

## **OVERVIEW**

The Seventh Biennial Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) was held in Ankara from 9<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> September 2002. The Turkish Grand National Assembly Library hosted the Ankara Conference. Previous biennial meetings of the Association were in Seoul, Islamabad, Bangkok, Canberra, Manila and Tokyo.

Twenty-two delegates from twelve different countries participated in the conference. - Australia, Australia (NSW), India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Turkey. The participants shared their experiences and consolidated their efforts towards enforcing regional and international sharing of information resources.

The Conference was organized in compliance with APLAP's Constitution and By-laws. The program commenced with the official opening and welcome followed by the presentations of three keynote speakers. Working sessions and business meetings were held on the subsequent days. During the sessions, thirteen reports were presented on the role of parliamentary libraries in enhancing democracy in the digital age. Interactive discussions took place on various aspects of the theme, including the state of digitisation in the individual parliamentary libraries, various issues involved in formulating digital information policy and the impact of digitalisation on democracy.

In the APLAP's Business Meeting, APLAP's administrative concerns were taken up and new executive members of APLAP were elected.

As the social part of program, the participants were given every opportunity to get to know each other and exchange their ideas and experiences. Tours of popular historic sites in Ankara and Cappadocia were included in the program. Luncheons were hosted by the key officials of the TGNA and dinners by the management of the TGNA.

The eighth Biennial Conference of APLAP will be held in New Delhi, India 2004 hosted by the Lok Sabha.