

COUNTRY REPORT

21st Conference of Directors of National Libraries in
Asia Oceania (CDNLAO) 2013
Sunway Putra Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
March 25-29, 2013

Name of Country: **PHILIPPINES**

Name of Library: **NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE PHILIPPINES (NLP)**

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HIGHLIGHTS

I. National Library of the Philippines (NLP)

A. Recent Major Developments in 2012

1. National Conferences, Seminars and Workshops
 - a. First Salon on Philippine Registry of Cultural Properties (PRECUP) in Libraries to implement "The National Heritage Protection Act of 2009", NLP Conference Room, February 8, 2012 which led to the creation of a National Committee on PRECUP and a proposal making the NLP as the National Conservation Center for Printed Materials.
 - b. Round-Table Discussions on the National Development Plan for Public Libraries held in four (4) Island Clusters:
 - National Capital Region, NLP Conference Room, March 9, 2012
 - Cebu City, Rizal Memorial Library & Museum, March 28, 2012
 - Davao City, Davao City Hall Conference Room, March 30, 2012
 - Laoag City, La Tabacalera Convention Center, April 30, 2012

- c. Summer Kid's Workshop, NLP Children's Section, April 11-13, 2012.
- d. Salon on Public Access to Information in the Philippines, Co-sponsored with the Beyond Access, NLP Conference Room, May 16, 2012.
- e. Round-Table Discussion on American Shelf Program and Social Media Overview, NLP Conference Room, May 23, 2012.
- f. First Salon on Resource Description and Access (RDA), NLP Conference Room, July 23, 2012 which led to the creation of a National Committee for RDA in the Philippines to develop a National Action Plan for RDA.
- g. First Salon on Numbering System in the Philippines (ISBN,ISSN,ISMN), NLP Conference Room, August 24, 2012.
- h. First National Conference of Children's Librarians, NLP Auditorium, October 1-2, 2012.
- i. National Conference of Public Librarians, Hotel Supreme Convention Plaza, Baguio City, November 6-8, 2012.

2. Exhibitions

- a. Experience China: A Cultural Exhibit. Sponsored by NLP and Confucius Institute at the Angeles Foundation (CI-AUF), January 25-28, 2012, NLP Lobby.
- b. Colorful Voices – the Collected Artistic Creations of Children's with Disabilities, NLP Lobby, Co-sponsored with the Phil-Association for Citizen with Development and Learning Disabilities (PACDLD) and Rotary Club Manila, February 6-7, 2012.
- c. The World of Iran at the National Library of the Philippines: An Exhibit, Co-sponsored with the Iran Embassy in the Philippines, NLP Lobby, March 13-16, 2012.
- d. Photography Exhibit "Dos Miradas a la Cooperacion Española en Filipinas (Two Visions of the Spanish Cooperation in the Philippines), in co-sponsorship with Escuela Taller of Agencia Española de Cooperacion Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECIO). Held in NLP, Lobby, July 3, 2012 on the occasion of the visit to NLP of Her Majesty the Queen of Spain.
- e. NLP Timeline Exhibit in celebration of the 125 Years of the NLP, NLP

Lobby, August 23, 2012.

- f. Chinese Culture Photography Exhibit, in cooperation with Cultural Office of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, NLP Lobby, October 8-28, 2012.
- g. A Photo Exhibit on Philippine Volunteerism, Co-sponsored by the Bureau of Communication Operations Office (PCOO), Office of the President, Malacañang, NLP Lobby, November 23, 2012.

3. Staff Attendance to Regional and International Conferences

- a. Represented NLP in the International Symposium on Emerging Issues in Copyright and Related Rights for Developing Countries and Countries with Economies in Transition, Washington, D.C., USA, March 19-23, 2012.
- b. Represented NLP to the 3rd Executive Board Meeting of Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL) XV & General Conference and 24th CDNLAO Meeting, May 26-31, 2012, Bali, Indonesia.
- c. Represented NLP in the Cultural Partnership Initiative 2012 Specialize Copyright Training Course for Asean Countries, Seoul, Korea, June 19- November 23, 2012.
- d. Represented NLP as an International Leadership Program (ILP) Associates/Grantee of IFLA, Hensinki, Finland, August 11-17, 2012 and the CDNL Meeting in Finland, August 13, 2012.
- e. Represented NLP in the 2012 China ASEAN Cultural Forum and 10+3 Workshop sponsored by the China Ministry of Culture, September 10-18, 2012, China.
- f. Represented NLP in the 2012 Training Project for ASEAN Children's Librarians, Seoul, Republic of Korea, September 10-26, 2012.
- g. Represented NLP in the ISBN Annual General Meeting and ISMN Panel Meeting, Moldova, September 11-12, 2012.
- h. Represented NLP in the International Network of Emerging Library Innovators (INELI), Seoul, South Korea, October 19-25, 2012.
- i. Represented NLP in the Hanban/Confucius Institute 2012 Philippine Advanced Study and Training Program on Pedagogy and Chinese Teaching Materials, Xiamen University, October 25-30, 2012.

4. Institutional Project

- a. National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) Cultural Agency Fund for NLP titled: Conservation of Rizal Manuscripts and Philippine Revolutionary Papers in the National Library of the Philippines.

5. Building/Managing/Proving Access to Collections

- a. Through the Asia and Oceania Section of the NLP Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs) have been renewed or newly entered MOA between NLP and the following countries.
 - **China** – A China Book Room has been constructed and inaugurated on December 6, 2012. An exchange agreement of books in print and non-print form between National Library of China, Confucius Institute was entered between the two national libraries.
 - **Iran** – The Philippine Iranian Studies Center located in the NLP through a Memorandum of Agreement signed several years ago has been re-negotiated between the National Library of Iran and the NLP.
 - **Korea** – An existing arrangement of exchange in publications, reading materials, visits as well as training by virtue of an International Cultural Agreement has been existing and implemented. The idea of constructing a Window's of Korea (WOK) in the NLP is being negotiated.
 - **USA** – Through the American Shelf Program the US Embassy through the Thomas Jefferson Cultural Center, supplemental books and some furniture and equipment have been donated to the NLP.
- b. Through the Information Technology Division (ITD) of the NLP, the latter facilitated the remote access through the Phil-eLib Project of the Government and continues to assist affiliated libraries in the deployment of computers and provide the continuous training of librarians for KOHA Open Source Integrated Library System. The NLP plan to include in its reorganization an expanded Digital Library Services Division.
- c. The NLP has drafted through the assistance of other government agencies, proposed bills for possible legislations in the aim of revisiting and updating library legislations affecting the NLP. These are:
 - Amendment to Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code, to make the appointment of public librarians mandatory, and
 - An Act Modernizing the National Library of the Philippines, Strengthening Its Powers and Functions, and for Other

Purposes

- Revision of the Law on Legal and Cultural Deposit Law
- Revision or Repeal of the Law Establishing Public Libraries or The New Public Library System Act *vis-à-vis* The National Library of the Philippines
- Revision of the Copyright Law *vis-a-vis* NLP
- Book Accountability Legislations
- Legislation on Numbering System

B. Collaborations with Other Institutions (Libraries, Archives and Museums)

1. Affiliating Regional, Provincial, Congressional, Cities, Municipal Public Libraries and Barangay Reading Centers through a Memorandum of Agreement with Local Government Units allocating materials to the same. As of 2012 there are 1,396 affiliated libraries throughout the country.
2. Collaborating with the National Archives of the Philippines, National Historical Commission of the Philippines, National Museum, Cultural Center of the Philippines and the other cultural agencies under the administrative supervision of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts in the implementation of Republic Act No. 10066 otherwise known as the National Heritage Protection Act of 2009.
3. Coordinating with the National Committee of Libraries and Information Services (NCLIS) the Annual Search for Outstanding Libraries in the Philippines.
4. Coordinating with the Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. (PLAI) the celebration of the National Library Day, National Book Week and the Library and Information Services Month in November of each year as mandated by Presidential Proclamations.
5. Assisting in the implementation of Republic Act No. 9246 or The Philippine Librarianship Act of 2003 mandating the Licensure Examination for Librarians.
6. Deputizing the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) in the registration of Copyright registration and receiving deposits to augment the NLP collection as mandated by the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines.
7. Serves as the National Center for ISBN, ISSN and ISMN Numbering System.

II. Library Profession

A. Library Association

1. Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. (PLAI) is the national association of professional librarians. It has sixteen chapters throughout the country called Regional Librarians Council.
2. The present PLAI National President is Elizabeth Peralejo of Ateneo de Manila High School. The President leads the National Board of Trustees (NBOT) of PLAI.
3. PLAI had conducted a National Congress/General Assembly and National Conference held in General Santos on November 28-30, 2012 on the theme "The Libraries...Effects on Society".

B. Librarians Licensure Examination and Legislation

1. Republic Act No. 9246 or the Philippine Librarianship Act of 2003 created the Professional Regulatory Board (PRB) for librarians under the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) of the Philippines.
2. To date twenty one (21) examinations were conducted and the total registered/professional licensed librarians is 6884.