

**COMMUNIQUE**  
**OF**  
**THE 7<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL CONFERENCE**



## COMMUNIQUÉ

The objectives of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) are to:

- Encourage understanding of, and cooperation between, parliamentary libraries and research and information services attached to the National and State/Provincial Legislatures in the region.
- Consider any matters affecting the common interests or operations of Parliamentary Libraries.
- 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.
- 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.
- Provide a body which can speak and act on behalf of its several constituents on matters coming within the ambit of its authority.
- Advance the cause of Parliamentary Librarianship generally and liaise closely with IFLA and other bodies and associations with common interests.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of APLAP was hosted by the Turkish Grand National Assembly in Ankara from 9<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> September 2002.

The theme of the conference was "The role of Parliamentary Libraries in enhancing democracy in the digital age".

Three distinguished keynote speakers were invited to address delegates on the conference theme. Their contributions expanded the theme and helped delegates to place their work in a wider context.

Delegates from each country represented at the conference presented a report on the conference theme.

Delegates have concluded that:

Recent developments in technology have made it possible for Parliamentary Libraries to have an important and valuable role to play in enhancing the Parliaments and their library services.

Parliamentary Libraries have two important functions :

- 1) They must preserve the memory of parliament and its proceedings.
- 2) They must ensure that all members of parliament have access to freely available information, analysis and advice.

Digitized information makes it possible for Parliamentary Libraries to provide improved services to legislatures and through them to the wider community, thus enhancing democracy in our member countries.

Therefore, the delegates at the 7<sup>th</sup> APLAP Biennial Conference will continue to work together to achieve the objectives of APLAP and to provide timely, relevant, accurate and accessible services to members of our parliaments by continuing to develop digitized services in their parliaments.

<b>ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>	
President:	Mr. Ramesh Chander Ahuja (India)
Vice President for Asia:	Mr. Karl Min Ku (Taiwan)
Vice President for Pacific:	Ms. Jean Chapman-Mason (Cook Islands)
Secretary and Treasurer	Ms. Roslynn Membrey

### **CALL FOR SUPPORT**

The APLAP Executive Committee respectfully calls upon the Presiding Officers of the parliaments in the Asia Pacific region to support the work of APLAP and individual parliamentary libraries in their endeavors. All parliamentary libraries should be encouraged to provide digitized information, thus improving services to legislatures and through them to the wider community and enhancing democracy in our member countries.