



**IFLA Division of Regional Activities  
(Division VIII)**

**Chair's Report 2005-2007**

At the end of my term as Chair of The Division of Regional Activities – Div. VIII of IFLA I would like to register some remarkable points that I think were very relevant to the development of the Regional Activities and will be important for the future of Division VIII.

The following goals were established for Division VIII during the Steering Committee Meeting held in Oslo (2005):

to facilitate the access to information and life-long opportunities among members and civil society by the implementation of new Projects in the 3 Regional Sections (they are presented in the Section's Reports);

to develop opportunities to create a well-educated, competent and self-renewing profession in the 3 Regions through Regional Seminars, Meetings, workshops, exchange programs and joint programmes with other IFLA Sections;

to contribute to the creation of a robust information infrastructure in each member country through our mailing lists and meetings;

to develop an information-literate population through our libraries services;

to improve access to fund for activities in the 3 Regions, not only through ALP funds, but also with local institutions partnership.

In these two years we have been pursuing these goals through several ALP projects and other measures. The ALP Core Program has been the most important partner to the development of Division VIII in the 3 Regions along the years. This fact may be better seen in the Reports and Newsletters of the 3 Sections.

In oct.2005 we had a LFA (Logic Frame Analyses) Seminar in Uppsala – Sweden organized by ALP and SIDA to discuss two IFLA Core Programs, ALP and FAIFE and to clarify their roles and learn how to present impacted projects and share funds. This seminar revealed the real importance of FAIFE Programme to Div. VIII and how better communications and relationships can help to develop joint activities, like the dissemination of Internet Manifesto in the 3 Regional Sections.

As to the joint programmes, we could mention the programmes with PAC Core Programme and cooperation with other IFLA Sections like the Reading Section (International Reading Survey),

the Statistics and Evaluation Section (collection of data in the three regions), the Management of Library Associations Section – MLAS - jointly with the 3 Regional Sections and IFLA Regional Offices in order to strengthen and improve our library associations.

These two last World Library and Information Congresses (Seoul and Durban) were held in countries embraced by Division VIII and the Division has presented very interesting programmes at the Open Forum. In Seoul we focused in the Information Literacy programmes and this year in the theme Libraries at the Forefront of the Grassroutes Development, this last one focusing the ALP Core Programme results in the three regions.

With the development and improving of Library and Information Sciences in underdeveloped countries in mind, the GB approved the Discussion Group to Library and Information Science to Underdeveloped Countries. This Group, already consolidated, has two slots in the Durban Conference Programme for presenting lecturers of the three regional sections. The Group was organized by Mr. Ismail Abdullai, an enthusiastic coordinator, who participated in the Div. VIII Coordinating Board Meeting last year in Seoul to present the Discussion Group proposes.

#### 1. Other important issues

At the Oslo Conference Jacinta Were from Africa, was nominated as Chair of the Professional Committee and it was the first time that someone of the three regions covered by Division VIII reached this position. When IFLA is updating its statutes and professional structure I think Jacinta can well contribute with the regional point of view.

In this period the IFLA Governing Board recognized two more official languages, the Chinese and the Arabian. Both these languages are mostly spoken in two of the regions covered by Division VIII: Asia and Africa. This recognition can improve communications among members, attract new affiliations and shows how the GB is working to facilitate access to information and to consolidate IFLA as a world wide organization.

The importance of the WLIC can be pointed out by the example of South Korea that, after the Congress in Seoul established a Presidential Committee for the Libraries & Information Policy, headed by Mr. Sang-Wan Han who worked hard for that.

#### 2. Farewell and Welcome

I would like to present my farewell and thanks to all those who collaborated with the Division VIII during this period. Specially I want to mention Pensri Guaysuwan and Henri Sène, Regional Managers of Asia and Africa for almost 20 years, who retired in this period, and Elizabet de Carvalho, IFLA/LAC Regional Office Manager. They worked hard to increase the participation of IFLA in the region and to make the Federation better known.

I would like also to say welcome to Keit Fong, from Singapore, who is trying to implement a new style of management in her region and to our new president-elected, Ellen Tise, from South Africa, one of the countries embraced by the Division VIII. I am sure the presence of Ellen as IFLA president will help to strengthen the role of IFLA in our regions.

This is a quick sketch of what we did during these two years period. A more detailed picture can be drawn from the reports and newsletters of the three Regional Sections. We must continue to work in pursuing of the goals established in the Steering Committee meeting, in order to improve Librarianship and Information Sciences in the regions, our associations and our professionals.

At the end of my term of office I would like thank all the IFLA members who collaborate with the Division VIII in this period : thank you very much!

Maria Isabel Cabral da Franca  
Chair of Division VIII of Regional Activities