

ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIANS OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (APLAP)

No. 16, DECEMBER 2004

NEWSLETTER DATE

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EDITORIAL

May I first send you all warm Christmas Greetings and good wishes for a healthy and successful 2005!

This edition of the APLAP Newsletter provides you with all the information that you will need about our next exciting conference in New Delhi. Our President, Mr R. C Ahuja and his staff have been working very hard preparing for APLAP's 8th Biennial Conference.

In the following pages you will find information about India, India's parliamentary system and details about our conference. On page 5 you will arrangements for the conference. If you need more information I'm sure Mr. Vijaykrishan will be happy to help you.

I have also inserted a nomination form for new office bearers for our Association. Our Constitution lists five office bearing positions which must be elected during the General Business Meeting due to be held on 21 January 2005. You will note that no office bearer can remain in the same office for more than two consecutive terms. That means that Mr R. C. Ahuja and Dr Karl Min Ku will not be eligible for the position of President and Vice President (Asia). Also, you will note that I am currently occupying the offices of both Secretary and Treasurer. This came about by a special vote at our previous conference in Turkey as we could not find any one else willing to stand for both of those offices. You can nominate separate people to be Secretary and Treasurer if you wish.

We are calling for nominations for President, Vice-President (Asia), Vice President (Pacific), Secretary and Treasurer. Nominations will close on the afternoon of 20 January before the elections on the next day.

I'm looking forward to meeting my old friends and making new friends in Delhi and hope that we will all enjoy a successful and stimulating conference.

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Some Information on DELHI/AGRA

Bound by the majestic Himalayan ranges in the north and edged by a spectacular coastline surrounded by three seas, India is a vivid kaleidoscope of landscapes, magnificent historical sites and royal cities, golden beaches, misty mountain retreats, colorful people, rich culture and festivals.

Delhi: Together referred to as Delhi, both New Delhi and Old Delhi have something to offer to every visitor.

Delhi is a fascinating mix of history and modernity, a city of contrasts where imposing fortresses, palaces, temples and mosques, medieval ruins in landscaped gardens, elegant edifices of the British days, all blend harmoniously into the settings of a modern city.

Cool tree-lined avenues of Lutyen's Delhi are as much a part of the city's charm as the bustle of the busy bazaars of Shahjehanabad. Delhi also offers a range of cultural treats – fine museums, art galleries, and the best performances from around the country.

Delhi's monuments and structures go back through the centuries past seven older cities that existed here. Places of interest for visitors include the Qutub Minar, the 72.5 metre high tower built in 1199, the majestic Red Fort built by Emperor Shah Jehan and the Jama Masjid, also built by Shah Jehan, with its striped domes and tall minarets, the Humayun's Tomb, the Jantar Mantar - an observatory of olden times - the Purana Qila (Old Fort) and the magnificent government complex on the Raisina Hill, the Rashtrapati Bhavan (President's Palace) flanked by the Secretariats and the Parliament House.

Also to see are the Rajghat where the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, was cremated; the Gandhi Smriti where the Mahatma's epic life ended on 30 January 1948; the magnificent Laxmi Narayan Temple; the Baha'i House of Worship, also known as the Lotus Temple, a beautiful structure built in marble in the shape of a huge lotus; the Cathedral Church; several Gurudwaras (prayer houses of the Sikhs); Buddhist and Jain shrines; and the Dilli Haat, situated close to a nodal centre of the city and spread over a lavish 6 acres of landscaped area, set amidst idyllic environs with a markedly rural ambience.

Agra: About 200 kms from Delhi is the city of Agra, immortalized by the Taj Mahal, where thousands of visitors come every year to gaze in awe at this marble 'poem' to love. Agra was once the capital of the Mughal emperors and it was their passion for building and aesthetic sense that endowed it with some of the finest monuments in the country. The Agra Fort, which is a splendid red sandstone fort, stands on the banks of the Yamuna River and the Fatehpur Sikri, which is a fascinating capital town preserved in its entirety and was built by Akbar to honour the Muslim saint Sheikh Salim Chisti who lived there, is also situated in the City of Agra.

Our Parliamentary System: A Brief Outline

India a Union of 28 States and 7 Union territories is a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic governed by a republican Constitution that came into force on 26 January 1950. The Constitution envisages a parliamentary form of Government. The Executive is responsible to the elected representatives of the people. The President of India is the Constitutional head of the Union. The Constitution provides for a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister as the head to aid and advise the President who, in the exercise of his functions, acts in accordance with such advice. The Indian governmental system has been described as federal in form but unitary in character. It, in fact, is a federation with certain strong unitary features. The legislative power is divided between the Parliament and the State Legislatures. However, residuary powers are vested in the Parliament.

The Constitution provides for an independent Judiciary, Comptroller and Auditor-General, Public Service Commissions – both at the national and the State levels, Election Commission and single and uniform citizenship. The Constitution offers all citizens some basic freedoms known as Fundamental Rights. It also lays down certain Directive Principles of State Policy which, though not justifiable, are ‘fundamental in the governance of the country’.

The executive power of the Union is vested in the President and is exercised by him either directly or through officers subordinate to him in accordance with the Constitution. In the exercise of his functions, the President acts in accordance with the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. The President is elected for five years by an electoral college consisting of elected members of both the Houses of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies of States in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

The Constitution also provides for a Vice-President of India. The Vice-President is elected for a term of five years by an electoral college comprising members of both the Houses of Parliament in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. The Vice-President is also the ex officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (the Council of States).

There is a Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister to aid and advise the President in the exercise of his functions. The Prime Minister is appointed by the President who also appoints other Ministers on the advice of the Prime Minister. The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha (the House of the People) and it remains in office so long as it enjoys majority support in the Lok Sabha. In the event of losing this support, the Council of Ministers has to bow out of office and pave the way for an alternative one.

The Union Legislature called Parliament, consists of the President and the two Houses, viz. the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) and the House of the People (Lok Sabha). The Rajya Sabha at present has 245 members. Of these, 233 members represent the States and Union territories whereas 12 members are nominated by the President. The members of the Rajya Sabha, representing States are elected by the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. Members representing the Union territories are chosen in such manner as the Parliament may by law prescribe. The Rajya Sabha is not subject to dissolution; one-third of its members retire every second year.

Our Parliamentary System: A Brief Outline (Cont.)

The members of the Lok Sabha are directly elected on the basis of universal adult franchise. Unless sooner dissolved, the term of the Lok Sabha is five years. Presently, the Lok Sabha consists of 545 members. Of these, 530 members are directly elected from the States and 13 from the Union territories, while two are nominated by the President to represent the Anglo-Indian community.

The functions of our Parliament, among others, are those of legislation, overseeing of administration, passing of budget, ventilation of public grievances, discussing various subjects like development plans, international relations and national policies. Under the Indian federal system, the Parliament enjoys precedence over the State legislatures. Under certain circumstances, it assumes legislative powers even over a subject falling within the sphere exclusively reserved for the States.

An important feature of the Indian parliamentary set-up is an elaborate Committee System in both the Houses of Parliament. The three Financial Committees, one each on Estimates, Public Accounts and Public Undertakings, constitute a distinct group and they keep an unremitting vigil over Government expenditure and performance. While members of the Rajya Sabha are associated with the Committees on Public Accounts and Public Undertakings, members of the Committee on Estimates are drawn entirely from the Lok Sabha. Other important Committees having similar functions in both House are the Committee of Privileges, Committee on Subordinate Legislation, Committee on Government Assurances, Committee on Petitions, Committee on Ethics, etc.

These apart, there are 24 Departmentally-related Standing Committees corresponding to different Ministries and Departments to look into the Demands for Grants, Annual Reports of Ministries/Departments and policy matters relating to the Ministries/Departments. Besides, Joint Committees and ad hoc Committees are constituted from time to time to inquire into and report on specific subjects or consider and report on a particular bill.

A similar pattern of government is prevalent at the State level as well. The State Executive consists of the Governor and the Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister to aid and advise the Governor. The Governor is appointed by the President and the executive power of the State is vested in him. The Council of Ministers comprises the Chief Minister and other Ministers. The Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor who also appoints other Ministers on the advice of the Chief Minister. The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly of the State and remains in office till such time as it enjoys the confidence of the House.

For every State, 28 in all, there is a Legislature which consists of the Governor and one House, or as the case may be, two Houses. Five States, viz., Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have two Houses each, viz., the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly. The other States have only one House each, i.e., the Legislative Assembly whose term is five years. The State Legislatures have their own Committee System.

The Union territories are administered by the President through an Administrator appointed by him. Among the seven Union territories, only two, i.e., the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union Territory of Pondicherry have a Legislative Assembly and Council of Ministers.

ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIANS OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (APLAP)

**8th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, 18-22 JANUARY 2005,
NEW DELHI, INDIA**

GENERAL INFORMATION

VENUE

The main venue of the Conference will be the Parliament Library Building, adjacent to the Parliament House in New Delhi.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation has been arranged at The Claridges Hotel, which is a short distance from the main venue. The tariff is US \$120 plus 12.5% taxes for both single and double occupancy.

The Claridges
12, Aurangzeb Road
New Delhi – 110 011
India

TEL: 91+11+23010211
FAX: 91+11+23010625

Info@claridges.com
www.claridges.com

In case of any questions, please contact:

Mr. K. Vijaykrishnan

Director
The 8th APLAP Conference Secretariat
Room No. 073, 'J' Block
Parliament Library Building
New Delhi – 110 001
India

Phone : 91-11-23034845
Fax : 91-11-23016495
E-Mail : kvk@sansad.nic.in

CLIMATE

January is a winter month in Delhi. The maximum temperature during mid- and late January will be approximately 21°C (69.8°F) and the minimum will be about 07°C (44.6°F). Please bring necessary woollen clothing/coat/sweater/gloves, etc. as per your needs.

**THE EIGHTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIANS OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
(APLAP),
NEW DELHI, 18-22 JANUARY 2005**

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

17 January 2005 (Monday)

- Arrival of Delegates

18 January 2005 (Tuesday)

- 0930 - Registration and Snacks/Coffee/Tea
- 1100 - Opening of the Conference
Main Committee Room, Parliament House Annex
- Group Photograph
- 1230 - Lunch, Banquet Hall, Parliament Library Building
- 1400 - **Session - 1:**
Changing Dimensions of Parliamentary Library and
Information Services in the Third Millennium
(Keynote Address by the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha)
- 1530 - Snacks/Coffee/Tea (Adjacent to Conference Venue)
- 1545 - Discussion to continue
- 1630 - Tour of Parliament Library Building
- 1730 - Executive Committee Meeting
- 1930 - Dinner

19 January 2005 (Wednesday)

- 0930 - **Session - 2**
Changing Dimensions of Library and Information Services in India
(Interactive Session with select leading library professionals of Delhi)

*New Dimensions of Research Services in an Era of Information Explosion Imperative of
Reference Services
Need for In-house Training/Refresher Programmes*

1045 - Snacks/Coffee/Tea (Adjacent to Conference Venue)

1100 - Discussion to continue

1230 - Lunch, Banquet Hall, Parliament Library Building

1400 - **Session - 3:**
Library Services for Members
(Keynote Address by)

Managing Library Collections, including Digital Collection
Exchange of Parliamentary Publications
Human Resource Management – In-service Training/ Refresher Programmes for Library Professionals

1530 - Snacks/Coffee/Tea (Adjacent to Conference Venue)

1545 - Discussion to continue

1630 - Tour of Central Hall, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Chambers, Parliament House

1930 - Dinner

20 January 2005 (Thursday)

0930 - **Session - 4:**
Bringing Parliament nearer to the People—Communicating Parliament
(Keynote Address by)

Press and Public Relation Service Telecasting and Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings
Parliamentary Museum and Archives
Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training Facilitating Research on Parliamentary System and Institutions

1045 - Snacks/Coffee/Tea (Adjacent to Conference Venue)

1100 - Discussion to continue

Session – 5:
IT in Parliamentary Library and Information Services
(Keynote Address by)

Managing Information on Parliamentary Websites
Automation of Press Clippings
Digitization of Library Collections
Library Automation Multi-media Production Facilities

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- | | | |
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| 1230 | - | Lunch, Banquet Hall, Parliament Library Building |
| 1400 | - | Local Sight-seeing |
| 1930 | - | Dinner |

21 January 2005 (Friday)

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|------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0900 | - | Executive Committee Meeting |
| 1000 | - | Session - 6:
Changing Dimensions of Library and Information
Services in India (Interactive Session with select
leading library professionals of Delhi) |
| 1145 | - | Snacks/Coffee/Tea (Adjacent to Conference Venue) |
| 1200 | - | Business Meeting |
| 1300 | - | Lunch, Banquet Hall, Parliament Library Building |
| 1415 | - | Preparation of Communiqué |
| 1700 | - | Closing ceremony, Main Committee Room, Parliament Library Building |
| 1930 | - | Dinner by the President of the APLAP |

22 January 2005 (Saturday)

Post-Conference Tour to Agra

23 January 2005 (Sunday)

In the forenoon, there is an optional programme for attending the full dress rehearsal of the Republic Day Parade

Departure

CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIANS OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

1. NAME

The name of the Association is the 'ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIANS OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC' It may be known by the acronym APLAP.

2. PURPOSE

The Purposes for which the Association is established are to

- i. Encourage understanding of, and cooperation between parliamentary libraries and research and information services attached to the National and State/Provincial Legislatures in the region. (See Note 1)
- ii. Consider any matters affecting the common interests or operations of Parliamentary Libraries.
- iii. Initiate, develop, establish and support ideas, methods and techniques likely to result in the better functioning of Parliamentary Libraries generally, and in particular their effective provision of information relevant to the needs of the Parliamentarians they serve.
- iv. Foster a clearer understanding of the respective needs and roles of members of Parliament and their Parliamentary Libraries by establishing a forum for better communication between the two.
- v. Provide a body which can speak and act on behalf of its several constituents on matters coming within the ambit of its authority.
- vi. Advance the cause of Parliamentary Librarianship generally and liaise closely with IFLA and other bodies and associations with common interests.

3. MEMBERSHIP

i. Institutional Members

The chief librarian or equivalent in each of the legislatures in the Asia Pacific region is eligible for institutional membership of the Association upon payment of the prescribed subscription. Where a legislature does not have a chief librarian or equivalent the Presiding Officers may nominate another officer as Member. (See Note 2)

ii. Associate Members

Other interested administrative, library, research and or information staff employed in or working with the legislatures in the region may be associate members upon payment of the annual associate membership subscription.

Membership subscriptions are prescribed in the By-laws.

Membership subscriptions are prescribed in the By-laws.

4. OFFICES

In a General Business meeting held during each Biennial Conference Institutional members shall elect :

President
Vice President (Asia)
Vice President (Pacific)
Secretary and
Treasurer

These office holders shall form the Association's Executive Committee and may co-opt up to two Institutional members to serve ex officio on the Committee.

No person shall be eligible to serve longer than two consecutive terms of two years in the same office.

An Executive Committee member shall cease to hold office if s/he:

- i. ceases to be a member of the Association
- ii. ceases to be employed in a legislature in the region
- iii. resigns from the office
- iv. is requested in writing to resign by no less than one third of the members in good standing.

5. CASUAL VACANCIES

Where a position on the Executive Committee falls vacant between biennial conferences, it may be filled for the remainder of the allotted term through a postal ballot of members to be conducted by the remaining members of the Executive Committee with nominations being called within 30 days of the vacancy occurring.

6. POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICE HOLDERS

i. President

The President, on the authorization of the Executive Committee, shall issue statements, enter into negotiations on behalf of the Association and represent its views and opinions.

Where the President undertakes such activities without prior agreement on policy at a biennial meeting, statements made on behalf of the Association shall be subject to ratification at the next general business meeting.

ii. Other office bearers

Powers of other office bearers are set out in the By-laws.

7. MEETINGS

A conference of the Association shall be held biennially at such times and at such places as the Executive Committee shall determine following consultations with the host librarian/Director. During the course of the biennial conference, at least one general business meetings shall be held. The procedures and rules for meetings are set out in the By-laws.

8. STANDING COMMITTEES AND OTHER SUBORDINATE BODIES

The members present at a General Business meeting may appoint Standing Committees, Working Parties, Task Forces, or make other appropriate arrangements, for carrying out studies or special tasks determined by the meeting. The Standing Committees and other bodies shall operate in accordance with the Association's By-laws.

Note 1 - State or Provincial legislatures eligible for membership of the Association are those legislatures where powers are defined or established in conjunction with the national constitution.

Note 2 - The Chief Librarian or Director may designate the Deputy Librarian or Deputy Director or equivalent to represent the legislature as Institutional Member. The designated person must have full authority to speak and act on behalf of the library.

Adopted 10 May 1990, Seoul, Republic of Korea.



A view of Parliament House from Lok Sabha

A close-up view of the Honourable Chairman's Chair. In the background is the Burma teak panelling, which runs along the entire length of the Chamber.



Send contributions for the next newsletter to:
Roslynn Membrey
Secretary and Treasurer, APLAP
C/- Department of Parliamentary Services
Parliamentary Library
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia
Roslynn.Membrey@aph.gov.au