

IBBY ASAHİ READING PROMOTION AWARD 2020

AWARD CEREMONY – MOSCOW, SEPTEMBER 2021

2020 marks the 31st time that the IBBY Asahi Reading Promotion Award has been awarded to a group or institution whose activities are judged to be making lasting contributions to reading promotion programs for children and young people. We are grateful and warmly thank the Asahi Shimbun Media Group of Japan for making this possible since establishing the award in 1986.

The 2020 IBBY Jury evaluated 25 marvelous projects from 21 different countries. At the end we had to choose one, that is the best of the best. At this instance, I would like to thank all members of the Jury for their commitment and hard work in the evaluation and decision making. It was a unanimous decision. Not forgetting, the IBBY Secretariat for supporting the jury process.

Casa Cuna Cuenteros, from Buenos Aires, and nominated by IBBY Argentina was announced as the winner for the award in April 2020. The organization was established in 2013 and comprised volunteers who were driven by passion and love for children, particularly those who were staying in the city hospital. The city itself houses many vulnerable inhabitants. Many have to drop out of school due to poverty. Books and stories are luxury items for many of them.

The volunteers collected and made available books for the children and their families who were in the hospital. They also held storytelling sessions in various areas within the hospital. Their persistence brought winds of change and soon many of the hospital inhabitants began to enjoy reading and listening to stories. This included staff at the hospital. Soon enough, thanks to generous donations and support from many people, a library was opened at the hospital.

Casa Cuna Cuenteros has made a significant impact on the people at the hospital and the city. They have also inspired others to do the same and their advice is sought by others doing the same in other areas.

Congratulations once again Casa Cuna Cuenteros! You received the prize money of USD10,000 that was generously given by the Asahi Shimbun Media Group last year despite the pandemic and lockdowns, and your Diploma will be presented to you as soon as it is possible to meet once again in-person.

Thank you once again Asahi Shimbun Media Group and members of the Jury.

Ahmad Redza Ahmad Khairuddin

2020 IBBY Reading Promotion Award Jury Chair

37th IBBY Congress in Moscow, Russia

10th September 2021