

2014 IFLA BSLA Convening Trip Report

March 4-7, 2014

Jakarta, Indonesia

by Jennifer Hainrick-Helieisar and Imengel Mad

Jennifer Hainrick-Helieisar and Imengel Mad represented the Pacific Islands Association of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (PIALA) at the 2014 IFLA Building Strong Library Associations (BSLA) Asia and Oceania Convening in Jakarta, Indonesia that took place on March 4-7, 2014. More than 10 library associations and institutions were represented at this year's convening from the following regions: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Pacific, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.



Jennifer Hainrick and Imengel Mad with Dexterine Ho (BSLA Trainer)

The convening was led by Fiona Bradley and Jennefer Nicholson of IFLA with trainers Gillian Hallam, Michael Robinson, Remila Gamage, and Rashidah Begum ft Mohamed.

The focus of the convening was to assist participants on building and maintaining a strong and successful library association. Throughout the week-long convening, a series of workshops were held with active discussions and group work on the concepts of what makes a strong library association and project ideas that can be implemented at each library association.

Each library association to work on developing a project plan that addresses priority issues of the association to be implemented with an invitation for funding applications from IFLA. Facilitators were assigned to each group to help participants develop a proposal plan to bring back to their associations for their support. The proposal is to be submitted beginning in April 2014.

Outcomes

From the workshop, the following outcomes were achieved and realized:

1. A project proposal was drafted based on identified priority issues that the participants came up with.
2. A formalized structure on governance and participation of its members must be established for PIALA.
3. Advocacy and funding still remain priority issues of PIALA that also need to be prioritized.

Jennifer and Imengel felt strongly that for this year's proposal, PIALA should focus on training our librarians with the 21st century library skills including classroom teachers. The proposal aims to conduct a Train the Trainer Project to address the needs of information "professionals" to understand the role of libraries in the community and library skills to be more competent and confident in their practice. The project will allow the trainers to gain valuable knowledge where they will be able to train their co-workers and other information professionals in their entity.

PIALA's representation at the 2014 IFLA BSLA Convening was successful due to the full support of the PIALA Board and PIALA members. Thank you to PIALA for entrusting us with this opportunity to serve you.