

IBBY Asian Newsletter

July 2012

No.3



Dear IBBY colleagues around the world!

This is the third Middle East and Asian Regional Newsletter. We are very glad that we could publish this issue just before the London congress, where the Asian national sections will meet. We would be very grateful if you share your ideas on improving this Newsletter. We also encourage other national sections to send contributions in the future to reflect more comprehensively the efforts of our IBBY colleagues in this part of the world.

We sincerely hope that all national sections in the region have a very good time at the congress. We anticipate that the events and meetings at the congress will support us in our considerable achievements for our children with co-operation of the IBBY family.

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

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

Zohreh and Susanna

Zohreh Ghaeni (zghaeni@gmail.com)

Susanna Coghlan (scoghlan@gmail.com)

Content:



Australia
Cambodia
China
India
Iran
Japan

Korea
Lebanon
Pakistan
Palestinian
UAE





Australia

Since our last contribution we are pleased to have announced our IBBY Australia nominees for the 2012 IBBY Honour List with writer Glenda Millard's *A small free kiss in the dark* (Allen & Unwin) and illustrator Gregory Roger's *The Hero of Little Street* (Allen & Unwin).

The winner of the 2012 Ena Noel Award, IBBY Australia Encouragement Award for Children's Literature, was announced on International Children's Book Day: *Omega Park* by Amy Barker (UQP). This Award is given biennially to a young, emerging Australian author/illustrator of children's and YA books. It honours Ena Noel, founding president of IBBY Australia who held this position for over 20 years. The judges were unanimous in choosing this debut novel, the engaging story of two boys growing up in Omega Park, a housing commission estate where lives are impoverished in every sense of the word.

International Children's Book Day was also celebrated with events on Australia's east and west coasts. In Sydney, NSW, Australia's two HCAndersen Award nominees, writer Christobel Mattingley and illustrator Bob Graham gave inspiring addresses to an audience of seventy people and cut the Kransekake to celebrate Hans Christian Andersen's birthday. At the Villa Roma, Fremantle about forty people enjoyed an Italian meal, and shared their favourite childhood picture book and one lucky person won the raffle of artwork donated by Matt Ottley and Lesley Reece.

HCA nominee illustrator Bob Graham has generously provided an original piece of art, for a limited edition of fifty signed and numbered prints. The sale of these has made an important contribution to our funds.

We note with regret the passing of Juliana Bayfield on the 20th October, 2011. Juliana succeeded long-time IBBY Australia president, Ena Noel and held this position from 1990 until she was succeeded by John Foster in 2001.

Fund raising events in Sydney and Perth have resulted in IBBY Australia being able to send \$AUD3,700.00 to JBBY to assist with the Children in Crisis Fund - Japan Appeal, and we are planning to send more.

Our membership now stands at 170 individual and 13 institutional members. We are looking forward to expanding our membership base and feel we have much to be proud of since becoming an independent, incorporated body in April, 2011. We look forward to having articles published in *Bookbird*, members attending international conferences and to meeting our international colleagues at the 33rd International IBBY Congress in London.

Officially launched by the Prime Minister, the Hon Julia Gillard, 2012 is National Year of Reading and IBBY Australia Inc is one of the many partners who are promoting the importance of reading.

Jenni Woodroffe

Vice-President/Secretary

IBBY /Australia



Photo of Isaac Blackwell trying out sumi-e, using the traditional black ink and brush at the Hyogo Prefectural Government Cultural Centre, City Beach, Western Australia as part of the fund-raising



Cambodia

Around Children's Books in Cambodia Workshop

On January 28th, IBBY Cambodia hosted its inaugural event: a one day workshop to celebrate current activities around Cambodia providing reading opportunities for children, and to discuss some of the current challenges faced by organizations and individuals active in this field. The workshop brought together writers, authors, illustrators, publishers, government officials, and other relevant organizations, to discuss their views on regarding writing, publication, illustration, and copyright protection, in support of the IBBY aim to provide support and training for those involved with children and children's literature.

Ms Yim Mory, Director of Hun Sen Boeung Trabek Library, gave a presentation on "Importance of Reading for children". Passionate about reading, Ms Mory's inspiring presentation provided practical and effective means for bringing children and books together in all spheres of life.

Mr. Lim You Suor, Director of Copyright Law Department, Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, who spoke about "Copyright and Related Rights of Cambodia". This is a critical issue for the Cambodian publishing industry and was an area of interest for participants during the Q & A session with the panel speakers.

Mr Heng Sreang of PEN Cambodia gave a short presentation on PEN and its activities here, including plans to compile a list and review of all Cambodian published books.



Bann Chamroeun, President of IBBY Cambodia, in conversation with Youm Kosal, Cambodian nominee for illustration to

IBBY Honor List 2012

Contributions were provided from Cambodian authors and illustrators. In conversation with IBBY President, the author and illustrator of Cambodia's Honor List nominees, Chou Chinith and Youm Kosal spoke about the selected books and how they approached creating them.

Ms Heng Dary, author of several picture books for children including Buffalo Boy, and Golden Vase, spoke about her passion for reading as a child and how she has transformed this into becoming a writer for children. Mr. Khun Sovannrith, an accomplished



illustrator who has created books with several publishers in Cambodia, showed slides from his work and spoke about his experiences and engagement as an illustrator. His artwork draws on Cambodian themes and landscapes, using line and movement his illustrators capture the atmosphere and energy of each scene depicted.

During the afternoon session participants formed five groups to discuss the questions regarding some of the critical issues in producing and distributing books for children in Cambodia. The responses created by each group reflected the range of expertise and interests in the room and were recorded by IBBY Cambodia to use in planning future activities and working with the children's book community here.



A display of Cambodian published children's books and IBBY information ran during the event.

Approximately 60 people attended the workshop and the level of participation was excellent. The level of support for the publication and production of children's books of quality in Cambodia is exceptional and we are excited by the prospect of engaging these people in the work of IBBY here.



Congratulations to SIPAR, Cambodia, winner of 2012 IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award

IBBY Cambodia member, SIPAR, was one of the winners of the 2012 IBBY-Ashai Reading Promotion Award. For over 20 years, SIPAR has helped Cambodia fight illiteracy and develop school and public reading. Activities have included establishing school libraries, public reading spaces, mobile-libraries, and training programs for librarians. For over ten years SIPAR has published high quality Khmer language fiction and non-fiction books for young readers. Staff of SIPAR have also been instrumental in establishing an IBBY section in Cambodia and generously provide us with a meeting space each month. We are delighted that the important work of SIPAR has been recognized and wish them every success in their activities.



China

This year, Chinese illustrators met UK illustrators in London at events and forums co-organized by IBBY UK and IBBY China or CBBY.

Around 80 illustrations by selected Chinese illustrators were on show in the Millennium Art Gallery and the British Museum during the London Book Fair. This is the first time this exhibition of Chinese illustrators has been displayed in the UK. The exhibition aroused interest and curiosity from illustrators, librarians, and students.

On April 16th, a professional forum was held under the title of "Era of Picture Reading—the Integration and Development of Children's Picture Books Art in China and Western Countries" in the Hampton Hall of the Earl's Court Exhibition Centre. Speakers included UK illustrators Hans Christian Andersen Award (illustrator) nominee Mr. John Burningham, Mr Michael Foreman, and Chinese illustrators Mr. Xiong Liang, Mr. Liang Peilong and Mr. Jiang Jianwen. Illustrators from both countries expressed their interest in the artwork of their counterparts, and exchanged points of views on illustration and picture book creation.



Chinese illustrator Mr. Xiong Liang is delivering a speech at the seminar

Mr. Anthony Browne, former UK Children's Laureate, Hans Christian Andersen Award winner, and patron of IBBY Congress 2012 visited the Chinese illustration exhibition in the British Museum where he engaged in long discussions with the Chinese illustrators.



From Left to right: Mr. Xiong Liang, Mr. Liang Peilong, Mr. Anthony Browne, Mr. Mingzhou Zhang, Mr. Clive Barnes, Mr. Jiang Jianwen, Mr. unknown



CBBY Vice President Mingzhou Zhang and IBBY UK president Clive Barnes expressed satisfaction with the joint events and look forward to further exchanges and co-operations between IBBY UK and IBBY China.

The three Andersen Award nominees or winners who participated in these events have also agreed to include their books in the proposed Hans Christian Andersen Awards Publication Project in China, which will include all Andersen Awards winners and some nominees, as well as IBBY related publications such as Jella Lepman's autobiography, Andersen Awards Catalogues, and ICBD posters.

Mr. Anthony Browne has accepted an invitation by Mingzhou Zhang to visit China early 2013.

Mr. John Burningham will also visit China at the end of this year under arrangement by the British Consul where he will engage in activities with CBBY colleagues.



*From left to right: Mr. Xiong Liang, Ms Sue Mansfield, Mr. Jiang Jianwen, Mr. Clive Barnes,
Mr. John Burningham, Dr Penni Cotton, Mr. Mingzhou Zhang,
Mr. Liang Peilong, Mr Michael Foreman, Ms Carol Thompson*

Local Newspaper the Guardian and Propeller TV and Chinese Publication and Press News Paper covered the events.



India

The Association of Writers and Illustrators for Children (AWIC/Indian BBY) is a registered voluntary organization engaged in developing quality literature for children. It also promotes reading habits to children through its "AWIC Children's Library Project." Under this Project AWIC has set up 175 libraries all over the country.

Every year AWIC gives a 'Reader of the Year Award' to children, who read regularly in the libraries. There is also a 'Librarian of the Year' award for our voluntary librarians who motivate children to read and give us regular feed back.

This year our Annual Library Award function was held on 12th April 2012 at Gandhi Peace Foundation auditorium, Delhi.

Shri Vineet Joshi Chairperson Central Board of Secondary Education was the Chief Guest. Thirty five children from different libraries were awarded "Reader of the Year" award. This year two children from Arunachal Pradesh received this award. Mr. Elto Mega who had come from Arunachal Pradesh for the function was awarded a "Librarian of the Year" award. He has been working dedicatedly to promote reading habits to tribal children since last five years.

Pratima Chauhan also received a "Librarian of the Year" award. She runs the AWIC Children's Library for the children of soldiers stationed on the borders of India.

Shri Sadiq of Moser Baer Trust also received a "Librarian of the Year" award. He is promoting reading habits to economically disadvantaged children.

The function was attended by 200 children along with librarians and members of AWIC.

Conference on Book Therapy – Reading is Healing



9 - 11 February, 2012, New Delhi, India



The three-day International Conference on Book Therapy "Reading is Healing", from 9 - 11 February 2012 in New Delhi, was organized by the Indian section of International Board on Books for Young People, the Association of Writers and Illustrators for Children (AWIC). It was attended by delegates from 12 countries and also from all over India. The conference created waves of interest among people regarding the significance of reading and books in overcoming the effect of traumas and the role of books in the healing process.

The release of *Lighthouse in the Storm*, a collection of heart-warming stories written by AWIC members, helped to set the direction of the conference towards the role of books in helping children in distress.

The first session highlighted various strategies for disaster management, utilizing books to mitigate traumas, leading on in the following sessions to aspects of creating books that heal, facilitating book therapy and using books with children in crisis situations.

Exhibitions at the conference displayed the work of the great poet laureate, Rabindranath Tagore, paying tribute to him during the 150th anniversary of his birth. Exhibitions from Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Outstanding Books for Children with Disabilities from Norway extended the main theme of the conference and were supported by a display of books that heal. A pageant of children's paintings on the Bhopal Gas tragedy and the Art for Therapy experiment which included differently abled children were the highlights of the conference.

The serious matter of book therapy was punctuated with the healing touch of a ballet performed by differently abled children in wheel-chairs, storytelling and a classical dance celebrating the festival of color and aspirations.



The delegates approved the need to organize workshops and courses to sensitize all those working with children towards the effective use of literature and poetry. All libraries, book clubs etc. can become potential book therapy centers and different agencies aiding traumatized children could share their experiences to benefit all children in crisis.



Iran

CBC's research library in the service of Iranian research work

CBC's research library with its collection of over 35,000 books and periodicals in Persian and other languages along with its collection of documents, posters and recordings is a constant source of support for the country's research needs. In 2011, 31 researchers completing their dissertations on children's and young people's literature made use of CBC's research facilities.

First festival of story-telling mothers In Tehran

In collaboration with the Artistic & Cultural Organization of Tehran Municipality, CBC held the first citywide Festival of story-telling mothers in February, 2012. This festival was held with the aim of fostering the study of culture within the family by means of story-telling along with acquainting children and families with literature and inculcating an interest in books and reading. This event which featured 46 workshops at 22 locations around Tehran was attended by 3,500 mothers who learned all about story-telling.

Opening of the Library for Mother, Child and Teenager in the village of Salakh

The Library for Mother, Child and Youth in the village of Salakh located on the Persian Gulf island of Qeshm opened in April, 2012 with a collection of 1000 books with a group of promoters of children's literature on hand from CBC. On the day of the inauguration of this library, approximately 200 children and their families gathered to participate in various promotional activities. Alongside these activities, teachers and 100 middle school boys were introduced to the Encyclopedia for Young People.



Eleventh workshop held on the teaching of children's and young people's librarianship and promotion of reading

The House of Librarians for the Promotion of Reading among Children and Young People held its eleventh workshop on teaching librarianship called "I am a librarian" on April 22, 2012. During the workshop which lasted 30 hours, participants became familiar with the features of a library, the principals of librarianship, the special needs of children and young people, genres of literature, technical and public facilities, ways of promoting literature and documenting the activities of the library.

Mohammad Ali Baniasadi judged finalist for the 2012 Hans Christian Andersen Award

A ceremony to honor Mohammad Ali Baniasadi, 2012 HCA Awards finalist was held on April 29, 2012 in the research library of CBC. Present among the attendees were specialists in children's literature, librarians, illustrators, writers, publishers and other literary enthusiasts. The event featured different discussions about Baniasadi's illustrations and at the end he was congratulated for having reached international prominence.



Encyclopedia for Young People at the 25th International Tehran Book Fair

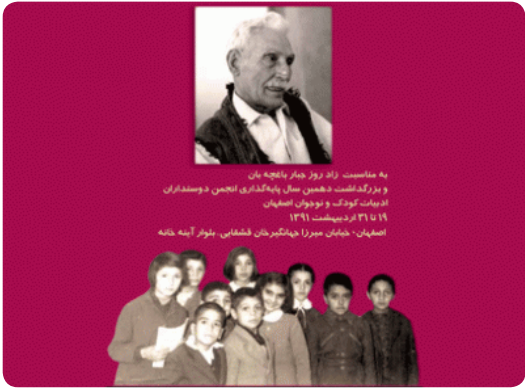
Thirteen newly packaged volumes of the Encyclopedia for Young People were exhibited in April, 2012 at the 25th Tehran International Book Fair. Volume 14 of the Encyclopedia is currently being



printed and will be available shortly for children, teenagers, parents, teachers and librarians.

Commemoration ceremony held for Jabbar Baghcheban in Isfahan

The Institute for Research on the History of children's Literature (IRHCLI) in collaboration with Isfahan's Society for Children's Literature Enthusiasts (ISCLE) celebrated the anniversary of Jabbar Baghcheban's birthday on May 8th in Isfahan. Jabbar Baghcheban who lived in the late 19th and early 20th century, was the founder of kindergarten and deaf and mute children's education in Iran. He established numerous institutes and published many books about deaf children and on methods of teaching them. Baghcheban founded new methods of education by applying literature and arts in learning, namely for children who were deprived of minimum means of subsistence.



Memorial Seminar and Exhibition on Baghcheban

On the occasion of the birthday of this exceptional human being, IRHCLI and ISCLE held a Seminar. One of the speakers was his daughter Samineh Baghcheban who elaborated on the biography of her father. Zohreh Ghaeni, another presenter, described the important role of Baghcheban in developing the educational system in Iran. In addition to the Seminar an Exhibition about Baghcheban was held in Isfahan to introduce his life and works to teachers, students, and all people interested in this topic.



Celebrating 10th anniversary of Isfahan's Society for Children's Literature Enthusiasts (ISCLE)

Isfahan's Society for Children's Literature Enthusiasts (ISCLE) celebrated its 10th year of activities promoting children's literature on May 8, 2012 in Isfahan. The ceremony, which coincided with Baghcheban's birthday, was attended by members of ISCLE,





guests from The Institute for Research on the History of children's Literature (IRHCLI) and House of Librarians for Children and Adolescents, as well as fans of children's literature in Isfahan and other guests.

Nokhodi's Creator met his fans in Koroon village

On May 9th M. H. Mohammadi, the great children's book writer and creator of the "Nokhodi's" books, traveled to Koroon village to meet his fans.



At an elementary school with nearly 100 students in a remote village, Koroon, in Iran's Chahar Mahal va Bakhtiari province, children are being taught through the child-centered creative education method by "Learning Farsi through Literature" which is called "Nokhodi" by children. In this meeting every class of students gave a performance on one of the Nokhodi's stories. Since children started reading these books in their schools, the teachers have observed an outstanding improvement in students' learning.

Works of 32 illustrators from around the world on display

Sahar Tarhandeh, the Iranian jury member of the Hans Christian Andersen Award 2012, organized a one-day exhibition showcasing works by nominated illustrators from 32 countries on May 26, 2012. The exhibition was held at the Children's Book Council of Iran research library. More than 150 people visited the exhibition including high school students, illustrators and graphic designers, undergraduate and graduate students, children's literature experts and translators.



Report on the status of children's and young people's literature and descriptive-analytical bibliography published

CBC's teams comprised of over 120 children's literature expert voluntary examine and evaluate the annual national production of children's books, to prepare the descriptive - critical bibliography. The annual results of the critical evaluation was recently published and made available to librarians, teachers, publishers, producers, researchers and parents.



Japan

We, JBBY, introduce a message of Ms. Chieko Suemori, former IBBY EC, from the website of "3.11 Ehon Project in Iwate" a supporting group for children in the disaster area by earthquakes and tsunami.

<http://www.ehonproject.org/iwate/>

3.11—Since that fateful day, one year has passed. . .

Chieko Suemori

I write these words just one year after the day of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami on March 11, 2011. How many people have thought since that day, if only they could go back to even 5 minutes before the disaster. In that time, they remember: my husband was alive, my friend was there, my father was working out there, and there were houses, there were jobs, there were communities... But time does not stop, and we realize anew how steadily those who survived have kept themselves going, somehow, throughout this one year.

I gaze at those images from one year ago as if seeing them for the first time. Resident of Iwate prefecture though I am, I live inland, and I am reminded over and over what unprecedented destruction visited these shores one year ago. I think how frightened people must have been and how wretched they must have felt. I imagine how sad they must feel even to this day. Only those who actually lived through the earthquake and tsunami can really understand.

Still, we have endeavored, as fellow residents of this region, to share the fear, and the pain, and the suffering of the victims. Picture books are staunch companions for children grieving over loss of parents and grandparents, siblings, friends. We have been bringing books to our young friends who have experienced unimaginable sadness and loss, and will keep on doing so, convinced that it helps them, even a little. We believe that picture books give hope not only to children, but to adults. We believe that books will help to relieve the pain and grief, one page at a time.

Our fleet of mini bookmobiles called Ehon Cars has grown to six, and five of them are traveling along the coastal highways, taking books to the children there. In the communities striving to rebuild after the disaster of one year ago, people are starting up small-scale bunko libraries. We hope those will be places where children gather and where they will be able to find refuge and solace in their time with books. The Ehon Project in Iwate wants to support and help these bunko libraries when called upon.

Thanks to the generosity of so many people, there are plenty of picture books. They have been carefully sorted and categorized and they can be provided in response to any request. We now plan to create a kind of "satellite" in Morioka where people who can bring books to children will gather and from which we will provide information for outlying cities, towns, and villages. To create this center for the Ehon Project, we again need your assistance. We call on you once more to lend us your support for this ongoing project.

Soon this year, we are also planning to compile a record of the "3.11 Ehon Project in Iwate" in book form. We hope this record will allow us all to share the strength and commitment of the people who sent us picture books, who donated funds, who volunteered to help with the books, as well as those who received and now treasure the books, and everyone who has been part of this endeavor.

We look forward to your continued cooperation and goodwill,



© Chieko Suemori



Korea

2011 KBBY Seminar

On November 2nd, 2011, KBBY held a seminar on translating and exporting Korean children's literature. The current situation of Korean children's literature exports, with examples from USA, Japan, and France, and the total data and statistics of exports from 48 publishing companies were presented at the seminar. The KBBY website has detailed information on each presentation. The chairman of BIB committee also reported on his visit to Biennial of Illustration Bratislava.



KBBY 2012 New Year's Meet and Greet



There was KBBY 2012 New Year's meet and greet on February 2nd. Around 40 KBBY members participated this social gathering and shared time together. Five members from academic associations and libraries and three authors gave presentations regarding the recent developments in Korean children's literature, their activities in 2011, and their plans for 2012. The meeting also included youth literature from other parts of the world, with a presentation titled "School is society: examples from British school stories" focusing specifically on the change of British society from 19th to 20th as evidenced through the school stories.

Participation of 2012 Bologna's Book Fair

In March 20th, at the Bologna exhibition center, KBBY introduced three animations about Korean children's book and the works of new authors. In particular, Run, Toto by Eun-Young Cho, the winner of 2011 BIB Grand Prix, and Grimmie's White Canvas by Hyun-Ju Lee, the winner of 2012 Bologna Ragazzi Award Opera Prima, attracted a lot of attention and helped to show the talents and abilities of Korean authors.

Grimmie's White Canvas Won the 2012 Bologna Ragazzi Award Opera Prima.





Grimmie's White Canvas by Hyun-Ju Lee won the 2012 Bologna Ragazzi Award Opera Prima, the prize devoted to the works of new authors and illustrators. The jury made the following statement about the book:

"The weave of illustrations that form the graphic backdrop to this book is the work of a master craftsman. When, as is the case here, the "solids" and "voids" on the page join in true dialogue, they evoke the very essence of artistic debate over the 20th century. The elegance that transpires refers us to a sweeping stylistic evolution. Nonetheless the book remains true to its original aim of simply telling a fairy story, in other words, presenting Otherness as an everyday phenomenon. Aesop's compendium of animals is here revisited. Although certainly more elegant than the original bestiary, they still bear the evident indelible stamp of the ancient fairytale. The window-cum-easel seen at the end of the book is a playful yet clear manifesto: a gentle prompt to all child readers that they should explain things to the grown ups."

Children's Book Reading in Bonn

On March 22nd, KBBY held Children's Book Reading in Poppelsdorfer Schloss in Bonn. It was co-supervised by KBBY and KLTI(Korea Literature Translation Institute) and co-hosted by the department of Korean Translation Studies of University of Bonn and King Sejong Institute in Bonn. Nam-Jung Kim, the author of Cro-Magnons Lived in Caves, Kil-Taek Lim, the author of The Child of Stone Flower, Su-Jung Kim, the author of My Sajik-dong read their own works and after the readings, the movie clips of Wan-Duk Yi and Leafie, a Hen Into the Wild were shown.



Meeting with Minister of Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism

Sae-Hee Kim, the president of KBBY, and Sang-Hyun Chon, the vice president of KBBY, had met with the Minister of Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism in April 6th. The meeting was attended by many illustrators including 'Illustrators of 2012 in Bologna', Hyun-Ju Lee, the winner of the 2012 Bologna Ragazzi Award Opera Prima, and Eun-Young Cho, the winner of Grand Prix BIB and the author of 2012 Bologna book fair catalogue cover. Publishers also joined the meeting. The Minister commented



on the results of expansion in overseas markets for Korean children's books and encouraged people in book publishing business to continue their efforts. The Minister identified children's literature as the crest of the 'Korean Wave' into the international publishing world and promised to support authors, illustrators, and publishers as much as possible.

Participation of NGO Public Service

As the member of NGO of Korea, we are facilitating authors in supporting disadvantaged children in society. With government financial support, there will be four meeting of authors and disadvantaged children. The children will have chance to listen to authors' experience about writing books, and make their own books. We will also donate about hundreds books to the library where the meetings will be held. The books will be from the recommended reading list produced by the reading committee of KBBY. The recommended reading committee was started in February.

New Homepage of KBBY

The homepage of KBBY has a new appearance. Visit us on line and you will see a clearer, neater, and more advanced homepage at <http://www.kbby.org>.



Lebanon

The Lebanese chapter of IBBY(LBBY) engaged in a number of activities this year.

Elections were held in July of 2011 in which a new president, Mrs. Doha Nasreddine Sleem, was chosen. Seven LBBY members were also elected to serve as Board members. Our offices were moved out of the Lebanese American University to a private office owned by one of the members, Mrs. Hana Salem, who has been very generous to accommodate us.



The annual reading competition was resumed, as in previous years. 65 elementary schools took part in the competition in which each school presents the three top readers. The readers are awarded a certificate and a present each in a special celebration attended by parents, family members, teachers, and principals of participating schools. This year the celebration took place in a special nature reserve, where the program included a walk in the forest, music, a local snack and valuable information on the importance of trees.





A four hour panel discussion on books for children with special needs took place in cooperation with the American University of Beirut and the School Inclusion Society of Lebanon. The program included presentations on the status of art for people with differing abilities including, blindness, deafness, mental disabilities, autism, and learning disabilities. An exhibition of available books for children and adult around these considerations was displayed. The topic aroused a lot of interest and it will be one of our priorities for the coming year.



Another annual activity LBBY engages in is the distribution of portable libraries. This year, in addition to the library, we have set up reading corners in ten different Public Schools which include a carpet, two cushions, a painting, a plant and a basket each.

Members of LBBY have participated in a number of conferences, panel discussions, workshops and exhibitions presenting children's books, the promotion of reading, writing for children, school libraries and puppetry organized by a number of groups interested in the issue of Arabic children's literature. Some of these were held in Lebanon and others in neighboring Arab countries including Dubai, Sharka, Kuwait and Jordan. With humility we can say that our work in this domain has alerted many groups to the importance of reading and the IBBY mission.

During the National Week for the Promotion of Reading—launched by LBBY in Lebanon some years ago, and now organized by the Ministry of Culture—LBBY members participated in reading activities in several schools across the country. We are active members of the national committee that plans the activities for the National Week for the Promotion of Reading, in which the whole country participates.

This year LBBY has joined the Anna Lindh Lebanese National Network and we have already submitted a proposal on the promotion of reading for their consideration.

An e book is in the process of being developed.



Last but not least LBBY wishes to express its gratitude for the continuous support and assistance that it receives from its friends in USBBY.



Pakistan

Children's Literature Festival

The first ever Children's Literature Festival was held in Lahore on 25-26th November 2011. The CLF was organized by FOSI, ITA and Oxford University Press. Acknowledging Alif Laila's effort and great belief in shaping the destinies of children through books, imagination and innovation, the society was engaged as an implementation partner. The festival was a national level event and Alif Laila's Story Teller bus, the 'Daastangou' was one of the highlights. Prominent educationists and celebrities joined hands with Alif Laila to make the two day event a huge success.



Activities at the Alif Laila Camp varied from art and craft to interactive story telling sessions, dramatic reading, daastangoi sittings, sing along sessions, theme based activities, and story book parades- all tied to the core message: READ. The theme, 'A Thousand and One Nights', reiterated the rich literary tradition of the East.

Princess Yasmin was brought alive in a story telling session and a dramatic representation of the lyrical story Jeebo Jani Di Kahani lured young and old reading enthusiasts alike.

A sing along activity on the theme song "Seekh Lo Tum Seekhna" (a promotional song about reading) was a hit.

The Alif Laila stall displayed brochures and posters from different IBBY sections. Margriet Ruurs, read her much loved Emma book on SKYPE. Book marks were made and hot air balloons with messages on reading were sent up into the sky.

Launch Sheikhpura Reading Programme

The Sheikhpura Living Libraries project was launched in November 2011 under which a cluster based model school library was set up in a government school. Currently, four schools benefit from the same library facility. A mobile library is now running to and reaching 60 schools in far off areas of the district every month bringing books to 10,500 children.



Sheikhpura Reading Fest

The Alif Laila Book Bus Society organized a reading festival Sheikhpura on February 21st and 22nd, 2012.

This was a district level event, with over two thousand children present.

There was lots to do and see... books to buy and stories to listen to. Alif Laila's mobile library service was launched at the festival.

Development of Core Library Book List

Alif Laila was part of the FOSI sponsored team that prepared a core list of books, for early childhood, primary, secondary and high school libraries. The list will benefit organizations and schools interested in setting up their own libraries, as well as individuals interested in donating library books.





Donate A Book Drive

A "Donate a Book" drive has been launched to collect books from private school children for public school children in Sheikhpura. The books will be provided to primary public schools for classroom libraries. Through this unique donation drive, these children will have access to the books and reading materials, required to strengthen the foundations of literacy and lifelong learning.



Advocacy and media campaign to promote reading and literacy

A broad based advocacy and media campaign has been launched, in the district of Sheikhpura, to promote a strong, robust reading culture. The campaign slogan is simple yet powerful:

Parhe ga Sheikhpura, Barhe ga Sheikhpura

Sheikhpura will Read, Sheikhpura will Prosper

All relevant stake holders are engaged in this programme.

Story Teller Visits

The Story Teller visited different schools and communities bringing the joy of books to children. Story telling sessions, puppet shows and related art and craft activities are the main feature of the Story Teller's visits.



National Book Day Celebrations:

The National Book Day Celebrations were held in Islamabad on the 22nd and 23rd April 2012.

Activities at the Alif Laila Camp varied from art and craft activities to interactive story telling sessions, dramatic reading, daastangoi sittings, sing alongs and story book parades.

Brochures and books from different IBBY sections were on display. David Ankrah, skyped from the UK and read out his book Seeds.

The children made reading caps, story book characters and wrote messages related to reading on the reading quilt.



Books Build Bridges

25 Books Build Bridges library kits, funded by friends from IBBY worldwide, and another 70 kits funded by Give2Asia were distributed to schools in flood affected areas of the Punjab and Sindh bringing great joy wherever they went. The innovative Library kits included 150 books for children as well as art and craft materials, story boards, globes and puppets.

Early Childhood Education Centres

ALBBS set up four model early childhood education centres in collaboration with the Punjab Government. The ECE centres were designed to meet all developmental requirements of children, complete with teaching/learning materials, and story books to look at and enjoy.





The Clinton Global Initiative

Alif Laila was invited to take part in the Clinton Global initiative annual meeting in 2011. Alif Laila shared its commitment to develop and promote a reading culture in the district of Sheikhupura, through its model library programme and advocacy/media campaign.

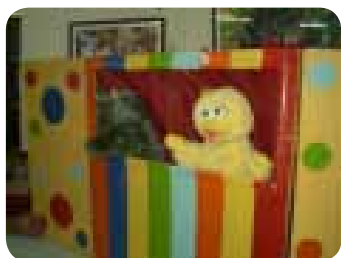
Resource Centre and Library Programme



Teacher Training Programme: (materials, ECE, reading).

A special training workshop was organized for 30 teachers of Sheikhupura on the use of libraries and promoting reading.

Global Action Week



The Alif Laila Book Bus Society celebrated the Global Action Week at the library. The theme for 2012 was Early Childhood Care and Education, reiterated through the slogan, "Rights from the Start". Of course, for us at Alif Laila that meant many books and stories!



Palestine

The traumatic situation created by the ongoing occupation and siege on Gaza creates horrendous difficulties for the Palestinian people in their struggle for liberation and in their subsistence for daily life. PBBY and other NGO's have to adapt and face all the obstacles and challenges to keep going. For example, in the last few months the majority of PBBY members from Jerusalem stopped coming to the monthly lectures and discussions of PBBY because of the long hours it takes them to go back due to the Qalandia check point. Other PBBY members cannot go to Jerusalem and no one can reach Gaza.

Children in Crisis

There are 1.7 million people living in Gaza, of whom 53% are under 18 years. The economy has almost collapsed, and 80% of people are dependent on international aid as the unemployment rate soars to reach 39%. Basic infrastructures are still not functioning and there is extreme shortage of fuel and electricity.

Despite the humanitarian disaster and shortage of material support the two libraries of PBBY are functioning effectively. In addition to borrowing and reading books in the libraries, creative and interactive activities are implemented book discussions, creative writing, summary of stories, storytelling, drama, poetry games and popular games etc.

An agreement was signed recently with the Mohamed Bin Rashed Foundation which will be donating 30,000 books to children in Gaza in the framework of the IBBY Children in Crisis Programme.

Lectures and Discussions

In the last months PBBY prepared meetings on a range of interesting and diversified topics during which the following speakers were hosted:

Dr Hala Espanioly discussed the problem of Arabic curriculum in Schools inside the Green line and discrimination against Palestinian Arab children in Israel's schools

Dr Rima Najjar Merriman talked about an interesting audio-visual program designed for teaching children's literature she implements in her classes.

Dr Munir Fasheh talked on the statement of Imam Ali "the value of each person is what he/she excels in" He discussed creative learning as opposed to conventional modern teaching giving the pioneering example of Habib University in Karachi.

Dr Sharif Kanaanah gave a very interesting talk about folk tales and children's fairy tales. He reflected on the Migration of these stories giving concrete examples pointing to the different versions of Cinderella in various cultures.

PBBY also contributed two articles on PBBY activities and Palestinian children's writings for Taif Magazine published by Tamer Institute

Writer and poet Rose Shomali represented PBBY at Sfaqs children book Fair in response to an invitation from the newly established Tunisian IBBY. Rose gave a paper in a seminar on the picture of woman in children's literature. A clip from the presentation is available on the internet.





<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5P4kfOVUL7s&feature=share>

Jehan Helou President of PBBY was invited to the USBBY 9th IBBY Regional Conference "Peace the World Together With Children's Books". Jehan gave a presentation titled "Peace the World Together with Children's Books: Palestinian Children in the Haven of Book" which explored racism against Palestinians in Israeli children books, as well as issues of censorship of books for young people which reflect on the difficult situation of Palestinian children and are sympathetic with the Palestinian people.



The opening ceremony of the Congress included readings of some stories from Peace Story, an anthology of stories from around the world with the theme of peace. We were honoured to have the writer Beverley Naidoo and Ellis Vance USBBY Executive Director volunteer and read the Palestinian peace story "When the Golden Fish Stopped Dancing".

In the closing ceremony of the conference Barbara Lehman, President of USSBY, and Jehan briefed the attendees about the close twinning relationship between the US and Palestinian IBBY. During the conference day there was a fruitful meeting between the two sections pertaining to best ways of cooperation, support and solidarity.



United Arab Emirates

Workshop for aspiring children's books illustrators

The UAE Board on Books for Young People (UAEBBY) collaborated with Lebanese illustrators and animation artists David Habchy and Joan Baz who presented a four-day workshop for aspiring children's book illustrators entitled 'How to 'intuitively' illustrate a Children's Book', which was held from 29 April to 2 May 2012 at the Maraya Art Centre in Al-Qasba, Sharjah.

Funded by the Emirates Foundation, the workshop aimed to build a base of talented children's book illustrators working from the UAE in order to stimulate and develop the Emirati children's book publishing industry. This activity provided aspiring children's book illustrators with inspiration, support and the chance to learn from two rising young talents in this field. Born in Beirut in 1985, David Habchy is fast becoming a well known name amongst the new generation of Arabic artists working in the fields of illustration, graphics and animation and Joan Baz is an experienced animation artist whose film "A Kaffa" won the best experimental film award in the Animex 2011 festival. The workshop covered topics such as different illustration techniques, character and background design, and how the illustrators may develop a unique style. This event was one of the main events held on the fringe of this year's Sharjah Children's Reading Festival.



Training workshop for school librarians

UAEBBY in collaboration with the Goethe-Institut Gulf Region organised a training workshop for school librarians from the emirate of Sharjah, funded by the Knowledge Without Borders (KWB) project in May.

The aim of the workshop was to introduce its participants to modern and 'fun' methods of reading promotion and to familiarise them with a variety of contemporary methods of working with children to inspire in them a love for books and reading.

The trainer, Ms. Gaby Hohm, is one of Germany's leading experts on reading promotion. During the course of the workshop, 16 school librarians from the emirate of Sharjah learned a range of creative activities, stimulating ideas and methods that librarians can use as the 'building blocks' of activities that they can implement in their own libraries to promote reading. The workshop followed a hands-on approach, and librarians found out first-hand how pleasurable reading-promotion activities can be through trying and actively testing the ideas and methods to which they were introduced.



'Made in UAE – New Emirati Children's Books' Project

UAEBBY and the Goethe-Institut Gulf Region organised readings of the stories of 4 talented young Emirati writers and five children's book illustrators at the UAEBBY stand during the 2012 Sharjah Children's Reading Festival. The readings were part of the 'Made in UAE - New Emirati Children's Books' project.

The aim of the project is to encourage the development of Emirati-made children's books that reflect the cultural values and interests of





Emirati children. The award-winning German children's book author and illustrator, Ute Krause, led two training workshops, one for authors and one for illustrations, and the writers and illustrators were paired up to work together on the stories.

Six authors that had participated in a 2011 Goethe-Institut workshop for children's book writers were selected to provide texts for children's books, which were then illustrated by six Emirati illustrators who had taken part in another workshop organised by the UAEBBY and the Goethe-Institut at the beginning of April, 2012.

Each of the writers involved got the opportunity to read their story to a captivated audience of children and children's book experts, while the illustrator showed their illustrations. Noura Al-Khoori and Shaima Al Malik presented 'Fanteer the Fluffy Flamingo', Maitha al-Khayat and Abdulla Al Sharhan 'The Runaway Nit', Aysa Al Hashemi and Nasir Nasrallah 'Fantasy Alphabet', Nooreya Al Obaidlyand Fatma al Mehair 'Cake story', Noura Al Khoori and Nauf al Shaikh 'Dates to Remember'.

Launch of the Sharjah IBBY Fund

In April, the UAEBBY and the International Board on Book for Young People (IBBY) launched the Sharjah government-supported Sharjah IBBY Fund which aims to promote a love of reading among children so that they become life-long readers, to ensure that children have access to books, as well as providing support for training programmes for professionals in this field.

The launch of the Fund was announced at a press conference held during the Sharjah Children's Reading Festival 2012 at Sharjah Expo Centre in the presence of HE Sheikha Bodour Bint Sultan Al Qasimi President of the UAEBBY, Mr. Ahmad Redza Ahmad Khairuddin President of the IBBY, representatives from various Arab national sections of IBBY, stakeholders in the field of culture and children's literature as well as media representatives.



Ahmad Reza and Sheikha Bodour Al Qasimi after signing the fund agreement.

The Fund will primarily provide support for children whose lives have been disrupted through war, civil disorder or natural disasters in the region of Central Asia and North Africa through implementing reading-related projects.

Fourth edition of the Etisalat Literature Award launched

The UAE Board on Books for Young People (UAEBBY) launched the 4th edition of the Etisalat Award for Arabic Children's Literature during the opening of the Sharjah Children's Reading Festival in April. The call for entries is also now open for submissions from Arab or international publishing houses that publish Arabic-language books for children aged 0-14.

The award, sponsored by the Etisalat Telecom Company, is worth one million dirhams (AED), making it one of the most important and the richest award for children's literature in the Arab world. The award is given annually to the best Arabic children's book.

The 2012 edition of the Award was launched by Sheikh Essam bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Chairman of the Office of HH the Ruler of Sharjah and Abdul Aziz Taryam, Etisalat General Manager (Northern Emirates), at the UAEBBY stand in the Sharjah Children's Reading festival in the presence of Sheikha Bodour bint Sultan Al Qasimi, President of UAEBBY, various representatives of publishing houses, authors, illustrators and other guests.

For more information on the Sharjah IBBY Fund or the Etisalat Award, please contact:

Yousef Al Taweel - Sahara Communications

E-mail: yousuf@saharagcc.com

