

IFLA EXPRESS 2

Important Information on the 65th IFLA Council and General Conference

Theme : On the Threshold of the 21st Century : Libraries as Gateways to an Enlightened World.

Sub-Themes : Strengthening the Gateways; Assuring the Quality of Information; Networking for "Quality of Life"

Dates : 20-28 August 1999

Venue :

Bangkok International Trade
and Exhibition Centre - BITEC
8 Bangna-Trad Road Km. 1
Prakanong, Bangna
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E-mail : roelv@bitec.net.
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Conference Secretariat :

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IFLA Web-site : www.ifla.org

Exhibition Organizer :

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attention Mr. Marc de Vries or
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Keynote Speaker and Guest Speakers from Thailand

**HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS
MAHA CHAKRI SIRINDHORN**

Keynote Speaker on the Conference Opening Session

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn was born on April 2, 1955 in Bangkok as the third child of Their Majesties King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit of Thailand.

HRH the Princess graduated with a BA (First Class Honours) degree in history from Chulalongkorn University, an MA degree in oriental epigraphy from Silpakorn University, an MA degree in Pali-Sanskrit from Chulalongkorn University, and a Doctoral of Education degree in development education from Srinakharinwirot University.

She is a scholar who has a keen interest in a wide variety of subjects. In addition to formal university programs, she has taken special courses in remote sensing, nutrition, surveying, and Thai classical music and dance.

HRH the Princess has spent her academic career as a lecturer in several subject areas of social sciences at a number of leading universities and institutes. She has also graciously presided over national and international seminars and workshops to share her expertise. Her papers and keynote addresses on numerous topics include *Application of Satellite Data*, *Geography in Daily Life*, *Agricultural Education for School Children*, *My Experiences in Community Development in Thailand*, *Educational Options for the Future of Thailand*, and *Food and Nutrition: A basic Human Right*.

Her academic interest also includes library, information, and literacy activities. HRH graciously took the Thai Library Association (TLA) under her patronage, and constantly presides over the TLA's annual conference. In 1986, HRH attended a workshop on Geographical Information Systems at the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok. In 1988, she was invited by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) to serve as a Member of the Selection Committee for the Hans Christian Andersen Prize.

HRH the Princess expresses her wish "Let's join in making a literate world" through library projects. With gracious permission from HRH who celebrated her 36th birthday that year, the Department of Non-formal Education, in 1992, launched a nationwide campaign inviting the public to support the establishment of rural public libraries named Chalmrajgumari Public Libraries to commemorate the auspicious occasion. The campaign received an overwhelming response from the public. Up to present, over 70 libraries have been established, and 64 of them have been inaugurated by HRH. HRH takes her personal interest to see that these libraries are well maintained and provided.

She is also an avid reader and prolific writer. Her publications include theses, travel to various countries, research papers, literary work, children's books, prose and poetry. To date approximately 70 titles of her work have been published.

The recipient of a number of honorary degrees, honorary membership and awards, HRH has also held a number of decorations, both Thai and foreign.

MR. ANAND PANYARACHUN

Chairman of Saha-Union Public Co., Ltd., Former Prime Minister of Thailand, and Past Chairman of the Federation of Thai Industries

Mr. Anand Panyarachun was born in 1932 in Bangkok and graduated with a B.A (Honours) degree in law from Trinity College, University of Cambridge in 1955.

His first career spanned twenty three years in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during which he was Ambassador to Canada, the United Nations, the United States, and the Federal Republic of Germany, and the Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations.

In the following thirteen years, after his retirement from civil service, he was Chairman and Director of a number of companies within the Saha-Union Group. In January 1991 he was elected Chairman of Saha-Union Public Co., Ltd. Between 1990 to 1991, he served as Chairman of the Federation of Thai Industries.

He resigned from all business positions in March 1991 when he accepted the Prime Ministership. After serving as Prime Minister of Thailand twice from 2 March 1991 to 21 April 1992 and from 10 June 1992 to October 1992, he resumed the Chairmanship of Saha-Union Public Co., Ltd. in November 1992

He is currently a member of the Advisory Council of SASIN Graduate Institute of Business Administration of Chulalongkorn University, the Board of Trustees of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Chairman of the Cambridge Thai Foundation, and Chairman of University Council of Asia University of Science and Technology.

He has since June 1992 served as Chairman of Thailand Development Research Institute Foundation (TDRI), Chairman of the Council of Trustees of Thailand Environment Institute (TEI) since April 1993, and Chairman of Thailand Business Council for Sustainable Development (TBCSD) since October 1993.

In January 1997, he was elected Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution Drafting Assembly, and Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee of the Constitution Drafting Assembly in May 1997.

He was appointed as a member of the Advisory Board, National Social Policy Committee in June 1998, and Chairman of the National Commission for the Formulation of Policy and Action Plan on Human Rights in July 1998. In addition, he has served on a number of committees and advisory boards of international organizations and companies.

Recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Government Service, Mr. Anand Panyarachun was also awarded a number of honorary degrees from universities and institutes, both in Thailand and abroad as well as a number of decorations, both Thai and foreign.

He is married to M.R. Sodsee Chakrabandh and has two daughters.

Mr. Anand Panyarachun will be the guest speaker on Tuesday 24 August, on “Reaching the Information Gateways : An Unfinished Task”

MR. ABHISIT VEJAJIVA

***Democrat MP and
Prime Minister’s Office Minister***

Abhisit Vejjajiva was born in 1964 in U.K. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree (first class honours) in philosophy, politics and economics and a Master's degree in economics from Oxford University. He also received his Bachelor's degree in law from Ramkhamhaeng University, Thailand.

After graduation, he taught economics at Thammasat University and Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy. He started his career in politics as Democrat MP for Bangkok, a seat he has maintained up to present. He has since 1995 served as Democrat spokesman, Government spokesman, Deputy-Secretary to the Prime Minister for Political Affairs, and Chairman of the House Education Affairs Committee within the Parliament. Currently, he is Minister to the Prime Minister's Office, and Vice-President of the Democratic Party.

Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva is married to the dentist Pimpen Sakuntabhai. They have two children.

Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva will be the guest speaker on "Library Network in a Learning Society" on Friday 27 August.

News from the IFLA'99 Secretariat

Since March 1999 the IFLA'99 Secretariat has been very lively and flooded with Registration Forms, and requests for the official invitation letters through e-mail and fax. The Secretariat personnel work late in the day and during weekends to complete the task in time. In spite of all the demands and pressures, everybody is happy and eager to welcome our friends from all over the world.

In the Final Announcement we said that shuttle transport between the hotels and the conference centre BITEC will be arranged at a minimum charge. We are now very pleased to announce that, by the generous financial contribution from OCLC we will be able to provide shuttle bus services free of charge for the participants who stay at IFLA'99 official hotels, from Friday 20 - Saturday 28 August 1999. There are still more rooms available at our selected hotels who have generously agreed to offer specially reduced rates and best facilities in the spirit of celebrating the 72nd anniversary of IFLA, and welcoming the library and information professional from IFLA member countries. If you are making arrangements with your group tour company, please advise them to reserve one of our cost-effective hotels.

BITEC, the conference centre is located on the east part of Bangkok, right on the first kilometer of Bangna-Trad road which runs straight to the Gulf of Thailand, through sea-side resort towns and cities such as Bangsaen, Bangpoo, Sriracha, Laem Chabang, Sattaheep and the renowned Pattaya. Within the surroundings of BITEC there are large department stores, best hotels, restaurants, amusement centres, jewelry factories, golf and country clubs. BITEC itself is a bright and attractive building of extra-modern architecture style, well equipped with international conference and exhibition facilities. It is like a white and amazing island amidst a vast and spacious parking area. It captures your eyes and you will recognize it immediately.

Thailand, in the year 1999, is the most auspicious year because it is the 72nd birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Aduldej, the Royal Patron of the IFLA'99 conference. For the Thai and some Asian peoples, the 72nd birthday, or the completion time of the sixth cycle of 12 solar years, is considered the most auspicious time. Thai people

are celebrating this very important occasion. The main street leading from King Chulalongkorn Memorial Place to the Royal Place near the bank of Choa Phraya River is specially decorated. The years 1998-1999 are also the visiting Thailand years. Bangkok and some attractive cities are packed with tourists from all over the world. The most popular cultural and historical sites are already included in IFLA'99 sight-seeing visits on Saturday 28 August.

The IFLA'99 is highly honoured and given special privilege by H.R.H. Princess Maka Chakri Sirindhorn who has kindly accepted the invitation to officiate the Open Session and to deliver keynote speech. She is an outstanding scholar in education, information and computer technology, archaeology, literature and culture in general. She is the Royal Patron of the Thai Library Association, a great supporter of library development, and book production. A prolific writer, poet and painter, she has written many books and articles and painted many pictures. Her visits to libraries publishing houses and bookshops abroad are quite extensive. Her curriculum vitae is included in this issue of IFLA Express.

Two guest speakers from Thailand are Mr. Anand Punyarachun, former Prime Minister, an outstanding scholar in business administration, very successful in diplomatic and public administration career, internationally renowned. He is a great supporter of library development in Thailand, especially the National Library. The topic of his lecture is "Reaching the Information Gateway : an Unfinished Task". Another guest speaker, Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, Minister of the Prime Minister Office, is a great supporter of book production and reading promotion. He will speak on "Library Network in a Learning Society"

Up to 20 May 1999, there are 1183 registrants from 90 countries.

The Thai library and information professionals are eagerly looking forward to welcoming our friends to this thought - provoking, stimulating and memorable conference. See you then in Bangkok.

IFLA'99 Conference Secretariat

IFLA'99 Conference Secretariat is situated at the Headquarters Building of Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts. SPAFA, which is one of the autonomous centres under the auspices of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization - SEAMEO. The SEAMEO SPAFA's mission is to promote professional competence, awareness and preservation of Southeast Asia cultural heritage in the fields of archaeology and fine arts. The main activities are training courses, workshops, seminars researches and library and information services. Its publications include SPAFA Journal, proceedings of seminars and workshops.

SEAMEO - SPAFA member countries are 10 countries in Southeast Asia. Its associate member countries are Australia, Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, Republic of France, New Zealand and The Netherlands. The Centre co-ordinates and collaborates with countries, regional and international organizations, and academic institutions to achieve common goals and objectives.

NUMBERS

1	Neung	2	Song
3	Sam	4	Si
5	Ha	6	Hok
7	Jet	8	Paet
9	Kao	10	Sip
15	Sip-ha	20	Yi-sip
50	Ha-sip	100	Neung-roi
150	Neung-roi-ha-sip	200	Song-roi
500	Ha-roi	1,000	Neung-phan
10,000	Neung-mun	100,000	Neung-saen
1,000,000	Neung-lan		

General Information

IFLA'99 Official Airline

Thai Airways International (THAI), is the IFLA'99 Official Carrier. Thai online offices are located in the capitals and large cities all over the world. THAI is prepared to offer special airfare to the conference participants. Please contact your nearest THAI Office.

Arrival at Bangkok Airport

At Bangkok (Don Muang) Airport, there will be two IFLA'99 Reception Desks, one at each terminal arrival halls. The Welcome and Welfare Committee members will meet the participants at the baggage clearing areas and conduct them to the hotel.

Participants are kindly requested to notify the Secretariat their flight details well in advance.

The charge for transportation services, going to any hotels, is US\$ 9 per person, please pay cash on the bus.

Visa Entry and Letters of Invitation

For some countries a visa entry into Thailand is required. Please contact the Royal Thai Embassy in your country. For countries where there are no diplomatic relations, please inquire the travel agency, or consulate. In case of doubt, please write to the IFLA Secretariat for relevant information.

An official letter of invitation will be sent to participants on request. This will facilitate the request for visa entry.

Bank and Currency

The opening hours of banks in Bangkok are 9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. At Bangkok Airport there are branches of some banks. Currency exchange is also possible in the hotels. Credit cards are widely accepted at all major hotels, restaurants and shops. The basic monetary unit of Thailand is the baht. A baht is divided into 100 satang. There are notes for 10, 20, 50, 100, 500 and 1,000 baht. There are coins for 25 and 50 satang; and also for 1, 5 and 10 baht.

Registration Information

To avoid problems in fund transfer, after the 1st of August, 1999 please do not send the registration fee by bank transfer or bank cheque or credit card. The participants are kindly requested to pay fees on site.

Registration Desk

Registration for the IFLA'99 onsite will start on Saturday, 21 August 1999 at BITEC
- The Conference centre

Registration Desk Opening Hours

- Saturday 21 August -Thursday 26 August, 1999, from 9.00-17.00 hrs.
- Friday 27 August, 1999, from 8.30-12.00 hrs.

Day Registration

One day registrations are available as below :

- The 22nd August : Exhibition opening and reception : US\$ 30
- The 23rd August : Opening session, dinner and cultural performance : US\$ 150
- The 24th , 25th , 26th August : attending sessions : US\$ 100 each day.

Shuttle Bus Services

With the financial contribution of OCLC, participants who reserved the hotels in the Accommodation Information will be provided FREE shuttle bus services from IFLA official hotels to BITEC and BITEC to the hotels.

For those who do not stay at the official hotels. If you want to use the shuttle bus service. Please come to the official hotels to get on the bus. Please notify the Secretariat in advance before 20 July.

Use IFLANET for Up-to-Date Information

For additional advance information about the conference programme and schedules, meetings added, speakers added, and special events scheduled, please remember to check IFLANET at <www.ifla.org>.

SOME USEFUL THAI PHRASES

English	Thai
Good morning, Good afternoon	Sa-wad-di
Good evening, Good night	
Hello, Good-bye	
Mr. / Ms.	Khun
Yes	Chai
No	Mai
Thank you	Khop-khun
I am going to ...	Chan-ja-pai
How much?	Thao-rai
Too expensive	Paeng-pai
Excuse me, Pardon me	Kho-thot
I am sorry	Chan-sia-jai
Very good	Di-mak
Good luck	Chok-di
Understand?	Khao-jai-mai
I don't understand	Chan-mai-
	khao-jai

Changes in Distribution of Conference Papers

Normally, delegates find a full set of conference papers via IFLANET (www.ifla.org) and a CD-ROM in the conference bags along with Booklets 0-8.

At 1999 IFLA, Bangkok, delegates still find a full set of papers via IFLANET and a CD-ROM in their bags. However, there are some changes in Booklet distribution. Only Booklet 0 will be provided in conference bags, Booklet 1-8 will be provided upon request at the paper handling center. We hope that with these changes, we-

delegates, organizers, and all concerned-will help save a large number of trees and protect the environment. So please pick up only the papers you really need.

Also, please use your coupons / vouchers or cash to obtain workshop papers, translated papers, late papers (if any), and extra copies you need at the paper handling center.

Accommodation Information

Revised Hotel Room Rates (US\$ and Thai baht per night)

Due to fluctuation of Thai baht, certain hotels announce the hotel rates in Thai baht and US dollars.

Category	Hotel	Superior		Deluxe		Suite		Deposit
		Single	Twin	Single	Twin	Single	Twin	
A	Shangri-La	\$110	\$120	\$140	\$150	\$220	\$230	\$110
	Royal Orchid Sheraton	-	-	\$100	\$110	\$210	\$220	
	Hilton International	3,500	3,800	3,850	4,150	6,500	6,800	
B	Swissotel	2,900	3,000	3,400	3,900	4,000	4,000	\$80
	Imperial Queens Park	-	-	\$85	\$95	\$160	\$170	
	Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza	3,000	3,000	-	-	-	-	
	Central Plaza	-	-	3,200	3,200	4,500	4,500	
	Montien Riverside	2,800	3,000	\$100	\$110	-	-	
	Novotel Bangna	2,100	2,300	2,500	2,700	3,000	3,300	
C	Royal Princess Srinakarin	\$50	\$55	\$55	\$60	\$75	\$80	\$30
	King Park Avenue	1,000	1,000	-	-	1,500	1,500	
	Collins International House	880	1,100	-	-	-	-	

Category A

1. Shangri-La Hotel

89 Soi Wat Suan Plu
New Road, Bangkok 10500
Tel. (66-2) 2367777
Fax: (66-2) 2368570

2. Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel

2 Captain Bush Lane, Siphya Road
Bangkok 10500
Tel. (66-2) 2370022

Fax: (66-2) 2366320, 2366656

3. Hilton International Hotel

2 Wireless Road, Bangkok 10330
Tel. (66-2) 2530123
Fax: (66-2) 2536509

Category B

1. Swissotel Bangkok

99 Rajdamri Road, Bangkok 10330
Tel. (66-2) 2553410
Fax: (66-2) 2553456

2. Imperial Queens Park

199 Sukhumvit Soi 22, Bangkok 10110
Tel. (66-2) 2619000
Fax: (66-2) 2619549

3. Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza

981 Silom Road, Bangkok 10500
Tel. (66-2) 2384300
Fax: (66-2) 2384950

4. Central Plaza Hotel

1695 Phaholyothin Road,
Bangkok 10900
Tel. (66-2) 5411234
Fax: (66-2) 5411089

5. Montien Riverside Hotel

372 Rama 3 Road, Bangkok 10120
Tel. (66-2) 2922999
Fax: (66-2) 2922831

6. Novotel Bangna Hotel

14/49 Srinakarin Road, Bangkok 10260
Tel. (66-2) 3660505
Fax: (66-2) 3660506

7. Royal Princess Srinakarin Hotel

905 Srinakarin Road, Pravet,
Bangkok 10260
Tel. (66-2) 7218400 ext. 2066
Fax: (66-2) 7218429

Category C

1. King Park Avenue Hotel

9/999 Soi Supapong 3, Srinakarin Road
Opposite Seacon Square, Pravet,
Bangkok 10260
Tel. (66-2) 7481035
Fax: (66-2) 7481059

2. Collins International House

27 South Sathorn Road, Bangkok 10120
Tel. (66-2) 2871900, 2872727
Fax: (66-2) 2871996

Pre-Post Conference Tours

The Organizing Committee has prepared tours at reasonable prices for delegates who wish to take advantage of them and spend some time visiting parts of Thailand before and/or after the Conference.

Code 01 :

3 days PATTAYA PACKAGE

Single : US\$ 230 **Sharing Twin :** US\$ 162

Pattaya has everything for luxurious recreation, including restaurants, nightlife attractions and a variety of water sports. Price includes round-trip coach transfer, first class accommodation with full breakfast and full-day excursion to Coral Island with lunch.

The 1st day, pick up from the hotel lobby at 09:00 a.m.

The 3rd day, leaves from Pattaya at 13:00 hrs.

Note : From Bangkok to Pattaya or vice versa, approximate time is 2:30 hrs.

Code 02 :

3 days CHIANG MAI PACKAGE

Single : US\$ 357 **Sharing Twin :** US\$ 300

Visit Chiang Mai, “Rose of the North”, Thailand’s most charming city. Price includes round-trip air fare between Bangkok and Chiang Mai, airport-hotel transfers and first class hotel (full breakfast included).

Departure flight from Bangkok to Chiang Mai

The 1st flight : TG 100 leaves 07:15 a.m., pick up from the hotel at 05:00 a.m.

The 2nd flight : TG 102 leaves 08:15 a.m., pick up from the hotel at 06:00 a.m.

Return flight from Chiang Mai to Bangkok

The 1st flight : TG 111 leaves 02:15 p.m., pick up from the hotel at 01:00 p.m.

The 2nd flight : TG 113 leaves 03:15 p.m., pick up from the hotel at 02:00 p.m.

Note : Flight time from Bangkok to Chiang Mai or vice versa, is 1.10 hrs.

Code 03 :

3 days PHUKET PACKAGE

Single : US\$ 540 **Sharing Twin :** US\$ 364

Visit Thailand’s largest and richest island, the “Pearl of the South”, and enjoy the sun, sand and sea. Price includes round-trip airfare Bangkok/ Phuket, transfer between airport and hotel, first class accommodation with full breakfast and a full-day excursion to Phang Nga Bay by boat to see the Muslim Still Village, a beautiful grotto and James Bond Island, so called because it was one of the locations for a James Bond film.

Departure flight from Bangkok to Phuket

The 1st flight : TG 203 leaves 08:00 a.m., pick up from hotel at 06:00 a.m.

The 2nd flight : TG 207 leaves 10:00 a.m., pick up from hotel at 08:00 a.m.

Return flight from Phuket to Bangkok

The 1st flight : TG 200 leaves 02:10 p.m., pick up from the hotel at 12:00 noon

The 2nd flight : TG 212 leaves 03:10 p.m., pick up from the hotel at 01:00 p.m.

Note : Flight time from Bangkok to Phuket or vice versa, is 1.15 hrs.

Code 04 :

3 days PHITSANULOK & SUKHOTHAI

Single : US\$ 280 **Sharing Twin :** US\$ 257

A fully escorted overland tour of Phitsanulok, the birth place of King Naresuan the Great and his brother Prince Ekathosarot, which was an important centre for political and strategic reasons from 1590 to 1603 A.D. It was also Thailand's capital during King Boromatrailokanat reign from 1448 to 1488 and was a major recruitment centre when Ayutthaya waged war with Burma.

Departure from Bangkok to Phitsanulok

The 1st day, flight TG 150 leaves 08:00 a.m., pick up from the hotel at 06:00 a.m.

Return from Phitsanulok to Bangkok

The 3rd day, return flight TG 165 leaves at 04:35 p.m.

Note : Flight time from Bangkok to Phitsanulok or vice versa, is 45 minutes.

Code 05 :

3 days NORTH-EAST PACKAGE

Single : US\$ 770 **Shairing Twin :** US\$ 450

This three-day tour offers a unique opportunity to see many Khmer religious monuments in the Northeast of Thailand. The Khmer temple ruins represent one of the world's richest periods of art and culture, when the Khmer Empire reached its zenith in the 11th and 12th centuries A.D. The tour also covers a well known prehistoric of Ban Chiang.

The 1st day, pick up from the hotel lobby at 07:30 a.m., travel by bus.

The 3rd, return flight from Udon Thani, by flight TG 109 leaves at 07:35 p.m.

Note : Flight time from Udon Thani to Bangkok is 1.00 hrs.

Satellite Meetings

In addition to the satellite meetings announced in IFLA Express No.1, two additional meetings have been scheduled.

Management and Marketing Satellite Meeting : Marketing Your Library

The IFLA Section on Management and Marketing is organizing a satellite meeting on "Marketing Your Library" to be held at Srinakharinwirot University, Department of Library and Information Science, Faculty of the Humanities, Bangkok, 19-20 August 1999.

This workshop is designed to be an informal, lively interactive workshop on marketing principles as applied to libraries. Course materials will include reading lists, articles, glossary of terms, exercises and case studies. A marketing workbook is being donated to each participant by the Arthur Wilder Foundation. By the end of the two days, participants will have completed, in class, the essential elements of a library marketing plan. Time will be set aside after each module for exercises and assignments.

This workshop concludes at 13:00 on Friday, 20 August. Registration fee: US\$ 25.00; the workshop will be conducted in English; Registration fee includes: all materials, food and beverage (morning and afternoon breaks, two lunches and the gala dinner); housing is available at the nearby Jade Pavilion Hotel, Sukhumvit 22, Bangkok for US\$ 25.00 per night.

Registration is limited to 50 persons. For more information, a complete brochure and to register contact: Alice Calabrese, The Chicago Library System, 224 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 400, Chicago, Illinois 60604 USA (fax: +(1-312) 3411985; e-mail : calabrese@chilibsys.org).

Library Buildings and Equipment Satellite Meeting, “Library Building in a Changing Environment”

The IFLA Section on Library Buildings and Equipment will organize a satellite meeting in Shanghai, China, 15-19 August 1999. This international conference aims to introduce the major developments of library buildings and to display successful examples. The meeting outline includes :

- Development of library architecture and its future trends
- Socio-economic impact on library buildings and equipment
- Library buildings in a network environment

There will be an exhibition of well-chosen library buildings, and a tour to some recently built local libraries. An excursion to the City of Handzhou for a visit to its new provincial library and places of interest is also included. The registration fee is US\$ 260 before 31 May and US\$ 300 after this date. Registration for accompanying persons is US\$ 130 and US\$ 150 respectively. For more information please contact : Maija Berndtson, Helsinki City Library, POB 128, FIN-00521 Helsinki, Finland (fax: +(358-9) 31085517; e-mail: maija.berndtson@lib.hel.fi) or Marie-Francoise Bisbrouck, Ministere de L’Education nationale, de la Recherche et de la Technologie, Direction des Enseignements superieurs, Sous-Direction des Bibliotheques et de la Documentation, 61-65 rue Dutot 75732 Paris, Cedex 15 France (fax: +(33-1) 55557903; e-mail: marie-francoise.bisbrouck@sup.mesr.fr) or Wu Jianzhong, Shanghai Library, 1555 Huai Zhong Lu, Shanghai 200031, China (fax: +(86-21) 64455006; e-mail: jmwu@libnet.sh.cn).

Pre Conference

Organized as a Satellite meeting of the General Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), Local Organizer: Mahasarakham University, Mahasarakham, Thailand.

“Collecting and Safeguarding Oral Traditions an International Conference”

Topic : UNESCO Memory of the World Program and Oral Tradition; Role of Libraries in Promoting and Preserving Oral Cultures; Children and Literacy; Role of National Libraries in Collecting and Preserving Oral Traditions; Technical Aspects, Care, Bandling, Part I&II; Singapore Oral History Program; Fiji Museum; Vanuaru Cultural Centre; Oral Traditions in South America; Cayman Islands Memory Bank; Oral Tradition in African Libraries; Oral Tradition in Thailand; Arotic Institute OR National Library of Australia; Oral Traditions and Cyberspace.

Venue : Mahasarakham University, Mahasarakham, Thailand

Date : 16-19 August, 1999

IFLA Voting Office

Delegates who wish to vote can obtain the voting papers at the IFLA Voting Office located near the Registration Desks at BITEC. The office will open on Friday, 20 August at 14:00-18:00; Saturday, 21 August 09:00-18:00; and Sunday, 22 August, 09:00-14:00. Voting delegates are kindly requested to present themselves at their earliest convenience at the IFLA Voting Office. Voting papers will only be handed out to delegates who are in possession of the Membership Certificate 1999, duly signed by the appropriate authority. This Membership Certificate has been mailed to all Members which duly paid the contribution for 1999. Members which paid for 1999, but not for the year 1998 are not entitled to vote, unless they are new Members which joined IFLA for the first time in 1999. Any Member which failed to receive the Certificate 1999 after payment of the dues is requested to inform the IFLA Secretariat.

IFLA Statutes and Rules of Procedure

More than 20 years have passed since the last time substantial changes to IFLA's Statutes and Rules of Procedure were made. During this time, the world has experienced significant changes in technology, the speed at which changes occur, the need to respond to these changes, and the globalization of the world in which we live. To address these changes, the Executive Board established a Working Group on the Revisions of the IFLA Statutes and Rules of Procedure. The WG met extensively during the 1998 IFLA Conference, developing both philosophy and recommendations to improve communication and coordination of the Federation's internal and external activities. It presented a draft report to the joint meeting of the Executive and Professional Board held in December 1998. Both Boards unanimously supported the direction proposed by the Working Group. A discussion document was mailed to all Members with the convening notice for Council. This document presents background information and recommendations for discussion during the conference. While formal discussion will occur during a Council meeting, there will be informal hearings scheduled throughout the conference week for you to share your views with members of the Working Group. By the conclusion of the Conference, the Executive Board will ask for a show of the membership's support of the philosophy and recommendations made by the Working Group. Upon receiving this, the Working Group will continue to develop the recommendations by rewriting the Statutes and Rules of Procedure

accordingly. Notices on the scheduling of the Open Hearings will be printed in IFLA Express throughout the conference week.

Grants from the French Committee for IFLA

Grants provided for French speaking librarians, or French librarians to participate in IFLA'99 Conference.

Please contact the French Committee for IFLA

Comité français IFLA - Bibliothèque de l' Université de Paris V-SCD

Direction et administration 49, rue des Saint-Pères 75006 Paris

Présidence : Tel : 33-1-40-26-44

Fax : 33-1-42-21-96-35

Secrétariat : Tel : 33-3-28-23-74-70

Fax : 33-3-28-23-74-79

How to Benefit from an IFLA Conference

How to gain the utmost from your participation in IFLA and the IFLA Conference will be disclosed during the Orientation Session for IFLA Newcomers. Not only first-time attendees and new IFLA Members, but every participant who is curious to learn how IFLA's international network of information professionals is structured and organized is welcome to sit in. The Session will feature a visual introduction to the organization of IFLA's professional programme and a variety of contributions from IFLA Officers. Members and Conference participants who have benefited both professionally and personally from the many opportunities IFLA has to offer them.

The Orientation for IFLA Newcomers will be held on Sunday, 22 August from 09:00 until 10:20 and is listed as meeting number 67 in the Conference Programme book. It will be repeated on Monday, 23 August from 10:30-11:50, listed as meeting number 87. Simultaneous interpretation in all IFLA languages will be provided and there will be ample opportunity for questions and answers.

Thai Libraries in a Nutshell

In Thailand, a country where during its history, great books of the nation were either inscribed on stone slabs or hand-written on palm-leaves, information transfer has passed from oral to hand-writing, to printing; and from physical libraries to virtual libraries. Ninety-four years after the establishment of the National Library in 1905, Thailand has done well enough in preparing itself to enter the information age. The new and challenging role of libraries in Thailand is to facilitate and accelerate the distribution and assimilation of information in the age of high technology.

National Library

Founded in 1905 by combining three libraries previously established by King Rama I and King Rama V, the National Library now houses all the rare and most valuable library materials of the country. It has 14 branches distributed throughout Thailand. It is the national bibliographic centre, the national center for ISBN and ISDS, as well as the Regional Centre for ISDS Southeast Asia. It also serves as the largest public library of the nation as well as the Secretariat of the Thai National Information System-Thai NATIS.

Public Libraries

The Thai people have experienced the access to public information. Cave drawings, temple mural paintings, stone-wall carvings, and stone inscriptions are examples of pictures and texts that were the forerunners of the Thai public libraries. The most renowned of early wall painting is at Wat Srichoom, Sukhotai (13th-14th century A.D.) and the Wall Library at the Temple of the Reclining Buddha in Bangkok. (early 19th century)

In 1916 “the three reading rooms” for the people of Bangkok and one in Songkla province were established. In 1998, there are more than 800 public libraries serving the nation. Among these libraries, seventy two “Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Libraries” were established by the donations of the communities to commemorate the 36th birthday anniversary of the Princess. Public libraries are under the supervision of the Non-formal Education Department, Ministry of Education emphasizing non-formal education and life-long learning via satellite and electronic libraries networking. Six hundred and sixty-two small sized district libraries, municipal libraries, private sector libraries, and mobile metropolitan public libraries, are for vocational and recreational reading. The twenty-five public libraries under the Non-formal Education Department and the “Rachadapisek Library” at Hau Hin (the famous seaside resort) have been under test-run since 1997 for Public and School Library Networking.

Academic Libraries

Academic library holdings in print and electronic forms support university undergraduate curriculums and research needs of post-graduate institutions. The rapid expansion of the country in science and technology has created the need for library automation to manage the ever-increasing library collections. The twenty-four government university libraries all over the country completed phase one of installing a library automation system in 1997, including open public access and on-line access through the Internet. At present they are in the process of the network implementation of Thai Library Integrated System (Thai LIS) for union catalog, digital collection, electronic document delivery and finally, a full-scale electronic library which will increase the efficiency of information resource sharing, and information retrieval and access, locally and internationally, for the benefit of the country.

School Libraries

School libraries have always aimed at nurturing the good reading habits and the natural research skills of the young. Reading promotion activities have been held continuously in school libraries. For these purposes the installing of the School Net Thailand (<http://k12.nectec.or.th/>), the National Computer Network connecting all

schools in the country together academically and socially via the Internet for exchanging and accessing knowledge and information both locally and internationally, enhances self-learning and information skills. The School Net Thailand, under the supervision of the National Electronic and Computer Technology Center (NECTEC) started its first phase operation in 1996, with 999 high- schools from all over Thailand as its participants.

Special Libraries

Having undergone rapid economical and social changes in the last two decades, the country now has about 450 special libraries of various subjects, in Bangkok and nearby provinces, belonging to commercial enterprises, government agencies and various departments in universities. Some are fully automated and accessible through the Internet. Examples of special libraries are the Library of the Science Service Department, Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, the Library and Information Center of the Mineralogy Department, Ministry of Industry, the Library and Information Center of the National Bank of Thailand and Thailand National Documentation Center.

Future Trends

The information infrastructures of the Thai society have been laid layer upon layer, through school libraries and School Net, academic libraries and Thai LIS, and public library network. When these structures are fully completed and function effectively, the Thai society can then enjoy and benefit the fruits of the information age with great success.

Useful Addresses and Calls

Tourist Authority of Thailand (TAT)

- TAT Counter at Bangkok International Airport (8-24 hrs.)
 - Terminal 1 523-8972-3
 - Terminal 2 535-2669
- Offices (8:30-16:30)
 - Ratchadamnoen Nok Avenue 1155 or 282-9773-6
 - Le Concorde Office Building 694-1222 ext.1000-1004
- Tourist Assistance Center 281-5051, 282-1348
- Tourist Police 1155 or 678-6800-9 (24 hrs.)

Immigration Office 287-3101-10

Bangkok International Airport 535-1111

Bangkok Domestic Airport 535-2081-2

Thai Airways International 1566 or
Lan Luang Road 280-0070, 280-0080

Airport Bus 995-1252-4

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