

# **IBBY** Asia, Oceania, North Africa Newsletter

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## Contents:

- Editorial
- IBBY Congress 2016
- A Report on the Syrian Children's Bibliotherapy Project in Lebanon
- Australia
- Cambodia
- China
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Japan
- Korea
- Lebanon
- Malaysia
- Mongolia
- Palestine
- Tunisia



## Editorial

Dear IBBY Colleagues ,

It is our pleasure to send out the 9th Asia, Oceania and North Africa Newsletter just before coming the New Year, 2016. It is very important to document and shows how much work WE have done in this part of the world in 2015. Although we cannot change everything to end the suffering from violence and war, we learn from each other and build our strong self-belief that we can surely bring more relief and happiness and of course some changes in the lives of children in the region through literature. As conflicts continue and escalate, we appreciate more than ever the importance of books and libraries as tools for understanding each other better, for empathizing with each other, for finding creative ways to express ourselves, and for celebrating difference.

Maybe through our work now these young generations will have a different future, and we hope, live in a more peaceful world.

We all appreciate what our Lebanese colleagues are doing for Syrian children through bibliotherapy and the libraries born in Palestine. Thank you all those sections who have contributed and shared experiences.

We also would like to express our deepest pleasure that during these recent years in collaboration with all of you could publish nine Newsletters, two editions in a year. But we both think it is better to have a change and we would greatly appreciate it if two other colleagues could volunteer to do this job. Please do send us an e-mail if you are interested to become the editors for the 10th edition of this newsletter and beyond.

Once again thank all members, and special thanks to Mina Yosefi for doing layout and the Iranian artist, Neda Rastin for her illustration which makes the Newsletter much more beautiful.

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Susanna Coghlan <scoghlan@gmail.com>



## IBBY Congress 2016

### Kia ora IBBY Asia and Oceania Regional members

We're not quite counting the sleeps before the Congress, but time is certainly slipping by at an alarming rate. The over-arching theme of Literature in a Multi-Literate World with its strands, 'global, local and indigenous literature', 'diverse literary forms and formats', and 'engaging readers' has attracted over 200 wonderful proposals received from 48 countries. These are now being given serious attention by the review panel before being handed over to the programme committee. From early assessments we confidently predict a stimulating Congress where delegates share their research and practical expertise and experiences of producing and sharing material for young readers living in an increasingly digital world.

It was unfortunate that Rotraut Susanne Berner, illustrator from Germany who was shortlisted for the 2014 Hans Christian Andersen Award has had to withdraw, but we will be confirming further keynote speakers in the coming weeks.

Breaking news, the Australian Children's Laureate, to be announced in February 2016, will be attending the Congress. The new laureate will be following in the footsteps of Alison Lester, Boori Monty Pryor and Jackie French. We're all anticipating that this will, once again, be a stellar appointment.

The registration to the Congress includes the Hans Christian Andersen Awards celebratory dinner and we are thrilled that many nominated candidates and previous award winners will be attending to acknowledge the presentation of the 2016 award winner. Who will you be seated beside? The successful 2016 Hans Christian Andersen Award winner will be announced at the IBBY Press Conference at the Bologna Book Fair Monday 4 April 2016.

The event programme also includes the presentation of the IBBY Asahi Reading Promotion Award and the presentation to the writers, illustrators and translators from IBBY member countries selected for the IBBY Honour List, the biennial selection of outstanding recently published books.

The Storylines Children's Literature Trust of New Zealand's Festival Family Day on Sunday August 21 is our unique contribution to the Congress events. You will be able to join families engaging with our writers, illustrators and storytellers and experiencing a range of literature-based activities.

Book displays include the 2016 IBBY Honour List, the IBBY Selection of Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities 2015, the Silent Books Collection of wordless picture books 2015 and a selection of Hans Christian Andersen nominees' titles. And of course, we will



introduce you to New Zealand titles.

You have an invitation to attend the hotly contested World Final of the Kids' Lit Quiz, held on Friday 19 August, where teams of four ten to thirteen year olds will be tested on their knowledge of children's books. Quizmaster Wayne Mills, an IBBY Congress committee member, travels the world conducting National finals following regional quizzes. Teams from New Zealand, United Kingdom, South Africa, Canada, the USA, Australia, Singapore and Hong Kong will be competing for the revered title. Prepared to be amazed by the depth of knowledge of these avid readers.

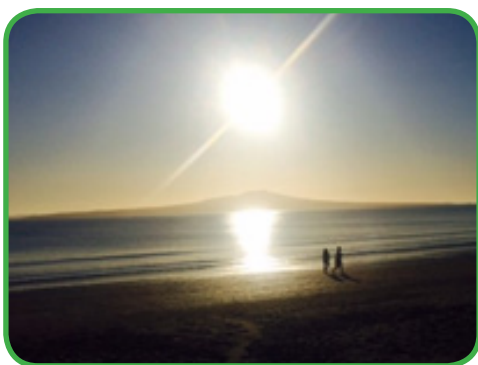
Early Bird registration is available until 31 March 2016. We urge you to check visa requirements for visiting New Zealand. You can access helpful information through the New Zealand 'cloud' Congress website [www.ibbycongress2016.org](http://www.ibbycongress2016.org), and go to Entry to New Zealand links where you will find information about getting a visa if you require one.

Air New Zealand is offering a discount for flights from cities they service. We will let you know how to access this as soon as we have the dates for using the Air New Zealand promotion code confirmed.

Information about accommodation is on the website [www.ibbycongress2016.org](http://www.ibbycongress2016.org) but do contact us if you would like further advice on other accommodation that is available.

Do beaches, bush, vineyards, restaurants sound tantalising to you? They're all on Waiheke Island, a 40 minute ferry ride from central Auckland. Lonely Planet has just named Waiheke Island as fifth in their list of 2016's Top Ten Regions. <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/new-zealand/auckland-region/waiheke-island>

And for a taste of Auckland contrasts, here's sunrise from Takapuna Beach, looking out to extinct volcano Rangitoto on the Waitemata Harbour (Waiheke is beyond), and on the western side of the city, across the Waitakere Ranges, a view of the Manukau Harbour entrance with its treacherous bar opening out on to the Tasman Sea - nearest landfall Australia. There's just an hour's drive between these two sites.





Come on down and share the Congress experience and take some extra time to explore our beautiful countryside.

<https://www.facebook.com/ibbycongress2016>

<https://twitter.com/ibbycongress>

Libby Limbrick

Rosemary Tisdall

Co-directors IBBY Congress 2016



## A Report on the Syrian Children's Bibliotherapy Project in Lebanon

After waiting almost three months, we finally received the permit from the Ministry of Education to proceed with the Bibliotherapy project for the displaced Syrian children in Lebanon. Eighty children were recruited from the Jaber Ahmad Al Sobah school in Ras Beirut and one hundred from the Burj Hammoud school to form the student body for the project launched by LBBY.

The program in Ras Beirut was started on April 10 and continued through May, after this time the school premises were needed for State exams. We increased to working with the children five hours per day and limited our work to one group of children, instead of two per day as we did last year. The four teachers and the coordinator who worked with the project last year are contracted also for this year. Training was done to introduce the new additions to the program and to get them acquainted with the new books available.

Five new teachers and a coordinator were trained in the implementation of the project in the Burj Hammoud school. The program was delayed two weeks in this school for logistic reasons that had to do with the administration. The program in this school will hopefully go through July to complete.

I personally supervise in both schools and am quite pleased with the results. I sit with the children in the classrooms, observe their behavior, listen to their anecdotes, notice their smiles and their tears when they get emotional relating their experiences. I work with individual children when there is a need for that.

It would be extremely difficult to report all the pain these children are suffering but I will try to summarize some of their stories of what they have seen. Some do get too emotional as they report the events and burst into tears, while others choke and stop in the middle, and some refuse to talk at all. The latter ones we encourage to write or draw the cause of their suffering and pain. As weeks go by and the children feel more secure in their surroundings, they seem to unwind and express themselves a little more freely.

Here are some of the horrific scenes that these eye witnesses, children between eight and thirteen, have reported. I will quote some of their sayings and paraphrase others. We have been listening to the reports in small doses since it is too painful for them and for us to dwell too long on these incidents in one day, but we know that this airing out of feelings helps get rid of the destructive ones that are very dangers if they continue to be bottled in. Actually this is the whole purpose of this project.

" I have seen a lot of death, blood, torn bodies on the roads as we were running away from one village to another before we came to Lebanon. The bombs make very loud noises and



they were falling all over. I was very scared.” A girl (aged 10).

“ They shot my father and my brother in front of us.” Through her tears and strained face, this eight year old could hardly finish the sentence to say that her father loved her more than all her brothers and sisters and she misses him. The pain in her eyes is piercing.

“ I saw the Moslem army cutting the fingers and then the hand of a man who was smoking. They told him this is against religion.” A boy (aged 9).

“ They kidnapped my mother and my father and we do not know where they are. We stay with our grandparents here in Lebanon.” Girl (aged 12) who has four younger brothers and sisters.

“ The Moslem fighters forced my mother, my sisters and me to stand, tied us with a rope and forced us to witness them cutting my father’s head with a knife. My father worked for the government. When I started crying one man hit me with his gun on my head. I was very scared.” Girl (9).

“A big explosion took place when a bomb fell on our school. I will never forget this explosion ...It was so frightening !!!! Many of my friends were wounded, some were killed and others lost their arms and /or legs. I lost my eye.” Girl (12)

“ They were bombing the schools but I continued to go to school because I love school. Now I am very sad because I do not have my school any more. I was willing to be a martyr for education!” Girl (9).

“ I saw a bullet go through my father’s head when the Moslem army shot at the car as we were leaving Homs.” Girl (10).

“At night I see scary dreams and wake up screaming. My mother tells me to think of nice things to be able to sleep.” Girl (8).

“ Men with covered faces, carrying guns came in to our house took my father, my older brother and sister. They took my mother’s gold bracelets and told her in a very bad language to put a veil on and stop screaming. I cried and was very scared. My mother took us six children to our grandparents’ house and then we came to Lebanon.” Boy (9).

“ When I went to buy bread I saw people fighting over the bread and then a man was hit with a bullet in his head and fell dead on the ground. I saw a lot of blood and was very scared and started crying.” Boy (10).

Through his tears and choked voice a boy of nine reported how the Moslem army burnt his grandfather and grandmother with whom he was staying and he added through tears “I love them very much”. The neighbors rescued him with his sister and sent them to his uncle’s house who in turn sent them to Lebanon. Their parents had been shot dead a few weeks before.

At the end of the seventh week at the Jaber Ahmed El Sobah school and the last two hours



of the session a gathering was planned for the children to distribute some gifts and books. Each group was asked to prepare some activity they like to share with others in the form of poster, story, song, drama, poem.

It was delightful to see how excited they were in planning and later in performing. I will give a glimpse of some of the items that were presented. Through mixed reactions of enthusiasm and tears children presented patriotic songs that spoke of their love for country and their longing for home and land. Many choked in the process and could not finish the songs while others continued and kept the performance going. It was touching to see as many boys crying as girls.

One of the groups prepared a poster on war and one of the boys wrote a story that he read to the others on the horrors of war that deprived him of his parents, friends, home, country, school, playing with other children and it created in him so much fear. Another boy who was encouraged to talk about the black painted spaces in his poster could only say through his sobs that “ These are dark days”. I learned later that this 10 year old boy is the only survivor of a family of seven whose car was hit by a bomb as they were trying to escape from Aleppo . He was staying with some relatives in Lebanon. I often noticed that look of misery on his face but he seldom spoke even when encouraged to do so.

Another nine year old boy wanted to sing the Syrian National Anthem with his sister. He started with a lot of enthusiasm and “zesto” but unfortunately he could not finish it. He withdrew and went outside the room sobbing while his sister with a few other volunteers completed the song.

These are a few of the many sad and frightening stories that were told by children who got more than their share of fear, pain and suffering during their tender age where they should be happily studying, playing, enjoying life and being prepared for a successful future. How I wish that their voices and tears could reach the rulers and decision makers who think that political problems can be solved through war, hate and fighting. Human beings do not learn from other people’s experiences. More history should be taught in schools I guess.

Included are some photos of the children whose pain and suffering we are hoping to alleviate by trying to plant a seed of love in their bruised hearts, draw a smile on their sad faces, show them a more human world through the stories we read, in the affection we share and the willingness to listen sympathetically to their horrid experiences. Opportunities for free expression of their emotions through tears, words, drawings, drama and physical expression are helping to drain many of these negative feelings. This has been made possible though the generous help of some IBBY family members across the world and the dedicated work of the school teachers, and some LBBY members and myself.

I cannot conclude this report without a word of deep appreciation and thankfulness to those





IBBY friends who care and are helping us restore some of the joy of childhood of which these children have been deprived. I believe that by helping these children we are serving humanity at large by avoiding hate, anger, and revenge to destroy these children who are to be the decision makers of tomorrow. May IBBY continue to grow to carry the torch of peace, understanding and love among human beings all over the world.

Submitted by

Julinda Abu Nasr (PhD)

LBBY July 2015 ,7





## Australia:

2015 has proved to be a full and exciting year for IBBY Australia, and one which strengthened our ties with other sections and their members. In Bookbird Vol 53 No 3 we told of our International Children's Book Day celebrations in three states: children's author, Isobelle Carmody's joy-filled presentation at Strathfield, NSW; a Quiz Night featuring children's literature in Perth, Western Australia; and in Queensland, a Professional Development evening with storyteller Bettina Nissen and Robyn Sheahan-Bright's account of preparing the dossiers for the HCA Nominations.

The 2016 Australian nominees for the HCA Award are Ursula Dubosarsky for writing and our first Indigenous nominee for this award, Bronwyn Bancroft for illustration. We are pleased that both creators and our 2014 nominee for writing Nadia Wheatley will be among the featured presenters at the forthcoming IBBY International Congress in Auckland, New Zealand.

The 2nd Asia Oceania Regional IBBY Congress in Putrajaya was attended by three Australian IBBY members with papers presented by Jenni Woodroffe and Jo Henwood. This smaller Congress provided an excellent opportunity for networking and making new friends with members from our Region, and a chance to mix with some of the IBBY Executive Committee. The miles between us seemed to shorten as we enjoyed the exhibition of the 2015 IBBY Honour List titles and copies of the winning artworks from the Nami Island Concours exhibition and first hand accounts from Fred Minn and Junko Yokota.



*Jenni Woodroffe (centre) with Nita Berry and Indira Bagchi from India*



National President, Dr Robin Morrow AM, delivered the inaugural Book Links Lecture on Children's Literature on 25th June, 2015 at the State Library of Queensland, Brisbane. Her theme was Reading the wider world: Books as bridges for young readers and listeners were urged to make a conscious effort to change their attitudes towards international books and to look for the best quality books for children and, most of all, to recognise and advocate for the 'right of every child to be a reader'. Robin highlighted the 2015 IBBY Selection of Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities, including the two Australian contributions *Roses are Blue* by Sally Murphy, illustrated by Gabriel Evans and *Are You Seeing Me* by Darren Groth.



*Left to Right: Veronika Rot Gabrovec (Slovenia); Robin Morrow (Australia); Valerie Coghlan (Ireland); Marketa Andricikova (Slovakia); Timotea Vrablova (Slovakia); Luboslav Palo (Slovakia); Tilka Jamnik (Slovenia).*

Travelling to Slovakia for the recent International Institute at Bratislava, Robin presented a paper entitled *Our Places: home and belonging in Australian Picture books* and contributed to the international panel discussion on reading promotion. The Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB) is held every odd year and is little known in Australia, consequently few Australian illustrators have entered this event.

Our AGM was held in Perth, Western Australia on the 22nd September and our guest speaker was Associate Professor, Myra Garces-Bacsal from the National Institute of Education, Singapore. Myra reprised her Putrajaya presentation *Grit and Gumption: Sass and Verve; Learning from Multicultural Picture Book Biographies* with a high speed commentary of 80 slides demonstrating valuable social traits from ancient times up until today, such as persistence, high motivation, unremitting focus, tenacity and single-mindedness. These traits



*Left to Right: Cate Sutherland, Kate McBride, Joanna Andrew, Myra Garcés-Bacsal, Jenni Woodroffe and Jan Nicholls at the AGM.*

were found in men and women who were notable for their deeds, but also for their ability to inspire others.

This is the first time that IBBY Australia has included a translator among the creators who have titles nominated for the 2016 IBBY Honour List which will be exhibited at the 2016 Auckland Congress and the 2017 Frankfurt Book Fair. *The Incredible Here and Now* by Felicity Castagna (Giramondo 2013) is the Australian Honour Book for Writing. Freya Blackwood who illustrated *Banjo and Ruby Red* with text by Libby Gleeson (Little Hare Press 2013) has been selected as the Australian nominee for Illustration. John Nieuwenhuizen's *Nine Open Arms* translated from the Dutch title *Negen Open Armen* by Benny Lindelauf, became our inaugural nominee for Translation.

2014-15 Australian Children's Laureate, 2015 Australian Senior of the Year and IBBY member, Jackie French has been busy promoting the value of reading and stories. This year she has introduced a calendar with a different theme for each month, illustrated by Ann James. Titles and activities are suggested to match the theme: eg February's theme was *Hunt a Story*, with a picture of a crocodile looking through a telescope; for August with Children's Book Week, it was *Celebrate a Story*, depicting a young girl flying through the air holding on to two balloons and for December, Christmas time, it was *Give a Story*. The 2016-17 Laureate will be announced in February.



We look forward to celebrating IBBY Australia's Golden Anniversary in 2016, as Australia became an IBBY Section in 1966 with Ena Noel as our first President. ICBD will be celebrated on 2nd April in NSW with Once Upon a Time: a Celebration of 50 years of IBBY Australia and in WA on 6th April with a Children's Literature Quiz Night around the theme of gold.



## Cambodia:

### International Children’s Book Day 2015.

On April 4th IBBY Cambodia hosted the third national celebration of International Children’s Book Day in Cambodia at the National Library in Phnom Penh. This event attracted over 700 visitors including multiple generations of families, groups of young friends, school groups, and several children living in the area who stumbled on the event and stayed to enjoy the entertainment. Many visitors expressed interest in IBBY and attending future events. The Children’s Book Day celebrations were supported by exhibitors from the publishing sector, NGOs, booksellers, and schools. Reading sessions, storytelling, Kamishibai, drawing, competitions, reading practice, a financial literacy game, were also hosted by the participating exhibitors and organizers. Free reading books and activities were also hosted by exhibitors and visitors to the event, and children from local schools performed short plays based on characters from stories and books, and a ‘flash mob’ dance.





A team from local news-station CNC visited the event and filmed activities. IBBY President Ms Huot Socheata was also interviewed on CNC and on Radio France prior to the event talking about International Children's Book Day and IBBY.

### **Workshops with Yusof Gajah**

Renowned Malaysian artist, illustrator, and author, Yusof 'Gajah' Ismail, and judge in the Nami Island Concourse, returned to Phnom Penh to run another workshop for artists and illustrators looking to develop their skills in illustrating and creating original books for young readers. The work they produced was displayed at the end of the workshop and the illustrators are continuing to develop their projects. These workshops were organised by Sipar and Save the Children under the First Read program, supported by the Prudence Foundation

### **The Asia Foundation and Let's Read**

We are excited to be supporting the Asia Foundation and the Let's Read project in bringing digital libraries to schools in Cambodia. Let's Read! will pilot in 5 schools and 2 mobile libraries serving low-income communities in Cambodia. Each site will be equipped with Android tablets on which a digital library app developed by Asia Foundation's technology partner, Library For All, will provide access to picture books in Khmer (the local language) and English. IBBY Cambodia is supporting the Asia Foundation team in selecting books for the libraries and connecting to local publishers.

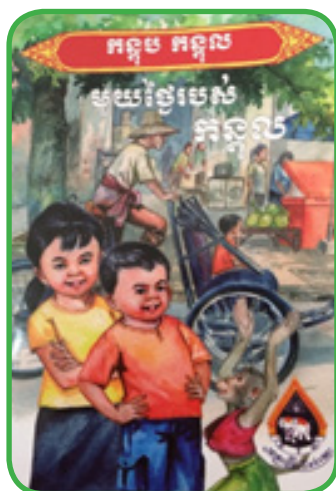
### **IBBY Honour List Nominations 2016**

We were delighted to nominate three Cambodian titles, one in each category, for the third time. We value this opportunity to bring the work and talent of Cambodian writers, illustrators, translators, and publishers to the world. Our 2016 titles were:

Author: Madame PICH, Proeung, for her work Kantol's Day-out, Domrei Sor

Illustration: Mr Prom Vichet, Mr Seng Visal, Ms Try Samphors, Mr Touch Kosal, Ms Sun Duong Sophanita & Mr Soeurm Kakada for their collective work: A Climbing Perch and the Tamarind Tree, Room to Read

Translation: Mr Kreng Panha for his work: I Love My Cloth, Sipar



*Kantol's Day Out*



*Climbing Perch and the Tamarind Tree*



*I Love My Cloth*

## Cambodia Book Fair

The fourth annual Cambodia Book Fair will take place from December 11th to 13th at the National Library in Phnom Penh. This increasingly popular event continues to draw new exhibitors from across the publishing, retailing, education, and other organizations connected to reading and literacy in Cambodia, as well huge interest from visitors. This year there are an exciting line of speakers and activities during the fair on topics ranging from Khmer linguistics in literature and poetry to reading in the digital age.

We are also very excited to have support from our IBBY partners IBBY China and CBBY and CCPPG for this year's event, including an exhibition of illustrations and picture books from China.

## Other news

In May, IBBY Cambodia President Ms Socheata Huot attended the second Regional Congress IBBY in Putrajaya, Malaysia where she presented the annual report on our activities to the conference, participated in discussions on IBBY in the Asia Region, as well as other active sessions during the Congress.

This year Socheata was also invited to join a program for publishers from countries in Asia, South America, Africa, and Eastern Europe, organized by Lit Prom during the Frankfurt Book-fair.





Congratulations to IBBY member organization Room to Read who are celebrating reaching 10million children through their programs in Asia and Africa. Earlier this year the Room to Read Cambodia team also hosted a visit from US First Lady Michelle Obama.





## China:

### **CBBY and CCPPG initiated Fragrance of Books along the Silk Road (China+) International Framework on Children's Books Publishing**

Time: 10:00 to 12:00 am on the 14th Nov. Saturday

Venue: Room 11, Basement 1 at CCBF ,Shanghai.

Main speakers:

Xueqian Li, President of CBBY and CCPPG

Haiyun Zhao, Deputy Director General of Import Management of State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film, and TV. (SAPPRFT)

Maria Jesus Gil, Former Jury President of H.C.Andersen Awards

Elena Pasoli, Group Product Manager for Bologna Book Fair

Jason Yuan, Deputy Director for the Marketing Department of BIBF (Beijing International Book Fair

Sherly Kusuma, Program Coordinator for Kota Buku of Malaysia Government

Organizer:

Mingzhou Zhang, EC member of IBBY(International Board on Books for Young People),

Vice President of CBBY and President of CCPPG International

The Silk Road International Framework on Children's Books Publishing (or Silk Road Children's Books Framework) aims to gather high quality children's book publishers from countries along the ancient silk road and the maritime silk road (according to an announcement by the Chinese government, now about 65 countries are called silk road countries). We are planning a united exhibition area of Silk Road Children's Books in Bologna and in BIBF as well as other important international or regional book fairs in the future. There will be co-publishing among member publishers along the silk road, as well as many other joint programs in the future to make it an important world recognized brand and platform for cooperation for international children's books publishers, as well as to create and publish more quality books for children from around the world.





## Indonesia:

### A Glance at SACL and INABBY's Participation Abroad

#### 1. The 25th BIB, September 2015 – Celebration of 50th Year since the establishment of BIB

Murti Bunanta, President of SACL and INABBY and Emilia Nazir, Secretary General of INABBY, and two young illustrators, members of SACL, Mira Widhayati and Anna Triana were invited to come to Bratislava for the 25th Biennial of Illustration Bratislava-BIB 2015. Anna Triana also participated in the International Albin Brunovsky workshop. We started the first day by attending the International Press Conference at Dom Umenia, where we met IBBY representatives from other countries. We also had a chance to see the exhibition of children's book illustrations coming from many continents installed upstairs.



Left to right; Emilia, Murti, Anna, and Mira

On the same day, at 5pm, the opening Ceremony of the 25th Biennial of Illustration Bratislava-BIB 2015 was held at Slovak National Theatre. It was started and closed by performances and art from children. Awards recipients (Grand Prix, BIB Golden Apple, BIB Plaque, Honorary Mention for the Support of the Development of Picture Book Publication, and Honorary Mention for the Publisher) were also announced. After the ceremony we walked to the hotel for the reception.



Mira was presenting her works during UNESCO-BIB Albin Brunovsky Workshop



On the 5th and 6th September, we had attended the International Symposium which highlighted “How the Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava Has Influenced Children’s Picture Books of the World over the Last Half Century.” There were sixteen countries, among the participants including Iran, Denmark, Slovakia, Japan, South Korea, Italy, Portugal, Czech Republic, Croatia, and Poland, who shared interesting studies on how picture books had been influenced and had evolved within the past half a century. They also spoke on other issues such as the originality of a picture book, as perceived by BIB.

The Indonesian Ambassador for Slovakia, Mr. Djumantoro Purwokoputro Purbo, supported the Indonesian delegation by attending the opening ceremony and walked with us to see a bit of Bratislava at night.



*With the Indonesian Ambassador for Slovakia, Mr. Djumantoro*

Besides the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of BIB, two young illustrators from Indonesia also participated the UNESCO-BIB Albin Brunovsky Workshop from 12-6 September 2015, lead by Prof. Igor Piacka, a prominent illustrator and painter from Slovakia. They were among ten people elected from nine countries to participate in this workshop. This workshop was influential for developing their skills and approaches to their work. Mira and Anna experienced a great opportunity for the improvement of their careers. Besides this main workshop, they also attended a workshop lead by Roger Mello, the winner of Hans Christian Andersen Award at Dom Umenia.



*Workshop lead by Roger Mello at Dom Umenia*

During the 50th anniversary of BIB, Murti Bunanta presented a talk on “Storytelling is Caring, Nurturing, Healing, Reading and Educating”, as part of a reading seminar organized by IBBY Institute Bratislava with the theme of “Stop Reading Crisis; Reading and Childhood Development”. There were other 21 speakers for this symposium that was held on August 30th and 31st. It was a fruitful and useful symposium that marked the importance of reading. We thank Timotea Vrablova, The President of Slovakian Section of IBBY who was the initiator and motor of this symposium.



*Murti Bunanta presenting a paper on the benefit of storytelling in the symposium*



*Several speakers of the symposium*

## **2. The 2nd IBBY Asia-Oceania Regional Congress in Malaysia, May 2015**

Another IBBY International Congress was also attended by members of SACL (Society for The Advancement of Children’s Literature); Christantiowati, Imron Harits, Herdiana Hakim,



Emilia Nazir, and Murti Bunanta. These five delegations have also presented papers for this congress. The first congress was held in Bali, Indonesia, organized by Indonesian Section of IBBY was a very success congress and remembered by many friends for a long time.



*Liz Page, Executive Director IBBY; Ellis Vance, Treasurer of IBBY; Emilia Nazir, Secretary General of INABBY; Eng Jousef, President of IBBY Afghanistan; Patricia Aldana, Hans Christian Andersen Jury President; Murti Bunanta, President of INABBY; Ahmad Redza Ahmad Khairuddin, President of MBBY*

Indonesian delegations were also presenting a storytelling session for the children. The theme of the second congress was “One World, Many Stories: Celebrating Diversities in Children’s Literature and Literary Activities”



*SACL and INABBY team on their storytelling session*



*Murti Bunanta reporting SACL and INABBY’s Activities*



### 3. Indonesia, Guest of Honor of FBF, 13th 18-th October 2015

Indonesia was the Guest of Honor of Frankfurt Book Fair 2015. We are proud that Indonesia got a great attention by the book publishings world and German publics who flocked to visit the Indonesian Pavilion to enjoy the cultural dance and music performances; Indonesian culinair; books; ancient literature; and storytelling for children.

Indonesia presented their existences with the theme of “Indonesia - 17.000 Islands of Imagination”, in the pavilion that was designed with an amazing look. This beautiful pavilion consisted of Island of Scene presenting the cultural performances; Island of Words presenting books for adult literature; Island of Spice where people can taste the various Indonesian delicious food served during the FBF; Island of Illuminations where people can see the ancient literature; Island of Inquiry presenting digital books; Island of Images showing comic books and its history in Indonesia; and Island of Tales presenting children’s books and storytelling performances.



*Murti's books in various languages*

There were 7 members of SACL who were assigned to contribute for the Indonesian’s participation in this world event, among others Murti Bunanta and Tety Elida, the Vice President of SACL. Both giving storytelling performances based on various folktales published by SACL. Murti also gave a talk on SACL and INABBY Activities.





*Playing and looking at Murti's digital book –  
"Little Chicken Takes A Walk"*



*Reading a book for a family who came at the  
Children's Pavilion*

Tety Elida and Murti Bunanta have also attended the German Children's Literature Award 2015 invited by Doris Breitmoser, Liaison Officers of German Section of IBBY. An amazing event that showing respect to the quality works of writers and illustrators.



*Murti and her German Publisher,*



*Kamishibai telling for "Prinzessin Kemang"*



Murti Bunanta’s book, “Princess Kemang”, a folktale from Bengkulu, Sumatra, was the only children’s book from Indonesia that has been translated into German. Murti’s book that have also been translated into Japanese, Korean, Mongolian, were among the books that were displayed. Also “Indonesian Folktales” published by Libraries Unlimited (USA) and “Tiny Boy and Other Tales from Indonesia” published by Groundwood Books (Canada) were among the books that attracted foreign publishers.



Report by: Murti Bunanta, Melly Adelia, Emilia Nazir, and Mira Widhayati.



## Iran:

### **CBC Workshop on Children's Literature celebrates its 30th Anniversary**

This nine-month-program, which has been held annually since 1986, continues to attract participants from diverse backgrounds, some of whom have eventually gone on to join the CBC Evaluation Groups, now made up of some 200 experts working in 18 subject groups. The CBC EC paid homage to former workshop coordinators at a cordial gathering and wished them well for the 30th Workshop which will be offered in two parts: "General Introduction to Children's Literature" and "Literary Criticism". Some 60 participants have registered for this year's workshop.

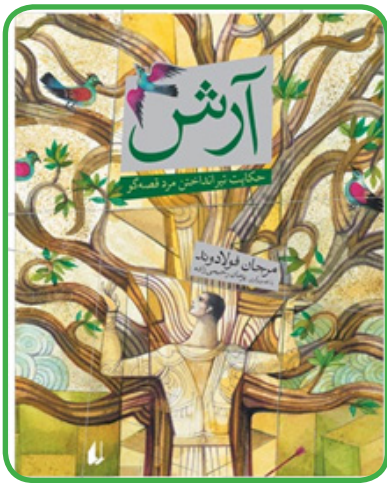


### **Iranian Nominations for the IBBY Honour List 2016**

There is no doubt that the IBBY HL has become an event of great importance for publishers, translators, literary and artistic experts interested in international children's literature. While choosing outstanding works to be submitted for recognition in writing, illustration



and translation for the 2016 HL, CBC has made a special effort to create public awareness that publishers should play a more active role in showcasing their work, especially as regards contributing to the HL fees and the very heavy postage expenses incurred in the submission of the selected works. Children's Book Council of Iran nominees' for the HL 2016 are: Marjan Fooladvand the author of Arash: the story of the story-telling archer from Ofoq Publishing house, Maneli Manouchehri the illustrator of Zal and the Simorgh from Kanoon, and Farzad Farbod the translator of Scarecrow and his Servant (by Philip Pullman) from Panjareh Publishing.



### Iranian Nominations for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award / ALMA 2016

CBC has nominated the distinguished Iranian author H. Moradi Kermani and illustrator Pejman Rahimizadeh as candidates for ALMA 2016. Likewise, The Institute of Research on the History of Children's Literature has nominated Ms. Touran Mirhady founder of CBC and the Encyclopedia for Young People for ALMA 2016, in recognition for her lifelong contribution in bolstering civic participation and in the promotion of voluntarism, the development of children's literature and a reading culture in Iran.





## Conference on Child/Childhood Studies

The First National Conference on Child Studies was held in Tehran, on the premises of Kanoon on September 2015 ,30-29 by the RAHMAN Institute. CBC actively participated in the planning, executive, and referee committees. Among various CBC contributions to the success of the conference were two workshops on the “Sociology of Childhood” and “Childhood through History”, and a photography exhibition of Iranian Children from different walks of life during the past 100 years, which attracted many people.



## CBC Annual Report on Quality of Publishing in Iran

CBC's Book Reviewing Groups Report is an event of great interest to writers, illustrators, translators, publishers, critics, librarians, the media and others. The presentation of reports from 18 Groups was spread out over a two-week-period in September, during which time some 500 new titles were exhibited, presented and discussed, involving more than 180 voluntary reviewing experts. The data on each book stored at the Research Library and an enumerative/qualitative bibliography has been produced in CD format.



### CBC's Candidate for IBBY Asahi Award 2016

As candidate for the IBBY Asahi Award 2016, CBC has nominated the «Read with Me» Project undertaken by the Research Institute on the History of Children's Literature in Iran. The reasons behind this nomination, as put forward by the Awards Committee, include the following: selection of quality literature, promotion of reading through artistic means, attention to the most deprived sector, high quality planning and execution, capacity to attract sponsors, the holding of regular workshops for facilitators, establishment of libraries in the working locations, regular progress reports, and the creation of the Project website (<http://khanak.org/en/>) .





## First Aid for Children in Crisis

*The Institute for Research on the History of Children’s Literature* held two-day workshops on first aid for children in crisis in Tehran and Isfahan in October 2015. The aim of these workshops, which were held by Zahra Ghaeni, linguistic and psychotherapist, was primarily to increase the total social sensitivity and encourage all citizens to help and support the children and young adults in critical situations, so that they would be able to live a normal life or decrease their pain and distress in natural and social disasters.

Holding these workshops was in the framework of “Read with Me” workshops for empowering tutors and teachers who work constantly with children in crisis. The Institute for Research on the History of Children’s Literature hopes to empower tutors in supporting children in crisis and in difficult situations by holding such workshops and also at the same time sharing quality literature with children which has an important role in mental health of children in crisis.

Zahra Ghaeni has studied Linguistics, German Literature and Psychology in the University of Frankfurt. She has also graduated from professional courses of psychology and psychotherapy from University of Giessen and Zurich Professional Psychology Clinic (Switzerland).





## Japan:

### International Children's Book Day Festival

The International Children's Book day Festival was held on March 21 and 22 in Tokyo. It was attended by seven hundred children and five hundred grown-ups.

The first theme was "Thinking about Peace through Reading". We exhibited the panels introducing IBBY and Jella Lepman, and the story boards of Erich Kästner's "Animal Congress", and the works of the successive winners of H. C. Andersen Awards.

The second theme was "Nature and Books". In "the room of animals" story books presenting animals, scientific picture books, and photo books were put on display.

One of main events was a symposium "From Hand to Hand". After the massive earthquake in 2011, children's book illustrators gathered to hold a travelling exhibition. The exhibition came to an end after thirty months, and the symposium was held in commemoration of the closing.

In addition to the above, several workshops and lectures by children's book authors and scientists had been held for children. They learned how interesting nature is, how joyful to make things by their hands, and how wonderful to read books!



*Demonstrations of Kamishibai, story-telling and puppet show of stories around the world*



*Symposium "From Hand to Hand exhibition"*





*Hiroshi Abe, an illustrator, supervised the room of Animals. He made drawings of baby animals in actual size with children.*



*Workshop by children's book illustrator, Taro Miura*

## **IBBY Honour List 2014 Exhibition in Japan**

In August, the exhibition of “2014 H. C. Andersen Award Winners and IBBY Honour List” started the tour. The first venue was the ‘International Library of Children’ library an affiliate of the National Diet Library. Many children accompanied by their parents visited during the summer vacation. In October, private viewing was held at the Japan Publishers Club for editors, translators and many people concerned in publishing business. We strongly wish that Japanese children can read as many of the titles selected by IBBY national sections as possible, as it is very interesting to know what books children in other countries read and like. The exhibition will travel to Fukushima where people still suffer from the damage of the earthquake and the nuclear plant accident, and Okinawa, the southernmost part of Japan.



*Exhibition at the International Library of Children's Literature in August 2015*



*Private viewing at Japan Publishers Club on October 2015*



## JBBY Editor's Course

JBBY editor's course is a series of lectures for professional editors dealing making of a book. More than forty audience members took part in the lectures each time. The first lecture was given by Ms. Akiko Beppu, an editor of Kaiseisha. She introduced works and episodes from great editors highly respected by Ms. Beppu, such as Ursula Nordstrom, and talked about the spirit of editing. The second lecture was given by Mr. Jun Katsuragawa, a prominent book designer. He talked about the history of the book in the form it is in today. It is good to know that to make one book it takes much delicate and thoughtful work from many people. The theme of third lecture was "books for children with disabilities" by Mr. Yoshitaka Kitagawa, an editor of Shogakukan. Participants considered what they can do to help promote reading for the disabled not only as an editor, but also from the view point of a bookseller, a librarian, a teacher, or a parent. The fourth lecture is coming soon.



Audience experienced reading the Braille in JBBY editor's course.

## Children Need Peace

Recently, legislation regarding country's military was passed. The legislation has many interpretations, and even the supporters are not willing to start a war right now. We feel a sense of danger, however, because a possible interpretation of this legislation can give a chance to approve participating in war in the future. The Japanese constitution declares "the Japanese people forever renounce war", and most of us take pride in that sentence. While many constitutional scholars, students, mothers have expressed their opposition, JBBY and other associations regarding children's books started a study session to learn why war has to be avoided for children of the future from the very basics.

**Children Need Peace**

「世界こどもの日」記念  
フォーラム・子どもたちの未来のために  
私たちは「立憲主義」と「民主主義」を取り戻すまで活動を続けます

2015/11/20/Friday / open 17:30 start 18:00  
日本出版クラブ会館 / 新宿区袋町 6 TEL03-3267-6311

11月20日は国際子どもの日「世界こどもの日」です。「児童の権利に関する宣言」と「児童の権利に関する条約」が採択されたこの日に、フォーラムの場面に立ち寄り、これからの活動の方向性を明確にする事を目的として下記の通り「フォーラム・子どもたちの未来のために」を開催いたします。  
参加費 1000円（90歳以上半額）

【プログラム】

第1部 スピーチ 高橋 昌 (アニメーション制作監督)  
「危機意識に反対するママの巻」  
30分以内

第2部 ワークショップ 坂本 真由美 (児童文学者、作家、編集者)  
伊藤 智子 (絵本作家)  
新田 文子 (作家)  
長瀬 美穂 (絵本作家)  
村上 康子 (絵本作家)  
藤田 真由美 (作家)

「フォーラム・子どもたちの未来のために」実行委員会  
協賛: 日本出版クラブ、児童文学者協会、児童書研究会、日本児童出版協会、日本児童図書出版協会  
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Leaflet of the special study session held on Universal Children's Day, November 20



**The 3rd Contest of an Illustration of BEE, organized by Yamada Bee Farm.  
Thanks for the cooperation from IBBY National Sections!**

Yamada Bee Farm has supported IBBY's projects since 2005, and they also conduct an annual contest of bee illustration. The third contest achieved great success. The purpose of this contest is campaigning for the conservation of nature, and educating about the co-existence of humans and other animals. 24,555 works including 389 from 10 overseas countries were received, and the age of applicants varied from two to ninety-three. Elementary school students from China and Armenia received an award for excellence, and eight more foreigners won a prize. The awarding ceremony was held on October 31 in Tokyo. Mr. Yamada wishes to have award winners from overseas present in the future.



*Examination: Second from the left is Mr. Yamada, President of Yamada Bee Farm*



*Award of Excellence by Armenian student*



Award of Excellence by Chinese student

### Books for Tomorrow Project: Activities for the disaster areas of 3.11 earthquake

It has been four years and seven months since the great earthquake occurred on March 2011 ,11. Status quo of the disaster areas varies a great deal depending on location. There are places still deserted where inhabitants moved to safer places. There are places under construction on a large scale. There are places full of life, restored to their former state. The issue of the nuclear plant has yet to be worked out. The “Books for Tomorrow Project” keeps on providing books to children in disaster areas by running a library bus, and arranging author visits.



Children’s book illustrators visited the temporary house in the disaster areas.  
Left: Ms. Naomi Kojima, Right: Mr. Noritake Suzuki



*Children gathered to the bus to borrow books twice a month.*



## Korea:

### Exhibition of Korean Picture Books in 2015 Bologna Children's Book Fair and Beijing International Book Fair

In 2015 KBBY participated in several book expos in different countries exhibiting Korean picture books. In March at the Bologna Children's Book Fair we organized an exhibition under the theme "31 Korean Picture Books that Bring Us Comfort". These picture books, which can create smiles, tears, and joy, were well received in the exhibitions. Leading publishers such as French Gallimard and German Fisher showed keen interest in the books. The six Ragazzi Award winning books of 2014 were also exhibited.

In August at the Beijing Int'l Book Fair, we exhibited 49 picture books under the theme "49 Korean Picture Books with International Acclaim". This time we arranged it so that a copyright counseling of the books could be provided in the booth. KBBY also co-sponsored with CBBY a gathering of Korean and Chinese publishers and authors to discuss the possibility for future co-operation and information exchanges about book markets in the two countries.



*Exhibition of Korean Picture Books in 2015 Bologna Children's Book Fair*



*Exhibition of Korean Picture Books in 2015 Beijing Int'l Book Fair*



## Reading Picture Books with Authors Program

KBBY is continuing to sponsor the program Reading Picture Books with Authors. On every third Saturday of the month picture book authors read their books to children, and the popular storyteller Alicia Dong-Ju Bang tells stories including Korean Folktales and English stories in English. Recently some after-reading activities and small concerts of Korean music or children's songs were added to the events. The program is progressing from a simple author and reader meeting to a complex cultural experience for parents and children to enjoy together.

From March 2015, a new program "Good Children Campaign; Picture Books, Authors and Me" has been launched. The picture book authors read the big books they made beforehand, and lead various activities for children related to the books. The picture book lovers' club <Almond Tree> provides staffing assistance.



*Reading Picture books with Authors*



*Reading Picture books with Authors*



*Picture books, Authors and Me*



*Picture books, Authors and Me*



## 2015 Regular KBBY General Meeting

The KBBY General Meeting for 2015 was held on February 6 in the main auditorium of the National Children and Young Adult Library. About 70 KBBY members attended the meeting and elected a new president and working committee members. New KBBY members who joined in 2014 were introduced to each other also. The certificate of the Korean Representative Candidate for the IBBY Andersen Award was given to a picture book author Mr. Byoung-Ho Han. There were also reports on the achievement and activities of each committee and members. A special lecture by the committee member Dr. Seong-Yop Lee on her book «Picture Book; A Space for Interpretation» brought the meeting to a close.



*2015 Regular KBBY General Meeting*





## Lebanon:

### Support for the Bibliotherapy Program

During the 2015 Antwerp Book Fair, on November 6, the Belgian Section of IBBY - Flemish Branch, presented LBBY with a 4000€ contribution for its bibliotherapy campaign for Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Shereen Kreidieh presented the bibliotherapy project to the attendees, and discussed the situation in Lebanon and how the project benefits children, while providing pictures. LBBY is grateful to IBBY President Wally De Doncker for attending the presentation along with several members from different IBBY sections in Europe.



LBBY is thankful to the Belgian Section of IBBY- Flemish Branch and the other IBBY sections that are helping us. Eva Devos also gave Ms. Kreidieh a tour of the book fair, introducing her to the impressive Belgian children's books, in addition to the many inspiring activities done to promote reading and books.





## **The Annual Reading Competition for the year 2015/2014**

The 2015 ceremony for the annual reading competition, organized by LBBY to promote reading among children in a number of public and private schools in Lebanon, took place on May 23 at the UNESCO palace in Beirut to honour the winners and those who participated in the reading competition. The competition started over 15 years ago and has become an event of great importance. Both students and the school administrators look forward to it. This activity is usually launched in October and lasts until the end of March. During this period fourth grade students are encouraged to participate in this exciting competition.

This year 35 schools joined the competition. We were proud to have with us again schools for special needs, orphanages, and an institution for children who come from very needy families and difficult home lives.

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

This year the children were entertained by a professional storyteller with whom they interacted well and enjoyed a different experience from the puppet show.

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 contributed in making the event a success. After the ceremony we all gathered over a light snack and refreshments.



## Malaysia:

### 2ND Asia Oceania Regional Ibbby Congress, Putrajaya Malaysia

Malaysia IBBY hosted the 2nd Asia Oceania Regional IBBY Congress on 16-12 May 2015. With the theme “One World Many Stories: Celebrating Diversities in Children’s Literature and Literary Activities”. The four day Congress, which was held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, was attended by 160 IBBY members and friends from the Asia-Oceania region, which included Afghanistan, China, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand and Singapore.

Also present at the Congress were IBBY President Mr. Wally de Donker, who officiated the Congress, IBBY Executive Director Elizabeth Page, who spoke on IBBY Activities in Asia-Oceania, and IBBY Past President, Patricia Aldana who presented a paper titled “Project for Children in Crisis”. President of IBBY New Zealand was also present to preview the upcoming IBBY Congress in Auckland in 2016

More than 50 papers were presented by participants including two keynote papers by Ahmad Redza Khairuddin, current Malaysia IBBY President and Junko Yokota, past president of USBBY. Mr Khairuddin’s paper was titled “Celebrating Diversities in Children’s Literature and Literary Activities” while Dr Yokota’s presentation topic was “Expanding the Ways We Tell Stories in Print and Digital Formats”.

Three post congress workshops were held at the University of Malaya, which were conducted by Patricia Aldana, Ellis Vance and Etsuko Nozaka and the IKAJA members from Japan. An exhibition was also held presenting the winning illustrations of Nami Conkurs 2015, IBBY Honour List 2014, and selected children’s books by Malaysian publishers.

Asia Oceania Regional IBBY Congress is held once in every two years. This inaugural congress was hosted by Indonesia IBBY in Bali on 26-23 May 2013 with the theme titled “How to Strengthen Asia-Oceania IBBY”. The third congress is scheduled to be held in Bangkok, Thailand in 2017.



*Participants at the 2nd Asia Oceania Regional IBBY Congress, Putrajaya Malaysia, 12-16 May 2015*



*Group photograph of the 2nd Asia Oceania IBBY Regional Congress at Putrajaya Malaysia*



*In serious discussion, from left: Professor Dr Md. Sidin Ahmad Ishak (Malaysia), Ali Redza Karimdadian (Iran) Elizabeth Page (IBBY), Mohd Yusof (Afghanistan)*



## Mongolia:

### Best Books for Children

#### Children's book reading promotions in mining communities in Mongolia

With support from the Yamada fund, the Mongolian IBBY section organized children's reading promotion tours in mining communities in the southern and the northern part of Mongolia during September and October 2015. The tours were organized in Tsogt Tsetsii, Khanbogd and Dalanzadgad soums of South Gobi province and in a provincial center of Middle Gobi province, and also in Altanbulag, Bayangol and Mandal soums of Selenge province in the northern west.

The children's reading promotion tours were led by the IBBY Mongolia section through partnerships with several local publishing offices such as Munkhiin Useg (The Eternal Letter), Unget khevlél (Color printing), Soyombo.

The tour team, which consisted of children's authors, a story teller and publishers, organized two to three hour events at the schools and cultural centers in the soums they visited. Books that have been listed as "Best Books" by the Ministry of Education and Culture of Mongolia and also Mongolian books that were selected for the IBBY Honour List since 2012 were explained, and selected stories were told to audiences which included children, teachers from local primary schools, librarians from local libraries, and also parents. A story telling contest "Fairy tales in my daily life" was organized among local children, and winners were awarded with children's books and toys of characters from the fairy tales presented during the events.

We reached 500 parents, 600 children and 150 teachers through these book promotion tours and events in provincial locations around Mongolia. Children's books were also donated to main public libraries and also school libraries in the soums we visited.



*Introduction of Best Books to children*



*Story telling session at a rural school*



*Session on how to use books for education*



*Team is traveling in the mining communities*



*A session with parents*



*Reading promotion in a nomadic family*



## Palestine:

### A Library is Born!

In August 2015, PBBY sent a briefing of how a library is born defying destruction and aggression, here are some extracts.

It is more than one year now since the Israeli horrendous attack on Gaza and the complete destruction of IBBY al-Ataa library and the damaging of al Shawka library.

The sad reality is that our people in Gaza did not get the opportunity to mourn their dead, heal their wounds and build their houses. The infrastructure is still damaged and the destroyed houses are still in rubble! The Israeli occupation (1967) goes on and the siege of Gaza is ongoing since 2006, accompanied by the Egyptian closure of the Rafah crossing into Egypt; thus making Gaza the largest prison in the world!



The Gaza Appeal (35,000\$) facilitated for a temporary replacement library (al-Sikka) near the destroyed library. It was refurbished, enlarged, provided with books, furniture, and equipment; some similar procedures were applied with al-Shawka Rafah library.

PBBY expresses **thanks and appreciation** to all our IBBY Friends for their solidarity and concern. Special thanks to National Sections, and friends who contributed to **IBBY Gaza Appeal**.



Above are a few pictures of the exhibition showing of the outcome of the activities for children activities in the





presence of mothers, who share in the smiles of their children, reflecting the struggle and determination of our people to **their Right to Life, to Justice, Dignity and to Books!**

**IBBY Palestine has issued a Solidarity Appeal with Palestinian Children & People. These are some excerpts**

You can read the full text at: <http://www.ibbypalestine.org/spip.php?article494>

(...)

Frustrated and desperate Palestinian youth have been living under occupation and oppression all their lives, with no hope, are fighting now for freedom.

(...)

The death toll is on the increase daily as Israeli mobs chant 'death to Arabs'. Israeli soldiers continue to arm Israeli settlers, to protect them and at times escort them as they attack Palestinians and set fire to their olive groves. Tens of houses are being destroyed and many are being evicted. Hundreds of Palestinians are being detained, thus joining thousands of adult and hundreds of children detainees.

(...)

The strategy of targeting children: killing, wounding and imprisoning them is appalling and a shameful violation to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

(...)

We call upon all our friends around the world including our IBBY friends and all those supporting CRC, to raise their voice in solidarity with our children and youth. It is vital to demand that your governments take immediate action in order to stop Israeli horrors and end occupation!

### **Palestine at BIB 2015!**

IBBY Palestine was invited to celebrate in the BIB 50th anniversary celebration in Bratislava. Jehan Helou was invited to be a member of the International Committee. This was our first participation in this important celebration of children book illustrations.

Tamer Institute was chosen to coordinate the illustrations and to nominate a candidate for the illustration workshop for young artists. Fouad Yamani participated successfully in this important training.

The Palestinian illustrations were well received. We were happy to be on the Award List and Dar Kan Ya Ma Kan received 'Honorary Mention for the support of development of picture book publication for the book of The Black Fish by writer Rose Shomali and illustrator



Dima Abu Al Haj.

Abu Al Haj was on the IBBY Honour List - 2012 for the book of Omar and Ha Ha by the writer Safa Ameer.



## PBBY Monthly General Meetings

PBBY tries to keep going with the monthly general meeting for discussing books, relevant subjects, and meeting writers and illustrators, despite the very difficult situation and the obstacles of closures, barricades checkpoints that hinder members from outside Ramallah area to attend. At the last few meetings we had a review of some young adult books that are relevant to situation in Palestine and the area affected by Israeli aggression, occupation and settlements.

In August Jehan Helou gave a brief review of the important book *The Wall* by the British writer William Sutcliffe. In September Sonia Nimr discussed the book of Falefel al- Naziheen (Falafel the Displaced) by the Lebanese writer Samah Idriss. In October Leila Yumna reviewed the story *Sitt al Kol – (Against the Tide)* - by the writer Taghreed Najjar.





IBBY Palestine arranged for a meeting with a delegation of 'Librarians and Archivists with Palestine' (LAP) during their second visit to the Palestinian Occupied Territory in April 2015. The LAP delegates spoke briefly about their mission, the purpose of their visit and their future activities. Mary Fasheh spoke about PBBY Libraries in Gaza; Afaf Abu Nahleh showed a slide show and pictures of the two libraries and of the children. This was followed by a general discussion that had information that was of interest to the delegates and their work. The LAP delegation had this report and solidarity statement:

[http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/21637/librarians-and-archivists-with-palestine\\_-2015dele](http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/21637/librarians-and-archivists-with-palestine_-2015dele)





## Tunisia:

The year 2015 has been a difficult year for TUNIBBY not only because it could not generate new funds due to the difficult economic situation, but it has also been a difficult year in the whole of Tunisia. Tunisia has witnessed many crises that have threatened its comfort and peace. The attacks that occurred in Bardo Museum, March 2015 and the attacks that killed many innocent people in Port al Kantaoui, Sousse June 2015, and the last deadly suicide bombing that took place the 24th of November and killed more than 12 people. All these instances of terrorism and unrest have proved that we need more and more enlightenment, openness, understanding and tolerance, and this can be achieved through books, among other things.

TUNIBBY has spearheaded the role of books in opening new horizons, spreading the values of mutual understanding and tolerance, and providing strong “vaccines” for immunizing our children from extremism. With our limited resources, we managed to convince other motivated persons to join us in our endeavor and now our family has expanded and grown to include more than 20 members. Most of them attended our General Assembly that took place September 13th at Sfax Book Fair Association premises.



We managed also to make two documentaries that you will soon see published on our website, which is currently under construction. The idea of making such short films (by volunteers) is promotional. We need people to learn about us and our mission, and this could be easily done through images, sometimes more powerful and convincing than the words.



## TUNIBBY's Activities

TUNIBBY had its own booth on the sidelines of Sfax Children's Book Fair. It served as a reading corner where parents and children meet to read from the collection of books displayed on bookshelves. Also TUNIBBY seized the opportunity to invite its partner, The Association of Maths and Logic Reasoning to offer workshops in its booth carried out by the trainer and Mathematician Sadok Ktari. There were also collage workshops carried out by Olfa Kharrat and Bechir Thabet, storytelling workshops by Wafa Thabet Mezghani, the Little Journalist by Riadh Yaich.



On the 26th of March, 2015, TUNIBBY drove to a primary school in an under privileged area called Hzag where we distributed boxes of books sponsored by Sharjah/IBBY Fund. The boxes served as a nucleus for a school library there. We also celebrated the creation of this library by having a show.



On the 16th of June, TUNIBBY drove to another under privileged area and distributed boxes to a primary and preparatory schools. The books were sponsored by Sharjah/IBBY fund and also by an oil company in the region SEREPT.

On the 24th October, TUNIBBY distributed books with special criteria to an autistic center in Bizerte directed by Irada Association. The books are meant to be used by parents to learn how to support autistic children and also books for children with difficulties in reading.





On the 26th of October, TUNIBBY distributed books on Bani Yaghlán primary school in Cap Angela, Bizerte. The school is also in a remote area.

On the 30th of October TUNIBBY organized a storytelling performance to the American writer, artist and storyteller Leila Buck entitled “Hkeeli”, (Talk to Me)



There are many schools on the list and there are many activities to accomplish. The challenge is getting bigger and the responsibility is heavier.

Wafa Thabet Mezghani