

Re-creating a Reading Culture in Sri Lanka in 2020

In this issue...

When we began this newsletter 12 months ago, little did we realise the next 12 months would change our country, and the world, forever. Hardly a week after launching our maiden issue, terrorists carried out multiple suicide bombings on Easter Sunday, here in Sri Lanka. As all of us know, the victims included children and youth; Sri Lankans as well as visitors from many nations.

Now, almost one year later, we are once again confined to our homes: this time by an unseen enemy. The covid-19 pandemic has affected one and all, all around the world. In a globalised world, no country or people can claim to be safe from the consequences.

Although giving way to frustration and despair would be easy, we the National Sections of IBBY have a heritage of hope to help us through this crisis. For it was in similar uncertain times that Jella Lepman began what became the IBBY.

Therefore, let us be guided by our late founder's mission: to offer children and youth hope for the future, by placing books in their hands. What's more, it would be a fitting tribute to Jella Lepman whose 50th death anniversary falls later this year.

We wish all of you courage and strength, to undergo prevention and control measures.

An unique competition



Are you the author or publisher of a noteworthy book for children or young adults, published during the past 10 years? A great opportunity for recognition awaits you...

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From IBBY President's message to IBBY Sri Lanka on Covid-19 Pandemic...

The Covid-19 Pandemic is dragging the whole world into unprecedented crises, and our children are suffering from fear of the deadly disease and isolation from their dear friends and teachers.

Under such circumstances, It is very worrisome to let our children alone. Therefore, I made an appeal to publishers to donate their copyrights and to translators to work as volunteers, so that books with stories about the new coronavirus can be available online for free reading as soon as possible. **Up to now there are 11 titles in over 10 languages available at www.lifefreebooks.org.cn for children to read for pleasure and for knowledge.**

Thanks to Neptune Publishing House for your translation of these books into Sinhala and Tamil.

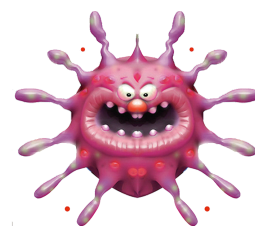
I hope quickly hundreds of millions of children around the world can enjoy reading these books about COVID-19, and could become life-long readers.

All my best wishes to you all, and especially our dear children in Sri Lanka.

Stay safe, enjoy reading, and live happily.

Mingzhou Zhang

Five books on covid-19 launched



On 18th April, 5 books about covid-19 and corona viruses were launched virtually. The rights of the books were donated to IBBY Sri Lanka by the Beijing Science and Technology Press, at the request of IBBY International President Mingzhiu Zang.

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LCAF 2020 postponed



Due to the ongoing covid-19 pandemic, the Literature Convention and Arts Festival (LCAF 2020) scheduled to be held in June, has been postponed. However, rest assured it is not all bad news...

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... An unique competition

IBBY Sri Lanka is calling for literary works published locally within the past ten years in English, Sinhala or Tamil, for children and youth. They will be assessed according to international standards, and one hundred titles will be awarded certificates of merit. **What's more, the awarded Sinhala and Tamil books will be translated and actively promoted in the international market.**

Up to three titles by the same author can be submitted. The deadline is the 30th of June. For further details, visit: <https://ibbysrilanka.org>

... LCAF 2020

IBBY Sri Lanka is making arrangements to conduct the Convention on Literature for Children and Youth online, as a two-day webinar. Whilst the event will be held at the end of 2020, the exact dates will be publicised in the months ahead.

The Convention will bring together a panel of eminent resource persons, from Sri Lanka and also the rest of the Asia-Oceania region. They will include authors, illustrators, editors and publishers of literature for young people. The presentations will be done 'live' at the event.

Audience participation will be by a registration process. Only a nominal registration fee will be charged, and a special rate will be offered to those who wish to participate on both days.

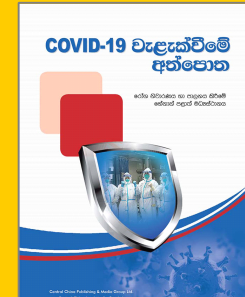
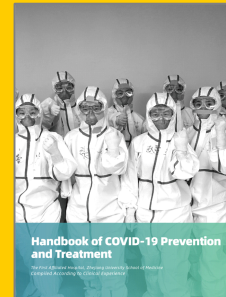
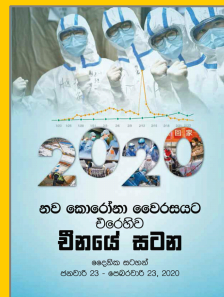
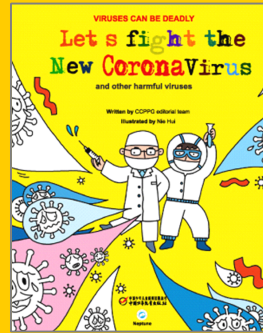
Notices calling for applications for registration will be posted on the [IBBY Sri Lanka website](#), and also on the IBBY [Facebook page](#). So make sure to check up on these sites for the latest information. If you have any questions about the webinar, you can post a message on the IBBY Sri Lanka Facebook page.

No. I can survive well enough on my own—if given the proper reading material.

Sarah J. Maas

American fantasy author

Five Books on covid-19 awareness launched



IBBY Sri Lanka is glad these materials could be offered free online, and one book in printed form. Even at present, we are receiving requests for printed versions. Unfortunately, we are currently unable to print the books, due to the extended curfew. All the e-books are downloadable in English, Sinhala and Tamil from www.neptunepublications.com, and are a generous donation from Sichuan Children's Publishing House. So far, the public's interest and response has been tremendous with over 60,000 views on Facebook, up to the 1st of April.

Workshop series on Writing For Older Children And Young Teens launched



The 1st stage of workshops conducted by the Australian author Dr.Ken Spillman was held successfully from 26–28 February. Ten participants, both published authors and novices, attended. This workshop series was organised by IBBY Sri Lanka, of which Dr.Spillman is a Goodwill Ambassador. The National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS), affiliated to the University of Colombo, is the academic partner of this ground-breaking workshop series.

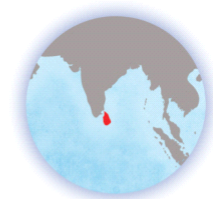
IBBY Sri Lanka's Message of Solidarity to CBBY (sent during the covid-19 crisis in Hubei and Wuhan)



Dear CBBY Friends and all Young People in China,

The world is shaken, as we are, by the outbreak of Covid-19 virus. At this very difficult moment, we, the IBBY national sections from all over the world, express our deepest sympathy to all the victims in China and other affected countries, and wish a fast recovery for the affected patients. We, the IBBY national sections, together with the IBBY worldwide fraternity, express our solidarity with China and all other affected nations, at this critical moment in the history of mankind. We are certain that through the assistance and great sacrifices made by the scientists, all medical professionals and other supportive personnel, together with the utmost commitments made by the Chinese Government and the Leadership, China will be able to heal and rise above this unprecedented challenge in the near future.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you always. May all of you be filled with courage to defeat the epidemic.



From:
IBBY Sri Lanka
national section

Description of motif:

'The Tree of Life' is one of the 108 auspicious signs in traditional Sinhala art, symbolic of **wonder, good luck and prosperity**. In the reproduction above, the different elements have been coloured to reflect the colours representing the 9 directions according to Chinese custom. Thus, symbolising IBBY, spread in all directions around the globe.

Layout and design by Deepthi Horagoda



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கதை கூடு
Storv Nest

Preschool Teacher Training Workshops concluded successfully

Northern Province



North Central Province



North Western Province



Central Province



Sabaragamuwa Province



Southern Province



Western Province



Uva and Eastern Provinces



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www.ibbysrilanka.org www.facebook.com/ibbyslanka