

IFLA/FAIFE Programme

The 65th IFLA Council and General Conference was held at BITEC (Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Center, 8 Bagna Trad Road (Km 1), Prakanong, Bangna, Bangkok, Thailand.

Sunday, 22 August

09.00-11.00

70. IFLA/FAIFE Committee Business meeting

The IFLA/FAIFE Committee held two business meetings in Bangkok on Sunday the 22th and on Thursday the 26th of August. The major issues were: Office report, Action plan, Draft world report, Committee membership, Special cases, IFLA/FAIFE at IFLA conferences, and the Jerusalem conference.

12.30-16.30

77. IFLA Council

"Report to IFLA Council on IFLA/FAIFE 1998-99"

Presented by Alex Byrne, Chair of the IFLA/FAIFE Committee

Monday, 23 August

12.00-12.50

93. IFLA/FAIFE Guest Lecture

The traditional IF Guest Lecture was titled, "*The Right to Life - Intellectual Freedom: The Need for a Deep Dialogue between East and West*" and was given by Mr. Basil Fernando, Executive Director of Asian Human Rights Commission and Asian Legal Resource Centre. The Commission - based in Hong Kong - is a well known human rights organisation, working throughout Asia for promotion of human rights - civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights. Mr. Fernando is an Attorney at Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka and a former Senior UN Officer. He is an author of several books and articles and an editor of *Human Rights SOLIDARITY*, a monthly publication as well as a well-known Sri Lankan poet, writing in English Language. His lecture was attended by more than 150 persons and animated several questions from the audience.

Wednesday, 25 August

09.00-11.20

134. IFLA/FAIFE Open Session

The Open session took place in one of the major conference halls with an attendance of around 175 delegates. The major feature was a paper: "*Internet Filters: Library Access Issues in a Cyberspace World*" by Alvin Schrader, Director at the University of Alberta School of Library and Information Studies, Edmonton, Canada. The session attracted great interest and a lively discussion.

Thursday, 26 August

09.00-13.00

152. IFLA/FAIFE / RTMLA Workshop

In co-operation with IFLA's Round Table of Management of Library Associations (RTMLA), IFLA/FAIFE conducted a workshop - with a total of 60 participants - on the theme "*Library Associations and Intellectual Freedom*". IFLA/FAIFE Committee members provided introductions to the discussion by giving examples of the IF

situation in their countries, respectively:

- *Alex Byrne*, Pro Vice-chancellor at Northern Territory University, Australia, and chair of the IFLA/FAIFE Committee
- *Russell Bowden*, Honorary Professor and Consultant, Sri Lanka
- *Alexandra Horvat*, Associate Professor at the Department of Information Sciences, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Zagreb, Croatia
- *Yasuyo Inouye*, Associate Professor at Kyoto University of Foreign Studies, Japan
- *Driden Kunaka*, National Chairman of Zimbabwe Library Association

In the following debate the importance for the library associations in taking on an active role in the IF area was underlined. Hereby two achievements could be reached, firstly a promotion of the library and intellectual freedom issue as such, and secondly getting the Freedom of Expression Organisations to realise that library associations and libraries are possible partners.

14.00-17.00

171a. IFLA/FAIFE Committee Business meeting