

WELLINGTON COMMUNIQUE
ADOPTED BY
THE NINTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIANS
OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (APLAP)

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND
27 November – 1 December 2006

The Ninth Biennial Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) met in Wellington, New Zealand from 27 November to 1 December 2006. Thirty eight delegates/observers from 23 Parliaments/Legislatures attended the conference which was hosted by the Parliament of New Zealand.

The delegates gathered in the Grand Hall on the first day of the Conference. There they were delighted to be welcomed by a Pōwhiri, a traditional ceremony performed by students from Wellington East Girls' College and Rongotai College. Some delegates responded to the Pōwhiri by singing songs from their home countries. Thus, the scene was set for a fruitful conference which, while respecting all cultures, also emphasised our common interest and activities across the Asia-Pacific region.

The conference was opened by the Hon Margaret Wilson, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the New Zealand Parliament on 27 November and Mr Joel George, General Manager of New Zealand Parliamentary Service. Ms Roslynn Membrey responded to both speakers on behalf of APLAP.

The theme of the conference was *"Parliamentary libraries working together to support Parliamentary democracy"*. In support of this theme Mr Jeremy Pope, Director of Tiri (the governing-access-learning network) gave a keynote address on *"Building national integrity: the role of Parliaments and parliamentary libraries"*. Mr Pope provided a valuable insight into the necessity for governments to have both integrity and a commitment to serve their citizens. He reminded our delegates that Parliamentary Librarians have an important role in ensuring government and parliamentary integrity.

Several of the delegates followed this presentation with enlightening and interesting papers on the services that they provide to support parliamentary democracy.

On 30 November Ms Anna Matich from the Pacific Island Information Institution (PacLII) at the University of the South Pacific spoke on *"Regional co-operation, strategies for sharing"*. Her paper provided an important insight into the advantages of sharing, collaboration and co-operation among libraries with similar aims and objectives.

Delegates also participated in presentations and discussions on the increasing role of information and communications technology in the work of Parliaments and libraries. While the larger libraries have the resources to use technology the smaller libraries continue to rely on support from their colleagues or aid agencies. Delegates reaffirmed their commitment to assist parliamentary libraries in the smaller and newer states in both Asia and the Pacific.

Members of APLAP encourage the Presiding Officers of the Asia-Pacific region to support the work of APLAP and individual Parliamentary Libraries as they work together to support parliamentary democracy both in their home countries and internationally.

The next APLAP conference will be hosted by the Fiji Parliament and the APLAP Executive expresses its appreciation to both the New Zealand Parliament for hosting the Ninth Biennial Conference and to the Fiji Parliament for offering to host the 10th Biennial Conference.

At the APLAP Business Meeting on 30 November the following people were elected as office bearers for APLAP:

President: Katherine Close (New Zealand)

Vice-President for Asia: Mr ??? (Pakistan) *Haji Hattar*

Vice-President for Pacific: Ms Fane Buadromo (Fiji)

Secretary: Ms Azeem ?? (Malaysia) *Khan*

Treasurer: Ms Rasieli Bau (Fiji)