

NIWA Chairpersons Report 2013-2015.

By Ms Veno Kauaria, November 2015

Dear Colleagues,

Let me take this opportunity to thank all our committee members for working very hard to ensure NIWA achieved its objectives. Special thanks to Dr Mnubi-Mchombu-Deputy Chair; Ms Theo Shumbuli-Treasurer; Mr Hilary Mudengi-Secretary; Mr Wilhelm Utoni-Information and Publicity; Ms Selma Ilonga-Deputy Secretary; Ms Foibe Shaambeni-Member and co-opted member Ms Elizabeth Matheus. Colleagues, NIWA activities are carried out as voluntary work, thus it is not easy to get members who are committed to ensure they perform their normal jobs and execute NIWA activities, it needs hard work and commitment, thank you all.

I will fail my duty if I don't thank all our members who have been attending our meetings regularly; or gave us some advice on operational matters; I will also want to thank the National Library for providing a venue for the end of year meeting.

The following are the activities which took place since we took NIWA leadership positions in 2013:

Meetings:

Since 2013, we have had more than 14 meetings which includes Annual General Meetings and EXCOM meetings. This includes the meetings held in the following dates: 12 April 2013 Reviving NIWA; 26 July 2013; 2 August 2013; 16 June 2014; 26 February 2015.

EX COM: 7 May 2013; 17 July 2013; 23 February 2014; 15 March 2014; 6 June 2014; 9 October 2014; 29 January 2015; and 5 November 2015

Activities:

- Meetings with Regional Librarians from the Ministry of Education during their annual book selection workshop which took place on 26 June 2013 (In attendance: Chiku, Mudengi and Utoni) Promoting NIWA to non-member librarians: Last year we also represented NIWA and promoted the profession to a group of librarians at the book selection workshop at the National library. This was a great success.
- Namibia Symposium:

NIWA in collaboration with Ministry of Education and UNAM organised an International Symposium in Windhoek from 7-9 October 2013. The papers from the symposium have now been published.
- First Time Writers Workshop 21-22 January 2015. The workshop was attended by 21 participants, including 16 female and 5 males. There were 17 first time writers with 4 who have never presented an article/ conference paper before.

- Membership Drive:

During 2013, we had 59 members (individual and institutions) and currently, we have 144 members.

UNAM: We had a total of 4 membership drive activities. The first one was on the 12 March 2014 to 1st year students taking the Diploma in Library and Records and Archives studies. This talk was addressed by Veno (Director), Dr Mchombu, Mudengi, Foibe and Uutoni

The second one was a talk to the 3rd years Records and Archives students second semester (8 July 2014), this talk was done by Dr Mchombu and Uutoni

The third one talk was to the fourth years Library & Information Science student which took place on the 25 October 2014, and it was done by Dr Mchombu and Uutoni.

The last one was this year (2015), we spoke to the fourth years Library and Archives students in the second Semester (I can't remember the date) the talk was done by Dr Mchombu and Uutoni

- Constitution:

The revision of the constitution process started at the beginning of 2014. We want to thank Mr Uutoni for spearheading the process

- Building Strong Library Association-Kumasi Ghana- Three of our members attended the workshop in Kumasi Ghana from 11-14 March 2014 which were sponsored by IFLA through AfLIA. The report will be distributed during NIWAs Annual General Meeting.

- IFLA Satellite Conference

The conference took place in Windhoek from 11-12 August 2015. We had a very successful conference, more than 130 delegates coming from: Canada, Estonia, Ghana, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Spain, Tanzania, Uganda, United States and Zimbabwe. It was an honour to have such an important international conference in Namibia where librarians and information officer were able to share experiences on how they support access to information for the enhancement of national development plans.

- Membership Status- NIWA is a paid up member of the following organisations: IFLA; SCECSAL; ESARBICA; AfLIA)

- Financial Status- In April 2013 when we revived NIWA, the bank statement had N\$16,000 in the account. Today, we have N\$ 86,544.45 in our Bank Account. Our Treasure will present the financial statement.

- Members Achievement:

Mr Wilhelm Utoni- He obtained his Master of Science (Msc): Library and Information Science, Digital Library and Information Services in 2014;

He was appointed as IFLA Standing Committee Member: Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning (CPDWL)

Ms Veno Kauria- Appointed a board member of OCLC; IFLA Africa Member and IFLA Africa Standing Committee Member

Dr. Ellen Ndeshi Namhila- Re-appointed IFLA Board member for 2 more years; obtained her PhD 2015; also appointed as PVC-Finance and Administration, University of Namibia

Dr. Chiku Mnubi-Mchombu- Re-appointed IFLA Social Sciences Standing Committee member for two years; obtained PhD 2013

Ms Foibe Shaambeni- Obtained her Degree in Library Science in 2015

Prof Kingo Mchombu – continued his position as Hon. President, Book Aid International, UK.

- Marketing the Association

Mr Utoni and Mudengi managed to publish a brochure for the association which has been distributed at various events

- Challenges

Apart from the successful story, NIWA is faced by challenges as all its committee members are fulltime employees. It makes it difficult to conduct a lot of activities due to limited time.

Two of our members were transferred outside Windhoek, it was not easy for the remaining members to operate. Thus two co-opted members were appointed in October 2014 to assist the committee members.

END OF ANNUAL REPORT