“The strategic role of government libraries in providing evidence to support the preparation of VNRs”

Side Event: 10th Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development
March 30, 12:30-13:45 UTC/GMT+7 VIRTUAL

Organizer(s)
Winston Roberts – Chair, Asia-Oceania Regional Division Committee of the International Federation of Library Associations, and Institutions

Co-organizer(s)
Stephen Wyber, Head of Policy and Development, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions
Michelle Lau, Manager, Regional Office, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

Registration
To register for this online side event, please use this link to the registration form:
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2j1SBi5ES6O472wK-SZCPw

Background
This online panel of researchers and policy leaders from government libraries will comment on the role of their institutions in collecting scientific data from all sectors of the economy and social and cultural life, which they can then process securely and provide to their national authorities charged with compiling Voluntary National Reviews on progress toward the UN SDGs. The panel will take a multistakeholder approach, emphasising cooperation among stakeholders in
the public and private sectors, business, academia and civil society. The panel will
demonstrate how libraries fulfil their mandated role in the recognition that they
are seen as trusted and impartial sources of information in an increasingly
complex world.

The panellists are information managers and researchers from government
libraries at the science/policy interface. The information sector is broad: it reaches
into communities on one hand, and into government agencies at all levels on the
other hand.

The 4 panellists are experts from Vanuatu, Singapore, the Maldives, and Fiji, with
experience of contributing to the VNR process.

The panel discussion and following question & answer session will be moderated
by the Chair of the IFLA Regional Committee representing the library sector across
Asia-Oceania.

**Key Questions and Outcomes**

This side event will examine the following key guiding questions:

1. The importance of (and strategies for) gathering evidence to underpin the
   preparation of individual countries' VNRs in 2023.
2. Panellists' perspective on their country's progress toward the SDGs so far
   with a particular focus on the Goals under review at the 2023 APFSD.
3. The impact of the pandemic on progress toward the SDGs, and the
   possibilities for solutions to accelerate progress.
4. Issues of particular concern to small island developing states in the region.

It is expected that the session will be relevant to policy staff in government
agencies, UN agencies, international development agencies, and the
library/information sector itself.

The session should give Forum participants a greater understanding of the
strategic value of the broad library/information sector, reaching into all areas of
national life, and its role as a key part of an integrated holistic strategy for
development.
### Programme

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<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>12:30</td>
<td>Interactive panel discussion followed by Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>12:35</td>
<td>Ms Fathimath Shiham, Director-General, National Library of the Maldives, Case study of the Maldives</td>
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<td>12:45</td>
<td>Ms Tulia Vakalutukali, Manager, Library Services of Fiji, Case study of Fiji</td>
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<td>Ms Betty Williams, Head of the Library, Reserve Bank of Vanuatu, Case study of Vanuatu</td>
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<td>Ms Soh Lin Li, Director, Partnership, National Library Board &amp; Vice President, Library Association of Singapore, Case study of Singapore</td>
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<td>13:15</td>
<td>Moderated Q &amp; A session online</td>
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<td>13:40</td>
<td>Closing Remarks</td>
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**For information, please contact**

Mr. **Winston Roberts**, at  [winston.roberts@dia.govt.nz](mailto:winston.roberts@dia.govt.nz)