

**Meeting Minutes**  
**27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asian and Oceania**  
**(CDNLAO)**  
**21 February, 2019, Singapore**

**Participants**

Australia

**Dr Marie Louise Ayres**

Director-General, National Library of Australia

Bangladesh

**Mr Md Shujayet Ullah**

Director, Directorate of Archives & Libraries

Bhutan

**Dasho Karma Weezir**

Director-General, Department of Culture,  
Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs,  
Thimphu, National Library and Archives of  
Bhutan

**Ms Sonam Yudon**

Dy. Chief Librarian, National Library and  
Archives of Bhutan

**Mr Yeshe Lhendup**

Librarian, National Library and Archives of  
Bhutan

China

**Mr Rao Quan**

Director,  
National Library of China

**Mr Zhang Xu**

Director, International Cooperation Division,  
National Library of China

**Mr Cao Ning**

Director, Digital Resources Department,  
National Library of China

**Mr Hao Jinmin**

Associate Research Librarian, International  
Cooperation Division, National Library of China

Fiji

**Mrs Merewalesi Vueti**

Director, Library Service of Fiji

Indonesia

**Mr Muhammad Syarif Bando**

Director, National Library of Indonesia

**Mrs Woro Titi Haryanti**

Deputy of Library Resource Development,  
National Library of Indonesia

**Mr Irhamni Ali**

Chief Library Data Analyst and Reporting Sub  
Division, National Library of Indonesia

**Mr Arwan Subakti**

Public Relations Staff, National Library of  
Indonesia

**Ms Dewi Kartikasari**

Head, Archive and Administration Sub Division,  
National Library of Indonesia

Iran

**Dr Ashraf Boroujerdi**

Iran President Cultural Advisor & Head of the  
Iran National Library

**Dr Saleh Zamani**

Advisor to Director of National Library of Iran  
for International Affairs

**Ms Hanieh Graeelikorpi**

Director of Public Relations of the Archives and  
National Library of Iran

Japan

**Mr Tadahiko Motoyoshi**

Director-General, Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library

**Mr Norihisa Yoda**

Reference Librarian, Public Service Division, Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library

Korea

**Mr Youngjoo Cho**

Director-General, National Library for Children and Young Adults, Korea

**Ms Hyerin Kim**

Librarian, National Library of Korea

Malaysia

**Dato' Nafisah binte Ahmad**

Director-General, National Library of Malaysia

**Ms Beghum Ulfhat Shehnaaz binti Amir Razali**

Strategic Planning and International Relation Division, National Library of Malaysia

Maldives

**Ms Mahasin Ahmed Didi**

Director-General, National Library of Maldives

**Ms Aminath Shiuna**

Director for Training and Digitisations, National Library of Maldives

Mongolia

**Mr Nyamdorj Batbayar**

Officer in charge of International Cooperation, National Library of Mongolia

Myanmar

**Ms Mya OO**

Director, National Library of Myanmar

New Zealand

**Mr Bill Macnaught**

Chief Librarian, National Library of New Zealand

Papua New Guinea

**Mrs Karina Bundu**

National Librarian, National Library of Papua New Guinea

Philippines

**Mr Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano**

Director IV, National Library of Philippines

Qatar

**Dr Stuart J. Hamilton**

Deputy Executive Director, International Relations and Communications, Qatar National Library

Singapore

**Mrs Elaine Ng**

Chief Executive Officer, National Library Board, Singapore

**Ms Tay Ai Cheng**

Deputy Chief Executive, Chief Librarian, National Library Board, Singapore

**Ms Tan Huism**

Director, National Library, National Library Board, Singapore

**Ms Jennefer Nicholson**

Senior Fellow, Centre for Professional Development (CPD/PMD), National Library Board, Singapore

Thailand

**Mrs Supanee Sukarbjai**

Director, Information Resources Development Group, National Library of Thailand

Vietnam

**Ms Nguyen Ngoc Anh**

Deputy Director, National Library of Viet Nam

**Ms Vu Thi Hong Nga**

Staff, General Administration Division, National Library of Viet Nam

### **Minutes of the Meeting:**

The meeting commenced at 9.00 am and concluded at 12.30 pm. A group photograph was taken prior to the meeting at 8.30 am. A lunch programme, which included a curator's tour of the National Library's exhibition, 'Selling Dreams: Early Advertising in Singapore', and a visit to curated book displays was held from 12.30 pm to 2.30 pm.

#### **1. Welcome remarks by the CEO, National Library Board, Singapore, Mrs Elaine Ng**

Mrs Elaine Ng, CEO, National Library Board (NLB), Singapore, welcomed delegates to the 40th anniversary of the CDNLAO meeting. Mrs Ng noted the continued importance of CDNLAO as a platform for libraries to learn from and share with each other, particularly in today's fast-changing environment. She introduced the theme of the conference, "What is our future? National Libraries in 2040". Mrs Ng noted that the meeting would be a good opportunity for participants to hear views on the future of National Libraries and how some of the strategies could be adopted. She closed her remarks by introducing the Chair, Ms Tan Huism, Director, National Library, National Library Board, Singapore.

#### **2. Opening remarks by the Chair, Ms Tan Huism, Director, National Library, National Library Board, Singapore**

The Chair, Ms Tan Huism, Director, National Library, National Library Board, Singapore, welcomed delegates and invited them to introduce themselves. She informed them that each participant would receive a USB flash drive containing country reports, presentation materials and photographs of the event.

#### **3. Presentations**

Presentations were delivered by the following delegates.

##### **3.1 'Collect, connect, collaborate – What capabilities will we need to fulfil our purpose as Australia's National Library?' by Dr Marie Louise Ayres, Director-General, National Library of Australia**

Dr Ayres gave a brief introduction on the National Library of Australia (NLA) operating within the socio-political context of Australia's robust democracy. She highlighted that about 98 percent of Australians live about 300 km away from the NLA, citing the spread of the population across the large continent. Hence, digital collection and services are essential to engaging the scattered population. Dr Ayres expressed the NLA's mission to Collect, Connect and Collaborate.

The NLA will continue to expand its collection of digital materials, which include personal archives and documentary photography. With this, there is a rapid transition from traditional cataloguing to metadata provided by publishers or creators. Dr Ayres also shared about NLA's collaborative efforts, such as the National eDeposit (NED) and the Australian Web Archive (AWA). Dr Ayres acknowledged that while collaborations can be slow and expensive, and obtaining co-investment is challenging, it is also beneficial in terms of growing the library's collection.

To meet NLA's core mission by 2040, Dr Ayres noted that a broad, diverse workforce, working on high-level strategic policy, and relationship management, including digital strategists and architects, would be needed. To this, she added that NLA does not require library qualifications for their workforce.

### **3.2 'Inherit and Innovate: Long-term Development Plans of National Library of China' by Ms Mao Yajun, Director of Operation Management, National Library of China**

Ms Mao presented on the National Library of China's (NLC) strategic plans of being "greener, smarter and more inclusive", highlighting areas such as eliminating illiteracy, providing communities with diversified information while remaining inclusive, and a deep commitment to promoting libraries. She also shared on the recently enacted Public Library Law in February 2018 and NLC's core mission of "inheriting the culture, serving the society". The strategies covered were: the development of qualitative Chinese memories as well as the world's universal memories, support of national innovation development, promotion of free access to information and knowledge, embarkation of a full-scale library promotion and marketing, and promotion of interlibrary partnerships. Ms Mao highlighted challenges such as funding and partnerships, as well as and the importance of being proactive.

### **3.3 'What is our Future? National Libraries in 2040' by Mrs Woro Titi Haryanti, Deputy of Library Resource Development, National Library of Indonesia on behalf of Muhammad Syarif Bando, Director, National Library of Indonesia**

Mrs Haryanti introduced the geographical-social context and key figures of Indonesia and the National Library of Indonesia (NLI). She highlighted the unique position of NLI as a non-Ministry governmental institution that reported directly to the president. Mrs Haryanti detailed the functions of NLI, such as setting standards for school, public, university and special libraries. She added that there were diverse needs across Indonesia, citing provisions and advice to village libraries. In 2018, e-deposit was included as part of legislation. Mrs Haryanti shared NLI's digital innovations such as mobile apps and open-source library software, INLIS, that is distributed to the libraries. She also highlighted the transformation of social inclusion-based library services. NLI sees itself as a lever in facing challenges for the next 40 years through playing a proactive and advocacy role.

### **3.4 'What is our Future? Contribution to the information infrastructure of Society and Universal Access' by Mr Tadahiko Motoyoshi, Director-General, Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library, Japan**

Mr Motoyoshi shared projections of Japan's population until 2040 and discussed the importance of utilising information to deal with an aging populations and other social challenges as part of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. A 2018 survey on Japanese high school students' reading habits highlighted the need for the library to increase its digital collection and web-based services to engage the younger generation. A selection of

the National Diet Library's (NDL) digital collection has been made accessible at partner libraries.

Mr Motoyoshi explained the collaborative efforts behind the multidisciplinary portal Japan Search, which entails participation from different institutions to enhance data. Construction of a large-scale storage facility is in progress in order to meet changing needs and demands. In an age of shrinking resources, NDL has built up a vibrant and creative organisation in which staff can come up with ideas to make new projects a reality. NDL's mid-term vision for 2020 is to support the Diet, provide universal access, and promote digital archives and larger-scale storage.

### **3.5 'Raising Library and Information Professional Visibility' by Dato' Nafisah binte Ahmad, Director-General, National Library of Malaysia**

Dato' Nafisah extended her appreciation to all who supported the 2018 IFLA Congress in Kuala Lumpur. As a result of hosting IFLA 2018, the National Library of Malaysia (NLM) enjoyed greater support from stakeholders and various partners. Dato' Nafisah highlighted two projects that arose from this: upgrading of infrastructure and the development of uPustaka as a National Information Hub project. She shared about the collaborative efforts of the construction of the Sabah State Library between the private sector and community.

Post-congress developments include developing Malaysian librarians with a passion to serve the community as well as the inclusion of "preservation of heritage and usage of resources" by NLM as part of the ministerial monthly progress report. Dato' Nafisah also announced her upcoming retirement in May 2019.

### **3.6 'National Library Plan Development 2040' By Ms Mya Oo, Director, National Library of Myanmar**

Ms Mya Oo shared that the proposed development plans for the library will be made available on the National Library of Myanmar's website after getting approval by the Ministry. Ms Oo outlined five goals for the Library: collection development, to become a national bibliographic agency, promotion of library services, preservation and conservation of library resources as well as dissemination and promotion of library and information services.

She provided brief descriptions of the strategy and action plan to achieve the goals, which include enacting a National Library Law to improve the effectiveness of Legal Deposit collection; to be a national bibliographic agency; and restarting the exchange programme with other National Libraries to increase its foreign literature collection. Ms Mya Oo highlighted challenges faced by the library such as the need for increased advocacy and marketing functions, and skilled librarians.

### **3.7 'UN Sustainable Development Goals: The New Zealand Perspective' by Mr Bill Macnaught, Chief Librarian, National Library of New Zealand**

Mr Bill Macnaught explained that the presentation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals was from the perspective of the National Library of New Zealand (NLNZ) and that the New Zealand government would be conducting a voluntary national review in July 2019. He shared several excerpts from ministerial speeches, drawing attention to the movement towards a “well-being budget” for New Zealand as well as Pacific concerns such as climate change and human rights.

Mr. Macnaught also highlighted aspects of NLNZ’s *Strategic Directions to 2030* document, which comprised a national documentary heritage framework, “a nation of readers” strategy and “one knowledge” network. One of the challenges is the multitude of cultural institutions and libraries with documentary heritage that are struggling with preservation and provision of digital access to such materials.

Mr Macnaught invited the delegates to IFLA WLIC 2020, to be held in Auckland – the theme being “Open, Trusted, United”.

### **3.8 ‘Staying Relevant in the Digital Age: The National Library, Singapore’ by Ms Tan Huism, Director (National Library), National Library Board, Singapore.**

Ms Tan Huism shared the National Library of Singapore’s twin missions of being the custodian of documentary heritage and the nation’s National Library. In 2019, the NLB Act took effect allowing for the archival of websites with the “.sg” domain. Ms Tan touched on the need to reconsider collection policies in light of born-digital materials. She also emphasised that engagement is key and NLB is working on engaging users digitally. NLB has also begun to work with overseas institutions on the digitisation of Singapore-related materials and to provide access to these. One challenge is the issue of copyright and access for users as well as how to continuously curate information and resources in a relatable manner. Some projects cited include the map-based website “Curiocity” and livestreaming of NLB’s signature series “A Librarian’s World”. Collaborating with the growing digital humanities community is an area of partnership that will also continue to be explored.

With the growth of digital information, there is a growing need for information literacy and Ms Tan shared on NLB’s information literacy programme, “S.U.R.E”, and its plans to become the national advocate for information literacy, through targeting appropriate partners and media to work with.

### **3.9 ‘IFLA Regional Office Work Plan 2019’ by Ms Soh Lin Li, Regional Manager, IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania, c/o National Library Board, Singapore**

Ms Soh Lin Li reported on the new roles adopted by the IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania. The three roles are: regional library connector for the region, advocacy for the region and secretariat and administrative support. The roles were added after discussion with IFLA HQ at the WLIC 2018.

The first role as library connector is to provide advisory or consultancy services to libraries in various areas of needs. The second role of advocacy saw the establishment of the *IFLA Asia Oceania Regional Quarterly News*, which highlights the work of various libraries. The last role of secretariat and administrative support is to ensure continuity between meetings and to keep tabs on the progress of cross-country projects.

She invited delegates to write to the regional office at [SOH\\_Lin\\_Li@nlb.gov.sg](mailto:SOH_Lin_Li@nlb.gov.sg) or [Janice\\_OW@nlb.gov.sg](mailto:Janice_OW@nlb.gov.sg).

#### **4. "Survey on the CDNLAO Newsletter" by Mr Norihisa Yoda, Reference Librarian, Public Service Division, Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library, Japan**

Mr Norihisa Yoda distributed flyers about the website and newsletter to the delegates, on behalf of the editorial office of the CDNLAO Newsletter. Mr Yoda thanked everyone who has served as a correspondent for the newsletter. He announced that a survey would be sent to editorial correspondents and others via email following the meeting.

#### **5. Video presentations by delegations**

There were video presentations by two delegations. The Iran National Library shared a video presentation about its vision, mission and services. The Indonesian National Library shared a video highlighting its new building and introducing its services and infrastructure developments.

#### **6. Q&A session**

Dr Ashraf Boroujerdi, Iran President Cultural Advisor & Head of the Iran National Library raised two questions: how national libraries could use both physical and digital collections in a complementary manner; and if library and archival materials could, or should, be placed under one umbrella.

In response to the first question, Dr Marie Louise Ayres, Director-General, National Library of Australia (NLA), explained that NLA no longer views its digital services/collections as separate from physical collections and simply forms a part of their overall strategy. In response to the second question, she shared that the integration of libraries and government archives is controversial as librarians and archivists think differently about their mission, but also noted that there are successful Australian examples, notably in the state of Tasmania. Dr Ayres believes that a record of what a government does (i.e. under the Archives) should be kept separate from broader National Library collections.

Mr Bill Macnaught, Chief Librarian, National Library of New Zealand added to Dr Ayres' comments that there is a fundamental role for archives to make the record of government accessible to its citizens. However, library and archives can benefit from shared investments in infrastructure, buildings and technology, helping citizens to find all relevant material easily while maintaining separate purposes as distinct institutions.

Dr Stuart J. Hamilton, Deputy Executive Director, International Relations and Communications, Qatar National Library, raised a point for information. As the Information Coordinator for IFLA's National Libraries Section, he is collecting stories about national libraries and sending them out via the mailing list. He invited delegates to sign up for the mailing list on the IFLA website (<http://infoserv.inist.fr/wwsympa.fcgi/info/nat-lib>) and to submit their stories (in English) for the monthly newsletter. He also invited the delegates to follow the Section on Twitter (@IFLANatLibs).

## **7. Concluding remarks**

The Chair invited the delegates to consider hosting CDNLAO in 2020 and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting was formally closed at 12.30 pm, 21 February 2019. The 2nd Forum on the Silk Road International Library alliance was held in the afternoon, following the lunch programme.

(Post-meeting: The next CDNLAO in 2020 will be hosted by the National Library of Indonesia).

Prepared by:

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Endorsed by:

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