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From the Editor-in-Chief

The year 2000 was proclaimed as the Year of Peace by UNESCO, and 2001 to 2010 was declared International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World by the United Nations. Realizing that books can play an essential role in nurturing peace in people's minds, ACCU published a picture book for peace, Meet My Friends! in 2001 with the co-operation of 14 countries in Asia and the Pacific. The idea of co-publication itself is understanding and accepting other cultures with unprejudiced eyes and is directly related to peace education.

Through our activity in book development and reading promotion, we came to know of various NGOs that are working steadily for the betterment of peoples under difficult conditions and hardships. They believe that books are as vital as other basic factors in life, especially for children and young people. In this issue, we would like to introduce a portion of such activities; peace education through the publishing of a magazine by several

youth groups of different cultural and historical backgrounds, book provision in a war-torn country, and library activity in refugee camps. Such individual activities by NGOs may seem small compared to the many devastating situations we face, but they are producing successful outcomes for their target groups. When conducted at grassroots level everywhere, this can become a movement that can change the world.

We would like to continue to carry in ABD articles about such grassroots level activities. Together with organizations who share the same goals of mutual understanding through book development and reading promotion, we hope to provide a platform for information sharing in ABD and APPREB network to give this movement greater strength.



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