

IFLA to meet in Bangkok in 1999

ALIA/RSCAO workshop, IFLA Bangkok 1999

The 65th IFLA Council and General Conference will be held in Bangkok from 22–27 August 1999. The conference will be a major international professional event for our region, and planning for it has been underway in Thailand for several years.

Australian librarians are taking an increasing role in IFLA affairs. In an election year, the Bangkok Conference represents another opportunity for Australian librarians to participate more fully in IFLA's work and increase Australian influence in this important international body. This can be achieved not only by attending the conference and presenting papers, but by nominating to join section standing committees and playing a role in IFLA's numerous professional groups.

ALIA has been mindful of these objectives for a number of years, and Virginia Walsh was recently successful in being elected to the executive committee of IFLA's Round Table for the Management of Library Associations (RTMLA). She joins a number of other Australians active in the professional groups, all of whom are already busy planning their programs for the Bangkok conference.

Amelia McKenzie, who chairs IFLA's Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania (RSCAO), notes that the development of library associations is an issue of strong interest for the countries of the region. As in Australia, a strong local library association can play a key role in providing support to practising librarians and promoting the profession in their countries. Australia has considerable experience in this regard, and stands in a special relationship to colleagues in our region. It is particularly appropriate that ALIA's International Relations Committee accepted Ms McKenzie's suggestion that it join forces at IFLA Bangkok with RSCAO in presenting a workshop on library association management, aimed at colleagues in developing countries.

RSCAO members have long seen a need to develop the skills and knowledge of colleagues who are involved with library associations in developing countries, usually as unpaid officers of the association. This workshop will be the first to be undertaken with Australian input, and it has attracted interest from a number of quarters. The day-long activity will focus on the strategies and techniques that can assist developing country

library associations to provide support to local library workers and play a role in promoting the library profession in their country. There will be case studies from our region, with an emphasis on learning from what has worked in practice, rather than delivering theory from an advanced country's perspective. Speakers will be drawn from the United Kingdom, Australia and countries of the region. ALIA will take a leading role in developing materials to be used at the workshop, adapting its *Lobby for libraries* material to apply to a developing country context and possibly translating it into several languages. Virginia Walsh was successful in securing a commitment of funds from the RTMLA for this purpose.

Attendance at the workshop will initially be by invitation, but it may be possible for interested observers to attend some sessions, which will be advertised through the usual IFLA channels before the conference.

The 1999 IFLA Conference brochure and registration form is available from: SPAFA, 81/1 Si-Ayutthaya Road, Samsen, Theves, Bangkok 10300, Thailand, fax: +662 2804030, spafa@ksc.th.com ■

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