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REPORT TO IFLA ON PAC ACTIVITIES
IFLA PAC REGIONAL CENTRE FOR ASIA
From January to December 2015

The IFLA/PAC Regional Centre for Asia (PAC Asia) continues to work to develop a network for the preservation of library materials in Asia and to strengthen regional cooperation in accordance with the IFLA Strategic Plan for encouraging preservation activities throughout Asia. The following is a summary of activities carried out from January to December of 2015 by PAC Asia and its host library, the National Diet Library of Japan (NDL), to promote both international and intranational cooperation in preserving library materials.

1 International Cooperation

1) Support to libraries and other institutions throughout Asia

- On July 2, 2015, PAC Asia held a briefing on the Nepal Earthquake which occurred in April and May, 2015, and the damage to Nepalese libraries as well as maintained contact with the Nepal National Library in order to provide up-to-date information to concerned parties. (The following year, in February, 2016, the Chief Librarian of the Nepal National Library was invited to visit the NDL to participate in a training program on disaster-preparedness.)
- In September, 2015, the Singapore Red Cross Society offered financial support to libraries affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. PAC Asia cooperated with the Japan Library Association in mediating between the Singapore Red Cross Society and qualified libraries.
- Responding to inquiries from the National Library of Sri Lanka on freezers used in pest management, PAC Asia provided updated information on a variety of freezers. The National Library of Sri Lanka also inquired about the disaster-preparedness planning at Japanese libraries. PAC Asia provided explanation of the situation in Japan.

2) Contributions to IFLA Preservation and Conservation activities

- The 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction took place in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015. Additionally, a series of expert meetings were held prior to the main conference. On March 12, Naoko Kobayashi, then Director of PAC Asia, attended Session 4 in Tokyo on “Preparedness for Response, Recovery, and Reconstruction” by the International Expert Meeting on Cultural Heritage and Disaster Resilient Communities on behalf of IFLA. She also made a short presentation entitled “The IFLA’s Commitment on Disaster Preparedness and Response.” Her presentation is available at:
<http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/pac/wcdrr2015intervention.pdf>
- PAC Asia cooperated with the IFLA Risk Register project. PAC Asia requested the CDNLAO* Newsletter editorial office at the NDL to help promote Risk Register by including an article this topic in the February 2016 issue.
*CDNLAO: Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania
- PAC Asia participated in the planning of a PAC open session to be held at WLIC 2016, entitled “Preparing for disasters: methods and case studies for the safeguarding of documentary cultural heritage.”

2 Intranational cooperation in Japan

1) Training

- The NDL holds an annual one-day program on preservation and conservation of library materials for librarians working in Japan. During 2015, this program included a lecture on the basic theory of preservation and a workshop on elementary techniques for mending paper materials. The program was held three times during October and November for a total of 55 trainees. The NDL also dispatched its staff members to conduct training sessions on preservation in response to requests from prefectural and university libraries.
- The NDL offers online training courses for librarians. As in 2014, a course entitled Basic Theory of Preservation and Conservation was offered in 2015, as well. Of the 270 people who registered and began the course in June, 185 people completed it successfully. Another course, entitled Basics of Digitization, has been available online since 2012 and can be started by anyone at any time.

2) Contributing to the preservation of cultural artifacts

- The Cultural Property Rescue Program was organized by the Agency for Cultural Affairs in April 2011 for the salvage and treatment of damaged cultural property. A variety of professional institutions and groups involved in preservation of cultural artifacts collaborated in salvaging materials damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake until the program's conclusion on March 31, 2013. In 2014 the National Institute of Cultural Heritage kicked off the National Task Force for the Japanese Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network (CH-DRM Network) to deal with disaster risk reduction activities during both ordinary times and emergencies. The CH-DRM Network also set up two groups: the Conference for the Promotion of Japanese Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network and the Council of Experts for Japanese Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network. Since 2014, a staff member from the NDL Preservation Division has been involved with the former organization and the Director of PAC Asia joined the latter one.
- The Joso Municipal Library was flooded above floor level during massive rain falls caused by a typhoon in September, 2015. Some 30,000 volumes from the library collection were damaged by the flood. The Joso Municipal Library requested help from the NDL in repairing these irreplaceable items. The NDL has received about 30 items and has been preparing for their restoration.

3) Information dissemination and activities to draw attention to preservation and conservation

- In December, an NDL Preservation Forum entitled "Exhibitions: Do they damage library materials?" was held with 94 people in attendance. The keynote lecture was delivered by Dr. Masato Kato, Head of the Resource and Systems Research Section, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation, National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo. After the lecture, representatives of Hitotsubashi University Library, the Printing Museum, the Kikuyo-cho Library of Kumamoto Prefecture, and the NDL reported on their own activities related to exhibitions. These reports were followed by lively discussions and presentations from other libraries about their activities as the attendees shared their experiences in learning how exhibitions and the preservation of materials go together.
- To help disseminate information in Japan, articles on the IFLA annual conference were provided to the *National Diet Library Newsletter* and other publications. The PAC Asia webpage on the NDL website features links to translations of IFLA/PAC

publications by PAC Asia (full text) and a Japanese translation of the table contents to IPN.

- The NDL supports the activities of the Japan Library Association by appointing a staff member from the NDL Preservation Division to serve on the Preservation Committee as well as the activities of the Japan Image & Information Management Association by appointing a staff member to serve on the Editorial Committee of the *Journal of Image & Information Management*.
- The NDL Preservation Division also provides tours for visitors interested in learning about its preservation activities. It also works to raise awareness of preservation and conservation activities by granting requests from journalists for interviews about these activities.

PAC and PAC Asia have long regarded cooperation programs, such as information sharing and training programs, as essential to enhancing the level of preservation and ensuring long-term preservation of library materials throughout Asia. We would like to continue preservation cooperation programs suitable and necessary for the region under the framework of PAC.