



**Minutes of Government Libraries Section –  
Standing Committee I  
17<sup>th</sup> August 2013 , Singapore**

**Present:** Sanjay K Bihani - Secretary/Chair elect (India), Anoja Fernando Secretary-elect (UK), Jerry W. Mansfield (USA - member), Beacher Wiggins (USA - Member), Inger Jepsson (Sweden - Member), Maria Goeckeritz (Germany - Member), Pavel Kiselev (Russia - Member), Jérôme Fronty (France – Corresponding member)

**Apologies:** Miguel Navas Fernández, Chair(Spain), Guillermo García-Capcha

**Guests Present:** Reyna Josvah Rabiaza (Madagascar), Dan Dano A Lawly (Niger)  
James Church (USA), Dr Satendra Singh Dhaka (India)

1. Welcome: Chair-elect Sanjay Bihani welcomed the Standing Committee members and guests to the meeting on behalf of the Chair Miguel Navas Fernández. Sanjay assured everyone that he had been in regular contact with Miguel before IFLA and, therefore, wished to convey their collective views to the Committee and guests present. Jerry offered a vote of thanks and appreciation to both Miguel and Guillermo García-Capcha for their official contributions to the success of the Government Libraries Section. The Committee recorded agreement.
2. Agenda: The agenda was accepted and the meeting commenced.
3. Minutes of the previous meeting: Minutes from IFLA Helsinki accepted.
4. Report from Chair: Sanjay read the Chair's report on behalf of Miguel Navas-Fernández. Miguel confirmed that sadly this was his last meeting as Chair. He paid tribute to GLS colleague Maija Jussiliainen who passed away during the last year. He confirmed that the Helsinki sessions were successful and attended not only by members but by some other IFLA attendees who were interested in GLS sections. Two projects were agreed during the year. Firstly to collate an international online directory for government libraries and secondly to use this as a tool to strengthen the government libraries community to get to know each other better and to maintain a world report on government libraries. Nevertheless, the projects did not receive either funding or logistical help from IFLA and therefore, both projects were aborted. Miguel, had worked hard with colleagues to make sessions in Singapore more interesting. Apart from the GLS own programme, "Government libraries as voices for

open government”, GLS also co-sponsored “Open access to Official and authenticated legal information in Asia” and “Information or development action: governments, civil society and libraries” by working with our traditional collaborators, Law Libraries, Library Research Services for Parliaments and Government Information and Official Publications sections. All information is available at <http://www.ifla.org/government-libraries/conferences>

Miguel indicated that our Guidelines were now available in English, Spanish, French, Russian, Japanese, German, Catalan and Hindi, and also, Arabic & Chinese. It is one of the IFLA guidelines that have been most translated.

Miguel confirmed that our Standing Committee members have been changing. Some are leaving (Lamine Camara, Mika Lawler, Pierre-Alain Tilliette), some staying (Ursula-Maria Goeckeritz, Margarita García-Moreno, Jerry W. Mansfield, Beacher Wiggins, Elina Kähö, Emma Voskanyan), renewing (María del Carmen Díez Hoyo, Anoja Fernando, Inger Jepsson) or becoming new officers (Sanjay K. Bihani new Chair, Anoja Fernando new Secretary, and Guillermo García-Capcha renewing as Information Coordinator).

He sent his best wishes to Singapore and welcomed hearing from everyone.

5. Report from Secretary: Sanjay informed that he closely worked with Chair Miguel and Information Coordinator Guillermo for all kind of activities of section including various decisions taken in the last year. The communication was excellent and it was really nice to work with Miguel and Guillermo. We also took help and guidance from Jerry from time to time and he was a real help in some of the issues of the section.
6. Report from Information Coordinator: Guillermo sent greetings, indicating Election year conferences are happy occasions as well as sad ones in that at the outset, each IFLA Section greets and welcomes its newly elected members and at conference-end, each Section thanks and says farewell to those who have served their four or eight years.

He indicated the changes were taking place during the IFLA congress in Singapore.

Following an election period, a new Chair, Secretary/Treasurer and Information Coordinator/Web editor were elected during elections in June/July 2013. They are:

Sanjay K. Bihani (India) – Chair

Anoja Fernando (United Kingdom) – Secretary/Treasurer

Guillermo García Capcha (Peru) – Information Coordinator.

The members leaving the Section due to the end of their terms were thanked for their support and collaboration. They are:

Lamine Carama (Mali)

Mika Lawler (Japan)

Pierre-Alain Tilliette (France)

7. Election of New Member and Officers 2013-15: The process was conducted, concluded and results announced via email by the Chair, Miguel Navas Fernández. Sanjay assured the Committee that the process was in line with IFLA guidelines.
8. Strategic Plan 2013-15: The Committee agreed to adopt in full the objectives as laid before the meeting by Jerry W. Mansfield. This document is already available on the Government Libraries Section website.

At this point, a guest from Madagascar requested guidance on promoting and raising the profile of her library. Several Committee Members highlighted lessons learned from their own experiences, e.g. how to encourage customer participation via one-to-many informal invitations to attend presentations/gatherings and how to achieve economies of scale, in particular with purchasing and thereby, demonstrate/highlight added-value to Senior Management. Considered views were generated and the guest found these extremely helpful. Training was another issue of concern to the colleague from Madagascar. Again, many ideas were put forward and taken on board.

9. Finance: The administrative budget of Euro 300 is available to the section and it was discussed and decided to incur some expenditure on gifts for the speakers as per IFLA policy and guidelines during this conference.
10. Projects: The project plans submitted during the previous year had not been successful. Following a lengthy discussion, the committee agreed to look towards different projects which, in particular, chimed closely with the current IFLA Initiatives.
11. Singapore Conference Programme: Sanjay reminded the Committee that the Government Libraries Section was involved in two sessions at Conference and urged members to attend these sessions. The 1<sup>st</sup> is a joint session with Law Libraries, Government Libraries, Library and Research Services for Parliaments on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August - "Open Access to official and authenticated legal information in Asia." The 2<sup>nd</sup> is a joint session of Government Libraries with Law Libraries, Government information and Official Publications. Sanjay thanked the Committee members who had extended support by reading papers to support the speakers and make the sessions successful.

*Minutes prepared by Anoja Fernando*