



iBBY Asian Newsletter

December 2011

No.2

Dear IBBY colleagues around the world!

This is the second Middle East and Asian Regional Newsletter. We are very glad that this time we have more contributions from the regional national sections to reflect more comprehensively the efforts of our IBBY colleagues in this part of the world. In 2012 we plan to publish two more issues and sincerely hope that all national sections in the region will join us in this opportunity to share their news and achievements with the IBBY family.

We have to thank Mehrdad Mohammadi, the Iranian colleague, for doing the layout of this newsletter.

Please don't hesitate to send us your comments and requests. We are looking forward to receiving them.

Please accept our early best wishes for 2012.

Zohreh, Susanna and Indira

Zohreh Ghaeni (zghaeni@gmail.com)

Susanna Coghlan (scoghlan@gmail.com)

Indira Bagchi (bagchi.indira@gmail.com)

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Australia

IBBY Australia

2011 has indeed proved to be a challenging year for IBBY in Australia. A major step was taken at our AGM held on the 2nd April, in Sydney, NSW when we passed our Constitution enabling us to become an incorporated body, an essential step in legalizing and formalizing our work in this country. Technology has assisted our communications over this vast continent, with email, three electronic newsletters and the first teleconference of our committee, facilitating being in touch with one another and building a sense of community and commitment.

Three fundraisers this year have contributed to the payment of our annual levy, the 2012 HC Andersen Award nomination fees and postage costs. We are pleased to have nominated writer Christobel Mattingley, AM and illustrator, Bob Graham. Currently we do not receive any government support, so fund raisers and increasing our membership base have been essential to meet our IBBY commitments.

International Children's Book Day (ICBD) was celebrated in Sydney with presentations by Nadia Wheatley and Jeannie Baker and honouring Dr Maurice Saxby with Life Membership, a Dinner in Fremantle, WA where readers and writers spoke about their favourite childhood poem, lunches in Tasmania in both Hobart and Launceston, and storyteller Bettina Nissen inspiring school children at a Queensland state school.

A thrill for all in the children's literature network in Australia was Shaun Tan winning an Oscar for the short animated film *The Lost Thing* and also the 2011 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. Shaun's international success has delighted us and we look forward to his keynote address at the 2012 London IBBY Congress.

ICBD - Fremantle, WA where IBBY members spoke about their favourite childhood poems and stories.



ICBD - Sydney with Jeannie Baker and Nadia Wheatley receiving flowers from students at Santa Maria del Monte School.



Cambodia

IBBY Cambodia

Cambodia was accepted as a National Section of IBBY in April this year, following the Executive Committee meeting at the Bologna Bookfair. We would like to thank the EC and IBBY for accepting our application, Liz Page for her assistance as we prepared the application, and the IBBY sections and members from around the world who have sent messages of support. In particular, we would like to thank IBBY Sweden who generously sponsored our membership.

Our institutional members are local publishers and international NGOs and our individual members include writers, illustrators, editors, lecturers, teachers, and other professions. We have formed a committee of volunteers to organize and manage the activities of IBBY Cambodia. The first of which was to nominate titles to the IBBY Honor List 2012 in the categories of author and illustrator. We are delighted that Cambodian produced and published books will be represented in this international collection. The selection process has also been an interesting experiment for IBBY Cambodia as this is the first time this has been undertaken with children's books in Cambodia. We are currently discussing ideas for how to promote the shortlisted books locally, and to use this as an opportunity to raise awareness of quality standards in producing children's books.

IBBY Cambodia is also preparing for our first event, a workshop to be held in early 2012. The workshop is targeted at people working in producing children's books, or involved in related fields, and we hope will introduce IBBY Cambodia to a wider audience. We also aim to discuss some of the issues currently affecting publishers and others involved with creating and producing books in order to get feedback on areas of interest which IBBY Cambodia could target in future activities.

IBBY Cambodia is also looking forward to future opportunities to communicate and collaborate with our IBBY colleagues in the region and around the world.



China

CBBY (IBBY China)

Shanghai Book Fair

The Shanghai Book Fair was held in Shanghai Exhibition Center in August. Covering an area of 22,000 square meters, the Shanghai book fair featured approximately 500 publishers from all over China presenting over 150,000 titles. The Fair is a great festival of books and provides a feast of reading for book lovers.



A special hall is dedicated to children's book, and there is also a International Children's Book Carnival followed by a variety of reading promotion events. Unusually, a great number of original books in the English language were exhibited and sold. Sir. Moritz Neugebauer from the Consulate General of Germany in Shanghai, executive committee member of IBBY Mr. Mingzhou Zhang and chief editor from Popular Science Press Mr. Yan Shi were invited as special guests to give speeches at the launch of a German series detective book for children "Kugelblitz Kommissar", namely Detective Lightening Ball by Schneiner Press, Germany.

National Children's Book Fair (Shenyang City)

In September, the national children's book fair was held in Shenyang, capital city of Liaoning Province in the northeastern part of China. Around 15,000 books from 33 professional children's publishing houses were presented. Titles included early childhood education, popular science for teenagers, children's literature, cartoon and animations, half of which were newly published this year. President of CBBY Mr. Hai Fei completed the variety of books on display, and commented on recent publishing trends.





National Children's Book Summit & International Children's Book Fair (Shenzhen)

September also brought the National Children's Book Summit which was held in Shenzhen Children's Library. This was largest summit for the country's library system and provides a forum to study how to serve the needs of young people better. Approximately 90 children's libraries from around the country were represented. The audience also included children's books reading promoters, children's literature writers and representatives from more than 30 publishing houses.



During the same time, International Children's Book Fair was also held in the Shenzhen Children's Library. The fair presented more than 500,000 titles of books for children ranging from 0-18 years old. The materials and documents were not only from domestic Press but also from publishers around the world. The aim of the event is to introduce excellent international children's books to the Chinese reader. The organizers hope that one day the atmosphere and significance of the fair might equal the Frankfurt Book Fair in Germany and the Bologna Children's Book Fair in Italy.

Reading Promotion Lecture-“Let the Popular Science Reading Be a Fashion” in Shenzhen

In September, the chief editor of Popular Science Press Mr. Yan Shi was invited to Shenzhen Nanshan School Affiliated with China National Institute for Educational Research to give a lecture to their 5th and 6th grade students, titled "Let Popular Science Reading Be a Fashion". During the lecture, editor Yan Shi firstly gave an overview introduction of the world popular science reading among children, then showed the students animations about popular science and reading promotion.. He also gave some recommendations to the students of outstanding original local publications and imported from abroad.



India

IND BBY / Association of Writers and Illustrators for Children (AWIC)

AWIC is organizing the International Conference on Book Therapy, to be held from February 9 to 11 2012 in New Delhi, India. This conference is a pioneering effort to present a different dimension to reading, using books as a means to heal children affected by trauma in its various forms.

The Conference has been designed in response to worldwide concern over the impact of violence and psycho-social traumas on the growth of children. Participants will deliberate upon the therapeutic aspect of literature and the impact of children's books on the victims of natural catastrophes and man-made disasters. Book Therapy is considered to have potential for far-reaching impacts upon the mental health and all-round personality development of children.

Book Therapy also cultivates reading interests, instills positive values and builds a hope for future.

The Various sessions and themes of the Conference will include:

- Writing that heals
- Reading to heal
- Activities to heal through books in schools, libraries hospitals and community
- Mitigation techniques in Disaster Management

So far, 20 from different countries are confirmed. There will be three exhibitions connected with the theme of the Conference- one from Hiroshima museum, one of books for children with special needs, and a third exhibition of picture books. There will also be an interactive session for children by a renowned illustrator under the theme of 'Art for Healing'.

Workshops on Book therapy

Two workshops on book therapy have already been conducted with the objectives of creating awareness about Book-Therapy, its application and benefits, and providing training and demonstration in the use of Book-Therapy. Participants were teachers, educationists, psychiatrist librarians and NGOs.

Both the workshops were well appreciated by the participants. In the end some of the situations were dramatized by the members.



Inaugural session of Workshop on Book Therapy



Workshop on story writing

AWIC has also facilitated a workshop on story writing for young children. Stories created were illustrated by the participants themselves who produced 20 handmade books ready for publishing.

AWIC Library project

AWIC has set up about 150 libraries in the remote areas of the country. In appreciation, Raja Ram Mohun Roy Library Foundation, under the Ministry of Culture India, provided a grant which has been used to establish and equip five more libraries in areas where there are no libraries.



Oklha Center



Oklha Center



Indonesia

INABBY (IBBY Indonesia)

This year, IBBY Indonesia organized many activities to promote reading and quality picture books in Indonesia, including four important events we would particularly like to note. In February we visited again the earthquake and tsunami affected areas in Pariaman and Mentawai Islands in West Sumatra Province. In cooperation and supported by IBBY, we donated more than 200 books for 14 schools in Mentawai Islands and storytelling devices for 21 early childhood education centres. Each centre also received 31 books. This program is a continuation of our previous visit.

INABBY has also focused attention on children with special needs. In cooperation and supported by Dutch IBBY we donated storytelling devices, such as wallhanging-finger and hand puppets-to a small school in Jimbaran area, Bali. The school provides education for hyperactive and autistic children, and children with concentration and hearing problems, from 3 up to 13 years old. They looked happy and enthusiastic to be involved in storytelling activities given by INABBY volunteers.



A storytelling Storytelling device given to a small school in Bali.

INIBBY has also prioritized trainings and workshops for young illustrators and students of schools of design, communication, and visual arts in producing quality picture books. On May 23rd-24th, we organized a two day seminar and workshop entitled "Go International through Picture Books". The aim of the workshop was to equip writers, illustrators, editors, and also publishers with a broader view about international picture books and how to produce good quality picture books. Patsy Aldana, previous IBBY President, was the main guest speaker. Other prominent speakers were Dr. Murti Bunanta, and three senior illustrators: Suyadi, Hardiyono and Isnaeni M.H. More than 110 participants attended the event.



Patsy was surrounded by young illustrators for comments.



To improve the young illustrators' skills we also sent Maria Christania and Pandu Sotya Kusuma to take part in a one week workshop organized by Bibiana (Slovakia) as part of BIB 23rd international competition. For one week they were trained by Peter Uchnar, a prominent Slovak illustrator. INABBY is also proud to mention that Murti Bunanta of INBBY was appointed as the President of the Jurors BIB 23rd. The session of the International Jury was held August 29-Sept 1, 2011.



Murti Bunanta, President of the Jurors, BIB 23rd handed over the Grand Prix Award, September 2nd, 2011.



Iran

IBBY Iran: Children's Book Council of Iran

Friend from Abroad

Patsy Aldana, former President of IBBY and current President of IBBY Foundation visited Iran for 7 days in September, as part of her journey to the Middle East and North Africa. It was her first visit to our county. While preparing her program we remembered the visit by Dr. Peter and Antonia Schneck, during his IBBY President. During Ms Aldana's visit, we aimed to acquaint her with the wide spread aspects of IBBY in Iran through meetings with The Children's Book Council/CBC which acts as Iran's National Section and other organizations affiliated with CBC, including The Research Institute on the History of Children's Literature where she met Zohreh Ghaeni, former HCA Jury President, Donya Children's Research Institute, MAM Modern Attitude Mothers, House of Librarians and the Promotion of Reading, and the Hosseiniyeh Ershad Public Library. At the Promotion of Reading Ms Aldana also met groups involved in the "Read with Me" Project for working children and The Centre for the Cultural Development of Children.



A lunch, held in honor of Ms Aldana's visit, was hosted by Touran Mirhadi, CBC Founder (1962) and Chief Editor of The Encyclopedia for Young People and attended by more than thirty colleagues. A number of lively questions were raised and Ms Aldana was invited to do TV and press interviews. Colleagues with different literary and artistic interests accompanied Patsy on various outings during her visit. On a short trip to Isfahan she met with the Founders of The Digar Institute, which is working for the preservation of cultural heritage among young people, and had a glimpse of this historic city. Last but not least were Ms Aldana's three very inspiring and informative talks on "Reading Promotion, International Experiences", "Selection Criteria, as a Publisher" and "Publishing Children's Literature, an International Overview", well attended and in different locations on Sept. 3, 4, and 7 respectively. Having Ms Aldana has been a privilege and a wonderful experience. The next stage of her trip was with Noushin Ansari (Iranian NS Secretary General) to Kabul, Afghanistan.

Historical Exhibition on Iranian Childhood Culture

A historical exhibition on the Childhood Culture and Education of Iranian Children was presented at the Hosseiniyeh Ershad Public Library from Oct. 9 to 17. Organized by The Institute for Research on the History of Children's Literature in Iran (IRHCLI), the exhibition displayed historical documents and objects relating to children and childhood from 1904 to 1970 gathered by the IRHCLI during its research. Launched 15 years ago to conduct fundamental studies on the life, culture, and literature of Iranian children, the IRHCLI has published a 10-volume reference book on the history of children's literature in Iran. The exhibition in-