

**3rd IFLA Presidential Meeting, Berlin
Germany, 19th-20th of February 2009.**

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From 19 to 20 February 2009, I attended the 3rd IFLA Presidential Meeting at the Foreign Ministry in Berlin, Germany. The theme of the meeting was: "Access to Knowledge Infrastructures: Networking through Libraries".

BI- International kindly supported my participation. So I could obtain a financial aid which covered the duration of my professional stay (4 days) plus the registration fee.

180 participants took part in the conference: international library experts, politicians and decision makers from Germany and from Islamic countries, were present and discussed the role of libraries within the international networking of the knowledge society.

After the official opening, the conference began and Mr Khaled al Dhaheri, from the National Library of United Arab Emirates talked about the importance of the development of the Information Society. In her paper on "the digital libraries as social challenge", Claudia Lux, the IFLA president, talked about using the new technology in libraries. Ellen Tise, the IFLA president elected, talked about the role of the librarians and the libraries in the developing countries for access to knowledge.

Each presentation was very interesting. They showed the importance of the uses of the new technologies in the libraries and how the lack of those technologies can affect the expansion of the libraries, the co-operation and of course, the development of the information society.

In the afternoon, I benefit from the German and the Arab countries experiences on co-operation. It was very interesting and I appreciated the Egyptian experience and the presentation on the AFLI as a professional society.

During the two days I could attend the presentation of the various lecturers who presented the situation of the libraries in their respective country and their

requirements in term of regional cooperation. Some initiative in networking was presented too.

I've noticed during the conference an obvious need for co-operation between first, the librarians of the Arab world and between them and IFLA. Participants agree and were unanimous that co-operation is essential for their development and showed the real need and desire to work together in a network.

All the conferences quite appropriate with the theme and focus on sharing information and knowledge between librarians with emphasis on co-operation, information literacy and digitisation of cultural heritage.

I appreciated the Morocco National Library Director presentation on the cultural heritage and digitization. The Algerian National Library has exactly the same requirements in term of financing and learning. I hope that all the National libraries in the Maghreb area work together for the development and the preserving of our cultural heritage.

The theme of the final panel discussion was: "Libraries and Science: Partners in the Arena of Global Digitization – Limitations and Possibilities". Lecturers from Germany and particularly the Arab World presented the number and the situation of the libraries on their countries. I was impressed by the Palestinian presentation. As we know the country recently lived serious problems but that did not prevent the librarians from working to offer their services to the readers and at the same time evaluate the requirements needed to promote libraries in Palestine.

And so the participants spent the two days together by frankly discussing and exchanging their points of view and experiments. This conference gave me the possibility to discuss with many colleagues and keep in touch with them. Both the biographical information about the speakers of the meeting and the invited guests and the participants list will be a work tool for me to exchange with my colleagues.

BI- International grant also allowed me to attend the IFLA Management and Marketing mid-year meeting witch was helded in Staatsbibliothek of Berlin, the 20th afternoon and 21st of February 2009. As a correspondent member for the Arab countries in the IFLA Management & Marketing section and nominate for the section standing committee it was very important for me to be present in that meeting.

After the meeting I took the opportunity to visit the wonderful Staatsbibliothek. I was so impressed by that beautiful and huge library.

I also enjoyed very much the jazz show and the Zentral- und landesbibliothek visit before the wonderful reception with a great buffet at the same library.

I adored Berlin in the snow and I feel very comfortable with German people witch were so nice and pleasant to me as well in the conference or at the hotel and even in the street. The German hospitality should be specified and I was agreeably surprised by the kindness of the German people.

I'm very satisfied to have taken part in this conference which was very constructive to me.

I'm thankful to Claudia Lux and the BI- International with its staff specially Mss Mc Leod and Klauser who helped for my venue to Berlin and allowed me to meet and share experiments with information professionals from different countries.

I would like in the end of this report to ask people who read it; to be indulgent for my bad English.