

## **Regional Workshop on School Libraries in Southeast Asia**

Regional workshops provide many benefits for participants who may not be able to travel to international conferences. They also allow for professional development, awareness of developments, and discussion on issues common in the region. With this mind, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Workshop in School Libraries in Southeast Asia was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on October 2 – 3.

Attended by some 114 participants from Southeast Asian countries, the workshop was held to facilitate networking among school library stakeholders in the Southeast Asian countries. It also provided opportunities for participants learn, discuss and share experiences in the development of school libraries. The workshop also served as a platform for communication among those involved with school librarianship – school librarians / teacher librarians, Ministries of Education, Universities with LIS Departments, National Libraries, Library Associations, publishers, technology developers and vendors, and other interested groups.

The workshop was organized by the Faculty of Information Management, MARA University of Technology, Malaysia, under the leadership on Dr. Shamila Shuhidan. The International Association of School Librarianship (IASL), the Educational Technology Division of the Ministry of Education Malaysia and other organizations also contributed towards the event.

The workshop was declared open by the Director of Educational Technology Division, Ministry of Education Malaysia, Tuan Haji Zaidi bin Yazid, with the keynote address presented by the Director-General of the National Library of Malaysia, Dato' Hajah Nafisah Ahmad. The first day of the workshop saw presentations of country reports, and sharing of best practices from the countries represented. The second day saw presentations on a wide range of topics ranging from information literacy, storytelling, community services, to content development and e-repositories relevant to the region. A cultural evening was also held on the first day with dances and music to enable the participants to interact in a casual and relaxed manner.

This workshop was the 3<sup>rd</sup> in the series on school library developments in the region. The first workshop was held at Srinakharinwirot University, Bangkok, Thailand in June 2015, the second was held at Universitas Indonesia in Jakarta, Indonesia in May 2016.

The next workshop on School Libraries in Southeast Asia will be held in Naypyitaw, Myanmar on May 2, 2018. International participants are also welcome.



Above: (5)  
Below: (4)





1: Director General, National Library of Malaysia, Dato Hajjah Nafisah Ahmad delivering the keynote address.

2: IASL Regional Director (Asia), Hanna George with Chairperson of Organizing Committee Dr. Shamila Shuhidan and members of her committee

3: A section of the workshop participants.

