

Suggestions to consolidate and strengthen CDNLAO

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF VIETNAM

The first meeting of CDNLAO was held in 1979 by the National Library of Australia. For the very first days of the conference, Directors of National Libraries agreed that the main aims of CDNLAO would be to:

- exchange information and promote cooperation for the development of libraries in Asia and Oceania;
- assist libraries in lesser developed countries through cooperation;
- understand the state of the art of library development among libraries in Asia and Oceania.

Then the Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO) meets every two to three years to discuss library issues of common interest and to promote resource and information sharing within the Asia Pacific region.

The CDNLAO meetings are hosted by member libraries and are generally arranged to coincide with another conference or function. Other member libraries of CDNLAO follow briefly the situation of a member library via the country report. In between meetings, members of CDNLAO keep in contact loosely with each other via the CDNLAO Newsletter.

To consolidate and strengthen CDNLAO, on the context of CONSAL, we offer some suggestion as follow:

1. Firstly, we need to strengthen the organising of CDNLAO. This means we need to build CDNLAO rules of statutes, including goals and objectives, responsibilities and rights of member libraries, regulate meetings and other contents. Actually, when we prepare for organising the 17 meeting of CDNLAO, we find nothing on CDNLAO's statutes to submit to the Government for permission. Even when the statutes is built, it needs to be updated, modified, and amended to be always suitable with the current context. For instance, CONSAL's Statutes were built long time ago, they have been revising since CONSAL XIII (Philippines, 2006).

2. The integration among National Libraries in the region starts and develop through inte-national libraries. Thus, we expect that CDNLAO will develop follow this direction as CONSAL did for the last years. If so, relations among Directors will be set up to the cooperation among National Libraries. Hopefully, developed national libraries will share and assist developing ones.

3. Regularly, CDNLAO is rotately organised by national member libraries. To make the annual meetings of CDNLAO more qualified and effective, we suggest to vote for a chair person of CDNLAO for every three years. Annual meetings are rotately hosted by national member libraries, the host library will be in charge of reception, organisation, where as the chair person will be responsible for the content of the meeting. Thus, the chair person will be acknowledged the importance of updating the current practices in national member libraries of CDNLAO to draw longer and more effective plans.

4. CDNLAO is a sub-conference of CDNL where realizes CDNL's and IFLA's policies. We suggest that there's at least one representative from CDNL's and IFLA's leaders attend the annual meetings of CDNLAO. For this meeting, we have invited but we regret to have none of them participate the CDNLAO 2009. We recommend IFLA should prioritize for one invited guest from CDNLAO to the annual conference of International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions to comprehend the policies and guidance from the top down of IFLA.

At the age of 30, we cherish our strong believe that CDNLAO will develop firmly and stably. With the relations among directors, we will push the cooperation among national member libraries more practical and effective.

The above suggestions are some of our thoughts to consolidate and strengthen CDNLAO, hopefully we will discuss openly and find more measures for this meeting, so do the next conferences in Pakistan.