

THE THIRD BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF  
THE ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARY  
LIBRARIANS OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC  
MAY 9-12, 1994. BANGKOK, THAILAND.

**RESOURCES AND INFORMATION  
SHARING OF LEGISLATION**

**BY  
MRS. ROEMNINGSII  
INDONESIA**

**MAY, 1994**

RESOURCES AND INFORMATION SHARING OF LEGISLATION  
IN INDONESIAN PARLIAMENT

BY

MRS. ROEMNINGSIH

INDONESIA

=====

Background

In Globalization and High Technology era, most people need some information, particularly the Member of Parliament. Everyday they must face and solve many problems from the country or make some decisions etc, so they need actual information and datas to support their work.

As a Librarian at Indonesian Parliament and as a member of APLAP we aware that we must understand how to prepare the actual and accurate information and datas to support and help our MPs work.

Through this conference, let us share and discusse about our experiences in preparly informations and datas to the MPs for helping them in their task.

Indonesian Parliament

The Members of Parliament are 500 persons, who have been elected every 5 years. They are divided into 4 factions (grouping) and 11 committees, BKSAP (The Committees for International Parliamentary Cooperation) and BURT (The House hold Committees).

Parliamentary Library

Our Library has about 100.000 titles of books collection. They consist of : Law (included collection from The Dutch Government), Economics, Political, Social Sciences books. (To manage our

library), we have 22 staffs and get the annually budget Rp 50.000.000,- from Secretariat General of the House of Representatives to buy books, newspapers, magazines (local and overseas), and to cost mails.

To proces our books, we have used computers since last year to make our work more easily.

In one side we have computerized & books processing but in the other side we have not computerized book circulation yet. At the moment we serve our users (members of parliament) with manual system, but it is not constraint, we always try to serve our users with the best we can do.

We have reference, book lending, reading room, and photo copy services. Beside that we publish the newest books catalogue twice a year and the newest Bibliographic books every month.

#### P3I (Center for Research and Information Service)

Beside from the library, the Members of Parliaments can get the information from P3I. P3I have duties to collect; to process; to analyze; to describe informations and give the result as recomendation or alternative as (input) to The MPs. The results are used for dialogue, formal meeting, fact finding in making new regulation or amandement etcetera with our government/counterpat/foreign government etcetra.

P3I is divided into 5 sections, they are :

1. International Relations
2. Domestic Politics (internal affairs)
3. Law
4. Economics
5. Social Welfare.

This centre has 22 junior reserchers from various diciplines who give the information and datas.

The activities of P3I :

1. Collecting datas from books, news papers, magazines, or periodicals and other relevance sources.
2. Explaining, analyzing, the datas and giving the result as recommendation, or (input) to the Member of Parliaments in decision making.
3. Sometimes organizing the Seminar or Workshop for the MPs with We invite intelectual, politician etc as speakers. The themes are relevant with their need.

The MPs can ask datas by telephone or they can visit the researchers. All datas have already put into computers with Database and Isis Sistem and have been distributed to 4 factions and 11 committees, BKSAP and BURT. P3I also publish the summary of current issues every week, paper with special issues etc.

The field research has not started yet, because we are just on the beginning and not yet perfect as the other developed country, but once again we always try to serve our users with the best we can do.

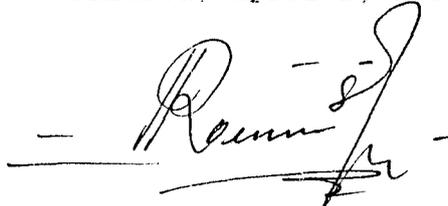
#### Problem

- Firstly, we still need much more money to complete and build at all, such as : to buy more books, references, news papers, magazines (especially from overseas-it is imposible) etc. So we ask some help from some foundation, (for example TAF,KAS) and maybe if you want to give us a help, we are very pleasure to receive it.
- Secondly, the human resources must be profesional. We have already sent our Staffs to take certain course to support their job/carrier. But it is not enough for us, because we think they must have formal education to be a professionalist, especially for the Librarian and Researchers because they must handle

requests from our MPs who have high education. So we try to get the scholarship from other foundation/country to give them a chance for getting a formal education, partial training/job training in foreign country to give them experiences more.

- Another one is, our ability to speak foreign languages is still little weak. We speak only Indonesian and English a little. But the information resources (datas) are not just in Indonesian or English languages but in various languages for example French, Spanish, Japanese etc. So we want our staffs to learn other languages.
- And at last, we call all participants here to bulid stronger a closer and cooperation among us. Therefore we can help each-other in solving our problem for the future. Thank you very much.

Jakarta, April 2, 1994

  
MRS. ROEMNINGSIH



THE THIRD BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF  
THE ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARY  
LIBRARIANS OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC  
MAY 9-12, 1994. BANGKOK, THAILAND.

**RESOURCES AND INFORMATION  
SHARING OF LEGISLATION**

**BY**

**MRS. AURORA SIMANDJUNTAK**

**SECRETARY OF APLAP, INDONESIA**

**MAY, 1994**

TRAINING PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY STAFFERS  
FOR RESOURCES AND INFORMATION SHARING  
OF LEGISLATION

PAPER FOR THE 3RD BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF APLAP

IN BANGKOK, MAY 1994

BY:AURORA SIMANDJUNTAK

INDONESIA

-----

We all know that, most of the countries in the Asia Pacific regions are only recently introduced to the real workings of a Parliamentary Library let alone understanding legal deposit. -The legal deposit system is the basic foundation to make resources and information sharing of legislation possible -. Because of this, it is not surprising that those countries concerned regarded a Parliamentary Library as something of a curious luxury or no more than a store room for books, - and what books should be stored there, they also have no idea whatsoever, - let alone understanding the function and services a Parliamentary Library should give i.e.: one and foremost, to give accurate, speedy, and confidential information needed, by M.P.s. to perform their duties best to serve their respective people, be it about home or foreign affairs..... but nonetheless, through the APLAP, little by little or in very slow stages, we Parliamentary Librarians learn from each other to overcome those constraints and difficulties, and Members became more aware of the role of our call of duty i.e. to give our M.P.s. the so needed information they gradually realized are badly needed to serve their purpose to function well in their capacity as representatives of their people, to make legislation, and to control the executive branch of government.

For this purpose, resources and information sharing of legislation between our APLAP Members is of uppermost importance, especially in this very fast era of technical development; for inter relations between all countries in the world is getting closer and closer. So mutual understanding and sharing of legislation could no longer be avoided.

Now, where do we begin to enable us all to reach this goal of resources and Information sharing of legislation we are so eager to achieve? It is just like walking in a maze, trying to get the best and shortest way out, for if not, we would be again and again left behind by our more fortunate brothers and sisters who have the understanding and support of their more enlightened M.P.s., who understood the importance of speedy and correct information in this that high tech - car. But even so, it very encouragingly slowly but surely, more Parliaments in our part of the world are getting more aware of the Parl. Libraries importance as well as the need of real librarians employed. Again I stress this is important if we want to occupy a place in this very tough world, and not be easily misled or trampled on by others. For instance, I heard the good news, that some of us get a bigger space for their library, and as the case in my country, we are starting, though tentatively a research center, and data base, and a better information service (not properly handled yet, but it is a beginning isn't it?) Nevertheless, to achieve this goal of "Resources and information sharing of legislation" is still a far cry to most us. One of the constraints to get a complete legislation is that the legal deposit law, is not yet fully implemented in the Asia Pacific countries, and it is I'm afraid not absolutely understood and

appreciated yet. For example, perhaps you will be given a cleaner picture if I explain that in Indonesia bills until this moment are presented to the Parliament by the executive branch of government, through their legal department which then will be discussed first with the Dept. of Justice. Even if we passed a legal deposit law, a few years ago, the Parl. Library must have an active role to gather all the legislation products. But I must say that it is never ever being made difficult for us to get them. The only thing is, we have to ask first, then they will send us a copy or two. This is a clear picture that legal deposit is not yet fully understood in my country.

We all have to try to convince our peers at the Secretariat and of course our M.P.s. through chats and talks, that we badly needed subject specialists, and a first and most important step is, a few legislation specialists as we are in a legislative Body (later others will follow), - this is to say if we do not have them yet-so we can serve them better in this field; this takes time, and continuous approach for the legal deposit benefits, the right approach and examples of course, especially the need; and after this, then we can reach the stage of "Resources and information sharing of legislation".

Now back to the training I meant to achieve our goal.

- First of all a few really good staffers who are legislation subject specialist should be recruited in the library, law section.

- If that is already achieved, see whether they have a good command of English. If not try to get them attend normal English courses, then, a step further to master the English lingua franca for legislation purposes, so it can be shared by APLAP at the same time, continuous "selling" of the importance of the Legal deposit, to all M.P.s and government branches and the public in general.

True this will take time, as no worthwhile venture is achieved instantly. But if we persevere, we certainly can get the things we wanted, though the road to this is usually not always smooth and pleasant, indeed uphill most of the time. But we should not lose heart, we should realize that everything new, takes time to be observed and understood. My only hope is that it won't take us too long to achieve this goal.

- If legislation specialists could not be employed due to one or other reasons, then the available staff should be gradually initiated to understand the legislation of the country. It will be easier if the person/s has/have a good command of the English language, for that is the language we aim the APLAP are using to communicate with each other, therefore the needed legislation, will be explicitly translated explained and understood.

- Perhaps if we can convince our M.P.s. that when they attend regional conferences like the AIPO, IPU ASEAN etc, they will also put this in their agenda, to be seriously talked over. It should be realized that if we are going to survive or at least not being trampled on in this era of increased speed of new technological

findings, we have to work hard and fast, and one of our weapons would be resources and information sharing of legislation.

- It is also a great help if we can convince our M.P.s. that intelligent people should be recruited in the library & Information services, as it will be difficult for a slow thinker and not terribly bright person to seek and give the right, speedy and accurate and confidential information needed by the M.P.s. concerned so their training need not be too difficult. This is a serious and worth-while topic to contemplate and think about, as it is a fact that up until this moment, our job is not yet seriously appreciated; for example, at the same time some of us has to act as translators and Scargcant at arms, speech writers and what not; though it must be said, that it is also to be applauded and proud about, because it shows that librarians are really bright and exceptional, for they can fulfil two or three jobs at the same time.

So, my dear colleagues, perhaps this knowledge can lift our spirits and strengthen our hearts to work together and achieve in not a too far future - I hope - the APLAP common goals, that is "Resources and Information Sharing of Legislation".

Thank you.

Bangkok, May 1994

(AURORA SIMANDJUNTAK)