

**PROCEEDINGS
THE 2ND BIENNIAL CONFERENCE
OF
THE PARLIAMENTARY
LIBRARIANS OF
ASIA-PACIFIC**

MAY 9—12, 1992



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LIBRARY
ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN**

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H.E. Gohar Ayub Khan, Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, delivering his Inaugural Address.



Participants of the Conference with H.E. Gohar Ayub Khan, Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan.



Mr. J. B. Kim presiding over the Working Session.



H.E. Haji Muhammad Nawaz Khokhar, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, delivering his Closing Address.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

(1-2)

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GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **CONFERENCE THEME**
"Research and Information Support to Legislature"
2. **VENUE**
Parliament House, Islamabad, Pakistan.
3. **DATES**
May 9—12, 1992.
4. **PURPOSES**
To share developmental experiences.
5. **PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES APLAP (Member Countries)**
 1. Australia
 2. Bangladesh
 3. Cook Islands
 4. Indonesia
 5. Japan
 6. Korea (Republic of)
 7. Pakistan
 8. Papua New Guinea
 9. Solomon Islands
 10. Sri Lanka
 11. Thailand
 12. Tuvalu
 13. Vanuatu
 14. Western Samoa

IDENTIFICATION

All delegates are kindly advised to wear a name tag at all meetings and other official events.

MEETING SITES

All meetings and the Opening session will be held at the Committee room of the National Assembly.

SERVICES ON REQUEST

Clerical services such as making copies or typing will be provided by the Deputy Librarian of the National Assembly Library. (Tel: 814031/2354).

TRANSPORTATION

Shuttle services will be provided to the delegates for all official activities.

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GROUP DISCUSSION

3.30 p.m. Tea Break

4.00 p.m. Business meeting to discuss APLAP affairs including Membership fee
to
Chaired by Western Samoa)

5.30 p.m.

8.00 p.m. Dinner

May 10, 1992 (Sunday)

9.30 a.m. **Working Session**
(Chaired by Indonesia)
Presentations by:
(i) Japan
(ii) Korea

GROUP DISCUSSION

10.30 a.m. Tea Break.

11.00 a.m. **Working Session**
(Chaired by Sri Lanka)
Presentations by:
(i) Western Samoa
(ii) Papua New Guinea

GROUP DISCUSSION

12.30 p.m. Lunch.

2.00 p.m. Visit to the National Library.

3.30 p.m. Tea Break.

4.00 p.m. Visit to the Faisal Mosque and witness proceeding of the National
to
Assembly.

5.30 p.m.

8.00 p.m. Dinner

May 11, 1992 (Monday)

9.30 a.m. **Working Session**
(Chaired by Japan)
Presentations by:
(i) Tuvalu
(ii) Thailand

GROUP DISCUSSION

- 10.30 a.m. Tea Break.
- 11.00 a.m. **Working Session**
(Chaired by Bangladesh)
Presentations by
(i) Malaysia
(ii) Indonesia

GROUP DISCUSSION

- 12.30 p.m. Lunch.
- 2.00 p.m. Visit to the Lok Virsa and Shakarparian.
- 5.30 p.m. Return to Hotel.
- 8.00 p.m. Dinner

May 12, 1992 (Tuesday)

- 9.00 a.m. **Working Session**
(Chaired by Australia)
Presentations by:
(i) Cook Islands
(ii) Sri Lanka

GROUP DISCUSSION

- 10.30 a.m. Tea Break.
- 11.00 a.m. Closing Plenary Session (Chaired by Pakistan)
Address of Thanks:
Closing Address: Secretary General,
National Assembly of
Pakistan
- 12.30 p.m. Visit to Murree/Bhor Bun (including Lunch)
- 5.30 p.m. Return to Hotel; Evening Free.

หน้าว่าง

OPENING SESSION

(9-10)

หน้าว่าง

WELCOMING ADDRESS

BY

SECRETARY GENERAL, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN

- His Excellency Mr. Gohar Ayub Khan, Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan.
- Hon. Deputy Speaker.
- Mr. Joobong Kim, President, Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia-Pacific (APLAP).
- Distinguished participants.
- Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners.
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my privilege this morning to welcome distinguished participants of the 2nd biennial Conference of Parliamentary Librarians who have accepted our invitation and travelled all the way to Islamabad. We are also grateful to the Parliaments of Australia, Bangladesh, Cook Islands, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa who have spared their key personnel to participate in the Conference.

It is indeed very encouraging to note that Pacific countries have shown a special interest in attending this Conference in Islamabad. The exotic beauty of these countries is legendary and in the recent years many countries of the region have set new records of development and changing the future of their people. Formation of the Association of the Parliamentary Librarians of Asia-Pacific Region was certainly a very auspicious step. Asia-Pacific Region is destined to play an increasingly important role in the world affairs. Pooling of the resources of the countries of this region would enable them to open new avenues for cooperation in many areas. Exchange of knowledge is one such crucial area in which most appropriately custodians of the Legislative Libraries have taken the lead. We are looking forward to increasing our inter-action in many more areas

The very presence of Ms. Jane Ann Lindley gives me a special confidence that this Conference will achieve its desired objectives. Although Jane is no longer based in Pakistan, we in Pakistan have always considered her as one of us

I must also acknowledge here the good work done by Asia Foundation in the improvement of Legislative Research and Reference facilities in this region. Our inter-action with the Foundation over the years has been most beneficial.

The theme selected for this Conference is exceptionally appropriate and relevant to the current trends. Concepts of "Research and Information support to Legislatures" are under-going a rapid change. The Librarian who was once considered as the custodian of knowledge is now viewed as a custodian, a communicator and an educator. More than anything it is the growing technological potential which has redefined the role of the Librarian. But along with technological change we find that increasingly large quantities of information are being made available. The onslaught of information is so incessant that Librarian is even being defined as the filter interposed between man and the torrent of books and other sources of information. Given this scenario packaging and presentation of information has become a specialized undertaking.

Effective institutional support which can be made available for legislative and representational work through analysis, research and information has over the years assumed new significance. We need to develop systems which ensure that legislative relevance and appropriateness of the available information is determined with due regard to timeliness and the information reaches the legislators with clarity and non-partisan balance. Only if these objectives are achieved, the available information will have the desired effect of facilitating legislative action. I am sure that with your expertise and diverse backgrounds you will apply your collective wisdom to developing new concepts and ideas for improving the support which can be made available to legislatures through research and information. I would like to utilize this opportunity to propose that the talent and expertise so fortunately assembled here may focus on Research and Reference facilities being developed in the Parliament of Pakistan and favour us with specific advice for further improvement.

Since 1985 successive Speakers of the National Assembly of Pakistan have paid special attention to the information needs of the Members of Parliament. His Excellency Speaker, Mr. Gohar Ayub Khan, has since assumption of Office, emphasized development of an adequate infrastructure which will enable our legislators to discharge their responsibilities in the best possible manner. He has as such a special interest in developing the very areas on which your Conference focuses. His personal involvement in the matter has been a source of inspiration and encouragement for legislative staff involved in up-grading the available facilities.

Before inviting His Excellency Mr. Gohar Ayub Khan to deliver his inaugural address, I wish to introduce Mr. Joobong Kim, the President of Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia-Pacific whose guidance we have sought every step in organizing this Conference. Would I request him to say a few words.

CONGRATULATORY REMARK

BY

J. B. KIM. PRESIDENT OF APLAP

His Excellency, Mr. Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Secretary General, Members of the Conference Secretariat,

On behalf of all Participants to the Second biennial Conference of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and Pacific I wish to express our sincere thanks for giving us your unqualified endorsement and support to hold this Conference in this charming city of Islamabad. Even the weather in Islamabad seems to be in agreement with us. As you all know the first Conference of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and Pacific region took place in the National Assembly Library of Republic of Korea in Seoul exactly two years ago. The first Conference was such a success that all those who participated in the first Conference left Seoul with a feeling that if we can continue our dialogue with the momentum firmly established in Seoul, not only the Parliamentary Librarianships but the Parliamentary institutions in this region in general will be further strengthened. It is for this reason, we, the members of APLAP are terribly grateful to your Excellency and the Pakistani Parliament for hosting the second Biennial Conference in this City of Islamabad.

Needless to say that the first and the foremost duty of Parliamentary Librarians is to assist members of their respective Parliaments by providing them with accurate and the most update information the members need. Though it sounds rather simple, it is by no means an easy task. Accordingly the search for the most effective ways of providing our MPs with the information they need, has been the subject of intense discussion in many capitals of the world. Parliamentary Librarians of Western Europe have been engaged in such dialogue for some years and recently our counterparts of Australasia have been meeting regularly and now the parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific region are gathered here for the second time to discuss this time on research and information support to Legislature. I sincerely hope that discussion that we will have in the next few days would contribute in paving the way to further developing Parliamentary Librarianship in general and the research and information support to our MPs in particular. Ladies and gentlemen, once again, Your Excellency, Mr. Speaker, honourable Secretary General, I wish to say many many thanks and we all look for to our most fruitful Conference in the next few days.
Thank you very much.

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**WORKING SESSIONS ON
“RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SUPPORT TO
LEGISLATURE”**

(17+18)

หน้าว่าง

1. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSIONS

MS. CAROL KEMPNER

(AUSTRALIA)

RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SUPPORT FOR THE LEGISLATURE — THE ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY

I am pleased to have this opportunity, while resident in Pakistan, to address this meeting as a representative of the Department of the Parliamentary Library of Australia. I feel particularly well qualified to speak on the subject of the Department's support for the legislature through its provision of research and information services. Not only have I been an employee of the Department since 1981, but during this time I have had the opportunity to work in the three major client service areas including, the Research Service.

I would like initially to provide some background on the establishment of the information and research functions of the Department and the needs of its clientele. I then propose to detail some of the services provided and to conclude with some of the challenges facing the Department in its provision of information and research support to the Australian Parliament.

Dual and Complementary Functions

The Department of the Parliamentary Library is one of five Parliamentary departments established under the Public Service Act, 1922. At the time of its formation, the Department's main role was to provide the Parliament with library and information services. In 1966 this role was enhanced with the establishment of what is now known as the Parliamentary Research Service (PRS). The role of the PRS is to provide analysis of issues and advice on policy related matters. The broadening of the Department's role was a response to the changing information needs of the Parliament, resulting from both a more highly educated clientele and its more educated and better informed constituency.

Together, the information and research arms of the Department have been successful in developing and delivering a range of high quality services to its clientele.

While the Department has several categories of clientele, Senators and Members have priority of access. They have equal access, therefore no priority is accorded by office or position.

The Australian Parliament is comprised of 76 Senators and 148 Members of the House of Representatives. While most of these are members of one of the four main political parties, there are also a few independents in the current Parliament

The information, policy analysis and advisory needs of individual parliamentarians can be influenced by a number of factors. For example whether the

parliamentarian is in Government or Opposition ; whether s/he is in the Ministry or shadow ministry or a backbencher ; whether s/he has the resources of a political party to draw on, or is an Independent. In addition, the activities in which s/he is engaged will also determine information needs. The major activities in an Australian parliamentarian's world have been identified as (i) debate in the Chamber ; (ii) Parliamentary Committees ; (iii) party meetings ; (iv) the electorate office ; and (v) independent political activities involving public debate, the media and the electorate. (User Needs Survey p. 15) Beyond these characteristics, needs will naturally be determined by personal characteristics and aspirations. The Department's role is to provide services which meet the diverse needs of all these individuals.

I would now like to provide you with a run down of some of these services and the Departmental structure adopted to deliver them.

Structure of the Department

The Parliamentary Librarian is the head of the Department and exercises the powers of a Secretary to an Executive Department. The Presiding Officers, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, have joint responsibility for the Parliamentary Library and exercise the powers of a Minister of an executive Department. The Presiding Officers are advised by a Library Committee, which is a Committee of the Senate and of the House of Representatives.

The Department of the Parliamentary Library has three Programs :—

Program 1 — Information Resources and Services (IRS).

Program 2 — Parliamentary Research Service.

Program 3 — Corporate Services.

The client service programs of the Department, programs 1 & 2, which I shall now deal with in greater detail, are dependent on the support provided by the Corporate Services program in the areas of basic services, finances and staff development.

The Information Resources and Services Program has an establishment of 102 staff. The professional staff are librarians, most of whom have subject qualifications in an area relevant to those of broad concern to the Parliament and, some of whom have subject qualifications to support their specialisation. The program employs a number of library technicians and a skilled team of administrative service officers.

The Parliamentary Research Service has an establishment of 55. This comprises research specialists with graduate and post-graduate qualifications and experience in a subject relevant to their specialisation, and a skilled team of administrative service officers.

Information Resources and Services

The Information Resources and Services Program is responsible for meeting the information needs of Senators, Members and other clients through a range of services and specially selected and documented collections. The program has three sub-programs —

- * Information Resources
- * Media Information, Current Awareness and Hansard (MICAH).
- * Information Services.

The Information Resources sub-program has primary responsibility for selecting, acquiring, processing and documenting the greater part of the Department's collections. While staff in the sub-program do not deal directly with clients, theirs is a major contribution to facilitating information retrieval and document delivery from the Department's own collections.

Ensuring that the material selected for acquisition is relevant and timely, is achieved by the collection development staff with the on-going participation of subject information and research specialists. In addition, staff from the all parts of the IRS program meet with relevant research staff on a sessional basis, to identify emerging and forthcoming national and political issues within each subject field.

Considerable emphasis is placed on acquiring current material and making it available as quickly as possible. Priorities are allocated, and where necessary and possible, material is acquired and processed urgently. This applies to both monographic and periodical literature. With a clientele heavily reliant on current information, timely document delivery is vital if the Department is to have a real and effective role within the Parliament.

Regular evaluation and withdrawal from the collection is carried out by subject information specialists to ensure that the collection, which is close to a 'steady-state', is kept up-to-date and relevant.

Acquisitions, serial records and cataloguing functions are performed with the Geac integrated library system. The catalogue records form the basis for the on-line public access catalogue and the circulation system. A spin off from the cataloguing process is the production of a 'Select List of acquisitions' bulletin, which alerts clients to latest acquisitions received by the Library.

The MICAH sub-program provides information services from resources which are developed within the sub-program, the Parliamentary database and some external media databases.

Media information sources used by the sub-program include their own files of press releases, clippings and transcripts, and externally produced on-line newspaper

databases. The sub-program is also engaged in electronic media monitoring and recording, which enables it to provide a transcription service and its Media Review service — the replay of significant radio and television current affairs programs *via* the video network installed in Parliament House.

MICAH's current awareness services involve the production of an index to periodical literature received by the library. This is available to clients in hard-copy and on-line on the Department's Information Storage and Retrieval System (ISR), which is made available through the Parliamentary Database System (PDBS). The index is supported by a document back-up service. MICAH's other current awareness services include running a seminar program on 'Vital Issues'; 'Dateline', a bulletin of news headlines; and 'Current Comment', a selection of media text dealing with a particular issue or event.

The full text of Hansard 1981+ is available on-line Parliament wide *via* the Parliamentary Data Base System. Despite the relative ease of access of on-line Hansard, there is still a considerable demand for library services in Hansard information retrieval. While all information and research staff use Hansard as source material, MICAH staff specialise in specific requests for Hansard searches.

The Information Services sub-program is responsible for providing information from a variety of print, on-line and human sources, for developing the Department's main collections and providing circulation and document delivery services.

A team of information specialists, some generalists but most subject specialists, utilise their knowledge of their subject and of the key sources in the field, to deliver timely and relevant information. The subject specialists work in close association with their colleagues in the relevant subject groups of the Research Service. Areas of subject specialisation include Law, Politics, Economics, Education and Welfare, Science, Defence and Foreign Affairs.

In addition to the library's own collections and the databases available within the Parliament, the specialists draw upon a range of external sources including internationally networked databases, other libraries, organisations and agencies, and government departments. The Department's commitment to providing a confidential service, invites the use of information specialists as information brokers or 'middle men', in a politically sensitive environment. A degree of specialisation enables the officers to develop contacts with external agencies and to maintain a working knowledge of their field. This ensures a more efficient use of resources and effective delivery of service.

The Parliamentary Handbook, which is produced by the sub-program is recognised as a major source of information, current and historical, on the Australian Parliament. The sub-program also produces other reference publications, which though not as substantial as the Handbook, serve to collate information and

information sources in anticipation of demand. Multiple requests for the same information can in this way, be dealt with in a timely and efficient manner. The sub-program is also responsible for producing special indexes to parts of the collection and in-house reference tools and databases.

Circulation staff provide a document delivery service for 'named items'. The Library's monograph and serial collections are strongly backed up by those of the National Library of Australia and the rest of the Inter-Library-Loan network. As timeliness is crucial, a considerable amount of time and effort goes into obtaining the material urgently. Circulation staff are also responsible for managing loans and the waiting list for new items publicised in the Select List of Acquisitions.

In addition to providing information and published materials in support of Senators' and Members' Parliamentary and constituency work, library collections and resources have increasingly been used to support the educational pursuits of our clientele. Popular and recreational reading materials are collected by the Library in modest numbers.

The Parliamentary Research Service

The PRS provides analysis of issues and advice on policy to Senators and Members, either individually or when in groupings such as committees. In order to perform this role effectively it must have a knowledge of the issues, policies, legislation and programs being debated in the political arena. In addition it must also possess the analytical and communication skills required to convey analysis and to advise. The service is therefore staffed by researchers whose qualifications and experience provide them with an adequate background to specialise in a particular field. These individual specialists are directly accessible for all Parliamentarians.

To provide a coherent approach to clusters of related issues, staff are grouped around seven subject Research Groups. These are: Defence; Economics and Commerce; Education and Welfare; Foreign Affairs; Law and Government; Science, Technology and the Environment; and Statistics.

Although the Parliamentary Research Service does obtain some materials independently and individual groups maintain their own files, approximately 96% of its funding goes to non-discretionary salary costs. As stated in the Department's 1989-90 Annual Report the staff have "second-to-none access to written material". The PRS has unrestrained use of Library services and collections. For this reason research and in particular, subject information specialists often work in close collaboration.

The Research Service gives precedence to work for individual clients over work for general distribution. Therefore most of the work done by the PRS is reactive to the requests of individual clients. Clients may approach an individual specialist and request some analysis of an issue or advice. The response may be supplied orally or in

the form of a written paper, notes or points. In this way the response can be tailored to the needs of the client. The service is both personal and confidential.

However, to assist the Parliament in its consideration of important questions, the Service also attempts to provide, for general distribution, publications reviewing major issues. These are known as **Background Papers and Issues Briefs**. While considerable time may be invested in their preparation, if the issue has been targeted accurately, the publication of these papers can result in many efficiency gains through regular use, not to mention the contribution they may make to more informed debate.

The Service also provides dedicated support for the Parliament's consideration of legislation through **Bills Digests**. These generally provide a summary of the main provisions, some background to the legislation and canvass the issues raised. They are meant as working tools and not documents of record.

Both the **Bills Digests** and the **Background Papers** are not only available in hard copy, but are also available on-line on the Department's Information Storage and Retrieval System.

The **Statistics Group** provides a range of services based on statistical data. These include delivery of statistical information, advice on the use of statistics, tabular and graphic presentations of statistics, analysis of statistical trends and on-line and hard copy compilations of key statistics.

Responding to Changing needs and Pressures

As in the past, the Department continues to evaluate its services in the light of changing user needs and demand. Today, however, this is occurring within a somewhat paradoxical framework of pressure to constrain Departmental resources on the one hand, and an expansion of technological and human resources within the Parliament, on the other. While this could be interpreted as a trend towards a transfer of resources within the Parliament, it is interesting to note that demand for Departmental services continues to grow.

Tremendous changes have taken place in the world of information and research since the **Library** and the **Research Service** were formed. Information sources and resources abound, and technological advances have facilitated greater dissemination of this information. Commercial and academic research organisations, "think tanks" and lobby groups are numerous, and offer advice to Members and Senators.

In addition to these changes in the broader world of information, the availability and application of information technology in the Parliament has become widespread and the number of support staff for Members and Senators has increased.

Within this information and resource rich environment, the Department continues to enhance its role as the Parliament's source of information, analysis, interpretation and policy advice on public issues. A recent report based upon a survey of the information, policy analysis and advisory needs of parliamentarians found that among all the major sources used, the Parliamentary Library was ranked the most important source and the third most frequently used, by both parliamentarians and their staff.

I would like to address some possible explanations for this phenomena, which on closer inspection, is not quite so surprising.

The Australian State and Federal Public Services are major collators and distributors of information today. However, while the Public Service does provide information, it provides advice only to the Government, and its articulation of issues reflects that of the Government. In addition the report on User Needs points out that "the control of the executive over the timing of decisions and over the distribution of information means that on many crucial occasions information may not be available when parliamentarians need it" (User Needs Survey p. 20).

Similarly, lobby groups and private research organisations may provide information and advice, but with the aim of influencing decisions.

The Department of the Parliamentary Library is the only organisation which provides information and advice concerning all issues of relevance to the Parliament, and independent of any institutional viewpoint. The Department recognises the need to complement the growth of these organisations and to emphasise the balance of viewpoint and other factors which characteristic its own services.

In addition, continued growth in demand for Departmental services is also fuelled by the problem of "information overload". Constraints on time and human capacity obstruct the absorption of all the relevant information needed for rational decision-making. This problem is exacerbated by the number and range of issues, and the urgency with which Members and Senators are expected to deal with them. For example, backbenchers may be called to speak at short notice on a subject they know little about.

Although, as I have already mentioned, the allocation of personal staff to individual Senators and Members has increased, they too cannot be specialists on every subject or issue with which they have to deal. In the competitive political environment, where parliamentarians fight not only the opposition, but for their own careers, the DPL is the only source of pooled expertise equally available to all Members and Senators and their staff. The continued demand for the Department's services, could perhaps be seen as a measure of its success in meeting its objective of providing promptly, 'comprehensive yet concise' information and analysis.

While workload statistics and responses to the recent User Needs survey,

provide strong evidence of client satisfaction with Departmental services, increases in demand are being accompanied by increasing expectations of the services provided by the Department. One of the challenges facing the Department now and in the future, is how it will deal with these expectations at a time of fixed, or declining real resources.

The Department has recently needed to re-state, with the endorsement of the Library Committee and the approval of the Presiding Officers, the levels of access available to different categories of client. In the face of rising demand there has also been a need to limit the service provided to some client groups. The purpose of these measures was to emphasise the priority afforded to Senators and Members in all areas of Departmental service.

During the next planning period the Department expects to achieve a number of improvements in management and use of resources, which it hopes will not detract from the quality and effectiveness of its services. While it is making every effort to sustain the quality and range of its services, special attention will be paid to encourage Senators and Members and their staff to make direct use as often as possible of appropriate services. Ultimately the Department's attempts to improve supply and stem demand will be judged by its clients, but it will be client service officers who first feel the impact, as daily, they must reconcile client demands with available resources.

On this note, hopefully leaving you with some food for thought on the challenges facing us in Australia, I would like to open the meeting up to questions and discussion.

2. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

KAZI TAUHID HASAN

(BANGLADESH)

The Legislature in a Parliamentary democracy is to watch the working of the various governmental and other institutions which are ultimately subordinate to its authority. Many of these institutions are now-a-days engaged in functions of industrial, commercial, economic and even scientific and technological nature. It is therefore, necessary that the legislators should have some specialised knowledge of these matters. Otherwise their scrutiny and supervision may not be effective. But it is neither possible nor is it expected that all legislators should have the special knowledge and expertise required of them for a proper discharge of their duties. Many of them may have special knowledge in one or two subjects but it is too much to expect them to have specialised knowledge and upto date information on each and every matter that comes up for discussion in Parliament. An average legislator, in the midst of his multifarious duties to his constituents, has also neither the time nor the patience to do his own study and research or to equip himself for his task in Parliament or to look into the staggering amount of papers with which he is flooded. But in order to be effective, he must be in a possession of, and receive continuously, relevant or right kind of information and statistics in good time and in precise form. At times he would need them at an unexpectedly short notice nor only for a future debate but also while the debate is actually going on in the House. He has also varying information needs. The information problem is therefore not merely one of information supply or increasing the flow of information; it is more a problem of selective information management.

Ministers in charge of Executive Departments have at their command large teams of experts and research workers to aid and advise them on any topic. In that context in order that criticism and discussion may be knowledgeable and fruitful it is only proper that the ordinary legislator should also be provided with some assistance, no matter in what measure. In fact a knowledgeable evaluation of Government's programme and policies not only helps but also improves the administration.

The source of the Legislators information are many but Government being the greatest single monopolist of information, the legislator has to rely heavily on executive departments for his information requirements. But that is not always available with necessary promptitude and in a ready-made form. Besides, this information may consciously or unconsciously, very often got slanted or biased and may not always be considered factual or objective, information from other sources like the mass media, interest groups, lobbyists, Party offices, private informational agencies or even their constituents would be even less so. For, all these courses have a heavy stake in particular solutions to certain legislative problems and they would thus have a tendency to furnish the legislators with information and analysis which would some

how or other be slanted in favour of the ends they are seeking. Hence the need for the Parliament developing its own institutionalised sources of information, an independent information reservoir and specialised dissemination procedures. This is sought to be achieved through the legislative Library and Research and Reference Services which will have the qualities of objectivity and promptness and supply to the legislators balanced, non-partisan, unbiased, precise, quickly digestible and readily usable information within the minimum time with maximum volume.

Now-a-days most of the Parliament Libraries in the world provide Research and Reference & Information Services to the Legislature. It helps the members of Legislature with expert and up-to-date information of all matters connected with their work by answering their numerous enquiries, preparing bibliographies, memoranda and basic-data studies on various topics. Sometime it also drafts speeches and articles for the Members of Legislature and also renders assistance to the Committees in evaluating legislative proposal and other measures of the executive. Its work has become so specialised and extensive that it is providing the legislature with information facilities equal in range and quality to those available to the executive. Not only that in case of Research support to legislature it undertakes long-term research work by compilation of statistical data, preparing brochures and information bulletin on various political, economic, social, constitutional and other topics of current interest. It also prepares briefs for Parliamentary Delegations and Officers of the Parliament going abroad on good-will visits or for attending various Inter-Parliamentary Conferences, Meeting etc.

Library of Congress and Congressional Research Service in the United States, Parliament Library in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Japan, South Korea have made extensive arrangement to provide expert information and research facilities to their legislature. Not only that the neighbouring Pakistan, India, Thailand have also very good arrangement for providing Information & Research Support to their Members and the Senior Official of the Parliament.

Bangladesh Parliament has its own big and modern library with the post of a Chief Librarian and eight other professionally qualified staff. The Library has very good space within the premises of the Parliament House and by virtue of an Asia Foundation consult modernisation project of a decade ago the library has some useful equipments at hand. Its collection-including books, newspapers, journals, parliamentary proceedings, manual, gazette and various government documents and reports are more than 2,00,000 (two lac.) items and it is well organised and maintained. Members & Senior Official are utilising the library service very well but unfortunately at present, the library has no arrangement at all to provide any research service to the legislature. But our Members of Parliament and Officers of the Parliament Secretariat are badly needed for expert and specialised information & research services for them. Because, majority of the members are new-comers to the Parliament and they don't have the personal professional staff to assist them and at the same time they are burdened with constituents and also required to be present during sessions, committee meetings as well as the Parliamentary Party meetings. In the other hand, Speaker,

Deputy Speaker and Senior Secretariat Official regularly need helps with the expeditious checking of precedence and varification of points of law regarding the admissibility of the motion, regulation *etc.* are to be moved in the House. The Parliamentary Committees also required substantive information and research support as well.

Considering all the above-mention necessities the Parliament Secretariat is taking positive step to establish a "Legislative Information Centre" by opening two new sections namely, Research Section and Reference & Documentation section in conjunction with the present Library as soon as possible. The ultimate goal is to provide Research and Information Support to Legislature.

3. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSIONS

MR. RUSSELL THOMAS
(COOK ISLANDS)

Introduction

The Cook Islands became self government in 1965 and after the first General Election held in April 1965 the country voted to remain in free association with New Zealand.

The Parliament of the Cook Islands established under a written constitution consists of 25 members; each member representing a constituency. The executive government lies with a cabinet of Ministers comprising of the Prime Minister, and eight other Ministers — Appointed by the Prime Minister.

The total land area of the Cook Islands is about 240 SQ KM situated in 2.2 million SQ KM of sea with a Population of about 18,000 people.

Parliamentary Library background

Since the Cook Islands Government became self-government in 1965, there existed a room in the legislative services where books were kept. Although the books were not properly classified, ordered and catalogued, record was maintained for the numbers of books contained in that room.

This was treated as a reference room only and borrowing was not allowed. There was no particular person in charge of the Library, until 1983; nearly 20 years later that a librarian and an Assistant Librarian was appointed. Unfortunately the Librarian left towards the end of 1984.

The lack of library skills and training delayed the full operation of the library until 1985 when the Assistant Librarian attended the first basic library course organised by the Australian Parliamentary Library.

His return from the training saw the Library slowly taking form. The books were arranged and catalogued and steadily we began to provide normal services such as the lending of books, newspapers, magazines and photocopying.

We are very grateful for the continued support that the Australian and the New Zealand Parliamentary Libraries give us through donation of books, periodicals, news items and other materials.

In 1987 the Assistant Librarian was given full responsibility for the operation of the library by being appointed as the librarian. Again, unfortunately in 1989 he was

appointed to another division within parliament as an interpreter. Due to financial and skill limitations, the interpreter was also made responsible for the library.

The Present

For the last 3 years we were not able to employ anyone to fill the vacancy in the library mainly due to financial constraints. However the Library is always ready and prepared to give support to any request by MPs. In most cases I mainly receive request from MPs on information pertaining to:—

1. The laws of other countries on certain issues: sale of liquor, matrimonial property etc.
2. What was said by a member on an issue 10 or 15 years ago (Hansard)
3. Bio-data of former members of Parliament, Ministers.
4. Information on a particular country in which that member will be visiting.

Apart from these services available to members, the library also extends some of its services to law firms, companies, Departments and overseas institutions by providing them with legislation, hansards, papers, order papers and bills.

The demand for information from the public is a daily occupations.

Major Problem Areas

1. Limited fund-5 years ago library was receiving \$5000 now about \$1500.
2. Lack of interest by MPs—Educational Background how to use a library.
3. Borrowed materials never returned.
4. MPs prefer to hear rather than reading.
5. No time and not prepared to learn.
6. All materials in English Language.
7. No full time Librarian.
8. Difference in views between Clerk—Person incharge of Library.

Proposal

Unless the following can be done I cannot see much happening in the progress of the Library.

1. Appointment of a full time Librarian.
2. Adequate Funds.
3. MPs with good educational background.
4. Other services apart from the present services provided (Video/Computer).

Conclusion

The need to employ a full time librarian to service the library is paramount but I cannot see any solution in the foreseeable future.

Lack of finance is always the problem, unless this is put in place I cannot see any much progress in our library.

4. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSIONS

MS. AURORA SIMANDJUNDTAK
(INDONESIA)

We all know that Parliamentary Libraries in the Asia Pacific region are yet to be developed, let alone having a Research and Information Section in the Library, except for a very few of us who are privileged to own all that a modern Parliamentary Library should have.

Some of us like Indonesia are starting to initiate this very important part of a Parliamentary Library, beginning by having important people like the Speaker of the Parliament to visit the C.R.S. in Washington 1988.

Needless to say, they were very impressed and gave the green light to embark on this very important project.

If one wants to succeed in any endeavour, one must be prepared for interference, disappointments, hurdles, difficulties and challenges, and above all one had to be very patient and accommodating, more so in a complete alien supportive measure to Parliament, especially in our Region *i.e.* developing countries.

In Indonesia we did it through two ways:

1. To encourage MPs who travels to the U.S.A to visit the C.R.S.
The U.S. Embassy is most helpful in this case and understanding by arranging such visits.
2. By starting the real thing, the Research Centre and Data-base project (The T.A.F sponsored this project), and we started to recruit would-be researchers in 1989.

The Univ. of Indonesia was also asked to help to train the new recruits for research purposes for Parliament, although they are still trying to find their way.

Basic knowledge as to where to find and how to approach people were taught in the Library.

Embassies are also very helpful, like the U.S.A. Brazilian, Venezuelan are pleased to have them asking questions and informations.

It is heartening to give them a wider knowledge and also a chance to practice their English by bringing them – by courtesy of the USIS – to world net programmes, Seminars etc.

The real research is not yet started but at least we are paving the way, however difficult it sometimes turned out to be.

For the data-base, hopefully one day, it will be an on-line one; we were given 26 computer network terminals with the server and a laser printer. All the equipments are given by the T.A.F.

At the moment not much are achieved in this area. We are starting the data base by first familiarizing the committees and faction staffers to the instruments.

Later when they enjoy the simple retrievals of the information they have entered then we can step further. But real data Entry Operators we do not have yet. As I said step by step and a great deal of courage.

To understand matters, especially social problems, the would be researchers, staff and MPs who are interested got a chance to improve their English, because quality information about those things are mostly written in English, also sponsored by TAF.

As I have said before, in every endeavour there are tides and ebbs, but we should not lose heart, only wait patiently till the tide returns, so we can row our boats again to the destination we all hoped to see and enjoy.

Thank you.

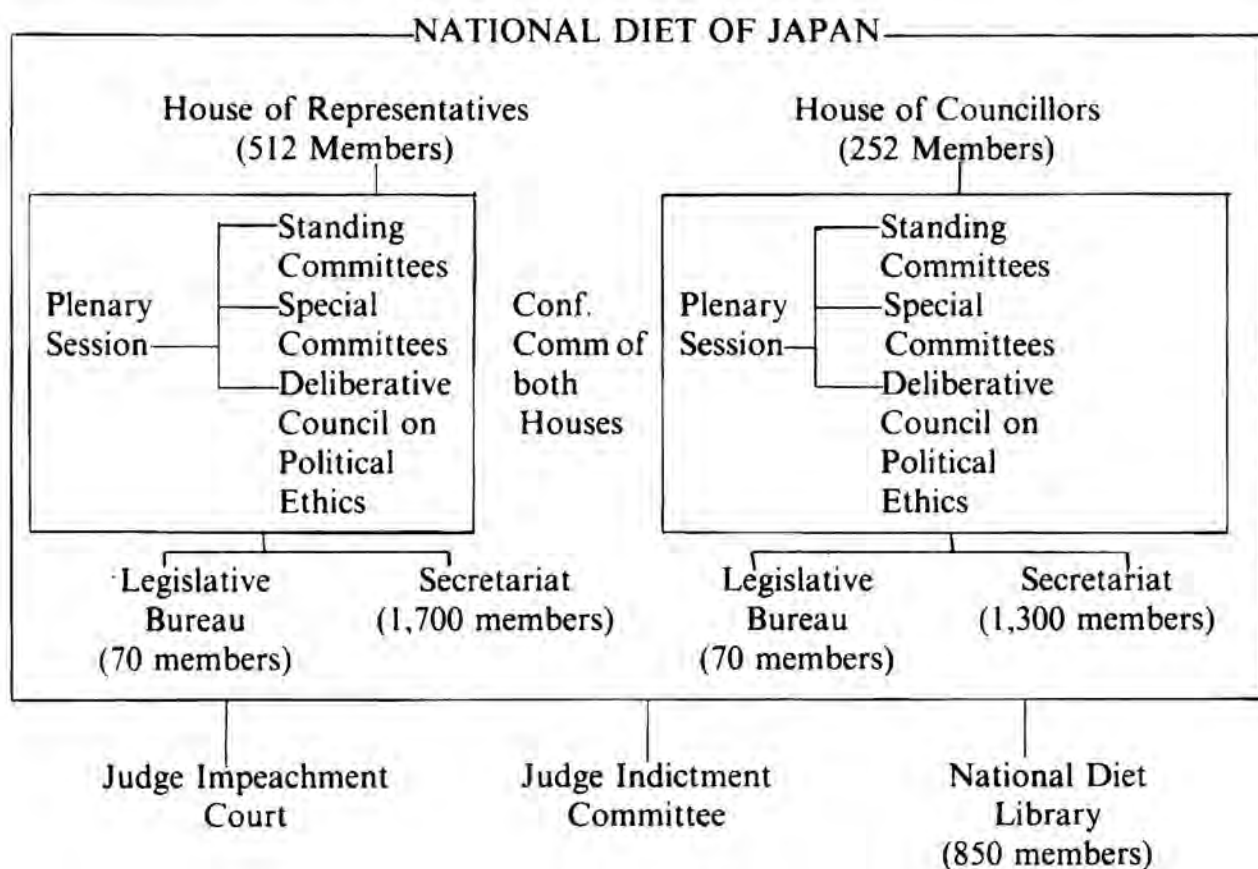
5. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSIONS

MR. TOSHIKAZU KANAKA
(JAPAN)

RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SERVICES TO THE DIET

(1) Organization of the Diet

The National Diet is composed of two Houses—the House of Representatives (512 Members) and the House of Councillors (252 Members). For the purpose of assisting Diet Members each House has its own Secretariat, Research Office of the Committees and Legislative Bureau. In addition, the National Diet Library was established in 1948 (See Fig. 1 and 2).



*In addition, in the House of representatives there is the Council on the Parliamentary System.

Fig. 1 Organization of the Diet

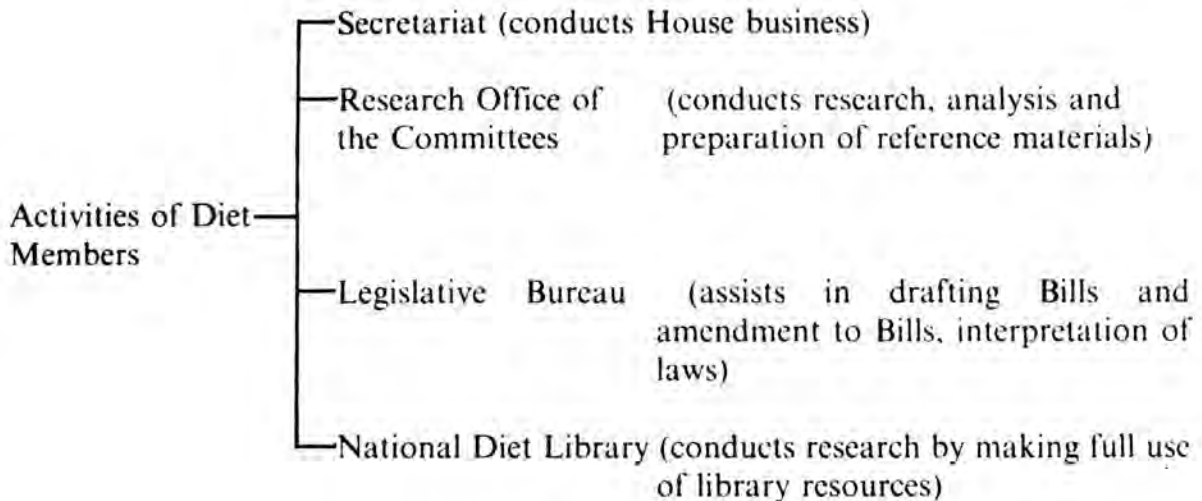


Fig. 2 Supporting Organs for Diet Members

(2) Function of the National Diet Library

Our library is the library for the Diet. That is its most important function. It is the only national library in Japan. It also provides services for the government and for the people of Japan. In other words, our library is a large comprehensive library for the people with a combined function of providing research services for the diet.

It is very difficult for our library to increase its budget and staff. Therefore our library management has to be made more efficient.

Parliamentary Library.—Will be dealt with later.

Deposit Library.—All publications in Japan are by law deposited with our Library—it receives several copies each of publications of the government and local public entities, and one copy of each of private publications. It permanently preserves materials acquired as the cultural inheritance of the Japanese people.

Foreign materials not obtained through exchange or gifts are also purchased. The collections of our library as of December 31, 1991 are as follows: 5.7 million books, 120,000 titles of magazines, 6,800 titles of newspapers, 350,000 maps, 350,000 phonographic records, 190,000 micro-film reels and 4.5 million micro-fiches etc.

Representative Library of Japan.—It represents Japanese libraries in working together with libraries around the world through international library cooperation; acting as the Japan's national centre of the International Serials Data System (ISDS) and the Asia regional centre of the IFLA Preservation and Conservation Core Program (IFLA PAC) as well as conducting exchange of Publications with foreign countries, interlibrary loans etc.

Bibliographic Information Centre. Besides basic library catalogs, many

subject catalogs, and indexes are compiled and published as well as the "Japanese national bibliography"

Library for the People in Japan.—The materials of the National Diet Library are available to anybody twenty years of age or older regardless of nationality.

Our Library is an integrated organization comprising the Main Library, the Detached Library in the Diet, the Ueno Branch Library, the Toyo Bunko (Oriental Library) and thirty-five branch libraries in the executive and judicial agencies of the government (*See Fig. 3*)

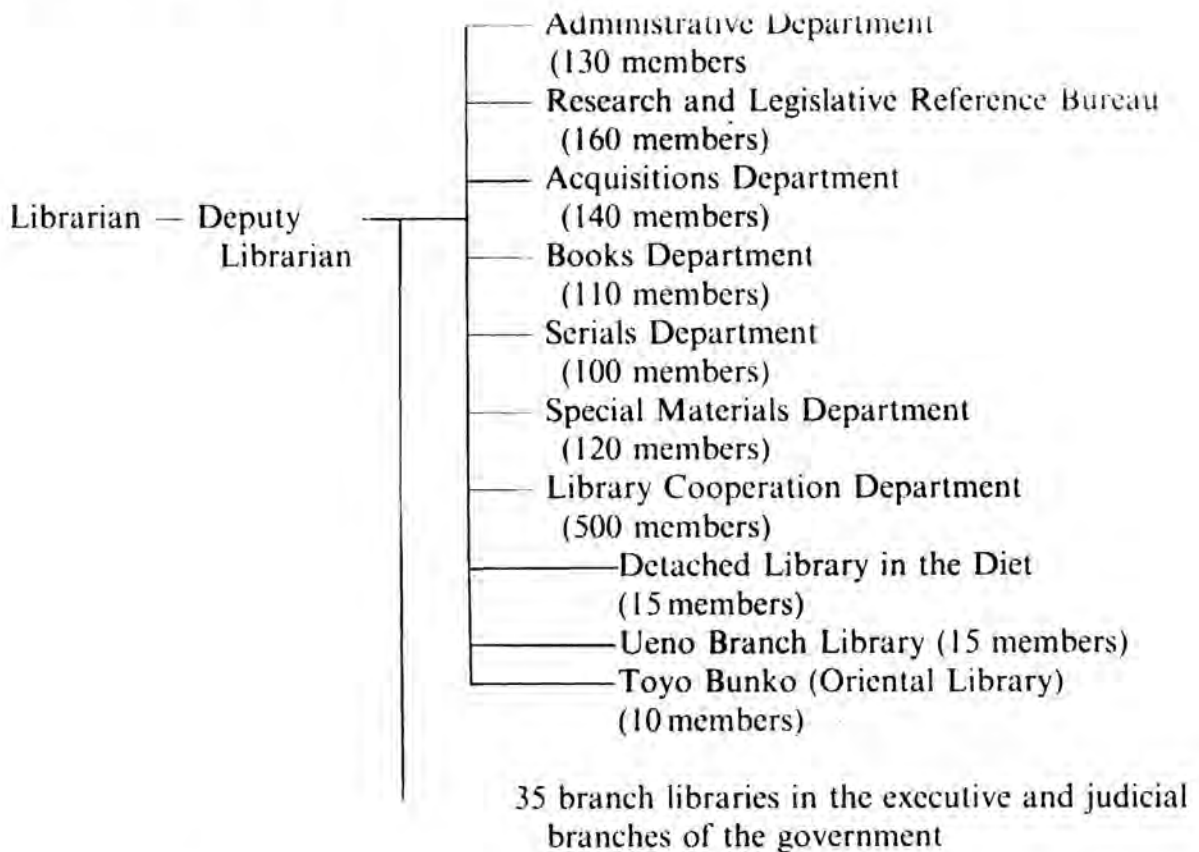


Fig. 3 Organization of the National Diet Library

(3) Function as a Parliamentary Library

The Diet is the highest organ of state power and the sole law-making organ of the state. In order to discharge this important function satisfactorily, Diet Members should have free access to materials, data, and other information sources obtained not only in Japan but also from abroad. One of the main purposes for which the National Diet Library was established is to gather such materials and make them available to Diet Members, as well as to provide research and other services to facilitate their discussion in the diet.

While the whole National Diet Library provides services for Diet Members and people concerned with the Diet, the Detached Library in the Diet and the Research and Legislative Reference Bureau have a special responsibility for those services.

The Detached Library in the Diet.—It provides library services (lending, photoduplication, quick reference) not only for Diet Members but also for all the people concerned with the Diet. It functions both as an “advance base” of information services to the diet and as a “public library” in the Diet.

The Research and Legislative Reference Bureau.—The establishment of the Bureau is based on a widespread recognition that a research and legislative reference service could be of great assistance to the national legislature in the growth and development of democracy and parliamentary institutions. “A widespread recognition” means that information is indispensable for democracy and parliamentary institutions. So parliamentary libraries must gather as many materials as possible, research, analyze and prepare alternative proposals for legislature.

(1) **Organization of the Bureau**

The Bureau consists of 12 Research Services and 14 Divisions (See a leaflet about the Bureau). The Bureau has ca. 160 members of the staff especially including 16 Senior Specialists and 6 Associate Senior Specialists.

(2) **Functions of the Bureau**

They can be summarized as follows;

**To make library resources available to Diet Members and people concerned with the Diet.*

**to assist in the analysis or evaluation of any subject matter before the Diet.*

**To provide bill drafting service (only upon request).*

For the purpose of functioning fully, the Bureau must maintain objectivity and complete impartiality. Confidentiality is also an important obligation for the Bureau. It is appropriate to view the Diet Members-specialists of the Bureau relationships as akin to doctor-patient relationships.

(3) **Research Activities of the Bureau**

The Bureau’s research is characterized by a wide range research work in various fields and a comprehensive use of library resources; materials obtained from abroad as well as materials obtained in Japan. It is divided into two categories; (1) upon request, and (2) on its own initiative in anticipation of requests.

The response to Diet Members’ request is made in the following manner; materials borrowed from the library’s collection, a photoduplication of journals, a telephone call, a legal analysis, an oral report, a background report and a bill drafting.

The Bureau is usually pressed for an immediate answer. Most of the requests will be answered within three days.

The second category (preparatory research), in other words, is to conduct research, taking up problems which are likely to become subjects of deliberation in the Diet.

The results of research are distributed to Diet members upon publications; *Refernce, Issue Brief, Foreign Legislation* etc. (See a leaflet about the Bureau). Recently *foreign Legislation* has put together a special issue on the PKO. *Issue Brief* has also taken up problems at issue; for example, *Informed Consent, Peace-keeping Operations (PKO) and Peace-keeping Force, Relationships between Southeast Asia and Japan after the Cold War, Product Liability, Transplantation and Brain Death* and so on. Those are received well by Diet Members.

While it is a good way to distribute results of research to Diet Members upon publications, it is not always the best way. Diet members have so many things to do that they cannot read carefully our publications. It will be more important to discuss emerging issues directly with Diet Members. Making an oral report can be saving time. And for true understanding emerging issues both Diet Members and specialists of our Bureau need a better communication.

(4) Present Situation of Research Activities

The numbers of inquiries from Diet Members handled by the Bureau in recent years are indicated in the following Table.

Fiscal Year	1980	1987	1988	1989	1990
Politics & Parliamentary Affairs.	1,786	2,836	3,457	2,678
Public Administration & Judicial Affairs.	1,596	1,655	1,092	1,188
Foreign Affairs & National Defence	1,804	1,368	969	2,496
Finance	2,616	1,947	1,571	1,711
Trade, Industry & Technology	1,506	1,363	915	1,421
Agriculture, Forestry & Environment	1,291	1,039	700	1,182
Land Development & Communications.	1,537	1,116	823	1,392
Education & Culture	1,673	1,508	817	1,050
Social Welfare & Labour	1,421	1,392	1,536	1,989
Overseas Information	432	377	208	408
Others	2,756	2,744	2,573	2,946
Total. .	8,156	18,418	17,337	14,661	18,461

Table : Diet Inquiries handled by the Bureau

The table certainly shows an increasing trend each year. The number of inquiries from Diet Members in 1990 amounts to roughly 2.4 times as many as that in 1980. This indicates that the research activities of the Bureau have become increasingly more important to Diet Members. In other words, it reflects the Diet members' better recognition of services of the Bureau.

On the other hand, as already mentioned, the number of the staff members of the Bureau has not increased for a long time. Inquiries handled by the Bureau have become more and more diverse and complicated in their content. Both interdisciplinary research and in-depth analysis are desired. This means the burden of the staff members of the Bureau has become relatively heavier. The Bureau would like to give priority, in principle, to high quality and on its analytical viewpoint. However the present situation of the Bureau is not necessarily best able to meet such demand.

(5) The New Text Delivery Service for the Debates

Japanese policy is decided through debates in the Diet. Therefore *the Debates of the Diet* are potentially very important information. Many Diet members and people concerned with the Diet are interested in the rapid information retrieval and getting quickly the text of the Debates.

The database of *the index to the Debates* is now available for information retrieval through the National Diet library Online Information Retrieval Network System (NOREN). In addition to that database, a new text delivery service is planned to be introduced in FY 1992. In this plan, 1.3 million pages of the *Debates* of the Diet will be stored on optical discs during the next five years. By connecting this optical disc system with a facsimile, each Diet Member will, upon request, be able to receive the full text of past *Debates* in his/her office. It is also planned to link the text delivery system with the database of *the index to the Debates*.

6. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSIONS

MR. J. B. KIM
(KOREA)

INFORMATION AND RESEARCH SERVICES IN THE KOREAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LIBRARY

Introduction

The quality of the MP's legislative activities depends on the quality of information and research services which they receive. The Korean National Assembly Library is one of many support agencies which strives to improve information services provided to the MPs.

The Library comprises two Bureaus and two Departments—Acquisition and Processing Bureau, Reference Services Bureau, Legislative Information Analysis Department and Computer Department. The functions of two Bureaus are very much similar to any library. They deal with such functions as acquisition and exchange, cataloging, processing and indexing, etc., while the functions of two Departments are research and analysis and computerization.

Among many functions of the National Assembly Library, the functions related to the information and research services provided to the MPs can be categorized into three types—research and reference services, current awareness services, and online database services.

Research and Reference Services

The research services are the main responsibility of the Legislative Information Analysis Department (LIA). It is the only support agency in the Library that is comprehensive in coverage and is equipped to provide immediate response to Members' requests as well as to undertake special studies and research projects.

The LIA, newly added to the Library in 1989 as a result of sweeping reorganization of the Library, is divided into four research groups—Political and Parliamentary Affairs, Finance and Economy, Industry and Economy, Socio-Cultural Affairs—with fourteen subject specialists. The subject specialists are required to have relatively high academic credentials. Some of them are Ph.D. degree holders while others are doctoral candidates in the fields of Political science, Economics, Sociology, Public Administration and Law. Using Published materials and documents in the Library rather than field investigations, they undertake in-depth policy research and respond to immediate and short term information needs. In some cases, they respond to the request from individual MPs. On the whole, however, they concentrate their efforts on anticipatory works.

The publications of the LIA include *Issue Briefs* and *Legislative Information Analysis*. The *Issue Briefs* are similar to those of CRS of the Library of Congress. It is a concise up-to-date summary of major issues of current legislative interests. Every public issues from environment protection to electoral reform can be a subject of *Issue Briefs*. It is published in brochure form. *Legislative Information Analysis* is a quarterly journal. It deals primarily with trends in legislation abroad and recently enacted laws and statutes in foreign countries. Other responsibilities of LIA include compilation and indexing of recent foreign periodical articles of major interests and selection of foreign language monographic publications and serials for purchase.

The reference services provided by the Library are given under the cooperation of the LIA and Reference Services Bureau. The latter deals with short and simple questions from the MPs and their staff while LIA is incharge of more advanced reference services in law, politics, economics, etc.

Outside the Library, the reference services are also provided by the Legislative Research Bureau (LRB) in the Secretariat. Before the creation of the LIA in the Library, the LRB was the only agency which was incharge of reference services. Now the LIA in the Library and the LRB in the Secretariat share the reference services provided to the MPs. Unfortunately, however, the jurisdictions related to the reference services of both agencies are not quite clear cut to this day and the functions of both agencies are somewhat redundant. The National Assembly is now contemplating to rearrange jurisdictional problems and functions of both agencies in the very near future.

Current Awareness Services

For current awareness services, the Library produces several kinds of indexes to periodical literatures. INDEX TO KOREAN LANGUAGE PERIODICALS covers some 1,300 titles dealing with social sciences as well as natural sciences. INDEX TO RECENT FOREIGN LANGUAGE PERIODICAL ARTICLES OF MAJOR INTERESTS consists of two parts. The first part contains abstracts of current periodical articles of particular interests while the second part contains list of foreign language periodical articles only in the fields of social sciences which are considered to be useful as legislative reference materials.

In addition to these indexes, the Library is developing many diverse services in an effort to expand and diversify sources of legislative information. Recently, the Library began a systematic collection of video tapes of television programs of important current issues. The Library has so far collected over 850 such tapes since January 1990. The Library also began reprint services of foreign newspaper articles of importance in addition to offering domestic newspaper clipping services. The Library staff select articles of major interests from fifteen foreign newspapers, edit them by subject and reprint them once a month for distribution to the Members only.

Online Database Services

The Library began computerization of library materials in the late 1970s. It was in the early 1980s, however, when more systematic effort was being made to develop various databases for online access to information. Now databases are available for online services to some 120 terminals installed in offices of Speaker, Deputy Speakers, floor leaders, standing committees as well as in the Library. In addition, 299 PCs were already installed in all members offices. The Library expects to connect them with the mainframe through local area networks by the end of 1993.

Important databases available for online search include:

INDEX TO GENERAL DEBATES (Constituent Assembly — Thirteenth National Assembly: 1948—1991)

BILLS STATUS TRACKING SYSTEM (1948 to present)

INDEX TO KOREAN LANGUAGE PERIODICAL ARTICLES

INDEX TO RECENT FOREIGN LANGUAGE PERIODICAL ARTICLES OF MAJOR INTERESTS Monographic publications of all languages.

Problem Areas

Though the Library has succeeded in strengthening its service functions, there still remains many problems. Unlike in the United States and other European countries, the library science is taught at the undergraduate level in Korea. As a result, many newly recruited librarians are appallingly weak in subject training. Another problem area is the inadequate foreign language proficiency of our Library staff. In order to cope with these problems, the Library recently opened courses to our Library staff on subject specialization in Law, Political Science, Economics, Sociology and Public Administration. Foreign language training courses are also given from time to time. Finally, it can be pointed out that the research and analysis functions carried out by fourteen subject specialists are far from sufficient. The National Assembly library wishes to add at least a half dozen specialists to the LIA in the very near future.

7. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSIONS

MR. NAIM UDDIN SIDDIQI
(PAKISTAN)

Parliament

The bicameral Parliament of Pakistan consists of the National Assembly and the Senate. The National Assembly is composed of 217 Members elected for 5 years. Out of 217, Ten seats are reserved for non-Muslim minorities Members.

The Senate consists of 87 Members, of whom 19 are elected by each of Pakistan's four Provincial Assemblies; 8 Members from the Federal Administered Tribal Area and 3 from the Federal Capital are elected by the National Assemblies Members. The term of the Senators is 6 years, one half of them retiring every 3 years.

Library

Presently the Library has a collection of about 50,000 volumes. The Library also subscribes 125 foreign/local newspapers and journals. Most of the collection has been built up by purchased and over the past few years by donations. However, Library has exchange relations with some other Parliaments and receives Parliamentary documents. The Library welcomes the donations and exchange of publications in English/Urdu languages only. The House and Library Committee of the National Assembly/Secretary General is responsible for matters pertaining to Library. The additions made each year are chiefly in the sections of Islam, Political Science, International Relations, Parliamentary Practice and Procedure, Economics, International Law, Constitutions, Education, History, Biography and Reference materials.

The Library is primarily meant for the use of the Members and officers of the Parliament. Other Ministries and Departments of the Government can also make use of the books without getting them issued. Research scholars and students are also allowed to use the books and publications in the Library reading Room when the Parliament is not in session.

Information Resources

The Library provides bibliographical aid and reference service to members both in the House and in the Committees. The Library does not issue any reference books to any one and they can be made use of in the Library itself. Similarly, newspapers and magazines are also not on the issue list. Other books will be issuable to Member upto three books at a time.

Serial Publications

About 130 serial publications including newspapers are received in the Library. Important journals, which are likely to be used by the Members are received in the

Library. Copies of some of the important journals are obtained if required, on loan from the United States Information Centre and the British Council.

Official Publications

The Federal and Provincial Gazettes are being regularly received in the Library. Efforts are made to get copies of other publications issued by the Ministries and Divisions as and when brought out by them.

Current Awareness

Our newspaper clipping service both for Mr. Speaker and Research centre provides day to day information.

Borrowing and lending

Except reference books a Member is entitled to borrow 3 books at a time for fifteen days.

Photo copy service

Provided free of charge for Members for all Parliamentary business.

Acquisitions List

Circulated to Members to inform them of new material acquired by the Library.

Exchange of Publications

We have established exchange relations with other Parliaments and Independent Bodies to supplement our information needs. Our Parliamentary Publications are used as a basis for this exchange both internationally and nationally.

Parliamentary Research Service

In April 1988, the former Library was transformed into a *bonafide* Library and Research service with the addition of four new positions for professional Research Officers.

To enhance the staff's skills, the Librarian and four Research Officers have been sent on study tours to selected National Legislatures in Europe, North America, Canada, Asia and Australia. The Study tours are part of the Asia Foundation's grant of assistance to the project.

The four Research Officers assist the Members in consideration of important questions or issues before the National Assembly. They prepare Background papers and Issues Briefs on non Partisan basis while considerable time may be invested in their preparation. They provide analysis of issues and advice on policy to Members either individually or in groupings. The response may be supplied orally or in the form of written papers, notes or points. The service is both personal and confidential. They also prepare Research Papers on important National/International Issues for distribution among the Members. The Research Officers are Subject Specialist in: Economics; International Relations; Law & Shariah and Politics.

In June 1988, the modernization project was further assisted when the National Assembly, with the concurrence of the Economic Affairs Division, Government of Pakistan, received as \$ 250,000 grant of assistance from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for the procurement of various equipment. Under the USAID grant, a Xerox-1075 photo-copier was installed in the Library. This high-speed, high-volume copier has the capacity of producing 70,000 photo-copy images monthly.

The Xerox-1075 greatly enhances the Library and Research Service's ability to provide timely information service. In addition to the immediate servicing of Member's requests for newspaper and journal articles from the Library's distribution to Members and the Research Officer's reports, a current awareness service, and working copies of the Daily Proceedings of Debates.

In July 1988, the Service acquired five pieces of Kodok Microform equipment, as part of the USAID grant. This equipment (which includes a Microfilm/Microfiche camera, Film Processor, Duplicator, Jacket filler, and Reader/Printer) enables the Library to index and preserve as well as to integrate into an on-line information data base selected materials from newspapers, journals, and documents. The Debates from 1947 to 1985 has now been transferred to microfiche. With the shortage of both space and staff, it provides the means for the efficient, permanent storage of such material and for the rapid retrieval of information from the sources.

The major portion of the USAID grant has been utilised for a pilot project to develop an integrated information management system for the National Assembly. A DEC MICROVAX-II mini-computer system (along with four micro-computers, five video display terminals, laser printers, and four dot-matrix printers) has been procured.

Besides the operational software packages procured with the system, a contract was let with System (Private) Limited of Lahore to write the software that has been produced on the basis of the generic specifications developed by the Library Consultant which is called PLIMS (Pakistan Library Information Management System). The software package integrates the primary functions of the Library, eliminating the unnecessary duplications of Library materials. It also allows the

Library users to identify and locate information by subject, author, or title, irrespective of the form in which the information was published or its location in the Library's collections.

Enhancements to the system will be made as additional hardware can be procured and technical staff are hired. New positions have been authorised, one System Analyst, two computer Programmers, a Manager for Word Processing/Operations, and four Data Entry Operators have been recruited.

The computer system will also be used to produce and index the daily Proceedings of Debates with a bilingual Urdu-English word-processing package. Two of the micro-computers were dedicated for this purpose as part of the pilot project. The final part of the pilot project, linked to the indexing of the Proceedings, is the development of a specialised data file to track the rulings of the Chair.

It is anticipated that the Libraries of the Provincial Assemblies will be linked electronically with the National Assembly Library to form a national legislative information system in the near future. The Senate Library will be linked this summer. In due course, other major Pakistani research Libraries may also become participants in a PLIMS-based network, as the development of national telecommunication capabilities permits.

In sum, a dramatic transformation of research and Information Support to Legislature has begun in the National Assembly of Pakistan during the past four years.

8. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSIONS

MS. LILY TIKI
(PAPUA NEW GUINEA)

Introduction

In this paper I aim to cover the research and information services provided for by the Legal and Advisory Services of the Papua New Guinea National Parliament. How these services support the Members of the Parliament in their search for information through the existing setup, problems associated with service and future prospects of the Service.

Papua New Guinea Parliament

The Papua New Guinea Legislature which I will refer to as the National Parliament or Parliament, currently consists of 109 Members, of whom the literacy rate would stand as average. English is the official language but commonly spoken is the native vernacular Pidgin. Each Member is provided with a fully furnished office (desk, chairs, telephone) and has electoral support staff. For the 109 Members, the Parliament has 173 support staff. These staff service the Parliament under the Parliamentary Service Act of 1975 and is headed by the Clerk of Parliament. The Parliament is organized in five Divisions:

- (a) *Parliamentary*.—provides procedural advice and assistance to Members, Committees and Parliament.
- (b) *Legal & Advisory*.—provides legal advice and research and information services.
- (c) *Finance & Administration*.—deals with salaries, allowances, accommodation for Members and staff.
- (d) *Reporting*.—responsible for translations and transcripts.
- (e) *Building & Maintenance*.—runs services such as office accommodation, security, communications.

All these divisions are involved in different ways in transmitting information to and from Parliament. Parliament sits about 16 weeks every year. That works out to about 5 Sessions at 4 weeks duration.

The National Parliament being the supreme law-making body of Papua New Guinea wholly needs the support of an active healthy research and information service. Research and information is an indispensable function of any Parliament. Much of Parliaments functions is dependent on information provided by professionals either in the public or private sectors. To this end, much research is undertaken before any conclusive information is relayed to the Parliament through individual Ministers

and/or Members. Thus the Legal and Advisory Services of the Papua New Guinea National Parliament has been solely established to cater for and support this service.

The Legal and Advisory Services comprises the Legal, Research and Library and is under the directorship of the Parliamentary Counsel. This Division, although shortstaffed is manned by a small but very capable and competent staff, who provide services to Members and their research staff, party workers, Committees, the Parliamentary Service and to a lesser degree Government Departments and Institutions within and outside of Papua New Guinea. Members are always given priority. However the Legal and Research operations are curtailed by the Parliamentary Services Act—in that they can only provide information to Private Members and not Ministers. (Attachment I-Legal and Advisory-current-staff list).

INFORMATION RESOURCES

Members information support is sought through:

1. *Internal operations:*

- (a) **Legal and Research Services.** A wide range of services is provided: legal advice, legislative drafting, research and report and speech writing. Research may range from simple queries which can be answered immediately to complex questions which require analysis and may take days, weeks to complete. As well they provide a variety of briefing and background papers on subjects which are of interest to Parliament, Members and Parliamentary delegations. (Attachment II-listing of types of assistance provided for by the Research).
- (b) **Library:** This is the main back-up and support service the Legal and Research turn to for information, as well as Members, etc. The Library is not required to provide research services due to the nature of the set up of our Division, although we handle whatever request that comes through us if not of a complex nature. The Library in its limitations is relied upon to collect and maintain a well elected stock of materials and derive systems to extract this information that will satisfy that need. Materials that will assist the Member in gaining or adding to knowledge that will enable him to take an intelligent and active part in formulating, discussing and improving policy and legislation. To achieve this the Library has:
 1. *Collection Building.*—Through subscriptions and donations the Division selects items of interest and relevance to the Parliament not only confined to National interests but comparable sources of references. Our main interest lies in the fields of politics, law, economics, with special interest in parliamentary and constitutional matters. Items currently consist of reading materials only such as books, journals, newspapers, serial titles, reports and pamphlets.

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ATTACHEMENT I—*Legal and Advisory—Staff List 1992*

Parliamentary Counsel

- Pakwari Kale (LLM)

Assistant Parliamentary Counsel

- Jairus Tago (LLB)

Publications Officer (Legal)

- David Tojiembu

Secretary

- J. Igo Kwarara
(Certificate in Stenography)

Principal Research Officer

- Apelis Maniot (B.Ec.)

Deputy Research Officer

- Tom Manjin (LLB)

Secretary—Kila Araga

Parliamentary Librarian

- Lily Tiki
{B. App. Sc. (Librarianship)}

A/Deputy Parliamentary Librarian

- Eare Vanua
(Certificate in Librarianship)

Library Assistants

- Boio Solien
- Lekei Fletcher

ATTACHMENT II—*Type of Assistance provided for by Research.*

The Parliamentary Service Act. (Section 8) establishes the office of the Principle Research Officer who shall supervise and control the work of the research and Information Service for the benefit of members and Committees of the Parliament.

The Research and Information Service of the PNG Parliament has to date provided assistance to members and Committees of the Parliament in the following areas:

1. Preparation of Notices of Motions, Questions for written or verbal answers from respective ministers, petitions and matters of public importance.
2. Assist members to have prior knowledge of and or general understanding of businesses before the House prior to debate, through the preparation of briefs, statistical data, etc.
3. Prepare private information papers for members as well as carrying out feasibility study into projects at members request, either in their own electorates or elsewhere.
4. Compilation of background information, fact sheets etc., on subjects relating to the function and role of the Parliament as an institution which may be of interest to members.
5. Researching providing detailed background information for private member's bills before they are drafted by the office of the Parliamentary Counsel.
6. Compilation of briefs, background and research information for Parliamentary delegations attending various conferences held in the country and abroad, viz., Conferences of— Presiding Officers of Provincial Governments in PNG, Conferences of Inter-Parliamentary Union, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Commonwealth Speaker's Conference and meeting of Society of Clerks-at-the-Table and Parliamentary delegation going abroad on good-will missions.

The Research and Information support Service for the Legislature, as can be seen from the above is an important component of the Parliamentary Service.

9. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSIONS

Mr. John C. Laugolo

Solomon Islands

Introduction of the National Legislature

The national legislature of Solomon Islands consists of a single chamber and is called the National Parliament of Solomon Islands with 38 elected members. Political institutions and practices broadly follow the Westminster pattern of Government with the Queen as Head of State, who is represented in Solomon Islands by a Governor-General, and the Prime Minister as the Head of the Government. The normal life of Parliament is four years but it may be dissolved before that period by the Head of State if Parliament decides to do so by an absolute majority vote.

Only Solomon Islanders who are of the age of 21 years, are qualified for election to Parliament. The Speaker is elected by Parliament from among those qualified to be a member. If he is chosen from among the sitting members, then the seat is declared vacant and a by-election is held.

The function of Parliament is to make laws for the peace, order and good government of Solomon Islands. Under the constitution, Parliament must meet at least once in every 12 months (but in practice it does so more often).

Within the Parliament there are select, special and standing committees appointed under its Standing orders to consider or examine matters or bills referred to them from time to time and report the results to Parliament.

Organization of National Parliament Office

National Parliament, is at this stage, not on its own as an independent government body. It is still under the umbrella of the Office of the Prime Minister.

Also upto this stage the National Parliament has not yet owned a parliament house as its permanent home.

However, there is the National Parliament Office which is administered by the Speaker through the Clerk who reports to him (Speaker). The Parliament Office is then organized into four divisions which do provide services to the Parliament. The administration is headed by the Clerk who reports to the Speaker. The finance division is headed by the Chief Accountant who reports to the Clerk. The Hansard division is headed by the Principal Editor who reports to the Clerk. And the Parliamentary Library is headed by the Sergeant-at-Arms/Librarian who is also responsible to the Clerk.

Background of the Parliamentary Library

The Parliamentary Library was set up during the Legislative Council days, beginning with a small collection of books. Processing of books could only be done by a qualified staff from the National Library during the early stages of the Parliamentary Library.

The Library had been without a librarian to maintain it for a number of years up to the time when I took up employment as a Sergeant-at-Arms in the Parliament. I at the same time was also given the task of maintaining it.

With the assistance received mainly from the Australian Parliamentary Library and a few donations from other overseas Parliaments and Organizations the Library was steadily able to develop its collection.

Collection and Acquisition

The Library contains a general collection of approximately 500 titles on various subjects including politics, economics, laws, education and all other publications acquired from various ministries of our Government.

Also we receive 21 journal titles and 2 local newspaper titles through subscriptions and donations.

Library's Objective

The Library's main objective is specifically to serve the needs of the Members of Parliament and also their parliamentary associates. Also senior government officers and students from higher educational institutions may use the Library through permission but no borrowing privileges.

Library Services

Due to lack of facilities and inadequate resources and manpower the Library is not in a position, at this stage, to provide research services. But simple queries and questions on government or parliamentary matters are adequately dealt with by the Librarian.

Very often Members use other available sources like government ministries, statutory bodies, political parties and other interested lobby groups, to obtain what informations they want.

Finance

Due to its present stage of development, the Parliament annual budget is amounted to 2 million, 42 thousand and 2 hundred and fifteen S. I. dollars

(\$ 2,042,215). Out of this, the Library was allocated with a portion of \$ 3,000 just to cover the cost of a few books, annual subscription to journals and newspapers, printing and binding of books and newspapers.

Future Requirements

The Library is essentially in need of professional librarians to develop it to a higher level of providing effective informations to Members.

Recruitment is now in hand for potential candidates to be sent for training and eventually to obtain Diploma/Degree in librarianship to meet the Library's essential need.

The need to develop research services in the Library is very vital, but this can only be done with professional skill and knowledge in librarianship.

With the expected completion of the Parliament House in a year's time, we hope the Library will be in place.

Conclusion

It is quite unusual that most of our Members do not use the Library as much as they should. It appears that some of them rely on outside courses.

With the creation of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) it is confident that we the small parliaments will be in a good position to be developed by our big and mature colleagues.

Lastly I wish to express my sincere thanks to The Asia Foundation who generously offered financial help which enable those of us in the South Pacific Parliaments to attend this and the last (APLAP) conferences. Thank you very much.

10. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Sri Amarasekara

Sri Lanka

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I have not prepared the paper as such which I hope to submit later. Anyhow, I would like to talk to you on some issues facing our library at random and I do not think I need to talk about the collection because this matter I have gone through earlier during the last Conference. By way of introduction, I would like to let you know that we have a Presidential Parliamentary system of Government where the Chief Executive is not the Prime Minister but the President. He is not a member of Parliament and he is elected by the people, independently of Parliament for a period of six years. Parliament is also elected by the people for six years and the President has the right to dissolve Parliament at any time that he wishes, except during the first year after the election, thereafter he can dissolve Parliament at any time. Therefore, he has a strong control over the Parliament. In short, the type of Government that we have there the President, he is also the Head of the State, Head of Government and Head of the Cabinet and he is also the Head of the Party.

In our library we do not do much research in very serious way. It is both a lending as well as a reference library, more than a research library. Members come both to borrow books and also for reference purposes. Now, the Librarian and his Assistants have to very often to help the members in their reference work. They come in search of statistics and also in current awareness, then they come to refer to past speeches of members and things like that. There is not much research being done. We have provision for two Research Officers and we had two of them but now we have only one, one has left us and has gone in search of better pastures. These are the problems there. You know people, rather highly qualified people have better prospects elsewhere. Now, the demand for research papers, background papers is not felt very much because we have 225 members in the parliament and we push through a lot of legislation in parliament. Very often over 100 Bills go through the Parliament for a year and then apart from other things like supplementary votes, resolutions, No Confidence Motions and things like that. Therefore, there is a lot of pressure for time in the House and there being 225 members, they often get very little time to speak. Very often a member is assigned only 5 minutes or may be ten minutes, the most is about 15 minutes except, of course, the proposer and seconder of the motion and also for the Opposition member who is winding up the debate, they are given about half an hour. Therefore, there is not much demand for background papers and they have no use for them. And as a result our research part of the library has not developed very much and not much attention is being paid to that. And the Research Officer that we have in the Library is assigned to do most of the time to collect the Speaker's decisions, and write up reports about parliamentary procedures, decisions things like that which are more useful to the Secretariat rather than to the members of parliament.

The other aspect of it is that there is a tight control over legislation by the Government. Therefore, the members do not feel the need to contribute by way of very

studied speech in the House. Now, I find that at the time I joined the House there were quite a lot of members who contributed in a very big way and even some of the members who read their speeches and the good old speeches of those members, they say, "what a contribution these people have made and what are we doing now". But at the same time they feel that there is no need for long speeches and long and well informed speeches because whether you speak or not the legislation gets through the House and some very important legislation has gone through the House without hardly any debate. So, that is the position of research in our parliament.

I have been listening to some of you all and I find that there is quite a demand for background papers, and information on the part of members in your place. It is the other way about in Sri Lanka. In the good old days there was much of a demand and people were more interested in reading and being well informed before they speak. Now, it is not so. As I pointed out, it may be due to the fact that we have too many members and also due to the tight control of legislation by the Government.

Now, I think, I would like to mention here that from this year, the Asia Foundation has agreed to give us a grant to expand our collection and also to provide research people for the committees and also to improve our computer programmes. I would like to outline that now. The activities under this grant are expected to cover the period from January first, 1992 to December 31, 1992. Then contingent on their success and continued US Aid funding for this programme, it is anticipated that the Asia Foundation will provide ongoing assistance to help strengthen Parliamentary support services for a total of three years. Now, this grant provides assistance in three areas. One is Research Consultants for committees, second Library services and third Information management.

Research Consultant.—It provides for the appointment of short term Research Consultants to advise the Committees and senior Secretariat staff on selected legislative and policy issues. The Consultants will be identified and contracted by Parliament and will include recognised experts in specialised areas and Research university graduates who will undertake research in more general areas.

Library Services.—The library support focusses on the acquisition of research and reference materials and staff training. The Foundation will provide books, reports and other materials on subjects such as Economics and Comparative Policy up to a certain agreed value. The list of materials to be acquired will be compiled in cooperation with the parliamentary librarian and orders placed through the Foundation's books for Asia Programme in San Francisco. The Foundation will also arrange for members of the library staff to participate in three months training course in new information technology and computerised library services at Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand.

Computers information Unit.—This grant also provides for the establishment of a Computer Information Unit, responsible for the on-going development and management of an integrated computer network that will utilise the

full capacity of existing computer facilities. The budget provides for the one year appointment of a highly qualified senior computing information consultant at an industrial salary scale. Reporting to the Secretary General, the consultant will be responsible for the development of a practical and cost effective procedure for linking the existing computer facilities and the preparation of long term plan for the on-going development and expansion of the computer and conducting an in-house computer training programme for Secretariat staff. Contingency funds have been provided for implementing any technical improvements recommended by the consultant.

I think, I must take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues here from countries who have been sending us a lot of various types of literature relating to Parliament and parliamentary matters. For instance, from South Korea, Australia and they have been very useful to us. They have been quite a guidance. We have made use of that literature to guide us often. South Korea sends us not only library publications but also magazines, periodicals, which are very useful and the members make use of them. So, I wish to thank them very sincerely for all the help that they have given us.

In another matter, I might mention, our library is also a place of relaxation for the members of Parliament. They come to the library to read some times after hard day's work. They come there to relax. So, a little bit of light reading matter is very useful. So, we have magazines which are useful for relaxation purposes. Then, even books, specially in Sinhala language we have novels. In English we do not have novels but in Sinhala we have novels so that they can borrow and read and relax. And also we have introduced that to encourage them to come to the library and get used to reading. Though our country's literacy rate is quite high, it is about 89 per cent and for males it is 91 per cent and in females it is 83 per cent but a lot of people other than reading the newspapers they do not read very much after they leave school or even university. So, this is why to encourage the more members to take to reading, we have introduced in local Sinhala language novels and other reading matter. That is one aspect of our library and those books are quite popular and they are being used.

The other thing is and I want to tell you about, our members of parliament most of their time is taken to help the people in the electorates. A lot of people come to them for help by way of getting jobs or to get a lot of things done outside they come sometimes for small things, like getting a birth certificate. In the very remote areas people come to the members. So you get a letter from the member and then the member might call on and call on to an official and get the thing expedited. So, member's time is taken up this way and as a result they have much less time to study and devote their time for legislation. Some of them come to the House and make a speech so that it will go in the newspapers and they are read by the constituents. So that they know that at least this man has spoken in the House. They are not very serious but it is only that their names must go in the newspapers so that their constituents will know that he has spoken. What I find is that the unfortunate thing about most of them is that there is not much commitment. So, I think, I will wind up my speech. Thank you, very much.

11. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSIONS

Mrs. Pornpimol Tirakungovit
(Thailand)

The Members of the National Assembly of Thailand, like any Member of Parliament in others of the world's Parliaments, in face with the very critical task of making the laws which secure the freedom, protection, well-being and destiny of "the people". In order for the National Assembly to be an effective partner in the National Government of Thailand, its members must have accurate, current information as well as technical, procedural, and other facilitative assistance on a timely basis. The provision of such services, of course, rests on the commitment and capabilities of the officials and staffs of the Secretariat.

The Needs of Members of Parliament for Information Service

We have surveyed the needs of Members of Parliament which are summarized as follows:

1. They satisfied with provision of data they request but also need analytical data for the purpose of bringing into practice.
2. They need urgent and up-dated data.
3. They need the development of Parliamentary Library.
4. They need the provision of data for supporting the work of committees and the need of organizing legislative data by parliamentary itself.
5. They need the introduction of computer to implement information service.
6. They need the coordination of external data

Research and Information Support to Legislature

The most serious problems, we are facing now, are the over-burden of responsibilities and unexperienced officials and limited personnel.

Only fundamental data that can be used for consideration in the first reading of bill had been provided. Data needed to be used in the stage of committee consideration is limited and the need to use government agencies's data is essential. The agency in providing legislative information services should have the role of providing research data and supporting of those who are expertises in research.

Documentation and Reference Services Center as well as Research and Legislative Services Center are the main bodies of the National Assembly of Thailand in supporting information and data for Members of Parliament. The core activities of the research and information service in serving the MPs are comprised of 6 items.

1. Gathering data for arranging background papers, it is the paper of informations for the bills or motions that will be considered in sitting.

The process of data collection and background paper preparation of each subject are under the time-limit of 5 or 6 day starting from Tuesday the day by which the agenda of the next week is set. This can be ranged from classifying bills into various fields and assigning to the field specialists studying the main point of each bill; outlining the paper in consistent with the bill's purpose; finding documents and collecting data from the Parliamentary Library, government agencies and the organizations concerned, as well as any other data sources; analyzing the accuracy and possibility of the data; writing the paper; reviewing for accuracy of the paper typing the manuscripts for off-set printing; and distributing to the members of the House of Representative study before the Conference. This whole process have to be done within 6 days.

2. Providing facts and data of the issues.

Paper of Info-Pack, it is prepared for facilities of the MPs to obtain information rapidly and promptly.

3. Providing data as requested, the need for this service has been so rapidly increased that all specialists are overloaded with the members' requests. The process of subjects fact finding is exactly the same as previously described except that it does not need to make copies by off set printings. Time limits for each fact finding subject is ranging from 2 to 10 days.

Sometimes, it cannot be done in time needed because of the insufficiency of data elsewhere.

4. Providing documents of Parliamentary Library.

The services provided by professional staffs are relevant. Parliamentary Library supplies various field of books documents, government reports and statistic, Parliamentary verbatim records as well as do inter-library services to both Professional staff and the MPs.

Librarian of Parliamentary Library face the problems of providing perfect services to their increasing clientele. Their in-hand data and documents sum to be insufficient in the comparison with the incremental needs. The acceleration of data collecting and indexing, wide-range of newspapers clipping and Union-cataloguing are necessary.

Beyond the task of regular library services, we are able to provide further more beneficial services to the MPs. They are as follows :

- Circulating the MPs with pamphlets on new books with annotation and contents of new periodical for each month.

- Briefing any news concern with political aspects within the country in two weeks.
- Providing newspaper clipping, separated for the House each committees, which is a useful hint for the committee meetings.
- Publishing all fundamental fact for any MPs or committees, in order to follow up with various, current, public-interest issues. They are as follows :
 1. "Issues Brief" a technical documents contains highlight and any significant matters.
 2. "Fact & Figure" for the collection of fundamental and background of some certain matters.
- 5. Publishing dissemination paper of parliament such as :
 - The parliamentary newsletter is bi-weekly issued.
 - The parliamentary Journal is monthly issued.
 - Issued concerned Thai parliament and its activities.
- 6. Providing assistance in drafting bills, motions and questions are in the responsibility of Research and Legislative Services Center, providing assistance with respect to drafting the principle of the bill and the reasons for submitting the bill or the amendment. as well as drafting the reasons for presenting question to Ministers.

Improvement on Information Service

1. At present, due to high technology in data collection and the exchanging of data by on-line system, the Secretariat of the National Assembly had introduced computer system to improve existing data collecting system which started using in many sections of the Secretariat of the National Assembly. The Computer Center will be coordinator for this purpose. Documentation and Reference Services Center including Parliamentary Library has now seven micro-computers organizing easy data such as list of specialist in any branch, sources of data for each subject, history of law, biography of Members of Parliament, data base of books in Library and index for law which consisted of micro-graphic CAR system. (CAR = Computer Assisted Retrieval).

Presently Documentation and Reference Services Center has initiated on-line system of data between government sectors and data centers such as-

1. Technical Information Access Center (TIAC).
2. Asian Institute of Technonoly (AIT) Library
3. Data from Ministry of Commerce.
4. Data from Department of Science Service.

This program is the coordination between Parliamentary Library and the Research and Reference Services Section. We hope the program to be extended to most of government offices.

At the same time Documentation and Reference Services Center has provided information service to outsiders or government sectors such as; biography of Members of Parliament, List of Committees, list of the stage of consideration of bill and abstract of laws of which is useful for the development of research if succeeded.

Anyway, the problems of such coordination is that those sectors can provide data that is only related to their sectors. Therefore, other sectors can not efficiently make use of these data. There are no standards among the government agencies, so all the data are isolated and cannot be integrated to have some coherent meaning.

2. Buying data from private sectors. Parliamentary Library is proposing to buy New clipping from private sectors which can be provided within 8.00 A.M. every day. Parliamentary Library then copies and circulates to committees and the Research and Reference Service Section that will be useful for implementation of Members of Parliament.

3. Coordination with committees. In order to meet the need and target of committees, Documentation and Reference Services Center has received permission to send its staff to attend the meeting. Those staffs not only to follow up Issues from outside seminars and submit to the committee but also to follow up the implementation of committee assigned.

4. At present, we still have no research service, however the Secretariat of the National Assembly has enough budget to hire specialists to make research for committees which select topics by themselves.

The development of information service of Thai Parliament has been slowly proceeded and sometimes halted because of instability of legislative institute and *coup d's etat*. However, it is the halt to stride steadily like the information service. In the occasion of being attended the second meeting of APLAP, we hope all participants exchange successful tactics and technics of information service that will be useful for implementing Members of Parliament in Asia—Pacific region.

12. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSIONS

MRS. FALEATA SIKETI
(TUVALU)

Introduction

Tuvalu, which is formerly known as the Ellice Islands, is an independent constitutional monarchy with Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, as its Head of State.

Tuvalu's National Day is the First Monday in October.

Tuvalu has eight islands which are scattered over hundreds of square kilometres of sea in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. The total land area is 26 sq. km.

The capital island, Funafuti, covers 2.8 sq. km. only.

The total population is about 10,000 with about 4,000 living on the capital, Funafuti.

Tuvalu Parliament

There are 12 Members of Parliament who are elected every 4 years to form the Parliament of Tuvalu. Each island elects one Member of Parliament with the extra, by the 4 islands which are bigger by population.

The Government usually consists of 7 Members while the Opposition has 5 Members.

The Government itself has 6 Members with portfolios and 1 as a back-bencher. That is, 5 Members as Hon. Ministers (including the Prime Minister) and 1 as the Hon. Speaker of Parliament.

All Members of Parliament resides within their respective constituencies except those with portfolios has to reside on the capital island.

Objectives

1. The objectives of the Parliamentary library is to supply reliable, accurate, impartial and prompt information, and
2. Develop and promote understanding and cooperation between parliamentary libraries.

Library Contents

Listed below are general contents of local materials of our library for information of the association and with the hope of encouraging members to ask us for things that we are able to provide.

1. *Parliament reports*—includes Hansard and various select committee reports;
2. *Parliament papers*—includes departmental reports and gazettes;
3. Acts of Parliaments;
4. Rules of Procedures (Standard Orders); and
5. Other parliamentary related prints such as Order papers, notice papers, entitlements for Members of Parliament, etc.

Parliamentarians

Parliamentarians may request for information on any matter in or outside Tuvalu.

It is the duty of the Parliamentary Library to research and provide support to such requests.

Available informations will be despatched as soon as possible. However, for informations beyond the library's reach, will either be transferred to the National Library or to libraries abroad such as New Zealand or Australia. Information will then be despatched *via* the Parliamentary Library.

We do not have much requests concerning government departments or other organisations in Tuvalu because most of these are directed to each department or organisation.

However, we have a few requests on overseas organisations and Governments. Most requests are directed to the Foreign Affairs Department or any other Department which has direct contact with such organisations.

Most of the requests we receive are on parliamentary practices in and outside Tuvalu. These requests include rules of procedures or standard orders and references to parliamentary papers which were presented in Parliaments such as reports of various departments and organisations.

Select Committee

We have three standing select committees namely, Business, Rules of Procedure and the Public Accounts committees.

Such committees depend very much on information on reports and procedures of past committees, and even similar committees of other countries.

In cases where legal advice is needed, the Attorney-General who is the sole adviser of Tuvalu Parliament, will be sought for advice.

Parliament Meetings

During sessions or meetings of Parliament when all Parliamentarians are on Funafuti, all requests are regarded as urgent.

For information of the association, we usually have three sessions each Year, with each session lasting about a week only.

Because Parliamentarians are aware of what subjects are to be raised in a particular session, they tend to rush around seeking for information. With this rush, the Parliamentary library staff is on-the-double too.

We don't have any computer network which may be able to assist us in communicating promptly to the National Library or other places for information. We would either phone or run to such places.

Public

Members of the public do requests for information from the library, but restricted to parliamentary records only. They are encouraged to use the National Library rather than using this library which was solely established for Parliamentarians.

Overseas Organisations

Organisations such as CPA (Commonwealth Parliament Association), IPU (International Parliamentary Union) and other Parliamentary Libraries have had requests before and we are still entertaining that. This, also applies to this association.

Other unknown organisations, may be entertained but subject to the Hon Speaker's leave.

Problems

Following are major drawbacks to this library for the past decade.

1. Lack of Communications;
2. Inadequate space;
3. Lack of trained librarians; and
4. Limited allocation for library services.

1. *Lack of Communications*

The only means of communications throughout Tuvalu are:

- (a) Shipping (surface mail).
- (b) Telegram and
- (c) Telephones.

Notice that apart from Funafuti, all other islands doesn't have any fax machines or an air service mail.

Communications made through fax machines or air service mails have been proved to be the most efficient way of communicating and only Funafuti entertains these facilities.

- (a) *Shipping*.—The Tuvalu Government has only one ship, MV Nivaga II, which serves the islands of Tuvalu. The ship frequently visits each island at least once or twice a month.

Therefore, the limited frequency of the shipping to the islands, delays urgent needs.

- (b) *Telegram*.—This is a good and quick way, however, with so much information for transmission, it would be costly in regard to the library's limited allocation (vote).
- (c) *Telephones*.—The Quickest way of contacting somebody, but with poor receptions from other islands, as their phones work on solar batteries, this is a problem almost everyday, especially rainy days.

However, the Government is trying its best to improve this.

2. *Inadequate Space*

Due to the small office allocated to us by Government and our lingering for the new Parliament Building, we are extremely overcrowded.

Because the Parliamentary Library is under supervision of the Assistant Clerk to Parliament, both the office and library are occupying the same small building.

3. *Lack of trained Librarians*

We have had trained librarians for the past year, unfortunately, all have left this department.

Therefore, we desperately need training for our current librarians.

4. *Limited allocation for Library services*

For the above reasons, we could not extend or buy more books for our library.

For information of the association, we are allocated AUD \$ 1,000 only each year for this department.

Furthermore, training for staff could not be entertained.

Conclusion

As we feel that we are the least developed library, I would like to take this opportunity in requesting members of this Association to assist us in our combat to solve our problems.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone in this conference for whatever he/she had done for our library in the past years whether big or small, and in particular the Asia Foundation for its funding to make this conference a success.

13. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSIONS

MRS. EILEEN MATHIAS

(VANUATU)

Before I begin I would like to thank Mr. Naeem Siddiqi, he is not here this afternoon. I would like to thank him and Ms. Jane for organising this conference that nearly all of us from the Pacific region are able to come and participate in this second biennial Conference in Islamabad. First of all, I would like to say that I am not going to distribute the paper, I prefer to do as what Mr. Kim said. I will write out the proper document for this. What I will say and then send it back to Mr. Siddiqi and a report will be written out to the Asia Foundation as well, because they have agreed to sponsor all of us from the Pacific to attend this Conference. I will not talk very long, I will talk very short because I am sure that most of us here we all face the same problem, we have the same theme to discuss.

For those of you that do not know where the Vanuatu is? Vanuatu is located in the South Pacific region, it is near Fiji Islands. It is a group of 13 little Islands. They all are distributed in an archipelago and it has a population of 113,000 people. The country is a bilingual country. It means that we all have to speak in either English or French and the system of education is also in French or English. As my paper will come out you will see the proper organisation chart for the parliament and I would like to say that you are free or you are welcome to make any comment or raise up any questions when you come to see my paper and feel free to write to me or ask questions by writing letter to me. Our parliament consists of only one House. It has 49 members of parliament and the term of office is 4 years. At the present Legislature which is the fourth legislature, we have only one woman in the parliament and she is the Minister of Education. In the parliament there are three committees *i.e.* Finance Committee, Standing Order Committee and the Privilege Committee. Our national parliament is an associated member of three other international associations *i.e.* the APPU, the CPA and the AIPLF. The parliament sits three times in a year and probably it can sit an extra session required by the members of parliament or the Prime Minister. The constituencies of members of parliament are out on the islands. Because of this the communication contact is not easy. The members will only use the Library whenever they are in the session or probably when they are in business they come to the Centre of the country to use the Library.

The Library itself is just a small library and we have shifted to the new building. I have tried my very best to organise the library with the assistance of some other associated Librarians from our National Library or the low librarians from our institutions. As I have said the library is very small and it has a collection of 500 titles. The books are under 300 and 900 *i.e.* books under the subjects of Politics, Science, History, Geography and Politics. Because it is a specialised library, I have tried to gather collection of reference material, with the little knowledge I have. We have newspapers and magazines received through subscription for example The Time Magazine, The Economist, Korean Bulletin and some other Pacific Islands. Business

Islands, etc. I tried to obtain some French titles for our members because we have the English speakers and also the French speakers, the Post Korea and Libelle magazine. Also in this Reference Section we collect special publications from our Government departments, I think the same as the John's Library. I tried to write out to my colleagues in the Pacific region to obtain their copies of Standing Orders or the Constitutions or probably some documents that would help our members of parliament to set up little committees. So, I have very good contacts through our Fax machine that has been donated by the Australian Library in Canberra and so, through this life is more easier and I was able to get more information to serve the members of parliament. Also we receive Year Books from Australia, encyclopedias as gifts and some dictionaries. We have recorded tapes of the session of parliament because usually the members would come and request they want to listen to whatever speech made by somebody. So, we have collection on that also.

Because the Library is very small and it is just beginning to develop, I am working in the Library on my own and sometimes I would wonder if our Government or the Clerk or the Speaker they would see the need for this and probably create a post for a qualified Librarian or a Reference Librarian so that she or he can apply and work on this section. When it comes to the purchasing of books or in the decision of getting materials for the Library, my superior is the Clerk or the Speaker. I would go to them and ask and seek their approval. There is no allocation set aside for the library. Every time I have to go through the Clerk. So, he can work through to the Ministry of Finance so they allocate funds for the purchasing of our material.

I think for the future needs for the development of our library, I would like to put forward this afternoon that if APLAP could see more to it that the parliamentary librarians from the Pacific region could have attachment courses with other libraries. May be, not from Asia, because it is ahead and far but somebody that our neighbour or our sisterhood library that is more advanced than us. I can give you a good example, Lily, she accepted me for an attachment course in Papua New Guinea and I find it very useful and I have learnt a lot from Lily's library and now I am in the process of upgrading my library from what I learnt from Lily's library in Papua New Guinea. The theme of the Conference this afternoon itself is research and information support to legislature and this research will not mean the same for everybody. I think for most of us in the Pacific countries probably we all have the same elements but whereas the Asians they are more advanced than us but we can learn a lot and pick up many ideas from them.

I would rather say that one or two are the problems of the members of our parliament. One of their major problems is language problem and another thing is because they are not educated in how to use the library. They do not make the most use of the library and for those of us who are librarians, we have to talk a lot and discuss with each other in order to educate our users because back home most of our people they rather do something else than read. May be they would go for fishing than to sit down and read the books. So, that is our priority, we have to take the advantage of

educating them or teaching them to use the library. There are few things. So, something that I would do is to educate them. The first thing is that to make the library set up in a manner that would attract them. So, they will feel free to come in to the library and use it. If I do not do this kind of thing they will never come to the library or they will be scared and will never, approach me for any information. I have to circulate letters and notices to our Government departments or make friends with the staff of these departments so that they can supply me with materials they publish. I designed a very simple hand out request form and put it up in our circulation desk. The members would fill out this form and put their request in it. I would take it and see what are their demands. This type of form is very useful for statistical purposes. So, I would know who is using the library and who is not using the library. Then I can approach that person and tell him, advise him or make him that he must understand that the library belongs to his service. I am ready to help at any time. Another thing is that we receive Date Line News from Australia through our Fax machine and they are very useful for members of our parliament. It keeps them up-to-date with the world news. What I do is, that I make photo-copies of it and distribute them to our members of parliament.

I receive requests through the phone or probably through personal approaches. They would come to me and say, "look we need this and can you find this for me? please". So, whenever I can I supply them the information but most of the time I would go to our Legal Officer if it is a matter of law, a legal paper and I ask them to do the research for me using the library. Our staff of parliament and also the members of parliament have priority access to the materials in the library. I find out that the requests of our members of parliament would be on the dates of important elections and speeches of the leaders and anything that would relate to debates that have been passed by parliament. Also the members of parliament come to me and ask for assistance if they establish a committee inside the parliament. That is the time that I would write a letter or send a Fax to my neighbour colleagues from the other Pacific regions and probably, they would send me pamphlets or documents of how their committees are set up. I can give you a good example. Just very recently a committee was about to set up on benefits of parliament and the members wanted to know more about the privileges, their benefits. So, what I did was, I wrote letters to my neighbour librarians from the other Pacific regions to Leata, Lily and many others and I was too happy to receive their documents, on how they would advise their committees, on how to set up their own committees. And that is the sort of thing that I would carry out in my parliamentary library. I think I will have to stop but if you have any questions, please feel free to ask me and I will try and answer your questions.

14. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSIONS

MRS. LEATA FESILI
(WESTERN SAMOA)

Introduction

Western Samoa emerged as a fully pledged independent nation in 1962 with its Parliament of 47 Members. After ten years of independence, a Parliamentary Library was established as a part of the Legislative Assembly Department. It is housed in the office complex comprising of a reading room, Librarian Office, a work room and a small archive.

Research and Information

Reference is the basic resource of information and research. Briefly in South Pacific libraries, reference is a difficult task to provide services to users, because most are not used to such services and as a result reference service is hindered in its development. Reference service is answering questions asked by the library's patrons which means to turn to for aid or information.

Information Resources

The kind of material collected depend largely on the nature of the institution (Parliament) and to take account of the needs of the Parliamentarians. There are other links and the librarian should never imagine that he (Parliamentarian Library) is the only source of information. Teachers, researchers and members of the public do have other sources of information.

These include contacts with other people working in the same field, personal subscriptions to journals and professional institutions, attendance at meetings and conferences, newspapers, private collections of books, etc. These other links are, in many cases, more important than the library as sources of information. Librarians should try to develop a realistic, but not inflated, estimate of their own importance. Similarly, they should try to develop in their clientele an appreciation of the library's position in the provision of information.

Types of Publication

Research *e.g.* Learned Journals,

General Reference *e.g.* General Encyclopedias, Who's Who etc.

Community information *e.g.* Local Telephone Directory, Consumer Guides,

Business information *e.g.* Trade Literatures,

Legal and Administrative Information *e.g.* Laws,

Technical data, *e.g.* Standards for Manufacturing,

Recreation *e.g.* Novels.

In the Legislature alone, the access to Parliamentary papers such as, Annual Reports, Special Reports, Statistical abstracts, Annual Government accounts etc., and Acts of Parliament, Bills and Reports of various Committees of parliament and Hansard which are basic information of Legislation.

Research

The search is an integral part of the information and research task and may be equally complicated. No matter what process is used to discover the answers of information needed success in providing relevant resources considerably more important.

Research services is considered to be more directed to the collection which interested to the legislature and Staff so that their duties are executed accordingly. The collection itself should be up to date reports and publications from both Government and Statutory Cooperations. A staff with adequate service would help to assist in the task of research services to answer and require relevant information as needed.

A Computerized information and research system in the Legislature Library is the most considerably effective support for our Parliamentarians.

หน้าว่าง

CLOSING SESSION

(75-76)

หน้าว่าง

ADDRESS**BY****SECRETARY GENERAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN**

His Excellency, Mr. Deputy Speaker,
Mr. Joobong Kim, President APLAP,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am sure that after a very exhaustive Conference with long working sessions you must be tired and looking forward to your travel plans.

It was a unique privilege for the National Assembly Secretariat of Pakistan to host this Conference. I hope that your stay in Islamabad was both comfortable and productive. I personally seek your indulgence for any short coming or lapse in the conference arrangements which may have been a source of distraction or discomfort for you. I request that any such omission may kindly be attributed to our inexperience in handling International Conferences rather than a lack of desire to provide the best possible services to the honourable delegates. I also request you that when you reach home kindly convey warm and cordial feelings from the Legislature of Pakistan to the Legislatures in your respective countries. His Excellency Speaker Mr. Gohar Ayub Khan has also desired me to request you to convey his personal greetings to the Honourable Speakers of your Parliaments. Kindly also convey that we are eager to increase contacts in all facets of institutional support for Parliaments.

One of the very welcome news that has reached me from the Conference Hall is that the current tenure of the APLAP officers has been extended by 2 years. I think this is a very sound decision. The APLAP is still in the formative stage and will most surely benefit from the leadership which a person of Mr. Joobong Kim's stature and expertise can provide.

I am told that the speeches delivered in the Conference have been of the highest level and the participants have taken a lively interest in the proceedings and that at the conclusion of the Islamabad Conference it can be safely stated that information regarding organizational structures and individual potential of the member countries has been admirably brought together. A solid foundation on which an active international forum can be built has thus been secured. The range of organizational support available to different legislatures in the region is very broad indeed. Hidden somewhere within the spectrum are commonalities and ideas which can further be the cause of optimization of available resources. Given the available expertise in the forum, I have no doubt that the APLAP is now poised to move towards more critical areas. Even as you progress towards more professional subjects, the biggest single benefit of the Association will remain your personal interaction. It is this interaction really which surmounts the geographical barriers. Your valuable

efforts have shown us the benefits of such interaction. It is both my hope and desire that many new avenues of similar inter-change may develop and foster during the coming few years.

As the APLAP concludes this Conference, which we were very fortunate to host, and its leadership moves forward to find ways and means to achieve the Association's objectives, I, on behalf of the Parliament of Pakistan extend to you our heartfelt wishes for your success. I thank each delegates for having attended this Conference and also the respective Parliaments for sponsoring the delegate participation. I would like to assure you on behalf of the National Assembly Secretariat, that we will continue to extend our full institutional support to the APLAP in its efforts to become a vibrant and effective linkage between the Parliaments of the Asia Pacific Region.

We are in the concluding session of the 2nd Biennial Conference honored by the presence of His Excellency Mr. Nawaz Khokhar the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan. The Deputy Speaker being the Chairman of the National Assembly chairs a key legislative committee which defines the requirement of the Legislators for the Secretariat. Mr. Khokhar's interests in Library related affairs have been instrumental in making many advancements in this area. I would now request His Excellency Mr. Nawaz Khokhar to Kindly deliver his concluding address.

ADDRESS BY HAJI MUHAMMAD NAWAZ KHOKHAR, DEPUTY
SPEAKER NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN

Excellency Mr. Joobong Kim
President of Parliamentary Library Association, Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I feel happy to be associated with the Second Biennial Conference of Parliamentary Librarians. As the Chairman of the House and Library Committee of the National Assembly of Pakistan, it has been a pleasure for us to host this Conference in Pakistan.

The National Assembly Library has made great strides during the last few years. New technological advancement such as computers and a research wing has been added.

I need hardly mention that legislators have to keep themselves fully abreast with new advancement in all spheres of human activity. But since knowledge is expanding with great speed legislators need capsule information to be made available to them at the right time.

In this regard the Conference has made useful contribution to the growth of knowledge and techniques in processing instant information to legislators and I am sure the National Assembly Library here will profit from your experience and expertise.

Since the nature of demands is precise a great responsibility rests on librarians of Parliaments to provide this vitally needed feed back to legislators. Parliamentary Librarians need special skills which has to be up-dated with every passing day. He therefore needs a fund of experience. I am glad that training of librarians has been a major subject of your discussion. As one who is responsible for its growth and upkeep I pledge my earnest support to training schemes of the National Assembly Library.

Distinguished delegates!

It has been a pleasure for us to host the Conference and to welcome you in Pakistan. I hope you have enjoyed your stay here. We were very glad to have you in our midst.

Pakistan has profitted immensely from your great counsel. You deserve our congratulation and appreciation for making excellent contribution to the promotion of support services for legislators.

The performance of the legislators and the legislation that they are able to enact for strengthening democracy will in a large measure depend on your pioneering work in collecting, processing and supplying worthwhile information to them.

I now declare the Conference closed.

**REMARKS OF THANKS BY
MS. AURORA SIMANDJUNTAK
SECRETARY APLAP**

Honourable Deputy Speaker of National Assembly of Pakistan, Mr. Secretary General, Mr. Joobong Kim, President of our Association, ladies and gentlemen and distinguished guests, bear with me a little bit if my English is not so good as yours but I would like to convey on behalf of all my friends here to say thank you from all our hearts that you have done so well to provide us with hospitality and warm welcome and to make this Conference a very successful one. We do not feel anything ahead, everything goes so smoothly. It means a very good organisation that our friend Mr. Siddiqui has and if you say that some shortcomings, no. On the contrary, perhaps we did not behave well in your country. Please forgive us if we made a mistake.

Thank you.

**CONSTITUTION AND BYE-LAWS OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIANS
OF ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**

(81-82)

หน้าว่าง

I. CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIANS OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

1. Name

The name of the Association is the 'ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIANS OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC' It may be known by the acronym APLAP.

2. Purpose

The purposes for which the Association is established are to

- (i) Encourage understanding of, and cooperation between parliamentary libraries and research and information services attached to the National and State Provincial Legislatures in the region.
(See Note 1)
- (ii) Consider any matters affecting the common interests or operations of Parliamentary Libraries.
- (iii) 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.
- (iv) 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.
- (v) Provide a body which can speak and act on behalf of its several constituents on matters coming within the ambit of its authority.
- (vi) Advance the cause of Parliamentary Librarianship generally and liaise closely with IFLA and other bodies and associations with common interests.

3. Membership

(i) Institutional Members

The chief librarian or equivalent in each of the legislatures in the Asia Pacific region is eligible for institutional membership of the association upon payment of the prescribed subscription. Where a legislature does not have a chief librarian or equivalent the Presiding Officers may nominate another officer as Member.

(See Note 2)

(ii) *Associate Members*

Other interested administrative, library, research, and or information staff employed in or working with the legislatures in the region may be associate members upon payment of the annual associate membership subscription.

Membership subscriptions are prescribed in the By-laws.

4. Offices

In a General Business meeting held during each Biennial Conference Institutional members shall elect:

President
 Vice-President (Asia)
 Vice-President (Pacific)
 Secretary and
 Treasurer

These office holders shall form the Association's Executive Committee and may co-opt up to two Institutional members to serve *ex-officio* on the Committee.

No person shall be eligible to serve longer than two consecutive terms of two years in the same office.

An Executive Committee member shall cease to hold office if s/he—

- (i) ceases to be a member of the Association
- (ii) ceases to be employed in a legislature in the region
- (iii) resigns from the office
- (iv) is requested in writing to resign by no less than one third of the members in good standing.

5. Casual Vacancies

Where a position on the Executive Committee falls vacant between biennial conferences, it may be filled for the remainder of the allotted term through a postal ballot of members to be conducted by the remaining members of the Executive Committee with nominations being called within 30 days of the vacancy occurring.

6. Powers and Responsibilities of Office Holders(i) *President*

The President, on the authorization of the Executive Committee, shall issue statements, enter into negotiations on behalf of the Association and represent its views and opinions.

Where the President undertakes such activities without prior agreement on policy at a biennial meeting, statements made on behalf of the Associations shall be subject to ratification at the next general business meeting.

(ii) *Other office bearers*

Powers of other office bearers are set out in the By-laws.

7. Meetings

A conference of the Association shall be held biennially at such times and at such places as the Executive Committee shall determine following consultations with the host Librarian/Director. During the course of the biennial conference, at least one general business meetings shall be held. The procedures and rules for meetings are set out in the By-laws.

8. Standing Committees and other Subordinate Bodies

The members present at a General Business meeting may appoint Standing Committees, Working Parties, Task Forces, or make other appropriate arrangements for carrying out studies or special tasks determined by the meeting. The Standing Committees and other bodies shall operate in accordance with the Association's By-laws.

Note 1.—State or Provincial legislatures eligible for membership of the Association are those legislatures where powers are defined or established in conjunction with the national constitution.

Note 2.—The Chief Librarian or Director may designate the Deputy Librarian or Deputy Director or equivalent to represent the legislature as Institutional Member. The designated person must have full authority to speak and act on behalf of the Library.

Adopted 10 May 1990, Seoul, Republic of Korea.

1.4.5 Minutes

Minutes of the general business meeting, which shall be circulated to all members within 30 days of the meeting, shall be kept by the Secretary and shall be confirmed at a subsequent meeting.

1.4.6 Annual Report

The President shall present an annual report of the Association's activities and financial accounts in the first issue of the APLAP newsletter of each calendar year.

1.5 Conference Organisation

The host Librarian/Director for each conference shall in consultation with the Executive Committee of the Association :

- 1.5.1 Convene the conference, draw up its program, solicit contributions and papers and keep members informed of progress. Tours to libraries and information facilities of particular interest may be included in the program.
- 1.5.2 Conference papers shall be submitted in advance and shall be distributed to participants prior to the conference sessions. Papers are not to be read but are open for discussion following a brief address by the author.
- 1.5.3 The Executive Committee shall decide which papers are to be published as part of the permanent record of the proceedings of the conference. The Conference Chairperson shall be responsible for producing and distributing such records.
- 1.5.4 Conference proceedings may be taped or otherwise recorded, provided that conference participants shall have the right to have materials withheld from the permanent record.
- 1.5.5 A conference dinner will generally be arranged to coincide with the conference. Delegates may be required to meet the cost of the conference dinner themselves.
- 1.5.6 The conference organisers shall not be responsible for the expenses of conference participants.

2. Subscriptions

2.1 Subscriptions shall be due on 1 July each year.

2.2. Membership of either an Institutional or Associate member shall lapse if the annual subscription remains unpaid for twelve months.

2.3 The Annual Subscription shall be determined at each biennial conference and can be varied by vote of a simple majority of those Institutional members present.

2.4 The subscriptions for 1990-91 and 1991-92 shall be

Institutional member	—	\$(US) 100.00
Associate member	—	\$(US) 10.00

2.5 The Treasurer will circulate a subscription renewal notice in June of each year with full payment details.

3. Powers and Responsibilities of Office Holders

3.1 The President chairs all meetings of the Executive Committee and at least the formal or business sessions at the biennial conference.

3.2 Vice-Presidents

The Vice-Presidents are required to act for the President as necessary and may be required to fulfil other duties, for example, Newsletter Editor.

3.3 The Secretary

The Secretary is responsible for the minutes of all business meetings of the Association and Executive Committee and for all correspondence and action agreed by a business meeting or the Executive Committee. The Secretary maintains the roll of members and ensures that all meetings are convened in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws.

3.4 Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for maintaining the Associations financial records and for making payments with the authorization of the President of the Association. The Treasurer prepares an annual financial report on behalf of the Executive Committee and recommends the subscription fee schedule to each biennial business meeting.

3.5 Secretariat

Initially, the Secretariat shall be in the National Assembly Library, Republic of Korea.

4. Roll of Members

4.1 The Secretary shall compile and maintain a Roll of Members containing details of the name and position held by the member, the member's postal address and telephone, FAX and TELEX numbers where appropriate.

4.2 The roll shall be used to prepare a membership list for distribution to all members at each biennial conference.

5. Nominations for the Executive Committee

5.1 The Secretary shall call for nominations for the positions on the Executive Committee three months (90 days) prior to the date of the Biennial Conference.

5.2 Nominations, which do not require a seconder, may be made by

Institutional members who are willing to stand for office. If a member wishes to nominate another member for office, the nomination must contain a statement by the nominee that he or she is willing to stand.

5.3 Nominations must reach the secretary 1 month (30 days) prior to the date of the Biennial conference and the secretary will immediately notify all Institutional members of the names of all nominees and will circulate a proxy form to enable those unable to attend the conference to vote.

6 Voting by Proxy

6.1 Institutional members unable to attend the biennial conference shall be permitted to vote for members of the Executive Committee by proxy. Proxies must reach the secretary prior to the official opening of the Biennial conference or business meeting, whichever is held first.

7. Operations of Standing Committees and other Subordinate Bodies

7.1 Standing Committees and other subordinate bodies shall operate under terms of reference approved by the Association at a General meeting.

7.2 The Chairperson or Convenor of each Standing Committee or other subordinate body shall be an Institutional member of the Association.

7.3 Members of Standing Committees and other subordinate bodies may be drawn from the staff of Institutional member libraries in order to bring all available expertise to the benefit of the Association's affairs.

7.4 Standing Committees and other subordinate bodies shall be required to report to the President and the Association upon the completion of particular tasks, or annually, in relation to on-going activities.

Accepted in principle, 10 May 1990, Seoul, Republic of Korea.

RESULTS OF ELECTION OF APLAP OFFICERS

(89 - 90)

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RESULTS OF ELECTION OF APLAP OFFICERS

- PRESIDENT** : Mr. Joobong Kim (KOREA)
VICE PRESIDENT : Mr. Karl Min Ku (CHINA)
(ASIA)
VICE PRESIDENT : Mr. John Brudenall (AUSTRALIA)
(PACIFIC)
SECRETARY : Ms. Aurora Simandjuntak (INDONESIA)
TREASURER : Ms. Leata Fesili (WESTERN SAMOA)

หน้าว่าง

APPENDICES

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หน้าว่าง

AUSTRALIA

Ms. Carol Kempner
Senior Librarian
Australian Parliamentary Library
Parliament House
Canberra A.C.T. 2600
Australia.

BANGLADESH

Kazi Tauhid Hasan
Chief Librarian
Parliament Secretariat
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar
Dhaka, Bangladesh.

COOK ISLANDS

Mr. Russell Thomas
Parliamentary Librarian
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Cook Islands.

INDONESIA

Mrs. Roemningsih Prayitno
Chief Librarian
Library of DPR-RI
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Mr. Aurora Simandjuntak
Librarian/Project Officer
For Library Development.
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Mrs. Pornpimol Tirakungvit
 Director,
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TUVALU

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VANUATU

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WESTERN SAMOA

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Ms. Jane Ann Lindley
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 Legislative Institutional Development.
 The Asia Foundation
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Res :
 House 3/B, Road 50
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 Bangladesh.

THE NATION, LAHORE MAY 10, 1992

GOHAR URGES INFORMATION BASE FOR LEGISLATORS

ISLAMABAD (PPI)—The Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Gohar Ayub Khan has stressed the need of an adequate information infrastructure enabling members of the parliaments to discharge their responsibilities in the best possible manner.

He was inaugurating the four-day second biennial conference of parliamentary librarians of the Asia-pacific region (APLAP) at the Parliament House here on Saturday. The inaugural session was also addressed by Mr. Joobong Kim, President, APLAP and Secretary-General, National Assembly Mr. Khan Ahmed Goraya, parliamentary librarians from Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Cook Islands, Papua, New Guinea, Solomon Island, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa are participating in the conference. The theme of the conference is "Research and Information support to Legislature."

Gohar Ayub in his inaugural address underscoring the importance of the parliamentary librarians said that they dealt with information and legislatures. The parliamentary librarians said that they dealt with information and legislatures. The parliamentary librarians have to play their significant role in facilitating legislative work in the process of redefinition, he added.

The National Assembly Speaker said it was the responsibility of the legislators to respond to the challenge before them and made democracy successful. He said it was the basic responsibility of the parliamentary librarians to develop new possibilities for the legislators which they could utilise to meet the requirements of the job at hand.

Listing basic issues of the parliamentary librarians, Mr. Gohar Ayub said they should have a clear and precise idea of what a legislator really needed, which can be acquired from the legislator's point of view. Librarians need to have a futuristic overview of the technological options in the fields of library science, information, computers and communication, he observed.

Addressing the conference Mr. Joobong Kim, President APLAP said that the first and foremost duty of the parliamentary librarians were to assist members of their parliament by providing them with accurate and the most upto date information they needed. He observed it was not an easy task and needed tireless and well organised efforts to fulfil the contemporary requirements of the MPs.

Welcoming the participants Secretary-General National Assembly Mr. Khan Ahmed Goraya lauded the formation of the Association of the Parliamentary Librarians of Asia-Pacific region. He said this region is destined to play an increasingly important role in the world affairs as many countries of the region had set new records

Mr. Takao Murayama
 Assistant Chief,
 General Affairs Division
 R & L Reference Bureau
 National Diet Library,
 Tokyo Japan.

KOREA (Republic of)
 Mr. Joobong Kim
 Director
 National Assembly Library
 1 Yoido-Dong
 Young Jeungpo-Ku Seoul.
 Korea.

Mr. Soosan Chung
 Legislative Information
 Analysis Department,
 National Assembly Library,
 Korea.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA
 Mrs. Lily Tiki
 Parliamentary Librarian
 P.O. Parliament House
 Waigani
 Papua New Guinea.

SOLOMON ISLANDS
 Mr. John Laugolo
 Sergeant-at-arms/Librarian
 Parliamentary Library
 P.O. Box G-19
 Honiara
 Solomon Islands.

SRI LANKA
 Mr. Sri Amarasekara
 Librarian
 Parliament House
 Sri Jayewardenepura, Kotte
 Sri Lanka.
 Res. 39/5-A Hena Road
 Mt. Lavinia, Sri Lanka.

of development. He stressed the need of increasing inter-action in many areas adding that the conference would help exchange of knowledge among the participant countries.

THE MUSLIM, ISLAMABAD MAY 10, 1992

GOHAR OPENS CONFERENCE

PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIANS ASKED TO PROVIDE ACCURATE INFORMATION

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD, May 9: Speaker of the National Assembly Gohar Ayub said here Saturday that the accelerating shift towards democratic options placed responsibility on popularly elected legislatures as it is for the democratic institutions to solve the problems which non-democratic systems failed to solve.

He was inaugurating the second biennial conference of parliamentary librarians of Asia Pacific. The conference will continue up to May 12. Delegates from 19 countries and organisations are attending the conference.

He said the role that parliamentarian librarians will be required to play in facilitating legislative work is in the process of redefinition. He said just as it is the responsibility of the legislators to respond to the challenge before them and make democracy succeed, it will increasingly become the responsibility of parliamentary librarians to develop new possibilities for the legislators which they could utilise to meet the requirements of the job at hand.

He advised the librarians to have a clear and precise idea of what a legislator really needs and have a futuristic overview of the technological options in the fields of library science, information, computers and communications. Thirdly, he said, regional forums like Association of the Parliamentary Librarians of Asia Pacific are very sound options for surmounting the resource gap and share the benefits of limited resources.

Secretary General of the National Assembly Mr. Goraya in his address stressed that there was need to develop systems which ensure the legislature relevance and appropriateness of the available information.

Joobong Kim, President Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia Pacific, in his address said that first and the foremost duty of parliamentary librarians is to assist librarians of their respective parliaments of providing them with accurate and the most up-to-date information. The librarians, he said, have gathered for the

with the information they need has been the subject of intense discussion in many countries. The parliamentary librarians of Western Europe have been engaged in such dialogue for some years, and recently, their counterparts in Central Asia have also been meeting regularly in this regard.

Earlier, the Secretary General of the National Assembly, Khan Ahmed Goraya, said the Asia-Pacific region is destined to play an increasingly important role in world affairs. Pooling of their resources would enable these countries to open new avenues for cooperation, he said, and the exchange of knowledge is one crucial area in which the custodians of legislative libraries have taken the lead.

The ambassadors of Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka and South Korea and the Deputy High Commissioner of Australia also attended the inauguration ceremony.

PAKISTAN TIMES, ISLAMABAD MAY 10, 1992

PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIANS' ROLE HIGHLIGHTED

By Our Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD, May 9: The Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Gohar Ayub Khan, has said that accelerating shift towards democratic option placed tremendous responsibility of popularly elected legislatures and the Parliamentary librarians had to pay an important role in facilitating legislative work.

Inaugurating the second Biennial Conference of Parliamentary Librarians of the Asia Pacific Region at Parliament House this morning, he said that Parliamentary librarian occupied special position.

Mr. Gohar Ayub Khan said that present age was much different from the previous one because of information explosion.

He said that information had superseded means of production as the basic determinant of social change. Computers and communication technology had forged an alliance which was having a decisive impact in many areas. "Even the age old concepts of what is a library, or, what should be a library are changing. 20 volume encyclopedias are being squeezed into compact disks and communication technology is giving the available knowledge longer, quicker, clearer and cheaper reach by the day"

The National Assembly Speaker said that the second trend which had brought the mankind under its magnificent sweep is the growing trend towards democratisation and recourse to representative institution. The end of cold war and the demise of what used to be the super power USSR had signalled a change whose impact was yet to manifest itself to its full potential. At the bottom of this change was a general realisation that closed systems could not solve social problems.

Mr. Gohar Ayub Khan said that as a result of shift towards democratic options it was now for democratic institutions to solve those problems which non-democratic systems failed to solve.

Mr. Gohar Ayub Khan said that just as it was the responsibility of the legislators to respond to the challenge before them and make democracy succeed, it would increasingly become librarian's responsibility to develop new possibilities for the legislators which they could utilise to meet the requirements of the job at hand.

"I am really pleased that the theme of this conference being held in Pakistan is "Research and Information support to the legislatures".

Speaking on the occasion, Khan Ahmed Goraya, Secretary General of the National Assembly said formation of the Association of the Parliamentary Librarians of Asia-Pacific Region was certainly a very auspicious step. Asia-Pacific Region was destined to play an increasingly important role in the world affairs. Pooling of the resources of the countries of this region would enable them to open new avenues for cooperation in many areas. Exchange of knowledge was one such crucial area in which most appropriately custodians of the Legislative Libraries had taken the lead.

Mr. Khan Ahmed Goraya said the theme selected for this conference was exceptionally appropriate and relevant to the current trends. Concepts of "Research and Information Support to Legislatures" were under-going a rapid change. The Librarian who was once considered as the custodian of knowledge was now viewed as a custodian, a communicator and an educator.

The conference is being attended by delegates drawn from Australia, Bangladesh, Cook Island, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tuvalu, Vanuata and Western Samoa.

A number of diplomats attended the inaugural session of the conference.

The President of APLAP also briefly spoke on the occasion and emphasised the role of Parliamentary Librarians in assisting the legislators.

THE MUSLIM, ISLAMABAD MAY 11, 1992

LIBRARIAN TALKS CONTINUE

ISLAMABAD, May 10: The second biennial conference of parliamentary librarians of the Asia-Pacific region went into its second day with two working sessions and two group discussions. The morning session was chaired by Mrs. Roemningsih Prayitno of Indonesia and papers were presented by Toshikazu Kanaka of Japan Joobong Kim of Republic of Korea.

second time to discuss research and information support to the legislature. He hoped that the discussions will help in paving way for further developing parliamentary libraries in general and research and information support to the MPs in particular.

THE NEWS, ISLAMABAD MAY 10, 1992

DEMOCRACY A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY: GOHAR

Regional Conference of Parliamentary Librarians Inaugurated

By Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The growing trend towards democratisation has placed great responsibility upon representative institutions to solve the social problems which non-democratic systems have failed to solve.

This was stated by National Assembly Speaker Gohar Ayub Khan while inaugurating the second biennial conference of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia-Pacific (APLAP) here at Parliament House on Saturday morning.

He said that the end of the cold war and the demise of the USSR have signalled a change whose impact is yet to be fully manifested. "This change reflects a realisation that closed systems cannot solve these problems," he noted.

'Research and information support to legislatures' is the theme of the four-day conference, in which 19 representatives from Australia, Bangladesh, Cook Islands, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Pakistan, Papua, New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa are participating.

The Speaker asked the participants to concentrate on three basic issues during their deliberations: what legislators really need, the technological options available, and full utilisation of regional forums such as the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia-Pacific (APLAP).

He said the legislators of the South Asia region are eagerly looking towards the participants for research and information support. "The possible benefits of a successful effort can be enormous and pervasive," he said.

Earlier, Joobong Kim, President of the association, said the first and foremost duty of parliamentary librarians is to assist members of their respective parliaments by providing them with the most up-to-date information. Although this sounds simple, he said, it is by no means an easy task.

He said the search for the most effective ways of providing our parliamentarians

The second working session was chaired by Sri Amarasekara of Sri Lanka. Papers were presented by Ms. Leata Fesili of Western Samoa and Ms Lily Ruth Tiki of Papua New Guinea.

Development of methods and techniques to improve the functioning of parliamentary libraries were discussed in the meeting. It was suggested that proper scrutiny of industrial, commercial and economic, scientific and technological material was necessary and legislators should have special knowledge of these matters for which parliamentary libraries should provide full support.—PPI

THE MUSLIM, ISLAMABAD MAY 13, 1992

LIBRARIANS' MOOT ENDS

'INFORMATION VITAL TO IMPROVE MPs WORK'

ISLAMABAD, May 12: Deputy Speaker National Assembly Mohammad Nawaz Khokhar has said that availability of good and up-to-date information is essential to improve the performance of the legislators and to strengthen the democratic process. He was addressing the concluding session of the second biennial conference of parliamentary librarians of Asia Pacific region held in the Parliament House from May 9-12.

He said parliamentary librarians needed special skills to organise the latest knowledge and experience in order to provide worthwhile information to the legislators and help them in successfully performing their duties.

The Speaker said the conference has made useful contribution to the growth of knowledge and techniques in processing instant information for the benefit of legislators.

The Deputy Speaker also presented gifts to the delegates and thanked them for their visit to Pakistan to participate in the conference.

Secretary General National Assembly Khan Ahmed Goraya said Pakistan was eager to increase contacts in all facets of institutional support for parliaments.

He said the conference has brought together information about the organisational structures and individual potentials of the member countries and a solid foundation for an active international forum in the field of libraries has been secured.

On behalf of all the delegates Ms. Aurora Simandjuntak, Librarian of the House of Representatives Indonesia, thanked the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the National Assembly Secretariat for the hospitality extended to them during their visit.—PR.

Addressing on the occasion the Secretary General National Assembly Mr. Khan Ahmed Goraya said that Pakistan was eager to increase contacts in all facets of institutional support for Parliaments.

On behalf of all the delegates Ms. Aurora Simandjuntak, Librarian of the House of Representatives Indonesia thanked the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the National Assembly Secretariat for the hospitality extended to them during their visit.

PAKISTAN TIMES, ISLAMABAD MAY 13, 1992

MPs ought to be well-informed—Khokhar

ISLAMABAD, May 12: Deputy Speaker National Assembly, Haji Mohammad Nawaz Khokhar, has said that availability of good and up-to-date information is essential to improve the performance of the legislators and to strengthen the democratic process. The Deputy Speaker was addressing the concluding session of the Second Biennial Conference of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia Pacific Region held in the Parliament House from May 9 to 12.

The Deputy Speaker said that Parliamentary Librarians needed special skills to organise the latest knowledge and experience in order to provide worthwhile information to the legislators and help them in successfully performing their duties.

The Deputy Speaker said that the conference has made useful contribution to the growth of knowledge and techniques in processing instant information for the benefit of legislators.

The Deputy Speaker also presented gifts to the delegates and thanked them for their visit to Pakistan to participate in the conference.

Addressing on the occasion the Secretary General National Assembly, Mr. Khan Ahmed Goraya, said that Pakistan was eager to increase contacts in all facets of institutional support for Parliaments.

The Secretary General said that the conference has brought together information about the organisational structures and individual potentials of the member countries and a solid foundation for an active international forum in the field of libraries has been secured.

On behalf of all the delegates, Mrs. Roemningsih Praytno, Chief Librarian of the House of Representatives Indonesia thanked the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the National Assembly Secretariat for the hospitality extended to them during their visit.—APP.

THE NEWS, ISLAMABAD MAY 13, 1992

Librarians' conference ends

ISLAMABAD: Haji Mohammad Nawaz Khokhar, Deputy Speaker, National Assembly, said here on Tuesday that great responsibility lies with parliamentary librarians in providing instant information to legislators.

Speaking at the concluding session of the second biennial conference of parliamentary librarians of the Asia-Pacific region, he said legislators have to remain fully abreast with new advances in all spheres of human activity. But since knowledge is expanding in great strides, parliamentarians need capsule information to be made available to them at the right time.

The conference has made a useful contribution to the growth of knowledge and techniques in processing instant information to legislators, he said, and expressed the hope that Pakistan's National Assembly Library would profit from this experience and expertise.

He said parliamentary librarians need special skills which must be up—dated with every passing day. He expressed his satisfaction that the training of librarians was a major subject at the conference.

He pledged to extend his support to training schemes for staff of the National Assembly Library and thanked the delegates for providing support services for legislators.

Ms. Aurora Simandjuntak from Indonesia, on behalf of the delegates, thanked the National Assembly staff for their cooperation.—APP.

THE FRONTIER POST, PESHAWAR MAY 13, 1992

KHOKHAR SATISFIED WITH NA LIBRARY

ISLAMABAD (APP)—Haji Mohammad Nawaz Khokhar Deputy Speaker National Assembly said here on Tuesday that great responsibility lies with the parliament librarians in providing instant information to the legislators.

Speaking at the concluding Session of the Second Biennial Conference of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia Pacific region, he said, that the legislators have to keep them selves fully abreast with new advancement in all spheres of human activity. But since knowledge is expanding with great strides the parliamentarians need capsule information to be made available to them at the right time.

The conference has made useful contribution to the growth of knowledge and techniques in processing instant information to legislators and I am sure the National Assembly library here will profit from this experience and expertise, he added.

He said parliamentary librarians need special skills which have to be up-dated with every passing day. He expressed his satisfaction that training of the librarians was a major subject in the conference. He pledged to extend his support to the training schemes of the National Assembly library.

He thanked the delegates of the conference for contributing to the promotion of support services.

THE NATION, LAHORE MAY 13, 1992

INFORMATION AVAILABILITY MUST FOR LEGISLATORS

ISLAMABAD (PR) — Deputy Speaker National Assembly Haji Mohammad Nawaz Khokhar has said that availability of good and up-to-date information is essential to improve the performance of the legislators and to strengthen the democratic process. He was addressing the concluding Session of the Second Biennial Conference of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia Pacific Region held in the Parliament House from May 9—12.

The Deputy Speaker said that Parliamentary Librarians needed special skills to organise the latest knowledge and experience in order to provide worthwhile information to the legislators and help them in successfully performing their duties.

The Deputy Speaker said that the conference has made useful contribution to the growth of knowledge and techniques in processing instant information for the benefit of legislators.

The Deputy Speaker also presented gifts to the delegates and thanked them for their visit to Pakistan to participate in the Conference.

