



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

**Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania**

**Minutes of the Meeting held in Buenos Aires  
August 2004**

**Present at Meeting I (23 August 2004, 14:00-16:00):**

Gary E. Gorman (Chair)  
Aree Cheunwattana (Secretary)  
Elizabeth Reade Fong (Member)  
Qiang Zhu (Member)  
Pensri Guaysuwan (Regional Manager)  
Arlene Cohen (Corresponding Member)  
Rashidah Begum (Corresponding Member)  
Shawky Salem (Governing Board Member, RSCAO Special Advisor)

Observers: Amir Khani, Yan Xiangdong, Yoriko Miyabe, Olga Lavrik, Olga Perminova, Richard Richie

**Present at Meeting II (28 August 2004, 14:30-17:20):**

Gary E. Gorman (Chair)  
Aree Cheunwattana (Secretary)  
Elizabeth Reade Fong (Member)  
Pensri Guaysuwan (Regional Manager)  
Rashidah Begum (Corresponding Member)  
Shawky Salem (Governing Board Member, RSCAO Special Advisor)  
Birgitta Sandell (ALP Programme Director)

Observers: Yan Xiangdong, John Lake

**Apologies:**

Anjali Gulati (Member)  
Harrison Perera (Member)  
Hasna Askhita (Member)  
Hilda Nassar (Information Coordinator)  
Isabelle de Cours (Member)  
Kalpana Dasgupta (Member)  
Zhang Xiaoxing (Member)

## **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.

## **2 Agenda**

The Committee adopted the proposed agenda. (Appendix 1)

## **3 Confirmation of Minutes of the Mid-conference Meeting held in Singapore, 24-25 February 2004**

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

## **4 Matters Arising**

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

## **5 Financial Reports**

### **5.1. Administrative budget**

G. Gorman, the Treasurer reported that the Section's administrative budget had a balance of Euro 1,288.38, from an original 2004 amount of Euro 1,333. The Section supported one member, E. Fong, with registration fee of Euro 282. This brought the balance down to about Euro 1,000. Victoria University of Wellington absorbs part of the administrative costs so the remaining amount can be used to support members' attendance to future meetings.

### **5.2. Meeting budget**

P. Guaysuwan, the Regional Manager reported that the amount of USD 4,500 was sent to Singapore to organize the Mid-conference meeting in February 2004. The Financial Statement from Singapore was submitted. (Appendix 3) The unspent amount of USD 1,255.36 was transferred to A. Cheunwattana, the Secretary. Detailed report will be presented in the next Mid-conference Meeting in February 2005.

## **6 Report from the Chair**

G. Gorman gave the following report:

### **6.1. Review of IFLA's Sections**

On behalf of RSCAO, the Chair has volunteered the Section for review in the test phase before a full scheme review in 2007. This will be furthered discussed in the SCII.

### **6.2. Speaker grants**

IFLA/ALP provided the SIDA Speaker Grants for two speakers from the region to attend IFLA Buenos Aires and to present papers in the Asia & Oceania Programme on 25 August 2004. The two grantees are Dr. Leena

Shah from India and Miss Zhang Hongxia from China. The Chair expressed thanks and appreciation for ALP support.

### 6.3. Messages from Chair of the Division 8

6.3.1. J. Were, Chair of the Division VIII advised that A&O Section should discuss the World Summit of the Information Society which will be held in Tunisia and what contribution the region can offer. G. Gorman invited members to suggest ideas by email.

6.3.2. Kari Gulbraar is the liaison for the Division VIII for IFLA 2005 in Oslo. The Sections under the Division VIII can contact her for assistance.

### 6.4. Cooperation with other Sections

The Chair was informed that the Management and Marketing Section, which organizes a Satellite Meeting every year, was interested in cooperating with A&O Section at IFLA Seoul in 2006. The Chair decided not to take the offer because both the Chair and the Secretary have teaching responsibilities, which will allow extra time in Korea to do the Satellite Meeting.

### 6.5. News from Coordinating Board Meeting I

6.5.1. IFLA is facing financial difficulty. Members are encouraged to look for funding sources as well as increase membership.

6.5.2. A proposal was made concerning the election of Chairs of the Coordinating Board. Since Chairs of the Coordinating Board usually carry other major roles in IFLA, it is difficult for them to attend to their responsibilities, especially during the conference. It is therefore proposed that *Chairs of Coordinating Boards be elected only from outgoing CB members for a term of two years, with the possibility of re-election for a second two-year term. Any outgoing CB member would be eligible, whether that person has served as CB Chair or not. Coordinating Board Secretaries would still be elected from among current Board members. During conferences and as much as possible in between, Coordinating Board Chairs would be expected regularly to visit and attend meetings of the sections in their divisions, in order to keep in touch with the section activities.* The PROS and CONS of this proposal were pointed out. (Appendix 4)

G. Gorman supported the proposal; however, he suggested that outgoing CB members should be invited to serve sections as corresponding members so as to keep abreast with IFLA activities.

## 7 RSCAO Annual Report 2003/2004

Members commented on the Annual Report drafted by A. Cheunwattana. (Appendix 5) Minor corrections were made. A. Cohen, the Corresponding Member suggested that annual reports should be presented according to calendar year. A. Cheunwattana will wait until December 2004 to collect more information and complete the Annual Report 2004.

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

H. Nassar, the Information Coordinator could not attend the IFLA Conference, but sent her report to the Chair. (Appendix 6)

## **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 Mid-conference Meeting in February 2005.

## **10 ALP Report**

B. Sandell, ALP Programme Director reported ALP financial situation as follows: Sida is currently the main funding source for ALP. Early this year Sida had notified that the ALP budget for 2004 would have to be renegotiated but in the end ALP received all the money according to the contract. ALP also received some money from the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and hopes to get more money from other sources to fund projects. It could be small funds for smaller projects.

As for the travel grants for IFLA 2005, ALP received USD 4,000 from IFLA from selling raffle tickets at the WLIC in Buenos Aires. The money can support only 1.5 person. The National Organizing Committee of IFLA 2005 in Oslo will be able to support more than 50 participants from developing countries; a majority of the grantees will be chosen among nationals of the NORAD cooperation countries. The ALA grants already came to an end.

## **11 Asia and Oceania Section's projects**

11.1. G. Gorman informed that the CB funds for the ICT Project proposed by Dr. Diljit Singh, Malaysia arrived. He already contacted Dr. Singh. He also reminded the Committee Members that IFLA also provides funds to support projects. Project proposals are welcomed. The dateline for submitting proposals to the Chair is October 2004.

### **11.2. ALP Projects**

B. Sandell distributed the *List of Approved Projects and Planned Activities in Asia & Oceania*, August 2004. (Appendix 7) The status of these projects was reported as follows:

P. 246 *The development of self-training package for information retrieval using distance education approach.*

The project was extended. ALP has not yet received the final report.

P. 262 *In-service training, attachments for middle staff in Asia and the Pacific.*

Two institutions in New Zealand are willing to host the training.

P. 264 *Mekhong Regional Network for LIS Training.*

The project has been completed. But ALP has not yet received the report.

P. 265 *Information Management Curriculum Development in Vietnam*  
The workshop is going to be held in December 2004.

P. 271 *International Symposium on the Research and Utilization of Chinese Local Chronicles*

ALP has sent money. The implementation is postponed to October 2004.

P. 275 *Empowering library associations for effective management in Asia.*  
Money has been sent. The workshop will be held on 4-8 October 2004 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

P. 276 *Information skills for learning: South and Southeast Asia regional workshop*

Money has been sent. The workshop will be held in the first week of November 2004 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

P. 277 *Setting up and managing a small school library: A Pacific regional training workshop*

ALP has signed the contract. Money will be sent.

P. 280 *Building learning communities through libraries*

The project needs to be readjusted and resubmitted in October 2004.

P. 273 *Library Consortia: Model for Academic and Research Libraries.*  
ALP has informed the applicant, Dr. Abdallah that Gothenburg University Library has Sida funds to carry out projects in the Middle East and that they are planning to have a seminar on library consortia. The coordinator has Dr. Abdallah's name.

P. 283 *National library collection development project*

Already in March the Chair had asked the applicant to revise the project proposal, but ALP has not yet received anything. However, B. Sandell thought it would be difficult to get money to support this project.

B. Sandell advised that if there is any change / adjustment made about the project, the project head should inform ALP and the Chair. She further emphasized that according to the ALP criteria the projects should be of relevance to several countries in the sub-region or region.

P. Guaysuwan informed that R. Ramachandran, has asked the regions to propose good projects--preferably not related to conferences, workshops, publications, tec. Unless this form part of the main project. Training the trainer type of programmes for sustaining, localising, and expanding the project concerned would be acceptable. He will then approach different agencies for funding.

G. Gorman suggested that project proposals should be filtered through the Section. When each project comes in, it should be evaluated by a sub-

committee, which will give feedback for adjustment and resubmission. It was agreed that the sub-committee should be formed with representatives from sub-divisions and experts in the topic areas. If enough guidance is provided, the quality of projects will be improved. P. Guaysuwan was asked to circulate project proposals as soon as they came in.

A copy of ALP budget and projects for 2005-2009 was given to the Secretary for reference. (Appendix 8)

## 12 70<sup>th</sup> General Conference Programme

- 12.1. Asia & Oceania Section Programme: *Information Literacy for a Knowledge Society in Asia and Oceania*.  
Six papers were selected, but only five were presented. Five presenters included: Olga Lavrik (Russia), Shivanthi Weerasinghe presented the paper on behalf of Wathmanel Seneriratne (Sri Lanka), Leena Shah (India), Zhang Hongxia (China), and May Moore (Oman). Zoreh Mirhosseini (Iran) withdrew in the last week before the Conference took place.
- 12.2. Recommendation of the best papers (from 12.1) for publication in *IFLA Journal*.  
The recommendation will be sent to IFLA Headquarters in the first week of September right after IFLA Buenos Aires. Input was invited from the Committee Members.
- 12.3. Social Science Libraries with Division VIII--Regional Activities  
Joint Workshop: Changing Roles of NGOs in the Creation, Validation and Dissemination of Information in Developing Countries. G. Gorman and E. Fong contributed a paper to the programme: NGOs, Information Dissemination and the Use of ICTs in Asia and Oceania. E. Fong would present the paper. Members were invited to attend the session on 26 August.
- 12.4. Coordinating Board Meetings  
G. Gorman, A. Cheunwattana, and P. Guaysuwan attended two CB meetings on 21 and 28 August.
- 12.5. Caucus: Africa, Asia & Oceania, and Latin America & Caribbean would be held on 22 August. Members were invited to attend. G. Gorman would be among the speakers.
- 12.6. Special Meeting for Information Coordinators  
A. Cheunwattana attended the meeting on behalf of H. Nassar.
- 12.7. Poster Session  
P. Guaysuwan was responsible for organizing the Poster Session, which was displayed on 24-25 August. The theme is *IFLA Regional Activities: Promoting Information Literacy in Asia and Oceania*. The Poster Session illustrated various activities carried out in the region during 2003-2004. Handouts accompanying the Poster Session were distributed. (Appendix 9)

- 12.8. Section Brochures on the IFLA Booth  
Copies of the Strategic Plan were distributed on 24 August 2004, 14:00-15:00.  
E. Fong volunteered to staff the Booth.
- 12.9. Participation in Other Programmes  
R. Begum and A. Cheunwattana attended SC I - Public Libraries.  
A. Cheunwattana attended SC I - Mobile Libraries.  
E. Fong attended SC I - University Libraries and SC I - Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning  
P. Guaysuwan and R. Begum attended SC I - School Libraries and Resource Centers.  
P. Guaysuwan attended SC I - Reading and SC I - Management of Library Associations.  
G. Gorman and E. Fong attended the President-Elect Brainstorm Session  
A. Cheunwattana attended WSIS Update

**13 World Library and Information Congress: 71<sup>st</sup> IFLA General Conference and Council, Oslo, 14-18 August 2005 (Theme: Libraries--A voyage of discovery)**

- 13.1. The Asia & Oceania Programme  
The Committee Members agreed to have *Digital Libraries and Sustainability* as theme for A&O Programme. G. Gorman would like to improve the quality of papers. He suggested that the Committee Members help look for possible presenters in the region. (Yan Xiangdong agreed to look for one from the National Library of China.) Then the Section can also post the call for papers which should be mailed out earlier than it was done last year.

- 13.2. Other Programmes  
Several sections are interested to work with RSCAO: Preservation and Conservation, School Libraries and Resource Centers, Marketing and Management, and Reading. The Committee decided to work with Preservation and Conservation in 2005 and with School Libraries and Resource Centers in 2006. The general title for the session planned by Preservation and Conservation is *Housing for Eternity / Sustainable solutions and mistakes to avoid*. Contact person is Olga Perminova.

R. Begum, the Corresponding Member suggested that many levels of cooperation be planned and done throughout the year. S. Salem, the Special Advisor supported the idea of collaboration with other Sections / Divisions. G. Gorman mentioned that R. Ramachandran, the Secretary General is keen to support RSCAO to organize a regional conference. S. Salem proposed *Partnership and Funding* as conference topic. RSCAO should involve funding organizations in the conference: UNESCO, World Bank, and the Gates Foundation. Two panels can be arranged: one by representatives from funding organizations, the other by three speakers from the region. One of the former IFLA Presidents should be invited to be the Keynote Speaker. G. Gorman and S. Salem will work on identifying speakers from funding organizations.

### 13.3. Social Event

The Committee agreed to hold a social event in Oslo because there will be new members to join RSCAO. The event will be open to members in the region as well. A. Cheunwattana and R. Begum will contact Kari Gulbrara, Coordinator for IFLA Oslo to arrange the event. G. Gorman, H. Nassar, E. Fong and A. Cheunwattana will seek funds from sponsors. The amount needed is about Euro 1,500.

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

14.1. The next Mid-conference Meeting will be held in Damascus, Syria on 21-23 February 2005.

14.2. The Chair informed that H. Nassar suggested *Building Digital Collection* as the topic of the workshop in Damascus. The Committee Members considered the topic too general. After some discussion, the Committee agreed that the topic should be narrowed down to focus on *Digitization of Cultural Heritage*. Potential speakers were identified as follows: S. Salem, R. Begum, Mohd Sharif, Zhu Quian, and G. Gorman.

## **15 IFLA Sections' Review: Test Phase**

The Chair informed the Committee that the Governing Board decided to review all sections by 2007. However, the test phase already started this year. Each Division was requested for one Section to voluntarily undergo the review. The Chair thought that the Asia & Oceania Section is doing very well so he decided to volunteer for the test phase review.

The Committee looked at together the documents: *Planning the Review of IFLA's Section* and the *Criteria for Review of Sections*. (Appendix 10) The dateline for Sections to submit review reports is October 2004. The Chair and the Secretary will work this out. However, the Secretary informed that in collecting factual data, she will need input from members, particularly, R. Begum, the former Chair.

## **16 RSCAO Members and Corresponding Members**

In 2005 several RSCAO members will finish their term: A. Cheunwattana, H. Nassar and K. Dasgupta. A. Cheunwattana and K. Dasgupta will finish their first term, and H. Nassar her second term. P. Guaysuwan informed that 11 vacancies be available in RSCAO in 2005. The Chair concluded that we must increase the size of SC by checking the number of members in the list and persuading/recruiting members from countries that are underrepresented.

As for the Section's Corresponding Members, the Secretary reported that she could not contact Ella B. Shapovalova--every message she sent bounced back. Toru Koizumi finished his two two-year terms several years ago, but his name is still in the list. The Committee agreed to replace Ella B. Shapovalova and Toru Koizumi by S. Salem and R. Bowden, who faithfully contribute to the Section.



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

The Chair reported that the current number of Asia & Oceania membership is 308 from 46 countries. (Appendix 11) He encouraged RSCAO members to put more effort in promoting membership and try to target countries that are underrepresented in RSCAO.

## **18 Ideas for Strategic Plan 2005-2006**

The Chair commented that it was not a good idea to change the Plan too much because this will make it difficult to undertake activities in order to achieve the Section's goals. It was agreed that the Chair and the Secretary would work together on adjusting the Plan slightly to fit IFLA's priorities and circulate it to members for further input.

## **19 Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **Appendix**

1. Meeting Agenda
2. Minutes of the Mid-conference Meeting held in Singapore
3. IFLA RSCAO Mid-year Meeting 13-15 February 2004: Financial Statement
4. Election of Chairs of Coordinating Boards (GB 04-093)
5. IFLA Asia & Oceania Section, Annual Report 2003-2004 (Draft)
6. Information Coordinator Report February - August 2004
7. ALP List of Approved Projects and Planned Activities in Asia & Oceania
8. ALP Budget and Projects for 2005-2009
9. Poster Session (Asia & Oceania)
10. Planning the Review of IFLA's Sections (GB04-038R)
11. Asia & Oceania Membership by Country 2004

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