The Asia Group is made up of National Toy Library Associations in South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Cambodia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. A few other countries such as Singapore, Thailand, Brunei and Indonesia have indicated interest in joining the Asia group as well.

The Asia Group held its 5th ATLA in Taiwan from 19-21st July 2016 attended by 32 members from Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Hongkong, and Taiwan. The 6th ATLA Conference which was to be held in the Philippines has been postponed to 2020 so as to not clash with ITLA Conference in 2019.

At the 5th ATLA Assembly Meeting in Taiwan in 2016, the group agreed to work on strengthening its network of toy libraries and to establish more cohesive communication channels through Edsel Ramirez who was appointed as the Secretary for Asia. ATLA now has an FB Page as well as a FB Group. An ongoing project is to collect information on the various types of toy libraries and to develop a directory where we will know what resources and assistance members can offer each other especially in times of disasters such as that in Philippines and Japan. Each year the Japan Toy Library Association supports member countries such as Cambodia. Malaysia’s Executive Committee members visited Cambodia twice and Taiwan will be visiting Malaysia this year. We hope to have more cross border visits to develop the Asian Toy Libraries Community. We have reconnected with Singapore and hope to have them on board soon.

A number of key issues were brought up by members over the past 2 years:

1) **Asia Toy Library Association Networking Coordinator**
   - The need to have a Toy Library Coordinator to help coordinate toy library activities – Lin from Taiwan was appointed to do this as he travels to a number of Asian countries every year.

2) **Inclusion of Pacific countries**
   - Discussions on the request to include New Zealand and Australia to have Asia Pacific Region instead of only Asia – Only 4 countries agreed that this is a good idea but the other members felt that there was a need to strengthen the South East Asian libraries (where Myanmar, Laos and Indonesia have yet to join) and then to include the bigger Asian countries like India and China before we include Australia and New Zealand.

3) **Collection of resources and toy making expertise**
   - Takamura San of Japan will lead this and work with Dream Lin from Taiwan as Toy Committee Coordinator to develop and train local toy making expertise.

Most toy libraries are servicing children with special needs and marginalised indigenous children in rural communities. They operate in many ways and services vary depending on the communities they serve. Some lending; some are playrooms while some double up as resource centres while others are in hospitals with mobile toy libraries. Below are brief reports form some of the countries.

**HONGKONG TOY LIBRARY FOR THE ELDERLY**

Hongkong Toy Library reported that it now has 5 branches with over 1000 toys for the elderly and their caregivers. They aim to help elders with mild cognitive impairment, encourage self help skills, enhance interactions and well

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being to improve the quality of life. An important aspect are the intergenerational activities and the use of cultural materials and toys which was showcased in ATLA Taiwan Conference.

They celebrated World Play Day on 28th May with a number of interactive games with the elderly members and their families.

KOREA TOY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Since the 1st toy library started by Dr Freda Kim in 1982 for special needs children the toy libraries in Korea have increased in numbers with more than 200 funded by government, foundations and corporate sector. The mission of KTLA is to build child play friendly communities. More and more toy libraries are now functioning as Support Centers for Childrearing to provide part and fulltime childcare and play therapy. KTLA has done a number of international exchanges. KTLA successfully hosted the 13th ITLA from August 18-22 in 2014 with the theme “Play For Life”. Since then they have continued their support for toy libraries in Asia through:

- Love Cambodia Toy Gifts Visits
- 5th ATLA Conference in Taiwan
- Introducing toy libraries to Indonesia and other countries

The Chair of Korea Toy Library Association, Youngsuk Suh, celebrated the 20th WPD in Seoul, Korea with Dr. Freda Kim, Founder of WPD together with children in a beautiful park. There were loads of outdoor games and play for the children and their families. For more information log on to Korea Toy Library Association FB Page.
PHILIPPINE TOY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Philippine Toy Library (PTL) is a non-profit organization, founded on 12 June 2012, that creates safe play spaces where children from marginalized communities can play for free. With the vision of ‘happiness through play’, PTL advocates for the right of every child to play regardless of personal and socio-economic circumstances. PTL carries out its mission through the support of private persons, organizations, and corporations who share cash, toys, renovation materials, toy library equipment and other resources. From its inception in 2012, PTL has put up 190 toy libraries across the Philippines. Their mission is to provide children “Happiness through play!” by creating Spaces and Opportunities for Play to happen for underprivileged children in different communities. It was agreed that Philippines will be the host of the next ATLA Conference in 2019 but this was postponed to 2020 due to the clash with ITLA Conference. For more information please log on to the website: http://www.philippinetoylibrary.org

THE PLAY ASSOCIATION OF R.O.C. (TAIWAN) & JUSTPLAY

Led by Dream Lin, The Play Association of Taiwan successfully organised a very interesting ATLA Conference in June 2016 where the visits to different types of toy libraries run by both private sector and government were the highlights. Members were impressed with the work of the Toy Librarian at one of the centers where new toys were created from old ones. Dream Lin and his team frequently sends a mobile toy library to tribal communities, homes and shelters for marginalised children. Toy libraries in mobile castles and public centers have also started. Sessions on toy making for parents and communities are also a great part of the services of the toy libraries.

The World Play Day Theme 2019 “Let’s Loving Play with the Elder People” saw various events held by toy libraries that involved the elderly and their families playing together with both indoor and outdoor games as well as sale of locally made resources.
JAPANESE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TOY LIBRARIES

The JNCTL was established in 1983. It now has 373 Toy Libraries. In 2019 it was recognized as a non-profit organization involved in developing locally handmade toys made of cloth, wood and paper which are very popular. They also work with many professional toy makers. JNCTL are actively carrying out toy librarian training in various places as well as working with toy doctors of toy hospitals. It is supported by Japan Toy Library Foundation which in turn enabled it to support areas that were affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and other disasters with the local toy library.

HANDS OF HOPE COMMUNITY CENTRES CAMBODIA

Since 2012, HHC has been a non-profit organisation that primarily focused on the needs of children with disabilities and autism but has expanded its services to include outreach to communities and their children through homebased care and toy libraries. The toy library program continues to be very popular both in schools and in the community where there are now 3 toy libraries in three local schools and an additional mobile toy library set up in the local communities. The toy libraries give opportunities to students from the local schools to interact and learn together with the students at HHC through an educational context. It also gives opportunities to parents to play, learn grow and interact with their children and to spend quality time with them. Play, Learn and Growth together. This year, the toy libraries served up to 2300 children with and without disabilities.
The Association of Toy Libraries Malaysia (ATLM) had its Protem Committee meeting on 14th October 2017 and it took over the work of the Malaysian National Council of Toy Libraries. Toy libraries was formally registered on 12th February 2018. Most toy libraries are servicing children with special needs and marginalized indigenous children in rural communities. They operate in many ways and services vary depending on the communities they serve. Some lending; some are playrooms while some double up as resource centres while others are in hospitals with mobile toy libraries started in 2004. Currently, there are approximately 100 toy libraries nationwide with about 60 under NGOs and 40 by the Government in their shelter homes and community rehabilitation centres.

Ms Aileen Hoe and Ms Loh Ln Khuan both visited Cambodia toy library to donate some toys and to learn about how community-based programmes are working in Cambodia through the toy library. The President of ATLM, Datin PH Wong attended the Board Meeting and Conference in Leiden, Netherlands in May 2017 as Secretary of the Board. ATLM has successfully obtained funding to set up toy libraries for children in urban poor housing as well as those in East Malaysia (government shelter homes, NGO Centre as well as in public libraries in rural areas).

World Play Day 2019 was celebrated by several toy libraries and a press statement was released on May 28th. The theme was CRC@30 - Rights to Play. The events were to showcase the work of toy libraries and to get parents to allow their children to play especially outdoors instead of studying or being on screen time. Detailed report and contact information can be obtained via our FB Page.
MEMBERS OF ASIAN TOY LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

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