

# Asian Region Reports

Dr. Priti Sachdev

Chairperson 2022-2024



# Affiliated Country Associations

**Afghanistan**  
**Bangladesh**  
**China**  
**Hong Kong**  
**India**  
**Indonesia**  
**Japan**

**Malaysia**  
**Myanmar**  
**Pakistan**  
**Philippines**  
**Singapore**  
**Taiwan**  
**Thailand**  
**(Iran)**

# Reports not yet received from

- Bangladesh
- China
- Hong Kong
- Pakistan
- Myanmar
- Malaysia

# Afghanistan

- The name **ARSA** (Afghanistan Reading and Social Association) is now legally changed to **Sustainable Development Organization of Afghanistan (SDOA)**.
- Its mission and vision as well as its activities remain the same.
- In the last year, the SDOA has held **84 literacy classes** over nine months addressing 1,250 youth and adolescent girls in the remote areas of Arghandab and Deh Chopan in the Zabul province.

# India – Reading Association of India

- Dr. Asoke Bhattacharya is the new RAI president, July 2022
  - During this time, RAI has organised four main programmes, some in collaboration with other local and international organisations:
    - 1: An **online seminar** in November 2022 in collaboration with the Global Network for High School Research (GNFR), Norway and Association for Folk High School (AFHS), Denmark
    - 2: A **field-level symposium** on literacy and people’s participation in December 2022 for school teachers, students, and literacy activists
    - 3: A **one-day symposium** on “**Reading the Word, Reading the World**” in collaboration with the Indian Adult Education Association (IAEA) and the Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy (IICP) in April 2023
    - 4: RAI in collaboration with the International Forum for Studies in Society and Religion (IFSSR) conducted a **two-day international conference** in January 2024.

# Indonesia - IRWA

- Activities undertaken by IRWA --- 3 categories:
  - **Programs for Community Development**
  - **Programs for School Literacy Development**
  - **Programs for Teacher Professional Development in Literacy Area**
- Programs conducted for **Community Development** include the following projects / activities:
  1. **Museums as Community Learning Centres:** A series of workshops were held to design graphic organizers for student visitors to make their visits more interactive and interesting.
  2. **The Wisata Literasi Maluku Program:** Elementary school teachers from three islands participated in events related to book writing. National Literacy Awards were distributed at this event.
  3. **The Book & Stories Translation Project:** Aimed at translating local stories from the local language to English
  4. **Consultancy & Provision of Materials:** Supported by the Horukane English Course by providing reading material in Bahasa Indonesia as well as English and another where the IRWA provided reading materials specially designed by the teacher training faculty of Pattimura University at Ambon, Maluku
  5. **Workshops for Sunday School Teachers:** Integrating literacy instruction into Sunday school teaching, in collaboration with the Children's Ministry Committee at Synod, Jakarta

# Indonesia

- - **School Literacy Development Activities**: Two activities under this head:
    1. Read to LEAD Goes to School
    2. A Workshop for Students: Raising the Critical Reader
- - **Teacher Professional Development (in Literacy Area)**
    - Teacher Training Series:
      - Integrating Diagnostic Teaching Model Into Classroom Teaching
      - Utilizing AI in Writing Scientific Papers
      - Strengthening Teacher Professionalism Through Research Article Writing

# Japan -JRA

- **1. Reading Survey Project**

- The Mainichi Shimbun, a major Japanese newspaper, ended its 73-year-old national reading survey for adults in 2020. This was taken over by JRA again and launched in 2023. A nationwide survey has been conducted among 3,000 Japanese adults (18 to 60s). The results will be reported at the annual conference on September 22, 2024.

- **2. Public Seminar**

- The Research Promotion Division of JRA held a public seminar in a hybrid format for the first time on March 24, 2024, titled “My Research Methods: Various Approaches to Studying Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening”. ~100 participants

- **3. Annual Conference**

- The 67th annual conference was held on September 24, 2023, in Tokyo, attracting 65 participants. During the conference, two papers were honored with the “Reading Science Research Encouragement Award.”

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# JRA – Award-Winning Research Paper Titles

- Kondo, M., Sasaki, S., & Hoshiyama, A. (2022). Specificities of language development in children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD): An examination of the contradictions found in multiple perspectives. *The Science of Reading*, 63(3-4), pp. 111-123.
- Watanabe, K. (2023). Redefining “fact” and “opinion.” *The Science of Reading*, 64(1), pp. 1-14.

# Singapore - Society for Reading and Literacy

- The Society for Reading and Literacy, Singapore (SRL) has a current strength of 105 members (paid)
- Through its **Story Telling Circle (STC)**, it has conducted 10 sessions since March 2022 based on storytelling and life narratives for young and older children including a few author-led sessions
- The SRL has a subsidiary affiliate through which some of its activities are undertaken. This is the **Singapore Writers Circle (SWC)**, whose name has now been changed to **Writers Interest Network (WIN)**.
- Since there is not much need for basic reading and writing as the government is doing this, projects centre around storytelling and developing their own stories.

# Taiwan - TRA

- The Taiwan Reading Association (TRA), founded in 2000
- Aim & Objective:
  - **Improving student reading habits, improving the quality of reading instruction, and encouraging reading research in the country**
  - Academicians and professors from various universities are connected to the association, giving it wide exposure and connections.
- The main project:
  - **A Book Talk Contest** (in progress) to encourage students to read English books and share their favourite books, and to enhance their interest in English reading and oral expression skills
  - This is a countrywide programme with several elimination stages and cash prizes to be won.

# Thailand – TRA Thailand Literacy Association

- The Thailand Reading Association (TRA) changed its name to Thailand Literacy Association (TLiA) with the aim of going beyond reading to literacy.

The projects and plans for 2023-2024:

- Online training on **Library Management and Information Services** held in June 2023, cohosted by TLA ILISS group and Office of Academic Resources, Chulalongkorn University
- The ***Thai Reading Journal*** has been upgraded to a national journal by Thai Citation Index
- The Thailand **literacy seminar** has been planned for July 2024 by the Thailand Literacy Association and School of Liberal Arts, Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, Thailand.

# Philippines - RAP

- July 2023 - The **51st RAP National Conference** was held in partnership with the U.S. Embassy
- August 2023 - The **RAP-Innotech partnership project** on early grades reading intervention was completed
- September 2023 - **International Literacy Day** was celebrated through a webinar in partnership with Rex Education over Zoom
- September 2023 - A program on the **science of reading** was conducted by the RAP Laguna Chapter
- November 2023 - The **51st national Demofest** was held at Aklan State University in collaboration with Abiva Publishing House
- Nov. & Dec. 2023 - RAP made a **presentation at a public hearing** on the National Reading Month Act in the Philippines Senate

# Philippines - RAP

- November 2023 - Completed a **turnover of books** donated by Abiva Publishing House
- December 2023 - Participated in the **Philippines Education Conference** in plenary session
- RAP has received **recognition till July 2025** as a registered organization by the National Book Development Board

# Philippines - RAP

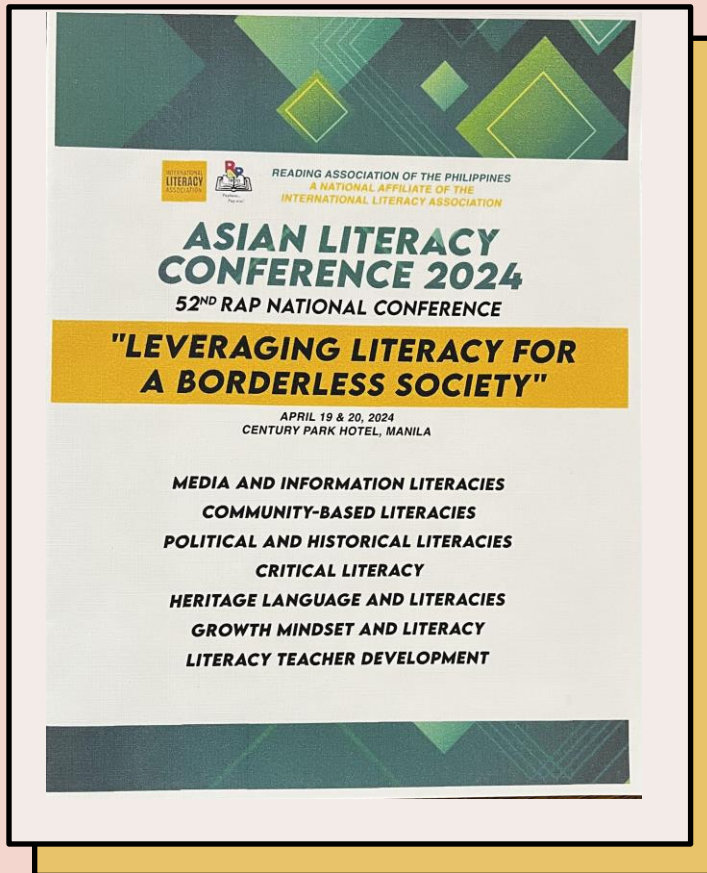
- January – March 2024 – 2nd phase of **the Kap'e Tinapay Pagbasa** started in January 2024 after funds received from ILA with books donated by Abiva Publishing House
- Feb 2024 - Planning and meetings for **ALC 2024 / 52nd RAP National Conference** to invite sponsors for the event
- Participation in the **National Readership Survey** of the national Book Development Board
- Representation to the launch of **Abiva SRA Reading Laboratory**, Power Builders, online

# IDAC Meeting - 18 April, 2024

- Hybrid mode meeting attended by reps from India, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand
- Virtually attended by Dr. Namtip Wipawan (Thailand) and Dr. Athriyana Paetiwel (Indonesia)
- Presentation of affiliate reports
- Dr. Rosalyn requested Dr. Namtip to take over as next chair of IDAC – tentatively accepted
- Taiwan nominated as vice chair – request will be sent to the president of TRA
- Next ALC likely to be held in Bangkok, Thailand



# Asian Literacy Conference - 19/20 April 2024 Century Park Hotel, Manila



# Philippines - RAP

1. ALC & 52nd RAP national conference, 19/20 April 2024
2. Each day, a keynote speaker, three plenary presentations, a panel presentation, and concurrent research paper presentations in the afternoon
3. The three participating schools in the project funded by ILA shared their experiences of the RAP collaboration.
4. At the end of the conference, Dr. Rosalyn Mirasol retired as president of RAP and Dr. Leonor E. Diaz takes over from Dr. Mirasol

# Iran

- Request for affiliation received

*Thank you*