

Events

The 12th APLAP (Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific) Conference in Tokyo

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[The 12th Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific \(APLAP\)](#) was held in Tokyo from October 31st to November 2nd, 2018. Insofar as 2018 marks the 70th anniversary of the National Diet Library (NDL) and Deputy Director General of the NDL, Ms. Kazuko Sakata, served as President of the APLAP since April in 2017 till this conference, last year presented an auspicious opportunity for the conference to return to Tokyo for the first time since the 6th APLAP conference in 2000.

[The APLAP](#) was founded in 1990 to promote mutual cooperation among parliamentary libraries in the Asia Pacific area in order to enhance the services available at each. As of December 2018, there are 59 organizations participating in APLAP from 40 member countries and regions.

The main theme of the 2018 Tokyo Conference was the development of human resources for parliamentary libraries and research services, which attracted 50 participants from 27 organizations in 20 countries and regions.

The Keynote speech was given by Mr. Steve Wise, Chair, Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section, IFLA. Also, he serves as a Director of Information Management, House of Commons Library, United Kingdom. His talk introduced listeners to a variety of initiatives for human resources development at the House of Commons Library. Additionally, there were presentations from 21 participants during two days of sessions.



One notable characteristic of APLAP is that there are significant differences in the parliamentary systems of each member country and region, which creates a tremendous variety of environments and restrictions under which each participating organization must operate. While some organizations have a full complement of staff members to provide parliamentary library services, there are other organizations where a single employee must do everything. Thus, cultural or economic circumstances have a significant influence on the development of human resources.

One thing that seems common to each organization that made a presentation, however, is the determination to foster human resources despite their circumstances in order to provide the best library services possible. During the APLAP General Meeting, the report on the previous General Meeting was approved, the Treasurer reported on finances, and the APLAP Executive Committee election was held. One major issue of discussion was amendment of the APLAP Constitution and By-laws, which have not been revised since the APLAP was first established in 1990. These items were approved by a two-thirds majority.

In addition to the conference itself, the participants enjoyed a variety of social events, including a welcome dinner hosted by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the House of Councillors, the official APLAP lunch, and a welcome dinner hosted by Dr. Sawako Hanyu, Director General of the NDL. Events such as a [Kendama](#) challenge provided

the participants with the opportunity to develop new friendships and deepen mutual understanding. Activities on the final day of the conference included a tour of the Diet Building, lunch in Tokyo's Asakusa district, and a visit to the [Edo-Tokyo Museum](#).

Next APLAP conference will be held in New Zealand in 2020.



(Translated by Tomoaki Hyuga)

Related articles from the National Diet Library Newsletter:

- [APLAP Conference held in Tokyo](#) (No. 116, October 2000)