International Journal of Legal Information
the Official Journal of the International Association of Law Libraries

Volume 35
Issue 2 *The New Russia: Law and Legal Information (Summer 2007)*

Article 7

7-1-2007

Reaching Out to Developing Countries: The International Association of Law Libraries Initiative

Lilia F. Echiverri
University of the Philippines Law Library

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarship.law.cornell.edu/ijli
The *International Journal of Legal Information* is produced by The International Association of Law Libraries.

Recommended Citation
Echiverri, Lilia F. (2007) "Reaching Out to Developing Countries: The International Association of Law Libraries Initiative," *International Journal of Legal Information*: Vol. 35: Iss. 2, Article 7.
Available at: http://scholarship.law.cornell.edu/ijli/vol35/iss2/7

This Prefatory Matter is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Scholarship@Cornell Law: A Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in International Journal of Legal Information by an authorized administrator of Scholarship@Cornell Law: A Digital Repository. For more information, please contact jmp8@cornell.edu.

Reaching Out to Developing Countries: The International Association of Law Libraries Initiative

Lilia F. Echiverri*

Situated in the center of St. Petersburg, the northern capital of Russia, is Basilievsky Island. It is one of the most beautiful islands and one of the world's largest centers of culture, known for its unique historical and cultural monuments and matchless architectural ensemble. This was the venue for the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL) *25th Annual Course on International Law Librarianship*, held at the Assembly Hall of Law Faculty of St. Petersburg State University and in Moscow, Russia from September 10-16, 2006.

I would like to thank God for making my trip possible. I am equally thankful and appreciative to IALL's Professional Development Committee, headed by Mr. Jules Winterton, the IALL President, Dr. Holger Knudsen, the Chair of Committee on Scholarship, and to all the IALL Officers and Board Members for giving me the opportunity and support to participate in this conference. Likewise, the support of the University of the Philippines Law Alumni and friends is greatly appreciated.

* 2006 IALL Recipient. University of the Philippines Law Library

Front row, left to right: Prof. Richard Danner (First Vice President), Ms. Lilia Echiverri (Scholarship Recipient), Ms. Ann Morrison (Secretary), Ms. Mirela Rosajac (Scholarship Recipient), Prof. James Butler and Ms. Petal Kinder (Board Members). Back row, left to right: Prof. Jules Winterton (President), Mr. Sami Cukadar (Recipient), Dr. Holger Knudsen (Past President & Chair, Committee on Scholarship), Prof. Halvor Kongshavn, Ms. Jennefer Aston (Board Members), and Dr. Mark Engsberg (Ex Officio Board member).

In 2001, the IALL members created the Professional Development Bursaries. The bursaries are granted yearly to enable law librarians to attend the Annual Course on International Law Librarianship that forms the annual conference of the Association.

This year, there were three (3) law librarians from developing countries who were selected by the IALL. I was one of the lucky recipients and the other two were *Sami Cukadar* of the Istanbul Bilgi University Law Library and *Mirela Rozajac* of the Law Faculty Library, University of Sarajevo. IALL gave us the opportunity to meet law librarians across the globe and to exchange ideas and common interests. This has proven to be a wonderful learning experience. Dr. Knudsen introduced us during the General Assembly. In addition, IALL President Winterton, along with Ashgate Publishing, presented all three scholarship recipients with a copy of the newly published *Handbook of Legal Information Management*.

Scholarship Recipients. Left to Right: L.Echiverri, M. Rozajac, and S. Cukadar

This was my first trip to Russia, and I was so excited. I enjoyed the long flight immensely. From the airport to the Pribaltiyskaya Hotel, I took a taxi without a second thought of being alone! The hotel was located at 14, Korablestroitelei, Saint Petersburg, 199226, Russia where most delegates were billeted.

On my first day, I had to adjust to the new time zone and needed to adjust my body clock to the food and cold weather of Russia. To shake-off jet lag, I ate dried mangoes and peanuts and then had enough sleep before the conference.

On Sunday afternoon, while standing in one corner as I waited for the coaches to take us to the Law Faculty of St. Petersburg State University, I felt welcomed when Dr. Knudsen introduced himself and Mr. Winterton, Prof. Halvor Kongshavn, Prof. Richard A. Danner, Ms. Ann Morrison, Ms. Petal Kinder, Dr. Mark Engsberg, Ms. Amanda Barratt, Sami Cukadar, Mirela Rozajac, and other delegates. I give heartfelt thanks to the gentleness, kindness and helpfulness of Dr. Knudsen and Prof. Winterton in assisting me register for the conference and accommodation.

Later, we toured the Law Faculty of the St. Petersburg State University. IALL Officers and Board Members and the Local Organizing Committee treated us to a welcome dinner aboard a boat trip on the Neva

River. President Winterton and Michail Krotov, President of Russian Law Library Association, gave the opening remarks and welcomed the delegates. I was fortunate to have been seated with Pres. Winterton, Dr. Knudsen, Prof. Valery Grigoriev, Prof. Mikhail Krotov, Prof. Anita Soboleva, Ms. Nona Beisenherz and her son, Mr. Cukadar and Ms. Rozajac. This gave us a chance to get to know each other, and we shared our library experiences. They served an excellent menu.

On Monday, President Winterton and Prof. Vladimir Lukyanov, the First Vice-Dean of the Law Faculty started the formal opening of the program by welcoming the delegates, guests and sponsors. The Local Organizing Committee prepared a high quality academic program combined with social events. Lectures centered on the important themes of modern Russia. **Session 1** dealt with "**Constitutional Law and the Developments of Federalism."** Dr. Sergey P. Mavrin, Judge of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation delivered a paper on *"The Constitutional Court in Russia: Formation, Structure, Competence and Role in the Protection of Constitutional Rights and Freedoms"* followed by *"The Role of Arbitration Court in the Judicial System of the Russian Federation"* by Chairman Igor A. Drozdov of the Higher Arbitrazh Court of the Russian Federation." The final lecturer for the day was Dr. Serey d. Knyazev, Vice Dean of the Law Institute of the Far-East State University who spoke on "*Federalism and Elections: National and Regional Aspects."*

After the sessions, we were treated to city tours and an excursion to Peterhof, outside of St. Peterburg. This is a large park where you can see the Pool of the Great Cascade to the Pool and the Sea Canal, the Samson Fountain and the Alley of Fountains. Later, the IALL Organizing Committee invited us to a dinner in the restaurant of "Podvorye" located near the main entrance to Pavlovsky Park in the town of Pavlovsk, 30 kilometers from St. Petersburg. William S. Hein & Co. sponsored the excursion as well as the dinner.

Tuesday was another beautiful day, which started with **Session 2** on **Legal Education: the Problem of Unity and Differentiation (Bologna Process).** Prof. Ilya A. Dementyev, Vice-Rector of the Saint Petersburg State University lectured on the topic of the *Bologna Process: Uniformity and Differentiation;* Dr. Anatoly Y. Kapustin, Dean of the Law Faculty of the Russian University of People's Friendship (Moscow) discussed *"Bologna Process: Practical Steps for Russian Law Schools."* The last lecturer on "*New Development in Law Libraries and Librarianship in Russi."* was delivered by Prof. Mikhail V. Krotov, President of the Russian Association of Law Libraries.

This session was followed by the IALL Annual Members Meeting with President Winterton presiding over the meeting. The agenda contained the following: Minutes of the AGM in Florence in September 2005; President's Report; 2007 Annual Courses which will be held at the National Centre for Performing Arts in Mumbai, India; Secretary's Report; Treasurer's Report; Report of the Advisory Committee on Communications; Report of the Scholarships Committee; Web Site Award; Nomination and election process for membership of the Board to take place in 2006-2007. These were all presented and approved by IALL Members.

After lunch, all delegates had an excursion to the beautiful State Hermitage Museum, which everybody enjoyed. The State Hermitage occupies six magnificent buildings situated along the banks of the River Neva, right in the heart of St Petersburg. The Hermitage collections of art encompasses over 3,000,000 items, and represents the development of world culture and art from the Stone Age to the 20th century. Today, the Museum is creating its digital self-portrait to be displayed around the world. Computer technologies enable the State Hermitage Museum to provide people from all over the world with wider access to information about the Museum and its treasures. We had free time after the tour and took the opportunity to shop, see other beautiful places, and discover good restaurants.

On Wednesday, we had to leave early for a full day excursion to Velikiy Novgorod, a three-hour drive from our hotel. We visited and toured the different libraries of the Novgorod State University, including the Law Faculty Library. Professor Anatoly Gavrikov, President, Dr. Victor Prokoffiev, Dean of the Law Faculty and Dr. Elena Otkidach, Head of the Library of the NSU welcomed and introduced us to their University. In the evening, there was a reception and dinner that took place in the restaurant of "Detinets," located in the 14th century Pokrovskaya tower of the Novgorod Kremlin. Thomson Westlaw sponsored the dinner.

On Thursday, **Session 3** dealt with **"The Legal System of Russia in Contemporary State."** Prof. Valery A. Musin, Ad Hoc Judge in the European Court of Human Rights spoke on the "*Recent Case Law of the European Court of Human Rights: An Overview;"* Another topic "*Actual Problems of Foreign Law Literature Distribution*" was discussed by Mr. Evgenity Novikov, Head of the St. Petersburg State University Law Press while Prof. Yuri Lubimov, Chair of Civil Law of the Faculty of Saint Petersburg University provided an *"Introduction to Russian Civil Law*

System. Lastly, Prof. Sergey A. Belov, Chair of the State and Administrative Law, Saint Petersburg introduced us to *"Russian Constitutional and Administrative Law."*

In addition, the sponsors of the IALL annual conference were presented and were given the opportunity to give brief introductions of their companies. Among them were Hein Online, Westlaw International and Egorov, Puginsky, Afanasiev & Partners (EPA&P).

After the session, I had the opportunity to take a last minute photo (right) with Jules Winterton, IALL President and Prof. Halvor Kongshavn, IALL Board Member.

In the afternoon, the group visited three famous St. Petersburg libraries: the Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Russian National Library and the Main Library of St. Petersburg State University. The St. Petersburg library visits and city tours were all memorable, and I learned a lot about Russian history at the historical museum and also the treasures found in the museum and the National Library.

The Closing Ceremonies were held at the Juris Home. President Winterton expressed his thanks to the Local Organizing Committee, to all delegates, sponsors and to all who made the conference a success. He also gave gifts to the Local Organizing Committee.

On Thursday night, we were all sad to be saying goodbye and sorry to be leaving St. Petersburg. At 10:15 p.m., half of the delegates departed for the railway station, Leningradsky Railway Station to continue with the optional Moscow program while others preferred to stay on in St. Petersburg. The delegates had the chance to visit the Russian State Library (Lenin's Library), Rudomino State Library for Foreign Literature (VGBIL) including Legal Resource Center, followed by a sightseeing tour of beautiful places in Moscow.

In sum, the IALL Organizing Committee presented an interesting, informative and high quality program with distinguished speakers from the academic and professional life of Russia. One hundred delegates from 27 countries which include Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Bosnia, Canada,

Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, London, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom, and United State of America attended the conference.

In conclusion, when people have fun together, extraordinary things happened, and that was exactly the case with this conference. We learned many ways to wield influence with our skills and use these to enhance our personal working styles. Law librarians from across the globe were given the opportunity to network with new friends and colleagues, which will enable us to create new realistic and meaningful programs of cooperation.

I hope that the IALL Professional Development Bursaries for attending the IALL conference will continue to support law librarians, especially those from developing countries. This act of generosity will help make future IALL conferences a global meeting point for law librarians.