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REPORT TO IFLA ON PAC ACTIVITIES
IFLA PAC REGIONAL CENTRE FOR ASIA
From January to December 2013

The IFLA PAC Regional Centre for Asia (PAC Asia) has continued to develop the preservation network in Asia and strengthen regional cooperation, based on the IFLA Strategic Plan 2010-2015, to encourage preservation activities in each area of the Asian region. The following is what PAC Asia and its hosting library, the NDL (mainly the Preservation Division, Acquisitions and Bibliography Department) carried out from January to December of 2013 in the area of national and international cooperation for the preservation of library materials.

1 International Cooperation

1) Support to Asian libraries and other institutions

>In Southeastern Asian countries like Myanmar and Indonesia, preservation and conservation activities by local staff seem to have become active recently and the PAC Asia has provided practical advice and information on basic theory. In March, we made a major renewal of our English website so that Asian colleagues can find practical and useful information more easily. <http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/iflapac/index.html>

>In response to a request from the Indonesian Center for Agricultural Library and Technology Dissemination, the NDL accepted eight staff members as internship trainees as a cooperative activity of the PAC Asia from 30 September to 4 October 2013. The PAC Asia in cooperation with the Preservation Division provided a basic training program for preservation and conservation. The program consisted of lectures on the basic theory of preservation and preventive conservation measures for various types of library materials, a workshop on making protective enclosures, and visits to libraries to see various ways of collection care.

>The International Conference on Cultural Heritage and Disaster Risk Reduction was held November 18 to 20, 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand, by the SEAMEO SPAFA with support from the Japan Foundation. More than twenty experts in various fields relating to cultural heritage and disaster preparedness were invited to give presentations and join a group discussion. From the library community, Ms. Christiane Baryla, the IFLA PAC Director, and Naoko Kobayashi, Director of the PAC Asia, attended the conference. I, Naoko Kobayashi, made a presentation titled "What we've learned from rescue projects for cultural properties in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake."

>Responding to inquiries from the Nepal National Archives on deterioration of microfilm,

and from the National Library of Myanmar on suppliers of Japanese paper for conservation treatment, we provided them with practical information. PAC Asia distributed “International Preservation News” No.58 and No.59-60 to the libraries, institutions, and specialists in the area covered: at present Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nepal, North Korea, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, and Japan.

2) Contributions to IFLA Preservation and Conservation Activities

- >Concerning the IFLA Key Initiative 4 “Cultural Heritage Disaster Reconstruction Programme,” the PAC Asia translated “IFLA Principles of Engagement in times of conflict, crisis or natural disaster” into Japanese and uploaded it on the PAC Asia website in April. The Japanese translation is now available also on the IFLA website. According to the principles, an advisory committee has been established and I am one of the committee members as director of PAC Asia.
- >Concerning WLIC 2013, PAC Asia, as a member of organizing group for a WLIC 2013 satellite meeting held by IFLA PAC and Children and Young Adult Section, was involved in planning its program and selecting papers. I also supported PAC Director Christiane Baryla in planning a WLIC open session and gave a presentation titled “Progress of Collaboration in Disaster Preparedness for Cultural Properties after the Great East Japan Earthquake” at the session. The NDL delegated a staff member of the Preservation Division, Akiko Okahashi, to the standing committee of the Preservation and Conservation Section. She was involved in planning the open session held by the section.
- >PAC Asia contributed an article to the IPN No.59-60 on how to prepare for the shaking of earthquakes and how to reduce damage caused by shaking. Through this article, lessons learned from the NDL Preservation Forum “Earthquake preparedness for libraries –what we found effective, what we learned from our experience” were disseminated outside Japan. Also, we asked a leading conservator who managed some recovery projects for water-damaged materials to write an article for the same issue.
- >PAC Asia joined the working group to discuss the continuation of PAC activities from January 2014 and actively participated in the discussion. In November, PAC Asia sent a written comment to the Headquarters.

2 Domestic Cooperation

1) Training

- >Every year, the NDL holds a one-day programme on preservation and conservation for librarians working in Japan. We carried out the programme, consisting of a lecture on the basic theory of preservation and a workshop on elementary techniques for mending paper materials, twice in October for a total of 41 trainees. Responding to requests from

prefectural and university libraries, the NDL dispatched instructors for training session on preservation. In 2013, we carried out our basic programme mentioned above and a lecture based on our experience to cope with materials damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake.

>The NDL has been providing online training courses for library staff every year. The training course “Basic theory of preservation and conservation” was provided as last year and about 200 people began to learn from November. The NDL started a new course “Basics of Digitization” in 2012. The contents are not closed but are always accessible by anyone who wants to learn.

2) Collaborative projects to deal with cultural heritage damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake

>The “Cultural Property Rescue Programme” was organized by the Agency for Cultural Affairs in April 2011 for salvage and treatment of damaged cultural heritage. Various professional institutions and groups relating to preservation of cultural heritage had collaborated with each other to salvage materials damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake until the programme finished on March 31, 2013. Since April, the Board of Education in each prefecture has been responsible for the rescue work. Rescue projects are under way, making good use of reinforced networks among persons related to the preservation of cultural properties. Although a permanent organization to cope with emergencies affecting for cultural properties had not been established, the mailing list is still functioning and the new bonds forged during two years have been maintained. In response to a request by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, the NDL has been participating in the programme since May 2011. In 2013, we took part in open discussions to sum up the program and participated in writing the formal report of the activities.

>Besides the Rescue Programme, since October 2012, the NDL has done conservation work on Tsunami-damaged old local documents, “Yoshida-ke monjo”. The collection is designated as prefectural cultural property. The NDL reports on the progress of the operation on Facebook.

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

>In December, the NDL held a Preservation Forum titled “Toward a sustainable environmental control: mainly for library and archives materials.” 135 attendees learned to improve their storage environment through a lecture by a conservation scientist on the basics of environmental control and case studies of libraries and archives. The NDL had a severe experience of mould damage several years ago, one of whose causes was high humidity in a particular spot in the storage area. We vigorously struggled with mould taking various measures such as use of dehumidifiers and special control of temperature, and shared the story with preservation practitioners in Japan.

- >In March, a literature review on the rescue and conservation of damaged paper materials by Shigehito Hisanaga, a Preservation Division staff member, appeared on “Current Awareness,” a newsletter on library and library and information science edited by the NDL. We also provide articles on the IFLA annual conference and reports on conservation work for Yoshida-ke monjo, the tsunami-damaged old local documents, to disseminate information in Japan. The page for the PAC Asia in Japanese on the NDL website carries translations of IFLA/PAC publications by PAC Asia (full text) and the table contents of IPN translated into Japanese.
- >Every year the NDL holds a social meeting for experts in preservation, consisting of experts from libraries, archives, museum communities and conservation scientists. This meeting promotes preservation activities in Japan by exchanging information and sharing knowledge and experience across the boundaries of specialties. In March, the 8th meeting was held and they discussed activities to support rehabilitation from the Great East Japan Earthquake by member institutes, manuals for disaster preparedness, etc.
- >The NDL contributes to the activities of the Japan Library Association by delegating a staff member of the Preservation Division to the Preservation Committee, and also to the activities of the Japan Image & Information Management Association by delegating a staff member to the Publishing Committee of the Journal of Image & Information Management.
- >The Preservation Division also provides tours for visitors to show preservation activities. It also grants requests for interview by various media to raise awareness of preservation and conservation.

For ensuring long-term preservation of library materials, the major goal of PAC, we have regarded it important to enhance the level of preservation in our region through cooperation programs, such as information sharing and training programs. Since the Great East Japan Earthquake, we have made special efforts to share the lessons we learned from the experience. We would like to continue preservation cooperation programs suitable and necessary for the region under the framework of PAC after 2014.