



Asia and Oceania Section

<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s26/index.htm>

Annual Report 2005 - 2006

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: 310 members in 51 countries (as of March 2006)

Standing Committee Members 2005-2007:

Anjali Gulati (India)
 Ashu Shokeen (India)
 Elizabeth Reade Fong (Fiji)
 Eun Bong Park (Korea)
 Fariborz Khosravi (Tehran)
 Gary E. Gorman (New Zealand)
 S.B. Ghosh (India)
 Hasna Askhita (Syria)
 Isabelle de Cours (France)
 Mark Perkins (New Caledonia)
 Mohd. Sharif Mohd. Saad (Malaysia)
 Namtip Wipawin (Thailand)
 P.E. Harrison Perera (Sri Lanka)
 Wang Shan (China)
 Xiaolin Zhang (China)
 Yumi Kitamura (Japan)
 Zhang Xiaoxing (China)
 Zhu Qiang (China)

Corresponding Members:

Aree Cheunwattana (Thailand)
 Rashidah Begum bt. Fazal Mohamed (Malaysia)
 Russell Bowden (Sri Lanka)
 Shawky Salem (Egypt)

Ex Officio:

Keat Fong Tan (Regional Manager for Asia & Oceania)

Officers:Chair

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Secretary

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

Mid-Conference Meeting, Hanoi, Vietnam, 23-24 February 2006

The mid-conference meeting was hosted by the National Centre for Scientific and Technological Information (NACESTI). The meeting was attended by the following members and representatives:

Gary Gorman (Chair, New Zealand), Premila Gamage (Secretary, Sri Lanka), S.B. Ghosh (Member, India), Mohd Sharif Mohd Saad (Member, Malaysia), Elizabeth Reade Fong (Member, Fiji), Hasna Askhita (Member, Syria), Yumi Kitamura (Member, Japan), Eun Bong Park (Member, Korea), Mark Perkins (Member, New Caledonia), Namtip Wipawin (Member, Thailand), Rashidah Begum (Corresponding Member, Malaysia), Russell Bowden (Corresponding Member, Sri Lanka), Keat Fong Tan (Regional Manager, Singapore), Birgitta Sandell (ALP Programme Director, Sweden), Sjoerd M. J. Koopman (Coordinator of Professional Activities, IFLA Headquarters), Patricia G. Oyler (Observer, USA).

The mid-conference meeting in Hanoi was very successful and productive. The section review, having more than one regional office, transfer of the main Regional Office from Bangkok to Singapore, handing over the office to new Regional Manager, fund-seeking within the region to support the projects, and promotion of IFLA membership in the region, were among the policy issues that were discussed at the meeting.

Sjoerd Koopman, Coordinator of Professional Activities, described the role and structure of IFLA, the role of the Governing Board, election of Governing Board, Divisions, Sections, annual conferences, elections, membership categories and various useful features and content such as the membership directory on IFLANET. He requested members to see the potential to include more members from the region. He also urged members to replace RSCAO whenever possible with IFLA or use IFLA "Asia/Oceania" – Section or Committee where appropriate.

Birgitta Sandell, ALP Director reported that the ALP Office does not know how much money they will receive for 2006 and that the financial situation is not healthy. They have approached many libraries and other bodies seeking assistance, but have not had much positive response. However, funds are available for projects and scholarship programmes; funds have not been received for the training attachments programme.

Birgitta Sandell, further reported that a new application and reporting system has been introduced by SIDA using the Logical Framework Approach (LFA) method and matrix. They have already conducted a training workshop on LFA in Africa. An LFA workshop for A/O members was conducted in Hanoi as an adjunct to the mid-conference meeting.

Sub-committees were set up to select ALP Scholarships and Training Attachments applications. The ALP project proposals were circulated among the members prior to the meeting and were discussed and evaluated at the meeting.

The Section's activities for IFLA 2006 in Seoul were planned to include a two-hour slot programme with the theme: 'Promoting the Implementation of Open Access', a joint workshop with Preservation and Conservation Section, co-Sponsoring a satellite meeting on the theme 'Scholarly Information on East Asia in the 21st Century' with the Council on East Asian Libraries, a joint Session with Section of School Libraries and Resource Centres, a programme with Division VIII and a social event.

The time and venue of the next mid-conference meeting in 2007 was considered. The Section received two invitations from Pakistan to host the 2007 mid-conference meeting. However, due to the prevailing situation in Pakistan, the Committee decided on Singapore as the tentative venue. Later it was changed from Singapore to Colombo in order for members to participate in the Sri Lanka Library Association annual conference. This will be held in Colombo in early March 2007 and several members suggested that it might be more productive to meet in Colombo.

On behalf of the Committee Chair thanked the former Regional Manager Dr Pensri Guaysuwan for her excellent work. As part of the social event in Oslo which was sponsored by Emerald, Dr. Pensri Guaysuwan was farewelled and presented with a gift in honour of her services to the RSCAO.

Meetings at World Library and Information Congress 72nd IFLA General Conference and Council (Libraries: Dynamic Engines for the Knowledge and Information Society)

One meeting of the Standing Committee Members was held in Seoul, South Korea, on 20 August and attended by the following members:

Gary Gorman (Chair, New Zealand), Premila Gamage (Secretary, Thailand), Eun Bong Park (Member, Korea), Wang Shan (Member, China), Keat Fong Tan (Regional Manager, Singapore), S.B. Ghosh (Member, India), Mohd Sharif Mohd Saad (Member, Malaysia), Eun Bong Park (Member, Korea), Namtip Wipawin (Member, Thailand), Xiaolin, Zhang (Member, China), Rashidah Begum (Corresponding Member, Malaysia), Shawky Salem (Corresponding Member Governing Board Member, Egypt), and Birgitta Sandell (ALP Programme Director)

There were 17 observers from several countries such as China, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Korea, Guam, India, Australia, Pakistan, Vietnam, Myanmar, UK, Hong Kong, Canada and USA.

The Chair and Regional Manager presented financial and information reports. The meeting also included discussions on the Section's roles and responsibilities in the 72nd WLIC Conference Programme, and the next WLIC in Durban in August 2007. It was agreed to have only the Standing Committee Meeting in Singapore. As for the Asia and Oceania Programme in Durban, the theme is 'how libraries deal with disasters'. It was agreed to organise a poster session, focusing on the Section's theme i.e. how libraries in the region deal with disasters.

The Committee discussed in-depth the matter of having more than one regional office per 'region': what is the future of the Regional Sections, what is the intention of having more than one Regional Office, how are these offices going to operate – individually or stand-alone, and if stand-alone the various problems that might be faced. Based on the discussions, Committee agreed to discuss the matter with Africa and Latin America and Caribbean Sections and urge the Professional Committee to consider having cooperating sub-offices instead of stand-alone offices.

The ALP Programme Director reported on grants offered by SIDA (Speaker Grants), and the Harry Campbell Travel Grant. ALP Criteria and Guidelines for project proposal selection were brought to the attention of the incoming Standing Committee Members.

As the Committee's business was concluded in one meeting, there was no need to hold the second meeting, and this was agreed by Committee members present.

The Chair and the Secretary attended Coordinating Board meetings of Division VIII that were held on 18 and 25 August 2006. Peter Lor, Secretary General and Jacintha Were, the Chair of Professional Committee participated in the second meeting. At these meetings it was discussed in detail the issues and implications of having more than one Regional Offices.

The Chair, Secretary and many members participated in the Caucus of Africa, Asia and Oceania and Latin America and Caribbean held on 19 August 2006. The Chair joined the discussion with the Chair of Division VIII.

The Chair also attended the ALP Advisory Committee meeting as a representative of the Section.

The Chair, Secretary and members participated in the Hearing Session for Standing Committee members of all IFLA Sections to discuss the future of IFLA's professional structure, as proposed by the Professional Committee.

Conference and Seminar Programmes

Mid-Conference, Hanoi, Vietnam, 23-24 February 2006

In addition to the mid-conference meeting, members participated in a workshop and a two-day training programme on Logical Framework Approach (LFA) which was sponsored by the ALP. The Workshop on Information Literacy was organised by the Faculty of Library and Information Science (FLIS), University of Social Sciences and Humanities (USSH) of the Vietnam National University (VNU). This workshop was attended by nearly 450 participants, and in effect became a conference with presented papers. Among the papers presented at the workshop, there were five papers by members of the RSCAO i.e. Gary Gorman, Russell Bowden, Elizabeth Reade Fong, Rashidah Begum bt. Fazal Mohamed and Mohamed Sharif.

A seminar was held for FAIFE and ALP in Uppsala from October 24 - 26, 2005. The aims of the seminar were to introduce the Logical Framework Approach as a tool for project planning and implementation and connect this to SIDA-financed IFLA activities and to identify common areas for collaboration, as SIDA has indicated that it wants to see more cooperation between FAIFE and ALP. The Chair participated in the seminar. This was the beginning of a series of regional workshops, and a two-day workshop was held on 21 and 22 February at the premises of NACESTI, for committee members during the mid-conference meeting. Ms. Kari Örtengren 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 training workshop was sponsored by IFLA/ALP.

WLIC, Seoul, 20-24 August 2006 (Libraries: Dynamic Engines for the Knowledge and Information Society)

The Section Programme was conducted on Thursday 24 August 2006 (10.45-12.45). The theme was 'Promoting the Implementation of Open Access'. In addition to the invited keynote address, five papers were presented at the open session. More than 175 participants attended the session.

1. Keynote Address: Open Access Scholarly Databases – A Bird's Eye View of the Landscape – Prof. Peter Jacso (Hawaii)
2. The Open Access Movement in the Korean R & D Environment - Hyekyong Hwang and Dr. Heeyoon Choi (Korea)
3. D-Collection: Open Archive Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting - Dr. Hong Seok Park and Guem Yeon Jang (Korea)
4. Open Access and Institutional Repositories - a Developing Country Perspective: A Case Study of India - Prof. S. B. Ghosh and Anup Kumar Das (India)
5. Open Access – Philosophy, Policy, Practice - Wang Xuemao and Liu Wei (China)
6. Comparing Three Chinese Preprint Systems - Liu Yi and Gao Yi (China)

In addition, the Section also participated in the following pre-conferences and meetings:

- Pre-conference meeting with Preservation and Conservation Section (PAC) from 16-17 August 2006 in Tokyo. Theme: Preservation and Conservation in Asia
- Satellite Meeting with the Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL) on 18 August 2006. Theme: 'Scholarly Information on East Asia in the 21st Century'. This was attended by Amelia McKenzie, past Chair of the RSCAO, on behalf of the Section.

- Programme with Division VIII: Regional Activities on 21 August 2006. Theme: 'Information Literacy for the Knowledge Society'. Representing the Asia-Oceania region, the Chair presented a joint paper with Dr. Dan Dorner. He also joined the panel discussion with the Division VIII Chair.

The Chair also attended the start-up meeting of the LIS Education in Developing Countries Discussion Group, which subsequently sought affiliation under Division VIII and will have a session in Durban. He also attended the Agricultural Libraries Discussion Group and chaired this meeting. The Regional Manager presented a poster at the poster session which covered information about Regional Office, Section and ALP activities and involvement.

A social event sponsored by Emerald was held at Restaurant Marche on 20 August. There were around 35 guests at the event, and Emerald agreed to continue hosting these events for the near future.

Projects:

The most of the current projects had progressed well and received the preliminary report of the following project.

Project 288

A preliminary report on the workshop to train library association leaders in the Pacific Islands in library advocacy and policy development (funded by the IFLA ALP, IFLA Management of Library Associations Section and the American Library Association) has been submitted to ALP. The workshop was held on 14-15 November 2006 at the Ngara Chamayong Cultural Center in Koror, Republic of Palau. It was presented by Keith Michael Fiels, the American Library Association Executive Director and Chair of the IFLA Management of Library Associations Section; and Michael Dowling, the Director of the American Library Association International Relations Office. The two facilitators were Libby Cass from the University of the South Pacific and Arlene Cohen. There were 15 ALP-funded participants, plus 18 other participants from throughout the region. The workshop consisted of lectures and breakout sessions, peppered with personal library advocacy success stories.

The following two projects are now planned for 2007:

Project 296 - Modelling Information Literacy: Developing a Contextually-Based Training Programme for a Less Developed Country in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (University Library National University of Laos, Mr Chansy Phuangsouketh).

Project 297 - Education for Information Literacy: Developing and Implementing a Contextually-Based Training Programme (Documentation Centre, Pedagogical Research Department, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Cambodia, Ms Yim Mory).

IFLA RSAO Newsletter

During the period January - December 2006, two issues of IFLA RSCAO Newsletter were published in June and December 2006.

Web Forum

A Web Forum was set up by the Regional Office for Committee members, in order to improve communication and the recording and archiving of documents.

*Reported by Gary Gorman and Premila Gamage
30 December 2006*