



IFLA Asia and Oceania Section

Annual Report 2003-2004

Scope statement: The main objectives of the Section are to initiate, promote and facilitate the development of library and information services and the library profession within the five sub-regions of Asia and Oceania: West Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia and Oceania. The Section works in cooperation with Regional Offices, other IFLA's Sections, Core Activities, especially the Action for Development through Libraries Programmes (formerly: Advancement of Librarianship Programme - ALP), and library associations and institutions in the region.

Membership: 313 members in 51 countries (as of October 2004)

Standing Committee Members 2003-2005:

Anjali Gulati (India)
Aree Cheunwattana (Thailand)
Elizabeth Reade Fong (Fiji)
Gary R. Gorman (New Zealand)
Hasna Askhita (Syria)
Hilda T. Nassar (Lebanon)
Isabelle de Cours (France)
Kalpana Dasgupta (India)
Mohd. Sharif Mohd. Saad (Malaysia)
P.E. Harrison Perera (Sri Lanka)
R. Ramachandran (Singapore)
Zhang Xiaoxing (China)
Zhu Qiang (China)

Corresponding Members:

Amelia McKenzie (Australia)
Arlene Cohen (Guam)
Ella Shapovalova (Krygyzstan)
Rashidah Begum (Malaysia)
Toru Koizumi (Japan)

Ex Officio:

Pensri Guaysuwan (Regional Manager for Asia & Oceania)

Resource Persons:

Russell Bowden (Sri Lanka)

Shawky Salem (Egypt)

Officers:Chair and Treasurer

Gary E. Gorman

Professor, School of Information Management

Victoria University of Wellington

Wellington, New Zealand

Email: Gary.Gorman@vuw.ac.nz

Secretary

Aree Cheunwattana

Lecturer, Faculty of Humanities

Srinakharinwirot University

Bangkok 10110, Thailand

Email: areech@swu.ac.th, cheunwattana@myway.com

Information Coordinator

Hilda T. Nassar

Saab Medical Library, American University of Beirut

P.O. Box 11-0236

1107-2020 Beirut, Lebanon

Email: nassarh@aub.edu.lb, hilda.nassar@aub.edu.lb

Meetings: The Standing Committee held two meetings for the period under report:

Mid-Conference Meeting, Singapore, 24-25 February 2004

The mid-conference meeting was hosted by the National Library Board of Singapore and was attended by the following members and representatives:

Gary Gorman (Chair, New Zealand), Aree Cheunwattana (Secretary, Thailand), Pensri Guaysuwan (Regional Manager, Thailand), Elizabeth Reade Fong (Fiji), Kalpana Dasgupta (India), Mohd Sharif Mohd Saad (Malaysia), P.E. Harrison Perera (Sri Lanka), Qiang Zhu (China), R. Ramachandran (Singapore), Zhang Xiaoxing (China), Gunilla Natvig (ALP Administrative Officer, Sweden), Daruna Somboonkul (ALP Regional Coordinator, Thailand), Russell Bowden (Resource Person, Sri Lanka), Shawky Salem (Governing Board Member and Resource Person, Egypt), and Yan Xiangdong (Observer, China)

The two-day meeting was fruitful. Policy issues were brought up for discussion--the A&O Strategic Plan, members from outside the region, Presidential themes and interests, IFLA membership in the region, collaboration with other IFLA sections, IFLA involvement in WSIS, and future directions for IFLA in Asia & Oceania.

The Section was informed that the Section's Strategic Plan 2004-2005 was approved. The Standing Committee could start implementing the plan.

ALP Administrative Officer reported that the ALP financial situation was more stable with

SIDA as the main funding source. Most projects were reported to be proceeding according to plan.

Sub-committees were set up to select IFLA Travel Grant applicants, project proposals, ALP Scholarships and Attachments applications, and paper abstracts for the Asia & Oceania Section Programme in Buenos Aires.

The Section's activities for IFLA 2004 in Buenos Aires were planned to include a two-hour slot programme with the theme: *Information literacy for a knowledge society in Asia and Oceania*, a joint workshop with the Division VIII, participation in other IFLA sections, and a poster session to promote RSCAO activities.

The time and venue of the next mid-conference meeting in 2005 was considered. Damascus, Syria and Alexandria, Egypt were purposed. The Asia & Oceania programme for IFLA 2005 in Oslo was also discussed. The focus of the programme would be University Libraries and Continuing Professional Development.

Meetings at World Library and Information Congress 70th IFLA General Conference and Council

Held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 22-27 August 2004. The theme of the Conference is *Libraries: Tools for Education and Development*.

The two meetings were attended by the following members:

Gary Gorman (Chair, New Zealand), Aree Cheunwattana (Secretary, Thailand), Pensri Guaysuwan (Regional Manager, Thailand), Elizabeth Reade Fong (Member, Fiji), Qiang Zhu (Member, China), Arlene Cohen (Corresponding Member, Guam), Rashidah Begum (Corresponding Member, Malaysia), Shawky Salem (Governing Board Member, Resource Person), and Birgitta Sandell (ALP Programme Director). Seven observers were from Iran, China, Japan, Russia and USA.

The Chair, Treasurer, and Regional Manager presented financial and information reports. The meetings also included discussions on the Section's roles and responsibilities in the 70th WLIC Conference Programme, plans for the mid-conference meeting in Damascus in February 2005 and the next WLIC in Oslo in August 2005. It was agreed that the topic of the workshop in Damascus would focus on *Digitization of the Cultural Heritage*. As for the Asia & Oceania Programme in Oslo, the theme is *Digital Libraries and Sustainability*. And the Section will also work with Preservation and Conservation Section in organizing a joint programme.

The ALP Programme Director reported ALP financial situation as stable with SIDA as a major donor. The status of approved projects was informed. ALP policy and criteria in selecting project proposals were again brought to the members' attention.

The Chair reported the status of projects that are funded by CB. Members were reminded that ALP was not the only funding source, IFLA also provided funding for good project proposals.

The Chair informed members of IFLA's decision to review all sections by 2007. Asia & Oceania voluntarily underwent the review during the test phase, which started in 2004.

RSCAO member list was reviewed to identify vacancies available by 2005. The Committee also identified names of persons who would be invited to serve as corresponding members.

The Chair invited members to provide ideas for promoting IFLA members in the region and for revising the Strategic Plan.

Conference and Seminar Programmes

Mid-Conference, Singapore, 24-25 February 2004

Before the mid-conference meeting in Singapore started, the Library Association of Singapore with collaboration of the National Library Board of Singapore and IFLA RSCAO organized a one-day seminar on *Lifelong Learning and Leadership in Libraries* at Tampines Regional Library on 23 February 2003. The following papers were presented:

- Managerial responsibilities for lifelong learning among library staff. By Professor Gary Gorman
- Lifelong learning and information professionals in an academic environment with examples from the USP experience. By Ms. Elizabeth Reade Fong
- Leadership: Where are we? By Mr. Harrison Perera
- Lifelong learning and information professionals: Missed opportunities. By Professor Russell Bowden
- Leadership for information literacy education in Singapore. By Dr. Yin-Leng Theng and Dr. Shaheen Majid
- Leadership in libraries and information services: What do we need to know? By Ms. Kalpana Dasgupta

WLIC, Buenos Aires, 22-27 August 2004

The Section Programme was conducted on 25 August 2004. The theme was *Information Literacy for a Knowledge Society in Asia and Oceania*. This included presentation of five papers.

- Global and regional phenomena and their projection on the models of developing Information Literacy
OLGA L. LAVRIK (Russian Federation)
- Laying paving stones for a knowledge society: Analysis of factors that affect Information Literacy levels in rural Sri Lanka
WATHMANEL SENEVIRATNE (Sri Lanka) -- Presented by SHIVANTHI WEERASINGHE
- Information Literacy mission in digital environment--Prospects and plans for developing society in India
SUDHIR KUMAR, SUBHAJIT CHOUDHURY and LEENA SHAH (India) -- Presented by LEENA SHAH
- Serious challenges, historic opportunity: Information Literacy education in China
ZHANG HONGXIA (China)
- The development of the information literacy skills curriculum in the Sultanate of Oman
MAY E. MOORE (Oman)

The Section participated in the Social Science Libraries with the Division VIII Joint Workshop on 26 August 2004. The workshop's theme was *Changing roles of NGOs in the creation, validation and dissemination of information in developing countries*. Gary Gorman and Elizabeth Fong contributed to the programme a paper on *NGOs, information,*

dissemination and the use of ICTs in Asia and Oceania. The paper was presented by Elizabeth Fong.

On behalf of the Section, Pensri Guaysuwan organized a Poster Session on *IFLA Regional Activities: Promoting information literacy in Asia and Oceania.* It was displayed on 24-25 August 2004. This Poster Session illustrated various activities carried out in the region during 2003-2004.

Aree Cheunwattana served as a teller at Council II on 27 August 2004.

Members and corresponding members participated in other sections' programmes--Public Libraries, Mobile Libraries, University Libraries, Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning, School Libraries and Resource Centers, Reading, Management of Library Associations.

Projects:

ALP Projects

1. The development of self-training package for information retrieval using distance education approach (Thailand)
2. Scholarship in information technology (ALP & RSCAO)
3. In-service training, attachments for middle staff in Asia and the Pacific (ALP & RSCAO)
4. Mekhong Regional Network for LIS Training (Thailand)
5. Information management curriculum development in Vietnam (Vietnam)
6. Sub-regional seminar on public library services in the ASEAN/Asia region: Changes and challenges of public library services to bridge the digital divide (Malaysia)
7. International symposium on the research and utilization of Chinese local chronicles (China)
8. Workshop on Empowering Library Associations (Nepal)
9. Workshop on Information Skills for Learning (Sri Lanka)

PC and CB Projects

1. The IFLA RSCAO Video (Librarianship in Asia & Oceania: On the Move--the next sequel) (RSCAO)
2. Directory of Libraries and Archives in the Pacific Islands, 2nd edition (Guam)
3. The translation of the School Library guidelines into Chinese (China)
4. The use of ICT and electronic information resources among the target population of the Penang Public Library Corporation (Malaysia)
5. Translation of Public Library Guidelines into Indian languages (The Indian Library Association)

IFLA RSAO Newsletter

During the period of January - December 2004, two issues of IFLA RSAO Newsletter were published in June and December 2004.

***Reported by Gary Gorman and Aree Cheunwattana
25 January 2005***