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## Newsletter 30

November 2006

### Balmy Days in Macau: Success for CBBY

The 30<sup>th</sup> IBBY Congress took place in Macau on the southern coast of China looking out over the South China Sea! Participants from 54 countries attended, enjoying the sub-tropical weather and the generous hospitality of Macau. The packed programme began with the plenary lectures. *Patsy Aldana* introduced: *Brian Wafawarowa* from South Africa, who talked about the opportunities and challenges of publishing children's books in South Africa today; *Kang Woo-Hyon*, current president of IBBY Korea, who gave an enlightening talk about the international children's festival on Nami Island; and Chinese author *Qin Wenjun* who spoke about her experiences as a children's author with a possible audience of 367 million children! The official opening of the Congress took place in the main lecture hall, with an impressive line-up on the stage – IBBY President, *Peter Schneck* was joined by fifteen official representatives of China and Macau.



The ribbon-cutting ceremony was led by *Mr Ho Hau Wah*, the Chief Executive of the Macau Special Administrative Region, accompanied by *Ms Zhang Xiaolan*, the Vice Chairperson of the All China Youth Federation, and *Mr Yu Youxian*, Chairman of the Publishers Association of China, both of whom had travelled down from Beijing to join the ceremony.

Following the opening ceremony, *Liz Page* gave a brief overview of the 164 titles nominated for the **2006 IBBY Honour List**: the highest number ever! The books nominated by 57 National Sections in 45 different languages were exhibited throughout the Congress and 14 of the nominees attended in person to receive their diplomas. Ugandan author *Evangeline Ledi Barongo* spoke on behalf of the nominees, thanking IBBY for this unique opportunity to share their work.



*Honour List nominees from left to right: Rafail Gazizov (Russia), Alexei Colabneac (Moldova), Eraclio Zepeda (Mexico), Dashdondog Jambyn (Mongolia), Ferit Lamaj (Albania), Pál Békés (Hungary), Sabine Fuchs on behalf of Monika Helfer (Austria), Sigute Ach (Lithuania), Desa Muck (Slovenia), Conor Kostick (Ireland), Vicky Jones (New Zealand), Fatma El Madool (Egypt), Evangeline Ledi Barongo (Uganda) and Grazyna Lange (Poland).*

The Macau Congress included a very special event in IBBY's history. **The Literature of Ours: Children's Forum** took place during the first afternoon of the Congress. Fifteen children from all over China participated who were joined by speakers from the USA and India. The standard of the presentations by the young speakers was extremely high and the audience appreciated their contributions. This special afternoon was the climax of a national television competition organized by CBBY and the Press and Publications Group of China, and was sponsored by *Mr Lam Tong* of the Tung Cheng Yuen Buddhist Association. A junior

high school student from Beijing acted as host and led the whole event. A short play at the end of the afternoon allowed for some dressing-up and all the participants of the forum were presented with special commemorative plaques by *Peter Schneck* and *Hai Fei*. The inclusion of so many young people into the programme was inspiring to everyone and the event introduced the Youth of China to many of the participants.



*Participants of the Children's Forum with Lam Tong, Peter Schneck and Hai Fei*

The celebration of the **Hans Christian Andersen Awards** is always a joyous occasion and the 2006 award ceremony was no exception! Andersen Jury President, *Jeff Garrett*, was delighted to be able to present the 2006 medal and diploma in person to *Margaret Mahy* from New Zealand, who went on to entertain the audience with her witty rendition of her story *Down the Back of the Chair*, the full text of which can be found on her website:

[www.library.christchurch.org.nz/MargaretMahy](http://www.library.christchurch.org.nz/MargaretMahy)

Although the illustrator winner, *Wolf Erlbruch*, was unable to attend the ceremony, he sent a short but charming virtual presentation. His moving acceptance speech was followed by a shadow puppet show that was accompanied by haunting Uigur music from the Xinjiang Province in northwestern China. *Regina Pantos* the current President of IBBY Germany received the award on behalf of *Wolf Erlbruch*.

*Chieko Suemori* read a message from *Simon Sproule*, the Corporate Vice President of Nissan Motor Company Ltd., the sponsor of the Hans Christian Andersen Awards. Nissan has been supporting the awards since 1972 and the company is... *delighted if our support of this award can help*

*make even the smallest contribution to the dreams, imaginations and well-rounded growth of our precious children.*

Two official representatives of the winners' homelands attended the ceremony: *Mr Helmut Rausch*, Deputy Consul General of Germany, and *Mr Julian Ludbrook*, the Consul General of New Zealand. We are honoured that these two officials had travelled over from Hong Kong for the event. Everyone in the auditorium was moved when Mr Ludbrook joined the delegation from New Zealand to sing a special traditional Maori tribute to *Margaret Mahy*.



*Jeff Garrett, Margaret Mahy and Peter Schneck*

The Congress continued on the following day with more plenary lectures. *Leena Maissen* introduced: *Wang Quangen*, who talked about the aesthetic responsibility of children's literature; *Tayo Shima*, who gave an attractive presentation showing picture books as art traversing time and culture; Andersen Jury member 2006 from France, *Isabelle Nières-Chevrel* spoke about three aspects of children's literature, listening, looking and reading; *Katherine Paterson* (USA) and *Birgitta Fransson* (Sweden), who in the form of an interview, talked about Katherine's work and the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA), which she won this year. That afternoon *Carmen Diana Dearden* introduced: *Zhang Zhilu*, Chinese candidate for the Andersen Awards 2006, who spoke about how to reach our children; *Elisa Bonilla Rius*, a library expert from Mexico, who gave a presentation on the value of books, reading and writing in education for citizenship.

One of the most far-reaching of IBBY activities, which is increasing in importance and popularity,

is the **IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award**.

The Award is now given biennially to two groups or institutions whose outstanding activities are judged to be making a lasting contribution to reading promotion programmes for children and young people. The 2006 award presentation ceremony took place on Friday, 22 September. *Mr Hidehito Fujiwara*, the China General Bureau Chief of the Asahi Shimbun newspaper company, and Jury President *Ms Jant van der Weg-Laverman* presented the prize money and diplomas. In her *laudatio*, Jant van der Weg spoke of the high quality and the magic of the projects. The two 2006 winning projects were the Mongolian Children's Mobile Library Project, nominated by the IBBY National Section of Mongolia and represented by *Dashdondog Jambyn*, and the national campaign *All of Poland Reads to Kids* from the Foundation ABCXXI, nominated by the IBBY National Section of Poland and represented by *Irena Kozminksa*.



*Irena Kozminksa, Dashdondog Jambyn, Hidehito Fujiwara, Jant van der Weg, Peter Schneck*

IBBY friends were celebrated during the closing ceremony at the chic Wynn Restaurant, Two **Jella Lepman Medals** were presented: to *Mr Vincent Frank-Steiner* from Basel, Switzerland, and *Mr Hideo Yamada*, President of the Yamada Apiculture Centre, in the Okayama Prefecture in Japan. A third Jella Lepman Medal was presented to the Nissan Motor Company Ltd, on behalf of IBBY by JBBY at a special ceremony in Tokyo on 13 November 2006.



*Hideo Yamada, Peter Schneck, Vincent Frank-Steiner*

*Vincent Frank-Steiner* is not an expert on children's books and his professional career focused on economics. Now retired, he divides his time between freelance financial advice and his interest in historical research with special interest in the holocaust and his family history. He was President of the Anne Frank Fund in Basel for several years. IBBY's former Treasurer *Christian Stottle* introduced him to IBBY and asked him to act as IBBY's financial adviser. Since then he has successfully invested IBBY's reserves and helped to set up the IBBY Foundation, of which he is now a member of the board. NGO's usually lack money and with limited resources cultural activities need solid financial planning!

*Hideo Yamada* produces honey and honey products and sells them all over Japan. The Yamada Bee Farm shows a dedicated commitment not only to environmental protection, but also to projects related to children. Hideo Yamada supported the IBBY Jubilee Congress in 2002 and the Book Flood project in connection with the IBBY Congress in 2004 in South Africa. When IBBY appealed for help after the devastation following the Tsunami in the Indian Ocean, he was a generous and

major sponsor. But the most extraordinary help for the children of the world was when he gave a remarkable contribution to the IBBY Foundation. The IBBY-Yamada Fund has made it possible for us to support projects worldwide that bring books and children together.

Another special event during the ceremony was conferring of **IBBY Honorary Membership** on *Somboon Singkamanan* in acknowledgement of her many achievements in reading promotion.



*Somboon Singkamanan and Peter Schneck*

Among many activities, she has held a research fellowship at the International Youth Library in Munich, published picture books in Thai, served as the Secretary General of Thai IBBY from its establishment in 1982 to 2000 and was a member of the IBBY Executive Committee from 1990-92. In 1989, her Portable Library Project won the IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award. Even though she is now retired, she is still a member of the Basic Education Office in the Phthalung Area of the Thai Ministry of Education.

*Patsy Aldana*, the newly elected IBBY President in her inaugural speech at the closing ceremony said: *In many ways IBBY has never been in a better situation. How ironic as we are living in a time which in many ways is probably the worst for children in many parts of the world since IBBY was founded.*

*So many children today are threatened by war. I*

*am thinking specifically of children in war-torn Iraq, Lebanon, Gaza, Darfur and Afghanistan, among others. So many children are hungry. So many are experiencing new kinds of racism and exclusion. So many live in systems that deny them even the most basic rights – to schooling, to food, to shelter and to safety. It even seems, as deeply immoral as such an idea is, that in certain quarters the lives of some children are given greater weight than the lives of others. None of these things can be acceptable to our IBBY community. As individuals many of us are actively opposing these deep injustices.*

*As an organization built on the ideals left to us by Jella Lepman, we can and must do the best we can in our small sphere. Every child no matter where has the right to become a reader. A reader is a person who has the possibility of taking some power over his life into his or her hands. A reader can learn about the world and can understand his or her own place in it. And a reader has a chance to make his or her life better and to help others to do so, too.*

*We also believe that a reader has a right to the best books in the world. Those books can be Andersen winners, but I think we also understand now that they must also be books that speak directly to the readers' own life. Elisa Bonilla of Mexico has presented us with a wonderful metaphor. Children need books which are windows but they also need books which are mirrors.*

*Thanks so much to Mr. Yamada and other donors who have given us the possibility to address these needs in a more concrete way than ever before. And we will soon be seeking funds for projects for children in crisis around the world. I know that IBBY National Sections are impatient for our help and support and that IBBY members will continue to do everything possible to bring children and books together and not give up the struggle, hard as it seems in these terrible days, to build bridges of understanding between the world's children and to do everything in our power to make the world a better place for them no matter where they live.*

The closing ceremony also included the traditional invitation to attend the next IBBY World Congress. The Congress organizers IBBY Denmark gave a visual presentation of the **31<sup>st</sup> IBBY Congress** in Copenhagen in 2008. *Hai Fei*, President of CBBY presented *Vagn Plenge*, one of the Congress 2008 organizers, with a Chinese vase as a symbolic passing over of the task of being an IBBY Congress Organizer.



*Hai Fei passing the "baton" onto Vagn Plenge*

During the Congress, 68 speakers from 27 different countries contributed to seminar sessions. The **International Bookstart Conference** held on Saturday morning attracted many participants with speakers from Japan, Colombia, UK, Taiwan and Thailand. During the Congress ten storytellers enchanted their audiences. We warmly congratulate the organizers at CBBY in particular *Hai Fei*, *Ma Weidong*, *Zhang Mingzhou* (below) and *Zhang Wanlin* (better known as Forest). Without their dedication and hard work this Congress could not have taken place.



*Zhang Mingzhou in front of the "visitors-book"*

The full Congress programme, including the texts that are available electronically, can be read at [www.ibby.org](http://www.ibby.org).

## IBBY News

### ***IBBY Members Elect New EC***

On Saturday, 23 September 54 National Sections were represented, either in person or by proxy, at the IBBY General Assembly. *Peter Schneck* acted as Chair and led the Assembly through the business of the day, including the election of the officers of IBBY. The following were elected: President *Patsy Aldana* (Canada), President of the Hans Christian Andersen Award Jury *Zohreh Ghaeni* (Iran), members: *Anastasia Arkhipova* (Russia), *Niklas Bengtsson* (Finland), *Hannelore Daubert* (Germany), *Reina Duarte* (Spain), *Elena Iribarren* (France), *Ann Lazim* (UK), *Elda Nogueira* (Brazil), *Ahmad Redza* (Malaysia), *Ira Saxena* (India) and *Ellis Vance* (USA). Ellis Vance and Elda Nogueira were subsequently elected as Vice Presidents by the new EC. The membership also elected *Peter Gyr* and *Fritz Rothacher* as IBBY Auditors (both from Switzerland). *Urs Breitenstein* remains as IBBY Treasurer. *Valerie Coghlan* and *Siobhán Parkinson* will continue as *Bookbird* Editors.



*IBBY EC 2006-08, from left to right: Urs Breitenstein, Ahmad Redza, Ira Saxena, Hannelore Daubert, Patsy Aldana, Ann Lazim, Elda Nogueira, Reina Duarte, Niklas Bengtsson, Elena Iribarren, Anastasia Arkhipova, Zohreh Ghaeni and Ellis Vance.*

### ***IBBY Secretariat***

On 1 October 2006, *Estelle Roth* began in her new position as Administrative Director and is based at the IBBY Secretariat in Basel. Estelle grew up in Germany and studied political economics and business administration. She brings to IBBY not only a wide experience in teaching, circus

and theatre, corporate and international law, and marketing and sales, but also her language talents in English, French, German and Spanish. *Liz Page* was appointed Director of Members Services, Communications and New Projects.

### ***IBBY Documentation Centre***

*Heidi Cortner Boiesen* of the IBBY Documentation Centre of Books for Young People with Disabilities in Oslo, Norway, visited JBBY and The Japanese Society for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities from 10 to 17 November 2006.

The exhibition Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities 2005 was a special attraction during the event. Heidi wishes to express her gratitude to *Misako Nomura* of JSRPD and *Hisako Kakuage* of JBBY for the assistance and truly outstanding hospitality during her stay in Tokyo. *Takao Murayama* of the International Library of Children's Literature and members of JBBY helped to make her memorable.

### ***IBBY Netherlands Celebrates***

A further Honorary Membership to be conferred this year was on Dutch author *Miep Diekmann*. As she could not attend the ceremony in Macau, the Dutch IBBY Section held a special ceremony on 20 October at the children's book museum in The Hague. From the mid-1950s, Miep Diekmann played a prominent role in the world of children's books. She stimulated developments within Dutch youth literature through reviews, interviews and readings. She was also a translator and coached budding children's authors.

Her own works number some sixty titles in various genres for different age groups. When she was a young girl she spent five years in Curaçao: a time that inspired her gripping West Indian tales. Typical of her work, are her impressive choice of subjects, her social involvement, the convincing characterizations of the figures in her stories and her confidence in the capacity of the reader – both cognitively and emotionally.



*Miep Diekmann receiving flowers and her Honorary Membership from the President of the Dutch Section of IBBY, Jant van der Weg*

### ***IBBY Turkey's New Awards***

IBBY Turkey – *Cocuk ve Genclik Yayinlari Dernegi* (CGYD) – presented two important awards during the 25th Istanbul Book Fair.

The **Sulhi Dolek Award** went to Gülsevin Kiral for *Gizli Silahin Formülü Hangi Zarfta* (In which envelope is the formula of the hidden weapon)

The **Best Books of the Year 2005** award has been given for the first time, and in the future will be awarded annually. The award has three categories:

- Pre-school books: Aysel Gürmen, for *Ninemin Dogum Günü* (My Grandma's birthday), Uçanbalik Publishing Company
- Children's novels: Ismet Bertan, for *Hizli Tosbi* (The fast turtle), Günisigi Publishing Company
- Illustration and design: Mustafa Delioglu, for his illustrations to *Denizin Büyüsü*; *Ninemin Dogum Günü*; and *Ninemin Yaylasi* (The magic of the sea; My Grandma's birthday; and My Grandma's plateau)

During the book fair, IBBY Turkey presented other activities designed to attract the attention of the parents, the teachers and the students to the children's literature:

- exhibition of children's book illustrations
- book signing
- meet the author sessions for children at local theatres

## ***Departed friends***

The last few months have brought sad news of departed friends.

July: *Mansooreh Rai* was an educator and strong supporter of IBBY. Mansooreh served on the Executive Committee of the Children's Book Council of Iran from 1979 up to her death, she was also an Andersen juror for the 1998 and 2000 awards.

September: *Anne-Marie Mortara-Lepman* was the last surviving child of IBBY founder Jella Lepman. She took a keen interest in the work of IBBY and was very pleased to give her blessing to the reinstatement of the Jella Lepman Medal.

October: *Vasja Cerar* was a true supporter of IBBY and its ideals. He was a member of the Executive Committee and was active as a member of the Jubilee Congress organization committee. His most recent contribution to IBBY was as a member of the 2006 Hans Christian Andersen Jury. Vasja died in Ljubljana aged 47.

October: *Paul Biegel* the much-loved Dutch author died 21 October aged 81. He was a prolific writer and was the Dutch Andersen nominee in 1974, 1996 and 2004.

November: *Gloria Maria Fialho Pondé*, a great friend of IBBY Brazil/FNLIJ. She was the Executive Director of FNLIJ from 1984 to 1986.

November: *Shigeo Watanabe* was an honorary member of IBBY and JBBY. He was the congress organizer in 1986 of the 20<sup>th</sup> IBBY Congress in Tokyo. He was elected to serve on the IBBY Executive Committee from 1976 to 1980, and from 1978 to 1980 as IBBY Vice President. He died in Tokyo aged 78.

We are truly sorry to have lost so many friends recently and our sympathy goes out to their families and to the IBBY sections with whom they were so closely connected.

## ***Next Congress: Copenhagen 08***



### **Stories in History – History in Stories.**

The 31<sup>st</sup> IBBY Congress will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark 7-10 September 2008. All available details can be found at [www.ibby2008.dk](http://www.ibby2008.dk). Pre-registration has opened and the preliminary programme can be downloaded from the above site. The Congress will take place in the historic centre of Copenhagen. IBBY Denmark is honoured to announce that Spanish author and philosopher *Fernando Savater* is scheduled to open the plenary sessions on the first morning.

### ***IBBY Website***

The IBBY website ([www.ibby.org](http://www.ibby.org)) has recently been updated. The papers from the Kigali workshop (June 2006) and the IBBY Congress in Macau are now available. The 2007 IBBY agenda is posted under <IBBY Worldwide> and short profiles of the members of the new EC are under <About IBBY>. We are happy to accept items for the IBBY <Bulletin Board> as well as announcements of IBBY activities for the <News> section. Updates and corrections are welcome. Please contact the Secretariat with your contributions. The members' protected site is especially designed to allow IBBY members to have access to IBBY Regulations, Statutes, summaries of reports and meetings, the full address list, and many other important documents. The site is password-protected and is only open to IBBY Members. Each National Section can allow access to their members.

# IBBY Agenda January to April 2007

This is a brief overview of forthcoming important events

For more information and news of further events visit the IBBY website

[www.ibby.org](http://www.ibby.org) > IBBY Worldwide > IBBY Agenda 2007

January	Publication of <i>Bookbird</i> issue 45/1
February	Publication of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IBBY Address List 2007</li><li>• IBBY Newsletter issue 31</li></ul>
April	Publication of <i>Bookbird</i> issue 45/2
2 April	International Children's Book Day: sponsor IBBY New Zealand
22 – 23 April	EC meeting in Bologna
24 – 27 April	Bologna International Children's Book Fair, IBBY stand in hall 29 featuring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IBBY Honour List 2006</li><li>• Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities 2007</li><li>• International Children's Book Day</li><li>• IBBY 31<sup>st</sup> Congress 2008 in Copenhagen</li><li>• <i>Books for Africa. Books from Africa</i> exhibition</li><li>• <i>Bookbird: A Journal of International Children's Literature</i></li></ul>
24 April	IBBY Press Conference, 14:30 Sala Concerto, followed by reception at IBBY stand