

**IFLA REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND OCEANIA**  
**PROGRESS REPORT – 27 FEBRUARY 2021 to 10 AUGUST 2021**

**Key Facts and Figures**

**1 IFLA Asia and Oceania Membership Statistics**

- 1.1 The memberships and member countries for the Asia and Oceania region are 312 and 48 respectively as at 31 July 2021. These represent a decrease of 15 members (5%) and 5 member countries (9%) from the 327 memberships and 53 member countries as at 31 January 2021.

**Regional Office for Asia and Oceania**

**2 IFLA Elections 2021**

- 2.1 The Regional Office (RO) encouraged AO members to nominate candidates for the Regional Council Chair and the Asia & Oceania Regional Division Committee.
- 2.2 RO also encouraged members to nominate and vote for the positions of IFLA President-elect, Treasurer, Governing Board, Regional Council Chair, Regional Division Committee Members, Professional Council Chair, Professional Division Committee Chairs and Professional Section Standing Committee Members. The results of IFLA Elections 2021 are available at <https://www.ifla.org/node/93918>.

**3 Regional Advocacy Priorities – an IFLA Survey**

- 3.1 RO encouraged AO members to participate and respond to IFLA's Regional Advocacy Priorities Survey on how focused members are on the advocacy for different library types and issues and members' current capacities for advocacy.
- 3.2 The survey responses would help the six Regional Division Committees in strengthening capacity to speak up for libraries everywhere, responding to the agendas and priorities that matter at the regional and national levels, and drawing on the many existing examples of good practice in our field.

**4 IFLA World Library and Information Congress 2021**

- 4.1 The World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) 2021 with the theme "Let's Work Together for the Future" will be held from 17 - 19 August. This will be IFLA's first ever virtual Congress to experience an event open and accessible across continents, time zones and information sectors. IFLA is organising the most inclusive and accessible event in its history, bringing together professionals from across the globe to inspire best practices and engage with colleagues across the library and information field. The WLIC 2021 information is available at <https://www.ifla-wlic2021.com/#>.

## **5 IFLA General Assembly in The Hague, The Netherlands on 25 August 2021**

5.1 The IFLA General Assembly 2021 will be held in The Hague, The Netherlands on 25 August 2021, following the Extraordinary General Assembly on 12 February 2021. The Convening Notice for the Assembly was sent to members on 25 June 2021. The Convening Notice highlights the various reports which are available at <http://www.ifla.org/node/93974>. IFLA will make it possible for members to participate in the meeting virtually, in view of the Dutch Government's social distancing rules.

## **6 IFLA Asia Oceania Regional Newsletter**

6.1 RO published and disseminated the February and May 2021 issues of the e-newsletter to the IFLA HQ and over 300 members in the region. The May 2021 issue, which had a complete makeover, focused on the topics below.

- New strategic plan of institutions or associations
- Innovative technologies at libraries
- Digitalisation (including Digitisation and Digital Preservation policies and programmes)
- Digital skills delivery
- Preservation and conservation of heritage materials
- Green eco-systems and libraries sustainability
- Information literacy
- Community outreach
- Bridging societal divide

6.2 RO was heartened by the enthusiastic responses of many AO members to the call for articles. The August issue is scheduled to be released by 31 August 2021.

## **7 United Nations 2030 Agenda**

7.1 RO shared with the Selangor Public Library on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and how libraries can play a role in supporting these 17 Goals. They were encouraged to share such stories that can be eventually published on the IFLA Library Map of the World.

7.2 The Library Association of Singapore (LAS), supported the organisation of the webinar conference "Why Should I Care? Libraries, Advocacy and the UN SDGs" organised by the Singapore Management University to be held on 10 September 2021 after RO shared with LAS about advocacy of UN SDGs.

## **8 Leaders' Conversations II**

8.1 RO and the National Library Board, Singapore (NLB) are planning the next Leaders' Conversations in November 2021. The Leaders' Conversations is a global digital platform where library leaders share insights on the developments at their libraries.

- 8.2 The series this year aims to discuss about the masterplans and blueprints of libraries and archives. There will be four sessions in total for the national libraries, public libraries, archives, and academic libraries.

## **Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania (RSCAO)**

### **9 RSCAO Mid-Term Meeting and Half-Day Seminar 2021**

- 9.1 RSCAO held its mid-term meeting online via Zoom on 26 February 2021. This was followed by a two-hour webinar on "Libraries and the Sustainable Development Goals" hosted by the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA) at the National Library of New Zealand. There were discussions on how library services can best support national efforts towards these Goals, taking account of the great disparities in the region between the densely populated countries of mainland Asia and the small, widely dispersed populations of the Pacific. The session received over 270 registrations, one third from New Zealand and two thirds from a wide range of countries across the region.

### **10 RSCAO Statement of Accounts**

- 10.1 The IFLA HQ budget allocation of €5,500 for the RSCAO mid-term meeting was not expended as there was no physical mid-term meeting for 2021. The Statement of Accounts is at Annex.

## **ANNEX**

### **Statement of Accounts for IFLA Asia and Oceania Section Mid-Term Meeting 2021**

IFLA Budget allocation for Mid-term Meeting 2021 <sup>1</sup>	€5,500
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Note:

<sup>1</sup> The budget allocation is by IFLA and disbursed directly to the host country after hosting the Mid-term meeting.

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**Soh Lin Li**  
Regional Manager  
Regional Office for Asia and Oceania

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Tina Yang**  
Section Chair  
Regional Standing Committee for  
Asia and Oceania

Date: \_\_\_\_\_