



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

**69th General Conference
Berlin, 1-8 August 2003**

Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania

Minutes of Meetings held in Berlin, 03 and 08 August 2003

**Meeting I
Committee Members Present***

Ms Rashidah Begum, Chair
GE Gorman, Secretary
Ms Pensri Guaysuwan, Reg Manager
Ms Hasna Askhita
Ms Aree Cheunwattana
Ms Isabelle de Cours
Ms Kalpana Dasgupta
Ms Gunilla Natvig
R Ramachandran
Shawky Salem
* See Appendix 1 for list of observers

**Meeting II
Committee Members Present***

Ms Rashidah Begum, Chair
GE Gorman, Secretary
Ms Pensri Guaysuwan, Reg Manager
Ms Hasna Askhita
Ms Aree Cheunwattana
Ms Isabelle de Cours
Ms Kalpana Dasgupta
Ms Gunilla Natvig
R Ramachandran
Shawky Salem
*See Appendix 1 for list of observers

Apologies

Ms Hilda Nassar, Info Coordinator
Ms Maria LaoSunthara
Ms Elizabeth Reade Fong
Harrison Perera
Qiang Zhu
Anjali Gulati
Russell Bowden

1 Welcoming Remarks

The Chair opened the pair of meetings by welcoming all members and observers (see Appendix 1) to Berlin. She extended a particular welcome to new members of the Committee, and extended warm thanks to Abbas Houry and Sun Liping for their service to RSCAO. She indicated that there was a very full agenda for Berlin and that we needed to make firm decisions about our presence at various meetings as representatives of RSCAO (who would attend what), about what we would plan for Buenos Aires, and about the mid-conference meeting in Singapore. In addition it would be important for us to continue building up the networking that had been so successful in recent years.

The Chair also reported extensively on the Division VIII meeting and its chosen theme, Literacy and Information Access for All. Literacy was taken to include oral literacy, reading (comprehension), and all aspects of information literacy. Actions to realise these literacies includes capacity building (training and human resources development, infrastructure development, greater material and financial resources, identification of special needs and groups); advocacy (marketing, raising awareness, networking); cooperation (within the region, between regions, across relevant sections, creating potential partnerships); preservation and conservation (recording, digitisation, other conservation techniques); evaluation.

GB has announced that all Sections would be reviewed in the near future, so it was in our interest to maintain a high level of useful activity within IFLA, and also to continue our efforts to have a higher profile, and work together with other Sections. It was also decided that all Newsletters should be sent electronically, and that both e-copy and hard copy should be archived.

PC has decided that Standing Committees would continue to meet twice at each General Conference, but that each Section would be given only one programme at Conference (Open Session or Workshop).

2 Agenda

The Committee adopted the proposed agenda (Appendix 2) without amendment.

3 Election of Officers, 2003-2005

Professor Gary Gorman was elected as Chair, and Dr Aree Cheunwattana was elected as Secretary for the 2003-2005 period. Hilda Nassar was asked to remain as Information Coordinator for the same period, and G Gorman will serve as Treasurer. The incoming officers thanked Rashidah Begum for her years of service to RSCAO, and asked her to remain as a Corresponding Member.

4 Confirmation of Minutes of Mid-Conference Meeting Held in Colombo, March 2003

The minutes were confirmed with a minor adjustment indicating that the Regional Office will not table reports at subsequent General Conferences, but only at the Mid-conference meetings. This would be corrected on the Web-based minutes.

5 Matters Arising

There was some discussion of the Public Library Guidelines, and their translation into Chinese (S Liping to undertake), and also Indian languages (K Dasgupta to liaise). Also, the updating of the video was to proceed in a 2-year timeframe (A Cheunwattana to manage). As planning was already in hand for the Colombo Mid-Conference meeting to be held in March 2003, it was decided to defer discussion of the template for planning mid-conference meetings until the meeting in Colombo, when it would be reviewed and revised.

6 Financial Reports/Administrative Budget/Meeting Budget

The Section received the following from GB for 2003:

€1360 Administrative budget held by Treasurer

GB funding for regional projects:

€1535 School libraries project
€1000 Video project
€9121 Pacific libraries directory
€20,000 School libraries workshop

Meeting budget:

€4500 Meeting budget for 2003
€3500 for Sri Lankan meeting

The financial report for 2002 was submitted electronically to H Nassar for adding to the Web minutes.

7 Report from the Information Coordinator

The Information Coordinator tabled a note indicating that the listserv was running smoothly, and that the Website was also current. The Committee extended thanks to Hilda for her good work as our Information Coordinator.

8 RSCAO Annual Report

The Chair reported that she was preparing the Annual Report and would submit it to IFLA HQ.

9 ALP Report

G Natvig reported that funding of ALP activities continued to be a problem. In particular the lack of DANIDA grants was proving difficult to overcome. However, SIDA had agreed to continue funding ALP for the period 2003-2005.

All current projects seemed to be moving ahead as planned.

10 69th General Conference Programme

10.1 Division VIII Open Session

Focus would be on the strategic planning process for the regions, and how this could support development priorities. G Gorman would be presenting a paper on development priorities for the Asia and Oceania region as a representative of the Section. Robert Wedgeworth would present the keynote, and there would be general discussion on Division VIII priorities – it is important for as many members of the RSCAO as possible to attend and make sure our views are well represented.

10.2 A&O Open Session

The keynote would be delivered by Sue Sutherland of New Zealand, with five additional papers. All presentations are to focus on public libraries and the information society. The policy of having an additional paper ‘in reserve’ has proved useful, as one of the principal presenters has been unable to attend, but we were able to fill the slot with a reserve paper. It is expected that there will be a high turnout from members of the Public Libraries Section, and A&O members are urged to attend to show support.

10.3 Social Event

The social event would be a dinner for A&O Section members present in Berlin, plus a few invited guests. Sponsorship is being provided by Emerald, Elsevier and Silver Platter; all sponsors are to be formally thanked for their support. Several confirmations have been received, but there is room for more to attend, so RSCAO members are asked to invite additional Section members to the function.

10.4 Poster Session

Dr A Cheunwattana was responsible for organising the poster session to promote activities of the Section.

11 70th IFLA General Conference, Buenos Aires 2004

11.1 Open Session

In Buenos Aires each section would have a single time slot; this could be an open session or a workshop, or a combination of the two. We will have just an open session, with papers focusing on the theme of information literacy for a knowledge society in Asia and Oceania – specific details of the theme would be determined by G Gorman and A Cheunwattana, and a call for papers circulated on relevant listservs.

11.2 Division VIII Workshop

RSCAO will contribute a speaker to a Division VIII Workshop, with the theme and topics to be decided.

11.3 Social Event

It was agreed to establish a sub-committee to plan a social event in Buenos Aires, arrange sponsorship if necessary, and liaise with Conference personnel regarding a venue and time. The sub-committee will be established at the mid-conference meeting.

11.4 Poster Session

It was agreed to organise a poster session, focusing on projects from the region. A Cheunwattana agreed to organise this.

12 Mid-Conference Meeting in Singapore

It was agreed that this would be held in late February and to include a short workshop on a topic to be decided in conjunction with the host institution. The workshop will precede the meeting. The National Library Board of Singapore agreed to serve as the host institution, with R Ramachandran as co-ordinator. It was confirmed that the Regional Office meeting budget would be used to support attendance by Committee members if possible, but that the bulk of the funds should go to the actual meeting organisation (venue, accommodation, meals).

13 Other Business

The School of Information Management at Victoria University of Wellington was asked to run the IT Scholarships course again in 2003, and it was agreed to admit fee-paying students from the region as well.

The revised Strategic Plan would take into account the presidential theme of information literacy, focusing on relevant activities and outcomes to support this initiative in our region.

Appendix

Observers at Berlin Meetings

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