



## **CONGRESS OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN LIBRARIANS (CONSAL)**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL) was formed in 1970 in response to a growing sense of regional identity, fostered particularly by the formation of ASEAN. CONSAL promotes libraries and librarians as part of ASEAN task in the development of education and culture.

CONSAL is a loose and flexible organization, which provides a forum for professional contact and exchange. It holds a general conference once in every three years in each member country by turn and promotes cooperation in librarianship, bibliography, documentation and related activities in the region. Its members comprise the National Libraries and Library Associations of the ASEAN countries.

### **CONSAL SECRETARIAT**

The CONSAL Secretariat was established in April 2000 and is hosted by the National Library Board (NLB) of Singapore. Mr. R Ramachandran was appointed as the Secretary General. The functions of the Secretariat are to plan and execute programmes and activities in accordance with the objectives of CONSAL.

At the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the CONSAL XII in April 2001, the Board Members agreed on the inclusion of the appointment of the Secretary General as a member of the CONSAL Executive Board in the revised CONSAL Constitution.

### **CONSAL PROJECTS**

The CONSAL Executive Board has approved 5 collaborative projects with Singapore, Thailand and Philippines as coordinators. Projects were chosen based on their relevance to the current state of development in the region and also what members felt are important areas of concern in the respective countries.

The CONSAL Executive Board approved the following projects:

#### Resource Sharing and Legal Depository

- to facilitate access to each other's national bibliographic resources including the acquisitions or exchange of publications
- to establish a working group to consider and study strategies for maintaining and preserving legal deposits in Southeast Asian countries

#### Copyright

- to explore guidelines for fair use of various types of materials, especially digital transmission
- to explore the setting up of a rights management system

#### Preservation and Conservation

- to establish a training programme on preservation and conservation of library materials for member countries

#### Translation of Materials

- to establish a translation programme with the purpose of making available the written cultural heritage of each member country

#### Training

- to coordinate library training programmes for the region.

### OTHER REGIONAL PROJECTS

#### • Regional Digitisation Project

The following digitization projects are in progress or completed:

1) *Brunei Darussalam*

- "Digitisation of Medicinal Plants". This will be made available in the web.
- "Digitisation of Street Names". Twelve important street names in Brunei Darussalam were identified for this project.

2) *Malaysia*

- Digitisation on "Raja Kita/Our King – a portal on the monarchy in Malaysia has been completed. State Public Libraries of Malaysia to develop a similar portal for the state rulers and legends of Malaysia.
- Series of Legends – "Puteri Gunung Ledang" and "Legenda Mashuri". The latter has been completed with a production of a CD ROM.
- KAY-net – Knowledge Asian Youth-Network
- CD ROM on "My favourite Read" National project
- "Manuskript Melayu Warisan Gemilang"
- Virtual Exhibition

3) *Philippines*

- Two works of national hero Dr Jose Rizal are available on the National Library of Philippines. Other rare Filipinana Books are being considered for digitization
- Selected theses and dissertations have been identified for conversion into CD format.

4) *Singapore*

- "Digitisation on Life of Sir Stamford Raffles and Singapore Landmarks"

5) *Thailand*

- "Digitisation of the Southeast Asia Write Awards".

#### • Project on Borneo Collection Database

The meeting on "Regional Cooperation on Sharing and Developing of Information on Borneo", proposed to compile a "Bibliography on Borneo" to be launched at the CONSAL XII conference in Oct 2003. This is the first phase of the project on developing a Borneo Collection Database. The database will focus on items/materials available on the island of Borneo and the participating libraries are from Brunei

Darussalam, Sabah, Sarawak and Kalimantan. The final phase of this project is the digitization of the Borneo collection.

## **NEW CONSAL PROJECTS PROPOSED**

The following new CONSAL Projects were proposed:

- Meeting of Regional Press and Media Librarians. (to be led by Singapore)
- Ethnobotany database (a follow-up on the ASEAN New Zealand IILP on sharing of Resources on Ethnobotany project. (to be led by Brunei)
- Website on "Temples of ASEAN" (to be led by Indonesia)
- Oral tradition of folklore. (to be led by Indonesia)
- To conduct on "The Development of Library Association" for Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam which do not have a library association.
- Updating of the "National Libraries Group-Southeast Asian (NLG-SEA) Directory of Libraries". The publication is targeted to be published in time for CONSAL XII Conference in Oct 2003.
- "CONSAL Directory of Experts in Library, Information and Related Fields". The publication is targeted to be published in Oct 2003.

## **CONSAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS**

The 4<sup>th</sup> CONSAL XII Executive Board Meetings was held in April 2002 in Singapore and the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting was held in Feb 2003 in Brunei Darussalam. The meetings provided a forum for updates on the collaborative CONSAL projects and regional activities. The 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting will be held in 19 Oct 2003 at Brunei Darussalam in conjunction with the CONSAL XII Conference.

## **CONSAL WEB**

<http://www.consal.org.sg>

The CONSAL Web is an information site for professional librarians residing in Southeast Asia. It has a monthly hit of 4 million. Professional services include discussion groups and forums for communication and sharing of information in the region, etc. The site also offers an information exchange platform for the CONSAL Management Committee represented by librarians from each member country.

In its effort to promote the CONSAL Web, the Secretariat conducted the 3<sup>rd</sup> CONSAL Web Online Conference on 19 April 2002 to a group of 13 delegates from the Singapore Cooperation Programme. These delegates were from the training programme on "Application of Information Technology in Libraries for ASEAN Librarians". The topic of the conference was "Library as Place" and it discussed the future of physical libraries in the new millennium. The online conference generated a lively discussion of 103 discussion threads among the ASEAN participants.

## **CONSAL OUTSTANDING LIBRARIAN AWARD**

This first CONSAL Outstanding Librarian Award was presented in Singapore on 24 April 2002 at a Gala Dinner of the World Library Summit. The award will be given annually to the librarian who has made significant contributions to the library profession, or to improving the relations among libraries of CONSAL member countries. Mr Antonio M Santos, Chief Law Librarian, University of the Philippines College of Law Library was voted as the winner of the first award. The prize of the award included sponsorship and

participation at World Library Summit which was held in Singapore from 24-26 April 2002. This sponsorship also included airfare, accommodation and registration fees to attend the World Library Summit. In addition, he received a commemorative plaque and cash prize of S\$1000. The first award was sponsored by Blackwell Book Services.

The CONSAL Outstanding Librarian Award 2003 will be held in October 2003 at Brunei Darussalam in conjunction with the CONSAL XII Conference.

### **CONSAL COUNCIL OF CHIEF ACADEMIC LIBRARIANS (CAL) MEETING**

The CONSAL Secretariat initiated the inaugural CONSAL Council of Academic Librarians Meeting on 14 April 2002 in Singapore. This Council, which was formed in order to nurture and develop the academic library community in the region, will be launched formally during the CONSAL XII conference in Brunei Darussalam in Oct 2003.

### **REGIONAL EVENTS/CONFERENCES 2002/2003**

- **Singapore**

The National Library Board organised the **3rd Asian Children's Festival (ACF)** from 8-16 Nov 2002. The festival comprised programmes such as the Asian Congress of Storytellers, Asian Children's Writers & Illustrators Conference, Great Singapore Tales, Mind Games Fest, Children's Drama Fiesta, and Asian Children's Expo. The **4th Asian Children Festival** will be held from 13-22 Nov 2003.

The National Library Board with the support of the CONSAL Secretariat organised the first **World Library Summit (WLS)** which was held in Singapore from 21-27 April 2002. The theme of this conference was "Global Knowledge Renaissance". Themed 'Global Knowledge Renaissance', the event saw leaders of the industry, academia, government and business from 23 countries coming to Singapore to hear 60 speakers expound on knowledge collaboration, governance and people connectivity as key foundations for new knowledge societies. 28 delegates from the CONSAL member countries were sponsored by the Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to attend the World Library Summit 2002 under its Singapore Cooperation Programme

As part of a pre-conference seminar of the World Library Summit, a two-day **Academic Librarians Seminar** was held from 22-23 April 2002. The theme of the seminar was "*Forging Ahead for Academic Librarians*". Nine senior Academic Librarians were sponsored from the region to attend the Academic Librarians Seminar and World Library Summit. These academic librarians represented their country in the inaugural CONSAL Council of Academic Librarians Meeting, which was held on 22 April 2002.

The Division of Information Studies, School of Communication and Information, Nanyang Technological University Singapore, in collaboration with the National Library Board of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University Library, National University of Singapore Libraries, Library Association of Singapore and the Library and Information Technological Association of Singapore, organised the **5th International Conference on Asian Digital Libraries (ICADL 2002)** from 11-14 Dec 2002. The theme of the conference was "Digital Libraries: People, Knowledge & Technology" and it was held in conjunction with the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Web Information Systems Engineering.

CONSAL Secretariat with the funding of the Open Society Institute organised the **CONSAL/EIFL Seminar** on 10 Dec 2002. A total of ten librarians from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao, Myanmar, Philippines and Vietnam attended this seminar.

Arkgroup, Asia organised a 3-day conference from 26-28 June 2002 on "**Managing Information on Taxonomies**". The conference tackled the key challenges faced by companies and information providers

in managing vast amount of knowledge. Arkgroup Asia also organised a conference on “**Knowledge Management Asia 2002**” from 16-18 July 2002.

- **Brunei Darussalam**

The University of Brunei Darussalam organised a four-day “**Conference on New Information Technologies**” from 24-27 Sep 2002. The theme of the conference is “Information Resources Integration: An Agenda for Change”. A post conference workshop on “Effective Online Reference Services” was held on 27 Sep 2002.

Brunei Darussalam will be hosting the **CONSAL XII** from 20-24 Oct 2003. The conference was originally scheduled to be held in May 2003. The theme of the conference is “Information Resources Empowerment: Enhancing Knowledge Heritage”. CONSAL XII is organised by Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, Brunei Darussalam with the cooperation of the Brunei Darussalam Library Association and supported by the CONSAL Secretariat.

- **Indonesia**

The Indonesian Library Association organised an **Annual Library Professional Congress (IPI)** from 16-19 Sep 2002 at Surabaya, Indonesia. CONSAL Secretariat presented a paper on “Library Development in ASEAN Region” at this congress.

- **Malaysia**

The Librarians Association of Malaysia and Asia Library News with the support of CONSAL organised the “**Asian Library Conference on Collection Development**” (ALCCD 2002) from 1-3 July 2002 at Penang, Malaysia. The main objective of this conference is to focus on various issues related to collection development of libraries particularly academic and special libraries in the Asia Pacific region.

The National Library of Malaysia together with the Librarians Association of Malaysian and other partners organised the **31<sup>st</sup> annual conference of International Association of School Librarianship (IASL Malaysia 2002 Conference)** from 5-9 Aug 2002, which was held in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia. The theme of the conference was “School Libraries for a Knowledge Society”.

The National IT Council of Malaysia organised the **Annual Information Society (InfoSoc) Malaysia Conference** from 4-5 June 2002 at Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. The theme of the conference was “K-initiatives for Improved Local Governance”.

The Penang Public Library Corporation with the support of IFLA, Advancement of Librarianship and IFLA Asia and Oceania Section in cooperation with National Library of Malaysia and Librarians Association of Malaysia will be organising a conference on “**Changes and Challenges of Public Library Services to Bridge the Digital Divide**” from 23-25 June 2003 at Penang, Malaysia.

The National Library of Malaysia and the Librarians Association of Malaysia will be hosting the **6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Asian Digital Libraries (ICADL 2003)** from 8–11 Dec 2003, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The theme of the conference is "Digital Libraries: Technology and Management of Indigenous Knowledge for Global Access".

- **Thailand**

The Department of Library Science, Chiang Mai University, Thailand, OCLC Asia-Pacific, IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania and Thailand-U.S. Educational Foundation (Fulbright) organised an

**International Conference (Asia Pacific)** from 20-22 March 2003 at Chiang Mai, Thailand. The theme of the conference was “Challenges and Opportunities for Libraries and Information Professionals in Knowledge Management and Digital Age”.  
Challenges and Opportunities for Libraries and Information Professionals