



from other institutions are also permitted access to its materials which may not be available elsewhere. Indeed, the Dag Hammarskjold Library is widely recognized as the primary source of information for academic researchers studying the United Nations.

In addition, I have recently learned of efforts to enhance the role of the UN depository library system. If a national or major public library is designated as an official United Nations depository library, it will receive every document and publication of the United Nations. There are now 408 such libraries in 143 Member States, enabling the citizens of those countries to gain knowledge of UN activities and a deeper understanding of its purposes. At the same time the UN depository library system is contributing to bridging the information gap which exists among countries in different parts of the world.

The role of the Dag Hammarskjold Library including its depository libraries, may not attract very much attention among the public or among UN permanent missions, but it is playing an important role in facilitating access to information. The Government of Japan highly appreciates such activities of the

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