The Sabah Foundation sponsored a regional conference of chief librarians called, “Persidangan Pengarah/Ketua Perpustakaan Institusi Pengajian Tinggi Milik Pemerintah Negara-Negara Rantau ASEAN,” which was held on 14–16 March 1983, at Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. Some 50 delegates attended, including librarians, archivists, library school instructors, national librarians, public librarians as well as administrators of universities. All in all, 25 papers were presented to the Conference including one from this Library.

A complete set of the working papers/background papers are now lodged with this Library. They are as follows:

1. Peranan perpustakaan dalam pengajian tinggi di rantau ASEAN – satu laporan dari Universitas Lambung Mangkurat, oleh Shafwan Idris.
2. Perkembangan akademik rantau ASEAN melalui Perpustakaan Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia: satu kajian kes (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia: a case study), oleh Norsham Muslim.
3. Academic Resource Center (ARC), Chulalongkorn University, by Asst. Prof. Knid Tantavirat.
4. The Library of University of Sriwijaya in its development towards the year 2000, by Chuzaimah Dahlan Diem.
7. Peranan perpustakaan dalam pendidikan tinggi di rantau ASEAN, oleh Oerip Soetono.
8. Servicing a rapidly expanding academic community: the experience of the National University of Singapore Library, by Peggy Wai-Chee Hochstadt.
9. Institut Teknologi Mara, perpustakaanannya dan kemungkinan kerjasama peringkat awal antara perpustakaan di Institut Pengajian Tinggi di negara-negara ASEAN, oleh Rugayah Abdul Rashid.
10. The development of library and information services at the Library of Universiti Pertanian Malaysia, by Syed Salim Agha.
11. The Library of the Universiti Sains Malaysia, by Lim Huck Tee.
12. The University of the Philippines library system, by Myrna S. Feliciano & Filomena M. Tann
13. Information resources on national development in ASEAN countries, by Zaleha Tamby.
14. The National Archives of Malaysia, its hopes and fulfilment, by Zakiah Hanum.
15. The conservation of archives materials, by Maidin Hussin.
17. The National Archives of Malaysia: its acquisition programmes and activities, by Hassan Mohd.
20. Academic library: the heart of the University: the case of the University of the City of Manila, by Benjamin G. Tayabas.
21. The Central Luzon State University Library, by Celia D. dela Cruz.
22. Perpustakaan Pusat Universitas Mulawarman
RESOLUTIONS
Amongst the significant resolutions recommended by the Conference are the following:

(i) Library Education and Training. This Conference recommends that an ASEAN cooperative training programme in the form of courses and in-service training in the fields of librarianship, documentation and archives be developed. A paper should be prepared and submitted to the appropriate authorities in the ASEAN secretariat in order to obtain financial support. The conference further recommends that the participating members of this conference take the initiative to submit this proposal to their appropriate authorities.

Noting the need for high-calibre library members in order to cope with new challenges facing libraries today, library education programmes should give greater emphasis on managerial subjects.

The university administrations be urged to have a committed policy of continuing staff development for academic and professional interests with a view to improving the management of libraries.

(ii) Directory of Library Resources. Recognizing the need for establishing a practical approach to cooperative usage of library, documentation and archival resources, training and other facilities in ASEAN, this conference recommends that Yayasan Sabah initiate the compilation of a directory of such resources and facilities in ASEAN.

(iii) Depository for University Publications. Considering that university libraries need to strengthen their resources as a basis for greater cooperation, it is recommended that university libraries function as depositories for all publications generated by the universities concerned. To facilitate bilateral exchange, this conference further recommends that each university library prepare listings of such publications.

(iv) ASEAN Library Newsletter. This conference endorses in principle the concept of a newsletter for disseminating information on library, documentation and archival services in ASEAN and recommends that Yayasan Sabah be entrusted with the responsibility of launching this newsletter. It is further recommended that each participating member country designates a contributing editor for this purpose.

(v) Conservation of Materials. Noting the lack of sufficient programmes for conservation of archival and library materials in ASEAN and realising the importance of the need for conservation technology and facilities for archivists, librarians and documentalists, this conference recommends that Southeast Asian Regional Branch of the International Council of Archives (SARBICA) takes the initiative to seek UNESCO funding for the setting up of a Regional Conservation Laboratory and Training Centre.”

All these resolutions will be submitted to administrators and policy-makers in relevant ministries and departments in all the countries of ASEAN.