

specific duties of the Regional Office, in particular the need to be more proactive in (1) working closely with the Regional Committee and Coordinating Board of Division VIII; (2) providing logistical and administrative support to the Regional Section by co-organizing meetings, etc.; (3) seeking sources for funding for projects; recruiting IFLA members. It was agreed that the Regional Manager Asia and Oceania should follow these guidelines (attached as Appendix).

## **6 Financial Reports**

The Chair also reported the following funds for the current year:

2003 administrative budget - Euro 1,360  
2003 meeting budget - Euro 8,000

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

The Information Coordinator reported that the RSCAO listserv was up and running smoothly, and that the Section's Web page was current. The Committee expressed gratitude to Hilda for her work on behalf of the Section, as the Web presence was a key part of the Section's public face, and reported many 'hits' per year.

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

Dr Pensri tabled a Report from the Regional Office for Asia and Oceania March 2003 and Working Timetable March 2003 (both attached as Appendix). This was accepted as presented, with some discussion of the proposed Workshop on School Library Services in SE Asia and the arrangement of sessions on observation visits and assessments of visits. It was also noted that the meeting budget as at December 2002 totaled US\$3,379.45; this was to be disbursed in consultation with the RSCAO officers.

## **9 ALP Report**

The Committee received the 2002 Annual Report of the ALP Programme (prepared by Gunilla Natvig), the List of Approval Projects and Planned Activities in Asia and Oceania February 2003.

Gunilla Natvig reported that funding of ALP activities had become a serious problem with the withdrawal of Danida support but that she and Birgitta were actively pursuing alternative sources of funding. SIDA had agreed to provide funding for a two-year period, 2003-2004, which was particularly welcome. All current projects were reported to be proceeding according to plan.

It was agreed to seek placements for ALP interns in New Zealand, specifically the National Library of New Zealand and Victoria University of Wellington--G Gorman to follow up, and report to Daruna. It was also agreed to carry on with the IT training based at Victoria University of Wellington, with some fee-paying participants from the region permitted to join the class to make it financially viable--G Gorman to organize and manage.

## **10 Selection for ALP Scholarships in IT and ALP In-service Training Attachments in Asia and the Pacific**

There was a brief review of the 2002 training programme offered by Victoria University of Wellington, and it was agreed to continue with this programme for 2003 and 2004, assuming that cost could be kept at approximately the same level as 2002, and with the addition of a small number of fee-paying participants from countries in the region. This would continue to be offered as an IFLA ALP course.

The Committee agreed to establish ALP Scholarships in IT and ALP In-service Training Attachments Review Group to assess applications and report back to the full Committee. In addition to following the ALP Guidelines for Applications, the Group used 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 geographical distribution over time.

**10.1 ALP Scholarship in IT Selections.** From 15 scholarship applicants (see Appendix) the group selected four candidates and one reserve for ALP 2003 scholarships.

**10.2 ALP Training Attachments Selections.** From 22 training attachment applicants (see Appendix) the Group selected two individuals, and one reserve, for ALP 2003 training attachments. It was agreed to seek placements in New Zealand, particularly the National Library of New Zealand and Victoria University of Wellington.

## **11 Regional Section Projects**

Six projects were submitted for funding, and one was accepted for 2004:  
Project 271 - International Symposium on the Research and Utilization of Chinese Local Chronicles.

Project 269 - Training of Teacher Librarians in Sarawak was approved, provided that some changes are made

Project 273 - Library Consortia: Model for Academic and Research Libraries in Arab Countries was approved in principle and will be considered when there is funding.

Other projects that were unsuccessful had mentors appointed from the Committee to help applicants improve their chances of being approved in 2005, if they wish to reapply:

270 Development of a library association in Indochina (Mentors: R Begum & G Gorman)

274 School libraries in Arab countries (Mentors: H Nassar & G Gorman)

Possible Lao project on information literacy (Mentor: R Bowden)

## **12 69<sup>th</sup> IFLA General Conference Programme, Berlin**

**12.1 RSCAO Open Session.** This year the field of submissions was much higher than in 2002, with 20 received by the closing date, and another 5-6 received late and therefore not considered. We adopted a policy of selecting a keynote speaker in advance, Sue Sutherland of Christchurch City Library, and then selected an additional 5 speakers by email ranking among Committee members prior to the Colombo meeting as follows:

Keynote: The Public Library as a Learning Organization, Sue Sutherland (New Zealand)

Public Libraries in the Information Society: An Impact Survey of National Information Policies in Southeast Asia, Marie Luisa Calanag (Philippines / Japan)

Libraries as Cultural Centres in New Satellite Cities in Guangzhou, South China, Huang Qun Qing and Zhuang Xu Huang (China)

Creating Information Literacy Programmes as Corporate Products: Perspectives and Experiences from Singapore, Rakunathan Narayan & Rajendra Munoo (Singapore)

The Growth of Community-based Library Services in Indonesia to Support Education, Harkrisyati Kamil (Indonesia)

Welcome to the Information Society: What Role Will the Public Library Play? Helen Partridge and Gillian Hallam (Australia)

Reserve: Tupu - Promoting 'New Growth' through Innovative Resources and Services to Youth, Daniel Dornor (New Zealand)

**12.2 Division VIII Workshop.** It was agreed that the Division VIII Workshop would focus on strategic planning and the regional sections, in particular how the needs of the regions can be better met by IFLA through better strategic planning, and how regional section concerns can be more fully integrated into IFLA priorities. The Asia and Oceania view would be presented by E Reade Fong and G Gorman, with input from Russell Bowden; focus would be on our views of the development process and priorities to be met in the region.

**12.3 Social Event.** It was agreed to host a reception/dinner for delegates from the Asia-Oceania region and friends. G Gorman, R Begum and H Nassar would seek sponsorship, and numbers would be estimated at 50. It was agreed to ask Dr Wu Jianzhong to open the event. G Gorman would contact him.

## **13 Next Meetings**

**13.1 Berlin, 1-9 August 2003.** There will be two meetings at the Berlin Conference, as usual. These will be on in August, with election of new officers at the first meeting.

**13.2 Mid-Conference Meeting.** The venue of the next mid-conference meeting in

2004 was considered. Bangkok and Singapore were proposed. R Ramachandran offered to explore the possibility of organizing the meeting in Singapore

## **14 Close of Meeting**

The meeting closed at 3 pm, 5 March 2003.

Attachments available on RSCAO Website

- 1 The Role of IFLA's Regional Offices GB 02-114
  - 2 Report from the Regional Office for Asia and Oceania (March 2003)
  - 3 Regional Office for Asia and Oceania Working Timetable (March 2003)
  - 4 2002 Annual Report of the ALP Programme
  - 5 List of Approved Projects and Planned Activities in Asia and Oceania (February 2003)
  - 6 List of Candidates for ALP Training Attachments in 2003
  - 7 List of Candidates for ALP Scholarships in 2003
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