

On 18th August 2013, the 79th World Library and Information Conference has officially opened at Suntec International Convention and Exhibition Centre, Singapore. For Southeast Asia region, this is the second time in the 85 year-history of IFLA hosts the Conference since the last IFLA WILIC 1999 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The IFLA WILIC 2013 took place on 18-22 August 2013 under the theme “*Future Libraries: Infinite Possibilities*”

The Conference has attracted 3,750 library and information experts from 120 countries in the world. Vietnamese delegation headed by the National Library of Viet Nam (the NLV), an official member of IFLA, has sent 18 delegates to the Conference.



The Vietnamese Delegation at the IFLA WILIC 2013

To be a leading scientific forum of the library and information sector, IFLA WILIC 2013 has organized 223 sessions with approximately 400 papers for library and information professionals having the opportunities to share insights and shape policies that address global challenges affecting each local communities. In a world of exponential information growth, libraries are at the cusp of technological developments that are revolutionising information access and use, papers presented at the Conference have focused on the need for international collaboration to ensure equitable access to information and learning opportunities for every citizen, stated that libraries and information professionals have a vital role to play in harnessing the infinite possibilities that today's technologies offer for information access and service delivery. Some spotlights at the IFLA WILIC 2013 are as the followings:

1. IFLA trend report identifies five top level trends which will play a key role in shaping the information society, spanning access to education, privacy, civic engagement and transformation:

- Trend 1: New Technology will both expand and limit who has access to information.
- Trend 2: Online education will democratise and disrupt global learning.
- Trend 3: The boundaries of privacy and data protection will be redefined.
- Trend 4: Hyper-connect societies will listen to and empower new voices and groups.
- Trend 5: The global information environment will be transformed by new technologies

2. The UNESCO session with the theme "Preserving our past for the future" has highlighted the importance of long term preservation for the cultural heritage sector.

3. The President-Elect's Planning session discussing about the implementation of the IFLA theme for the term 2013-2015 "*Strong libraries, strong societies: Libraries promoting development*" has focused on the concept of strong libraries as a foundation for strong societies in order to promote development. The session has agreed to approve the 6 basic areas that libraries should have active supports to promote development:

- Education and Learning
- Economic Development
- Culture and Creativity
- Democracy and access to information

- Health and well being
- Inclusive and tolerant societies

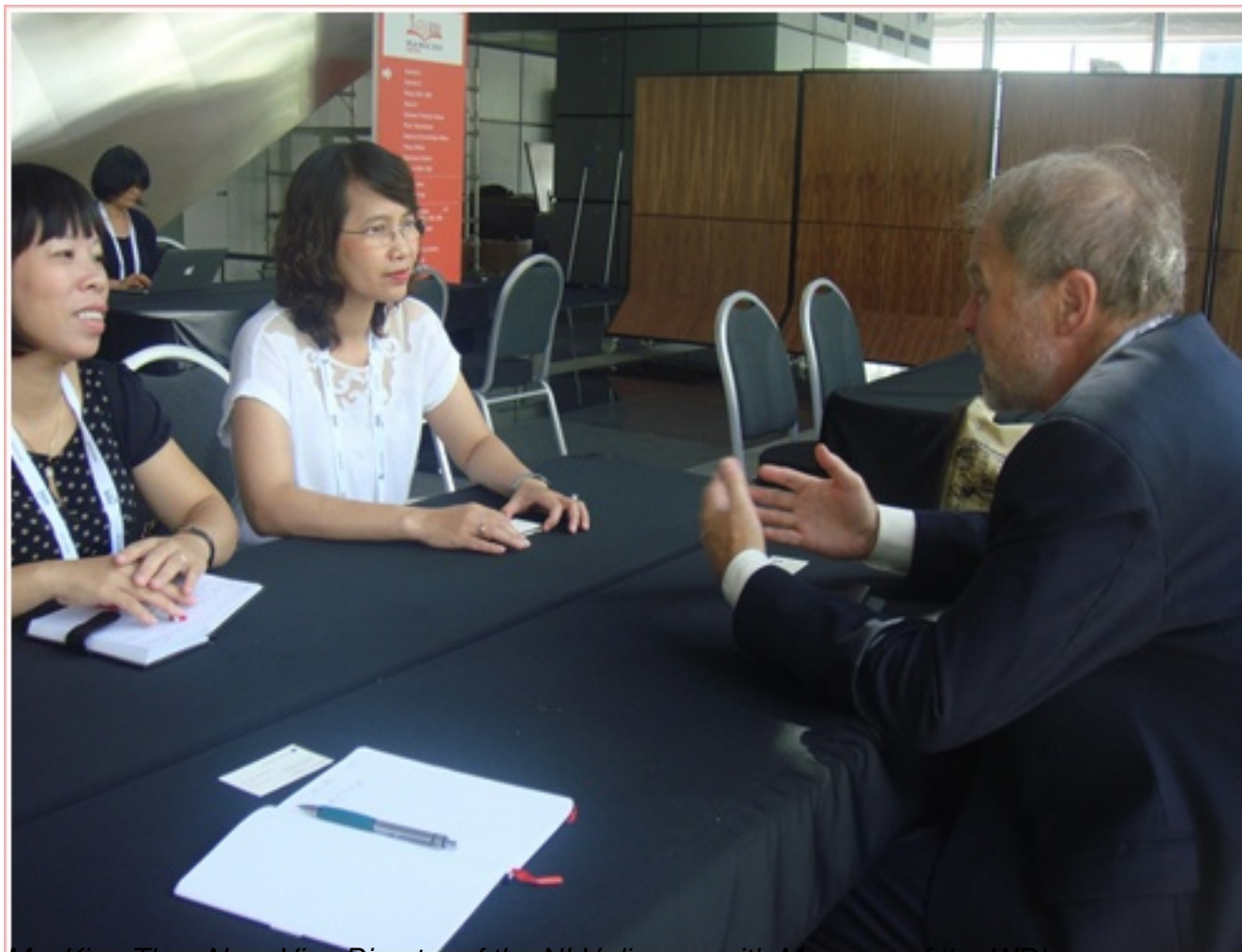
4. Adopt the IFLA statement on Libraries and Development which emphasizes the points that Access to information is a fundamental human right that can break the cycle of poverty and support sustainable development. The library is the only place in many communities where people can access information that will help improve their education, develop new skills, find jobs, build businesses, make informed agricultural and health decisions, or gain insights into environmental issues. Their unique role makes libraries important development partners, both by providing access to information in all formats and by delivering services and programmes that meet the needs for information in a changing and increasingly complex society.

5. The Conference of Directors of National Libraries of the world (CDNL) with the participation of Directors and Representatives of over 100 countries has focused on 3 main themes that attract the most attention of the majority: (i) National Libraries of the Future, (ii) Digitisation of library collections and digital rights, (iii) Trend Report: Implications for National Libraries. The NLV with the paper entitled “Strengthening the resources and improving the role of libraries” has given out an impressed overview of the development of the NLV during the recent years. The report was appreciated by international colleagues as it has provided interesting information about information resource sharings.



CDNL Annual Meeting
20 August 2013, Singapore

~~(CDNL 2013)~~ Library of Viet Nam's delegates at the Conference of Director of National Libraries



Ms. Kieu Thuy Nga, Vice Director of the NLV discuss with Manager of the WDL



Members of the National Library of Singapore, Singapore, and the Singapore Library Association, Singapore, at the opening ceremony, 2013.



Library Association of Singapore, 2013. Photo by [unreadable] on [unreadable].