

Successful Asian regional conference in Bangkok

The Ninth triennial Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians was held in Bangkok in May. Over five hundred librarians from 28 countries (about twenty of them from Australia) attended CONSAL IX to discuss 'Future Dimensions and Library Development'.

The themes were Information technology, the Socio-economic impact of library development, and Information professionals. Participants glimpsed new horizons and chewed over old problems. Country reports were given to provide an up-to-date picture of librarianship in five mem-

ber countries—Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines.

Australian speakers included Warren Horton, Director-General NLA and Ross Harvey who gave plenary sessions; and no fewer than eleven others — Oliver Mann, George Miller, Robyn Stokes, David Jones, Rishpal Singh Sidhu, Janette Wright, Marie Sexton, Wendy Smith, Helen Jarvis, John Frylinck and Patricia Layzell Ward. A tribute to the considerable organisational powers of the Thai Library Association was the production of a hefty volume of printed

papers as part of registration kit.

CONSAL member countries have to decide whether this important regional conference will retain the same formula in the future. It has survived through a fairly broad combination of national library associations and national libraries from the ASEAN countries for twenty three years, but the CONSAL Executive Board is formulating a 10-year plan to take it into the 21st century. It has already determined the location of the next three Congresses: Malaysia in 1996, then Singapore three years later and Brunei in 2002 AD.

Australian librarians out and about in the region

Marie Sexton has summarised a number of their trip reports

Australian librarians featured in several regional and international meetings before and after CONSAL.

Beforehand, Elizabeth Watt of the National Library's International Relations Branch attended the IFLA Regional Standing Committee on Asia and Oceania (RSCAO) 29 April to 1 May. Items discussed at the meeting included its role, the Medium Term programs submitted by the Donita Simmons, USP Library, on behalf of the Oceania subregion, and RSCAO's presence at IFLA in Barcelona in August.

Another pre-CONSAL activity was the three-day National Seminar

on the Establishment of a Document Delivery System in Thailand, organised by the National Library of Thailand and sponsored by ASTINFO Clair Lambert, Director, Interlending Services was a speaker and Vacharin McFadden, Senior Librarian (Thai), both of NLA, was a coordinator.

After CONSAL, Elizabeth Watt and Vacharin McFadden (both of NLA) visited Cambodia to see a range of libraries and museums in Phnom Penh. Elizabeth went to Hanoi to visit the National Library of Vietnam and Vacharin went to Laos to discuss acquisitions with their National Library.

Robyn Stokes (IDP) and Dr Helen Jarvis (UNSW) spoke at

a workshop to identify information needs in SE Asia, organised by Thammasat University Libraries and IFLA. Bill Linklater (IDP Library Consultant for Thailand), Tony Mays, Christine Goodacre and Janette Wright took part in the National Thai Academic Library Networking Seminar.

Helen Jarvis chaired the 4th International Vietnamese Union Catalogue Meeting, held on 9 May, with representatives from France, the United States, Japan, Thailand and Australia, to reassess the project and see how Vietnamese librarianship and national bibliography can best be assisted.

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