



# iBBY Asian Newsletter

April 2011

No.1

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**Dear colleagues,**

Welcome to the first issue of IBBY Asian Newsletter!

This newsletter belongs to all national sections in Asia: from the Middle East to the Far East. Following the decision of the Asian national sections' gathering at the Santiago congress 2010, we are going to publish two issues of this newsletter per year.

We have to thank Susanna Coghlan for her effort in editing all material. Susanna, who is from Ireland, lives in Cambodia where we now have a new IBBY national section. We look forward to receiving news of their activities for our next newsletter. Also we thank the two Iranian members: Mehrdad Mohammadi for doing the layout and Keivan Akabari for designing the logo of this newsletter.

For the next issue, in September 2011, we hope to have more contributions from the Asian national sections. We request all contributions in MS Word format, with a maximum length of 500 words. It would also be good to have pictures submitted separately.

Please don't hesitate to send us your comments and requests; we are looking forward to receive them!

Best wishes!

Zohreh and Indira

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The members of Asian national sections at the Santiago congress 2010



## Report from Australia

2010 was a momentous year for IBBY Australia, when the decisive step to becoming an independent, incorporated organization was taken. For many years we have been under the umbrella of the Australian Library & Information Association (ALIA) who paid our annual IBBY levies and for which we are most grateful. Now we are to spread our wings and the advantage of technological advances enables us to communicate more effectively through our own website (<http://ibbyaustralia.wordpress.com>), the IBBY Australia newsletter distributed electronically which can be found on our website and also appears on the worldwide link on [www.ibby.org](http://www.ibby.org) site, as well as Wikipedia entries. We are pleased this online presence assists in spreading the word about the work of IBBY as we know its profile needs raising in Australia. The Children's Book Council of Australia has been a peak body for children's literature in this country and with the annual Book of the Year Awards, biennial national conferences, reviewing journal, promotional merchandise, website presence has done much to promote good quality children's literature. IBBY Australia does not wish to compete with this and many other organizations and institutions that highlight the importance of good books for children. We see that we have a niche role to play in our island continent and in this mostly mono lingual culture, in introducing our children to the best books from overseas, and for bringing the amazing talent of so many Australian authors and illustrators to the notice of children who live far off.



Members have participated in the 2010 ICBD with dinners, gatherings and events in NSW, WA, Qld and Tasmania, the 32nd International IBBY Congress at Santiago de Compostela with 8 of our 11 participants giving presentations and photos in the Read the World Exhibition, contributing to the Children in Crisis Fund, the 2010 IBBY Honour List, 2011 Outstanding Books for Young People, attending and contributing to the 2010 Nambook Peace project, Peace Story and contributing to IBBY Link 29 Autumn 2010 an electronic newsletter produced by IBBY UK featuring Australia. The 2010 Ena Noel Award which was instituted by the late Ena Noel, AM as a means of encouraging young Australian authors/illustrators was awarded to Lili Wilkinson for Scatterheart. In a country that does not have a tradition of corporate philanthropy we look forward to the challenges of 2011 and fundraising and can look back with pride, knowing that in just 9 months we have attracted 100 individual members at \$AUD25.00 per member and 6 institutional members at \$AUD100.00. As we are in IBBY's Category 2, we have quite a challenge ahead!

Jenni Woodroffe

Vice-President/Secretary

26th November, 2010.



## IBBY India's activities

The Association of Writers and Illustrators (AWIC) is a voluntary organisation dedicated to the development and promotion of creative literature for children. It aims at bringing books and children together and promoting the reading habit among children, especially those who do not have access to books.

### International Conference on Children's Libraries

Association of Writers and Illustrators (AWIC) organised a three day international conference on children's libraries from February 4th to 6th 2010, in New Delhi, India. The conference was well attended by delegates from India and 17 other countries. The highlight of the conference was the presence of four IBBY ASahi reading promotion award winners, who shared their experiences with other delegates. They were Nombulelo Baba from Africa, Chanthosone from Japan, Dashdon Dog Jamba from Mongolia, and Monika Chojnacka from Poland.



### Participation in the 32nd IBBY Congress held at Santiago de Compostela

Indira Bagchi a retired teacher and currently treasurer of AWIC presented a paper titled "The Oral Tradition and its Decline (Oral Tradition - A Huge Minority)" in the panel session on 'Oral Tradition - Theatre'. The session was chaired by Gülçin Alpöge. Indira Bagchi also chaired a session on 'Cultural Invisibility'.



### Donate a Book Project with UNESCO

We worked in partnership with UNESCO in their project Donate a Book. Under this project, members of AWIC interacted with children from different schools, telling them stories, taking workshops for creative writing and motivating them to write stories.

### NAMBOOK 010

A delegation from AWIC also participated in the 5th Nami Island International Children's Book Festival in October 2010, comprised of seven members; Manorama Jafa, Mira Garg, Divya Jain, Suvidha Mistry, Ruby Singh, Diti Mistry and Harshika Jain. The AWIC team led the inauguration of the Panchatantra and Gandhi exhibitions and led workshops and storytelling sessions about the life of Gandhi for children attending the festival. They also provided workshops about Talki, preparing handspun thread from cotton using a takli (spindle), and Panchatantra storytelling sessions.



## News from Iran

### Conference and Exhibition of Books for Children with Special Needs in Tehran!

In late December 2010, the IBBY Documentation Center of Books for Disabled Children's collection was displayed in Tehran by The Children's Book Council of Iran (IBBY Iran) \* at the Iranian Artists' Forum in Tehran. It was a great opportunity for Iranian people interested in this field to visit in their own country this exhibition of selected books from around the world. In this exhibi-





tion The Children's Book Council of Iran presented a selection of books for children with disabilities published in Iran from 1950 to 2009.

The Children's Book Council of Iran also held a conference on children with special needs" at the Iranian Artists' Forum. Specialists from the Children's Book Council and many non-governmental organizations shared their experiences with other participants during this four-day event.



The subjects discussed during the conference ranged from creating books and toys for blind or deaf children and children with physical or mental disabilities to reading, playing music, and drawing with these children.

In a statement sent to the conference, Heidi Cortner Boisen, the IBBY Director of the Documentation Center of Books for Disabled Young People said, "Children with mental disabilities need books made especially for them because their disabilities keep them from reading when they need more stimulation through the colors, warmth and emotions, adventures and fun and excitement found in books."

A section of the accompanying book fair was devoted to tactile books and toys suitable for children with special needs. The House of Librarians for Children and Adolescents and Reading Promotion and The Institute for Research on the History of Children's Literature in Iran were among the organizations with small exhibitions of their work. Ketabak (ketabak.org), which devotes part of its digital services to the families and teachers of children with special needs, also participated in the conference. It has produced a series of books on reading promotion, including its booklet on children with special needs' books.

### Books For Everyone!

"Books for Children with Special Needs: The Guide to Adapting Books for All" is the title of a book which was published at the very end of 2010 in cooperation of three organizations: The Children's Book Council of Iran, The House of Librarians for Children and Adolescents and Reading Promotion and The Institute for Research on the History of Children's Literature in Iran .

This manual is the work of the Norwegian organization Books for Everyone (Leser søker bok). Books for Everyone has designed this manual to help people who work with adapted literature, fiction and non-fiction. As there is so little research done on this subject, much of this booklet is based on experience. The intention is not to write a recipe, but give some guidelines that are applicable both for fiction and nonfiction.





This booklet has been translated to Farsi to help and encourage Iranian publishers and writers and illustrators to adapt books for children with special needs.

### Learning through literature!

At an elementary school with nearly 100 students in a remote village in Iran's Chahar Mahal va Bakhtiari province, children are being taught through the child-centered creative education method.

The school's principal became familiar with the book "Learning Farsi through Literature" at a book fair and bought a copy for the school. The students loved the book and because the school didn't have the resources to provide a copy for every child, photocopies were made of the original book.

The children's love for the book led the principal to call "The Institute for the Research on the History of Children's Literature in Iran". At last, a donor from Isfahan generously bought the books for the students. Now, every child has a copy of "Learning Farsi through Literature" and "Lulupi: Learning Math through Literature".

In January 2011, members of "Isfahan's Society for Children's and Adolescents' Literature Enthusiasts", delivered the books to the children. Members taught parents and teachers how to work with the books. Once a month, they will check in at the village to review how working with the book is coming along.

Both books are written by Mohammad Hadi Mohammadi and published by Cheesta Publishing.



### Historical Artifacts Museum for blind children

A permanent exhibition of historical artifacts for the seeing disabled was opened at Iran's House of Librarians for Children and Adolescents by the Children's Book Council in February 2011.

Leila Kafashzadeh has executed this first such project in Iran by offering reproductions of artifacts with information cards using brail subtitles at the International Book Fair for Children with Special Needs in Tehran. One section of the exhibition explains how a ceramic artifact is restored. Different stages of restoring artifacts and historical structures are exhibited in relief and can be touched. Enameled tiles from Persepolis, calligraphy from the Islamic era, the Cyrus cylinder, and the Bam citadel are among that are exhibits. The exhibition has been enjoyed by both seeing disabled children and seeing abled children. All young visitors have had many questions about the artifacts and about brail. The exhibition can travel to centers for the seeing disabled.





## JBBY describes its wide ranging activities

The Japanese Section of IBBY, JBBY, engages in a wide ranging selection of activities.

Our activities include planning and installing exhibitions of children's books either showcasing the children's books themselves, or showcasing the original artwork in picture books.

Our book exhibitions have included the "IBBY Honor List" and "Outstanding Books for Disabled Young People". These books are chosen by IBBY and sent as sets with descriptions for lending to libraries in Japan and other users. The exhibitions are well received by publishers, translators and others involved in children's books, who appreciate the opportunity to see recently published children's books from around the world. Exhibits of original artwork from the "Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava", held every other year, and the annual "Bologna Illustrator's Exhibition" tour major museums of art in Japan. Beautiful printed catalogues come with both exhibitions. JBBY has organized various events involving children's books in tandem with the exhibitions, attracting tens of thousands of people.



2010 was the "National Year of Reading" in Japan during

which a variety of activities were organized by partnerships of government and citizens. JBBY has been active in giving reading assistance to children with expatriate parents growing up in Japan and on October 24 2010, JBBY held a symposium titled "Reading in a Diversifying Society". Speakers and audiences discussed the social issues around coexistence of cultures and diversity at the symposium.

Other JBBY activities in 2010 included co-sponsored lectures and workshops. "The editor seminar" is four year old lecture series by JBBY which seeks to foster editorial talent and targets people who monitor trends among children. For the "The International Janusz-Kolchak Conference", August 2010, JBBY jointly arranged a lecture about "Seeking World Peace and Korczak Ideas" by Ms. Samar Sahar, director of girl's orphanage in Palestine.

In recent years in Japan, the number of foreign children brought to Japan by their parents for work reasons, or through international marriage or overseas study arrangements, has been increasing. JBBY has focused on giving reading assistance to such non-Japanese-speaking children. An example was a talk on schools in Aichi Prefecture (heartland of Japan's automotive industry), where children of Brazilians hired at factories have a problem of language. Speaker and audience discussed the social issues of coexistence with diversity at the symposium.



In March 2010, Mightybook, a publisher member of JBBY, began publishing a Japanese version of Bookbird. This is the first translated version of Bookbird. It includes additional original articles from the Japanese editorial office and has attracted substantial interest.





## **KBBY reports!**

### **Election of New Vice-President and Secretary-General**

Mr. Sang hyun Choun was elected as the new Vice-President. He works for CJ picture book festival and the Korean magazine, Picture book Imagination. Ms. (Christina) Hyeon-Kyeong Kim was appointed as the new Secretary-General. Ms. (Christina) Hyeon-Kyeong Kim is a doctoral candidate in Children's Literature Education in Sungkyunkwan University, Korea. Ms. Sae Hee Kim was re-appointed as the President of KBBY and she is now serving her second term.



### **KBBY 2011 New Year's meet and greet**

We held a "KBBY 2011 New Year's Meet and Greet" on 20th Jan. The members of KBBY working in various fields (librarians from public and private libraries, researchers, professors and students in the field of Children's Literature Education and Early Childhood Education, authors, illustrators, etc.) participated in this social gathering. In addition, representatives from various fields gave speeches about their activities last year and their plans for this year.

### **Carrying out a survey for the nominee of Andersen Award in Korea**

We are carrying out a survey in order to nominate a Korean writer and a Korean illustrator for the Andersen Award. We hope to select an accomplished writer and an illustrator so that their exceptional work be known all over the world.

## **Alif Laila Brings Children and Books Together!**

The Alif Laila Book Bus Society which houses the IBBY Secretariat in Pakistan began 2010 by launching an advocacy campaign for reading.

The diverse methods used to publicize reading included posters advocating reading displayed on Lahore's rickshaws. In Lahore and other cities of the Punjab, hundreds of school children rallied to promote reading. During Alif Laila's work with the flood affected, smiles were brought to many faces through books and our READ caps which became instant favourites.





Events were held in Alif Laila's library to bring children and books together in a colourful and fun filled environment including a special visit by Mr. Ali Moeen Nawazish on International Children's Book Day 2010. During these events children also shared their views on the importance of reading.



Story telling sessions were also held with the children to invoke their interest in reading books.

Alif Laila was one of the organizations involved in the Foundation Open Society Institute's exploratory discussion on: School Libraries in Pakistan: "Is This the Time for Action?" A Pakistan wide network exchanging book lists for children's libraries and advocating varied activities for promoting reading was initiated, with Alif Laila being one of the lead organizations.

At the public policy level Alif Laila, through its participation on the Board of the Punjab Library Foundation has advocated for more and better libraries for children in the province, and mobile libraries in the rural areas. 85 "Books Build Bridges" libraries donated by friends from IBBY went out to 85 schools all over Pakistan before the end of 2010.

### Activities held under READ campaign

Different programmes have already been held to promote reading under the campaign, such as:

#### Article to advocate reading

Different people wrote articles on the importance of reading. The articles were printed in different newspapers. The writers stressed on the importance of reading, its significance in building important life skills, its role in developing perspective and critical thinking skills. The articles also stressed the importance of libraries.

Advocacy programme on district level:

Alif Laila launched an advocacy campaign in collaboration with different partners at district level, to take the message directly to different areas. Under the advocacy programme, banners were put up in (name of districts). Events were also organized in different schools in collaboration with Idara-E-Taleem-O-Agahi, ITA.

#### Walk : "Rally for READ"

ALBBS also organized a rally to advocate the importance of reading in collaboration with different organizations. Educational organizations, book sellers and corporate firms came together in support of the significance of reading for children. School





children held colorful and eye catching banners and play cards advocating the importance of reading. Banners, posters, book marks and caps were printed and distributed at the event. The children were also engaged in various activities such as story telling, making book marks etc. The message on the posters, banners and book marks was simple: READ.

### Involving media

The ALBBS also held a meeting with the Lahore education reporters association, LEERA, to invite them to join hands with Alif Laila to promote reading. The meeting did not, however, turn out to be very successful and the response from the media representatives was not very encouraging.

### Future Plans

Alif Laila is now planning to take the campaign to the next level. To meet this objective, the society has devised plans to turn the campaign into a massive movement.

- Holding events at school level to encourage and motivate children to read
- Taking the reads campaign to hospitals (children's wards) and communities
- Involving Madrassa children
- Persuading political and religious figures to join the campaign
- Making low budget school libraries
- Involving celebrities
- Donation drives: support/fund a library programme
- Involving the corporate sector
- Interpretive reading sessions and story telling sessions in the library with children from public schools.

## Palestinian IBBY

### Hosting Palestinian writers and experts

PBBY tries to hold at least one meeting per month which normally includes: discussion of various matters relating to children's literature, a get together with a local or foreign writer, a presentation or discussion of a book and the discussion of a draft story of a Palestinian writer.

Recently, PBBY has concentrated on Palestinian literature from inside and outside Palestine. Some of our meetings have included the Palestinian writer Salman Natour to speak on "Palestinian Literature inside the Green Line Salman Natour, has also lectured to PBBY» on the making of the hero in the Zionist children's literature". On the same subject, we hosted story teller Denise As'ad to speak on "Racism in Israeli Children's Literature". Four draft stories on peace have also been discussed.

PBBY also hosted the photographer Rich Wiles of the Refugee Center Lajee at Aida Camp in Bethlehem who introduced us to the valuable activities and publications of their Center.





## Promoting intercultural exchange and international solidarity

PBBY tries to implement activities which promote intercultural exchange and international solidarity. PBBY was happy to have the American writer Elsa Marston visit Palestine for the second time in November 2010 as a guest of Tamer Institute. PBBY organised a meeting where Elsa gave a lecture on "Five Outstanding American Writers and how they Deal with Tough Subjects: War, Poverty, Discrimination..." The authors discussed were Walter Dean Myers, Margaret Peterson Haddix, Sherman Alexie, Karen Hesse, Laurie Halse Anderson.

The Swedish writer Ulf Stark was invited by the Palestinian Ministry of Culture. PBBY organised a joint meeting with the Ministry and al Qattan foundation in which Ulf Stark gave a very interesting talk about his books mainly the book "Can You Whistle, Joanna?"

## IBBY/PBBY Children in Crisis-Gaza

IBBY/PBBY Children in Crisis project, started in 2007, is an on-going partnership of two community based organisations. Bibliotherapy and psycho-social activities are used to encourage reading and creativity. The two libraries have attracted tens of children. They have support from the local community as a result of their efforts in supporting literacy, and the therapeutic effects of the programme on traumatised children.



## Gardens of Hope

We are delighted to announce the publication of a book about life in Gaza, Gardens of Hope written by Palestinian children and youth with illustrations by children from the Emirates. This book came to life as a result of a fantastic cooperation with the newly established UAE-IBBY and Kalimat Publishing House in al-Sharjah. The promotion advertisement for the book stated: "Children of Palestine write about pain and the children of Emirates colour hope". The book, which is in Arabic and English, was distributed freely at the Sharjah and Beirut Book Fairs. The beautiful book cover was illustrated and donated by the Tunisian artist Raouf al- Qurai.

## Participation of Board Members in IBBY's 32nd Congress in Spain

PBBY participated in IBBY's 32nd Congress which was held in the city of Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Unfortunately, Dr. Sharif Kanaana, who had planned to present a paper on "Writing Stories for Refugees" had to be absent for personal reasons. Jehan Helou acted as moderator of a workshop on the subject of Linguistic and Cultural Minorities in which the Palestinian writer, Rafia Yahia participated with a paper on Palestinian Children's Literature in Israel: an Anxious Voice of a Minority". Jehan was elected for the second time in a row as a Member of IBBY's International Executive Committee.

## Various News

- IBBY - Mongolia requested some children stories from Palestine to translate into the Mongolian language. The writer Mahmoud Shukair sent short stories that were translated and distributed to schools in Mongolia.
- Bookbird Magazine published an article by Jehan Helou on "Children of Palestine Tell their Stories".
- PBBY published IBBY's poster on International Children's Books Day (ICBD) in 2009 with accompanying text, as a booklet introducing PBBY, in both Arabic and English languages.





## Honoring creativity and launching the book “Gardens of Hope”

PBBY held an exhibition in Al-Bireh Municipality Hall in March 2010 for illustrations and writings by children from the libraries of the “Children in Crisis - Gaza” to accompany the ceremony to honor nominees to IBBY’s Honors List 2008 and 2010..

The ceremony also included: an introduction about IBBY and the activities of the Section; the launch of the book Gardens of Hope and readings from the book; and introduction to the book If I Were a Bird (law Kunt Taera); presentation and distribution of the poster “I am the World and the World Is Me” and the booklet about PBBY.

## PBBY at NAMBOOK-010

PBBY was honored to be part of the 5th Nami Island Book Festival, NAMBOOK-010, celebrating the launch of the book Peace Story. PBBY President Jehan Helou was member of the International Planning Committee for the festival. In addition to the many workshops, the organisers posted each story from Peace Story and its accompanying illustration on a large billboard. Mohammed Amous, illustrator of the Palestinian Story, attended the festival and gave a painting workshop for Korean children. Dima Sehwait, author of *When the Golden Fish Stopped Dancing* unfortunately could not attend as she was



expecting the birth of her first baby. In 2007 Jehan and Olivia Qandah (PBBY Administrative Committee) participated in Nami Island book Fair and Library in Nature Seminar.