

IFLA PRESIDENT ACCEPTANCE SPEECH AT THE 69TH IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE CLOSING CEREMONY AUGUST 8, 2003

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Twenty years ago, when I attended my first IFLA Conference, in Munich, little did I know then, that I was on the first step on the long, but exhilarating road to the honour, privilege and responsibility of this office, President of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions.



I would like first to accept, with pleasure, the privilege of serving you, the members of the Federation. I commit myself to serve according to the IFLA Statutes. I shall endeavour to uphold IFLA core values and support you, the members, as you strive to apply these in your practice.

I wish to reiterate the commitments I made to you when I campaigned for this office:

I pledge to be a president who facilitates

- ?? communication among the diverse library and information communities;

- ?? understanding between the world of libraries and information communication technology;
- ?? partnership between morally equal but differing levels of library and information services

I shall focus on building global communication that unites the electronic information rich with the oral information rich: two worlds that complement one another in creating an information rich knowledge society regardless of the medium of transmission.



I wish to express my indebtedness and thanks for the support and help received, at various times over the twenty years, from many colleagues and organizations, too many to enumerate individually. I wish, however, to acknowledge, with deep gratitude, the continued support of a select number of people and institutions:

- ?? My families in Botswana and South Africa, but especially my husband Ben. I am

grateful for his long term support and understanding of my commitment to the library and information services profession and IFLA.

I thank, most sincerely



- ?? my parent Institution University of Botswana for the financial support over the years.
- ?? my colleagues at University of Botswana Library and, especially, Dudu Mbaakanyi for her moral support over the years as the deputy who managed well in my absence.
- ?? thank you to IFLA friends, and professional colleagues all over the world who have been, and continue to be, the network that inspires me to give of my very best.

I wish to express my appreciation to the German Foundation for International Development (DSE), the British Council and UNESCO the organizations that enabled me to take the first steps towards the IFLA stage, twenty years ago.

I also acknowledge, with deep gratitude, the Open Society Initiative that enabled me to cope, in various ways, with the steep learning curve in these last eight months.

Last, but not least, I thank the immediate Past President Christine Deschamps; the Secretary General Ross Shimmon, the Governing Board Members and the IFLA HQ Team for their unstinting moral support in my tentative steps as President-Elect.

I now wish to congratulate and welcome Alex Byrne as the new President-Elect and wish him an exciting time as he fashions his own theme. I know he will join me as my Team mate for the good of the Federation.



Colleagues, join us in Council II, where I shall share our hopes for the period 2003 – 2005.

Kay Raseroka

President, IFLA 2003-2005

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