

IFLA Africa Section

Chairperson' Report August 2008-February, 2009

1. Introduction

The period under review has been a relatively quiet one for the section. The reporting period includes reporting on the WLIC Quebec, as well as on collaborative activities that seek to fulfill the Africa Section's Strategic Plan 2008-2009. The section has been preoccupied with issues of funding of projects, and trust that this meeting will receive a report on possible future options of funding of the section's activities that were previously funded through ALP.

I am saddened by the fact that I could not be at this meeting. However, I am confident that the leadership and experience of SC members here present will ensure constructive discussion.

This meeting is crucial for the section, in terms of reviewing the Strategic Plan 2008-09, and planning for the next two years. Furthermore, I do trust that the meeting will deliberate on and adopt, the "Guideline on hosting mid-term meetings" which has been circulated by the Regional Manager, Lindy Nhlapo.

I also want to address the concern that was raised by members as a run-up to this meeting relating to mid-term meetings. Funding for the mid-term meeting is limited. It is not intended to cover all logistics of the mid-term meetings. As is indicated when people are nominated to SC membership, they need to have their institution's support to ensure funding of their attendance at the annual Congress as well as mid-term meetings.

2. WLIC Quebec

The meeting will receive a report from the Secretary, Dr Daniel, about the WLIC Quebec meetings. The minutes of that meeting have been circulated. However, the minutes of the previous section meetings held in Pretoria were not considered at that meeting because there was no quorum.. This is a concern for the section. SC members are urged to participate to attend the Congress.

3. Collaboration

LIASA Annual Conference :In October 2008, the Chair was invited to speak at the LIASA annual meeting. The presentation included highlighting the activities of the Section, as well areas of possible collaboration with LIASA.

Gutte Institute: The Africa Section, LIASA and the Gutte Institute, collaborated in the hosting Workshop on Advocacy held in Johannesburg November 2008. The Chair and the Regional Manager participated actively in the organization of

the workshop. A member of the SC Victoria Okojie, made opening remarks on behalf of the Chair.

Emerald Publishing

Emerald publishing is seeking collaboration with the section on management issues. The Publisher is currently considering a joint publication on management of libraries on Africa. When more information, on the form of this collaboration is received, it will be communicated to the SC members.

4. Participation of SC members

I have noted various challenges with communication within Standing Committee. Some have to do with technical mis-functions. I urge us to please respond to calls for inputs and to complete assignments that are assigned them. The success of the SC depends on the participation of all of us. There is need for us to participate for the success of the Section.

I wish you fruitful deliberations.

Buhle Mbambo-Thata.

Chair , Africa Section

4th February, 2009