

## **The 17<sup>th</sup> Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians Conference successfully hosted by Myanmar for the first time**

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**Librarian**

**Universities' Central Library**

We were surprised to know the ceremony of the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress of South East Asia Librarians (CONSALXVII) will be held in Myanmar. Whenever we thought that we were uncertain that such a grand Congress could be successfully conducted. All the librarians were busy preparing for that occasion. Responsible librarians were trying their best for preparation so that it will be held successfully as planned.

The 17<sup>th</sup> Congress of CONSAL XVII was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May to 5<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at MICC II in Nay Pyi Taw. Myanmar Library Association, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture took the leading role for this Congress. All the librarians throughout the country took part in whatever duties assigned to them.



**Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 (MICC II)**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018, the Executive Board Meeting and Reregistration and New Registration for general conference participants were held in Mingalar Thiri Hotel from 8 am till 9 pm. The opening and general conference were held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 where as closing and Farewell

Dinner was held on 4<sup>th</sup> May at MICC II. On 5<sup>th</sup> May 2018 all the participants visited parliament building, National Museum, National Library, and National Archives.

The objective of the congress is to provide a platform for the sharing and exchanging of information and experiences on issues in the field of librarianship for ASEAN countries, library and information sciences, documentations, information and related services in the region.

In this Congress International Participants totaling (171) from (20) countries and (460) Librarians from Myanmar attended. During the Congress (49) exhibition booths from ASEAN countries were displayed. In the booth of (10) Asians countries were exhibited about cultures and historical background of each country. Regarding e-Resource database, essential library facilities such as scanner, library software, and RFID were displayed. It was an opportunity for librarians and researchers to learn new technologies.

At the opening ceremony ASEAN songs and dances were performed. After that the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Kyi strikes the golden gong and delivered the opening speech.



**State Counsellor Daw Aung San Su Kyi strikes the Mingalar Gong to open the CONSAL XVII and delivered an opening speech**



**Group photo of CONSAL Executive Board**



**Group photo of Myanmar Library Association Executive Committee members**

After the opening ceremony, 6 parallel paper reading sessions were arranged under the heading of:

1. Access and Opportunities for all
2. Advocacy (includes discussion on library associations)
3. Digital library management
4. Transforming libraries
5. New competencies and training for library and information professionals
6. Marketing and promotion
7. Conservation and preservation (includes our ancient manuscripts)
8. ASEAN vision and libraries to include collaboration/ education efforts

9. Media and information literacy (includes media and social media literacy)

10. Strategic alliances and partnership

of which (75) papers were read. Myanmar participants read (20) papers and the (55) international papers were discussed among six sessions, in which each session was lead by coordinator. The papers were read two days. I had to act as coordinator on the subject heading of conservation and preservation, in that sessions (9) papers were read, where as Myanmar participants read (4) papers and (5) international papers were read.



**Paper session room F**

Under the headings Access and opportunity for all (7) papers were read, Myanmar read (4) and (3) international. I submitted and read a paper the heading of “Union Catalog of Myanmar Academic Libraries” to the congress. All papers produced a lot of knowledge for both young and old.

On the last day, 4<sup>th</sup> May, the Vice President U Myint Swe delivered a closing speech. And then outstanding librarian award gold medal was awarded to Philippines and (4) silver medals awarded to Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar and Indonesia respectively.

## List of CONSAL Outstanding Award Winners

Gold – Ms. Mila Medina Ramos (Philippines)

Silver – Dr. Chutima Sacchanan (Thailand)

Silver – Mr. Pham The Khang (Vietnam)

Silver – Dr. Hlaing Hlaing Gyi (Myanmar)

Silver – Mr. Ahmad Syawqi (Indonesia)



**Vice President U Myint Swe delivers  
Speech at closing ceremony of  
CONSAL XVII**



**MLA President U Than Aung announced  
the winner of CONSAL XVII outstanding  
Librarians Award**

The next time, the 18<sup>th</sup> CONSAL XVIII will be held in Cambodia.



**MLA transferred the CONSAL Flag and funds to Cambodia**

During the congress, the role of the librarians will be clearly seen. By conducting this kind of congress, the young generation will take interest in library works and rely on it so that whatever they want to read or do research on any subject they will find much help from the library. It was also an important congress for the librarians in the region to share information among themselves.

Although it is an IT age, the library should provide books to the people and to do social works together with the people.

May I write this article thank to all those who took part in this important CONSAL XVII to become a success, especially librarians from oversea and local, volunteer students and teachers and all the participants who attended the Congress. Thank you all.