



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania

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

**Minutes of the Meetings held in Seoul, South Korea
20-24 August 2006**

Present (SC I - Sunday 20 August 13.45-15.45)

Gary E. Gorman (Chair)
Premila Gamage (Secretary)
Tan Keat Fong (Regional Manager)
Birgitta Sandell (ALP Programme Director)
S.B. Ghosh (Member)
Mohd Sharif Mohd Saad (Member)
Eun Bong Park (Member)
Namtip Wipawin (Member)
Wang Shan (Member)
Xiaolin Zhang (Member)
Rashidah Begum (Corresponding Member)
Shawky Salem (Governing Board Member, Corresponding Member)

Observers: Patricia G. Oyler (USA), Dinesh K. Gupta (India), Helga Schwan (Germany), Jennefer Nicholson (Australia), Arlene Cohen (Guam), Amelia McKenzie (Australia), Michael Robinson (Hong Kong), Sanjay K. Bihani (India), Cho Aye (Mynmar), Pham Thi Bich Lien (Vietnam), Toru Koizumi (Japan), Raju Shankya (Nepal), Janice On (Singapore), D.E. Reddy (USA), Carol Priestley (UK), Kanwal Ameen (Pakistan), Harry Campbell (Canada)

Apologies: Harrison Perera (Member), Elizabeth Reade Fong (Member), Mark Perkins (Member), Yumi Kitamura (Member), Hasna Askhita (Member), Hilda Nassar (Information Coordinator), Aree Cheunwattana (Corresponding Member), Russell Bowden (Corresponding Member)

Absent: Anjali Gulati (Member), Isabelle de Cours (Member), Zhu Qiang (Member), Zhang Xiaoxing (Member), Ashu Shokeen (Member), Fariborz Khosravi (Member)

1. Welcoming Remarks

The Chair declared the meeting open and welcomed the Committee members and observers present. He conveyed apologies from the Committee members who were unable to attend IFLA 2006.

Roswitha Poll, the Secretary of the Statistics and Evaluation Section made an announcement with the permission of the Chair and committee members. She briefly explained the 'Global Library Statistics Project' that their section is involved in jointly with ISO and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics. She sought the assistance of members to identify institutions and contacts to assist in collecting library statistics in the Asia and Oceania region. She thanked the Committee for giving her the time at the A/O meeting.

2. Agenda

The Committee adopted the proposed agenda (Appendix 1)

3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meetings held in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 23 -24 February 2006.

The minutes were confirmed as recorded. (Appendix 2)

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

The members present did not bring up any issues from the previous meeting.

5 Financial Reports

5.1 Administrative Budget

The administrative budget will be the same as in the past. It was decided at the previous mid-conference meeting in Hanoi, that the Regional Office should release an advance to the Secretary who should submit receipts for the expenditure incurred. As secretarial expenses should be covered by the administrative budget, it was again decided to submit secretarial expenses to HQ for the reimbursement.

5.2 Meeting Budget

Keat Fong Tan reported that the Section received €4,500 to organize the Mid-conference meeting in Hanoi. After the expenses incurred for this meeting, there was a balance of US\$ 1200 (approx.) remaining in the meeting account. She further reported that she is waiting to receive an invoice from Hanoi to pay out a further US\$ 500 from the expenses grant.

6. Report from the Chair

Gary Gorman presented the following report:

6.1. Transfer of the Regional Office from Bangkok to Singapore

The Chair reported that the Section is very pleased with the Regional Office and the contributions of the new Regional Manager. The Chair and all the members highly appreciated the excellent quality of the Section's Newsletter which was published under

the editorship of the Regional Manager. The Chair also thanked the Director of the National Library of Singapore and her team for the support they have given to the Regional Office.

6.2 Mid-Conference Meeting in Hanoi – 23-24 February 2006

The Chair reported that the mid-conference meeting in Hanoi was very successful and productive. The meeting was hosted by the National Centre for Scientific and Technological Information (NACESTI). In addition to the meeting, members participated in a workshop and a two-day training programme on the 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), Vietnam National University (VNU). This workshop was attended by nearly 450 participants, so could not be run as a workshop but was presented as a one-day conference. Among the papers presented at the workshop were five papers by members of the RSCAO: Gary Gorman, Russell Bowden, Elizabeth Reade Fong, Rashidah Begum bt. Fazal Mohamed and Mohamed Sharif.

The two-day training programme on LFA was held on 21 and 22 February at the premises of NACESTI. This training was sponsored by the IFLA/ALP for RSCAO members. 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.

In addition to the fruitful professional programme, the Standing Committee members enjoyed the hospitality of the Vietnamese and the PR activities which helped to develop regular contacts and encourage them to become members of the section.

Finally, on behalf of the Members, the Chair expressed his appreciation for the thoughtful gestures and the warm concern shown by all those who contributed to the organisation of the programme and associated activities.

6.2 Participation in Seoul Conference

It is gratifying that around 100 speakers from the Asia and Oceania region participated in the Seoul conference.

7. Report from the Information Coordinator

The Chair reported that partly due to health reasons and partly due to the prevailing situation in Lebanon, Hildar Nassar, the Information Coordinator, could not attend the meeting but e-mailed the following report:

The mailing list of the Regional Section: Asia and Oceania functions as an avenue to disseminate information on library and information – related activities such as projects, conferences and seminars within the five sub-regions of Asia and Oceania, that is West Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia and Oceania. It is also a channel to promote contact, communication and dialogue between the IFLA Asia and Oceania Section Standing Committee members, librarians and information professionals in the region.

RSCAO-L is a closed list.

Subscribers: 259

Bounced e-mail rate: 1.9%

The current number of the Asia & Oceania Section Listserv is 259. The number of our subscribers is always between 250 and 300. Sometimes I have to cancel bounced email addresses as they are bouncing all the time and for a long period. I am glad to say that it is a live listserv, i.e. new people subscribe, others unsubscribe, but it is always keeping the same number.

I try to regularly forward to our listserv messages what I receive from IFLA HQ listserv and other listserv to which I subscribe and that I find of interest to the Asia & Oceania members.

I would like to thank all those who send messages directly to the list.

For members who wish to post messages on listserv, please send messages directly to the listserv – rscao-l@infoserv.inist.fr.

Suggestions about how to make the listserv dynamic and well-used are welcome.

The Chair praised the good work done by Hilda Nassar in developing and handling the Section's listserv. The Chair informed the Committee that since her health is much improved, Hilda very kindly agreed to continue as the Information Coordinator.

8. Report from the Regional Office (RO)

8.1. Report from Regional Office

Keat Fong Tan, the Regional Manager reported the following:

- The Regional Office was officially opened in April by the IFLA President and the Secretary General on their way to Seoul. Around 150 guests attended the opening, and the Regional Manager took the opportunity to promote IFLA and the Asia and Oceania Section.
- The CEO and the National Library Board have extended their fullest cooperation towards the work of the RO and have provided the necessary infrastructure, including staff.
- A RSCAO/RO web forum is in the process of being set up in order to improve communication and the recording and archiving of documents. The Regional Manager will shortly be providing passwords to access the forum.
- The redesigned RSCAO Newsletter was published. The Regional Manager urged members to contribute to the newsletter by sending relevant news items etc.

- Since information such as the contact details for members is not accurate, the Regional Manager is planning to update the members' details very soon.

The Chair requested the Regional Manager's contribution, support and input in developing the strategic plan and making it operational. The Chair also requested the Regional Manager to explore funding sources and design and encourage project proposals that are likely to be funded. The Regional Manager responded and said that she had already discussed this matter with her CEO and that she would try to identify possible sponsorships and assistance. The Chair also emphasized the importance of advertising the information such as project grant application closing dates, attachment application closing dates, scholarship application closing dates. He requested the Regional Manager to seek ways of broadcasting this information outside the usual IFLA lists.

8.2 Having More than One Regional Office

The members who were unable to be present at the meeting sent their views on this matter via e-mail prior to the meeting. Since this issue has an immediate effect on the Asia and Oceania Section, the members present at the meeting discussed various aspects of the matter in some detail: i.e., what is the future of the Regional Sections, (especially considering that in 1998 there was a move to abolish Division VIII), what is the intention of having more than one Regional Office, how are these offices going to operate – individually, if all exists stand alone, the various problems that might have to be faced. Based on the discussions the Committee agreed on the following:

'The Asia and Oceania Section favours establishing Regional Offices so long as they are going to function as Sub-Regional Offices. In order to avoid fragmentation and work together harmoniously and smoothly, and to achieve the common goals of the entire Section, there needs to be a mechanism for coordination among regional offices. Therefore, the Committee recommends that one Regional Office should act as a focal point and Sub-Regional Offices should report to or formally co-ordinate with the focal point. This helps to maintain an interactive, co-operative network for the Asia-Oceania Section and for the Africa Section of Division VIII'.

It was further, decided to discuss the matter with the Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean Sections and urge the Professional Committee to consider having 'Cooperative Sub-Regional Offices'.

9. ALP Report

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

Speakers Grant

IFLA/ALP offered the SIDA Speaker Grants to three speakers from the region to attend IFLA and present papers. The following received grants to attend Seoul and present their papers:

Anup Kumar Das (India)
Ida Fajar Priyanto (Indonesia)
Liu Yi (China)

Travel Grants

ALP administered the Travel Grant for the Korean Government. The following received grants to attend the conference:

Dilara Begum (Bangladesh)
Suon Sophy (Cambodia)
Dilrukshi Ariyaratne (Sri Lanka)
Evy Mardiani Dewi (Timor)
Raju Shakya (Nepal)
Kh. Ali Murtoza (Bangladesh)
Ari Suryandari (Indonesia)
Maxie Doreen Cabarron (Philippines)
Hanh Nguyen Thi (Viet Nam)
Mehri Parirokh (Iran)
Marwa El-Sahn (Egypt)
Premila Gamage (Sri Lanka)
Ira Mudannayake (Sri Lanka)

Financial situation

Funds are available for the core projects until 2009. All current projects seem to be moving ahead as planned.

10 The Asia and Oceania Section's projects

The Chair reported that most of the current projects had progressed well. 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).

11 World Library and Information Congress: 72nd IFLA General Conference Programme, Seoul, 20-24 August 2006

11.1 Asia and Oceania Section Programme

Theme: 'Promoting the Implementation of Open Access'. In addition to the keynote address, five papers were presented at the open session (Thursday 24 August 2006, 10.45-12.45). 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)

11.2 Co-Sponsoring Satellite Meeting with the Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL)

Theme: ‘Scholarly Information on East Asia in the 21st Century’. Amelia McKenzie, as former Chair and Corresponding Member, attended the meeting on behalf of the Section and reported that there were a number of high quality papers.

11.3 The Joint Satellite Meeting with the Preservation and Conservation Section (PAC)

Theme: ‘Preservation and Conservation in Asia’. No report had been received at the time of SCI; the Secretary will contact the organisers for a report.

11.4 Joint Session with Section of School Libraries and Resource Centres.

Theme: ‘Information Literacy for Young People: Evolving Models in a Changing World’. The Chair reported that as the Section had not received any communications from School Libraries Section, the A/O Section had to withdraw its participation from the joint activity.

11.5 Programme with Division VIII: Regional Activities.

Theme: "Information Literacy for the Knowledge Society". Representing the region the Chair presented a joint paper with Dr. Dan Dorner. He joined the panel discussion with the Chair of Division VIII.

11.6 Social Event

The social event was held on Sunday 20 August at ‘Restaurant Marche’ from 7.00p.m.- 9.00p.m. There were around 35 guests at the event. The event was sponsored by Emerald, who wish to continue sponsorship in 2007.

11.7 Coordinating Board Meetings

The Chair, Secretary and Shawky Salem attended two CB Meetings on 18 and 25 August 2006.

11.8 Caucus: Africa, Asia and Oceania, and Latin America and the Caribbean

The meeting was held on 19 August, 2006. A number of members participated in the meeting. The Chair was among the speakers.

11.9 Poster Session

The Regional Manager presented a poster at the session which covered information about the Regional Office, the Section and ALP activities and involvement.

14. Constituent Act of the Caucus of Countries of from the Third World in the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)

The Chair informed the meeting that the resolution was submitted to the IFLA HQ through Division VIII and that HQ had confirmed receipt of the resolution.

15. The World Library and Information Congress: 73rd IFLA General Conference and Council, Durban, South Africa, 19-23 August 2007

Open Session

The theme of the Congress is 'Libraries for the Future: Progress, Development and Partnerships'. The Committee members again discussed the previously agreed on theme - 'Libraries Serving Rural and Remote Communities'. However, Zhang Xiaolin suggested that 'how libraries deal with disasters' would be an appropriate theme for the Section. The Committee agreed on the theme. The Chair agreed to rephrase the theme slightly when calling for papers in late September.

Poster Session

It was agreed to organise a poster session, focusing on the section's theme of 'how libraries in the region deal with disasters'. Keat Fong Tan agreed to create the poster and members were asked to send her relevant pictures and information in time.

Social Event

The Committee discussed organising a Social Event in Durban. However, the Chair explained the difficulties that he and the Secretary had to deal with when organising an event. Therefore, as he found organising an event extremely difficult, it was decided that in future the Section would probably not organise such events. (In subsequent discussions with Emerald, they have agreed to continue sponsorship and also to take over organisation of the venue, etc.)

16 Section Review 2001-2004

The Chair was informed by Sjoerd Koopman, the Co-ordinator of Professional Activities that in December 2005 the Professional Committee received all the section reports which were referred to the 'Review Committee'. The report of the Review Committee covered a number of issues, including minimum sizes of Sections and numbers required for Standing Committees, Section overlaps, Section strengths and weaknesses, Division structure, and Professional Committee structure. Based on the Review Committee report, the Professional Committee put forward a proposal to revise organisational structure and held a hearing session on Sunday 20 August. However, the Chair responded, that since the A/O Section had worked very hard and put a lot of effort to produce the review, they would like to know its outcome. The Chair discussed this issue with Sjoerd Koopman and was informed that HQ will notify the Section very soon of the outcome.

17 Strategic Plan 2005-2007

The Committee agreed not to modify the Strategic Plan until 2007.

18 Other Business

Harry Campbell informed the meeting that he would like to seek opportunities and try to arrange library visits in places such as Toronto and Vancouver for the developing country participants who are planning to attend the Quebec conference in 2008. He will be contacting the Chair and the Secretary with further details closer to the conference.

19 Confirmation of date and place for the Mid-Conference Meeting 2007

The next Mid-conference Meeting will be held in Singapore on 26-27 February 2007 at the Regional Office.

20. Promoting IFLA Members in the Region

The Chair encouraged the Standing Committee Members to actively persuade libraries and library associations in their countries to become members.

21. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 3.45 pm. on 20 February 2006. The Agenda having been completed in SC I, it was decided by Committee members that SC II need not be held.

Appendix

1. IFLA Asia and Oceania Section. Regional Standing Committee Mid-Conference Meeting Agenda – Seoul, South Korea, 20-24 August 2006
2. Minutes of the Meetings held in Hanoi, Vietnam, 23 and 24 February 2006
3. Report from the IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania, January 2005 – February 2006
4. IFLA Members Registered for Section 26 Asia and Oceania