

**35th CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES
(CDNL)
Quebec, Canada, 13 AUGUST 2008**

Name of Country: Republic of Kazakhstan

Name of Library: National Academic Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan

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**REPORT FOR THE 35th CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS
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KAZAKHSTAN ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2008

2007-2008 period is rich in interesting and significant events in the life of Kazakhstan library community. All these events are united by the common theme – “Libraries on the Agenda!” which is a key theme of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) for the years immediately ahead.

An outstanding event became the Action “One Country – One Book” with the goal of promoting reading, supporting literacy and reading culture, preserving spiritual heritage. Kazakhstan librarians supported the idea “One Country - One Book” which had spread broadly in many countries of the world. It became gripping and necessary as it contributed to national unity and human mutual understanding. The Action was organized by the National Academic Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan (NABRK) and Library Association of the Republic of Kazakhstan (BARK).

While choosing a book for joint reading, most people selected “Book of Words” by Abai, a great Kazakh poet, philosopher, composer, founder of Kazakh written literature. This book reflects general ideas of humanism, national moral and ethical values, historical-cultural traditions.

The Action “One Country - One Book” events took place in the last week of September 2007 all over the country. They included reading marathons, reciting competitions, readers conferences, exhibitions, films, special lessons at schools and universities, meetings with well-known public and cultural workers of the country. The Action events were widely elucidated in mass media. The Action was supported by all the country community because of librarians’ activity and energy, their efforts in promoting reading.

Each year, a special conference “Library Capital” is conducted under the aegis of BARK in various oblast centres (oblast is a territorial-administrative unit in Kazakhstan). Altogether, 7 conferences took place. Librarians from all the regions of the country participate in these conferences. At the conferences, innovations of profession are discussed, exchange of opinions is held, urgent problems are highlighted, future plans are outlined.

Last conference was conducted in Shymkent city in November 2007 – “Book and the Great Silk Road”. The conference was aimed at creating base for further study of books’ and libraries’ role in preserving and inheriting of spiritual traditions of the Great Silk Road, enhancement of library-information service. 600 librarians from all Kazakhstan regions participated at the conference; they represented all the types of libraries of the country.

The theme of libraries and librarians was continued at the First Republican Forum of Young Librarians of Kazakhstan which was conducted on May 22-23, 2008, in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, in the National Academic Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Forum was held under the auspices of IFLA and UNESCO.

One hundred the best representatives of the young generation of librarians from all the regions of the country, as well as experienced specialists in librarianship from Kazakhstan, Russia, and Slovakia gathered at the Forum. Deputies of the Parliament of RK, representatives of non-governmental, public and international organizations, embassies accredited in Kazakhstan, members of the BARK Board were honorary guests of the Forum.

The aim of the Forum was support of young librarians, increase of prestige of library profession, preservation and development of personnel potential, revelation of the most promising personnel. As Professor Claudia Lux, President of IFLA, noted in the Address to the Forum of Young Librarians of Kazakhstan, “ ... in every decade we need a new cohort of dynamic young people to join us as we strive to ensure the place of libraries at the centre of the Information Society”.

At the Forum, young librarians discussed professional issues, shared experience, learned some professional secrets at the workshops which were conducted by acknowledged Kazakhstan and foreign specialists in librarianship. Young librarians got acquainted with new directions in library information technologies, new books at the exhibition “New Format of Libraries” organized by the National Academic Library personnel during the Forum work. The Forum participants met with the deputies of the Senate and Mazhilis of the Parliament of RK. One of the key issues of the meeting was social support of young specialists, obtaining of professional and additional library education.

In the framework of the Forum of Young Librarians of Kazakhstan, a meeting with Silvia Stasselova, President of the Slovak Librarians Association, Member of IFLA SC – Management of Library Associations, was conducted. She stressed the idea that young librarians adapt easily to contemporary environment of communication and information technologies, know young users’ needs much better than older librarians.

The results of the Forum were summed up at the closing ceremony. In the Forum resolution, a paramount task was determined as adoption of the “Strategy of Actions of Young Librarians of Kazakhstan 2009-2011” by the Ministry of Culture and Information of RK, and creation of Youth Section in the Library Association of RK. The Forum gave start to new projects of the Library Association of RK and National Academic Library of RK – creation of electron data bases “Who Is Who in the Libraries of Kazakhstan”, “100 Young Librarians”, “Successful Projects of the Libraries of Kazakhstan”, as well as edition of new scientific journal on librarianship “Young Science in Librarianship” where the best research works of young librarians will be published.

On the whole, the Forum defined a range of urgent professional and social issues of young specialists of librarianship, attracted attention of community to the librarian profession, confirmed the fact that the National Academic Library of RK is an efficient place for conducting dialogue with authorities to reveal topical issues existing in librarianship, define ways for their solving, and promote their realizing in practice.

Roza Berdigalieva

Director General of the National Academic Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan