

WELCOMING REMARK

by MR. KARL MIN KU
THE PRESIDENT OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIANS OF
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Oct. 19, 1998

My dearest APLAP colleagues:

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to participate in the Fifth Biennial Conference of APLAP. We are highly obliged to the Congress of Philippines for its thoughtful arrangement and courteous reception, which made possible our smooth arrival in this beautiful and prosperous capital city for this Conference. In particular, we are especially grateful for Mrs. Maria Fe S. Abeleda-Robles, the Director of the Congressional Library and the member of APLAP Executive Committee, as well as her excellent staffs. We may well attribute our abundant five-day Conference and the cultural programs to their tremendous contributions and efforts.

Today is the first day of our big family's Biennial Conference. We can anticipate hearing many gorgeous countries' reports, informing us of the latest development between our member countries. And tomorrow, our second day of the Conference, we will have a chance to visit Honorable Manuel B. Villar, Jr., the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Congress of Philippines. We will respectfully invite him to preside over our official Opening Ceremony, and, to our honor, he will kindly have a photo with us. Before tomorrow's dinner, I will report to you a summary of the activities and related issues of APLAP in the past two years, i.e., the APLAP Biennial Report (1996-1998). A copy of the Biennial Report giving you in advance is for exchanging our ideas and comments. On the third day, we will continue to hear more country reports from member countries. I wish our discussion will combine us together more clearly and firmly.

All the Thursday, our fourth day, we will have a wonderful opportunity to attend a special seminar on the current development of the library profession in the Philippine setting, the host country. The seminar will be a special feature to the Fifth Biennial Conference and will become a continuation to our future Conference. That night we will have the APLAP dinner sponsored by the President in which we will have a chance to express our appreciation and gratitude to the Congress of Philippines as well as the speakers in the seminar. The fifth day belongs to our APLAP. We will have a business/Executive committee meeting and I believe our new President, Vice-president and the members of Executive Committee will be elected. In that evening, we are all invited to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Philippines Library Association, one of the earliest library association in the Asia-Pacific region.

In these five days, we will have many official occasions and banquets. I will ask the incumbent executive committee members and the senior members to extend on behalf of the APLAP our sincere appreciation. I strongly believe that all of us will have ample harvest each day.

Now, on behalf of the Executive Committee and all of the delegations, I would like to present an Appreciation Plaque to the host of the Fifth Biennial Conference. May I have the honor to invite Mrs. Maria Fe S. Abeleda-Robles to receive the plaque. Thank you very much.