INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

IFLA Asia and Oceania Section

Minutes of the Mid-Conference Meeting held in Damascus, Syria
21-22 February 2005

Present:
Gary E. Gorman (Chair)
Aree Cheunwattana (Secretary)
Hilda Nassar (Information Coordinator)
Hasna Askhita (Member)
Kalpana Dasgupta (Member)
Mohd Sharif Mohd Saad (Member)
Rashidah Begum (Corresponding Member)
Pensri Guaysuwan (Regional Manager)
Birgitta Sandell (ALP Programme Director)
Russell Bowden (Honorary Fellow, A&O Special Advisor)
Shawky Salem (Governing Board Member, A&O Special Advisor)

Apologies:
Anjali Gulati (Member)
Amelia McKenzie (Corresponding Member)
Arlene Cohen (Corresponding Member)
Toru Koizumi (Corresponding Member)
Elizabeth Reade Fong (Member)
Harrison Perera (Member)
Isabelle de Cours (Member)
Zhu Qiang (Member)
Zhang Xiaoxing (Member)

1   Welcoming Remarks

The Chair declared the meeting open, welcomed Committee Members and proposed to observe one minute's silence for the victims who died in the Tsunami calamity on 26 December 2004. On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked H. Askhita, H. Nassar, Aida Farha and Nashla Askhita and their staff for organizing the Mid-Conference Meeting, and the

Workshop on *Building the Digital Collection.* He expressed thanks and appreciation to the Ministry of Culture and the Syrian Computer Society for their kind collaboration in hosting the meeting and workshop.

H. Askhita, on behalf of the host country, welcomed the Committee Members. She also informed that in addition of the workshop on *Building the Digital Collection,* there were two other workshops arranged for library and information professionals in Syria and neighboring countries. The first workshop presented state-of-the-art information technology in electronic information resources, information management systems and modern libraries. The second workshop focused on MEDLINE and the Internet searching for physicians and healthcare professionals in the Arab countries. An exhibition of databases from international and local vendors was arranged throughout the event.

2 Agenda

The Committee adopted the proposed agenda. (Appendix 1)

3 Confirmation of Minutes of the Meetings held in Buenos Aires, 23 and 28 August 2004

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

4 Matters Arising

R. Bowden raised the issue of the contribution of the region in the World Summit of the Information Society which will be held in Tunisia in November 2005(6.3.1). He expressed his concern for the influence of the library community on WSIS—how IFLA would bring library issues and problems on the WSIS agenda and action plans, what would be the IFLA involvement, and what we as Section or Division could do. The Chair responded that Alex Byrne, the President-elect was well-aware of this concern. S. Salem informed that there would be the Pan Arab Regional Conference held in Cairo. Egypt in May 2005. This Conference would be held to invite participation of the Arab world in preparing for the second phase of WSIS.

5 Financial Reports

5.1. Administrative Budget
     G. Gorman, the Treasurer reported that the administrative budget had a balance of NZ$86 from the original 2004 amount of Euro 1,333.

5.2. Meeting Budget
     P. Guaysuwan, the Regional Manager reported that the Section received Euro 4,500 to organize the Mid-conference meeting in Damascus. The amount was given to H. Askhita. At the Regional Office, there was a small leftover amount of US$250.

6 Report from the Chair

G. Gorman presented the following report:

6.1. Review of IFLA's Section

The Section volunteered for review in the test phase and had to submit the self-review report to IFLA Headquarters in September 2004. However, the Chair decided not to submit the report which was drafted by A. Cheunwattana. While working on the report, he found that data required was not available due to the incomplete archive and felt it was not possible to present an accurate and fair self-evaluation result. Since all IFLA sections are required to submit self-review reports no later than 15 November 2005, it is important to have complete and current information in the Section's archive.

R. Begum, the former Chair kindly offered to write the Annual Report 2002, 2003. H. Nassar, the Information Coordinator would submit all the missing minutes of the meetings so that IFLA HQ could mount them on the IFLA Net.

6.2.   Briefing from IFLA HQ
Sjoerd Koopman, the Coordinator of Professional Activities sent a short briefing of IFLA issues to the Chair to inform the Committee Members:

- IFLA's new Secretary General hopes to assume his position for a period of 3 years from 15 February 2005. Peter can be contacted at peter.lor@ifla.org

- The deadline for nominations for President, Governing Board members and Standing Committee members was 2 February 2005. The preliminary results suggest that we will have elections for President (2 candidates for 1 vacancy) and for GB members (12 candidates for 10 vacancies).

- For the Standing Committees of 47 Sections, 396 valid nominations were submitted (286 new and 108 renominations). We are currently processing these results in our database and hope to know soon for which sections postal ballots will be necessary.

- The very preliminary results show the following numbers of nominations (2005-2009) for the Regional Sections:
Africa:	4	(10 vacancies)
Asia/Oceania:	10	(11 vacancies)
Latin America/Caribbean:	10	(11 vacancies)

- In the course of 2004 the Professional Committee (PC) has started the review of IFLA Sections. The results from 6 pilot sections were received. All other sections have now been approached with a questionnaire and the request to provide factual data about their operations during the recent past years and their opinions/suggestions about several aspects of their professional work. The 3 Regional Sections have of course been approached as well and reactions are requested by November 2005.

- The state of the IFLA (book) publications programme is good, but more reports and books from the "Regions" that are interesting for a worldwide readership would be welcome.

- Likewise we recommend you to submit contributions in the form of articles for *IFLA Journal* (editor: Stephen Parker). The Journal will be published from 2005 onward by a new publisher: Sage Publications in the UK.

- It is encouraged to subscribe to our general listserv **IFLA-L** as we use this medium more and more for announcements, news releases and information dissemination, of interest both to IFLA and to the profession at large.
  See www.ifla.org/II/iflalist.htm#IFLA-L

- Remember to use the opportunities of national and regional conferences and meetings to promote IFLA membership. IFLA/HQ can support your action with a promotional Power Point presentation, and with IFLA leaflets and brochures.

6.3.   Messages from the Chair of the Division VIII
Jacinta Were, Chair of the Division VIII passed along the following issues
from the last Governing Board Meeting:

- IFLA's financial status is not very healthy. Sections are requested to seek funding at country level.

- In future section administrative budgets will be administered from HQ and not sent to a section treasurer.

- Except for the rejected projects, all financial requests were approved.
  The funds will be sent in March/April 2005.

6.4.   The Section's Brochure
A. Cheunwattana and her staff at Srinakharinwirot University prepared the
Section's brochure to be distributed in the Workshop. She needed feedback from the Committee Members to produce an up-to-date brochure for IFLA Oslo.

Report from the Chair generated the following comments and suggestions:

- The Section should explore funding sources in the region, particularly in Singapore and Japan, for instance, Japan Foundation, Toyota Foundation, and National Library Board of Singapore. The Chair would also contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, New Zealand. Fund-seeking should not be limited only to support projects but also to host meetings and conferences. Members who can approach funding sources should inform both the Chair and Secretary.

- In future, the Section needs to find a candidate(s) in the region to stand for Governing Board, and also the next President-elect so that the person can give support to the work of the region. In identifying the person who can be nominated, we should contact each candidate and ask for his/her view on the region. We need people with vision, expertise and commitment to the region and the Division VIII. The candidate(s) should be the IFLA member, who has been working through the Sections.

- For the next term 2005-2009, there are 10 nominations of Standing Committee Members for Asia & Oceania Section. We need to know as soon as possible the number and country of the nominations in order to plan our work properly and to transfer the work from the old to the new Committee. The Chair would contact Peter Lor, the Secretary General for more information. R. Begum suggested that each country start encouraging nomination as early as possible so that the Section would get the reasonable number of members to fill up the vacancies.

4

- The Chair suggested that the Section submit some of the work we do in the region to be published as IFLA publications. He would encourage speakers from the region to write quality papers so that they could be selected for publishing in IFLA Journal.

7 Report from the Information Coordinator

H. Nassar, the Information Coordinator presented the following report:

The current number of the Asia & Oceania Section Listserv is 260. The number of our subscribers is always between 260 and 300. Sometimes I have to cancel bounced email addresses as they are bouncing all the time and for a long period.

I try to regularly forward to our listserve messages I receive from IFLA HQ listserv and other listserv to which I subscribe and that I find pf 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.

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

On behalf of the Section, the Chair praised the good work done by H. Nassar in developing and handling the listserv.

R. Begum suggested that the Information Coordinator do simple statistics to show number of messages from both IFLA and the region. This will demonstrate how active the Section is.

8 Report from the Regional Office

P. Guaysuwan summarized a Report from the Regional Office for Asia and Oceania (January – December 2004) This includes 1) Work with the RSCAO and the RCB in carrying out IFLA activities in the region; 2) Support provided to library associations in the region; 3) Information dissemination; 4) Standing Committee meetings; 5) Newsletter and other communication; 6) Seeking funding sources; 7) Liaison with IFLA ALP and other IFLA professional units; and 8) Membership recruitment (Appendix 3). The working timetable was also reported (Appendix 4).

There were discussion, comments and suggestions on the following issues concerning the ROAO Report:

8.1. IFLA RSAO Newsletter
   The Newsletter should be more widely distributed. It should be disseminated through RSCAO Listserv. The Information Coordinator would be pleased to announce the availability of the Newsletter on the Listserv.

8.2. Roles of the Regional Manager
   So far there had been limited activities in terms of fund seeking. It is the Regional Manager's responsibility to explore funding sources and design /

encourage project proposals that are likely to be funded. In fact there are several funding sources around in UK and USA. Directories / lists of funding sources as well as information on the Internet should be consulted.

9 ALP Report

The Committee received the 2004 Annual Report of the ALP Programme (Appendix 5), the List of Approved Projects and Planned Activities in Asia and Oceania, February 2005 (Appendix 6), and Report on ALP Training Attachments and Scholarships in 2004 (Appendix 7).

B. Sandell informed that after reconsidering the revised proposal, ALP decided to fund *Project 293: Conference on Building the Digital Collection* proposed by H. Askhita. The budget provided was US$ 6,000. This would enable the Assad National Library to host a two-day conference in Damascus for librarians in Syria and neighboring countries.

B. Sandell informed that the ALP Steering Committee Meeting would be held in Oslo during 10-12 August 2005. The Chairs and Secretaries of the three Regional Sections as well as the Regional Managers would be invited to attend the Meeting. Airfare and accommodations would be sponsored by SIDA.

B. Sandell also reported that the meeting between ALP and SIDA was very positive. SIDA would secure funding for good projects initiated by the Division VIII for the next five years. However, for project consideration it requires that the project proposals must show the link with poverty reduction.

10 Report of the devastation of libraries, information services and archives in countries affected by Tsunami

R. Bowden described the devastation of libraries, information services and archives affected by Tsunami in Sri Lanka. His immediate report distributed to the library community has brought about several relief schemes to revive library and information services (Appendix 8).

P. Guaysuwan and A. Cheunwattana reported that in Thailand there was no direct report of the libraries being destroyed but the number and situation of schools that were wiped out by the tidal wave. Schools are being rebuilt. The Thai Library Association has been seeking funds to help rebuild the school libraries. In addition, library activities have been provided by several organizations from both public and private sectors.

P. Guaysuwan also distributed the Draft copy of IFLA Relief and Development Partnership (IFLA-RDP) by Alex Byrne for input (Appendix 9)

11 Asia and Oceania Section's projects

11.1 Resolutions from the previous projects

R. Bowden reported the success of two workshops as listed in 11.1.1 and 11.1.2.

> 11.1.1. Empowering Library Associations Workshop, Kathmandu, Nepal, 5-7 October 2004 (Appendix 10)

11.1.2. Workshop on Information Skills for Learning Skills for Learning, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 1-5 November 2004 (Appendix 11)

Both workshops were funded by ALP. A number of resolutions were produced from both workshops. Two new project proposals were born out of these workshops.

R. Bowden brought up to the Committee the resolution no. 6 proposed by A. Cheunwattana in the workshop on Information Skills for Learning as follows:

That IFLA Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania endorse the establishment of an electronic discussion list of representatives to the "Information Skills for Learning Workshop based at NILIS Sri Lanka, and that a small start-up grant of US$ 5,000 be requested.

The proposal, *Electronic Discussion List for Empowering 8* was presented to the Committee (Appendix 12). The Chair commented that the resolution deserved support. However, the Section itself did not have money to fund the establishment of the electronic discussion list. R. Bowden was advised by the Committee to seek fund from IFLA PC.

11.2 IFLA Projects

11.2.1. IFLA Asia & Oceania video project
The progress report was submitted by Aree Cheunwattana. (Appendix 13)

11.2.2. The development of methodology to assess the use of ICT and electronic information resources by the target population of public libraries
The progress report was submitted by Diljit Singh (Appendix 14)

11.2.3. Translation of Public Library Guidelines into Indian languages
K. Dasgupta reported that she followed up the project but could not obtain the information about the project. She offered to further contact the responsible person and provide the Secretary with the progress report after this meeting.

11.3 ALP Projects

A sub-committee was set up to select among seven project proposals (Appendix 15). The following projects were selected:

Project 286—Establishment of Regional Federation of South Asia Library Associations (Nepal Library Association and Russell Bowden)--was approved for 2005.

Project 287—Empowering 8' Workshop: Applying the Problem-Solving Model for Schools in South and Southeast Asia (Department of Library & Information Science, Panjabi University, India)--was approved for 2005.

Project 288—A Workshop to Train Library Association leaders in the Pacific Islands in Library Advocacy and Policy Development (Arlene Cohen, Assoc. Prof. University of Guam, USA)--requires a revision before final approval can be given.

Project 289—Improved and Linkage between Agro-Forestry Library for Sharing Information Resources (Center for Information and Library, Hanoi Agricultural University, Vietnam)—requires a revision and resubmission.

Project 290—Information Literacy Workshop on the Preparation of Information Modules for Primary and Secondary Schools in Malaysia and Southeast Asia (Faculty of Information Management, University Technology MARA, Malaysia)—was approved for 2006.

Project 291—Enhancement the Roles of Distance Edaucation in Library Science in Asia and Oceania (Chutima Sacchanand, Assoc. Prof., Dr., Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, Thailand)—was approved for 2006. However, the budget must be reduced to US$20,000.

Project 292—Training Programme for Information Professionals in Asia-Pacific (Shalini R. Urs, Professor and Chairperspn, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Mysore, India)—was rejected.

12 ALP Scholarship in IT Selections

From 42 scholarship applicants (Appendix 16) a sub-committee selected four candidates and four reserves for ALP 2005 scholarships.

Mr. Boniface Supa, Solomon Islands
Mr. Enkhtunggalag Dorjjantsan, Mongolia
Ms. Jahan Ara Begum, Bangladesh
Ms Wah Wah Win Myint, Myanmar

Four reserves include:

Mr. Mohammed Abu Khaled Chowdhury, Bangladesh
Ms. Kyi Kyi Win, Myanmar
Ms. Marian Sabat Ramos, Philippines
Mr. Farhat Hussain Khan, Pakistan

13 ALP Training Attachments Selections

From 31 training attachment applicants (Appendix 17), the sub-committee selected five individuals, and one reserve, for ALP 2005 training attachments.

Five individuals:
Ms. Roshini Geeta Deo, Fiji
Ms. Tutik Sriyati, Indonesia
Mr. Zawawi Tiyunin, Malaysia
Ms. Yu Yu Hwe, Myanmar
Mr. Abraham R. King

One reserve:
Mr. Talpe Liyanage Chrishantha Dilroshan, Sri Lanka

However, B. Sandell informed the Committee that there is money for three individuals only, the other three have to be on the waiting list.

14 World Library and Information Congress: 71th IFLA General Conference Programme, Oslo, 14-18 August 2005

14.1 Asia & Oceania Section Programme
The theme of the programme is *Digital Libraries and Sustainability.* Dr. Alex Byrne, University Librarian, University of Technology Sydney, has agreed to be the keynote speaker. In addition to the keynote speaker, five papers were selected from different countries in the region.

1. Promise and Challenges: Digital Libraries in the Global Information Society, DR. ALEX BYRNE (Australia)
2. Towards sustainable collection management: A study of digitization and preservation activities in Malaysian University Libraries. BADILAH SAAD, SHAIFOL YAZAM MAT, and MOHD SHARIF MOHD SAAD (Malaysia)
3. Re-designing a library web site for sustainability. JUDITH TITOKO and VICTORIA YORK (Fiji)
4. Digitisation, sustainability and access in the Indian Context. KALPANA DASGUPTA (India)
5. Sustainable digital library development for scientific communities. DR. ZHANG XIAOLIN (China)
6. Digital libraries to preserve, archive and disseminate the Arab heritage. DR. HASNA ASKHITA (Syria)

B. Sandell informed the Committee that IFLA ALP provides three speaker grants for each region. However, the speaker grantees are required to meet the following criteria: age under 45, not a regular attendee of the IFLA Conference, and not a member of the Standing Committee.

14.2 The Joint Workshop with Preservation and Conservation Section (PAC). The theme of the joint workshop is *Housing for eternity: sustainable solutions and mistakes to avoid. The role of library buildings in preservation.* The Asia & Oceania Section contributes a paper on *Preserving our books: The new building of the Shanghai Library* by FENG JIEYIN, SHI ZHONGHUA and WU ZHONGXIA, Shanghai Library, Shanghai, China

14.3 Poster Session
P. Guaysuwan reported that the Regional Office did not submit any poster session topic for presentation in Oslo. The dateline for submitting the poster session already passed. However, if the Section was interested in presenting the poster session, late proposal could still be sent to IFLA HQ. The Committee decided that the Section would skip the presentation for this year.

14.4 Social Event
The Committee discussed arranging a social event in Oslo. The Chair reported that Kari Gulbraar offered to make arrangements for a Section dinner in an Oslo restaurant, and that he would contact Emerald to sponsor the event.

15 World Library and Information Congress: 72ⁿᵈ IFLA General Conference and Council, Seoul, Korea, 20-24 August 2006

The theme of the Congress is *Libraries: Dynamic Engines for the Knowledge and Information Society.* The Committee members discussed and agreed that *Libraries and Knowledge Management* would be a possible programme for the Section. The joint programme could be worked out with School Libraries and Resource Centers Section on the topic of *Information Literacy Policy.* This would be further discussed and planned in the meeting at WLIC Oslo.

16 IFLA Membership

The Chair reported that as of October 2004, the total number of IFLA members registered for Section 26: Asia and Oceania is 308 from 52 countries (Appendix 18). The Chair also suggested that the Regional Manager should play an active role in promoting membership, particularly in the areas that are underrepresented.

17 Strategic Plan 2005-2006

The Chair commented that most activities conducted have been well matched to the Section's Strategic Plan for 2004-2005 (Appendix 19). For the reason of continuity and sustainability, he was reluctant to move away from the current plan. R. Bowden also pointed out that modifying the plan too much would take us away from what we were doing and what we had achieved. However, the Chair would be receptive for further comments and suggestions until WLIC Oslo.

18 Global Library Association Development Program—GLAD

The GLAD final document (Appendix 20) was considered. The Committee commented that there seemed to be no participation from the region in working on the document. In addition, a number of ideas in the document have already been put into practice in the region.

19 Other Business

No other business was discussed.

20 Confirmation of date and place of the Mid-Conference Meeting 2006

The venue of the next mid-conference meeting in 2006 was considered. Hanoi, Vietnam was proposed. G. Gorman will pursue the matter. The meeting and workshop (or seminar) will be held in the last week of February. G. Gorman will explore and identify the possible host institution and appropriate dates.

21 Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 2 pm. on 22 February 2005.

Appendix

1. IFLA Asia and Oceania Section. Regional Standing Committee Mid-Conference Meeting Agenda
2. Minutes of the Meetings held in Buenos Aires, 23 and 28 August 2004
3. Report from the IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania, January – December 2004
4. IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania: Working Timetable
5. 2004 Annual Report of the ALP Programme
6. List of Approved Projects and Planned Activities in Asia and Oceania, February 2005
7. Report on ALP Training Attachments and Scholarships in 2004
8. Tsunami—Sri Lanka: First-Hand Report by Russell Bowden
9. Draft IFLA Relief and Development Partnership (IFLA-RDP) by Alex Byrne
10. Empowering Library Associations Workshop, Kathmandu, Nepal, 5-7 October 2004
11. NILIS – IFLA / ALP Workshop on Information Skills for Learning Skills for Learning, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 1-5 November 2004: Resolutions
12. Electronic Discussion List for Empowering 8
13. Progress Report on IFLA VDO Project
14. Progress Report on the Use of ICT and Electronic Information Resources…
15. ALP Project Submission (Project No. 286-292)
16. List of Applicants for ALP Scholarships in 2005
17. List of Applicants for ALP Training Attachments in 2005
18. IFLA Members Registered for Section 26 Asia and Oceania
19. IFLA Asia & Oceania Section -- Strategic Plan 2004 -2005
20. Global Library Association Development Programme (GLAD) Final Document

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