

International Notes

Edited by Don Brech

International Council on Archives — Southeast Asian Regional Branch

The Southeast Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (SARBICA) held a Colloquium on 'Access and Use of Archives' followed by the VII General Conference of SARBICA in Jakarta from 19-24 January 1987.

The venue for the meetings was the Hotel Indonesia and host organisation was the National Archives of Indonesia.

The Colloquium ran for four days and was attended by over thirty archivists and administrators from the member countries of SARBICA — Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand — and from Australia, The Netherlands and Sweden. Also among the participants were the President of ICA, Professor Hans Booms, and the Executive Secretary of ICA, Dr. Charles Kecskemeti.

The papers presented included 'The Relationship between Academic Institutions of Higher Learning and the Archives' by Dr. H.W. Bachtiar, Department of Education and Culture, Indonesia, 'Access to Archives: Policy Issues and Concerns' by Dr. Charles Kecskemeti and 'Accessibility of Archives and its Problems — Legal, Technical, Administrative and Practical' by Mrs Habibah Zon, National Archives of Malaysia. Accounts were also heard of experiences in this area in Scandinavia, Thailand and Brunei.

Discussions covered a wide range of issues, among them, finding aids and the application of computers, the relationship between research trends and needs and records appraisal, fees for access and privacy legislation.

Of particular note were the administrative problems faced by researchers with regard to approval and clearance of applications for access, opening hours and limitations on the number of records available in the search rooms. These difficulties were highlighted in connection with visiting foreign researchers and the concept of reciprocity.

This gave rise to two proposals subsequently endorsed by the General Conference: to compile and distribute a comprehensive guide to the access and clearance procedures for researchers currently in force among SARBICA countries; and to develop guidelines for simplified procedures with a view to providing a common approach by archives in the region.

The Colloquium also drew attention to the importance of archival training for users of archives. In Southeast Asia only Thailand has established a programme for preparing researchers for work in the National Archives. It was accordingly suggested, and later resolved by the General Conference, that Thailand should develop a model kit for the instruction of archives users in the region.

The VII General Conference of SARBICA was held on 23-24 January. In addition to the *ex officio* members of ICA and the Executive Board of SARBICA, participants included delegates from member countries and observers from Australia, Indonesia, Sabah and Sweden.

The meeting approved the Minutes of the VI General Conference held in Manila in February 1984 and reports from the Secretary-General and Treasurer. The Secretary-General noted the following changes in membership of the Executive Board: Mr Luis Cordero, Director, Records Management and Archives Office, Philippines was succeeded by Mr Edgardo Celis in March 1986; Mrs Pranom Panya-Ngam, Director, National Archives, Thailand by Mr Sawat Piyakarn in November 1986; and Mrs Adina Othman, Archivist, National Archives, Brunei Darussalam by Mr Awangku bin Pengiran Anak Hashim in May 1986.

Within the framework of the ICA 3rd Medium Term Plan, 1987-1992, SARBICA proposed to promote professional staff exchanges and to hold a series of regional seminars and workshops. These will include the organisation of archival exhibitions, ADP applications in archives and the role of archives in education.

A new Executive Board was elected. The officers of SARBICA for 1987-1989 are: Chairman, Mrs Soemartini, Director, National Archives of Indonesia; Vice-Chairman, Mrs Zakiah Hanum Nor, Director, National Archives of Malaysia; Secretary-General, Mrs Azizah bte Kasah, National Archives of Malaysia; and Treasurer, Mr Hassan Mohd, National Archives of Malaysia was elected Editor of Volume 12 of the *Journal of Southeast Asian Archives* which will contain the Proceedings of the Colloquium and VII General Conference of SARBICA.

The next General Conference will be held in Kuala Lumpur in 1989.

In concluding this report it would be appropriate to acknowledge the hospitality and visits arranged by the Director and staff of the National Archives of Indonesia. These were greatly enjoyed by all participants.

International Records Management Council

The International Records Management Council (IRMC), a non-profit educational Council, was founded in 1970 to:

- promote and advance the profession of records management and related fields through education, research and study

- disseminate professional knowledge, techniques and information through international sharing of experience related to records management and related fields

- develop, improve and advance standards appropriate to the entire field of records and information management

- convene, sponsor or promote conferences and meetings for the furtherance of records management

- assist countries that do not have a records management association in organising same, and give advice, information and training

- contribute to related programs and projects of UNESCO and other international and regional organisations.

At the Annual General Meeting of the IRMC held in Alice Springs in September 1986 in conjunction with the 3rd National Convention of the Records Management Association of Australia (RMAA), officers were elected for the 1987-1988 term of Council.

William Benedon (USA), Corporate Director of Management Support Services, Lockheed Corporation, was elected President. Graham Dudley (Australia), a records officer with the Sir Charles Gardner Hospital, Western Australia was elected to the office of Executive Vice-President.

Other officers serving as re-elected incumbents or in newly elected positions include: Aurora Aquino (Philippines), Vice-President, Asia; John Snyder (USA), Treasurer; Peter Smith (Australia), Vice-President, Australia and Oceania and Derek Charman (England), Secretary.

Mel de la Cruz (Philippines) is Immediate Past President and Stanley Gordon (USA) retains the office of Executive Director. The RMAA delegate to Council is Helen Francis of the Department of Social Security, Adelaide.

The Board of Directors approved a new dues structure covering budget needs for the *International Records Management Journal*, research studies and program materials for developing countries. Dues are now US \$50 for individual members and US \$250 for corporate membership.

A records management correspondence course devised by William Benedon has received sponsorship from the IRMC. A certificate of completion will be awarded to successful participants. Course fees will meet administrative costs and generate funding for special IRMC projects.

Ghana Association of Archivists and Records Managers

A new professional association is to be established in Ghana.

In June 1986, Mr Odotei Adjei, Archivist of the Bank of Ghana, arranged a seminar in Accra for archivists and records managers from eight major commercial and government organisations. The agenda included the formation of a national records management association.

Participants resolved to name the new group the Association of Archivists and Records Managers. A five man committee was appointed to formulate plans for the official inauguration of the Association.

National Archives, Republic of Kiribati

Correspondent: Richard Overy

Australia's South Pacific Cultures Fund has made three generous grants which will substantially benefit the National Archives. A sum of A\$6000 has been provided for the recording and copying of traditional music in Kiribati. The recordings will be deposited with the Archives.

Two further grants will enable the National Archives to purchase a dry process microfilm reader/printer (A\$6000) and a portable microfilm camera (A\$2500). These will provide valuable support for the outer islands records copying project.

National Library and Archives, Tuvalu

Correspondent: Richard Overy

Archives consultant, John Wright, of Honolulu spent three months from May - July 1986 investigating the National Archives at Funafuti. His main areas of interest were the re-arrangement of records and conservation of damaged material.

Deborah Wright of Tasmania has joined the staff of the National Archives as a volunteer. She will provide much needed professional assistance over the next two years.