

**IFLA-FAIFE INTERNET MANIFESTO TRAIN THE TRAINERS
WORKSHOP PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES 2009
(REPORT – PHASE I)**

By

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PREFATORY STATEMENT

The Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. (PLAI) in cooperation with the International Federation of Libraries and Associations (IFLA) – Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) and Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) hosted the 2009 Train the Trainers Workshop on Internet Manifesto on April 27-28, 2009 at Astoria Plaza, Pasig, Metro-Manila, Philippines.

PLAI, is the Accredited Professional Association (APO) of the Professional Regulations Commission (PRC), a government agency that regulates and issue licenses to librarians who are admitted to the practice of librarianship after passing the licensures examination. PLAI has its member professional librarians who are grouped into regional councils/chapters representing the sixteen (16) regions of the Philippines.

The first training workshop of IFLA-FAIFE and PLAI on Internet Manifesto was held on July 21-22, 2008 at The National Library of the Philippines. It was a regional event with participants from seven (7) ASEAN countries. Resource persons were officials of IFLA-FAIFE and two (2) local experts. The two-day training was followed by the PLAI National Conference on *Information Access: Internet and Libraries* from July 23-25, 2008 held in City Garden Hotel, Manila. Aside from the ASEAN trainers, other participants of the national conference were librarians and information professionals in the country.

For the second time, IFLA-FAIFE and PLAI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to have a one year project to be held in the Philippines. The project is composed of four (4) phases to educate librarians and information specialists about the IFLA Internet Manifesto to help them incorporate its values in their day to day work.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The IFLA-FAIFE Training Workshop, in order to achieve its objectives, had the following activities for the two days, to wit: Pre-Workshop Meetings of the IFLA-FAIFE and Philippine Executive Team and the Training Workshop of the Regional Trainers (RTs) with Open Forum and Special Events including Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Welcome and Fellowship Dinners. Other activities included a tour of the IFLA Resource Persons in Baguio city and Sagada, Philippines.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMME

On April 27, 2009, a short opening ceremonies was held to welcome the IFLA-FAIFE Representatives, Regional Trainers (RTs), guests and sponsors.

Welcome Remarks and Opening Remarks were delivered, respectively by myself as PLAI President and Ms. Prudenciana C. Cruz, Director, The National Library of the Philippines and Treasurer of IFLA-FAIFE Philippine Executive Team.

The Overview and workshop mechanics was explained by Prof. Antonio M. Santos, Law Librarian, U.P. Law Library and IFLA-FAIFE Convenor of the Training Program. He emphasized the importance of the Project even as he called on all participants to commit themselves to the tasks of effecting the objectives of the Project. He explained the Phases of the Project and the PLAI commitment until the conclusion of the whole Project.

Profile of the Regional Trainers

The training workshop was attended by thirty (30) participants/delegates. There were two (2) IFLA-FAIFE Representatives: Dr. Barbara M. Jones, Library Director of Wesleyan University and Dr. Barbara J. Ford, Director of Mortenson Center for International Library Program; Five (5) Philippine Executive Team: Ms. Lilia F. Echiverri (Chair), Prof. Antonio M. Santos (Convenor/Co-Chair), Ms. Prudenciana C. Cruz (Treasurer/Co-Chair), Ms. Susima L. Gonzales (Auditor); and Ms. Marlo C. Chavez (Secretary).

Local Resource Speakers: Prof. Edgardo B. Quiros, Chief, Information Technology Division, The National Library of the Philippines; Dr. Noel G. Ramiscal, University Prosecutor of University of the Philippines, Los Baños; Dr. Marilou P. Tadlip, Director of Libraries, University of San Carlos.

The Regional Trainers were: Nora J. Claravall (NCR), Hinie S. Gonzales (Region X), Myrna F. Acedera (Region X), Hasmin Mimbala-Abdulhalim (ARMM), Rina H. Diaron (CAR), Sonia S. Isip (Region 1), Enrique T. Cayaban (Region II), Africa R. Castillo (Region III), Marcial r. Batiancila (Region IV), Lourdes C. Ramos (Region V), Federico S. Billones, Jr. (Region VI), Andreli D. Pardales (Region VIII),

Benhur A. Asid (Region IX), Victoria R. Santos (SOCCKSARGEN), and Ma. Teresa P. Baylon (Region XII) and three (3) guests.

Sessions

The Regional Trainers (RTs) listened to the lectures of the two (2) IFLA-FAIFE Trainers and two (2) local resource speakers on the topics *Freedom of Access to Information, Freedom of Expression; IFLA Internet Manifesto and its Guidelines; Internet Access in Philippine Libraries; A Philippine Legal Perspective on the IFLA Internet Manifesto: Defining a “Principled Access” Approach to Real or Virtual Information in the Philippines; and, Impact Assessment: The Visayas and Mindanao Experiences.*

Dr. Barbara M. Jones discussed the Internet Manifesto. She mentioned that Philippines will become a model for the IFLA-FAIFE project. She told the participants that each one need to collect documents that apply to internet manifesto and keep track of local laws that apply to access to information. According to her, there is no need to rewrite the internet manifesto. It is a guide to write our professional values must be included manifesto.

Dr. Barbara J. Ford assessed the implementation and social networking. The participants have to collect success stories on how the training has changed the people’s lives, i.e., in E-Commerce. The Dr. Jones and Dr. Ford emphasized that stories are better than statistics. The level of advocacy may be illustrated in a story format. The stories will be presented in November 2009.

Dr. Ramiscal’s lecture made mentioned that there was actually no explicit, existing law or jurisprudence that directly addresses internet access in the Philippines. He also mentioned that the most important phrase in the IFLA Internet Manifesto statement is “responsible access” which unfortunately was not elucidated or defined anywhere in the Manifesto.

Prof. Quiros he enumerated the barriers to information access such as, availability of electricity, computers, internet connection and institutional priorities. He discussed realities cases.

On April 28, 2009, Dr. Tadhilip shared with the participants her Visayas and Mindanao experiences in her capacity as a participant during the 2008 Trainers Workshop. As a PLAI Executive Vice-President and Regional Council President she has enumerated activities held as a re-echo that she conducted and still to be conducted in the future.

Workshop

Workshops were conducted by Dr. Jones and Dr. Ford and the group was divided into five (5) workshop group. Copies of the case studies were given to each

group where the participants have to provide the correct solutions to the different cases presented and reactions were made during the plenary session.

The participants brainstormed and came out with a list of proposed activities on how this seminar workshop will cascade to the different regions. Each regional council president presented their tentative work plans for submission to the Philippine Executive Team in accordance with the Work Plan and Time Table earlier agreed upon. The final activity for Phase II is for submission to the Philippine Executive Team for purposes of Phase II. A Guideline for the purpose has been finalized and approved for Phase II.

Baseline Data

The Questionnaire to Assess Internet Use and Policies were distributed to serve as the baseline data from different regions before the training workshop. The survey questionnaire was patterned after that of IFLA-FAIFE Team and the Philippine Executive Team baseline. The data gathered were tallied, tabulated and analyzed in accordance with the objectives of the training workshop. The questionnaire included the profile of Regional Trainers (RTs), Use of Internet, Advocacy, Access to Information and IFLA Internet Manifesto. It has been uploaded to the PLAI Website and easily downloadable by Regional Council for fielding to their perspective participants for Phase II.