



COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM

P.O. Box 159, Kolonia, Pohnpei
Federated States of Micronesia 96941
www.comfsm.fm

Phone: (691) 320-2480/2481/2482

Fax: (691) 320-2479

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To: Karen Simion, Vice President of Instructional Affairs

From: Jennifer Helieisar, Director of Learning Resources Center

Subject: Trip Report
IFLA BSLA Meeting, May 30-June 2, 2016
Manila, Philippines

I left Pohnpei on May 28th to attend the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Global Building Strong Library Associations (BSLA) meeting in Manila, Philippines from May 30-June 2, 2016. The following countries were represented in the meeting: Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Cameroon, Colombia, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Myanmar, Netherlands, Nigeria, Palau, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Zambia, Zimbabwe. Presentations by different associations were given at the closing of each day's activities.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Review and celebrate the outcomes and impact of the programme and projects from 2014 onwards
- Support networking between associations and activities to support continued collaboration after participating in BSLA
- Raise awareness about trends and factors that will influence the role of associations and potential for advocacy in the future
- Review the programme over its lifespan since 2010 to develop a future strategy and linkages with other IFLA programmes

Workshops began on May 30th with review discussions and group activities on Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT) analysis of the roles of library associations for countries participating in the meeting. With key values identified and agreed upon by the participants, each association present was tasked to identify key issues affecting their library associations and compare those with other associations. Similarities, differences, and opportunities were identified for a group and shared with the other groups in the room.

The second day was focused on sustainability of library associations where each association was tasked to develop a sustainability plan and bring back to their associations for sharing and fine tuning to match the purposes of their associations. Each association highlighted some

accomplishments made in partnerships or coalitions with other agencies since the last BSLA meeting in 2014. PIALA reported an ongoing partnership with Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL) and a strengthened collaboration with the Pacific Education Conference (PEC). PIALA worked in collaboration with PEC to merge two of their conferences in 2013 and in 2015 to benefit both librarians and educators.

On the third day of the meeting, participants were tasked to develop an advocacy plan on how libraries and related institutions can help to meet the goals of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDG) of the United Nations using the [2030 Agenda](#). PIALA identified its key priority as developing their strategic plan and awareness of the SDG goals and what PIALA can contribute to achieving those goals.

On the last day, my colleague, Imengel Mad of Palau and I represented PIALA and shared some highlights about the association, on its successes and challenges that the association has faced. The impact of BSLA on the association is evidenced in the strategic plan workshop that will take place in the last week of June of this year. The workshops ended at noon with the presentation of certificates to participants and photo taking with the new IFLA Secretary General, Gerald Leitner.

PIALA still has a lot of work to do in carrying out its projects and activities for the association and its members. In developing the strategic plan, it is the intention of the association to broaden the membership to include stakeholders and set priorities for projects that will benefit the membership and promote sustainability of the association and its members. The plan will be developed by key board members of the association and to be shared and implemented at the annual meeting or conference in Yap, FSM in November 2016.

I returned to Pohnpei on June 3, 2016.