

# IFLA REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND OCEANIA

## PROGRESS REPORT 1 APRIL 2020 – 31 OCTOBER 2020

### Key Facts and Figures

#### 1 IFLA Asia and Oceania Membership Statistics

- 1.1 Membership and member countries for the region stood at 288 and 43 respectively as at 23 October 2020. These represent a decrease of 81 members (22%) and 7 member countries (14%) over the 369 memberships and 50 member countries respectively as at 7 February 2020.

#### 2 IFLA Governance Review & IFLA Statutes

- 2.1 IFLA Regional Office (RO) participated in the survey on IFLA's Governance Draft Proposal. The review was on the optimization of its operations and governance structure to support the ambitious goals as the global voice for libraries.
- 2.2 RO also participated at the IFLA Governance Review Regional Roundtable for Asia Oceania held on 21 August 2020. The session the roundtable discussed about the vision for the future of Regional Division for Asia & Oceania, the best way to achieve diversity within the region, how the new Regional Council and Professional Council can collaborate, and how could the Board be more involved, etc. It was also agreed that RO can play a more active role in reaching out to the region.
- 2.3 The new IFLA Statutes will be made available on 5 November 2020 and voted at the Extraordinary General Assembly held on 12 February 2021 based on the inputs and results from the Governance Review.

#### 3 IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) 2020, Dublin

- 3.1 IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) 2020, Dublin was cancelled due to the COVID-19 crisis that affected countries globally. Members are discouraged from attending the General Assembly to be held at The Hague on 5 November 2020 due to the second wave of COVID-19 and the Dutch Government's travel restriction. The meeting agenda can be found on IFLA's website and the details of live stream of the event will be announced shortly.
- 3.2 In a first for IFLA, the 2021 [World Library and Information Congress \(WLIC\)](#) will be held online. IFLA will continue to plan for an in-person conference in Dublin, Ireland in 2022, with a strengthened online element. The physical conference previously planned in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, will move to 2023, and take place in a hybrid online/in-person format.

#### **4 Library Map of the World (LMW) and United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Stories**

- 4.1 RO encouraged members from Asia and Oceania region to showcase their libraries' support for the SDGs and contribute their stories in the LMW by sending the deck of slides to RSCAO members for dissemination and usage. RO also highlighted and shared stories from the Asia & Oceania region which were featured in the LMW in the Quarterly newsletters so as to reach out to more people.

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

##### **5 RSCAO Mid-term Meeting**

- 5.1 Due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak that affected countries globally, RSCAO conducted the online meeting via ZOOM on 17 March 2020. It was a success as 17 out of 22 Standing Committee members and corresponding members participated the online Mid-Term meeting. In the past, many members were not able to attend due to geographical and financial constraints.

- 5.2 The application to host for the next Mid-Term meeting would also include the element of organising online webinars and meetings so as to cater for future similar situations.

##### **6 Statement of Accounts for the Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania**

- 6.1 The annual budget of €5,500 for the Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania Mid-term meeting 2020 held by IFLA was not utilised as no meeting was held due to the COVID-19 crisis. Please see Annex A for the Statement of Accounts.

##### **7 IFLA Asia and Oceania Regional Quarterly Electronic Newsletters**

- 7.1 The October 2019, and January, July and October 2020 issues of the quarterly electronic newsletters published by RO have been disseminated to IFLA HQ and Members in the region. Besides reports on events and activities in the region, the newsletter included introduction of new Chiefs and Directors of Libraries, and the upcoming seminars and conferences in the region.

##### **8 Leaders' Conversations: Libraries in the Post-COVID-19 World on Zoom Webinar**

- 8.1 The IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania and NLB launched the first ever Leaders' Conversations. The new digital platforms are for leaders in the region and beyond to share insights on major developments in the library world. The conversations supported by the IFLA leaders and IFLA Regional Standing Committee of Asia & Oceania, are in line with the IFLA Global Vision of creating strong and united library field powering literate, informed and participative societies. It featured address by the IFLA President, library leaders from the Asia

& Oceania region, and key players and leading experts in the library field., Participants include members from the IFLA Governing Board, Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL), Regional Standing Committee of the Asia Oceania Section and Australian Library Information Association (ALIA) and many more distinguished librarians and guests in the region.

- 8.2 The theme of the first series of three episodes focus on Libraries in the Post-COVID-19 World. The first episode on National Libraries was held on 18 September 2020, the second episode focused on Public Libraries was held on 29 September 2020. The third episode on Academic Libraries was held on 16 October 2020. The focus of the conversations was to share COVID-19 experiences with special attention to the libraries' plans for the post-COVID-19 World.
- 8.3 The IFLA Regional Office hope the Leaders Conversations would be a permanent fixture in the global and regional library world with leaders providing insights and foresight to major trends and developments.

## **9 Other Activities by the IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania**

- 9.1 RO facilitated the American Library Association to look for suitable speakers from Asia region to speaker on how libraries cope with COVID situations on 3 June 2020. In addition, RO assisted the RDA Board to look for suitable candidate in the Asia region to be promote RDA standards.
- 9.2 IFLA President and RO Manager presented recordings at the Indonesian Outstanding Librarian Selection event organised by the National Library of Indonesia held on 19 October 2020. 32 outstanding librarians were selected at the provincial level.
- 9.3 RO also assisted in the search of articles for the University of Philippines.

## **10 Book Donations**

- 10.1 RO collaborated with the National Library Board Singapore on book donation projects where 70 pre-loved children and youth books to Al-Quds University Public Library in Jerusalem and 1,000 pre-loved library children English books to the National Library of Laos.
- 10.2 A donation of 300 Chinese fiction and non-fiction books were also sent to the Chinese workers, who had to be quarantined at the Tuas View Dormitory managed by TS Group during the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.

**Statement of Accounts for IFLA Asia and Oceania Section Mid-Term Meeting 2020**

**SGD**

IFLA Budget for Mid-term Meeting 2020<sup>1</sup> 5,500.00

Financial Notes:

- <sup>1</sup> Due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis that affected countries globally, the Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania 2020 Mid-term meeting has been cancelled and RSCAO would have an online meeting via ZOOM on 17 March 2020.

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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: \_\_\_\_\_