

Minutes of

16th Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO)

- Cooperation in Knowledge-based Society -

October 20, 2008 (Monday) 9:00-17:00

Venue: Conference Room, Tokyo Main Library, National Diet Library

1. Start of the meeting

The Chair, Dr. Makoto Nagao, the Librarian of the National Diet Library (NDL), Japan, opened the meeting at 9:00. He welcomed all the participants and each participant introduced himself/herself.

2. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 15th meeting

The National Library of Malaysia made a request for modifications of the summary of its country report (p. 11). The Chair asked it to send the corrected version to the secretariat and the minutes were then approved.

4. Country report presentation

Each representative reported the present state of his/her own library and libraries in his/her country based on the country report.

5. Discussion

After country report presentations, a short discussion was held on mutual collaboration among the CDNLAO members.

The National Library of New Zealand (NLNZ) proposed to focus on the areas where the CDNLAO members could collaborate and commit to practical moves. The National Library of Pakistan and the National Library of the Philippines agreed and pointed out the need for a mechanism such as a secretariat and a committee to carry on collaboration work. The National Library Board (NLB) of Singapore suggested that the purpose of the annual one-day meeting is that members get information from country reports, and look for partners to cooperate with on mutual issues. Examples of mutual issues were mentioned by other participants: insufficient government support,

digitization and multilingual problems.

6. Special presentations

1) Presentation by National Library of China (NLC)

The NLC reported on the damage to libraries hit by the Sichuan Earthquake in May 2008, in which four county-level libraries were completely destroyed, 29 county-level libraries were severely damaged, 25 county-level libraries were damaged, 2,384 facilities were damaged and 670,000 books were destroyed. The total cost of the damage of library facilities in the earthquake-hit area was estimated about 436 million Chinese Yuan. Efforts of the NLC and the Library Society of China were introduced, such as a recovery system with a coupling relationship, in which a library in a non-afflicted area helps a library in an afflicted area on a one-on-one basis. The experience made them fully aware of the importance of making backups of the library collection.

2) Presentation by NLB

The NLB made a presentation titled “Libraries and Disaster Recovery - A Framework for Regional Co-operation in Digital Preservation and Recovery.” This presentation suggested that CDNLAO members who were developing a digital preservation system should consider offering preservation services, and the members should consider policies for disaster recovery through digital preservation using such services beyond country borders. To start with, a small group was suggested. In response, the NLNZ and the National Library of the Philippines expressed their intention of participating in the project.

7. Report on the 35th Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL)

A report on the CDNL (Conference of Directors of National Libraries) 2008 in Quebec was given by Ms. Penny Carnaby, Chief Executive / National Librarian, NLNZ (Chair CDNL). She outlined two draft statements discussed in the CDNL meeting: one was a draft of the Vision Statement for CDNL and the other was a draft of the CDNL Vision for the Global Digital Library. She suggested that these two drafts should be discussed in the next CDNLAO meeting in Vietnam. She also introduced a prototype project “National Libraries Global,” which was reported by the NLB at the CDNL meeting. The National Library of Australia (NLA), the NLB, the Library and Archives Canada and the NLNZ started the project aiming at providing global access to the digital collections of national libraries through a single interface by harvesting metadata. Digital contents would remain in each library’s repository.

The National Library of Pakistan remarked that only a few members might be able to think about this kind of collaboration because there exists a digital divide among the CDNLAO members. The NLB commented that it is important to join a collaborative framework regardless of the stages of development, and that no cost is incurred by joining this project. Lastly, Ms. Carnaby mentioned that about five partners in the Asia and Oceania region were needed for the project.

8. Discussion on cooperation in knowledge-based society

Participants discussed how CDNLAO members can collaborate in practical ways. Four themes were adopted: (1) open source software, (2) digital preservation, (3) “National Libraries Global” project and (4) web archiving. The following libraries offered to take leadership on particular themes and to start talking with other countries which have the same interest.

- (1) Open source software: to be determined. The NLA suggested that at least one presentation on this subject should be made at the next CDNLAO meeting in order to deepen understanding of it.
- (2) Digital preservation: the NLB will be the leader.
- (3) “National Libraries Global”: the NLNZ will be the leader.
- (4) Web archiving: the NDL will be the leader.

The NLB suggested that the CDNLAO website should include the function of forums for the above-mentioned four themes, and that members should discuss them via the Internet.

9. Proposal on the CDNLAO website

The NDL proposed that the NDL would take responsibility for the maintenance of the CDNLAO website, which had been maintained by the NLA. The proposal was approved.

10. Confirmation of future host libraries

Host libraries of future meetings were confirmed as follows:

17th meeting (2009)	Vietnam
18th meeting (2010)	Pakistan
19th meeting (2011)	Korea

The National Library of Vietnam, the next host, made a speech. The 17th CDNLAO

meeting will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam, on the afternoon of April 20, 2009 in parallel with the 14th Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL).