



**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS**

**Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania**

**Minutes of the Meeting held in Oslo  
August 2005**

**Present at Meeting I (14 August 2005, 13:45-15:45)**

Gary E. Gorman (Chair)  
Aree Cheunwattana (Secretary)  
Hilda Nassar (Information Coordinator)  
Hasna Askhita (Member)  
Premila Gamage (Member)  
Mark Perkins (Member)  
Fairborz Khosravi (Member)  
Eun Bong Park (Member)  
Wang Shan (member)  
Pensri Guaysuwan (Regional Manager)  
Arlene Cohen (Corresponding Member)  
Rashidah Begum (Corresponding Member)  
Shawky Salem (Governing Board Member)

Observers: Alex Byrne, Chihfeng P. Lin, Diane Heath, Han, Sang-Wan, Helen Shenton, Helga Schwarz, Jennefer Nicholson, Judith Peacock, Patricia G. Oyler, Takao Murayama, Takashi Nagatsuka, Raju Snakya, Robert D. Stueart, Ruth Hedegaard, Ruth Pagell

**Present at Meeting II (19 August 2005, 14:00-16:50):**

Gary E. Gorman (Chair)  
Aree Cheunwattana (Secretary)  
Eun Bong Park (Member)  
Wang Shan (Member)  
Zhang Xiaolin (Member)  
Mark Perkins (Member)  
Pensri Guaysuwan (Regional Manager)  
Shawky Salem (Governing Board Member, RSCAO Special Advisor)  
Birgitta Sandell (ALP Programme Director)

Observers: Claudia Lux, Domi Kim, Kanwal Ameen

## **Apologies**

Anjali Gulati (Member)  
Elizabeth Reade Fong (Member)  
Harrison Perera (Member)  
Isabelle de Cours (Member)  
Kalpana Dasgupta (Member)  
Mohd Sharif Mohd Saad (Member)  
Namtip Wipawin (Member)  
Zhang Xiaoxing (Member)  
Zhu Qiang (Member)  
Russell Bowden (Resource Person)

### **1 Welcoming Remarks**

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed participants and observers present. He conveyed apologies from the Committee members who were not able to attend IFLA 2005.

Alex Byrne, the IFLA incoming President presided over the meeting. He greeted and welcomed the Committee Members to IFLA Oslo. He stated his presidential theme on Partnership in advancing library and information service both within and beyond our field. He recognized the roles of Asia & Oceania Section and the Division VIII and wished that members take on some of the big issues for society such as WSIS, cultural diversity and differences, WIPO and FAIFE. Finally he urged members to work in partnership to strengthen IFLA and library and information community in every country.

### **2 Agenda**

The Committee adopted the proposed agenda. (Appendix 1)

### **3 Election of RSCAO Officers, 2005-2007**

A. Cheunwattana, Secretary declared that the offices of Chair and Secretary were open for election. There was one nomination for Chair: Professor Gary Gorman. There was no objection. It was declared that he was duly elected as Chair. There were two nominations for Secretary: Mark Perkins and Premila Gamage. Since Mark Perkins was present late at the meeting, Premila Gamage was elected as Secretary with no objection.

### **4 Confirmation of Minutes of the Mid-conference Meeting held in Damascus, Syria, 21-22 February 2005**

The minutes were confirmed as they were recorded. (Appendix 2)

### **5 Matters Arising**

Members present did not bring up any issue from the previous meeting.

## **6 Financial Reports**

### **6.1. Administrative budget**

G. Gorman, the Treasurer reported that after WLIC Oslo, the Section's administrative budget of Euro 1,000 (reported in Damascus) would have been all spent on expenses of secretarial work and the social event planned on 17 August 2005.

### **6.2. Meeting budget**

P. Guaysuwan, the Regional Manager reported that the amount of Euro 4,496 was received from IFLA HQ through H. Askhita to organize the Mid-Conference Meeting held in Damascus on 21-22 February 2005. The leftover amount from 2004-2005 was spent to subsidize the registration fees to K. Dasgupta and A. Cheunwattana to attend WLIC Oslo. The Financial Statement was reported. (Appendix 3)

## **7 Report from the Chair**

G. Gorman gave the following report:

### **7.1. The Mid-Conference Meeting in Damascus**

G. Gorman thanked H. Askhita and H. Nassar and their colleagues for organizing very successful meeting, seminar, workshops and exhibition in Damascus during 21-24 February 2005. The workshops and seminar enabled LIS professionals from Syria and neighboring countries to keep abreast with the fast-moving area of digital library. In addition to the fruitful professional programme, the Standing Committee members enjoyed the Syrian hospitality and PR activity, which brought library and information to the attention of the Syrian society.

### **7.2. ALP Steering Committee Meeting**

During the period of 10-12 August 2005, ALP organized the Steering Committee Meeting. The attendees included ALP Programme Director and Administrative Officer, and Chairs, Secretaries and Regional Managers from the Africa, Asia & Oceania, and Latin America & the Caribbean regions. The evaluation of the projects funded by ALP during 2003-2005 was conducted using ALP Assessment Parameters. Priorities of the regional activities under the Division VIII were identified. The Strategic Plan of the Division VIII (2006-2007) was revised and drafted. In this meeting, the funding of projects and SIDA's goals were also highlighted by B. Sandell, the ALP Programme Director.

## **8 Report from the Information Coordinator**

H. Nassar, the Information Coordinator reported the number of RSCAO Listserv subscribers and the activities undertaken as detailed in her report (Appendix 4). The Chair thanked H. Nassar for efficiently served as Information Coordinator. Although her second term as Standing Committee member was over, on behalf of the Committee, the Chair asked her to continue serving as Information Coordinator for another year, and H. Nassar kindly agreed upon it.

## **9 Report from the Regional Office**

P. Guaysuwan, the Regional Manager reported that ROAO carried out routines and on-going work as in previous years. The written report will be presented at the end of 2005.

The Regional Manager revised the mailing list for the IFLA ROAO Newsletter according to the responses received from the survey.

She updated the progress of the UNESCO / IFLA joint workshop on *Development of Information Literacy through School Libraries in Southeast Asia*. The preparation of the workshop had been going on as planned.

She also informed the Committee that Peter Lor, IFLA Secretary General attended the *National Library of Thailand Centennial Conference* in Bangkok on 6-8 July 2005.

Lastly she reported that she submitted to IFLA HQ her resignation from the Regional Manager position.

## **10 Report on new Regional Office/Manager development**

Peter Lor, the Secretary General and Sjoerd Koopman, Coordinator of Professional Activities were present at the meeting to discuss the issue of new Regional Office and Regional Manager. P. Guaysuwan, the Regional Manager submitted a letter of resignation from the position by 31 December 2005. Therefore, IFLA HQ with cooperation of the Asia & Oceania Section was seeking the new Regional Office / Manager. A call for expression of interest which constitutes guidelines for hosting the IFLA Office for the Asia and Oceania Region was sent out in June 2005. (Appendix 5)

P. Lor referred to the idea of having more than one regional office which was suggested by R. Ramachandran, the former Secretary General. Considering that Asia and Oceania is a vast region, HQ agreed to accommodate the suggestion but not financially. Having more than one regional office may help stimulate membership. However, G. Gorman responded that the Standing Committee Members had discussed the issue earlier and agreed that there was no interest to have more than one office for the sake of unity and cohesiveness within the Section, as well as unknown cost factors.

In seeking the new Regional Office / Manager, there had been a number of countries that expressed interest to host the regional office—i.e., Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia, Singapore, Korea, Lebanon and China. However, S. Koopman reported that except for the Indian Library Association, IFLA HQ had not yet received any written expression of interest from other countries. He would contact candidates for the position in these countries and keep G. Gorman informed of any development. P. Lor emphasized that the Standing Committee Members should be actively involved in the process of seeking the new office and manager.

## **11 ALP Report**

Speaker grants  
IFLA/ALP offered the SIDA Speaker Grants for three speakers from the

region to attend IFLA Oslo and to present papers in the Asia & Oceania Programme. Only one speaker, Shaifol Yazam Mat from Malaysia was eligible. Unfortunately, he decided not to attend the Conference.

B. Sandell, ALP Programme Director distributed copies of 2004 Annual Report of the ALP Programme to members. (Appendix 6)

She reported that for 2005 NORAD provided IFLA Travel Grants for 53 grantees to attend WLIC Oslo. SIDA offered 6 speaker grants from the three regions under the Division VIII. The Harry Campbell Travel Grant was provided to support a delegate from a developing country to attend the WLIC Oslo. As for 2006, the grant information was not yet available. She advised members to check the IFLA Net for future announcement.

She informed the Committee that ALP seeks funds to support activities in Africa; Asia and Oceania; and Latin America and the Caribbean. Project proposals submitted to ALP are required to meet certain criteria, for example, the scope of the project should be regional or sub-regional not national and should cover the areas identified in the Guidelines. Interested libraries and institutions should consult ALP information on the IFLA Net.

## **12 Asia and Oceania Section's Projects**

The Chair reported that most of current projects funded by ALP, CB and PC had well progressed. The libraries, institutions and individuals which received project funding are required to regularly inform funding organizations by sending them progress reports with copies to the Chair of the Section.

## **13 71<sup>st</sup> General Conference Programme in Oslo**

- 13.1. Asia & Oceania Section Programme: *Digital Libraries and Sustainability*.  
Six papers were selected, but only five were presented. Five presenters included: Keynote speaker, Alex Byrne (Australia), Aisyah Nasir (Malaysia—On behalf of Shaifol Yazam Mat), Judith Titoko and Victoria York (Fiji), Zhang Xiaolin (China), and Hasna Ashkita (Syria)
- 13.2. Recommendation of the best papers (from 13.1) for publication in *IFLA Journal*.  
The recommendation should be sent to IFLA Headquarters in the first week of September right after IFLA Oslo. Input was invited from the Committee Members.
- 13.3. Joint Workshop with Preservation and Conservation Section: *Housing for eternity: Sustainable solutions and mistakes to avoid. The role of library building in preservation*. The speaker from the Asia & Oceania Region was Jieyin Feng from Shanghai Library, China, who presented a paper on *Preserving our books: The new building of the Shanghai Library* on 16 August.
- 13.4. Division of Regional Activities Programme: *Developing libraries through partnerships*. G. Gorman was a speaker from the region. He joined the panel discussion on 18 August.
- 13.5. Asia & Oceania's Social Event was held at Xich Lo restaurant on 17

August at 7:00-9:00 pm. It was also a gathering in honor of Dr. Pensri Guaysuwan, who would resign from the Regional Manager position by December 2005. There were approximately 30 guests joining the event.

- 13.6. Coordinating Board Meetings  
G. Gorman, A. Cheunwattana, P. Guaysuwan, R. Begum and S. Salem attended two CB meetings on 14 and 19 August.
- 13.7. Caucus: Africa, Asia & Oceania, and Latin America & Caribbean  
The meeting was held on 13 August. G. Gorman was among speakers.
- 13.8. Special Meeting for Information Coordinators  
H. Nassar, the Information Coordinator attended the meeting on 17 August.
- 13.9. Officers Training  
Premila Gamage, Secretary (August 2005-August 2007) attended the training section on 16-17 August.
- 13.10. Section Brochures on the IFLA Booth  
Copies of the Strategic Plan were distributed at the booth. A. Cheunwattana and P. Guaysuwan volunteered to staff the Booth.

#### **14 World Library and Information Congress: 72<sup>nd</sup> IFLA General Conference and Council, Seoul, Korea, 20-24 August 2006 (Theme: Libraries—Dynamic Engines for the Knowledge and Information Society)**

- 14.1. The Asia & Oceania Programme  
Zhang Xiaolin suggested that Open Access be a possible topic because there had been enough interests and experimental cases. After discussion, it was agreed on the following theme: *Promotion and implementation of open access*. A call for paper would be announced in September with emphasis on practices including open access materials, resources, software and information
- 14.2. Other Programmes  
Several sections expressed interests in working with Asia & Oceania e.g., School Libraries and Resource Centers, Information Literacy, Library Theory and Research, and Management of Library Associations. G. Gorman informed that Anne Clyde from School Libraries and Resource Centers Section proposed a joint programme on *Information literacy: Evolving models in a changing world* and had requested two speakers from the Asia & Oceania region. After discussion, the Committee decided to conduct a joint programme with School Libraries and Resource Centers Section in Seoul in 2006. P. Guaysuwan suggested that the Section identify a speaker from the upcoming UNESCO / IFLA Workshop on Information Literacy.
- 14.3. Social Event  
G. Gorman consulted the Committee Members if the Section would arrange a social event in Seoul. If yes, members would have to assist in seeking financial support from sponsors. It was informed that the Korean National Organizing Committee offered to help organize the social event, so the Chair could contact them for assistance. However, it was agreed that further

discussion and conclusion would be carried out in the Mid-Conference Meeting in Vietnam.

### **15 Confirmation of programme for the Mid-Conference Meeting 2005**

- 15.1. The next Mid-conference Meeting will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam on 21-24 February 2006.
- 15.2. The meeting will combine the following activities: a SIDA Workshop on Logical Frame Analysis (LFA), an Information Literacy Workshop organized by the Vietnam National University, and a Standing Committee Meeting.
- 15.3. The Information Literacy Workshop will require speakers from the Standing Committee Members, because the level of information literacy is low. However, G. Gorman will try to look for Vietnamese speakers as well.
- 15.4. Airfare for committee members will be sponsored by SIDA. Countries that have more than one member (Sri Lanka, China, India) have to select only one person who will receive funding by SIDA. However, P. Guaysuwan suggested that all members should be invited and sponsored. She believed that funding from SIDA plus the meeting budget would be sufficient to accommodate everyone.

### **16 IFLA Sections' Review**

The Chair informed that the draft of the Section's Review Report was distributed to members for input. It would be corrected, refined and submitted to IFLA HQ before the dateline in October.

### **17 Strategic Plan 2006-2007**

Members present including Claudia Lux, the President-Elect contributed in drafting the Strategic Plan 2006-2007, which was based upon the previous plan. A. Cheunwattana will circulate the final draft to members for further refinement before forwarding it to IFLA HQ. (Appendix 7)

### **18 RSCAO Members and Corresponding Members**

Each section is allowed to have five Corresponding Members. The Chair proposed the following names to assume the Corresponding Member position for the Asia and Oceania Section for the period of 2005-2007:

Aree Cheunwattana  
Hilda T. Nassar  
Rashidah Begum  
Russell Bowden  
Shawky Salem

There was no objection from the Committee.

### **19 GLAD Final Document**

The Glad Final Document: GLAD Mentoring/Twinning Program--Draft

(Appendix 8) was distributed to members for input. Members commented that it was a very useful document and could serve well in collaboration between sections in working toward strengthening library associations.

## **20 Promoting IFLA Members in the Region**

The Chair reported that the current number of Asia & Oceania membership is 317 from 51 countries. (Appendix 9) He encouraged Standing Committee Members to actively persuade libraries and library associations in their countries to become members.

## **21 Other Business**

21.1. The Chair informed that he received an anonymous letter which made a serious allegation about IFLA support to some people. He wished to affirm that the Section was not prepared to receive or act upon the anonymous communication about any members of Asia and Oceania.

21.2. The Chair received a report from Rosa-Jane French, a retired librarian in New Zealand, who adopted a Tonga Library Project and asked if the Section would consider contributing in some ways to the project. The Chair suggested that the Section could offer expertise in assisting the Tonga Library Association to draw up a proposal for a short training course for librarians to be put forward to IFLA for financial support. The Chair would explore for more information. In addition, Rosa-Jane French could be informed to contact Elizabeth Fong, Committee Member from Fiji or LIANZA or MALS for assistance. P. Guaysuwan suggested that the twinning concept mentioned in the GLAD Document could be another possibility.

## **Appendix**

1. Meeting Agenda
2. Minutes of the Mid-conference Meeting held in Damascus, Syria
3. RSCAO Meeting Budget: Balance Statement January-August 2005
4. Report of Information Coordinator August 2005
5. IFLA 's Regional Office for Asia/Oceania: call for Expressions of Interest
6. 2004 Annual report of the ALP Programme
7. Draft Strategic Plan 2006-2007
8. GLAD Mentoring/Twinning Program--Draft
9. IFLA Members Registered for Section 26: Asia & Oceania