

**Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania  
Annual meeting of 2016 – at the National Library of New Zealand,  
Wellington NZ**

**Annual report of National Library of Thailand**

Period covered by this report: 1 October 2014 – 30 September 2015

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**Name of country: Thailand**

**Name of library: National Library of Thailand**

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**1. RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT:**

- National Library (NLT) of Thailand does not have a National Library Act although legal deposit is in the Press Act A.D. 2007. The Act enabled NLT to be the national organization empowered to undertake all library functions including national union catalogue, legal deposit of published works in Thailand, the issuance of ISBN and ISSN numbers for all Thailand publications, the comprehensive public and community libraries services nationwide and the extensive powers of the nation's National Library functions.
- During 2014 – 2017, the government allotted budget 258,450,000 Baht to the National Library to renovate a main building.

**2. FACTS AND FIGURES:**

The figures of National Library in 2015 are as follows:

- Total operating budget: 103,636,481.86 Baht (USD 2,878,791)

- Total number of staff : 164 persons (government officials, permanent and temporary employees)
- Total volume of resources: 3,700,000 items
- Visitorship of the National Library of Thailand in October 2014 to September 2015
  - Foreign visitors 13,620 persons
  - Local visitors 30,685 persons
  - Website visitors 83,808 persons
  - Readers 242,280 persons
- NLT received 66,216 copies under legal deposit from 1 October 2014 to 30 September 2015.

### **3. A BRIEF GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS:**

The National Library of Thailand was moved to new location on Samsen road and officially declared open on May 5, 1966 which was main missions to collect, preserve and store the nation's intellectual and cultural heritage materials in the forms of printed and non printed materials, audio-visual materials and electronic media acquired from Thailand and abroad. At present, the National Library of Thailand has all of materials stand more than 3,000,000 volumes. For the convenience of users who walk in the building, National Library also provides free WIFI access to World Wide Web. Nowadays, there are 11 national library branches located in the provinces.

### **4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN BUILDING AND MANAGING COLLECTIONS:**

- In 2013 the National Library have started the National Library Development for Life Time Knowledge Resources Project (Central and provincial library). Under the concept of 'Full Library Full Knowledge Full Happiness'. The objectives is to improving library acquisitions both in central and provincial, to be an important learning resources for Thai citizen and ready to serve an excellent service and support Thai citizen's reading with reading promotion activities. To indicate importance of reading, we try to instill children and young people to read and grow up to be a valuable asset of our country.
- The project of ancient document network investigation and support. The project aims to investigate, preserve, register and store ancient documents, while also provide trainings regarding proper implementation and treatment of ancient documents for the participants such as, Buddhist ecclesiastical monks, citizens, library staffs and also Fine Arts Department staffs around the areas. The activities consist of ancient documents investigation, preservation, registration and storage. The event also offers knowledge development support activities of ancient documents network, providing ancient document treatment trainings to the provincial Library.
- In 2015, the National Library of Thailand have built the valuable collections of King Rama V, King Chulalongkorn, the Fifth King of the Chakri Dynasty with more than 5,000 materials in various subjects and languages

comprising of printed materials and digital materials which are also made available online via NTL's OPAC.

#### **5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS:**

The National Library had advanced its creation and service of digital information called D-Library. The system is used to input digital information which will later harness for data exchange and transfer among libraries around the globe. Storing, preserving and publicizing national inherited cultures and knowledge in a form of digital information can be used in a long-term appearance. The information is reachable, fast, convenient and usable immediately through the Internet.

**D – Library** is started to be available in the National Library via National Library website, beginning from September, 2014, starting with the following sources of information:

- Documents, manuals, library news, annual reports
- Rare collections of manuscript, rare books, rare newspaper and journals
- Fine Arts department Collections

#### **6. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER SERVICES:**

On 27 September 2015, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously presided over the opening ceremony of the new library named Memorial of King Chulalongkorn Library which is located in Thavaravathu Building. This library is a great resource of printed materials and digital materials related to King Chulalongkorn.

#### **7. NOTES ON YOUR COLLABORATION WITH OTHER LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS IN YOUR COUNTRY:**

- **Read and Play Happiness for All Projects**

This project was held by National Library together with Office of performing Arts, Office of National Museum and Office of Traditional Arts. The objectives are to strengthening and encouraging Thai citizen to read and generate both knowledge and entertainment from reading in the same time in accordance with national reading policy. This project has area in front of National Library.

#### **8. NOTES ON INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION:**

- **ASEAN Cultural Heritage & Identities International Conference 2015**

The “ASEAN Cultural Heritage & Identities International Conference 2015” attempted to create a common ASEAN cultural identity through the great Indian epic of Ramayana which was held at Royal Princess Larn Laung Hotel, Bangkok during August 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 .

- **International Network of Emerging Library Innovators (INELI) – Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**

The INELI-ASEAN was conducted by the National Library of Philippines which objectives are to enhance the leadership skills of emerging library leaders, to create a vibrant network of library leader in region , to build capacity to provide ongoing leadership training and to foster collaboration and strong partnership among stakeholders in the region.

There were sponsor and representatives from National Library of Thailand attended The INELI-ASEAN 1<sup>st</sup> Convening at Pullman Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia during October 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

- **The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)**

The National Library of Thailand has been a member of IFLA for a long time. Every year representatives from National Library of Thailand had joined and built international professional network with librarians and information specialists through the IFLA General Conference and Assembly.

- **Training Project for ASEAN Children’s Librarians**

The Training Project for ASEAN Children’s Librarians was conducted by The National Library for Children and Young Adults (NLCY) in the Republic of Korea aims to contribute to the development of children’s services in ASEAN countries by sharing Korea’s advanced children’s library services and programs with ASEAN trainees.

In every year, The National Library of Thailand has sent 2 representatives to be trained and exchanged their work experienced with librarian in ASEAN countries.