

**35th CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES
(CDNL), QUEBEC, CANADA, 13 AUGUST 2008**

COUNTRY REPORT

Name of Country: SINGAPORE

Name of Library: NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD

Name of Chief Executive: DR N. VARAPRASAD

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL, 2007 - 2008

HIGHLIGHTS

IFLA REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND OCEANIA

1.1 IFLA Asia and Oceania Section Newsletter Received Award

Among the newsletters produced by the 48 professional IFLA Sections - the IFLA Asia and Oceania Section Newsletter won the "IFLA Newsletter Award for Year 2007". Ms Jacinta Were, Chair of the IFLA Professional Committee presented the award to Regional Manager (Editor) during the IFLA Conference 2007 closing ceremony in Durban, Aug 07.

The IFLA Asia and Oceania Section Newsletters produced by the IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania can be found on IFLANET: [p://www.ifla.org/VII/s26/index.htm](http://www.ifla.org/VII/s26/index.htm)

1.2 IFLA Action for Development through Libraries Programme Core Activity (ALP) Training Attachments 2006

The National Library Board Singapore (NLB) as the Regional Office for Asia and Oceania also managed the ALP Training Attachment Programme for three 2006-grant recipients from Pakistan, India and Philippines who completed their respective four-week training attachments in the year 2007 with Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand and National Library Board Singapore.

NLB hosted Ms Sadia Paracha from Pakistan from 13 Sep to 3 Oct 07 to be trained on the "Theoretical and Practical Knowledge of Building a Digital Library".

NATIONAL LIBRARY

During the year, NLB received many valuable donations which include printing blocks, manuscripts, glass negatives and personal diaries.

Strategic partnerships were forged to enhance our collections and services.

Two conferences, the Dublin Core and Metadata Applications International Conference and the 10th IFLA Interlending and Document Supply (ILDS) International Conference, were organised.

Details of these highlights are given below:

COLLECTIONS

Donor collections

The Donors Gallery, located at Level 10 of LKCRL, was opened to the public on 11 November 2007. Occupying an area of 250 square metres, items and artefacts of 39 donors relating to Singapore and Southeast Asian art, literature, history and education are on display. These

items include a diverse array of materials in different formats such as printed materials, typed and handwritten manuscripts, and sketch plans of residential estates, photographs, paintings and calligraphy. The Gallery also includes a special exhibition area that highlights periodically significant items from recent donations.

On 19 September 2007, the National Library Board (NLB) signed a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with Encik Abdul Ghani Hamid for the donation of his personal collection. The collection comprises, approximately, 2,000 items on Singapore and Southeast Asian literature, art and history. Encik Abdul Ghani is a renowned writer, poet, painter and artist. He has produced hundreds of poems in Malay and English and held numerous art exhibitions. In 1999, he was awarded the Cultural Medallion of Singapore.

The family of the late Kouo Shang-Wei donated over 7,000 photographs, negatives and slides of his personal collection to NLB. These items were the efforts of the late Kouo, an award-winning photographer who captured sights and scenes of Singapore between the 1950s and 1980s such as the Singapore waterfront, Samsui women and the Singapore River.

Other notable donations:

- NLB acquired the digital rights of almost 1,000 photographs, hand-written musical scores, theatre scripts and newsletters dating from 1935 from Thau Yong Amateur Musical Association (陶融儒乐社). Thau Yong is one of the earliest music and drama associations to be set up in Singapore and its membership then comprised the prominent Teochew businessmen community. Its rich archives enhance research on the social history of the Teochews in Singapore and the development of music and drama groups.
- The family of Lin Chen (林晨), a prominent Chinese playwright who died in 2004, donated 8,602 items to NLB on 3 Jan. The collection comprises Singapore, Southeast Asian and Asian materials on drama, drawing and literature.
- Ustaz Ahmad Sonhadji, a prominent Muslim teacher, author and scholar, who has also written a Quranic translation, donated 698 books, dating from 1950s to 1980s, on the study of Islam and interpretation of the Quran in Arabic, Jawi and English, and loaned for digitisation about 7,000 pages of manuscripts, featuring his Singapore radio broadcasts and religious sermons, from 1960s to 1980s. This is a unique collection of manuscripts that reflects the development of Islam and Muslim culture in Singapore.
- The family of Eleanor O'Hara, from Queensland, Australia, donated 64 glass negatives on 21 Feb, taken by Ms O'Hara's father, dating between 1906-1919, capturing scenes from daily life in Singapore and Malaya. This is a notable set of images that enhances LKCRL's research collection on early Singapore.
- Mr George Hicks, economist, editor and author of the internationally acclaimed publication *"The Comfort Women: Sex Slaves of the Japanese Imperial Forces"*, donated 4,000 publications to NLB. This collection comprises mainly monographs on Southeast Asia and Asian history, economics and culture, including 80 rare books, such as *History of Java*, *McCartney's Embassy to China* and *History of Japan*.
- At the Fang Xiu book launch and talk on 8 Mar 08, Mr Tan Suan Poh donated 410 sheets (306 sheets original, 10 sheets of galley-proof and 94 sheets of photocopy) of Fang Xiu's manuscripts to NLB. NLB was also granted the rights to digitise the manuscripts. Fang Xiu is one of our Pioneers in Chinese Literature.
- Feeha Cheng Seah Temple (飞霞精舍) donated about 300 printing blocks and related religious publications published in Singapore in the early 1950s. They are part of a larger collection of printing plates used by Feeha Cheng Seah Temple to print Chinese Buddhist, Taoist, Confucian and syncretic religious texts in the 1950s. These are significant because the printing was done in Singapore and distributed overseas.
- Datin Patricia Lim, former director of ISEAS library, donated 46 books on 18 Jun, including three rare books published in the 1930s and written by Shu Chiung, wife of Dr Wu Lien-teh, one of the earliest Chinese doctors in Malaya.
- Donation of 6 volumes (over 800 pages) of documentary records, manuscripts, commentaries, congratulatory messages and eulogies related to the 60th birthday (1939) and death (1940) of Lin Kong Thing (林光挺), a prominent community leader in Pahang in the 1930s. Many of the manuscripts in the collection were written by famous personalities of that period, including Zhou Eng-lai, Soong Mei-ling, Yu You-ren and Yu Dafu. The donor also granted NLB the digital rights to the documents.

- Mr Lee Kip Lee, author and prominent Peranakan expert, granted NLB digital rights for 16 of his personal diaries, including his war diaries (1942-45), diaries from his childhood days (1930s) and a Chinese medicinal prescription booklet (1930s), with Peranakan translation for ailments.
- NLB and St Joseph's Church signed an MOU on 7 Dec, for the digitization of 29 volumes of marriage, baptism and death records of the church from 1848-1961. These items are significant for research on the Eurasian community.
- LKCRL received the collection from SGX that comprised mainly of IPO prospectuses, annual reports and newsletters of companies in Singapore and Malaya/Malaysia. This is a one-off donation and has opened up possibilities of future collaborations, including digitization of some of these IPOs and annual reports.
- Lin Qiong (林琼) who donated about 1,200 books and periodicals on Malayan/Singapore literature dating from the 1950s.

Loan of private collections

An agreement was made with Raffles Institution (RI) and NLB on the loan of about 130 letters for digitisation, pertaining to the founding of RI, then known as Singapore Institution, including letters from Sir Stamford Raffles, John Argyle Maxwell and John Crawford.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with RI was signed on 26 April 2007 to make available to the public this archive of significant heritage materials. Under the NLB-RI MOU, NLB will preserve, store and facilitate access for public viewing of these rare materials through digitisation or microfilms.

Book Donation by the Japan Foundation

On 6 June 2007, the Japan Foundation donated close to 450 books to the NLB through the Embassy of Japan to commemorate the anniversary of the state visit of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan to the National Library in June 2006.

French Collection Donation

Mr Jean-Francois Copé, French Minister of Budget (2004-2007) and Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS) & Second Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts (MICA) jointly launched the French Corner at Level 7 Social Sciences and Humanities Collection Floor of the National Library on 28 March. The French government gave a donation to NLB to purchase books for the French Corner. The French Corner consists of 1,000 French books translated into Singapore's four official languages in areas covering French literary works and works in Humanities, Social Sciences and Philosophy.

PUBLICATIONS

"Active, Beautiful, Clean Waters: A select annotated bibliography on water related resources"

The "Active, Beautiful, Clean Waters: A select annotated bibliography on water related resources" was launched at the MOU signing ceremony between NLB and PUB on 11 Oct 07.

"新加坡会馆书刊出版目录"(A Bibliography on the Publications of Singapore Chinese Clan Associations)

A bibliography on the Publications of Singapore Chinese Clan Associations was published and launched on 23 September 2007. The bibliography covered holdings of titles housed in the National Library of Singapore, National University of Singapore Chinese Library, National Technological University Humanities and Social Sciences Library, Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations Resource Center and National Archives of Singapore. A talk on "Preservation of Publications and Documents of Clan Associations" was organised in conjunction with the Launch. About 120 participants attended the launch. In addition, an exhibition, "Roots & Records – the Exhibition of Publications of the Singapore Chinese Clans" was also organised in November 2007.

"Books about Singapore"

Three online issues of the "Books about Singapore" had been published during the year via the NLB website.

"Singapore Artists: A select annotated bibliography. (Vol 1: The Nanyang Pioneers)"

Section on Chen Chong Swee, Cheong Soo Pieng and Chen Wen Hsi for the "Singapore Artists: A select annotated bibliography. (Vol 1: The Nanyang Pioneers)" was published as an electronic resource on the Digital Library on October 2007.

“新加坡华文期刊 50年”(50 years of Singapore Chinese Periodicals)

A 328-paged illustrative bibliography of the same title as the exhibition was published in March 08. The bibliography provides a master list of Chinese periodicals published in Singapore from 1940-1980. Information included scanned magazine cover image, content page, publisher's details and the intent of the magazines from inaugural issue of selective magazines are included. A brief account of the 50 years of the publishing history of the magazines in both English and Chinese language are included. Ex-editors of magazines also shared their experiences of dealing with the publishing of magazines in the old days.

“方修编著资料辑录”(Fang Xiu: a bibliography)

A bibliography on works by and about Fang Xiu was launched in March 2008.

“谈心论艺谈说方修”(Fang Xiu: the fonder of the study of Singapore and Malaysian Chinese literatures)

A 44 mins DVD production with interviews of Fang Xiu and 15 others on Fang Xiu was jointly produced.

“The Catalogue of Rare Materials”

The Catalogue of Rare Materials in the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library had been produced with a listing of 2,075 titles.

“Statistical Snapshots of Asia-Pacific Countries and the National Directory of Scholars: Humanities and Social Sciences Research”

Two publications were produced and launched in April 2007 by the National Library: Statistical Snapshots of Asia-Pacific Countries and the National Directory of Scholars: Humanities and Social Sciences Research. The directory contains useful information to established and new researchers in arts, humanities and social sciences for networking purposes or for tapping into the various fields of expertise of other researchers. Statistical Snapshots provides a detailed comparative analysis of key socio-economic indicators in areas such as media, info-communication, finance, healthcare, education, tourism and transport for 14 Asia-Pacific countries.

“Re-inventing Library Services: Continuity with Change: Case Study on the National Library Board”

This case study jointly written by the Warwick Business School, Yale University and the National University of Singapore is a further testimony of NLB's success and the paradigm shift that we have created in the provision of library services. In the next few years, NLB will focus on building *Libraries for Life* to support the development of strong social capital in Singapore, which will help to weave the fabric of a strong knowledge-based society; and *Knowledge for Success*, which will create the knowledge dividend Singapore needs to be a competitive, productive and innovative knowledge-based economy.

“Singapore: The First Ten Years of Independence”

Jointly published by NLB and the National Archives of Singapore, this publication aims to raise awareness among Singaporeans of the challenges that faced Singapore's First Cabinet in 1965, the approaches they took to deal with these challenges, the policies they implemented, and their contributions to Singapore's progress and prosperity. The publication includes a resource list of books, speeches, newspaper articles as well as oral history interviews and audiovisual materials.

“Giving Back: Winning Stories and Poems from Behind Bars”

Jointly published by NLB and the CARE Network, this book contains the winning stories and poems by inmates for the Yellow Ribbon Poetry & Storytelling Competition. It was launched by the Prime Minister of Singapore, Lee Hsien Loong, at the Yellow Ribbon Walk & Fair on 2 Sep 2007.

“Screen to Print”

The three books for the “Screen to Print” project, *12 Storeys*, *Eating Air* and *4:30* were launched on 20 June 2008 by Mr Chan Yeng Kit, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts (MICA).

For this project, fiction text based on three local films - *12 Storeys*, *Eating Air* and *4:30* - were written and published. Local writers were engaged to rewrite these films into fiction. The launch event was jointly organised by NLB, the National Book Development Council of Singapore and Firstfruits Publications.

RESEARCH SERVICES

Lee Kong Chian Research Fellowship

In its second year, the Lee Kong Chian Research (LKC) Fellowship attracted about twenty-two applications from distinguished scholars from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, China, India, Russia, Poland, the United States of America and the United Kingdom. Lasting six months each, these candidates would undertake collection-related research on NLB's Singapore and Southeast Asian Collections, with the aim of creating subsidiary works. The National Library Board (NLB) has awarded 20 research fellowships since its inauguration in April 2006, of which 10 fellows have completed their fellowship and 10 are in the midst of their research work. Upon completion, the fellows have to give two presentations, to NLB staff and to members of public to present their research findings. In addition to these deliverables, they have to write an article for *BiblioAsia*, the National Library's quarterly news journal and submit a full report of their research findings.

Distinguished Readers Initiative

This initiative was launched on 24 April 2006 to recognise the contributions of prominent senior Singaporeans, for their leadership and professional success in their respective fields and outstanding contribution to the nation's success, whether in government, business, academia or the arts. These Distinguished Readers (DRs) are granted privileged access to the resources of the National Library and reference support provided by research librarians attached to them. The National Library also gives full support to DRs who wish to record their knowledge and experiences for the benefit of future generations. To date, we have appointed a total of 16 DRs. Mr Tan Swie Hian and Prof Edwin Thumboo have donated some of their valuable private collections to the library. Others such as Ms Meira Chand, Mr R Ramachandran, Mr Yatiman Yusof, Ms Hedwig Anuar and Mr Lee Khoo Choy have also actively participated and lent their support to the many activities and events organised by NLB.

REFERENCE SERVICES

Collaborative Reference & Network Service

The Collaborative Reference & Network Service (CRNS) aims to bring NLB's reference library services to a higher realm of experience for library customers, chiefly through the innovative use of technology. For librarians, CRNS will enable collaboration in pooling the collective knowledge of librarians and apply on complex reference enquiries. For library customers, NLB's reference services will conveniently reach many channels and lifestyle spaces.

Collaborative Reference Network Services (CRNS) phase 1 was rolled out in phases in 2007 with the aim to bring NLB's reference services to the next level. CRNS provides collaborative tools for librarians, external specialists and the public. Phase 1 of CRNS made available the following developments to help users in their research enquiries:

- The delivery of reference answers to users through additional channels like SMS;
- Using the collaborative tool, NLB reference staff are able to tap on the collective knowledge of the subject communities to provide quality answers to reference enquiries, posted by the customers. The discussions amongst members of the communities are captured and serve as a knowledge management and learning tool for staff.
- NLB reference expertise have also answered user queries relating to Singapore and ASEAN at Yahoo Answers (for a start);

As part of the CRNS project, the Network of Specialists (NOS) was implemented in May 2007. This is a platform that taps on social networking tools, such as wikis and blogs, to create an environment for members to learn and share information, pertaining to reference enquiries. Using the platform, NLB reference staff are able to tap on the collective knowledge of the subject communities to provide quality answers to reference enquiries, posted by the customers. The discussions amongst members of the communities are captured and serve as a knowledge management and learning tool for staff. Customers benefit from a more in-depth reply to his/her enquiry.

Catalogue on Newspapers on Microfilm

The web-based Microfilm Finding aids, known as the Newspapers on Microfilm Catalogue was made available to the public on 26 February 2008 via a standalone Lotus Notes PC at LKCRL as well as at website: <http://microfilms.nl.sg/Default.aspx>.

Making digital content content searchable via popular search engines

The website architecture was re-designed to enhance discovery of the National Library's electronic content, such as Infopedia articles via the search engines such as Google, Yahoo and MSN. A comparison of pages viewed before and after our trial showed a 362-fold increase in usage, from 400 accesses per month to 145,000 a month. Being easily searchable by GYM, our content is found "incidentally" by users at their point of needs. This greatly increased the access to the valuable content.

EXHIBITIONS

“新加坡文艺先驱的光辉展 ” our literary pioneer: Fang Xiu)

Exhibition on Fang Xiu launched in March 2008 in conjunction with book launched, jointly organised with HCD and Tropical Literature & Art Club.

The launch of Fang Xiu's bibliography and related exhibition continues NLB's focus on Singapore's local literary heritage, putting the spotlight this time on Fang Xiu, another literary pioneer who paved the way forward for the advance of local writing. The exhibition, together with the book launch, provided valuable insights and knowledge into one of Singapore's foremost literary giant. The programme was a huge success; drawing in close to 300 participants while the exhibition itself drew at least 1,000 visitors in just three days after its launch.

“新加坡华文期刊 50年 ”(50 years of Singapore Chinese Periodicals)

An exhibition on the "50 Years of Singapore Chinese Periodicals" was organised in November 07 to showcase periodicals published in Singapore between 1940-1980. The exhibition was organised in conjunction with the Hainan Hwee Guan and periodicals on exhibition were either on-loan or donated to NLB specially for the event by our local communities.

‘KaalaChakra’, Early Influence in Southeast Asia

NLB launched the 'KaalaChakra' Exhibition on early Indian influences in Southeast Asia on 17 November 2007. The exhibition offered a glimpse into the historical past of the Indian community and how its roots form part of Singapore's multi-cultural national identity and heritage. The exhibition focused on the cultural and religious influences as well as early trade related incursions from South India to Southeast Asia and vice versa up to the 13th Century. More importantly, it traces the influence of the Sanskrit and Tamil languages in this region and the spread of Hinduism and Buddhism. A bibliography titled "KaalaChakra: Wheel of Time, Early Indian Influences in Southeast Asia, A Select Annotated Bibliography" was also launched to commemorate the opening of the exhibition. In parallel with the exhibition, an international academic conference was organised by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), on 'Early Indian Influences in Southeast Asia: Reflections on Cross-Cultural Movements' from 21 to 23 November and was attended by local and international historians and researchers.

“Cash, Credit & Collateral Money-lending in Singapore, 1820s – 1930s: Some perspectives from the Koh Seow Chuan Collection”

A 3-month exhibition based on the Koh Seow Chuan Collection titled "Cash, Credit & Collateral Money-lending in Singapore, 1820s – 1930s: Some perspectives from the Koh Seow Chuan Collection" was put-up at LKCRL on 7 May 2007.

"The Nanyang Pioneer Artists: Paintings and Heritage Materials in the National Library's Collection"

The exhibition, "The Nanyang Pioneer Artists: Paintings and Heritage Materials in the National Library's Collection" was held and was well-received. The goal of this exhibition was to encourage more people to come forth and donate their books and ephemera, and help preserve Singapore's published heritage on the arts. The exhibition featured paintings, books, journals and ephemera by and on 6 widely acknowledged Nanyang art pioneers: Lim Hak Tai, Georgette Chen, Chen Wen Hsi, Chen Chong Swee, Liu Kang and Cheong Soo Pieng. The exhibition also displayed newspaper clippings and images of the artists' artworks on the courtesy of the Singapore Press Holdings and the Singapore Art Museum.

"Way of Asian Design Exhibition"

INVENT and LKCRL held a joint-exhibition on Asian book/poster design, "Way of Asian Design Exhibition", from 16 to 29 January 2008. The exhibition attracted many arts practitioners and lecturers, including artist well-known local Lin Hsin Hsin.

CONFERENCES

Dublin Core and Metadata Applications International Conference

Launched on 28 August by Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports and Second Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts, the International Conference on Dublin Core and Metadata Applications (DC-2007) was a three-day event organised by NLB and Dublin Core Metadata Initiatives (DCMI). The theme was 'Application Profiles: Theory and Practice'. NLB also officially announced the incorporation of DCMI in Singapore as an independent legal entity by 2008.

10th IFLA Interlending and Document Supply (ILDS) International Conference

NLB hosted the 10th IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) Interlending and Document Supply (ILDS) International Conference on 29 to 31 October 2007. The conference met with an overwhelming response by over 200 international delegates to engage in insightful exchanges on the theme 'Resource Sharing for The Future, Building Blocks for Success'.

The rapidly emerging trend of researching via the Internet has challenged the efficacy of libraries in promoting, extending and improving resource sharing and document delivery to meet the needs of library users at the national and international levels. In light of the current development, libraries around the world are taking pro-active steps to regularly examine the delivery of information to users and are promoting and implementing the use of technology in streamlining international resource sharing and delivery to better meet end-user needs.

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

Digitising newspapers owned by Singapore Press Holdings

NLB signed an agreement with Singapore Press Holdings on 31 July 07 to digitise The Straits Times (ST) archives dating as far back as 1845. ST, with its 162-year old history, possesses a rich record of Singapore and the region throughout the years. In collaborating with the National Library, all available printed copies of The Straits Times will be digitised and made easily accessible to the public within NLB's network of libraries in Singapore for individual research and reference purposes from the second half of 2008.

EnterpriseOne Business Information Services

Launched on 2 August 2007 by Mr Lee Yi Shyan, Minister of State for Trade and Industry, the EnterpriseOne Business Information Services (EBIS) is a multi-agency initiative to help enterprises in Singapore become knowledgeable, innovative and information-savvy to compete effectively in the global marketplace. Driven by the Singapore Business Federation (SBF) in partnership with NLB, SPRING Singapore and International Enterprise Singapore (IE Singapore), EBIS taps on the strengths of the four partners to provide enterprises, especially Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), access to trusted business information to help them make better-informed business decisions for their businesses. As at 30 April 2008, we have served 263 SMEs and registered 263 members. A total of 1,234 people visited the EBIS Centres at NLB, SBF and IE Singapore.

Preservation of materials on terrorism

NLB signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), on 12 September 07 to formulate a strategic partnership to preserve, archive and make accessible rare print and non-print information on international political violence and terrorism. This collaboration, which includes joint efforts in public education initiatives on terrorism informatics and an exchange programme to train terrorism analysts in NLB, will combine the resources of both NLB and RSIS for a more effective research and development in terrorism informatics, an important field of knowledge in today's uncertain and tumultuous times.

As part of the collaboration, NLB will provide public access to non-sensitive or de-sensitised information on political violence and terrorism in either print or electronic format through its libraries and digital channels. NLB and RSIS will also work together to educate the public by staging exhibitions and talks in NLB libraries in the event of or in the context of an act or acts of political violence or terrorism.

Specialised collection on water resources

NLB signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with PUB, the national water agency, on 11 October 07 to formalise a synergistic partnership in several key areas. One of these is to build up a comprehensive collection on water and water management resources to meet the information needs of the water resources industry, researchers and the general public. With the MOU, water industry professionals and researchers can now gain a deeper insight into water-related issues with greater accessibility of research papers and publications to be made available. The general public will also get to attend water-related exhibitions, conferences and talks organised by NLB and PUB.

The European Union Information Centre (EUI)

An agreement was signed between The European Union Delegation (Singapore) and NLB to appoint the National Library as a host for a European Union Information Centre (EUI). As a EU depository library, the National Library carries electronics as well as hard copies of official EU publications, so as to promote an awareness of EU to Singaporeans.

OTHER EVENTS

Managing Regional Change Colloquia: Singapore in a Larger Asia

On 17 May 2007, NLB and the Asia Competitiveness Institute (ACI) of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy jointly organised the 'Managing Regional Change Colloquia: Singapore in a Larger Asia'. Dr Surin Pitsuwan, former Thai Foreign Minister and Professor Phillippe Lasserre, Emeritus Professor of Strategy and Asian Business, INSEAD, delivered the keynote speeches which focused on the ASEAN Charter and its implications for the region, how democracies in Southeast Asia are managing globalisation, and the survival strategies of small states in an integrated region. The forum sought to address questions on how Singapore can ride the Asian wave of change and effectively engage Asia's rising giants.

2nd Heritage Roadshow

NLB held its second Heritage Roadshow on 10 Nov 2007. The roadshow appealed to the public for photographs, postcards, pictures, or illustrations of historic buildings, landmarks, places, or street scenes of Singapore that are no longer in existence (especially those before 1970). This was meant to coincide with the launch of NLB's Deposit Website that allows patrons to donate digitised items such as photos and documents virtually. Once again, the roadshow generated a lot of interest and donations from the public.

In connection with the donation drive, the Donors Gallery was also launched. This gave the public a glimpse of the tremendous number of treasures and artefacts that we have received from donors over the years.

The Heritage Roadshow drew a record of 1,000 people to the event, with some 300 items (photos, pictures, postcards etc) donated by the public. The related talk on the 50 years of Chinese periodicals exhibition drew about 200 people at the POD. The NL November Exhibitions on Chinese periodicals, roots and records, and Nanyang artists drew about 16,000 people for the month.

"David Marshall: His Life and Legacy" Symposium

NLB and ISEAS, together with the Academy of Law, the MFA Diplomatic Academy and the Jewish Welfare Board jointly organised in March 2008 the "David Marshall: His Life and Legacy" symposium to commemorate the centenary birthday of the late David Marshall, described by many as one of the giants in Singapore's history. This symposium, which featured speakers like Prof Kishore Mahbubani and Ambassador Chan Heng Chee, attracted more than 300 participants eager to pay tribute to a great man. This event revolves around the theme of Founding Fathers – which aims to reintroduce the historical heroes that made valuable contributions to the development and growth of our island-state.

National Library Singapore Hot Spots!

To draw new visitors to the National Library and showcase her services and attractions, a Hot Spots guide (similar to city maps) was specially designed and produced to assist visitors to get around the National Library.

The compact DL size guide unfolds to an A2-size building layout with icons marking key features found on the various levels of the National Library. It comes replete with facts and figures of the building's green features, facilities, stories of our heritage and a public transport

directory on how to get to the National Library. The guide also introduced the roles, functions and services provided by the National Library.

Hot Spots enabled visitors to deepen their knowledge on the National Library as they explore their areas of interests at their own time and pace.

CERTIFICATION

Reference Library's ISO 9001: 2000 Certification

The National Library's Lee Kong Chian Reference Library was awarded the ISO 9001: 2000 certification from TUV SUD PSB (Singapore's certification body) after two days of external certification. The certification was awarded for Management and Operations of the library's reference and research services for the period 26 June 2007 to 25 June 2010.

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