



2018 APLAP Conference Oct.31-Nov.2, 2018 Tokyo, JAPAN



REPORT

Isaac Solomona

Delegate from the Parliament of the Cook Islands.



The 12th Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) Conference - Tokyo, Japan, October 31 to November 2, 2018.

Theme: DEVELOPING HUMAN RESOURCES FOR PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES AND RESEARCH SERVICES.

BACKGROUND:

The Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) was founded in 1990 to encourage cooperation and knowledge sharing between bodies that provide library and research services to Parliaments in Asia and the Pacific.

APLAP considers matters affecting Parliamentary Libraries in the region, promotes the improvement of information services to Parliaments, and organises conferences and training days.

The Cook Islands Parliament is a member of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) and pays the annual membership fee of \$140.00.

A conference of the Association is held biennially at such times and at such places as the Executive Committee shall determine following consultation with the host librarian/director.

The National Diet Library of Japan (Parliament Library of Japan), was the host to the twelfth conference of the Association in Tokyo, Japan from Wednesday 31st October to Friday 2nd November 2018.

THE HOST ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THE 12TH APLAP CONFERENCE TOKYO, JAPAN 2018:

The organising of the 12th APLAP Conference was in my personal observations a combined effort by the following divisions and offices of the National Diet Library of Japan. The staff of the National Diet of Japan (Parliament) came together and did an outstanding planning and eventually achieving a smooth running and successful conference.



Congratulations to the staff of the following office and divisions of the National Diet of Japan for a superb and memorable 12th APLAP Conference.

- Research Cooperation Office,
- Research Planning Division,
- Research and Legislative Reference Bureau,
- National Diet Library, of Japan.

Well done and thank you very much for making all the APLAP delegates from around the world experience Japan in an extraordinary way.

COOK ISLANDS PARLIAMENT'S PARTICIPATION:

Application by the Cook Islands Parliament for funding to participate at the 12th APLAP conference was submitted to the APLAP Association earlier this year 2018, when member countries were invited, to submit application for full funding to attend the conference. Our application was successful and Tai Manavaroa, Sub-Editor of Hansard was nominated to represent our Parliament and necessary arrangements were made with the host branch to organise Tai's travel arrangements.

An on the job accident occurred during the 37th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Australia and Pacific conference to Tai, on the stairs of the conference room at the Edgewater. After seeing a medical doctor a medical certificate was issued with the diagnosis, that Tai was unfit to travel such long distance with her leg injuries.

Isaac Solomona, Editor of Debates was appointed to replace Tai Manavaroa to attend the APLAP conference on behalf of the Cook Islands Parliament at the last minute.

Commendation: Special acknowledgment to Ms Akane Yoshiie, of the National Diet Library and Ms Georgina Watson, of the Federal Parliament of Australia for assisting and making arrangements at the last minute to replace Tai Manavaroa (refer above) enabling Isaac Solomona to attend the 12th APLAP conference in Tokyo, Japan. Ensuring the Cook Islands Parliament was represented at this very important parliamentary gathering.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS:

All travel arrangements, including international airfares and domestic airport transfers to hotel, and committee. Outlined below is the air travel schedule for Mr Isaac Solomona.

Jetstar		Air New Zealand		Air New Zealand		Jetstar	
Origin : Rarotonga, CIs Destination: Auckland, NZ		Origin: Auckland, NZ Destination: Narita, Japan		Origin: Narita, Japan Destination: Auckland, NZ		Origin: Auckland, NZ Destination: Rarotonga, CIs	
Departure	Arrival	Departure	Arrival	Departure	Arrival	Departure	Arrival
1.30am	4.50am	9.50am	4.45pm	9.40pm	12.10pm	7.40pm	12.40am
3hrs 45mins		11hrs		11hrs		3hrs 20mins	
Monday 20 October 2018				3 Oct 2018	Sunday 4 November 2018		



ACCOMMODATION & CONFERENCE VENUE:

Toshi Centre Hotel is a 4-star hotel located in proximity to Yasukuni Shrine and the property boasts location within 5 kilometres from Tokyo city centre. Toshi Centre is also a venue within 30 minutes' walk to Ginza, a well-known and esteemed area of Tokyo city. The tranquil hotel is decorated in an imperial style.

Toshi Centre Hotel's 6th floor have the facilities to cater for large conference meetings. The whole floor of the hotel has galleries for large and small meeting rooms and can also facilitate dining events. This was the venue for the 12th APLAP conference and accommodations for all the participants from the member countries of APLAP.

Personally, this hotel was ideal for most delegates as it was accessible to a bus drop off station which enabled most of us participants to catch the Tokyo Limousine Bus for transportation from and to Narita International Airport. The location was also convenient to a lot of public amenities.



12th APLAP Conference held at the Toshi Centre Hotel, Tokyo, on the 6th floor facilities.

12 APLAP CONFERENCE PROGRAM:

The 12th APLAP conference had three (3) distinct elements overall. The first was the opening ceremony and presentation by the keynote speaker, Mr Steve Wise Director of Information Management at House of Commons Library, the second was the APLAP general meeting and the third part was the presentation and reporting by the various branches of APLAP on the conference theme during three (3) sessions.

The overwhelming hospitality of the National Diet Library of Japan catered the rest of the three (3) days program. These included two (2) evening dinner functions, on the first night a welcome to Japan and the 12th APLAP conference hosted by the Speaker of the House of Representative and on the second night a welcome to the National Diet Library of Japan, after completing a tour of the library at a restaurant in Ginza.

On the third and last day of the conference, the participants was treated to a tour of the National Diet massive complex and in the afternoon a tour of the Edo-Tokyo Museum. The National Diet is the

Parliament House of Japan and the Edo-Tokyo Museum is a museum of the history of Tokyo during the Edo period and it was established in 1993.



Inside and outside of the National Diet of Japan.

Personally, the conference was well organised and executed meticulously. All the participants embraced the full & complete program set for the 12th APLAP. Thank you to all the staff of the National Diet of Japan for an excellent conference program.

**Refer Back of this Report: Appendix 01: Conference Program Overview.*

12APLAP CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Steve Wise, Chair, IFLA Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section and Director of Information Management, House of Commons Library, United Kingdom was the keynote speaker invited to the 12th APLAP conference.

He spoke on the subject of “Developing Human Resources for Parliamentary Library and Research Services”. The presentation was very informative as Mr Wise discussed the service values that must be found in a Parliamentary Library. Impartiality, accessible, timely, and relevancy and confidentiality are all important values that must be upheld by all parliamentary library and librarians. The other point the keynote speaker stressed was the subject of competency. “Competence is the ability of an individual to do a job properly”. The delivery of services in a parliament library is affected by the staff’s level of competency. On-going training is essential to gain a high level of competency in delivering good parliament library services.



The keynote speech was much appreciated by the full house of APLAP delegates from around the region and the staff of the National Diet Library of Japan.

Steve Wise became a friend for all 12th APLAP participants as he remained & shared the full conference program with all the delegates.

12APLAP GENERAL MEETING:

The APLAP General Meeting was held after lunch on the first day of the conference an important session of all APLAP conferences.

**Refer Back of this Report: Appendix 02: APLAP General Meeting Agenda.*

Apart from the President's and Treasurer's reports the main discussions were on the APLAP Constitution and By-Laws amendments. The amended Constitution and By-Laws of the Association can be downloaded from the APLAP official website.

The Election of Office Holders onto the Executive Committee for the next office term was also finalised.

The outgoing President Kazuko Sakata-Director General, Research and Legislative Reference Bureau, National Diet Library, Japan to be replaced by Mihyang Park-Director, Acquisitions Division, National Assembly Library Korea.

The outgoing Vice-President Pacific: Asha Kumar-Senior Librarian, Parliament of the Republic of Fiji to be replaced by Boniface Armstrong Supa-Chief Parliamentary Librarian, National Parliament of Solomon Islands.

12APLAP SESSIONS (3) – BRANCH PRESENTATIONS:

The rest of the conference was divided into three (3) sessions and every branch of the Association represented at the conference was expected to do a presentation on the theme of the conference.

The Parliament of the Cook Islands was listed as the second presentation.

The timing of the presentation was only for 5 minutes by all the presenters during the branch's presentations. It was very strict to the 5 minutes duration. Most of the presenters were caught unawares that their time was over.

All PowerPoint slides and script from each of the branches was requested prior to arrival to the conference and these were compiled in a conference folder and distributed to all delegates to the conference. These were also posted on the APLAP website.



Below is the address on the APLAP website of the PowerPoint presentation and script that was submitted to the conference by the delegate from the Cook Islands. Copies of both is attached in the appendix of this report.

PowerPoint

<http://asiapacificparllibs.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2019/01/1-2Cook-Islands.pdf>

Presentation Script

http://asiapacificparllibs.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2019/01/1-2Cook-Islands_script.pdf

**Refer Back of this Report: Appendix 03 & 04: PowerPoint Slides & Script.*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

This is the second APLAP conference the delegate from the Cook Islands has attended (the first in 2006-Wellington, NZ). The following are the recommendation he is submitting to the Speaker and Clerk of Parliament:

1. the Parliamentary Library service and facility to be revived and included in the new Parliament House building,
 - a. included in this area of the Parliament House – the Library is to be area specifically setup for a Museum area to store & display all artefacts old and new that were and are to be presented to the Speaker specially for Parliament.
 - b. also, an area to be considered to be for Achieves, to store old valuable photos and documents related to parliament.
2. the position of a Librarian and Research Officer be reinstated, to continue providing this essential service to our parliament,
3. to restock all essential books and resources that a Parliamentary Library is supposed to contain to bring our Library up to date with any APLAP library,
4. the Clerk of Parliament to establish a support assistance relationship with the *Federal Australian Parliamentary Library Services, New Zealand Parliamentary Library, (perchance, the National Diet Library of Japan), directing in the reviving effort of our parliamentary library services, ensuring that it is up to date with any parliamentary library among the APLAP community,
5. digital information services to be part of the revived & restored parliamentary library services for MPs,

This brings this 12APLAP Conference report to its end.

Meitaki Maata.



Registration



Lunch



Evening Reception



Tour

*The Federal Australian Parliamentary Library Services manages the administration of the APLAP website.