

**MY THOUGHTS OF PPM BY MAIMUNAH KADIR, ACTING PRESIDENT (9.12.2014 –
14.4.2014)
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On 9th December 2014 PPM Council was shocked with the sudden passing away of our beloved President, Assoc. Professor Dr. Mohd Sharif Mohd Saad. As Vice President 1, I was naturally very close to our late President and either of us will call each other to discuss about matters regarding PPM. Without him we were in a state of shock for almost a week. Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un (Arabic: *إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ*) is a part of a verse from the Qur'an which translates to "We surely belong to Allah and to Him we shall return. The phrase is recited by Muslims when a person experiences a tragedy in life, especially upon hearing news that a person has died.

I had to gather my strength after that week long of feeling emptiness and sadness because PPM had agreed to host the IFLA Asia Oceania Section Midterm meeting in Kuala Lumpur, 17-18 February 2014 and the International Seminar on Library Consortia and Community Engagement, 19th February 2014 at Perdana Leadership Foundation (PLF), Putrajaya. All of the council members had to work together to ensure the success of the IFLA RSCAO Midterm meeting and the international seminar could proceed as planned. A lot of logistic issues such as hotel accommodation and transportation for the RSCAO members needed to be organised to ensure the success of the meeting. PPM being the host must ensure that the RSCAO members who were attending the meeting were also given the opportunity to sample some sightseeing of the city of Kuala Lumpur. For that we had organised to take the RSCAO members and their accompanying spouses and family members to visit Royal Selangor Pewter in the afternoon after their second day meeting. Royal Selangor Pewter had a special session with them and they were able to see and experience first-hand the art of making pewters. After the visit to Selangor Pewter they were also taken to Beryls' chocolate factories for some shopping to bring home some local chocolates.

On 19th February 2014 they were transported to Putrajaya for the International Seminar. We had Dr. Fawz Abdullah, Sub-Region Chair (West Asia-Arab Countries), from Lebanon and Ms Roza A. Berdigaliyeva from Kazakhstan as speakers at the conference. The Mid Term meeting and the conference was a success and the RSCAO members enjoyed a successful meeting and seminar and they were grateful to PPM for being able to organise that very important events despite the sudden demise of PPM's President. In time of sadness and grief, PPM council members gathered their strengths and worked tirelessly together to ensure that we could organised such an event and to honour the commitment that was made by our late President. That was a memorable experience for me as Acting President to ensure we acted in a professional manner and all for the love and passion we shared for PPM. Even though my Acting period was very short (only 5 months) but we managed to organise the publication of "Cabaran Pembangunan Perpustakaan: Esei-esei Memperingati Shahar Banun Jaafar dan Shahaneem Hanoum Dadameah" which was launched at PPM's AGM. I am truly indebted to Dato Zawiyah Baba for chairing the Gedenschrift publication sub-committee for her guidance, passion and commitment to ensure the publication was ready and published before the AGM. During those months leading to the AGM I had encountered a personal problem when my husband fell and broke his left arms in three

parts. He had to be operated on with a metal strip inserted into his arm at Putrajaya Hospital and had to excuse myself from the RSCAO members from attending the dinner with them on the 18th of February because my husband was discharged that day and I had to fetch him at the hospital to bring him home.

This was the starting point that made me decided not to stand for the President of PPM because I felt I was not able to fulfil my responsibilities. This decision also paved the way for the appointment of a new President, Dr. Nor Edzan Che Nasir for the term 2014-2016. Even though I only had 5 months but it was full of activities with RSCAO midterm meeting and International Seminar on Consortia and Community Engagement in February; PPM's annual retreat (25-26th) January; International Digital Library Conference(IDLC) organised by PNM and PPM as co-organiser and PPM's AGM on 14th April 2014. Those events even though it happened within such a short space of time it will certainly remain in my memory forever as the wonderful times shared with PPM in times of grief and happiness!