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President's Report

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is my sixth and final report to the membership as President of the International Association of Law Libraries, covering the period October 2009 to September 2010, just before our conference in The Hague.

The Board which held office during 2009-10 was constituted as follows, President: Jules Winterton of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, England; Secretary: Jennefer Aston of the Bar Council of Ireland; Treasurer: Ann Morrison of Dalhousie Law School, Canada; First Vice President: Dick Danner of Duke Law School, USA; Second Vice-President: not designated; Board members: Ruth Bird of the Bodleian Law Library, England; Barbara Garavaglia of the University of Michigan Law School, USA; Ligita Gjortlere of Riga Graduate School of Law, Latvia; Petal Kinder of the High Court of Australia; Xinh Luu of the University of Virginia Law School, USA; Uma Narayan of the Bombay High Court, Mumbai, India; Pedro Padilla-Rosa of the University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, Puerto Rico; Anita Soboleva of JURIX (Jurists for Constitutional Rights and Freedoms), Russia; Jeroen Vervliet of the Peace Palace Library, The Hague, Netherlands.

The Board of Directors met on 28th November 2008 before the annual conference in San Juan and on 5th December 2008, immediately after the annual conference. Individual officers and members of the Board took the opportunity to meet on a number of occasions, in particular at the annual meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries in July 2009 and at the IFLA Congress in August 2009, and kept in contact throughout the year to discuss issues concerning the Association.

2009-10 was the year for a new Board to be formed. I appointed an independent Nominations Committee in November 2009: Kerem Kahvecioglu, Silke Sahl and chaired by former President Holger Knudsen. The Committee reported in late January 2010. The Nominations Committee did a wonderful job within the strict timetable which they were given, consulting widely and giving serious thought to the whole process. The Secretary reported to the membership on the proposals of the Committee together with an explanation of the procedure for further nominations in February 2010. At the expiry of the prescribed period no further nominations had been received and no ballot was necessary. After appointment of a further three members as laid down by the Constitution, the Secretary announced the full composition of the Board in June 2010.

In July 2010 the Association concluded a three-year extension of its contract with Thomson Reuters for the printing and distribution of the *International Journal of Legal Information*. The Association is grateful to Thomson Reuters for its support of law librarianship worldwide through this arrangement which makes a significant contribution to the work of the Association. The Association is grateful to the Editor of *IJLI*, Mark Engsborg for his role in securing this important agreement.

The Board continued to implement the strategy evolved at its strategy workshop in April 2008. The decision to adopt a policy of open access publishing for the *International Journal of Legal Information*, in addition to the existing means of publication, was implemented with the assistance of Cornell Law School Library which hosts the Association website. The Association now maintains the International Calendar of Events and the List of Law Library Associations and other Organisations. A new version of the List of Law Library Associations and a wholly new List of Legal Publishers have been commissioned but are now likely to be delivered in 2010-11. The List of Members' Publications which offers the opportunity for all members to demonstrate their contribution to the profession through published and unpublished work, has grown slowly. I would encourage all members to send bibliographies of their professional writing to Petal Kinder, Chair of the Communications Committee, so that your country and you yourself are represented in this growing bibliography.

A new Registered Agent, Donna Scheeder, has provided the Registered Address necessary for the Association's continuing incorporation in the District of Columbia. However, Malo Bernal, long-term officer and friend of the Association, had continued to operate the mailbox in Washington DC for the Association.

The Association's 28th Annual Course on International Law Librarianship, 'Turkey in a Global Context: Law and Legal Information' was held at the Istanbul Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey, in October 2009. The conference maintained and reinforced the high academic quality of IALL programmes and gave participants the opportunity to explore subjects in law and librarianship of importance not only for Turkey but for Europe and globally, including Digital Developments and the Legal System, Copyright, Legal Education in Turkey, Turkish Librarianship and Legal Information, International Art Law as well as the vital relationship of Turkey and the European Union. The conference received strong support from the Faculty of Law and the University Library and E-Resources of Istanbul Bilgi University

and from the recently-formed Turkish Platform of Law Librarians. Speakers included exceptional scholars and members of the legal community and the law librarianship profession from Istanbul and further afield in Turkey and two highly regarded members of the Association, Professors Kathleen Price and Carol Roehrenbeck. The programme for our course also gave us a remarkable range of opportunities to experience Istanbul, one of the world's great cities famous for its historical monuments and magnificent scenic beauty, spreading over two continents, where Asia and Europe meet.

Among the participants at the 27th Annual Course, we were glad to welcome the three recipients of Association Scholarships: Mohamed Berray, from The American University in Cairo, Egypt; Se Hui Yoon, from Seoul National University, Republic of Korea; and Hester Swift, from The Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London, England.

The organisation of the conference was excellent and carried through with efficiency and great hospitality and personal warmth. The facilities provided by the Santral campus of the Bilgi University were second to none, as were the cultural offerings on campus. Each of the varied social events was a fascinating and enjoyable experience which taught us more about the rich and varied life of Istanbul, past and present. The Local Organising Committee worked extremely hard to promote the conference, to raise the sponsorship and negotiate the arrangement so they could offer such a valuable programme. There were over 120 registrants not including sponsors, exhibitors and speakers and a record number of local participants. The Association should thank again the lead organisers, Serdar Katipoglu, Sami Cukadar, and Kerem Kahvecioglu and their many colleagues, to the institutions which welcomed us and the speakers who gave us their time and expertise. The conference generated a surplus and this was shared by the Association with the Turkish Platform of Law Librarians for the purposes of promoting law librarianship in Turkey.

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on Tuesday 13th October 2009 and included reports on the work of the Association, its Officers and Committees. The accounts of the Association for 2007 were approved and the independent auditor reappointed. Jeroen Vervliet and Ruth Bird on behalf of the Local Organising Committee for the 2010 Annual Course told members about the upcoming conference in The Hague and Rotterdam.

During the year all the chapters of the forthcoming '*IALL Handbook of International Legal Information Management*', a book to be published by

Ashgate Publishers on current issues in legal information from a global perspective, have been delivered by the authors and editing has been almost completed. The manuscript will be delivered in the autumn of 2010 for publication later in the year or in early 2011. The published volume will be available at a discount to members of the Association.

In 2008 the Association established a scholarship in addition to the three professional development bursaries which assist law librarians to attend the Annual Course. The new grant provides financial assistance of up to US\$3,000 each year for a law librarian to undertake an internship or placement or extended visit to a law library outside their own country. In 2008 a grant was awarded but regrettably it did not prove possible during 2008-09 for it to be taken up. In 2009 no suitable applications were received and no grant was awarded. However, in 2010 there were two outstanding applications and the Board exceptionally approved additional budget to allow the Scholarships Committee to make two awards in the same year.

It is part of the role of the Association to collaborate with national and regional law library associations and, where possible, to assist in the formation of new associations. I reported last year that I represented IALL at the first China-US Conference on Legal Information and Law Libraries in Beijing which was sponsored by both IALL and the American Association of Law Libraries. I am pleased to report the first step in the formation of a law library association in China with the establishment of the Beijing Law Libraries and Legal Research Society affiliated with Tsinghua University Law School in early 2010. IALL is pledged to continue to support this venture. I also represented the Association at the annual meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries in July 2010 at the kind invitation of its President where I spoke briefly at the business meeting and hosted a joint reception with the Foreign Comparative and International Special Interest Section sponsored by Thomson Reuters and organised by Mark Engsborg on behalf of the Association.

The Association continued to support the new Section of Law Libraries of the International Federation of Library Associations which was formed following representations by IALL and the American Association of Law Libraries. The Chair of the Section continues to be our former President, Holger Knudsen. The Section has arranged a promising programme at the IFLA World Congress in Gothenberg in August 2010 where I will attend a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Section and give a short paper and chair a discussion group as part of a session to form a policy agenda for the Section. The Association continues to offer support to the new Section as it

contributes to the programmes within the World Congress and contributes to the policy-making and lobbying activities of IFLA on behalf of associations such as our own. The World Congress of IFLA next takes place in San Juan, Puerto Rico in August 2011 and the 2012 World Congress will be in Helsinki.

As I write, our 29th Annual Course on International Law Librarianship, 'Dutch Gateways to International Law' at the Peace Palace in The Hague and at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam from 5th to 9th September 2010, is imminent. The conference has a dedicated and experienced group of Dutch law librarians including Jeroen Vervliet and René Winter, with Board Liaison Ruth Bird. I am sure that the conference will be another great success, with an extremely strong programme in international law, giving us all a wonderful opportunity to meet in the 'world capital of international law' where so many international legal institutions are based and within the building where the International Court of Justice sits. I am looking forward to meeting many of you at our 29th Annual Course.

Looking forward to future conferences, I am delighted to announce that, following a visit by the Board Liaison Uma Narayan, arrangements are progressing well for the Association's 30th Annual Course at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 4th to 8th December 2011 under the working title 'The Dynamics of Malaysian Law in the Global Context' with the full support of the Faculty of Law and the University Library'. The conference is under the care of Harvinder Kaur, an IALL Member and Scholarship holder in 2005. Looking further forward I am pleased to say that the Conference Committee has been making preliminary investigations for a conference in Washington DC in 2012.

I finish by thanking all my fellow officers and members of the two Boards, 2004-07 and 2007-10 on which I have served and to all the members of the Association who have kindly endured my two terms as President and continued to display appreciation for my speeches. The IALL is important and I am reminded of this every time we join together at our conference and find we have so much to share and so much to learn in each of the many and varied locations where we meet. I have enjoyed all of it. There are reforms of procedure and administration which I wish I could have completed, but overwhelmingly, I will always remember: Florence; St. Petersburg; Mumbai; Puerto Rico; Istanbul; and also, I am sure, our upcoming conference in the Netherlands, and all the friends I have made along the way. Thank you!

Jules Winterton