



IFLA Asia and Oceania Section

Annual Report 2004 - 2005

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: 317 members in 51 countries (as of March 2005)

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

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

Mid-Conference Meeting, Damascus, Syria, 21-22 February 2005

The mid-conference meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Culture and the Syrian Computer Society and was attended by the following members and representatives:

Gary Gorman (Chair, New Zealand), Aree Cheunwattana (Secretary, Thailand), Hilda Nassar (Information Coordinator, Lebanon), Kalpana Dasgupta (Member, India), Mohd Sharif Mohd Saad (Member, Malaysia), Rashidah Begum (Corresponding Member, Malaysia), Pensri Guaysuwan (Regional Manager, Thailand), Birgitta Sandell (ALP Programme Director, Sweden), Russell Bowden (Resource Person, Sri Lanka), Shawky Salem (Governing Board Member, Egypt).

The two-day meeting was productive. Policy issues were discussed. These included IFLA involvement in WSIS and future directions for the IFLA in Asia & Oceania, IFLA's Section Review, the nomination and election of Standing Committee members for 2005-2009, fund-seeking within the region to support the projects, promotion of IFLA membership in the region, ideas for the next strategic plan, and the Global Library Association Development Program (GLAD).

ALP Project Director reported that the ALP financial situation was positive. SIDA would secure funding for good projects initiated by the Division VIII in the next five years. The 2004 Annual Report of the ALP Programme and the List of Approved Projects and Planned Activities in Asia & Oceania were distributed to the Committee Members. ALP Project Director also informed of the ALP Steering Committee Meeting which would be held in Oslo during 10-12 August 2005.

Sub-committees were set up to select IFLA Travel Grant applicants, ALP-funded project proposals, ALP Scholarships and Attachments applications,

The Section's activities for IFLA 2005 in Oslo were planned to include a two-hour slot programme with the theme: *Digital libraries and sustainability*, a joint workshop with Preservation and Conservation Section, and a social event.

The time and venue of the next mid-conference meeting in 2006 was considered. The Chair proposed Hanoi, Vietnam as a venue. The meeting would take place in the last week of February.

Meetings at World Library and Information Congress 71st IFLA General Conference and Council (Libraries-A voyage of discovery)

Two meetings of the Standing Committee Members were held in Oslo, Norway, on 14 and 19 August. The two meetings were held on 14 and 19 August and attended by the following members:

Gary Gorman (Chair, New Zealand), Aree Cheunwattana (Secretary, Thailand), Hilda Nassar (Information Coordinator, Lebanon), Hasna Askhita (Member, Syria), Premila Gamage (Member, Sri Lanka), Mark Perkins (Member, New Caledonia), Fairborz Khosravi (Member, Iran), Eun Bong Park (Member, Korea), Wang Shan (Member, China), Pensri Guaysuwan (Regional Manager, Thailand), Arlene Cohen (Corresponding Member, Guam), Rashidah Begum (Corresponding Member, Malaysia), Shawky Salem (Governing Board Member, Egypt), and Birgitta Sandell (ALP Programme Director). There were 18 observers from several countries such as China, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Korea, and USA.

Peter Lor, the Secretary General, and Sjoerd Koopman, the Coordinator of Professional Activities were present at the meeting to discuss the issue of new Regional Office and Regional Manager.

Alex Byrne, the incoming IFLA President was present at the meeting to extend his greetings to the Committee Members. He stated his presidential theme on Partnership in advancing library and information service, appreciated the roles of the Asia & Oceania Section and the Division VIII, and encouraged members to consider the big issues in the society that are related to our profession such as WSIS, cultural diversity, WIPO and FAIFE and to work together to strengthen the Federation.

The Chair, Treasurer, Regional Manager and Information Coordinator presented financial and information reports. The meetings also included discussions on the Section's roles and responsibilities in the 71st WLIC Conference Programme, plans for the mid-conference meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam in February 2006 and the next WLIC in Seoul in August 2006. It was agreed that the mid-conference meeting in Hanoi would include: a SIDA Workshop on *Logical Frame Analysis*, an *Information Literacy* Workshop, and a Standing Committee Meeting. As for the Asia & Oceania Programme in Seoul, the theme is *Promotion and implementation of open access*. And the Section will also work with School Libraries & Media Centers Section in organizing a joint programme on *Information literacy: Evolving models in a changing world*.

The ALP Programme Director reported on grants offered by Nordic countries: SIDA Speaker Grants, NORAD IFLA Travel Grants and the Harry Campbell Travel Grant. ALP Criteria

and Guidelines for project proposal selection were brought up to the attention of the incoming Standing Committee Members.

The Chair informed members that the final draft of the Section Review Report was finished and invited inputs from members. After further refinement, it would be submitted to IFLA HQ.

The Strategic Plan 2006-2007 was drafted during the second meeting. GLAD final document was reviewed.

Conference and Seminar Programmes

Mid-Conference, Damascus, Syria, 21-22 February 2004

In addition to the meeting of the Standing Committee Members, Hasna Askhita, member from Syria in cooperation with Hilda Nassar, member from Lebanon organized a Seminar on Building the digital collection at the Asad National Library. Since it was the first digital library congress held in Syria, many of the participants had the opportunity to familiarize themselves for the first time with key issues and problems associated with digitization.

The workshop included speakers from the RSCAO—Gary Gorman, Shawky Salem, Rashidah Begum, Russell Bowden, Kalpana Dasgupta, Hilda T. Nassar, and Mohd Sharif Mohd Saad—, two from Syria, Dr. Nihad Maliha and Ms Nouar Shara', as well as from suppliers and vendors. This Workshop was accompanied by a workshop on health informatics, and a day-long workshop on library software and an exhibit of key suppliers and vendors in the region. The whole event was attended by 65 librarians and information professionals in Syria and neighboring countries.

WLIC, Oslo, 14-18 August 2005

The Section Programme was conducted on 17 August 2005. The theme was *Digital Libraries and Sustainability*. This included presentation of five papers.

- Promises and challenges: Digital libraries in the global information society (Keynote Paper)

ALEX BYRNE (Australia)

- Towards sustainable collection management: A study of digitalization and preservation activities in Malaysian university libraries

BADILAH SAAD & SHAI FOL YAZAM MAT (Malaysia) -- Presented by AISYAH NASIR

- Redesigning a library website for sustainability

JUDITH TOTOKO & VICTORIA YORK (Fiji)

- Sustainable digital library development for scientific communities

ZHANG XIAOLIN (China)

- Digital libraries to preserve, archive and disseminate the Arab heritage

HASNA ASHKITA (Syria)

The programme was well attended with over 100 audience.

The Section also participated in a joint workshop with Preservation and Conservation Section on 16 August 2005. The workshop's theme was *Housing for eternity: Sustainable solutions and mistakes to avoid. The role of library buildings in preservation*. Jieyin Feng from

Shanghai Library, China represented the Asia & Oceania Section. She presented a paper on *Preserving our books: The new building of the Shanghai Library*.

Gary Gorman, Chair, joined the panel discussion on Developing libraries through partnerships organized by the Division VIII on 18 August.

Aree Cheunwattana served as a teller at Council I and II on 14, 18 August 2005.

A social event sponsored by Emerald was held at Xich Lo Restaurant on 17 August. On this occasion, a farewell party was offered in honor of Pensri Guaysuwan, the Regional Manager who would be resigning in December 2005.

Projects:

ALP Approved Projects

1. Scholarship in information technology (ALP & RSCAO)
 2. In-service training, attachments for middle staff in Asia and the Pacific (ALP & RSCAO)
 3. Information management curriculum development in Vietnam (Vietnam)
 4. Setting up and managing a small school library: A Pacific regional training workshop (Fiji)
 5. Building learning communities through libraries (Philippines)
 6. A workshop to train library association leaders in the Pacific Islands in library advocacy and policy development (Guam)
 7. Improved linkage between agro-forestry-fishery libraries for sharing information resources (Vietnam)
 8. Information Literacy Workshop on the preparation of information literacy modules for primary and secondary schools in Malaysia and Southeast Asia (Malaysia)
 9. Distance education in Library and Information Science in Asia and Oceania (Thailand)
- (More information is available on <http://www.ifla.org/VI/1/alp.htm>)*

PC and CB Projects

1. The IFLA RSCAO Video (Librarianship in Asia & Oceania: On the Move--the next sequel) (RSCAO)
2. 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 2005, two issues of IFLA RSAO Newsletter were published in June and December 2005.

***Reported by Gary Gorman and Aree Cheunwattana
30 December 2005***

 **Asia and Oceania Section:** <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s26/index.htm>