

BRIEFS

Pacific Islands Association of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (PIALA)

By Atarino A. Helleisar, PIALA President



The 24th PIALA Annual Conference in Koror, Republic of Palau from November 10-15, 2014

"The best part of the annual conference was the energy generated by having so many librarians, archivists, curators and educators under one roof." The opportunity to talk with other librarians from all over the Pacific mostly here in Micronesia convinced me that, regardless of library type, we all share a common commitment to provide our library patrons the best possible access to information. The face-to-face contact – the human connection – was truly my favorite part of the conference. However, the concrete information that I took away from attending the conference programs was quite significant.

Atarino A. Helleisar, Chief Law Librarian, FSM Supreme Court Law Libraries (FSMSCLL)

The 24th Pacific Islands Association of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (PIALA) Annual Conference was hosted by the Palau Association of Libraries (PAL) in partnership with the Palau Community College (PCC) with the theme *"Be Informed, Stay Connected, Community Transformation!"* All workshops were held at the PCC campus. The PIALA conference was designed by librarians, archivists, curators and educators for information professionals. The conference is the premier educational conference for information professionals and nearly 60 librarians, archivists, curators and educators from across the Pacific and close to 20 educational opportunities, abundant social functions, tours of schools and special libraries, museums and the chance to learn what librarians are doing in their libraries took place. It should be noted that the entities of Chuuk, Kosrae, and Marshall Islands were not represented due to the lack of funding support from their regions.



The PIALA Executive Board met twice during the conference to discuss issues in the best interest of the association and its members. Below were results from both the Executive Board meetings and the General Meeting:

A. Treasury report

- Membership dues have been the major backbone for the PIALA Treasury. Island representatives were tasked to remind their library associations about their membership dues.
- Board decided that signatures on the PIALA checking account would consist of (President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary).
- Changing of signatories will add the newly elected Vice-President and Treasurer to the signatories.

B. PIALA 2015 host / 25th Anniversary for PIALA

- Marshall Islands Library Association (MILA) will host the 25th PIALA Annual Conference in Majuro, RMI in July 2015. Please check the PIALA website for more updates.
- Yap State Library Association (YSLA) will host 26th PIALA Annual Conference in Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia.
- During the 26th PIALA Annual Conference in Yap, PIALA will celebrate its 25th Anniversary.

C. Seed money for PIALA host

- Board approved seed money to be increased for the next PIALA hosting entity at \$750.

D. Karen Peacock Memorial PIALA Scholarship matching funds

- Board approved \$1,000 as the ceiling amount to assist KPM PIALA Scholarship recipients from PIALA to attend HLA conference.

E. Election of officers

- Board decided to follow the by-laws to hold election for Vice-President and Treasurer.
- During the General Meeting, election of Vice President and Treasurer took place:
 - New PIALA Vice President: Mrs. Pioria Asito (Palau)
 - New Treasurer: Ms. Kendra Ise (Palau)

** PIALA Executive Board and members expressed thanks and appreciation to the outgoing PIALA Vice-President Ms. Napalan from Guam and PIALA Treasurer Mr. Gonzales from CNMI for their dedications and support to PIALA during their services as officers.

F. By-laws amendment/voting on Article V.A.2

- Board made amendment to the by-laws on Article V.A.2 to provide a clearer understanding on voting for officers, and shared with members for discussion before voting.
- Amendment states: *Officers shall serve a term including two consecutive conferences.*
- Members voted unanimously to adopt the amendment to Article V.A.2 in the PIALA by-laws.
- The new amendment in the by-laws will be shared through the PIALA listserv and the website as well.

G. IFLA Lyon Declaration

- PIALA President Helieisar shared highlights on the IFLA Lyon Declaration and called on PIALA members as individuals, institutions and library associations to sign the declaration and be part of the group to advocate on the Lyon Declaration. The Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development calls upon UN Members States to make an international commitment through the post-2015 development agenda to ensure that every one has access to, and is able to understand, use and share the information that is necessary to promote sustainable development and democratic society. The new advocacy toolkit was introduced, which will help library representatives to approach decision-makers in their own countries to talk with them about the important access to information in development.

PIALA Lifetime Achievement Award

The highlight of this year's PIALA conference was the closing dinner at which the membership honored two of its own members with the PIALA Lifetime Achievement Award. This is the highest award that always given to its members for their exceptional leadership and many contributions to PIALA that is an inspiration to librarians, libraries and our communities in the Pacific especially here in Micronesia. The awards were presented to Ms. Jane Barnwell, the former Director of Library and Information Literacy Initiatives at the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL), Hawaii and Ms. Ruth Horie, retired librarian from Hamilton Library at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The closing dinner was held at the Palau National Museum. Both Ms. Barnwell and Ms. Horie were presented a wooden plaque on which "PIALA Lifetime Achievement Award" was inscribed. Afterwards different islands groups gave their own gifts and accolades to both Ms. Barnwell and Ms. Horie.

PIALA also presented a special award called "Partnership Award" to the Hawaii Library Association in recognition with deep appreciation for the years of dedication and partnership since PIALA Conference in 1998. D. Keali'i Mackenzi (part-time librarian, Hamilton Library and HLA Representative) received the award on behalf of Hawaii Library Association (HLA). HLA was presented a wooden plaque on which "Partnership Award" was inscribed.