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IFLA Chinese Language Centre established

In February 2009 the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the National Library of China (NLC) in Beijing signed a cooperation agreement by which NLC received a status of IFLA Chinese Language Centre. It can now be seen as a permanent representative of IFLA/HQ for the Chinese speaking community, as well as the other way around: it is hoped that IFLA/HQ will get improved access to Chinese speaking library and information professionals.

The IFLA Chinese Language Centre will promote IFLA, support IFLA’s Asia and Oceania Section as well as other relevant IFLA professional bodies and liaise with IFLA/HQ. Among the priorities of the Centre are:

1. Active membership recruitment. This will be conducted with the help of national or other association members and/or national libraries. Institutions and associations (including specialist and state associations) within the Chinese language community will be actively encouraged to join IFLA.
2. (Co-) organising regional IFLA events. These will be co-organised with IFLA/HQ, and/or with IFLA professional units (Sections and Core Activities). This activity includes seeking sources for funding of IFLA projects.
3. Seek involvement in local or regional professional events to gain support within the Chinese language community, trying to get IFLA “branding” of local or regional events.
4. Contribute to more effective communication within the Chinese language community and with the IFLA bodies involved. These activities include the publication of newsletters, translations of key IFLA documents and publications and the production of a Chinese translation of IFLA Express during IFLA’s annual congresses.
5. Representing IFLA in the Chinese language community, in a pursuit to make IFLA more visible in that community, promoting IFLA goals, principles and core values.
6. Translation of key IFLA documents, guidelines, press-releases, papers prepared for the Assembly Meetings etc.
Chinese Language Volunteers of IFLA Express

The IFLA Chinese Language Centre recruited Chinese language volunteers and set up the Chinese volunteer group of IFLA Express in March 2009. The group is made up of five vibrant young librarians from different departments of the National Library of China, namely, Zhang Leilei, Lei Liang, Zhao Dandan, Song Lirong and Mao Rui.

Chinese language volunteers of IFLA Express take charge of the translation of IFLA Express, aiming at keeping the Chinese speaking library and information professionals informed of the latest news of IFLA’s annual conferences. With strong team spirit, the group has so far completed the translation of the first issue of IFLA Express 2009. It will keep on working with efficiency and teamwork to provide prompt access to IFLA Express and to make the Chinese version of IFLA Express attractive scenery.

Colleagues’ Congratulations

Alex Byrne, Former President of IFLA: This is wonderful news! Please let me congratulate the National Library of China and IFLA on this tremendous development which will significantly extend the multilingual capabilities of IFLA. It will help to fulfil the promise of the decision taken to extend IFLA’s working languages to include all of the languages used in the United Nations system. And, of greatest importance, it will open up IFLA to so many colleagues in the People’s Republic as well as those in many other countries who use Chinese, encouraging professional dialogue across the world.
Chinese Language SI Volunteers for the 75th IFLA General Conference and Assembly

The IFLA Chinese Language Center has recruited five volunteers to join the Chinese-English Simultaneous Interpretation (SI) Team for the 75th IFLA General Conference and Assembly. Established in March 2009, the Team includes XU Xu, LI Yingxue, WANG Liang and CHEN Ning with the National Library of China, and FENG Jieyin from the Shanghai Library.

To offer higher quality SI services to the audience and to facilitate Chinese delegates’ participation in IFLA meetings, the SI team has made a detailed training plan, which covers both intensive training sessions and self-study assignments. It is believed that, with the concerted efforts of SI volunteers, the Chinese-English SI team will make new progress at the 75th IFLA General Conference and Assembly.

Colleagues’ Congratulations

Gary E. Strong, Former GB member of IFLA, University Librarian of UCLA: Please let me add my personal congratulations. This is something that I worked very hard for as you know when I was on the IFLA Board. I am only sorry that it took so long. You will do a very good job with it.
A Spiritual Haven over the Ruins  
—Sichuan Libraries: After the May 12 Wenchuan Earthquake

One year has passed since the devastating Wenchuan earthquake jolted the entire world, leaving ten of thousands of people dead or missing throughout Sichuan Province alone. Communication and traffic were flung into extreme disarray, with cities and villages overwhelmed under rubble. Nothing was left unaffected.

Struck by the tragedy, almost all the libraries in the area were affected, with some even totally destroyed. Bookshelves and books were damaged or buried under the rubble. As with other people at the scene, librarians were struck hard or even left homeless, having to face the destruction throughout their towns as well. Yet our librarians have proven their great mettle! Their first resolve was to restore library services over the ruins. Long before even the reconstruction of their own physical homes, they rebuilt spiritual homes, creating a true “haven for the spirit”! Their actions were supported and helped along by countless colleagues, both at home and abroad.

This book records the unique history of Sichuan libraries over this past one year, honoring the spirit of our librarians. And it is offered to celebrate the unremitting dedication of all those working for our libraries in overcoming the disaster and will also be presented to the International Federation of Library Associations, at the 75th IFLA General Conference and Assembly to be held in Milan, Italy, in August 2009.

This book is the result of encouragement from Dr. Claudia Lux, president of the IFLA, and the support and assistance of the Secretariat of the Library Society of China and the IFLA Chinese Language Center.
Public Libraries, Archives and Museums: Trends in Collaboration and Cooperation

According to the request of IFLA Public Library Section, the Chinese Language Center was working on the translation of report Public Libraries, Archives and Museums: Trends in Collaboration and Cooperation and this report has already been put on the IFLA website.

This report examines the recent trends in collaboration and cooperation between public libraries, archives and museums. In many cases, the shared or similar missions of the institutions reviewed make them ideal partners in collaborative ventures. Different types of collaborative projects are examined, including exhibits, community programs, digital resources and joint-use facilities. Examples come from Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom (UK), as well as from Russia, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Italy, Spain, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. The report concludes with a guide to collaborations, including examples of best practices in the field, a guide to a successful collaboration, a discussion of the benefit and risks of collaboration, and a list of resources consulted.
Chinese Colleagues to WLIC 2009

On August 23-27, the 75th IFLA General Conference and Assembly will be held in Milan, and the theme is “Libraries create futures: Building on cultural heritage”. According to the statistics of Library Society of China, more than 150 Chinese mainland colleagues will take part in this conference.

In recent years, with the development of the Chinese Librarianship, more and more Chinese colleagues get involved in the activities of IFLA. During this conference, about 10 Chinese colleagues will speak on the different sessions and 5 posters will be shown on the poster sessions.

IFLA Library Study Network Group visits NLC

On March 25, 2009, the IFLA Library Study Network Group visited the National Library of China, which includes: Mr. Henk Das, CEO, NBD/Biblion, Leidschendam, Mr. Wilco de Gier, director, product development and ICT, NBD/Biblion, Leidschendam, Mr. Mogens Brabrand Jensen, CEO, DBC Ltd, Copenhagen, Mrs. Heddi Mortensen, director, market and business development, DBC Ltd, Copenhagen, Mrs. Khor Su Min, information resource manager, Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS), Singapore, Mr. Lim Kok Eng, manager, Queenstown Public Library and Mobile Library Services, National Library Board, Singapore.

According to the group’s interests, the IFLA Chinese Language Center organize a discussion meeting between the NLC colleagues and the group. The discussion is focused on the library technologies, library services in digital era, etc. After the discussion, the group visited the new building of the National Library of China.