



Asia and Oceania Section

Standing Committee

Minutes of the Mid-Conference Meeting held in New Delhi, India

12-13 February 2008

Present

Premila Gamage (Chair)
M. Al Mamun (Secretary)
Roza Berdigalieva (Member)
Sanjay Kumar Bihani (Member)
S.B. Ghosh (Member)
Fariborz Khosravi (Member)
Ashu Shokeen (Member)
Tendik G. Yermekpayeva (Member)
Namtip Wipawin (Member)
Tan Keat Fong (Regional Manager)
Sjoerd M. J. Koopman (Coordinator of Professional Activities, IFLA Headquarters)
Birgitta Sandell (ALP Programme Director)
Rashidah Begum bt. Fazal Mohamed (Advisor)
Shawky Salem (Advisor)

Apologies

Gary E. Gorman (Corresponding Member), Hilda T. Nassar (Information Coordinator/Corresponding Member), Hasna Askhita (Member), Libby Cass (Member), Mark Perkins (Member), Eun Bong Park (Member), Yumi Kitamura (Member), Diljit Singh (Member), Daniel G. Dorner (Member), Xiaolin Zhang (Member), Michael Robinson (Member), Aree Cheunwattana (Corresponding Member)

Absent

Anjali Gulati (Member), Bughdana Hajjar (Member), Wang Shan (Member), Mihyang Park (Member), Chihfeng P. Lin (Corresponding Member)

Item No.	Minute	Action
1	Welcoming Remarks The Chair declared the meeting open and welcomed the Committee members, conveyed apologies from the Committee members who were unable to attend the mid-conference meeting. As host from the IGNOU Prof. Ghosh thanked all participating members for coming and attending the mid-conference meetings in New Delhi, India.	
2.	Agenda The Committee adopted the proposed agenda (Appendix-1)	
3.	Confirmation of Minutes of the Meetings held in Durban, 65 South Africa, August 19 and 24, 2007 The minutes of the	

	aforesaid meeting were confirmed and recorded (Appendix-2)	
4.	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes Ashu Shokeen and Sanjay Kumar Bihani informed that they did not receive the Durban minutes. Secretary of the Committee confirmed them that he would send the minutes to them. Members present did not bring up any other issues from the previous meeting.</p>	Secretary will send Durban Minutes
5. 5.1. 5.2	<p>Financial Reports Administrative Budget Premila Gamage, The Treasurer, reported that the sectional finances are now administered directly by IFLA HQ, and the administrative budget will be the same as in the past.</p> <p>Meeting Budget Keat Fong Tan, the Regional Manager reported that the Section received €4,500 as meeting related budget for 2008. She informed as per requirements of the Section the tentative cost for organizing this mid-conference meeting will be around €4000, and a very small amount will be available to cover the expenses of the August meeting in Quebec.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Regional Manager Keat Fong for managing meeting budget. Chair informed the members that she was informed by the RM that RM cannot release funds to cover Chair's travel for the following reason: 1. Approximate meeting budget for Delhi is 3,225 Euros, and she needs to keep the remaining balance for the meetings in Quebec in August 2008.</p> <p>Therefore, Chair had to use admin budget to cover her travel cost. Also as per the issue raised by Sjoerd M. J. Koopman, Coordinator of Professional Activities, IFLA Headquarters for accommodation fees allocated to the Corresponding Members and Advisors, the Chair invited the members for open discussion about allocation of budget for the mid-conference and main IFLA conference. Shawky Salem pointed out that it is the Chair who should decide on allocating finances not the RM which all members agreed. The issues were discussed in-depth and the members agreed to allocate maximum amount of money for the mid-conference meeting as mid-term meetings are extremely important for the Section for several reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It would be necessary to present maximum members in the mid-conference meeting rather than IFLA conference as it allows members from all parts of the Asia Oceania region to meet uninterrupted over a period of days to plan strategies and programs for the diverse region. 2. Review project proposals, make selections for scholarship and training attachment. 3. It provides networking opportunities amongst Committees and also with the host country librarians. 	The Chair and the Regional Manager

	<p>4. Most of the time the host country organizes a seminar or a workshop along with our mid-term meeting where members act as resource persons. Our previous experiences have proved that these activities have always helped in upbringing morale of library communities in the host countries.</p> <p>It was decided that depending on the availability of money the Chair will take the decision to allocate money for accommodation and other purposes as the first priority for the elected members and then the corresponding members.</p> <p>As the number of members elected to the Committee have increased, Sjoerd Koopman suggested to make a request to Governing Board for the consideration of increasing Sectional budget.</p> <p>The Chair proposed that from the next mid-conference meeting, they might think accommodate all the members in one place so that they could to save some money from accommodation, transport etc. All the Members agreed with the Chair.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Report from the Chair Premila Gamage, the Chair presented the report with following items:</p> <p>Participation in Durban Conference The Chair reported that the Section had a very successful series of activities in Durban. The Section Programme was conducted on Wednesday, 22 August 2007 and the theme was 'Information providers coping with disaster in Asia and Oceania'. More than 50 participants attended this opening session. The keynote was presented by Prof. Graham Matthews. Five papers and a DVD screening were also presented in the opening session. The Asia and Oceania and Division VIII sessions were well attended. She also reported that good papers were delivered at both the Asia and Oceania Open Session and the Division VIII Open Session and were very well received. She thanked the members who helped to evaluate and select papers.</p> <p>Officers Meeting—Uppsala ALP The Chair informed that she attended the ALP steering committee meeting at the Uppsala along with the Secretary, and the Regional Manager from 15 to 18 October 2007. It was an opportunity to meet all Sections Chair, Secretary, and the Regional Manager. The Chair also informed that among other things a CB meeting was held there, and it was discussed to hold an intra-regional seminar on Preservation and Conservation in cooperation with IFLA-PAC early 2009 in Pretoria, South Africa. In the CB meeting, there was also discussion about the Caucus for Division VIII in Quebec. Previously, in the Caucus meeting the members just introduced themselves. The Chair will send email to all the members for the agenda for the Caucus for Division eight after this mid-conference meeting.</p>	

	<p>The Chair reminded all members for the Election for Asia Oceania section in the 75th IFLA Conference in Milan, Italy, August 2009. She asked the members to put in agenda items for the Quebec.</p> <p>Discussions: IL workshop matters</p> <p>Prof. Ghosh asked the Chair about the cancellation of IL workshop. He mentioned that IGNOU has taken all preparations to organize the workshop. They have already informed the participants, allocated the resource persons but at the very last moment IFLA confirmed them that the Workshop was cancelled. Sjoerd M. J. Koopman (Coordinator of Professional Activities, IFLA Headquarters) responded that this was reviewed and discussed at the PC meeting and PC took the view that this is too expensive (12,063 Euro) in general and that the contribution from IFLA was far too high.</p> <p>He also reminded the members that without the final approval from the PC it would not be wise to take such preparation for any kind of workshop or project like this.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Report from the Information Coordinator (Appendix-3) Hilda T. Nassar, Information Coordinator, could not attend the meeting but submitted the following report before the meeting to the Chair:</p> <p>The current number of RSCAO listserv subscribers is 244. The number of the listed subscribers is always between 244 and 300. Bounced email rate: 0.8%. Sometimes she cancels bounced email addresses as they are bouncing all the time and for a long period. She tries to regularly forward the mail when she receives listserv messages from IFLA HQ listserv and other listservs to RSCAO members.</p> <p>In the report she thanked all of those members who sent messages directly to the list. She invited the members who wish to post messages on listserv, please send messages directly to the listserv.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Information Coordinator for disseminating information in time and maintaining the Section's listserv very lively.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Report from the Regional Office (RO) Keat Fong Tan, the Regional Manager reported the following and the detailed progress report is attached (Appendix-4):</p> <p>Asia Oceania Section Newsletter Asia Oceania Section newsletter won the "IFLA Newsletter Award for Year 2007". Newsletter for December 2007 has been published and displayed to IFLANET and, in addition, 330 print copies of the newsletter were distributed to members of the region and Standing Committee members.</p>	

IFLA Poster Sessions at Durban, South Africa

The Regional Office prepared a poster “The Experience with Action for Development through Libraries Programme (ALP) Core Activities” and 500 flyers titled during the IFLA Conference in Durban, South Africa 2007. The poster featured testimonies and experiences from ALP award recipients for the scholarships, training attachments and projects.

IFLA RSCAO Web Forum

The Regional office with assistance from Mr. Jamieson Teo, IFLA RSCAO Web Forum Administrator has updated of all mailing addresses in RSCAO Web Forum. RSCAO members are now able to access and view the scholarships, training attachments and projects online to facilitate communication and information.

IFLA Membership Increased

For the year 2006 and 2007, there was an increase of 43 new members and 3 new member countries for this region. The Regional Office will continue to put in efforts to increase IFLA membership.

Other Sources of Funding and Projects

As decided at the mid-conference meeting of the Section in 2007, the December 2007 issue of the section newsletter received the first advertisement from K.G. Saur Verlag. The revenue of SGD1,000 will be used for helping Section members to attend the Section meetings.

IFLA ALP Steering Committee meeting at Uppsala, Sweden

In October 2007, Ms Tan Keat Fong attended the ALP Steering Committee meeting and planning sessions at Uppsala University, Sweden from 15 to 18 Oct 2007 hosted by ALP.

ALP Scholarships, Training Attachments and Project 2008

Up to 31 December 2007, the Regional Office for Asia and Oceania section received 21 applications for the ALP Scholarships, 9 applications for training attachments and 2 projects applications for 2008.

IFLA ALP Training Attachment 2007

Training programme for 3 grant recipients in 2007 is attached as their preference countries for a one-month period from 1 to 30 April 2008. The Regional Office is currently arranging the training attachment programme for two 2007-grant recipients and ALP has approved the budget. The arrangement for Ms Tungalag Sambuu’s training attachment has been deferred, as she will be attending an intensive short-term class to improve her English, before receiving training in Australia.

The three recipients of IFLA Training Attachment Award 2007 are as follows:

<u>Name of Trainee</u>	<u>Country of Origin</u>	<u>Country of Training</u>
Ms. Tungalag	Mongolia	Australia

Sambuu		
Ms. Tan Somaly	Cambodia	National Library Board Singapore
Mr. Yadab Chandra Nirula	Nepal	National Library Board Singapore

IFLA Working Committee

The IFLA Working Committee of the Regional Office met on 26 Sep 2007 to explore projects that IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania could embark on. The three suggested projects are (tentative titles):

- Handbook on Librarianship for Prospective Employers and Librarians
- Directory of Asia and Oceania Libraries and Information Services
- E-learning for Info Literacy Programme: The Regional Manager mentioned that the National Library Board Singapore might be able to develop the E-learning for Information Literacy Programme with the support of ALP funding. This programme could be placed on the Web to benefit about 150 trainees from the region per year. The meeting supported the idea and considered it a good project to explore.

IFLA 10th Interlending and Document Supply Conference (ILDS) Conference in Singapore, 29-31 Oct 2007

The Regional Office managed the library visits and social programmes for overseas participants. In addition, Ms Tan Keat Fong also obtained sponsorships and souvenirs for the 10th IFLA ILDS 2007.

The Chair thanked the work done by the Regional Manager and her team. Sjoerd M. J. Koopman, mentioned and asked the member to think about the name of 'RSCAO'. He suggested the Committee members to use the name of the section as 'IFLA Asia Oceania Section', and not RSCAO.

**9.
9.1**

Report from ALP and HQ

Report from ALP (Appendix-5)

Birgitta Sandell, ALP Programme Director, provided the following verbal report at the meeting:

During 2007 the ALP IFP has been staffed by Birgitta Sandell, fulltime, and Gunilla 40% and the same is planned for 2008.

Contract with Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) ends in December 2009 and they do not yet know who will host ALP or if there will be money for a continuation after 2009.

Meetings

The ALP Advisory Board met in August in Durban and in December in the Hague.

The ALP/FAIFE Sida Grant Steering Group also met both in

Durban in August 2007 and in the Hague the same date as the ALP Advisory Board meeting.

The ALP Steering Committee met in Uppsala in October and the two last year's projects were evaluated and plans made for the two coming years.

At the ALP/FAIFE Sida Grant Steering Group meeting in the Hague in December 2007, the matter of continuing support from Sida was discussed.

In November, the International Board of the Swedish Library Association met at the Uppsala UB. They wanted to know more about ALP and visit the office.

In January, the Board met in Stockholm and the ALP financial situation was discussed again. It was decided that the board would write a letter to the IFLA GB, signed by the Nordic library associations.

Reports and projects status

Birgita Sandell reported that at the end of January 2008 they have finished the Annual Narrative and Financial Report 2007 and Annual Plan 2008.

All projects except three, two in Asia that have been postponed and one in Latin America, have been carried out according to the plan.

Due to decrease to dollar rate, ALP has been able to support two additional projects planned for 2008 with this year's money—in Asia it is the 'international conference on Information and Knowledge Management' in Nepal and in Africa 'Workshop to review curriculum in library schools in French-speaking Africa' in Senegal.

She informed that Sida is funding most of the projects. The Ministry of Foreign affairs in Finland is giving support for one project a year. The ALP IFP receives funding from 16 Nordic Library Associations and Institutions, Uppsala University, IFLA and Sida (Swedish International Cooperation Agent).

Birgita Sandell reported that the contract with Sida ends in December 2009 so that, she reminded the members, all projects have to be carried out and reported before the end of 2009. She needs the reports from all sections about their projects by December 2009; ALP has to report to Sida and IFLA for the whole period before the end of January 2010.

Grants and activities

At the WLIC - IFLA General Conference in Quebec ALP is taking part in a joint session with MLAS and Continuing

Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section. ALP is also paying for three speakers from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

ALP is also taking part in the Montreal satellite meeting – pre-conference for French speaking librarians ‘Des bibliothèques municipales françaises et de leur publics.

As usual ALP has money for 9 speakers to attend the IFLA conference. ALP also has the Harry Campbell grant.

On behalf of the members, the Chair thanked Birgita Sandell and Gunilla Natvig for their sincere contribution to the section through the ALP.

9.2 **Report from Headquarters**

Sjoerd Koopmen, Coordinator of Professional Activities, IFLA HQ, presented the following brief report:

First he talked about the Royal Library, the national library of the Netherlands, who’s building had been inaugurated in 1982 and after 25 years they are celebrating it.

IFLA Head Quarter staff situation:

He introduced Sofia Kapnisi, Greek woman , working with Secretary General and him. Then he talked about Sophie Felföldi who had been working 13 years for IFLA and about 7 years as a bat manager, recently she has been leaving in Cyprus. She is now working with Simon Lemstra for updating information. Simon works with IFLA for half years. Then he introduced another staff Fiona Bradley, who is from Sydney technological University. He talked about Stuart Hamilton acting as Senior Advisor IFLA, his work is to doing advocacy for IFLA and shaping up the IFLA’s activities, communicating with other organization’s. He already submitted report to Sida on behalf of FAIFE, meeting the deadline 31 January 2008 under the Sida’s strict rules. Koopman inform the member’s of the sessions that Hamilton will contact FAIFE programme for Asia Oceania Section for this region.

Koopman introduced Jennefer Nicholson, new Secretary General, from September 2008 who will be replaced Secretary General Prof. Peter J. Lor who left IFLA in August. She will join IFLA's Headquarters in The Hague on 1 June 2008 as Secretary General designate and work with present Secretary General, Prof Peter Lor, until she takes over on 6 September 2008.

IFLANET:

Koopman reported that IFLA has the money from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation so that they have the plan to update IFLA web page IFLANET. A working group has already been working on it and new IFLANET will be launched before the Milan conference hopefully. He mentioned about coming changes of the IFLANET with various provisions. Contact management system (CMSS) is

	<p>its main characteristics where data can be uploaded and changed, a technological support for IFLANET.</p> <p>Membership: In reference of the document by Cynthia Mouanda, Koopman emphasized on the membership recruiting where more and more young institutions should come like university and public libraries along with personal affiliation. The membership toolkit which is updated quarterly is also a good source for all necessary information pertaining to IFLA membership.</p>	
<p>10. 10.1 10.1.1</p>	<p>Asia and Oceania Section's Projects</p> <p>ALP Projects</p> <p>Approved and ongoing projects</p> <p>Birgitta Sandell submitted the following report prior to the meeting:</p> <p>Project 280 : Building learning communities through libraries <i>Money is ready to send for the second phase. Communication is going on. ALP has received the final report, financial report with verifications, booklets and CDs.</i></p> <p>Project 291 : Distance education in Library and Information Science in Asia and Oceania <i>Two years project, in January 2008 ALP has received progress report.</i></p> <p>Project 296 : Modelling Information Literacy: Developing a contextually-based training programme for a less developed country in Laos <i>Money sent in May 2007 – postponed until mid-June 2008</i></p> <p>Project 297 : Education for Information literacy: Developing and implementing a Contextually-Based Training Programme <i>Money sent in May 2007 – postponed until mid-June 2008</i></p> <p>Project 298 : Scholarships in information literacy</p> <p><i>Financial report received in January 2008. Following six persons got training in November /December 2007.</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Mohamed Ghali Rashid Mubarak (Bahrain) Sagar Raj Subedi (Nepal) Fathmath Shiham (Maldives) Dhondu Namrata Mestry (India) Blesila P. Velasco (Philippines) Delara Begum (Bangladesh).</p> <p>Project 299 : International workshop on Information Literacy, Bangladesh (Independent University, Bangladesh, Muhammad Hossam Haider Chowdhury and Mohammed Abu Khaled Chowdhury)</p>	

	<p><i>Some misunderstandings regarding funding. The project is approved - awaiting some modification with the help of the Mentor (Prof. Gary Gorman). The Secretary will contact the responsible persons of this project.</i></p> <p>Project 604 : In-service training “attachments” for middle or senior staff in Asia and Oceania <i>The three candidates selected in 2006 received their training in September 2007. Reports received from two of them. / The three selected for 2007 received training in April 2007.</i></p> <p>Project 605 : Digital Libraries in the Arab countries <i>ALP received breakdown of the costs and progress report of the planning. It is now ready to start.</i></p> <p>Project 606 : International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management - ICIKM 2007, Nepal. <i>In March 2008 it has been held successfully</i></p> <p>Project 609 : Workshop on Information Literacy <i>Received revised proposal. Wrtie to change the name of the project</i></p>	
<p>10.1.2</p>	<p>Future Projects The Regional Office received two new project proposals and circulated them among the members prior to the meeting. The Committee discussed and evaluated the proposals at the meeting.</p> <p>Project 610 : A regional workshop to train library association leaders and professionals in library advocacy and policy development.</p> <p>Budget total US\$ 20.650 (US\$18.650 from ALP)</p> <p>The Committee approved the proposal. However, it was suggested to include leaders of Library Associations from all the SAARC countries (REFSALA). Therefore, the total budget has to be increased a little. The ALP Director agreed for the changes and informed that final report of the workshop should reach ALP by October 2009. The Committee appointed Premila Gamage to assist and coordinate.</p> <p>Project 611 : Bridging the gap: networking of LIS education in developing countries The Committee was much in favour and recommended to support this proposal, after clarifying the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget allocated for the Project personnels • Since Tata Institutes host of this projects so budget should be clarify with Publication costs, Other costs, Income etc. <p>The Committee appointed Prof. S.B. Ghosh to be mentor and</p>	<p>Chair – Assist and Coordinate</p> <p>S.B. Ghosh - Mentor</p>

	assist.	
11 11.1	<p>ALP Scholarship and Training Attachment Selections ALP Scholarship Selections</p> <p>The Regional Office has received 21 applications for the ALP 2008 Scholarship Programme. A sub-committee was set up to select six candidates and two reserves for the programme.</p> <p>The six candidates selected include: Nicholas C. Rubosa (Solomon Islands) Kambampati Praveen Kumar (India) Duong Khanh Linh (Vietnam) S.A.D.H.N. Suraweera (Sri Lanka) Fairunizan Akbar Malik (Malaysia) Neela Tamang (Nepal)</p> <p>Two reserves include: Wannalak Unma (Thailand) Lal Bahadur Chouhan (Nepal)</p>	Regional Manager – inform candidates and organise the programme
11.2	<p>ALP Training Attachment Selections</p> <p>From 9 training attachment applicants, the sub-committee selected three individuals, and two reserves, for ALP 2008 training attachments.</p> <p>Three individuals: Ms. Chamari Yapa, Sri Lanka Mr. Shehbaz Husain Naqvi, India Mr. Guruge Roshan Eshantha Fernando, Sri Lanka</p> <p>Two reserves include: Mr. S.K. Vijaianand, India Mr. Hathwellage Rasika Thushantha, Sri Lanka</p>	
12. 12.1	<p>World Library and Information Congress: 74th IFLA General Conference Programme, Québec, Canada 10-14 August 2008</p> <p>Asia & Oceania Section Programme</p> <p>Theme: <i>From me, to you, to us: how libraries in the Asia and Oceania region contribute to global understanding</i></p> <p>Keynote Address: Members' proposed the name of Prof. N. Varaprasad, Chief Executive, from National Library Board, Singapore to be the Keynote speaker. Members also proposed name of Penny Carnaby from National Library of New Zealand.</p> <p>Evaluation and Selection of Abstracts: The Section received 21 abstracts from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, China, Nepal, Malaysia, Kazakhstan and United States for its call for papers. Abstracts and assessment forms were circulated among all the members. Members were asked to indicate their assessment number for each category of abstracts in the form and send it to Chair.</p>	

	<p>In addition to the keynote paper, the following 4 abstracts were selected for presentation in Quebec.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Keynote Address- yet to be finalized2. A School-Library-Centered Community Information Resource Sharing Model and Its Impact on Cultural Life of Rural Communities in China - Wenjie Zhou, Technology manager, China Evergreen Rural library Service Center, Tim Jiping Zou, Head of Access Services, Associate Librarian, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville AR, USA, and Elaine Xiaofen Dong, Head of Special Formats Cataloging Unit, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville AR, USA.3. The Tele Cottage Approach to the Community Development in the Rural Karnataka, India – Prof. S.L.Sangam, Department of Library and Information Science, Karnatak University, India4. Designing of Cultural Knowledge Portal: A South East Asian Experiment - Dr. Ajay Pratap Singh, Reader. Department of Library and Information Science, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India5. Preservation and Provision of Access to Indigenous Knowledge in Sri Lanka - Piyadasa Ranasinghe, President Sri Lanka Library Association and the Head, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka <p>The members also selected the following abstract for research:</p> <p>Abstract of the Paper on Topic: “The Action ‘One Country – One Book’ (Sharing Experience of Libraries That Contribute to Human Understanding)”- Tendik G. Yermekpayeva, Head of the World Literature Sector National Academic Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p>Open Session with Division VIII and ALP: The theme is "Indigenous Knowledge: language, culture and information technology". The Chair reported that one abstract was received for this session. Each section agreed to select a speaker from their region for the session. A&O section received one abstract and it was selected for the Div VIII open session: Indigenous knowledge and the role of information literacy education - Dan Dorner and G.E. Gorman, Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand)</p> <p>Poster Session This was earlier discussed in the CB Meeting in Uppsala and the Durban meeting and Regional Manager agreed to submit two posters for A&O section and ALP for the Quebec conference.</p>	
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<p>12.4</p> <p>12.5</p>	<p>However, at this meeting RM informed that it is not possible for her to submit two posters as one of her staff is on study leave.</p> <p>The Chair invited members to be volunteer as there were no volunteers found, it was agreed that Regional Office would do a poster for the Asia Oceania Section.</p> <p>Social Event: The Chair informed that Emerald has agreed to sponsor the social event in Quebec.</p> <p>Caucus</p> <p>As discussed in the CB meeting in Durban and Uppsala, the Chair informed that following agenda was proposed at the CB Meeting in Durban and Uppsala and invited members to add other items.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Welcome b. Election c. New structures d. Planning for the Milan conference e. Come and discussion for all present members f. Closing 	
<p>13</p>	<p>World Library and Information Congress: 75th IFLA General Conference and Council, Milan, Italy, 10-14 August 2008</p> <p>The theme of the Congress is "Libraries create futures: building on cultural heritage". The Committee discussed possible themes for the Open Session for and tentatively suggested the following themes and decided to circulate it among all the members to obtain their views, suggestions etc:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Create Digital Library and Networking • Knowledge Management in Asia and Oceania • Free Access to Cultural Heritage 	<p>Secretary – to circulate the theme among members</p>
<p>14.</p>	<p>Strategic Plan 2008-2009</p> <p>Rashidha Begum informed the committee that the Strategic plan is not available on the IFLANET. The Chair informed that Secretary will attend to this ASAP.</p>	<p>Secretary will send the SP to the HQ</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>Confirmation of Date and Place for Mid-conference Meeting 2009</p> <p>The Chair informed the Committee about the problems and issues, such as cost of accommodation and other expenses, visa, no response from members and cancellation of participation, encountered when organizing mid-meeting in Delhi.</p> <p>The venue of the next mid-conference meeting in 2009 was considered. The Chair reported that the Section has already received invitation from Fariborz Khosravi on behalf of the</p>	<p>Chair to design the application and circulateit among the members of the three countries</p>

	<p>National Library of Iran. She also received verbal invitations from Thailand and Kazakhstan. The committee suggested it is better to design an application form which include tentative budget with the breakdown of related information, such as accommodation, transportation and Visa availability, possibility of conducting a workshop or other activity, social events and ask host country to submit so that the section could get a clear idea about the cost and other issues in advance.</p> <p>It was agreed to circulate this application among the members of these three countries and then decide the venue at the meeting in Quebec.</p> <p>It was also decided that the date of the mid-conference meeting would be held on mid-February considering the Chinese New Year is on 26 January 2009.</p>	
16	<p>Other Business There was no other business.</p> <p>On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked Prof. Uma Kanjilal, Director, School of Social Sciences, IGNOU, and her team for organizing the Mid-conference Meeting. She expressed thanks and appreciation to Dr. Jaideep Sharma, Reader, and Prof. S.B. Ghosh for support given to all Asia Oceania Section Members and for their hospitality during the meeting.</p> <p>On the second day, Indira Gandhi National Open University arranged an Interview with Ms Premila Gamage, Chair, IFLA Asia Oceania Section and Mr. Sjoerd M. J. Koopman, Coordinator of Professional Activities, IFLA Headquarters. They have given exclusive interview with IGNOU people. Premila Gamage talks about IFLA Asia Oceania section activities and Sjoerd M. J. Koopman about the IFLA activities and contribution to the library professionals globally. Furthermore, IGNOU also has arranged a Talk Show for RSCAO members, Roza Berdigalieva, Rashidah Begum bt. Fazal Mohamed, and Shawky Salem also participated with Premila Gamage (Chair) and Sjoerd M. J. Koopman in that event.</p>	
17	<p>Close of Meeting The meeting closed around 6.00 pm. on 12 February 2008.</p>	

Appendix

1. IFLA Asia and Oceania Section. Regional Standing Committee Mid-conference Meeting Agenda
2. Minutes of the Meetings held in Durban, 19 and 24 August 2007
3. Report from Information Coordinator
4. Progress Report from the IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania, August to December 2007
5. IFLA ALP Report February 2008