

SESSION 1A - ASEANization  
INVITED PAPER 1

## THE ASEANIZATION OF FILIPINO LIBRARIANS

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### *Abstract*

This paper gives an update on the initiatives that have been undertaken for the ASEAN Integration 2015 agenda, particularly on the so-called “cross border mobility of highly-skilled professionals”. It is a way of making Filipino librarians “ASEANized”, which means being aware of what ASEAN Integration is all about, including some of the measures and programs connected with it, namely: the ASEAN Framework on Services (AFAS), the Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs), the Philippine Qualification Framework (PQF) and the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF). By knowing what the current status is, including the barriers that impede the successful implementation of said programs, the participants might be encouraged/motivated to *think ASEAN*, that is, to think of ways that can help make our library professionals world-class and competitive, thereby increasing their possibility of access to the ASEAN labor market.

Aside from the updates, the author will report on the result of the *Pre-CONSAL Convening on ASEAN Integration* that was initiated and conducted by PLAI in Bangkok, Thailand last June 2015. Of particular interest to the participants would be the comparison among three selected ASEAN countries in terms of the requirements to practice the profession, the country restrictions for foreign professionals, existing job titles, as well as the skills and competencies required of a library professional.

Finally, the author will share some challenges that our Filipino librarians will face when it comes to the issue of cross border mobility. After everything is said and done, each participant will be able to answer the question : Am I ready for ASEAN 2015?

**Keywords:** *ASEAN integration; cross border mobility of professionals; librarianship in Southeast Asia*