

IFLA Express 8

The final Chapter from Seoul

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Seoul conference very successful!

Again, almost 3000* full time delegates from 124 countries attended the World Library and Information Congress, the 72nd General Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, which was held in Seoul from 20-24 August 2006.

The theme of this year's Congress was *Libraries: Dynamic Engines for the Knowledge Society*

*Due to a new system of definitions statistics are not comparable to previous years and may seem less positive than they actually are.

Country Representation

We are very pleased to announce that South Korea was the country with the largest representation, 1367 delegates, including day visitors and exhibition visitors!

Runners up were:

USA	366
China	233
Japan	228
Russian Fed.	90



Facts and Figures about the conference

2891	Full time delegates	382	Conference Papers
447	Day registrations	226	Papers in English
220	Accompanying persons	72	Papers in French
522	Exhibition visitors	13	Papers in German
194	Volunteers	18	Papers in Russian
931	First timers	42	Papers in Spanish
124	Countries represented	4	Papers in Chinese
34	grantees thanks to generous grants	3	Papers in Korean
424	Speakers and Presenters	4	Papers in Japanese
89	Exhibitors combined to an exhibition of		
1223	square metres		
215	Meetings		
34	Meetings with Simultaneous Interpretation		
85	Poster Sessions		
11	New members joined IFLA		



The Professional Committee, 2005-2006

It has been a tradition for the chair of Professional Committee (PC) to give a report on the activities of the PC. In the past, the chair of the PC gave the report at the end of the term. The practice was recently changed to an annual report.

Background Information

PC is made up of 12 members (Chair, 8 Chairs of Divisions and 3 GB representatives). The term of PC members, like any other IFLA Unit, is two years and the Chair is elected from the outgoing members of the PC.

I was elected chair of the PC at the Oslo IFLA World Library and Information Congress in 2005. Prior to this, I had served as a member of the Africa Section for 8 years during which time I held the position of chair of the Section for 4 years (2001 – 2005). In addition, I served as chair of Division VIII, (2003 – 2005), a position that earned me a place on the Professional Committee as a representative of Division VIII and, hence, a member of the Governing Board. My election as chair of PC marks the first time in the history of IFLA that Division VIII has held the position. This proves the commitment of IFLA to cultural diversity and creating an equal professional platform for all members.

The PC plays an important role of acting as a communication link between IFLA Sections and Governing Board (GB). In particular, PC focuses on facilitating coordination of professional activities of IFLA. The current PC is made up of a group of committed and enthusiastic members with a wealth of experience in IFLA procedures and operations. The Committee has spent a great deal of the past one year working out strategies of improving IFLA professional activities. The main focus has been enhancing communication between various IFLA professional units.

The ushering in of the current PC followed a period of great changes in IFLA, which included the review of Sections, the re-structuring of the congress programme, changes in the management of Administrative Funds among others. In view of this, the current PC has been faced with challenges that include completing the implementation process of many of the changes.

Activities

Congress Programme

With commendable support from IFLA HQ staff, Members of the PC take active participation in the process of streamlining the congress programme to ensure efficient coordination and collaboration, which led to success of the professional activities in the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in

Seoul, August 2006. Greater professionalism and higher quality was displayed in most of the papers presented at various Section forums. The PC encouraged Sections to put up calls for papers to ensure greater participation and fairness in paper presentation. The outcome was encouraging as Sections reported wider interest in paper presentation.

Section Activities

In the last year the PC has paid a lot of attention to encouraging collaboration of Sections in their professional activities and to the quality of the same. As a result, the quality of professional forums at the IFLA congress is increasing. Collaboration of Sections in the congress programmes is becoming more visible and proving to attract high attendance. Many Sections had joint programmes at the Seoul conference. Division I for instance, reported notable collaboration of the Sections with others in other Divisions. Attendance is a good indicator of the quality of a professional forum. Sections should pay more attention to recording attendance to evaluate their programmes at the congress. Sections in Division II for instance reported fairly high attendance, which is an indication of relevance to the needs of the delegates. The impact of technology was also visible in a variety of programmes presented at various professional forums at the congress.

Poster Session

The IFLA World Library and Information Congress continues to attract more applicants for Poster sessions. It is the responsibility of the PC to select Posters for this session based on a selection criteria developed to ensure high quality and relevance to the congress theme. Selected Posters for the Seoul congress were of high professional relevance and attracted many delegates to the session. The winner of the 2006 Best Poster Session Award came from "A Study on the Use of Public Libraries by the Homeless People in Taipei, Taiwan" by Ms Sheue-Fang Song and Ms Hui-Tzu Hung

Newsletters

The quality of Newsletters has greatly improved. IFLA Sections have to be commended for efforts put into improving the quality and currency of Newsletters. It was indeed difficult to select the best newsletter for the Seoul Congress as most of them were of good quality. The prize went to the School Libraries and Resources Centres Section. The PC is encouraging Sections to produce newsletters in electronic form to cut down on cost and facilitate wider distribution. The option of print format on request will be maintained.

Projects

Funds available for projects are never enough to satisfy the demand. This poses a major challenge in selection. This year the PC approved over 20

projects for funding. A system is being put in place for more efficient monitoring and evaluation of project outputs.

Sections and Discussion Groups

PC approved the following requests:

1. University Libraries Section was renamed Academic and Research Libraries
2. Discussion Group on LIS Education in Developing Countries was approved under Division VIII
3. Quality Issues In Libraries Discussion Group's life-span was extended to another term
4. Agricultural Libraries Discussion Group was elevated to a Section

PC Hearing

The PC organized a very successful Hearing at the Seoul congress to give an opportunity to Sections to openly give additional views to the Section reviews particularly on issues touching on the structure of IFLA. This was the first time such a forum has been organized in IFLA and it has been widely supported. The session was an excellent contribution to the way forward on the structure of IFLA. The PC intends to continue with the arrangement at IFLA congress whenever the need arises for such a forum.

The efforts of PC would be fruitless without the humble support of the IFLA HQ staff, particularly Sjoerd Koopman, the coordinator of professional activities and the Secretary General, Peter Lor, who are always ready to listen and facilitate. Many thanks go to the members of the Governing Board for the support and of course nothing could be realized without the support of the PC members. We have not only worked hard as a team but I have been impressed by the enthusiasm with which the members have carried out assignments. For me it has been a wonderful learning process. I look forward to a more fruitful year in 2006/2007.

Jacinta Were
Chair - Professional Committee

Call for Poster Sessions IFLA/WLIC 2007

This year in Seoul there were 85 Posters which combined to a very interesting and well-visited exhibition. The Call for Poster Sessions for the 2007 World Library and Information Congress in Seoul can be found on the IFLA web site:

<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/call-poster-pr2007.htm>

The deadline for proposals is 14 February 2007, be sure to send in your proposal in time!

IFLA/FAIFE World Report 2006

"Libraries and the fight against HIV/AIDS, poverty and corruption" takes up some of the big issues and major challenges facing the world today: the HIV/AIDS pandemic, poverty and corruption. Authors from Africa, Asia, Central America and the Caribbean, and Eastern Europe explore the role and responsibilities of libraries and information services, and how they can contribute to this fight.

The authors advocate the engagement of libraries in strong education efforts, implementation of information laws, awareness of the consequences of poverty and corruption, advocating transparency; and enhancing libraries' position in society; and thus increasing the abilities of libraries' successful participation in the fight for equal opportunities, transparency and better public health. In regard to all three themes, the authors draw our attention to the need to identify new responsibilities and values for the library profession.

The IFLA/FAIFE Theme Report 2006 tries to answer the question of why libraries and information services should place stronger emphasis on issues concerning the condition and constraint of the environment in which they are operating, and by doing so recognize their social responsibilities and their role as advocates of intellectual freedom and equal participation in an inclusive information and knowledge society.

The most important messages are that, libraries do indeed have a commitment to engage in the fight against HIV/AIDS, poverty and corruption; and information access and dissemination is a crucial factor in this fight. Information is the only vaccine that helps prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS; literacy is fundamental to the advancement of peoples' lives, and transparency and access to information are vital factors in the control of corruption. Thus by facilitating freedom of access to information libraries contribute to making the world more equal.

This year's report clearly demonstrates the need for libraries' active involvement and support in the fight against HIV/AIDS, poverty and corruption.

For ordering details, please contact:

Ms Susanne Seidelin, Director, IFLA FAIFE Office,
Copenhagen, Denmark

Tel: +45 3258 6066 ext 532, or +45 32 58 70 77 dial 532,

Fax: +45 32 84 02 01.

Email: susanne.seidelin@ifla.org or sus@db.dk

Website: <http://www.ifla.org/faife/>

IFLA/OCLC Early Career Development Fellowship program 2007

During the Press Conference, Phyllis B. Spies, Vice President, OCLC Collection Management Services announced the IFLA/OCLC Early Career Development Fellows for 2007. They are:

- Mr. Kodjo Elogo Atiso, Librarian, Animal Research Institute, Achimota, Ghana
- Mrs. Alicia Chavarria Esguerra, Instructor/Librarian, Bulacan State University, City of Malolos, Bulacan, Philippines
- Mrs. Pauline Nicholas, Information Specialist, Mona School of Business, University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica
- Mrs. Elisangela Alves Silva, Information Assistant, Abrinq Foundation for the Rights of Children and Adolescents, São Paulo, Brazil
- Ms. Nevena Tomic, Library Manager, Cultural Centre "Students' City," Belgrade, Serbia

The IFLA/OCLC Fellowship supports library and information science professionals from countries with developing economies. The fellowship program, hosted by OCLC at its headquarters in Dublin, Ohio, USA, provides advanced continuing education and exposure to a broad range of issues in information technologies, library operations and global cooperative librarianship. Since the first class arrived in 2001, 28 fellows representing 23 different countries have participated.

For more information see:
<http://www.oclc.org/education/earlycareer/default.htm>

New Members who joined during the WLIC

IFLA welcomes the following new members:

Institutional members

Afghan Parliament Library, Afghanistan
 Centro Memorial Martin Luther King, Cuba
 Centro Nacional de Informacion de Ciencias Medicas, Cuba
 University of Uyo Library, Nigeria

Personal affiliates

Georgios Glossiotis, Greece
 Cho Aye, Myanmar
 Mohamed Isahan, Malaysia
 Ms Nancy Achebe, Nigeria
 Ms Kanwal Ameen, Pakistan
 Ms Reigneth Nyongwana, South Africa

Student affiliates

Mr. Bage, Nigeria

Thank you language teams!

A special thanks to all the language teams who, as in many of the past years, have helped to make the IFLA World Library and Information Congress a truly international event!

Their hard work for the simultaneous interpretation of conference sessions, the translations of conference papers and the translations of IFLA Express are highly appreciated by many of the conference delegates.

*Chinese Korean
 English French Spanish
 German Russian*

Did you enjoy yourself?

Then come to Durban next year!

Ellen Tise, Chair of the Durban National Committee invited all delegates present at the closing ceremony to come to Durban, South Africa next year!

The 2007 conference has the following theme
 "Libraries for the future: Progress, Development and Partnerships" and already rumours promise that it will be another very interesting and exciting conference.

We hope to see you in Durban in 2007!

Please see www.ifla.org for more information.







