

Under the support of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Viet Nam (MoCST), on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the National Library of Viet Nam (NLV) opened the 3rd Convening of the International Networks of Emerging Library Innovators – Association of Southeast Asian Nations (INELI-ASEAN) in Ha Noi.

Attending the opening ceremony were Ms. Dang Thi Bich Lien – Deputy Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Viet Nam, Ms. Nellie Sunny – President of Brunei Darussalam Library Association, Ms. Khanthamaly Yangnouvong – Director of the National Library of Laos, President of Laos Library Association; Ms. Hajah Nafisah Binti Ahmad – General Director of the National Library of Malaysia; Mr. Cesar Gilbert Adriano – Director of the National Library of the Philippines; Ms. Tay Ai Cheng – Deputy Chief Executive of the National Library Board Singapore; Ms. Kieu Thuy Nga – Director of the National Library of Viet Nam, Mr. Nguyen Huu Gioi – President of Vietnamese Library Association, and representatives of the ASEAN national libraries and library associations, speakers, invited guests, mentors, innovators and INELI-ASEAN Secretariat.

The International Networks of Emerging Library Innovators – Association of Southeast Asian Nations Project (INELI-ASEAN project) is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for the Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL) in the period 2015-2018. The project is assigned to the National Library of the Philippines as the leading body, in collaboration with national libraries and library associations of CONSAL member countries. The goals of the project are to improve leadership skills for public libraries, build international networks of emerging public library leaders, develop training materials for future generations of library leaders, strengthen cooperation and connection among libraries in the ASEAN region.

Speaking at the ceremony, Deputy Minister Dang Thi Bich Lien affirmed that the MoCST has always created favorable conditions for the NLV to actively participate in and well fulfill its responsibilities as a member country of the Association. She also hoped that this is an opportunity for delegates of the 10 ASEAN countries to meet together, discuss and talk about the power, dynamism and future of the library networks in the Southeast Asia region.

Mr. Cesar Gilbert Adriano – Director of the National Library of the Philippines, the leading country of the project stated that so far, the project has developed skill development programs as well as programs for better user service provision, and it is hoped that in the near future, the library networks and services in the Southeast Asia region will be further developed.

The 3rd INELI-ASEAN Convening takes place from November 27-30, 2017 in Ha Noi with the participation of about 70 national libraries' directors, library associations' presidents, library-information experts, and experienced librarians from 10 CONSAL member countries. Main activities of the Convening include: meetings of the 3rd INELI-ASEAN project; poster-paper presentation of best practices in public library innovations; 3 workshops: Online learning modules workshop, Network makes a difference (The value of networks, sustaining networks, partnership and collaboration), The future of INELI-ASEAN: Working on the vision. Also at the Convening, in order to add value and raise importance of the network and cascade possibilities, the ASEAN Public Libraries Information Network website (APLiN 2.0) will be launched, and the 2nd meeting of the APLiN Executive Board Meeting with the Secretariat will also be held.

During the Convening time in Ha Noi, participants will attend the ceremony to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the NLV's establishment, visit to the NLV and three Vietnamese library models: Ta Quang Buu Library, National Assembly Library and Ha Noi Library.

The final round of the project is scheduled in May 2018 in Myanmar.

**Photos of the same event:**



*Panoramic view of the Convening*



*Ms. Dang Thi Bich Lien – Deputy Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism delivers the welcome speech at the Convening*



*Mr. Cesar Gilbert Adriano – Director of the National Library of the Philippines gives remarks introducing about the Convening and the Inspirational message*



*Mr. Cesar Gilbert Adriano – Director of the National Library of the Philippines, representing the Bills and Melinda Gates project, presents Certificate of Merit to Deputy Minister Dang Thi Bich Lien*



*Delegates taking joint photo*





*Some activities of the 3rd INELI-ASEAN Convening*

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