**IFLA - Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania
(IFLA - RSCAO): Sub-Regional Report
[Reporting Period 27 February 2021 – 10 August 2021]**

Sub-region: **Oceania**   Convenor: **Winston Roberts**

Date of submission: **14 August 2021**

I.   Achievements in the key roles and responsibilities as sub-regional convenor:

A.   Promotion of IFLA and IFLA-RSCAO and its programs and activities in the sub-region (Please provide details):

Earlier this year I wrote to several contacts in the Pacific islands, from time to time, asking their views on IFLA, forwarding to them links to various IFLA activities, and generally trying to 'bring IFLA to their attention'. However, these efforts at communication were not very successful. I did not have adequate knowledge of how much colleagues in the Pacific already knew about IFLA, who were members, or who were on IFLA-L and our mailing lists for newsletters.

In particular I wrote to South Pacific contacts and to leaders of PIALA inviting them to register for the SDGs webinar of the RSCAO. (I reported on that webinar in my Sub-Regional Report for the Mid-Term meeting of RSCAO in February this year.)

I have made enquiries from time to time about the progress of PLN (the Pacific Libraries Network) but there has been little information available.

I also informed library contacts in the Pacific earlier this year about the launch of the Pacific Digital Museum (also known as Digital Pasifika) which is operated by the National Library of New Zealand with support and funding from the Australian authorities.

On several occasions I responded to requests from the National Library of Australia to discuss library sector activities in the region and in particular the work of IFLA.

B.   Encourage professional colleagues in the sub-region to join IFLA and its activities (Please provide details):

When writing to Pacific colleagues on the professional matters mentioned above, I took opportunities to encourage them to join IFLA, explaining the options for participating at a modest cost: the different types of membership and the arrangements for registering for the WLIC. I explained how IFLA had adapted its work to the conditions of the pandemic.

Knowing that the 'footprint' of RSCAO in Oceania was so limited, with no active committee member in the island states, and that the new IFLA regional structure would present a huge opportunity, I made extensive efforts to contact colleagues from the sub-region and interest them in the IFLA governance review and the election process. I nominated some candidates and arranged supporting nominations for them by other IFLA members in the region. It is pleasing to note that those Pacific candidates have been elected to the new Regional Division Committee which will take office at the conclusion of the General Assembly this month.

C.   Work closely with the Regional Office and organizers, if a country in the sub-region has been selected to host the mid-term meeting (Please provide details):

I originally sent RSCAO a proposal from LIANZA (the New Zealand library and information association) to host the 2021 Mid-Term meeting at the National Library of New Zealand, together with a hybrid webinar on the SDGs; but in the end the Mid-Term was held online, and only the hybrid webinar was hosted in New Zealand. A report on the webinar was sent to IFLA HQ for posting on the website.

D.   Arrange and upload photos and short write ups of activities for the RSCAO Facebook page (Please Provide details):

No action - (except that I regularly encouraged the staff of LIANZA to communicate with the Regional Office, by sending it newsletters and reports of activities in New Zealand).

E.   Other activities, if any (Please provide details):

As in previous years, I have been closely involved in the organization of the annual conference of the Asia-Pacific regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF) – to be held online on 28-30 September. I have also arranged to convene a workshop for IFLA at the APrIGF conference, with the support of staff at IFLA Headquarters. The IFLA workshop (with an expert panel of library sector speakers from Nepal, Singapore and Australia) will discuss issues of digital information literacy and trust and security in using the Internet as a platform for community library services.

I have provided advice to LIANZA (at its request) on ways to provide a small number of professionals from South Pacific libraries with support to cover the registration fee for IFLA WLIC and also the conference of LIANZA (on 9-11 November).

I will present a talk at the LIANZA conference on how New Zealand libraries can cooperate through IFLA with their colleagues in the Pacific.

I have taken part in all the consultation meetings and regional round tables held by IFLA staff to inform members about the election process and the new structures being created this year. I responded to IFLA's survey of Asia-Oceania members to find out members' views on priorities for action.

During the period of the IFLA elections, I convened a Zoom discussion with New Zealand librarians to promote better understanding of IFLA and to encourage some NZ colleagues to stand for election.

II.   Brief details with links to information where available, of **two** (**2) most impactful activities in each country** in the sub-region, for example, activities of: library association/s; different types of libraries; library studies programs; any conferences, workshops or seminars and so on. Please add more rows, etc. as required.

Owing to difficult personal and professional circumstances this year, I have not had the time and resources necessary to research information on library activities in all the countries in the Oceania sub-region. Rather than present an unbalanced report focusing on intensive programmes of activities in Australia and New Zealand and very little elsewhere (due to my own lack of information), I have judged it better not to complete part II of the report on this occasion.

I offer my sincere apologies to RSCAO members for this failing, and I trust that much better IFLA coverage of the sub-region will in future allow these information gaps to be filled in.