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REPORT TO IFLA ON PAC ACTIVITIES  
IFLA PAC REGIONAL CENTRE FOR ASIA  
From January to December 2014

The IFLA/PAC Regional Centre for Asia (PAC Asia) has continued to develop the preservation network in Asia and strengthen regional cooperation, based on the IFLA Strategic Plan 2010-2015, to encourage preservation activities in each area of the Asian region. The following is what PAC Asia and its hosting library, the National Diet Library (NDL), carried out from January to December of 2014 in the area of international and national cooperation for the preservation of library materials.

**1 International Cooperation**

**1) Support to Asian libraries and other institutions**

- > The NDL supported the planning of “ASEAN-Japan Library Development Forum” which was held in February by the National Library of Myanmar, and dispatched a staff to give a lecture in the session on the fundamentals of preservation of library materials.
- > PAC Asia received the report of the trainees from the Indonesian Center for Agricultural Library and Technology Dissemination, who had training at the NDL in the previous year. The report says that they have established the Preservation and Conservation Laboratory, of which one of the trainees is in charge.
- > PAC Asia cooperated with the National Library of Sri Lanka in searching a lecturer for a workshop on disaster-preparedness. Through the searching process, PAC Asia sought and obtained advices from the IFLA Asia and Oceania Section and the PAC Regional Centre for Oceania and South East Asia.

- > Responding to inquiries from the National Library of Myanmar and the National Library of Malaysia on the best possible practice of deacidification, PAC Asia provided them with updated information on various deacidification methods.
- > PAC Asia distributed “*International Preservation News*” (IPN) No.61, the final issue, to the libraries, institutions, and specialists in the area covered: at present Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nepal, North Korea, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, and Japan.

## **2) Contributions to IFLA Preservation and Conservation activities**

- > PAC Asia participated rigorously in the debate concerning the organizational and administrative changes of PAC centres, exchanging ideas with other centres and PAC professionals. In November PAC Asia responded to the inquiry made for the IFLA Preservation and Conservation review. In the response to the review PAC Asia reported its achievement and resources as well as the challenges that it faces with, which mainly comes from multilingual and multicultural situation of Asia. The PAC Asia’s response to the review contributed to setting up new PAC basic policies.
- > PAC Asia cooperated with regard to the IFLA’s Risk Register project which is based on the IFLA Key Initiative 4. In March PAC Asia responded to the Risk Register Questionnaire by obtaining cooperation from the key persons concerning cultural heritage preservation in Japan. In October PAC Asia joined the testing of the “Nomination Form to the IFLA Risk Register” and sent some comments based on the NDL’s experiences of dealing with the Great East Japan Earthquake.
- > PAC Asia was involved in planning and selecting papers for the PAC open session in WLIC 2014, “Preservation and Management of Documentary Cultural Heritage,” and also was engaged in planning an open session to be held in WLIC 2015.
- > During WLIC 2014 PAC Asia Director gave a presentation regarding the environmental control titled “*Toward Sustainable Environmental Control: Temperature and Humidity Control at the National Diet Library of Japan*” at the open session of Preservation and Conservation Section, “Keeping collections alive:

preventive conservation policy and practice.” In the presentation reported was the case study of the NDL’s experiences of tackling mold problems, which could be shared by other libraries facing the same kind of challenges on how to overcome mold and other troubles in the environment of high temperature and humidity with seasonal changes.

## **2 Domestic cooperation**

### **1) Training**

- > Every year, the NDL holds a one-day programme on preservation and conservation for librarians working in Japan. In 2014 the NDL carried out the programme, consisting of a lecture on the basic theory of preservation and a workshop on elementary techniques for mending paper materials, twice in October and November for a total of 56 trainees. Responding to requests from prefectural and university libraries, the NDL also dispatched instructors for training session on preservation. In 2014 the training programme included a lecture based on the NDL’s experiences to cope with materials damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake.
  
- > The NDL has been providing online training courses for library staff every year. The training course “Basic Theory of Preservation and Conservation” was provided as last year, and about 230 people began to learn from June, of which 140 people finished the course. The course “Basics of Digitization,” which the NDL started in 2012, is always accessible by anyone who wants to learn.

### **2) Contribution to preserving cultural heritages**

- > The Cultural Property Rescue Programme was organized by the Agency for Cultural Affairs in April 2011 for salvage and treatment of damaged cultural heritage. Various professional institutions and groups relating to preservation of cultural heritage had collaborated with each other to salvage materials damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake until the programme finished on March 31, 2013. In 2014 the National Institute of Cultural Heritage kicked off the National Task Force for the Japanese

Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network (CH-DRM Network) as an organization which deals with disaster risk reduction activities both at ordinary times and urgent times. The CH-DRM Network has set up the following two groups: the Conference for the Promotion of Japanese Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network and the Council of Experts for Japanese Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network. In 2014 a staff member of the NDL's Preservation Division joined the former and the Director of PAC Asia joined the latter.

- > Since October 2012, the NDL had done conservation work on Tsunami-damaged old local documents, "Yoshida-ke monjo." The collection is designated as Iwate prefectural cultural property. The NDL was reporting on the progress of the operation on Facebook. As the work finished, the NDL returned the documents to the Iwate Prefecture Museum in September 2014. The detailed report of the NDL's conservation work is included in the book titled "*Stabilizing Processing: Multi-Organizational Co-Operative Project<sup>1</sup> for Preserving and Restoring Cultural Assets Damaged by Tsunami on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011*," published in December 2014.

### **3) Information dissemination and activities to call attention to preservation and conservation**

- > In December, the NDL held a Preservation Forum titled "Sustainable Preservation: Some Tips of Management." A total of 80 people attended the forum. This forum's theme took after the one that WLIC 2014 Preservation and Conservation Section's open session presented. The forum intended to dig deep into the theme from the viewpoint of management. The Kyoto University Library's case was reported in the forum: how they planned and have maintained preservation activities such as a survey of the stacks environment, information gathering and providing training for the university staff. The report was followed by lively discussions including other libraries' introducing their plans and activities. The attendees learned the importance of maintaining preservation activities on their own institutions.

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<sup>1</sup> The project was initiated mainly by the Iwate Prefecture Museum and the Japanese Association of Museums on the theme of restoration techniques for cultural assets damaged by tsunami.

- > The articles on the IFLA annual conference and reports on conservation work for “Yoshida-ke monjo,” the tsunami-damaged old local documents, were provided for *National Diet Library Newsletter* and other publications, to disseminate information in Japan. The page for the PAC Asia in Japanese on the NDL website carries translations of IFLA/PAC publications by PAC Asia (full text) and the table contents of IPN translated into Japanese.
  
- > The NDL contributes to the activities of the Japan Library Association by delegating a staff member of the Preservation Division to the Preservation Committee, and also to the activities of the Japan Image & Information Management Association by delegating a staff member to the Editorial Committee of the Journal of Image & Information Management.
  
- > The NDL Preservation Division also provides tours for visitors to show preservation activities. It also grants requests for interview by various media to raise awareness of preservation and conservation.

For ensuring long-term preservation of library materials, the major goal of PAC, PAC Asia has regarded it important to enhance the level of preservation in our region through cooperation programmes, such as information sharing and training programmes. Since the Great East Japan Earthquake, PAC Asia and the NDL have made special efforts to share the lessons learned from the experiences widely with other libraries. PAC Asia cooperated with IFLA/PAC International Centre in the activities based on the new policy during 2014: for example, by responding to the IFLA Board review of PAC regional centres. We would like to continue preservation cooperation programmes suitable and necessary for the region under the framework of PAC.