

iBBY Asia-Africa-Oceania Newsletter

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No.7



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Dear Friends,

We are very pleased that the seventh Asian Newsletter is published just before the Mexican congress. It is a kind of preparation for all of us to concentrate on what we have done recently. We look forward to the opportunity to have a session in the congress in which to review the challenges of our sections in the region once again, and see in which way we can help each other to create more achievements for our children. Unfortunately, in recent months the children of our region in Palestine, Syria, Iraq, are living in a very bad situation. The circumstances many of them face are horrific, and so many have been killed, wounded, lost their homes, or lost their families.

We hope the IBBY family by gathering in congress and exchanging their views, could find some solutions and relief for the children in crisis of this region.

We have also to thank Keivan Akbari, Iranian illustrator, who has once again designed a beautiful header and Mina Yousefi, our Iranian colleague for making the layout of this newsletter.

We are looking forward to seeing you all in congress.

Zohreh & Susanna

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IBBY Statement Regarding the Current Situation in Gaza

The International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) was established shortly after the close of World War II. IBBY's founder, Jella Lepman, believed that books could build bridges of understanding and peace between people. The children needed to know what all good readers know: you are not alone; others have experiences, feelings and needs just like you do, and there is a whole world out there you know nothing about. The children of Gaza are trapped in a life that revolves around hate and oppression.

Since 2008 IBBY (the International Board on Books for Young People) has been supporting two new children's libraries in the Gaza Strip. One library is situated in the northern community of Beit Hanoun near the Israeli border. The other is in the south in the town of Rafah, close to the border crossing with Egypt. The funding for the libraries came from the great American children's author Katherine Paterson and her family foundation. The books selected by IBBY experts in the region took months to arrive. The librarians had to be trained long distance. People from the region could not visit Gaza and the residents of the Gaza Strip were forbidden by the Israelis to travel for their training.

But they did manage to open at last. And to re-open after the invasion of Gaza, even though some of the young users were killed.

Reports from our libraries were encouraging but no one from IBBY had actually ever had the chance to visit them. Finally in that hopeful but brief moment known as the Arab Spring there was an opening. In 2013 a small IBBY delegation travelled to the Egyptian side of the Rafah crossing and finally crossed over into Gaza. IBBY's President, President of the IBBY Foundation, the Executive Director, and the head of our Palestinian section took this exceptional opportunity of seeing those libraries with our own eyes. They exceeded our expectations.

We found Gaza a quite unexpected place. At that moment the tunnels were still operating. Qatar had provided construction materials to rebuild the smashed buildings and crippled infrastructure destroyed during the invasion. There was plenty of food on store shelves. It all seemed much better organized and less poverty-stricken than we had imagined.

But this first impression of peace and order quickly started to shred as we talked to the families and children who used the Rafah library. The older kids work in the fields after school to help to support their families. But the library loomed large in their lives. Whether



after school or work children would walk often as far as a kilometre to get to the library. When they get there they have options.

Some choose to play football in a small enclosed yard that surrounds the library. Or they may go inside to read books, take turns on the sole computer, sing songs, write and illustrate stories, or just sit around chatting. When they are in the library they are safe. No one can come in and try to recruit them. They are free to choose their own books and write and say what they feel. Amazingly enough they reported that their favourite book was Cinderella! The children and their parents waited six hours for us to cross the border so that they could tell us how important this place had become for them. It was their sanctuary – the world outside the library simply wasn't safe.

The children in Beit Hanoun in the north were less easy-going, more nervous even though their parents told us that the kids were less agitated and restless when they came to the library. They told us a lot about how frightening it was to hear drones overhead because they all knew someone who had been killed in a supposedly “surgical, targeted” strike aimed only at militants. These kids had experienced the brunt of two invasions of Gaza. They claimed the second shorter invasion was worse because they knew what was in store for them. There are no bomb shelters in Gaza. Should one stay home when bombs started to fall or go out? They had friends and neighbours who died doing both.

Today these children's worst fears have come true. The borders are closed tight again. Bombing has resumed. Rafah is being targeted. An invasion is possible. But the people living in Gaza cannot become refugees. They have nowhere to go. Nowhere to hide their children when they are being bombed. Even Syrians, terrible though their situation might be, can flee and seek refuge. Children and their families in Gaza are locked in while war is being made upon them. And as is always in true in a war, children are dying daily in disproportionate numbers.

Gaza residents are invisible. Anything, apparently, can be done to them with impunity. There is a stated policy justifying targeted killings, firing into houses, knowing that there will be “collateral damage”. Where else in the world is this considered acceptable? Does this not qualify as a crime against humanity?

IBBY's libraries are now closed, who knows for how long. The children who relied on them as a safe space where they could read and write and play are forced to live in fear at home. A young man that we met on the bus as we were leaving Gaza was on his way to Egypt to



meet his mother for the first time in 15 years. She had gone to visit relatives and never been allowed back leaving him with an indifferent father and a not very enthusiastic stepmother. He was unbearably excited at the idea of seeing his mother again, but terrified that an arbitrary Egyptian official wouldn't let him in. He asked us why the Israelis hated him when he had never done anything to them. One wonders where he is right now.

With this brief, but first-hand impression of Gaza and its children, I hope that you will be moved enough to urge your heads of governments to listen to IBBY. 2014 marks the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This offensive by the government of Israel is abhorrent to all people, especially to the children of Palestine.

Ahmad Redza Ahmad Khariruddin, President of IBBY, Malaysia.

Patricia Aldana is the President of the IBBY Foundation, member of the Order of Canada.

Jehan Helou, President of IBBY Palestine

Liz Page, IBBY Executive Director, Switzerland

11 July 2014



Afghanistan:

AFBBY in Afghanistan is a popular network through which youths and children are encouraged towards better education. In Afghanistan there are about six million children in high risk circumstances, including drug addiction, street working, disability, and internally displaced children. In 2013, AFBBY reached more than 3,000 children in Afghanistan through reading promotion, story telling and other activities to raise engagement in education and reading. Through these activities, ASCHIANA achieved positive results and AFBBY has become well known in communities, schools, orphanages, camps for internally displaced persons, and among children working on the streets.

Through the AFBBY several children who were never sent to schools by their families, are now enrolled in school, although they continue to work on the streets part time. ASCHIANA implemented this project in three provinces Kabul, Herat and Mazar e sharif. AFBBY has now proper libraries for children in offices and mobile libraries covering the outreach sites in three provinces. At the three provincial locations, staff members conduct reading activities with children in schools and in the communities, including with parents and community elders. AFBBY also provides the chance for children who participated in the previous program to write a story and to work with new program members on developing reading skills. ASCHIANA has trained some peer educators who will work as volunteers on this project along with project staff to encourage and motivate other children to participate in education and make good friendships through books.

We thank IBBY and the Sharjah Foundation for their support in 2014 for the children of Afghanistan through funding and assistance to programs to help children enter education and in providing library facilities.

AFBBY staff and children arranged different awareness workshops for youths and children in its main office and in schools. Child to child trainings committees are strengthened through AFBBY. ASCHIANA will target IDP camps, schools, juvenile rehab centers, orphanages and day care centers through AFBBY mobile libraries. The teams in the three provinces include an overall project coordinator, reading assistants, story tellers, library assistants, and volunteers (children and young people).

The mobile libraries operating in Kabul, Mazar and Herat areas aim to reach more provinces in the future. In the past months, we have seen more and more people interested in reading



books and participation of children and others in the programs is growing quickly.

A short report of the activities during the past month in Kabul, Herat and Mazar.

Story books, short novels, religious books, books about children's rights, general information books, and some entertainment books were distributed to school age children.

In Kabul Province AFBY is working in ASCHIANA main centre, three IDP camps in Charahi Qambar, Dewan Bigi and Sharak Police, and in different public schools in Kabul city. Each month, we reach around 500 children in each province, there are adults who are also taking part in reading books and through their shuras they are also taking part in telling stories to children to encourage engagement with books and stories.

Librarians in Kabul city are graduate students of the "Academy of the Story" through which they build professional skills in telling stories to the children. This has the positive effect in getting children to become interested in spending time in the library.



Case Study: A Story of the Child who is coming to the Library at the Main centre of ASCHIANA.

Name: Rafiullah Mohmand

Father Name: Rahmat Gul

Age: 15 years old

"My name is Rafiullah Mohmand I am one of the students of the art class in ASCHIANA organization, and also I am going to the library at ASCHIANA main centre. I am so interested



in reading different types of book here in the library. I am interested in reading story books, but I am also trying to read the books which can improve my reading skills. I am always trying to convince other children, especially my friends, to come to the library and read books. Recently I have read a book about drugs from which I have got lots of information and I understand that how much it is dangerous for the life of the human. That is good because I can transfer this information to my friends, family members and into the community. Coming to the library has brought a lot of changes in my life; it improved my reading skills a lot. Reading different story books helps me to write short stories. I wrote a short story last week and have shown it to the story tellers who tells stories in ASCHIANA and also in the camps. He told me that it is very good. At the end this is my message to all the friends at ASCHIANA and outside that it is so important to be able to read. Without reading a person is like blind.



قصه مرغک

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ترتیب کننده رفع الله (مومند)





Australia:

A highlight of our year has been the celebration of International Children's Book Day (ICBD) in Queensland and Western Australia on the 2nd April, and in Sydney on the 5th April. The Curtis Coast Literary Carnivale hosted a special event in Gladstone, Queensland where President Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright gave an inspirational address on her research work in compiling the dossiers of the Australian IBBY nominees for the Hans Christian Andersen Awards, the world wide role of IBBY and her personal recollections of the 1986 Tokyo Conference. Queensland IBBY member and storyteller, Bettina Nissen enhanced the evening with her performance of *The Emperor's New Clothes* to a delighted audience. A few days later she entranced parents and children with a special Hans Christian Andersen story time featuring *The Princess and the Pea* and *The Ugly Duckling*.

Due to time differences, it was some hours later, that on the other side of the continent nearly a hundred lively West Australian IBBY members comprising authors, illustrators, teachers, librarians, storytellers and friends gathered to celebrate ICBD with a Quiz Night focusing mainly on children's literature. The evening got off to an intriguing start with Quizmaster, WA storyteller and IBBY member, Glenn Swift introducing Round One – *Whose Smile is That?* Trying to identify a well known character from just a fragment or silhouette of their face was mystifying at times. There were 8 rounds of 8 questions which surprised and challenged as they ranged through titles and characters created by wonderful authors and illustrators over the decades. Storyteller Jesse Williamson told *The Steadfast Tin Soldier* as a tribute on the master storyteller's birthday. The WA children's literature network were more than generous in donating books as prizes for what proved to be a very popular event.

Those who made it to Strathfield, Sydney for *An Afternoon With Robert Ingpen* on Saturday, 5th April were treated to a cornucopia of memories and insights from Australia's only living recipient of an Hans Christian Andersen Award. With members travelling from Perth, Gladstone, Melbourne, Canberra and rural NSW it proved a national get together and a special sharing of experiences from some who were present at the time Robert Ingpen, together with the late Patricia Wrightson, received his Hans Christian Andersen Award medal in Tokyo in 1986. IBBY Australia life member, Dr Maurice Saxby spoke of what it was like to be a jury member before the 1986 Congress and what it was like to be in the room when the announcement was made "...It was the first time that one country had had both winners... the room went berserk".



Robyn Sheahan-Bright gave an enlightening introduction to this “Keeper of the Imagination” and then it was time for Robert to come to the podium for his presentation “Drawing on Literature”. Time evaporated, as we travelled through the classics that Robert has carefully crafted in his desire to encourage children to develop a sense of curiosity, about these timeless books that have been reproduced word by word from their original texts. Peter Pan, The Wind in the Willows, Treasure Island, Alice in Wonderland are some of the titles whose illustrations were captured on the Power Point.

Robert was presented with a Life Membership to IBBY Australia and this certificate is now hanging in his home next to his HCA Award citation. The two long time friends, Maurice Saxby and Robert Ingpen then cut the Danish birthday cake, before it was time for Robert to attend to the last of his duties – to sign the many copies of his work, that participants queued with arms laden, to take home to loved ones or schools. Thanks go to the CA Cultural Fund, the staff of Santa Sabina College for support and the venue, Sarah Foster of Walker Books, The Children’s Bookshop, Beecroft and to all who worked behind the scenes to allow participants to enter - for an afternoon – a magical world.

At all three events, the two 2014 HCA Award winners were announced, with the author award going to Nahoko Uehashi of Japan and the illustrator award to Roger Mello of Brazil. In addition IBBY Australia’s own encouragement award, the Ena Noël Award for a young Australian writer or illustrator went to Melissa Kiel for Life in Outer Space.

Another significant event in May was the Children’s Book Council of Australia’s National Conference in Canberra. IBBY Australia was well represented, with President Dr Robin Morrow presenting a paper on the work of IBBY. 2014 and 2008 HCA author nominees Nadia Wheatley and Jackie French were keynote speakers, and the retrospective exhibition A Bird in the Hand of 2012 HCA illustrator nominee Bob Graham was launched. National EC member Karen Jameyson spoke of the enduring contribution of the NSW School Magazine.

Jenni Woodroffe
Secretary/Vice-President
IBBY Australia



Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright delivering her presentation on the HCA Awards in Gladstone



Western Australian IBBY members relaxing during the ICBQ Quiz Night



Vice President Jenni Woodroffe presenting Robert Ingpen with his Life Membership Certificate. Illustration of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn on screen.



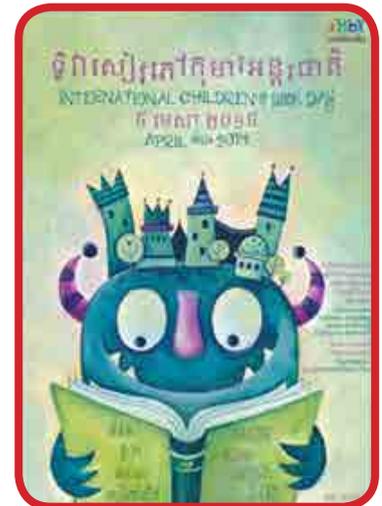
Cambodia:

International Children's Book Day 2014, Cambodia

IBBY Cambodia hosted an event to celebrate International Children's Book Day on April 5th in Phnom Penh. The event was held in a public park and children's playground in central Phnom Penh ensuring open access for all who wanted to join.

IBBY member organizations and other organizations provided a range of activities throughout the afternoon including free reading and mobile libraries, storytelling, kimishibai, drawing, music, and competitions. Highlights of the event were a dramatization of IBBY Honor List books *Chek Chek Wants to Get Married* (nominated for quality of illustration) and *The Prince Who Never Laughed* (nominated for quality of writing).

The exploits of Chek Chek, an adventurous young frog, as she experiments with elaborate wedding preparations and eventually ends up deciding she would rather go to school, were re-told by a group of young performers, while some older students brought to life the story of the lonesome Prince Charming as he wanders the world seeking happiness and a wife.





IBBY Cambodia's ICBD celebrations attracted over 700 visitors including multiple generations of families, groups of young friends, school groups, and several regular visitors to the park who stumbled on the event and stayed to enjoy the entertainment. Many visitors expressed interest in IBBY and attending future events, and some new members were recruited.



The event was made possible through the hard work and team spirit of IBBY's members in organizing the event, the activities, and providing financial support. A large team of volunteers and supporters worked together to run the event, including a reading promotion group from one of the local universities. We also received generous support from several commercial sponsors. It marks a significant success for reading promotion in Cambodia and our IBBY team will be working hard to build on the energy and enthusiasm we saw in readers of all ages last month. Thank you also to Sipar Cambodia for the photos in this article.



Cambodia Book Fair, 28th to 30th November 2014

The 3rd annual Cambodia Book Fair will be held this year in November. The book fair is organized by the National Library of Cambodia in partnership with the Cambodian Librarians and Documentalists Association, as well as other organizations working in education and culture promotion in Cambodia.

This is a three day event held at the National Library of Cambodia in which publishers, academic institutions, NGO's, and government agencies collaborate to provide information, reading activities, workshops, and presentations on a range of topics related to reading promotion and the creation of books.

Last year, over 4,000 visitors of every age and from a range of nationalities visited the fair. Younger visitors included groups of students and class outings, families, groups of friends, independent readers, and those curious to experience the wonders of books. This year, we hope to have even more visitors.

Should any of our IBBY colleagues from the South East Asia region, or around the world, be interested to travel to Cambodia to join this event, or contribute a workshop or activity during the event, please contact us: info@ibbycambodia.org

We hope to bring some international content this year also.



China:

CCPPG Promote Reading among Pre-schoolers and School Students in China

In the first half of 2014, CBBY and CCPPG (China Children's Press & Publication Group), China's largest children's publisher and leading member of China Section of IBBY (CBBY), launched a series of reading promotion activities in kindergartens and schools across China.

CBBY and CCPPG invited around 50 well-known children's authors to host 100 reading promotion seminars for school students and teachers in over 20 cities across China. These authors, famous for their fantasy, adventure, science fiction or realistic stories, share with their young readers how they became a children's author and talk about how to write a story. There is great excitement from young readers to meet their beloved authors and listen to the authors' experiences. Every seminar is like planting a seed in the heart of a young child who might become a reader and writer throughout their whole life!

As Mr. Li Xueqian, President of CBBY commented, "We are committed to doing all we can to help children to develop interests in reading, read good books, and become good at reading. It is our responsibility as a children's publisher." Chang Li, a Children's literature professor who held a seminar in a village school in Zhejiang Province, commented, "Every child is a dreamer. 300 primary school students would mean 300 fairy tales."



Xing He, science fiction author, discussing sci-fi works with students



Cao Wenxuan, renowned author for children's literature in China, answering questions

CBBY and CCPPG have launched a reading promotion event among pre-schoolers themed as "Finding the Kids who Most Love Reading". So far, it has organized events in over 150



kindergartens, helped early education specialists to hold reading seminars, and supported thousands of children to participate in story telling contest. As Mr. Li Xueqian phrased it, “Reading improves a child’s vocabulary and leads to more highly-developed language skills. It is just the right time for children to develop a reading habit which is likely to stick with them throughout their lives”.



Isn't my story interesting? Story-telling competition in a kindergarten in Sichuan Province

On International Children’s Day this year, June 1st, all members of CBBY joined together to donate high quality and best-selling children’s books, valued at RMB 300,000, to schools across China. This generous gesture highlights the commitment of our members to promoting reading among children and young people.

First round of Hans Christian Andersen Awards books published in China

In May, after three years careful preparation, the Anhui Children’s Publishing House has successfully published its first round of Hans Christian Andersen Awards books. These are 25 picture books, 18 novels and four IBBY related documentary books including the autobiography of Jella Lepman, an introduction to IBBY, and an introduction to the HCA



Awards, and the book Peace Story.

There will be many rounds of similar titles published annually through the Hans Christian Andersen Awards Series Publication Project in the years to come.





India:

The period from January to June was quite eventful for the Association of Writers and Illustrators for Children (AWIC).

In February we had an International Conference on Literacy through Literature, which was attended by over two hundred participants from India as well as from different parts of the world, including USA, Japan, Australia, Finland, Indonesia, Singapore, Turkey, Greece, and the Maldives. Teachers from the Kendriya Vidyalayas (Central Schools of India) came in large numbers from the far flung areas of different states in India.



The Conference was inaugurated by the chief guest Ellis Vance, the treasurer of IBBY and the guest of honor Feisal Alkazi, an eminent theatre personality, by lighting the inaugural lamp. This ritual was accompanied by the chanting of Sanskrit hymns. Feisal Alkazi spoke on the importance having the local language and culture in literature meant for a particular region. Mr. Sikandar of the National Book Trust talked about the importance of books in the promotion of literacy. Their words were much appreciated by all. Mr. Ellis Vance informed the audience about IBBY and its activities. Nilima Sinha, President AWIC informed the audience about Secretary General Manorama Jafa being the recipient of the Padma Shri a prestigious National Award. This news was greeted by loud claps from the audience.

There were interactive panel discussions on various themes followed by storytelling and workshops. In the afternoons there were cultural programs. Some of the topics discussed were:

“Importance of Literacy and the Role of Books”. Speakers stressed that we must nurture the imagination to promote creativity. Literacy enables a person to use words to activate the



individual's creative imagination. Good literature leads us to experience the possibility of being better human beings and is important for a better quality of life.

Tazima Shinji from Tokyo

In the session on "Open Schooling" the audience were informed that vocational skills have also been incorporated in the Open School courses. One panelist spoke about imparting writing skills and creating a learning society, and mentioned that education rather than literacy was provided through the Alternative Channel of Open Schooling.

In the session "Creating the Right Literature", speakers emphasized the fact that the right literature, right in content, language, format and medium should be created by keeping in mind the reader, whether literate, semi-literate or illiterate, rural or urban, adult or child and so on.

Speakers of Session2



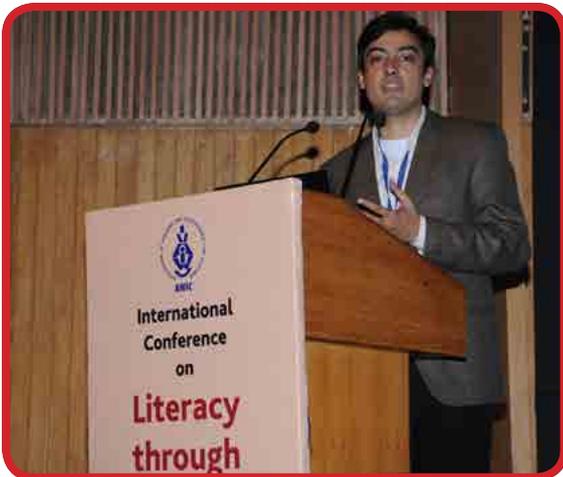
In the session "Reaching Books Where There Are None" the chairperson stressed the importance of libraries in bringing books to underprivileged children and to the areas where there are no books.

In the session on "The Role of NGOs", the chairperson, who happens to be the founder of Prayas an active NGO for street children, presented an overview of how literacy can be



promoted in the cases of drop-outs, the girl child and the disabled.

The next session dealt with “Technological Literacy”. Dr Margaret Zeegers from Australia shared with the audience a hilarious film on IT and its applications. A professor in the Indian Institute of Technology explained how programming was done in his presentation on ‘computer literacy’. He felt that programming was a skill that should be introduced early in life, at the school stage. Another IT expert explained how digital books were designed and used through an interesting powerpoint presentation. One delegate spoke about drug addicted adolescents and how they could be helped to build literacy skills through talking books and pens.



Sugat Jain talking about E Books



Valentina Trivedi from India telling a story

The last session was the concluding one, dedicated to “A Better Tomorrow”. Dr Ellis Vance, IBBY treasurer, was in the Chair. He presented before the audience several books based on various moral values and other social values. Gender issues, protection of the environment, inculcating civic sense through books were highlighted. Subjects like gender insensitivity, drugs, violence and other social issues must be talked about so that children may learn to deal with them.

Afternoon sessions witnessed storytelling, workshops and cultural programs.



Fusion of Indian Classical dance and puppets.



Children from VT-AWIC Youth Library – North East India

Three books written by AWIC members were released on this occasion. They were were Chahachahaate Geet,(a collection of poems in Hindi) The Stranger and Other Curious Stories, a collection of short stories, and Children of the Magic Pen (a play).

There was also a colourful exhibition, of books from many countries, titled Steps to Literacy .



Release of a book



Education Minister Shashi Tharoor at the book Exhibition

International Children's Book Day

AWIC celebrated ICBD and the Annual function of the AWIC Library Project on 2nd April, There were nearly two hundred children and fifteen Librarians from different libraries. There was storytelling followed by a competition of illustrations based on those stories. 'Reader of



the year' awards were given to children who read maximum number of books in an academic year. The 'Librarian of the year' awards were given two librarians for their dedicated service in their libraries.



Children getting prizes for the art competition .



Indonesia:

A core activity of the Society for the Advancement of Children's Literature's (SACL) is encouraging children and communities to read. Supported by Indonesian Section of IBBY, our volunteers have visited many places in the outskirts of Jakarta and also many other regions in Indonesia, donating books and doing workshops for teachers and the care takers of reading communities. Children are the main target for SACL and INABBY to share good stories, happiness, and to build their creativity and competencies in learning and reading skills.



*Reading promotion at a library community in the outskirts of Jakarta.
Left: Children were keen listening to the stories
Right: Choosing books after listening to the stories*

Theme of IBBY Yamada Workshop 2014, "Using Books Effectively and Connecting to Curriculum" is always a very useful topic for the workshops in the remote areas where the reading materials are limited. Murti Bunanta trained the teachers to use books in many ways and in effective methods to link into the school system in Indonesia, "thematic integrative". Dr. Margaret MacDonald was also invited to share and improve storytelling skills of the teachers of early childhood education. Margaret kindly donated one of her books to each school and we also brought books donated by companies and IBBY. In this visit, Tetty Pratiwi, a volunteer member of SACL came with us.



Murti Bunanta and SACL volunteers were telling stories for children in Amed Village, Bali.



Teachers of Early Childhood Education in Banyumulek Village, Lombok, were showing books donated by INABBY



The teachers and the Head of Gayamharjo Village in Java Island (in brown trouser), were practicing stories with Margaret MacDonald



Some of SACL-INABBY members after storytelling session at a library community (left) and after the monthly meeting at SACL-INABBY office (right)





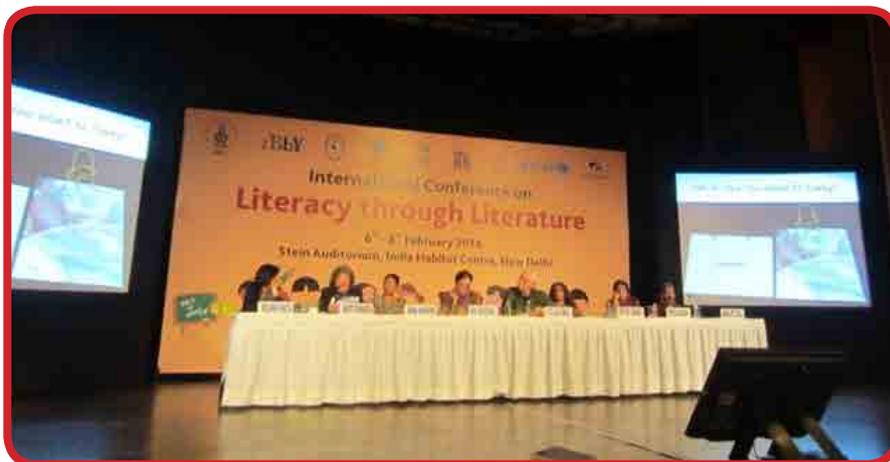
The monthly meetings of SACL and INABBY are used to share expertise among senior and younger members in storytelling, writing, and illustrating books. SACL has also become an independent publisher, since 2001, continues to produce books for donation which are financially supported by sponsors. Books produced by SACL are considered good books from Indonesia, even by Indonesian commercial publishers.



INABBY has good relationships with other IBBY Sections. Recently in February, 6th-8th, 2014, two members of INABBY, Murti Bunanta (President) and Dina Tuasuun (Head of Secretariat) participated in the AWIC Conference on “Literacy through Literature”. It was a productive and fruitful conference and also deepened friendship among old and new friends. Murti Bunanta presented a paper on “Children’s Reading Material on Health and Hygiene: a Child’s Right». The presentation was well-received and gave new insight to the audience about the importance of literature on health and hygiene for children. Dina Tuasuun has conducted a successful workshop for children in making simple storytelling device using hand socks.

Report by Murti Bunanta

Paper presentation by Murti Bunanta at AWIC Conference 2014, New Delhi-India

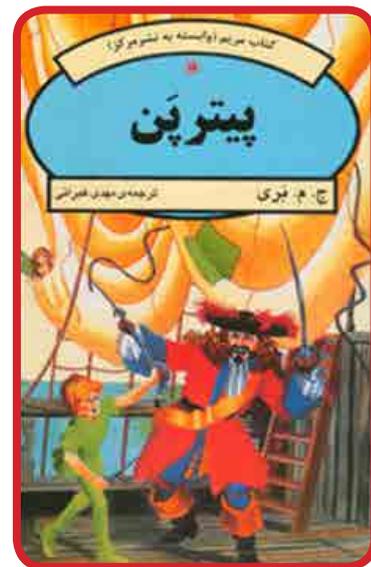




Iran:

International Children's Book Day in Iran

International Children's Book Day (ICBD) was celebrated in traditional and innovative forms. The ICBD "Letter to the Children of the World" was translated and sent to the media. 5000 copies of a calendar bookmark were published displaying the 2014 slogan and poster, ICBD Letter, and biographies of both the illustrator and the author who created these. On the innovative front, in collaboration with Donya Children's Research Institute, the Children's Book Council (CBC) displayed the immortality of Peter Pan over the past 110 years by showing James Barry's creation through books, films, musicals, theatre, and computer games. The Persian translations of the book were also introduced in a historical sequence.



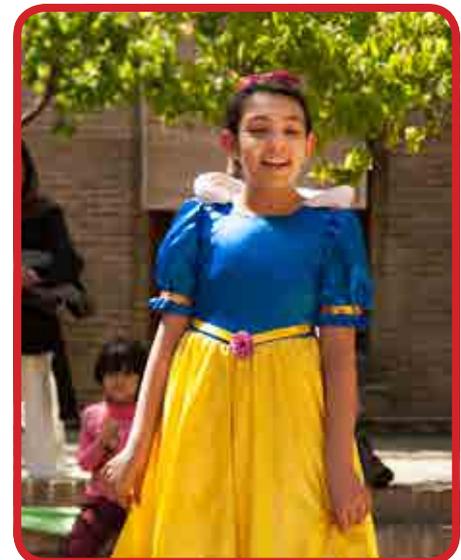
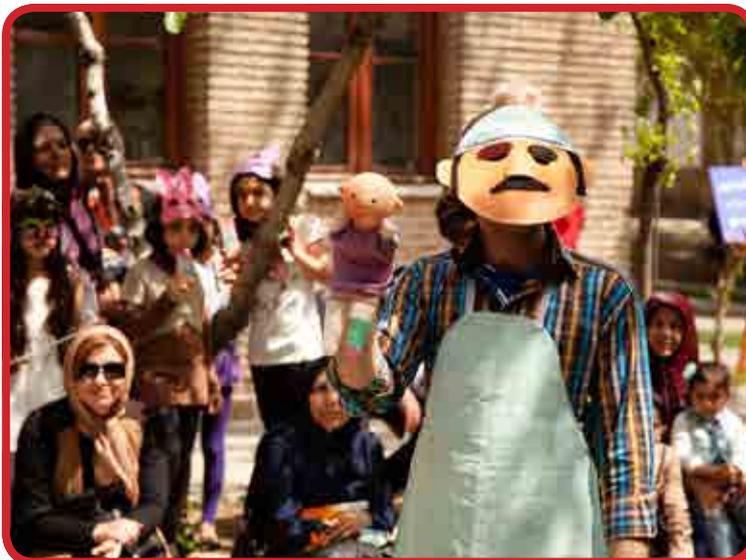
Book Masque Festival at Childhood culture Exhibition-Museum

On 2nd of April 2014, the Institute for Research on the History of Children's Literature in Iran (IRHCLI) held the Book Masque Festival at Childhood Culture Museum in Negarestan Museum to celebrate International Children's Book Day. Three groups of children and young adults, curators of Childhood Culture Museum, and visitors took over the activities. These included a book masked ball, storytelling, book reading and a book fair.

The children wore masks of some of the most famous characters in children's literature such as the Little Prince, Ferdowsi, Khaleh Soskeh, Arash the Archer, Snow White, and Alice in



Wonderland. The curators of the Childhood Culture Museum also dressed up as honored members of the canon of children's literature such as the Little Black Fish, Pinocchio, Zal, Zahhak, the Wise Rabbit, and Pippi LongStocking. They spoke about the characters and their authors to visitors. Visitors also wore masks of top figures in children's literature from early hours of the day. The children were curious and eager to know the characters as well as to listen to the stories and tales from which these characters have come.



CBC General Assembly

CBC General Assembly was held on May 28th 2014. As there elections for both the Executive Committee and auditors, there was a large turnout of the official/voting membership (210/192). After the ratification of the various reports, votes were cast and the newly elected

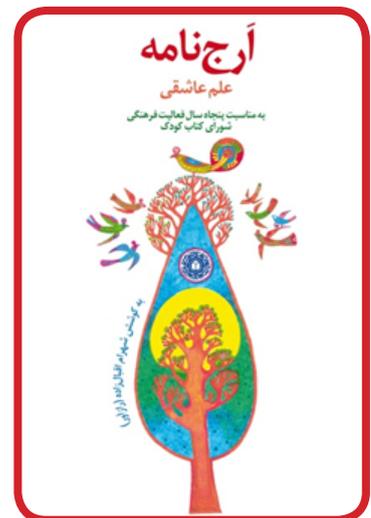


EC was announced to serve during 2016-2014. Touran Mirhadi, distinguished educator and founder of CBC announced that she would gradually be retiring from all her responsibilities, this of course creates an enormous void, but is leading members to think about the future administrative structure of CBCI Sessions are planned to discuss about the future of the nongovernmental organization after the departure of its initial founders.



CBC's 50th Anniversary

CBC's 50th Anniversary was commemorated in many different ways, including the publication of a collection of essays and research dedicated to the organization, called Arjnameh elme asheghi (To Honor the Art of Loving), edited by Shahram Eghbalzadeh (Nashre Ketabdar, 2014). In an opening chapter N. Ansari dwells upon four characteristics that have sustained CBC, namely education, acceptance, deliverance, and resistance. It provides an interesting insight on how CBC has influenced writers, translators, illustrators, librarians, researchers, and others in both their private and social life.

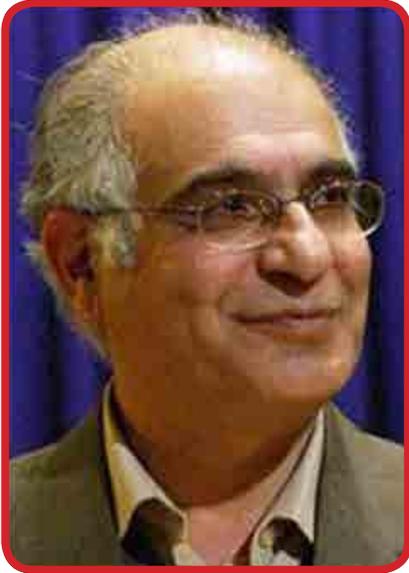


The report of the Iranian HCA Award Jury

To answer questions about the working of the HCA Award Jury a dual purpose meeting was held on June 2014 /10 in CBC. In the first part the Working Group H. Moradi Kermani dissected the different parts of the dossier and explained how the various parts were put together. The



author expressed surprise and admiration for such a meticulous work. During the second part there was an exhibition of the 2014 finalists, and Sahar Tarhandeh the Iranian Jury member outlined the importance of each author and illustrator.



In order to promote children's literature and collaboration with other children's book related institutions, the 2014 HCA Award nominee's books also were exhibited at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (Kanoon) for one week, June -24 2014 30.



CBC Conference on Children's Literature

Plans are underway for the CBC Conference on Children's Literature, called "Literature, children of yesterday, children of today", with the aim of showing the changing place and the



importance of the user in the creation of children's literature, in autumn 2014. Besides academic contributions, workshops and round tables are planned to expose reading promotion activities that hold a wealth of individual experience which needs to be further explored.



Mexican illustrator visited CBC

Gabriel Pacheco, the well known Mexican/Argentinean painter illustrator visited CBC on June 22nd. After a general introduction to our work, he was welcomed by a large audience of more than 90 book enthusiasts. While showing a selection of his works he explained the philosophy behind them, spoke about the unity between literature and illustration, and outlined his artistic experiences, followed by Question and Response session. The meeting lasted for three hours.



It is not often that CBC is invited to a round table on a National Newspaper, in June the Etelaat daily invited four experts to discuss various aspects of the creation of children's magazines. Others attending were from the academic sphere. It was interesting to note their lack of knowledge about children's literature and a clear definition of quality works. The discussions were published in three consecutive issues.





Japan:

JBBY 40th Anniversary

On November 2014 ,13, JBBY will celebrate its 40th anniversary. This year will be a milestone in our history, and we are preparing a variety of events to make it memorable. One of these is a special lecture series, which celebrates our host auditors including Eiko Kadono, the renowned author of *Kiki's Delivery Service* and many other outstanding children's books. Kadono, is also a member of JBBY and will be contributing as a guest speaker.

PHOTO: the host auditor Eiko Kadono



On May 5, JBBY held its first special lecture at the Tokyo National Museum. This date coincided with **Children's Day** in Japan, which is a national holiday where the Japanese celebrate children and childhood. The theme of this lecture was «Children's Books: A Gift to the Future». Hoko Takadono and Yoko Tomiyasu, who are also children's books authors, were speakers in attendance and had a great discussion with Kadono about «stories for small children.» Although our venue had capacity for only 350 people, over 1000 people applied for reservations at this lecture.

We began by introducing JBBY and IBBY and Bando, JBBY president, greeted the audience.

This was followed by the three authors talking together in a very friendly and welcoming atmosphere. They started off by giving self-introductions with a small lie mixed into their speech and the audience was asked to choose the correct answer. There was a lot of chatting with the audience, and the speakers spent time fielding some unique questions from the



audience.

As an added attraction, the three got together to collaborate on an impromptu short story, right in front of the audience. One wrote the introduction, and one developed the story, and the final author wrote the ending. We were able to spend quality time with these superb creators.



*PHOTO: Three representative authors of Japanese children's book;
Eiko Kadono, Hoko Takadono and Yoko Tomiyasu*

We were all having so much fun that it seemed as if in no time, the 90 minute event was over. Just then, an unexpected guest arrived.

It was Roger Mello. He was coming to the venue, and upon hearing the voices from the event, was kind enough to come in and say hello to the audience. His message about how the geographical distance between Japan and Brazil was so easily bridged by the sharing of children's books was exactly in tune with the philosophy of JBBY and IBBY. It was a great joy to everyone.

For this important 40th Anniversary, JBBY is planning many events. We will also hold a special lecture series in Osaka, Fukuoka, and then once again in Tokyo. In addition, we are planning exhibitions on Jella Lepman, and a special exhibit on Children in Crisis in November.

Hans Christian Andersen Award-winning Author-Illustrator Joint Press Conference

20 May 2014, we held a press conference with Roger Mello and Nahoko Uehashi.



PHOTO: Uehashi and Mello, having a pleasant chat before the conference

Roger Mello had been traveling privately in Japan to attend the “Roger Mello Exhibition” held at the Chihiro Art Museum in Azumino when he heard immediately afterwards that he had won the award and was therefore able to meet Nahoko Uehashi face-to-face in Japan. The world was surprised that both winners were located in Japan at the time of the announcement.

Mello said, since Brazil and Japan are on opposite sides of the world, it seems as if between the two of them, it is as if they are embracing the earth. There has always been a strong relationship between the two countries. Many Japanese had immigrated to Brazil, set down roots, and raised children there. Mello had Japanese friends in his boyhood.

Although going abroad to a foreign country has become easier, most people do not leave their home country at all. Even so, by writing or reading books, we can make friends and forge relationships all around the world. Mello’s words, «Hug the earth in a children’s book,» made a huge impression upon us.

Mello also said, «Fantasy has the power to represent a deeper reality than the real.» Uehashi responded to his words by saying, “In creating the myriad worlds we produce in our minds, people around the world find it all absolutely fascinating. The philosophical sense, the joy, and the beauty of these creations are wonderful. Since humans possess these abilities, we could have survived without destruction».

The two artists talked about «color» and «journey», something they both loved. «Color» was



an open-minded concept as free of prejudice as a child. «Journey» gave us an opportunity to jump out from longstanding beliefs and to go out on our own. Coming from the narrow common sense of the practical world, it was an opportunity to be made aware of the fact that there were a variety of possibilities open to us all.

Uehashi and Mello not only impressed children, but the adults as well. Their creations go beyond not only age differences, but also cultural barriers.



PHOTO: 2014 HCAA winning author and illustrator



Korea:

The Korea Market Focus at the London Book Fair 2014

KBBY was the market focus for the London Book Fair 2014, with sponsorship from KPIPA (Korea Publication Industry Promotion Agency). KBBY prepared for the fair by producing a catalogue and a film, named Korea Picture Books 51, since last January. The association promoted Korean picture books to the international visitors and exhibitors with fifty-one picture books and a film exhibitions as well as book art events. Korean picture books drew keen attention from the audience, including IBBY UK, which remarked that they were artistic and unique. In addition to promoting picture books, KBBY liaised between Korean publishers and international colleagues and inquired about publishing opportunities and rights. The association also mailed out the catalogue, Korea Picture Books 51, to twenty-three IBBY sections worldwide in an effort to continue proactive communication.



Introduction of 'Korea Picture Books 51' film



Catalogue



Book art event





“Read Picture Books with Authors and Illustrators” Campaign (February-May)

KBBY co-developed and co-promoted “Read Picture Books with Authors and Illustrators” campaign with Gwanhwamun Bookstore, a member of the Beautiful Store, a social enterprise in recycling. The campaign provided participating authors and illustrators an opportunity to meet and communicate with readers in a public reading of his or her books. The sessions took place every third Saturday of the month, facilitated by Jung Jin Lim, a KBBY operation committee member. During the campaign, numerous authors and illustrators participated, including Eun Young Cho (Run Toto), Oki S. Han (My Hometown), Hye Ran Cho (Grandma, Where Are You Going? I’m Going to Pick Mugwort!), Ji Yu Lee (Who’s Making Chocolate?), Jong Eui Hong (A Ball of Yarn, Three Free Tickets, Please.). They also eagerly communicated with the audience dealing with subjects from how their picture books came to be published to their perspectives on books. In addition, every month, Dong Ju Bang, a storyteller, tells a variety of fascinating stories in English with enthralling props.



Illustrator Eun Young Cho



Illustrator Oki S. Han



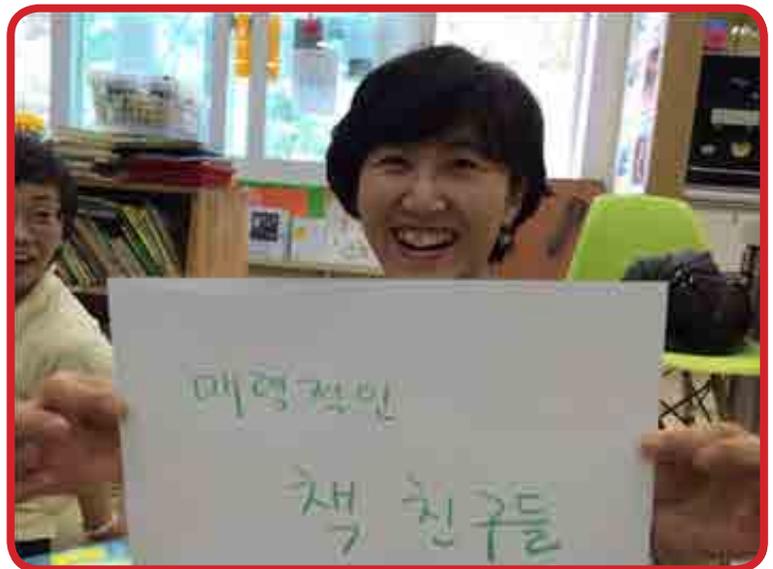
Storyteller Dong Ju Bang

Book Recommendation Committee Regular Meeting

The Book Recommendation Committee holds a regular meeting at a small library on every second Saturday to develop reading lists for children and young adults. After reviewing articles on new books, members read and post book reviews on the committee’s website, followed by a discussion at a subsequent meeting. The committee is seeking ways to effectively materialize consented reading lists. With a facilitator, KBBY vice-president Hye Eun Shin, the committee reaches out to readers to find their most meaningful picture books with “Picture Book Therapy”.



Every second Saturday 10:00 a.m!



Meet Fascinating Books



Lebanon:

We would like to share with our friends some of our main activities this semester. We are proud that some of the LBBY members (writers and illustrators) earned prizes in several workshops and conferences.

Bibliotherapy project for displaced Syrian children

This program reached 240 children, boys and girls between ages 7 and 14 during five months. The program includes many activities: story reading, artwork, drama, discussions, games, writing and drawing.

A well-known illustrator visited the place and had a long session with the kids. Others authors read some of their stories. It was a lot of fun!

The children had a space to express their fears, anger, anxieties and other negative feelings through the program in a warm and loving atmosphere.



The illustrator interacting with the kids.

Tell me a Story

In May 2014, The Lebanese Board on Books for Young People (LBBY) and Reading Start formed a partnership to implement a project in Lebanon called "Tell me a Story." The project was awarded a generous grant from the Sharjah IBBY Fund, ensuring financial support from June 2014 to January 2016. Over an 18 month period, "Tell me a Story" will reach 1500 families



to promote early childhood literacy practices in the home so that reading becomes a part of every family's regular routine.

"Tell me a Story" has a three part approach to accomplishing its goal:

- 1) Partnering with health clinics where nurses will advise parents to read with their young children, starting at 6 months of age
- 2) Making sure parents have access to quality books by distributing book packages for free to the families who come in to the clinics to vaccinate their children
- 3) Modeling good reading behavior by holding reading sessions with children who are in the waiting rooms of the clinics

The project currently has two partner clinics in Lebanon: Tahadi Clinic and the Howard Karagheusian Commemorative Corporation. Book package distribution began in June 2014, alongside reading sessions with children and special workshops for mothers' on making the best of storytelling with kids.



Coaching the parents how to read stories to their kids



A mother reading to her son

Workshop

After many months of hard work and effort by Dr. Julinda Abi Nasr, honorary president of LBBY and Mrs. Doha Slim, actual president of LBBY, a five day workshop finally took place on the second week of June entitled "Writing for children with reading difficulties". Illustrators and writers from different countries, specifically from Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia joined. It was presented by two renowned Swedish authors, Per Nilsson and Christina Wahlden.



Many issues were discussed ranging from basic guidelines for writing “high interest and low reading level stories, to reluctance in reading and taboo issues in young adult literature. Questions such as whether the author is an artist or a teacher and whether we build or find a story were also discussed extensively by all participants. Nada Barakat Khawaja, an author and a special educator, gave a presentation on the importance of inclusive books, books and illustrations that include in a positive manner people with special needs, as well as a presentation on the qualification of books for children with reading difficulties used in a reading program for special learners. The participants also attempted writing and illustrating an easy reading short story or the beginning of a young adult novel. Their work was then evaluated in small groups.

Many amazing ideas and plots for new novels flourished during that workshop. The dynamics and exceptional approaches to writing gave it a particular flavor. Participants also learned extensively from each other’s experience and know-how. We sincerely hope that this workshop will be the beginning of a much needed engagement in writing for children with reading difficulties, and foster a new approach to writing in which no child shall be left behind when it comes to book availability.



Group in a working session.



Group picture

Reading Competition 2014

The 2014 ceremony for the annual competition organized by LBBY to promote reading among children in a number of public and private schools in Lebanon took place on April 12 at the UNESCO palace in Beirut, to honor the winners who participated in the reading competition. This year over 40 schools participated In this competition, among them two orphanages and an institution for children who come from very needy families and broken homes, and



we are proud to have with us now a school for special needs.

The top three readers in every school were invited to the event along with their parents, teachers and school directors. School directors reported on the children's enthusiasm and excitement during the competition, and the positive influence of the competition on the children's overall academic performance.

The children then enjoyed a puppet show performed by a professional group of puppeteers. The last part of the program was the climax of the event where the first three readers received their prizes of selected books and certificates in recognition for their achievements.

LBBY President, Doha Slim, thanked all LBBY members and everyone who participated in making the event a success. After the ceremony we all gathered over a light snack and refreshments.



Malaysia:

MBBY Lecture series 2014 ,1

In January 2014, Malaysia IBBY (MBBY) launched its first MBBY Lecture Series for 2014. The special talk was held on 11 January 2014 at the University of Malaya Kuala Lumpur. The speakers were Mr. Ahmad Redza Ahmad Khairuddin, President IBBY/MBBY, Mr. Mohd Yusof Ismail (Yusof Gajah) Malaysian author/illustrator, Mrs. Mahaya Mohd Yassin, Children's author and Mrs. Rozida Ismail, Children's Book Editor. About 40 MBBY members attended the talk. They were briefed by Mr. Ahmad Redza about the activities of IBBY and new programs for Malaysia IBBY in 2015-2014, while the other speakers spoke on the various aspects of children's books in Malaysia and abroad.



Group picture of Mr. Ahmad Redza, President of IBBY/MBBY with the speakers and MBBY members

MBBY Lecture Series 2014 ,2

Malaysia IBBY organized its second lecture series 2014 on 8 March 2014, starting with a lecture by Asst. Prof Imron W. Harits from the University of Madura Indonesia. The lecture entitled "Madura Identity: Nature, Social Life, and Religious Values in D. Zawawi Imron Poems", gave new information on the works of the Indonesian poet D. Zawawi Imron. D. Zawawi Imron is a well-known poet in Indonesia. He received The SEA Write Award in Bangkok Thailand in 2012. Most of his poetry highlights natural phenomena, describes social condition, and depicts the local culture.



Asst. Prof Imron W. Harits (center) with the President and members of MBBY

Announcement

Malaysia IBBY is organizing the

2ND ASIA AND OCEANA REGIONAL IBBY CONGRESS

13–16 May 2015 (Friday-Monday)

Venue: Putrajaya, Malaysia

Congress Theme:

One World, Many Stories: Celebrating Diversities in Children's Literature and Literary Activities

Save the date and see you in Malaysia!

For all enquiries about the 2nd Asia and Oceana Regional IBBY Congress, please contact:

Prof. Dr. Sidin Ahmad Ishak at mdsidin@gmail.com; or

Ms. Alimah Salam at alimah_salam@yahoo.com

Key Dates

Call for Abstracts open: 1 May 2014



Call for Abstracts Close: 15 January 2015

Notification of Abstracts Acceptance: Before 15 February 2015

Visit our Congress website : <http://www.mbbby.org/index.php/aisa-and-oceania-regional-ibby-congress/home>



Pakistan:

Going Beyond the Norm- The Rickshaw Libraries

With Alif Laila's can-do attitude, belief in going beyond the norm, and determination to provide libraries to children from all areas and groups of society, IBBY-Pakistan started its rickshaw libraries this year with the aim to service those bastis or underdeveloped localities with improper infrastructure and no suitable access to roads for cars. The library rickshaw was a roaring success in servicing such communities.



Children borrowing and enthusiastically reading books from the rickshaw library

Mushrooming Libraries in the Southern Punjab

The southern region in the Province of Punjab is relatively less developed and the access to libraries or schools is comparatively the lowest. With the objective to develop and foster a reading culture and provide easy access to books, IBBY-Pakistan was successful in setting up 100 Library Corners and 40 Mobile Libraries in different schools from the Districts of Multan and Muzaffargarh of Southern Punjab.

The children now have access to informative, enthralling and captivating collections of books which they can borrow and take home, even their siblings and parents can leaf through these exciting books. Some students even disclosed that they believed such books were only found in the houses of the well off people.



Smiling faces of the children from Multan and Muzaffargarh

Policy Dialogue and Seminar

Two Policy Dialogues in the District of Multan and Muzaffargarh and One Policy Seminar in Lahore were held this year. The objective behind this initiative was to create feedback and recommendations for developing a smooth and streamlined approach towards the development of School Libraries in the Province of Punjab. Many important officials and key policy makers were part of these dialogues. Policy makers were briefed on how reading plays a critical role in developing the cognitive skills and thought processes of a child by shaping his perception, giving a freedom to imagination, and opening options which go beyond logic.

The participants agreed regarding the important role that books play in the lives of children and agreed to ALBBS's aim to include the Library Program in the legislation, and to encourage school teachers and school management to support this reading program.



Participants of Policy Dialogue and Seminar intently listening to the presentation given by IBBY-Pakistan



Library Awareness Publicity

Reading plays a critical role to develop skills in an individual for her/him to succeed in a society. It formulates social skills and broadens the vision of an individual enabling her/him to think beyond the periphery. Keeping this objective in mind, an aggressive awareness and promotion campaign is being implemented. Quarterly published press releases focus on the importance of libraries, the methodologies to set up and manage libraries, and how to inculcate a reading habit amongst children. Furthermore articles are published in the national news papers biannually discussing the importance of nonacademic books and their influence on children and society at large.



Children's Literature Festival in Lahore, Sahiwal & Islamabad

Idara-e-Taleem-O-Aagahi (ITA) and the Oxford University Press (OUP) in collaboration with Foundation Open Society Institute (FOSI) and the Children's Library Complex (CLC), arranged the Children's Literature Festival in Lahore and Islamabad. This festival is focused on promoting the love of reading among children.

IBBY-Pakistan participated with full zeal and vigor. It captivated the attention visitors to the fair with various activities like arts and craft, reading sessions, puppet shows, storytelling etc. This was a great platform to engage children and develop their interest in reading. Fair organizers also explained to visitors about how reading shapes the cognitive development of their children and can play an important role in building up children's confidence and enhance their thinking process.



Empowering and Strengthening the Human Resource

Setting up libraries requires a high commitment to and responsibility for the smooth operation and management of the library. IBBY-Pakistan trained 280 teachers in the district of Multan and Muzaffargarh to develop a strong library task force. Management of libraries requires a lot of responsibility, from storing books to keeping a track and taking care of these precious resources. In these sessions teachers were taught library utilization and management techniques.

This was a great platform to train a massive group of teachers and create awareness in them regarding the importance of reading and how it is the path towards a never ending growth and development, and how a library plays a leading role in the advancement of knowledge.







Palestine:

Aggression on Gaza- Aggression on IBBY Libraries

These last weeks and these days are dreadful and extremely sad. Our people in Gaza are living a permanent horror with sleepless nights as they are facing death, loss, destruction, displacement. There is a sharp shortage of food, medical needs, water, and electricity; with no safe place and no shelter. The most heart breaking is the indiscriminate and horrific killing of hundreds of children and wounding thousands. A United Nations official said 'every hour an innocent child is being killed'!

It is not any exaggeration to say that the Israeli aggression on Gaza's 1.8 million inhabitants is a genocide and a crime against humanity. The targeting of an occupied community and defenceless civilians by a highly armed occupier with the most advanced high tech weapons, is a blatant ethnic cleansing to overpower Palestinian steadfastness and resistance.

To understand more about the aim of the Israeli governments' horrendous aggression on Gaza it is important to understand the root causes of the Palestinian problem. This is not a war on Hamas but on all the Palestinian people who have been dispossessed (1948), occupied (1967) and under siege (2007). In these atrocities against the Palestinian people, is similar to war crimes in Lebanon, when Fateh was then the 'terrorist'. Then Israel killed and wounded thousands of Lebanese and Palestinians, and during Israel's barbaric invasion of Lebanon in 1982, culminating in the Sabra and Shatila massacre which killed in cold blood thousands of civilians!

In this traumatic saga it is important to mention that 80% of Palestinians in Gaza are refugees, and children form more than 40% of the population. Children are the third/ fourth generation of refugees uprooted from their homeland in al Nakba, where Israel killed thousands of civilians, destroyed more than 450 villages and forbade the return of refugees despite multiple UN resolutions. These refugees have lived for these long years in camps and later in shacks and slums called refugee camps.

Civilians have been the main victim of this racial cleansing reaching around 85%; the loss and suffering of children has been horrendous. At the time of writing, 463 children have been killed 2,111 have been wounded. Complete families have been exterminated, and complete residential areas. More than 500,000 have been displaced. 800 homes have been destroyed



and thousands of houses have completely or partially destroyed by Israeli shelling. Civilian infrastructure is targeted including schools, universities, hospitals, and libraries.

The damage will be lasting:

Over 1.2 million people will not have adequate access to water.

More than 141 damaged schools will not be ready for the upcoming school year, added to the existing shortage of almost 200 schools.

The trauma faced by over 373,000 children will go untreated with essential, direct psychosocial support.

Over 490,000 IDPs will not receive the immediate food assistance they need to see them through these months of crisis.

Over 40,785 housing units with major to minor damages will be left unrepaired, and the families that called them home will have no place to return to.

Source: <http://www.ochaopt.org/>

Seven UN schools that are shelter of displaced Palestinians have been bombarded by Israel. This is added to similar massacres by Israeli forces and to the two Qana massacres against Lebanese civilian in 1996 and 2006.

The eight year of siege on Gaza had its toll in the acute shortage of basic human needs. From the first day of aggression the Israeli forces targeted civilians, the infra- structure, food and medical supplies, including Gaza's only Power Plant. All the UNRWA storage deposits have been destroyed, two days ago all the medical storage of the Ministry of Health.

The ICRC representative in Gaza said: «I've never seen such devastation, so much destruction, so much blood...» <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhI3Q6olkRU#t=577>

International law forbids targeting of civilians for any reason. The UN officials confirmed that 'No Weapons found in UN Facilities' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0yq9h88X5Xg&feature=youtu.be> yet, the UNSC failed to pass a resolution of deterrence or even condemnation of Israeli atrocities, due to the unlimited and shameful support of the US government to Israel. Crimes go on, death, blood and tears do not stop!

Thus the Geneva Conventions, the International Humanitarian Laws and the Child Rights convention are dead in Gaza! Now, a six years child would have been exposed to three ethnic cleansing dreadful wars!



Today with the variety of the satellite TV and with the vital role of the social media, these atrocities are seen by everyone around the world. No manipulation, no lies, and no reverse of truth and reality! Public opinion around the world is enraged and cannot believe how these massacres are allowed to continue. Unlike the shameful position of the US government and its allies, hundreds of thousands of people around the world are demonstrating against this horrific aggression on Gaza, demanding its halt, an end to the siege and an end to occupation of Palestine as the real road to just peace!

IBBY raised its voice from the first few days

Open Letter from IBBY Foundation President

IBBY Statement Regarding the Current Situation in Gaza 11 July 2014

There was a statement on IBBY Libraries in Gaza - 19 July 2014

Update on the IBBY Libraries and colleagues in Gaza - 29 July 2014

Posted on IBBY Webpage <http://www.ibby.org/index.php?id=257>

And on their Facebook



Additional updates are also available on the IBBY Palestine website and facebook page:

<http://www.ibbypalestine.org/spip.php?article412>

<http://www.ibbypalestine.org/spip.php?article413>

This is a video of the destruction of Beit Hanoun Area where the library is located.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vr2zHI6v7OU>

UK IBBY



prepared a letter British that was published in the The Guardian, Tuesday 22 July 2014, signed by a broad range of signatories from the UK children's world (around 70) this was published Academics Call for a cCeasefire and Just Peace Agreement

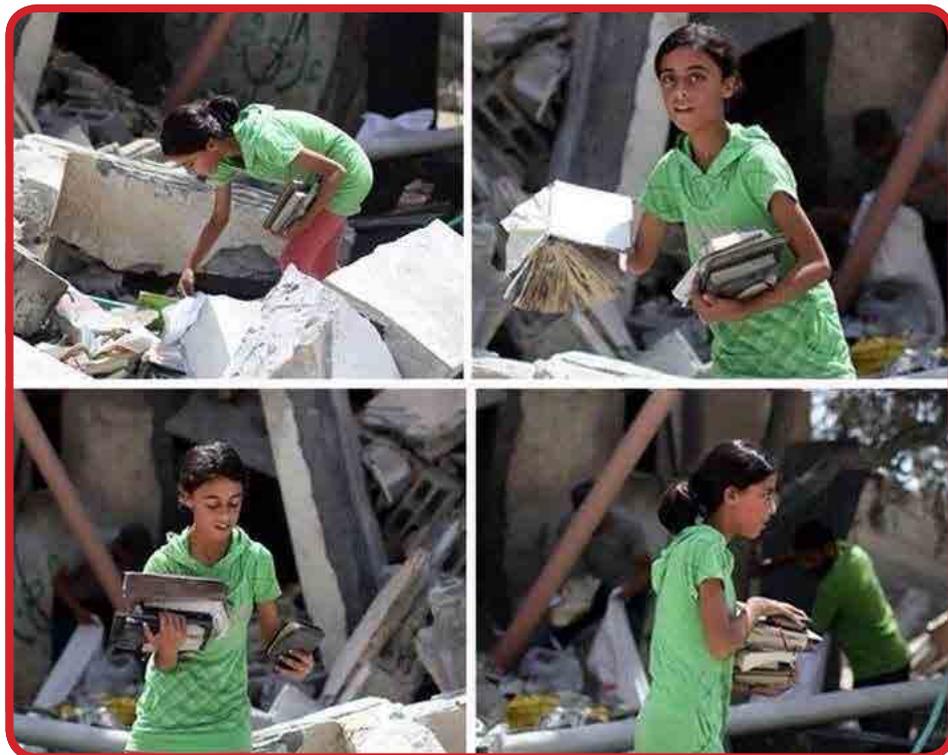
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/22/academics-call-for-ceasefire-peace-agreement>

UK IBBY also developed a social media campaign.

PBBY extends its thanks and appreciation to all the solidarity and expressed by many IBBY Sections and Friends around the world; there were tens of shares of the IBBY posting on the subject and posted it on their WP and FB; some translated it, like the Catalán Branch of Spanish IBBY and the Iranian IBBY who translated IBBY statement and updates into Persian and posted them on their webpage and other sections and friends that we might not be aware of.

We cry for the loss of lives and for the tremendous sufferings; however, we are all determined to struggle for liberation and peace. With the support of our IBBY wonderful family, IBBY libraries will be restored and brought back to life, we will never lose faith in the Power of Books!

Palestinian girl looking for her books under the ruins of her home.





Tunisia:

The Tunisian section of IBBY, TUNiBbY, was created in 2012. Ever since, it has tried hard with its team, although limited in number, to adhere to the objectives stated in its by-laws.

After some faltering steps, it has started to have a firm foothold in the world of associations in Tunisia and people are aware of its objectives and its agenda. More than ever in Tunisia -after the Arab spring and after the emergence of terrorism in the country- people feel the importance of a new savvy, knowledgeable generation that puts a lot of value on books and in particular good books.

We felt that we need to have a presence in Sfax Children's Book Fair held every spring holidays in Sfax because it is our way to meet many Tunisian Children's publishers. The Fair took place in March and we managed to stock the TUNiBbY booth with a good selection of books. The booth offered a reading corner for visitors to the book fair, where children and parents can sit together to read books.

We distributed the TUNiBbY brochure to all participants in the book fair and told them about all the prizes that IBBY supports and how they could participate in these competitions.

The TUNiBbY also ran some storytelling sessions for children of different ages out of the belief that stories are our way to make reading to children alluring. During the book fair, TUNiBbY also ran workshops in writing using the technique of storyboarding.

TUNiBbY cooperated with the association of Maths and Science of Logics and together offered workshops to teens where Maths and Literature meet.

Recently, the Sharjah /IBBY Fund for Children in crisis granted us an amount of 15,000USD after submission of a proposal. The amount will go towards providing books and book boxes for eight locations. The books will specially be selected for schools in deprived areas, for special centers that care for autistic children, and for special centers for children with sight disabilities.

Wafa Thabet Mezghani
President of TUNiBbY
Tunisian Section of IBBY



The Head of the Minister Cabinet visiting TUNiBbY's booth during Sfax Children's Book Fair March 2014.

TUNiBbY brochure



Wafa Thabet Mezghani representing the TUNiBbY (as indicated in the banner) and telling stories of the sidelines of Sfax Children's Book Fair 5 March 2014)

