Greetings Delegates!

As President of IASL, I am most happy to welcome everyone to Hong Kong for the 34th Annual IASL Conference, the 9th International Forum on Research in School Librarianship, and the International Baccalaureate Pan-Asian Library Media Specialists Conference. This year’s dynamic theme is Information Leadership in a Culture of Change.

As many of you have read at the IASL website, School Libraries Online, Hong Kong is in its fifth year of educational reform and has a strong focus on bringing information literacy to the forefront of the process. The major elements of this process form the sub-themes of this conference, including information literacy, information policy, knowledge management, social responsibility, and leadership. IASL is most honored to be part of this process here in Hong Kong.

IASL would like to thank James Henri and the Local Organizing Committee for their dedication and hard work in organizing this conference. They have developed a program of world-class speakers and created an environment for the global networking of ideas.

Peter Genco
IASL President
http://www.iasl-slo.org

Welcome to the first IASL Conference to be hosted in China. Taking up the responsibility for hosting such a conference brings many challenges that require the kind support of numerous volunteers.

This 34th IASL Conference is dubbed ‘Leadership in a culture of change’. The theme was chosen for its timeliness and its pertinence to Hong Kong and the broader region, where many significant leadership decisions have been made that affect teaching and learning and the delivery of information services in schools. Indeed the philosophy of schooling and the policy development in Hong Kong acts as a beacon to the region where there is a growing interest in information literacy and the importance of information services in schools.

The 34th IASL Conference incorporates the annual IB PALMS conference. Thanks to the vision and dedication of Carolyn Sinclair, this partnership has moved from strength to strength. This conference has been strongly supported by the Hong Kong Teacher Librarians Association. Following a trend set at the 52nd IASL Conference in Durban, the HKTLA has created a number of local awards for presentation at the Opening Session. Congratulations to those recipients.

The speakers at this conference will provide a rich cuisine of intellectual food. The diet is varied and will cater to all tastes. I encourage you to reach out to meet new friends and to dip your chopsticks into some new dishes. Heavy dishes can be found among the research papers that comprise the 9th International Forum on Research in School Librarianship. Light dishes can be found among the professional papers and workshop sessions.

I encourage you to think about the role that you play as an information leader and how you might learn from the presentations and debates throughout this conference to take your role to an even more influential level.

I want to thank the members of the conference planning committee and sub-committees for their very generous commitment of time and expertise, special thanks to Sandra Lee the Program Chair, Peter Waring the Treasurer, Claire Johnston Secretary, and Dianne McKenzie Publicity Chair.

I make special mention of the support the conference committee has obtained from the EMB. Their sponsorship of local teachers to attend conference sessions has not only assisted many locals to attend but has helped our Treasurer find money to pay bills. It has been very pleasing to have support from the University of Hong Kong and particularly from the Faculty of Education. Thanks to all international delegates who have parted with personal funds and time to support us and a special big thanks to the Australian contingent who have clearly claimed Hong Kong as their own.

Last but not least, a big thanks to those companies that have supported this event through sponsorship and the Trade Exhibit. Your support was financially invaluable and provides another dimension to the information sharing.

James Henri
Conference Committee Chair