



**Minutes of First Standing Committee Meeting of  
Government Libraries Section, IFLA  
15<sup>th</sup> August 2015, Cape Town, South Africa**

Present: Sanjay K Bihani - Chair (India), Anoja Fernando - Secretary (UK), Beacher Wiggins (USA - Member), Maria Goeckeritz (Germany - Member), Pavel Kiselev (Russia - Member), Yoriko Sato (Japan - Member), Reyna Josvah-Rabiazza (Madagascar - Member), Winny Nekesa Akullo (Uganda - Member)

Apologies: Guillermo García-Capcha– Information Coordinator (Peru), Jerry Mansfield (USA - Member), Miguel Navas-Fernández (Spain - Member), Elina Kähö (Finland - Member), Inger Jepsson (Sweden - Member), Duncan Omole, Jérôme Fronty (France – Corresponding Member), Magdalena Biota and Fatima Alloul, Muireann Tóibín (Ireland) (Corresponding Members), Maria (Maimen) Díez-Hoyo (Spain),

Guests Present: Jan Parry (President, CILIP UK), Dr Satendra Singh Dhaka (India), Niels H. Jensenius (Denmark), Adetoun Oyelude (Nigeria), Marueline Ngwenya (South Africa)

Welcome: Chair Sanjay K Bihani welcomed the Standing Committee members and guests to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves. The Committee recorded agreement.

1. Agenda: The agenda was accepted and the meeting commenced.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting: Minutes from IFLA Lyon were accepted.
3. Report from Chair: Sanjay welcomed everyone present, and in particular the CILIP President Jan Parry and new Standing Committee members. Sanjay read the report for the year. In particular he presented an over-view of how GLS has evolved. There was commitment to launch several initiatives but these could not be implemented due to circumstances beyond control. The IFLA Government libraries section leaflet was successfully redrafted between Sanjay, Anoja & Guillermo the previous year and had proved popular in Lyon. Sanjay printed the leaflets in India to achieve Value for Money and invited members to distribute the leaflets at the conference.

Sanjay alluded to an item further on in the agenda, with his term as Chair coming to an end at the end of the Cape Town conference. He also referred to the terms of other long-standing members, who had contributed to the success of GLS, coming to an end. During the nomination period at the beginning of the year, Sanjay had worked with Anoja & IFLA HQ to ensure Members joined the Standing Committee.

4. Report from Secretary: Anoja expressed her appreciation to Sanjay and Guillermo for all the work undertaken. During the year, Anoja coordinated with IFLA HQ regarding membership of the Committee. She thanked Sanjay for his leadership because GLS was struggling to get nominations and it was due to Sanjay's determination that the Standing Committee membership numbers were retained. She hoped to continue in a similar capacity during the coming year. Anoja recorded her thanks to Jerry Mansfield who had inducted her through this process which began in autumn 2014!
5. Report from Information Coordinator: Chair Sanjay Bihani read the report in the absence of Guillermo. Sanjay complimented Guillermo's efforts at producing excellent updates for the website and thanked him for coordinating the GLS sessions at Cape Town meticulously. The Committee recorded its appreciation to Guillermo.
6. Election of New Members and Officers 2015-18: Sanjay formally launched the election of New Officers and invited members to express interest. Pavel asked Sanjay to briefly explain the responsibilities of the Officer posts. Sanjay emphasised the commitment attached to the posts and listed the following:

Chair

- Must attend conferences
- Chair the Standing Committee Meetings during conference
- Chair is the final authority on decisions and taking responsibility
- Work together with the Secretary and Coordinating Secretary to promote and uphold IFLA values

Secretary

- Assist the Chair during conference and during the year-long preparation for conference
- Take minutes of the GLS meeting and agree these with the Chair firstly and then circulate to Standing Committee members
- Promptly respond to emails and communications from the Chair & IFLA HQ in consultation with the Chair to progress GLS business smoothly.

Information Coordinator

- This was not an elected post. Guillermo has graciously agreed to continue and Sanjay had accepted the offer because Guillermo does excellent work on behalf of GLS.

Chair-elect:

In the absence of anyone putting their names forward, Sanjay proposed, Anoja Fernando (UK) as Chair of GLS. Beecher Wiggins seconded the nomination and Anoja was unanimously elected as Chair of GLS and expressed her appreciation to all those present. Anoja thanked Sanjay for his illustrious commitment to GLS over the years and in particular the strength he brought to GLS as Chair. Anoja's nomination/acceptance papers were handed over to IFLA HQ.

Secretary-elect:

Upon Anoja becoming Chair, the position of Secretary became vacant. Sanjay, invited expressions of interest. On the basis of what Sanjay had explained as responsibilities of the Office of Secretary, Pavel put his name forward. Pavel was duly nominated by Beecher Wiggins and seconded by the Committee Members.

7. Strategic Plan 2015-17: Sanjay and Anoja were attending the Division Leadership Forum on the 16 August 2015 between 8:30-10:00 am and hoped to report back.

8. Finance: The administrative budget of 150 Euros was spent on the printing of leaflets in India which were distributed during IFLA Cape Town, for tokens of appreciation for speakers and for onsite printing of materials for the speakers.
9. Projects: Sanjay invited people to think about Projects for the future and put their ideas forward
10. Cape Town Conference Programme:  
Sanjay reminded and invited the Committee to attend the Government Libraries Section Session 096 —on Monday 17 August 2015 13:45 - 15:45 at Auditorium 1.  
**Theme**: Networks of Government Libraries – providers of access to Information - Government Libraries  
Most of the speakers were present and Sanjay welcomed and personally thanked them for their participation.  
Jan Parry, President CILIP UK briefly described her presentation. Maria Goeckeritz was presenting on behalf of Elina Kähö. The Committee recorded their special thanks to Maria for stepping-in for Elina who could not be at conference due to work reasons. Reyna Josvah-Rabiazza's presentation was timed and ready. Winny spoke on behalf of Victor A. Walusimbi & Felix R. Nsiimoomwe (Knowledge Management Centre, Communications, Department, Bank of Uganda, Uganda)
11. Sanjay closed on an optimistic note and everyone thanked Sanjay for his commitment and successes over several years on behalf of GLS. Anoja recorded that Sanjay & Jerry had contributed so much to GLS and their experience and goodwill is irreplaceable. With Sanjay's permission, Anoja, as Chair-elect, wished to explore the possibilities for Sanjay & Jerry to support GLS in an advisory capacity.

*Minutes prepared by Anoja Fernando (Secretary)*