



## Asia and Oceania Section

[www.ifla.org/VII/s26/index.htm](http://www.ifla.org/VII/s26/index.htm)

### Annual Report 2007-2008

**Scope statement:** The main objectives of the Section are to initiate, promote, and facilitate the development of library and information services and the library profession within the five sub regions of Asia and Oceania: West Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, and Oceania. The Section works in cooperation with the other Regional Sections and all of IFLA's Sections and Core Activities, especially the Action for Development through Libraries Programme.

**Membership:** 300 members in 53 countries (as of November 2008)

#### Standing Committee members for 2007-2009

Hasna Askhita (Syria)  
Roza Berdigaliev (Kazakstan)  
Sanjay Kumar Bihani (India)  
Libby Cass (Fiji)  
Daniel G. Dorner (New Zealand)  
S.B. Ghosh (India)  
Anjali Gulati (India)  
Bughdana Hajjar (Lebanon)  
Fariborz Khosravi (Iran)  
Yumi Kitamura (Japan)  
Eun Bong Park (Korea)  
Mihyang Park (Korea)  
Mark Perkins (New Caledonia)  
Michael Robinson (China)  
Wang Shan (China)  
Ashu Shokeen (India)  
Diljit Singh (Malaysia)  
Namtip Wipawin (Thailand)  
Tendik G. Yermekpayeva (Kazakhstan)  
Xiaolin Zhang (China)

#### Corresponding Members

Aree Cheunwattana (Thailand)  
Gary E. Gorman (New Zealand)  
Chihfeng P. Lin (Taiwan)

#### Advisors

Rashidah Begum bt. Fazal Mohamed (Malaysia)  
Shawky Salem (Egypt)

#### Ex-officio:

Tan Keat Fong (Regional Manager for Asia and Oceania), Singapore

**Officers:**

Chair  
Premila Gamage  
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Sr. Information Officer/Librarian  
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**Meetings:** The Standing Committee held two meetings for the period under report

**Mid-conference Meeting, New Delhi, India, 12-13 February 2008**

The IFLA Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania (RSCAO) had its Mid-conference Meeting from 12 to 13 February 2008 in New Delhi. The meeting was hosted by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi, India. The meeting was attended by the following members and representatives:

Premila Gamage (Chair), M. Al Mamun (Secretary), Roza Berdigaliev (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).

Premila Gamage, Chair, and Tan Keat Fong, Regional Manager presented the administrative and meeting budgets, and information report. Birgitta Sandell, Programme Director, Action for Development Through Libraries Programme (ALP) also presented a verbal report on Asia Oceania Section's project status, financial situation of ALP, and other grants information for the section. Sjoerd M. J. Koopman, Coordinator of Professional Activities, IFLA Headquarters, also presented a report about present IFLA activities and IFLA staff status.

The Mid-conference meeting was very productive in terms of planning and selection of papers for the section programme in the World Library and Information, Congress: 74th IFLA General Conference Programme, Québec, Canada 10-14 August 2008, and ALP scholarship and training attachment selections. On the 2nd day, the INGOU arranged an exclusive interview with Premila Gamage and Sjoerd M. J. Koopman. Premila Gamage talked 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 arranged a Talk show for RSCAO members, Premila Gamage, Roza Berdigaliev, Rashidah Begum bt. Fazal Mohamed and Shawky Salem attend on that.

Prof V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice- Chancellor, hosted a dinner at the Guest House, in the IGNOU for the IFLA RSCAO Committee Members. On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked Prof V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Prof. Uma Kanjilal, Director, School of Social Sciences, IGNOU and her team for organizing the Mid-conference Meeting.

### **Meeting at World Library and Information Congress: 74<sup>th</sup> IFLA General Conference and Council (Libraries without borders: Navigating towards global understanding)**

Two standing committee meetings were held in the World Library and Information Congress: 74th IFLA General Conference Programme, in Quebec, Canada. First Meeting was held on Sunday 10 August and the second one on Friday 15 August 2008. The following members were present in the meetings:

Premila Gamage (Chair, Sri Lanka)  
Jennefer Nicholson, IFLA Secretary General  
M. Al Mamun (Secretary, Bangladesh)  
Hilda T. Nassar (Information Coordinator, Lebanon)  
Daniel G. Dorner (Member, New Zealand)  
Hasna Askhita (Member, Syria)  
Roza Berdigaliev (Member, Kazakstan)  
Xiaolin Zhang (Member, China)  
Birgitta Sandell (ALP Programme Director, Sweden)  
Chihfeng P. Lin (Corresponding Member, Taiwan)  
Shawky Salem (Advisor, Egypt)  
Tan Keat Fong (Regional Manager, Singapore).

15 observers from Singapore, United Kingdom, Australia, India, France, Australia, United States of America, DPR Korea, and Canada were also present in the meeting. Jennefer Nicholson, IFLA Secretary General was present in the second meeting and she talked about the advocacy framework.

Chair, Regional Manager, and Information Coordinator presented the administrative budget, meeting budget, and the information report. Birgitta Sandell, ALP Programme Director also presented report on Asia Oceania Section's project status, financial situation of ALP, and other grants information for the section. The meetings also included discussions on the Section's roles and responsibilities in the 75<sup>th</sup> WLIC (World Library and Information Congress) Conference Programme, in Milan, Italy in August 2009. Sections has also decided the theme for the Asia Oceania section open session for Milan Conference 2009 is "Preserving the past - creating the future."

The Chair, Premila Gamage attended two Governing Board Meetings on 8 and 16 August The Secretary and Regional Manager attended officers training session on Monday, 11 August. The Chair, Secretary, and Regional Manager also attended two Coordinating Board meetings held on 8 and 15 August 2008. The Caucus (Africa, Asia & Oceania, and Latin America & Caribbean) meeting was held on Saturday 9th

August. Premila Gamage, The Chair, presided the meeting. A good number of members participated in the meeting from Asia Oceania section, Africa and Latin America & Caribbean.

A poster titled “IFLA activities in Asia and Oceania: the impact” was presented by the Regional Office. It was covered the Asia Oceania section activities, mission, and strategies.

The social event was held on Tuesday, 11 August at the Hotel Delta, Quebec. About 40 guests attended the event. The event was sponsored by Emerald. Ms Eileen Breen on behalf of Emerald has expressed interest to continue sponsorship in the future.

### **Other Meetings**

The Chair participated in the Governing Board meetings which were held in The Hague from 1-4 December 2008.

### **WLIC, Quebec, Canada, 10-14 August 2008 (Libraries without borders: Navigating towards global understanding)**

Asia and Oceania Section Programme was held on Tuesday 12 August 2008, and the theme was “From me, to you, to us: how libraries in the Asia and Oceania region contribute to global understanding”. More than 75 participants attended that open session. The keynote address presented by Prof. N. Varaprasad. The following papers were also presented in the open session:

- Keynote Address- Libraries and Disaster Recovery: A Framework for Regional Co-operation in Digital Preservation and Recovery - Prof. N. Varaprasad (National Library Board, Singapore)
- A School-Library-Centered Community Information Resource Sharing Model and Its Impact on Cultural Life of Rural Communities in China - Wenjie Zhou, (China Evergreen Rural library Service Center).
- The Tele Cottage Approach to the Community Development in the Rural Karnataka, India – Prof. S.L.Sangam (Karnatak University, India)
- Designing of Cultural Knowledge Portal: A South East Asian Experiment - Dr. Ajay Pratap Singh (Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India)
- “The Action ‘One Country – One Book’ (Sharing Experience of Libraries That Contribute to Human Understanding)”- Roza Berdigaliev (National Academic Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan)

Division of Regional Activities and ALP Open Session held on Monday 11 August and the theme was Indigenous Knowledge: language, culture and information technology.” The following paper from Asia Oceania section was presented:

- Indigenous knowledge and the role of information literacy education - Dan Dorner and G.E. Gorman, Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand.

**Projects:**

Current projects are progressing well and the following projects are approved for the future:

610— A regional workshop to train library association leaders and professionals in library advocacy and policy development (Piyadasa Ranasinghe, Sri Lanka Library Association)

611— Bridging the gap: networking of LIS education in developing countries (Dr. Muttayya Koganuramath, Tata Institute of Social Sciences and Indian Association of Teachers in LIS)

612— Training workshop in library skills for Palestinian teachers in the West Bank and Gaza (Dr. Ghassan Abdullah, Center for Applied Research in Education (CARE), Israel)

**IFLA Asia Oceania Section Newsletter**

During the period January - December 2008, two issues of IFLA RSCAO Newsletter were published in June and December 2008.

*Reported by Premila Gamage and M. Al Mamun*

*18 December 2008*