

**IFLA REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND OCEANIA
PROGRESS REPORT – 1 NOVEMBER 2020 to 31 JANUARY 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 327 and 53 respectively as at 31 January 2021. These represent an increase of 39 members (14%) and 10 member countries (23%) from the 288 memberships and 43 member countries as at 23 October 2020.

Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania (RSCAO)

2 RSCAO Standing Committee (SC) I & II Meeting 2020

- 2.1 IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) 2020, Dublin was cancelled due to the COVID-19 crisis that affected countries globally. RSCAO conducted its meeting online via ZOOM on 10 November 2020.

3 RSCAO Mid-term Meeting and Half-Day Seminar 2021

- 3.1 RSCAO will conduct the meeting online via ZOOM on 26 February 2021 with a half-day webinar on '*Libraries and the Sustainable Development Goals*' for IFLA's RSCAO hosted by the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA). There will be 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 keynote speaker, Loida Garcia-Febo, experienced IFLA leader and former American Library Association president will share the global efforts being made by libraries to respond to the Sustainable Development Goals. The panel of speakers include:
- a. Professor Ramesh Gaur from India. Prof. Gaur is the Dean & Director (Library and Information) and Head-Kalanidhi Division, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi; and a member of IFLA RSCAO.
 - b. Gene Tan from Singapore. He is the Assistant Chief Executive, Partnership & Strategy Group of the National Library Board.
 - c. Paula Eskett from New Zealand. Paula is the Waimakariri District Library Manager, in the South Island of New Zealand, and a LIANZA Past-President
 - d. Ela Qica from Fiji. Ela is a senior librarian at the University of the South Pacific, in Suva, and has served in the Fiji Library Association and the Pacific Library Network.

- 3.2 The Zoom webinar is offered virtually to IFLA members and other library professionals throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Participants in New Zealand can attend by Zoom or in-person at the National Library auditorium in Wellington.

4 RSCAO Statement of Accounts

- 4.1 IFLA HQ provides a budget allocation of €5,500 annually for RSCAO Mid-term meeting. As there was no physical mid-term meeting in 2020, the budget was not spent. The Statement of Accounts is at Annex.

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

- 5.1 The Regional Office attended the IFLA Management of Library Association Section's first webinar series on "Library Map of the World: Engagement for Advocacy". The webinar discussed the importance of the IFLA Library Map of the World as an advocacy tool and platform in providing access to SDG stories. The full recording of this webinar session is available at <https://youtu.be/rU9AgSi6I50>.

6 IFLA Extraordinary General Assembly on 12 February 2021 in Melbourne

- 6.1 The Regional Office assisted the IFLA HQ to contact the Asia and Oceania Association's Representatives and encouraged them to submit their completed proxy forms to the Extraordinary General Assembly (EOGA) on 12 February 2021 in Melbourne, Australia to support the changes in the new Statutes that would give the Federation the structures and tools to deliver a more inclusive, effective and transparency organisation. At the EOGA, members gave their strong endorsements for the changes in the new IFLA Statutes.

7 RSCAO Quarterly E-Newsletter

- 7.1 The November issue of the e-newsletter was published and disseminated to IFLA HQ and Members in the region. It featured the Leaders' Conversations on Libraries in the Post-COVID world and highlighted some key and interesting points raised by the library leaders of the participating National, Public and Academic Libraries. In the issue, Stephen Wyber discussed the association's position on the role of libraries in supporting the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. We also featured the survey by the State Library of New south Wales, Australia on how public libraries across the state have adapted and innovated in response to the challenges that arose from the COVID-19 pandemic. Other highlights include the launched of a children's book subscription service by the National Library Board, Singapore that allows library users to get a monthly doorstep delivery of eight curated books; and Persatuan Pustakawan Malaysia envisions to be a leader of excellence in development, promotion and support of Malaysian libraries and information professionals and institutions in the global knowledge industry. The e-newsletter is available on <https://www.ifla.org/node/93527>.

8 Leaders' Conversations: Libraries in the Post-COVID-19 World

- 8.1 The IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania and the National Library Board, Singapore, launched the first ever series of three Leaders' Conversations on Libraries in the Post-COVID-19 World. It is a global digital platform where library leaders share insights on developments in their libraries. The first series with leaders of National Libraries held on 18 September 2020 was to share COVID-19 experiences with special attention to libraries' post-COVID-19 plans. The three broad categories were a) Initial efforts i.e. COVID-19 experience, b) What they are doing now e.g. reopening libraries experience, and c) Their Future Plans i.e. post COVID-19 and the new normalcy. This was followed by subsequent two sessions with the Public Libraries and Academic Libraries on 29 September and 16 October 2020 respectively that shifted focus to a) How libraries responded to the COVID-19 pandemic? b) What are your thoughts on the future of Digital services, Physical libraries, Funding for libraries and our relevance to stakeholder, and Services to communities at risk in the post-COVID-19 world?
- 8.2 The videos on the Leaders' Conversations: Libraries in the Post-COVID-19 World are available on RSCAO's Facebook page and YouTube (<https://youtu.be/HNajN2Qhfk4> and <https://youtu.be/uCnrAnsHGtl>).

9 Book Donations

- 9.1 RO collaborated with the National Library Board Singapore to donate 1,000 pre-loved library children English books to the National Library of Laos with assistance of the Mekong Group. It also worked with the Tanoto Foundation to deliver 12,000 pre-loved library children books to libraries in Indonesia.

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

IFLA Budget allocation for Mid-term Meeting 2021¹ €5,500

Note:

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

Soh Lin Li

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Regional Office for Asia and Oceania

Date: _____

Tina Yang

Section Chair
Regional Standing Committee for
Asia and Oceania

Date: _____