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In the Name of Allah

International Council on Archives, ICA, is a branch of UNESCO's, which was founded in Paris in 1950s and has more than 100 member Countries nowadays. ICA holds a plenary session annually, attended by all the members, in which coordinated guidelines and directions are cut into to concert the measures all across the member. CITRA, *Conférence internationale de la Table Ronde des Archives*, is among such forums, which is being held each year in a member state to trade views on Archives reflected at the periodicals, whose results would be passed to other members and archivists.

To disseminate its objectives, ICA has founded 13 regional branches and Iran National Library and Archives is placed at SWARBICA, South & West Asian Branch of the International Council on Archives.

The current book is compiled from the materials discussed during the *SWARBICA* forum in Iran on May 2009. The gathering was an orientation session for the Iranian repository holders, archivists and academicians with the *ICA* and *SWARBICA*. On the other hand, it smoothed the way for the Iranian record centers and repositories to know one another and reveal their will to join the club, *SWARBICA*.

The book is seen to introduce *SWARBICA* in four chapters:

In the first chapter, *SWARBICA*, its background, objectives, activities and structures are presented. Accordingly, the Branch's membership fees, publications, forums and meetings are introduced at the book.

In the second chapter, *SWARBICA* constitution and guidelines are offered. In this chapter, *SWARBICA*'s constitution and "Archives, Rules and Regulations" among the member states are discussed.

In the third chapter, minutes of the *SWARBICA* Meetings and Conferences are presented.

And finally, Legislation in *SWARBICA* region are covered at the end of the last chapter.

I wish that the book spreads the concept of "holding repositories" across the country and paves the way for the archives to hold close

contact in the region. Basic materials in writing the book have been compiled from the SWARBICA publications, minutes of the forums and websites of the member states.

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