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Constructing Peace: NGOs at Work in Book Development

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ACCU
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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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*Beginning from this issue, the name of a Japanese person will be written family name first, then given name, to be consistent with Japanese custom.

Reading as a Way of Reconciliation —The Case of Crossing Borders

Sarah Ozacky-Lazar



Ms. Sarah Ozacky-Lazar

Introduction

The recent violent events in the Middle East have caused Israeli and Palestinian citizens fears, anxiety and uncertainty. Communication and cooperation between the two peoples are minimal. Young peoples' lives have changed completely. Palestinians in most areas suffer from siege, curfew and lack of freedom and Israelis are threatened by suicide bombers, bury their friends who are victims of terror and are reluctant to go out and to lead a free and normal life.

Historically speaking, the gap between the two neighbouring communities is very wide. Even though they share a lot in common, there are many differences between them—among others, a language barrier. Hebrew—spoken by Israeli Jews, and Arabic—spoken by Palestinians, are two languages which come from the same origin. Their basic structure is similar, grammar is close, many roots and words are alike, both are written from right to left. But still, understanding each other is almost impossible, reading each other's literature needs long years of training, and the respective cultures differ in many ways.

In Israel, only a minority of high school students take Arabic as an elective in their studies. In Palestine, Hebrew is not taught at all in the regular school system.

As a result, when there are groups of Israelis and Palestinians who decide to meet or communicate despite the political conflict, they usually turn to English as a mediator language.

One such group of youth, who refuse to raise their hands in despair, are the young journalists of *Crossing Borders*. They believe that dialogue and not violence is the preferred path to a better future. They share the will to express their feelings and views, to read what the "other side" is writing and to be able to exchange ideas, opinions and hopes for a bet-

ter future. These are the dozens of young high school students who together create the youth magazine *Crossing Borders*. The magazine provides them with a platform for exchange and the opportunity to voice the opinion of the younger generation in the Middle East, one that is not often heard.

Project Description

There are four groups of young writers who contribute their articles and are represented on the editorial board of *Crossing Borders*: Israeli Jews, Israeli Palestinians (Arabs who have Israeli citizenship), Palestinians from the Palestinian Authority and Jordanians. Each has an adult coordinator who works closely with the participants all throughout the year.

Each group meets independently (local activity) and together (regional activity). The groups learn about each other as individuals and as representatives of their society and culture. Personal relationships are built, and gradually mutual trust and respect are gained, despite the deep differences. During their regional seminars, which are held in summer, the young people learn journalism and media skills. They are trained by professional journalists and practice different aspects of media coverage—personal interviews, editorials, news reports, opinions, reviews, literary writing, etc.

Together they choose topics for the magazine and create and edit the material. It is then sent to the editorial board, comprised of representatives of the four groups, which chooses, edits and produces the final issue.



Crossing Borders

Distribution and Reading

The magazine is distributed to high schools, educational institutions and youth organizations in the region. About 20,000 copies are sent to schools, and we estimate that each copy is read by at least 20-30 students. *Crossing Borders* has already established an initial network of more than 200 schools in the region, reaching thousands of students and educators, plus an astounding ripple effect amongst friends and family members. In addition, the magazine is distributed to NGOs, libraries and public institutions in the region and abroad.

Part of the distribution is run through teachers of the English language in the schools.

Apart from being general reading material for students and teachers, *Crossing Borders* has been incorporated into the classrooms. Today, more and more teachers are turning to *Crossing Borders* as a discussion tool in their classrooms because of its content. Past activities have included lesson plans prepared by the teachers themselves and distributed to their co-workers, and their students regularly write letters to the editor.

The teachers who use the articles as a learning material combine several goals:

- Encouraging their students to read essays written by authors their age
- Encouraging the students to write and provide them with writing skills
- Discussing current issues in class from different points of view
- Learning different cultures
- Learning to accept others' opinions
- Keeping the magazine in the school library for future reading

And a lot more.

Crossing Borders Main Objectives

The magazine is a multi-purpose project. It is a "People-to-People" programme aimed at decreasing alienation between young people in the Middle East and creating a common ground for them to write on, read about and discuss current issues.

Additional goals are to:

- Increase intercultural and multi-national contacts and trust
- Create a vehicle of communication between young people in the Middle East
- Foster a critical dialogue between Palestinian and Israeli youth, teachers and civic societies
- Overcome stereotyping and prejudice between Arab and Israeli youth
- Deal with complex human relations in a changing political environment
- Build young leadership

Website

The website (<http://www.crossingborder.org>) allows readers from all over the world to learn about the project, view issues of the magazine and contact the editors, as well as al-



Crossing Borders website

lowing participants to be in contact with one another through the Internet. By putting the entire magazine on the web, an unlimited number of readers is added to it.

The Jewish-Arab Center for Peace at Givat Haviva

The Israeli partner in *Crossing Borders* is the Jewish-Arab Center for Peace at Givat Haviva. This is one of the first organizations in Israel, which began 40 years ago to educate for peace and coexistence and to initiate creative ways of fostering understanding and tolerance in the Middle East.

The Center initiates educational and communal projects to advance its aims, *Crossing Borders* being one of many. Many of the educational projects incorporate writing and reading, through which students and teachers can better express their minds and feelings as well as better understand the other side.

Face to Face

One such example is the encounter programme *Face to Face*. It brings together high school students from Arab and Jewish communities, who otherwise have no opportunity to meet each other and discuss common issues on an equal basis. At the end of a three-day session, we ask the students to write letters to one another. The actual writing makes the young people concentrate on their experience, summarize the knowledge and insights they have gained, and come to concise conclusions regarding the impact of the workshop on them. Thus, in a short time, while their memory is still fresh, they have to put on paper the results of the experience they went through.

On the other end—the students who receive the letters read them, sometimes in private and sometimes aloud. Reading their friends' writings affects the students in several ways: they reflect upon the meeting; they see it from the other side's eyes; they can compare their reactions to the others'; they can choose to answer and write back; they can keep the letter or throw it away; they can show it to their parents, teachers, friends, and more. Usually what they do is collect all the letters, add some drawings and titles, and bind them into a booklet to be kept in the school library. This way, it can be read by other students who were not part of the encounter.

Following is a letter that was written to the Arab students from Nazareth by a Jewish participant from a high school in Jerusalem, after the seminar at Givat Haviva in February 2002.

"The truth is that it is very hard for me to write these words but... I have so much in my mind and in my heart. We went through an amazing experience, many things surprised me, it wasn't easy but I enjoyed it a lot. I believe that meetings of this kind are very important and sensitizing to many, for many reasons. I hope that our generation will find the right way because it is obvious that in wars there are no winners. We need hope and belief, and the most important—good will. And we proved we have that (in this seminar)!

"Above all it is important to remember that we are all first human beings and we have no difference between us and there should not be any. I received from the other side a lot of information, sensitivity and empathy and I was trying to do the same. I hope that we were able to make each other understand and want to know each other more and closer, but with all the closeness there are still unopened doors I wish one day it will be possible to open.

"It is a bit difficult to finish this meeting and to know that the general situation is not up to us... I can only wait for the day that we can be influential and make the difference. So until the next time we meet I hope you remember us and the things we said, and most of all the things we agreed upon—because now we have seen that it is possible to get closer and to listen to each other's pain, fears, hopes and dreams.

"To Givat Haviva—Thank you for opening for me a different world."

Summary

In a world full of violence and uncertainties, and in a region like the Middle East which suffers from continuous conflicts and wars, it is essential for educators to find ways and techniques to ease the burden on their young students. One such way is the use of written words. Both writing and reading are vehicles of self-expression, of comfort and of hope.

Creating common platforms of writing and reading for people from two sides of the conflict lines is an innovative method that provides for the exchange of rival ideas, positions, thoughts and emotions in a more "civilized" and softer manner.

The Jewish-Arab Center for Peace at Givat Haviva, Israel, as one of the oldest institutions of its kind in the Middle East, uses these methods daily in its educational work among Arab and Israeli youngsters and adults.

In this short article we have brought two examples of such models of communication between people across political, national and cultural lines. *Crossing Borders* is a youth magazine written and edited by young people in the region, who choose to meet, cooperate, write together and read their peers' articles and literary work, instead of shooting, throwing stones or fighting each other like the grown-ups in their respective countries.

In the *Face to Face* programme the emphasis is put on personal meetings and discussions, but at the end of these encounters the participants write letters to the other group who

read them and relate to them as part of the process of reconciliation.

Sarah Ozacky-Lazar

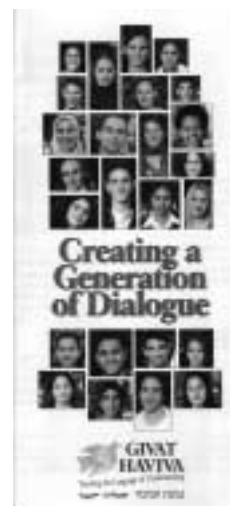
Born in Israel, 1947, and grew up in Tel Aviv. After graduating from Hebrew University, Jerusalem she worked as a researcher in the field of Israel's relations with the Arab World in governmental offices, then later taught Arabic and History at a high school. Since 1986 she has worked in the Jewish-Arab Center for Peace at Givat Haviva, and has been its Co-Director since 1997. She has written extensively on the issue of Jewish-Arab relations in both academic papers and journalism and writes regularly in the Hebrew and Arabic press. She has participated in many academic conferences and workshops domestically and abroad. In 2001, the Jewish-Arab Center for Peace, Givat Haviva received the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education for its outstanding achievements.

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Givat Haviva leaflet

The Jewish-Arab Center for Peace at Givat Haviva

Established in 1963, the Jewish-Arab Center for Peace at Givat Haviva is Israel's oldest and largest peace education institution. Its main aims are to foster closer relations between Jews and Arabs in Israel, to educate for mutual understanding, and to promote partnership and permanent dialogue between the two communities. Each year, around 25,000 people participate in its activities.

Despite the wars and upheavals of the last 38 years, the Center has made, and continues to make, an important contribution to peace through its education and research projects, its conferences and workshops, its library and information centre, and its publications, notably *Crossing Borders*, an English-language bi-monthly magazine. This magazine, financed by Denmark and the result of work by Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian youths, is one of the rare Israeli-Palestinian projects—maybe the only one—that has kept going in the current difficult climate.

(reprinted from UNESCO Press page informing the winners of the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education 2001, <http://www.unesco.org/bpi/eng/unescopress/2001/01-93e.shtml>)

From Dream To Reality

—The Story of Promoting Reading and Publishing for Afghan People

Shirazuddin Siddiqi

"I hope Afghan children will learn a lot from all Afghan Publishing House (APH) publications. I also wish APH success in continuing its activities by playing its Afghan, Islamic and national role in building a lucky Afghanistan." by Fazal Wazir Zadran

Publishing books is not anything new in Afghanistan. But the skill of publishing books for specific target groups is not widespread. The books—mainly poetry—that represent the cultural heritage of Afghanistan and form the classical literature of the country have something for everyone. Anybody reading them will find something of interest, which in itself is the skill of a great writer. But the print revolution around the world has proved that it is no longer sufficient for people to find sporadic lines of interest in books. They would rather have the choice of the whole book on a subject that they want. I am not suggesting, in any way, that this has affected the great value of the classical treasures, but that we are living in a new world; a world in which printing and publishing have developed so much that writers and publishers have to think very hard about the market before thinking about the book. They have to identify a target group and study its interests, needs, language, etc. if they want their publishing initiative to succeed. Publishing has become a very dynamic and complex process in the developed world. However, the developing, and, in some cases, even underdeveloped, countries have also gained significant and valuable experience. One such country is Afghanistan; a country that lost most of its cultural treasures, including its libraries and books, due to more than two decades of war.

Afghanistan, once recognized as the crossroads of civilization, was invaded by the Soviets in 1979, but various aspects of the system of governing the country were influenced by the Soviet system long before. One of these aspects was publishing which, like the Soviet system, was heavily government-run. The dominance of the government in this area comes from the fact that almost any book, newspaper, magazine, etc. had to be printed on the government's printing press and clearance was needed from an authorized government body. This tight system of government control and monopoly diminished because of the war. Afghans, especially those in exile, started printing their own books, magazines, newspapers and brochures with varying print runs. Ironically, the war opened new opportunities for Afghans to take initiatives that they could not dream of before.

The Dream

When I was a schoolboy I discovered a shelf in the very small library of my school on which there were more than a dozen storybooks in English. I used to go to the library and pick up a book every day and flick through its pages. This turned into a hobby. One day I was busy flicking through the pages of one of those storybooks when an older student came and asked if I could read it. When he learned I couldn't read English, he offered to read them to me. This incident left a very deep scar in my heart. Had the book been in Dari or Pashto, my own languages, I would have been able to read it myself. However, it awakened a dream in me: the dream of having storybooks in Dari and Pashto, Afghanistan's two main languages.



Mr. Shirazuddin Siddiqi

Afghan Education Projects

During the war years in Afghanistan, it was not only individuals who exploited the publishing opportunities which opened up when the war ended tight publishing controls, but NGOs and other organisations also started getting involved in publishing. Some of them sufficed with printing a newsletter or a brochure while others took a step further and started publishing magazines (monthly or quarterly), books, and in some cases weekly or monthly papers. One of these organizations was the Peshawar-based Afghan Education Projects (AEP), which is part of BBC World Service. I have worked with AEP since 1994 when I left Afghanistan. There I had taught drama at Kabul University and was Editor-in-Chief of the Artists' Union's main publication entitled *Honar* (art).

AEP's first activity was the production and broadcasting of an Afghan radio soap opera called *New Home, New Life** in Dari and Pashto. My first assignment with the project was to oversee the publishing of a magazine to accompany the popular soap opera.

The *New Home, New Life* magazine became very popular amongst its readers and amongst listeners of the *New Home, New Life* soap opera. Why?

"Before I didn't know how to read or write. Now I have learnt enough from the magazines to write to you." by Ibrahim Shah Saddat

It became evident that three elements played a key role in making the cartoon magazine so popular. These were: colour, pictures (illustration), and the story-telling nature of the



New Home, New Life
A monthly cartoon journal based on the radio soap opera for Afghanistan from the BBC



The Lion and The Woodcutter (centre front row) and other APH publications in Dari and Pashto

journal. The combination of these three elements turned the magazine into very popular and interesting reading. It was thanks to this popularity that even members of the Taliban movement would come to our office to get copies. The Taliban had an official ban on the distribution of any print material with pictures and illustrations. But this Taliban-ban was not enforced on distribution of AEP's material, which was very rewarding for us. Our books offered, in a very small way, hope to their readers under a very hopeless system. This is reflected very strongly in the comments made by Fazal Wazir Zadran copied at the beginning of this article. It should be noted that the illustrations used in the magazine are not strictly cartoons but rather part-cartoon, part real illustrations.

In 1995, it occurred to me that we could add a literacy component to the magazine. This new section was called *Where There Is No School* and consisted of an illustration and a simple story from *New Home, New Life*, and an exercise page. A very simple four-step instruction is given as footnote. This simple approach did not require any teacher training but was designed for any literate who wished to help family members and friends to learn how to read and write. The success of this small, but significant, exercise triggered off a childhood dream.

The introduction of the *New Home, New Life* magazine's literacy component reminded me very much that when I was a child I didn't have anything in my own language to read. But repeatedly I was told "Afghanistan as a poor country cannot afford to have books for different age groups!"

In 1995, after I became deputy project manager, the Afghan Education Projects sent me to London for familiarization with the BBC. One day, I found myself in a bookshop in London spending long hours going through hundreds of books for children: books for young children and books for older children. Scanning through these books revived my childhood dream again. But the same reason, "Afghanistan is a poor country", tied my hands and engulfed my mind and as a result stopped me from doing anything.

It was in 1996 that UNESCO asked me to go to Bangladesh to do a feasibility study to set up a radio programme. There I saw the real face of "poverty". I failed to fix any limit to the extent of "poverty" as much as I failed to find any limit to the extent of "hospitality" of those communities with whom I happened to meet in Bangladesh. However, Bangladesh had gained a wealth of experience in publishing. I came across numerous titles of books for adults and children. Seeing those books filled me with admiration and wonder. It also filled me

with shame for doing nothing for Afghans and Afghan children.

The First Book

On my return from Bangladesh, I managed to put together a meagrely funded package for publishing the first book for semi-literate adolescents called *When There Is Peace*. This first book helped us to learn a lot about publishing for specific target groups. Encouraged by this experience, I contacted an ex-colleague from Kabul University, *Siddiq Zhakfar*, an excellent artist, and asked whether he was interested in doing something valuable for children. Then came two other colleagues to make up our team. The first product of our efforts was an Afghan folktale called *The Lion and The Woodcutter* which was followed by many more titles. The main message of the first story, *The Lion and The Woodcutter*, was mutual understanding and being attentive to friends' feelings.

The launch of *The Lion and The Woodcutter* in 1997, marked the establishment of the Afghan Publishing House (APH), within AEP. In addition to storybooks, APH has published a number of books on specific subjects—e.g. use of natural dye in carpet weaving, improving the quality of earth bricks, Afghanistan's cultural heritage, how differences could be fostered in favour of better and peaceful life, etc.—for semi-literate adults and adolescents.

To our great disappointment, the book on the cultural heritage of Afghanistan, entitled *Know Your Country*, came off the printing press exactly on the day, in 2001, when the Taliban blew up the two giant Buddha statues in Bamiyan, Afghanistan.

"One of our neighbours did not let his daughters go to school. One day I showed him 'Ahmad Saves His Father' (a storybook by APH). It effected him so much that he allowed his daughter to attend school." by Muhammad Anwar Ghaznavi

"I am a regular reader of your childrens' storybooks and cartoon magazine and I have learned many things from them. For example, girls' education. My brothers are very fond of the math pages of your magazine. And now they have learned basic mathematics. Children's storybooks are fantastic. 'Ahmad Saves His Father' elaborates and shows the value of education." by Khaliq Zada Haqani



The Mat Weaver

Very much in line with the spirit of the *New Home, New Life* radio soap opera, messages of peace, tolerance, co-existence, work, learning, and hope formed the bedrock principles of our publishing initiative.

One other thing which, in my view, contributed to the success of our publishing initiative, was the involvement of the target group in the development process. We took our illustrations to members of the target audience (i.e. children) and to the decision-makers (i.e. adults/parents). We were keen to make sure that their reaction and input was considered in the revisions. After a few titles were out, it went further than this: readers contributed their own stories. We then published a few stories contributed by our readers, including *Harvest Time*, *The Mat Weaver*, and *The Gold Fish*.

For High Quality Publishing

The battle after publishing the first books was worth remembering. Quite a lot of decision-makers advised us to downgrade the quality of printing and instead increase the number of copies. Their main argument was again "Afghanistan is a poor country". The books should be "dirt cheap" but available in large numbers. But time proved that a smaller number of high quality, durable books serves more people better than large numbers of low quality ones. It was quite important to get this right from the start, as in societies where adults and parents decide for children, publishing has to be as attractive and convincing for adults as much as it should be for children. Most of the letters we received about our books came from adults. They reacted to these books very positively and, as expected, asked for copies for their children. This was how most of our books reached the children, who were our main target group.



top and bottom: Reading Scenes in Afghanistan (photos courtesy of the author)

Thus, the dream that sounded so impossible and remote became true and is no more a dream but a reality. Afghan children now have their own storybooks in their own national languages! There are strong indications that adults seek these books as much as the children themselves!

**New Home, New Life*

Since its launch in April 1994, Afghanistan's first ever radio soap opera *New Home, New Life*, broadcast by the BBC three times a week in Pashto and Dari, has captivated millions of listeners. The programmes aim to teach people how to survive and cope with the practical problems of everyday life. The format is a uniquely powerful and entertaining way of putting across educational messages. People can identify with the characters and through them with the storylines. The production team depend on expert advice and audience feedback to ensure that the storylines are topical and relevant. *New Home, New Life* is set in three fictional Afghan villages and amongst its cast are characters who have returned to Afghanistan from the refugee camps. It covers topical issues and gives information people need: basic health and hygiene, how to recognise landmines, how to bring up children, advice on tending animals and growing crops. Afghans are also reminded of traditional ways of organising their affairs through the village jirga, so that local disputes can be resolved without automatically reaching for a gun.

To describe the popularity of the drama, it is sufficient to say that in one of the latest storylines, covering the emergency Loya Jirga, the UN Special Representative in Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi, appeared. Mr. Brahimi played himself greeting one of the heroes and inquiring about the health of other leading characters.

Shirazuddin Siddiqi

Born in 1962 in Kabul. He studied and then taught drama at Kabul University until civil war began in 1992. Later, in exile in Pakistan, he helped develop a cartoon magazine based on the Afghan radio soap opera, *New Home, New Life* for BBC Afghan Education Projects. In October 1995 he became Editor, Drama & Publications.

Shirazuddin Siddiqi

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Libraries for Refugee Camps —The Shanti Volunteer Association

Miyake Takafumi

What Refugees can Bring to Refugee Camps

The Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA) was established in 1980 during the exodus of refugees from Cambodia. Since its inception, the organization has emphasized the library project, providing library services to Cambodian refugees from 1980 to 1991 and to Laotian refugees from 1985 to 1992 in Thailand. In the year 2000, SVA began implementing the project for refugees fleeing to Thailand from Myanmar.

People usually associate aid with the provision of food, water, health care, sanitation, and shelter. Why, then, does SVA place such importance on library services for refugees? In answer to this question, let me recount one episode. When we first began mobile library activities in a camp for Cambodian refugees in 1980, one of our staff members was walking through the camp with a Cambodian picture book called *The Rabbit That Ate Bananas*. A woman suddenly snatched the book from his hands and began shaking uncontrollably, fighting to hold back her tears. It turned out that she had written that book. When she had lived in Phnom Penh, she was the renowned author of close to twenty picture books. She had been forced to flee her homeland, however, after the Pol Pot regime took over Phnom Penh in 1975 and began implementing its book-burning policy. Along the way, she discarded first one book and then another, finally parting with the one she held dearest. She barely escaped to the refugee camp with her life.

Refugees are forced to leave behind almost everything they possess when they flee their country. But there is one thing they cannot leave behind: their culture. SVA continues to promote library services in the belief that educational activities to restore and nurture the refugees' culture can help them to help themselves.

Myanmar Refugees in Thailand

A total of 130,000 refugees including two minority groups, the Karen and the Karenni, have fled from Myanmar to Thailand and are now residing in ten different camps on the Thai-Myanmar border. The vast majority of refugees in the camps wish to return home as soon as their safety can be assured, but the prospect of repatriation seems distant and the number of new refugees annually fleeing into Thailand is 10,000. It is reported that there are also over one million internally displaced persons in Myanmar.

The refugee camps were established in about 1980. Health, sanitation, food supply, and shelter are being provided through the cooperation of various aid organizations. There are also elementary and secondary schools supported by Dutch and American NGOs. There are two needs, however, that have not been adequately addressed. The first is the lack of cultural and leisure opportunities. For example, people have no access to books and, although there are areas to play such sports as soccer or volleyball, there are no areas set aside for children to play safely. As wage earning is prohibited in the camp, refugees cannot work. One high school student told me, "When I graduate, I want to work at something that is of service to others. But I don't know what to do." The other need is for opportunities to heal the psychological trauma borne by all refugees, including children and youth. When children are permitted to draw freely, many of



Mr. Miyake Takafumi

them depict the tragic events they have experienced such as the death of a father, war or life in the jungle.

It was in consideration of these factors that SVA decided to support this library project. From our experiences in Cambodian and Laotian refugee camps, we believed that children's healthy development depends not only on food and shelter, but also on books and stories that nourish the soul. These help develop children's creativity, reinforce values and the attitude of cooperation, and impart the power to heal their psychological wounds.

The Library Project in Myanmar Refugee Camps

SVA supports a total of eight libraries, two or three each in three different camps: Mae Kong Kha Camp (15,000 refugees) and Mae Ra Ma Luang Camp (10,000 refugees) both in Mae Hongson Province, and Nupo Camp in Tak Province. Members of the Karen ethnic minority comprise the majority of camp residents. UNHCR provides financial support for the library project and the contents of project activities and services are described below.

1. Establishment of a Library Committee

The library committee is the parent organization responsible for management and administration of the libraries. It decides the number of libraries to be established, library rules and location, recruits and appoints library staff, and bears responsibility for maintenance and administration. Members are all unpaid volunteers and they consist of teachers, camp section leaders, youth, and women. SVA specifically requests that women be appointed to the committee but it is very difficult to achieve an equal number of men and women members due to the gender role division that exists in traditional Karen society. The process by which the committee is established is crucial because the successful solution of the many problems that occur during and after establishment of a library will depend upon the committee's capacity.

2. Construction of Library Building

The construction site is selected in consultation with the library committee and in consideration of the site conditions, population, and access for children. Bamboo and eucalyptus are the main building materials. These are procured outside the camp and shipped in by SVA because cutting timber in the camp area is prohibited. The roofs are made from leaves that fall from trees within the camp. As there is no electricity in the camps, six semi-transparent plastic sheets about two meters in length are built into the roof as skylights to provide interior lighting. Floors are raised on stilts. Male refugees construct the building and it takes eight men about ten days to complete it.

The library has three rooms: a children's room, an adult room and a librarian's room. The children's room is the larg-

est and has sufficient space to accommodate reading aloud and cultural activities with large groups of children such as arts and crafts, singing, drawing pictures, and dancing. Shelves are made of steel for durability and are specially ordered from a Thai manufacturer. The shelves are designed to display the covers of picture books and are adjusted to child height to catch children's attention.

3. Training and Support of Library Staff

The most difficult and, at the same time, the most rewarding task is training library staff. First a four-day workshop is held prior to the library opening for those who have been selected. Content focuses on the basic theory and application of library activities. Until they undergo this workshop, staff members usually assume that libraries are places for quiet reading and the role of staff is simply to organize and lend books. SVA libraries, however, are noisy places where children can freely learn and engage in various activities, essentially acting as a type of children's centre in addition to their library function. The role of staff is not merely to lend books and to maintain and administrate the library but also to direct cultural activities such as story-telling, songs, games, dance, hand games, arts and crafts, and origami. Staff members learn various story-telling techniques such as oral story telling and reading picture books, as well as how to use various story-telling media such as panel theatre, illustrated picture cards and cloth books. Once the library has opened, regular training sessions are held every two months to brush up their skills. Librarians are supported a small monthly compensation, which is regarded as incentive for medical and education staff in the refugee camps.

4. Selecting, Preparing and Distributing Books

Books are provided in two languages: Karen, the refugees' mother tongue, and Burmese, the common language used in Myanmar and one that refugees will need to speak when

they return home. Books for adults in Burmese can be purchased in bookshops in towns along the Myanmar border in Thailand. As very few books are available in the Karen language, Japanese and Thai SVA staff in cooperation with capable teachers in the camp translate books from Japanese to English and then to Karen and Burmese or from Thai to Karen and Burmese. The size and type of font for translated texts are adjusted for each page by computer, printed onto seals, and then pasted to the pages of the original language book. The book production process is thus very time consuming. We also purchase books from other NGOs and borrow any books in Karen owned by refugees for copying. There are five criteria for selecting children's books. They must have universal appeal, meaning books that have been read by children around the world for at least thirty years, foster intercultural understanding, express the importance of family bonds and peace, explain how the body works or health and sanitation, or deal with environmental conservation. We currently have fifty-seven children's book titles in Karen and Burmese that have been translated from Thai, Japanese or English. Each library stocks four hundred children's books and three hundred books for adult readers.

5. Mobile Library Services

Very few children who live over fifteen-minute's walk from the library are able to come. This trend is particularly marked in the three to seven-year-old age group. Accordingly, books for preschool children and those in the lower elementary grades are packed in boxes and taken to nursery and elementary schools in sections that are too far from the library. Workshops are also held for teachers in these facilities to train them in story-telling techniques.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

After the library opens, monitoring is conducted every two weeks. The librarians keep a daily record of the number of



The library at Mae Kong Kha Camp



Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA) website
URL: <http://www.jca.apc.org/sva>

visitors, titles of books that were read aloud, any cultural activities held, and any problems or successes. The contents are discussed with the library staff during the monitoring sessions. Storytelling and other cultural activities are observed and suggestions are offered for improvement. Many different problems are recorded, such as loss or damage to books, a leaking roof, too many children visiting the library, and failure of some people to return books. SVA consults with the library committee and staff on possible solutions but many of the problems cannot be solved quickly.

Evaluation is conducted six months after the library opens. At the evaluation for Mae Kong Kha camp, it became clear that 1,500 children and 600 adults were using each library every month, achieving the projected objective. Ninety percent of children using the library, however, had already read all the books it stocked, indicating that new titles were needed. We plan to provide ten additional titles every year. It also became clear that there is a pressing need for English books for adults.

7. Book Publishing

As there are not enough children's books in Karen and Burmese, we have been publishing titles in both languages. Up to the present, we have published *Asian Folk Tales*, which includes Burmese and Karen folk tales, *A Picture Book about HIV/AIDS*, *An Origami Manual*, *Children's Rights*, and *A Collection of Karen Jokes*. As publishing consumes a great deal of time and funds, however, we have provided a portable mimeograph device to each library and train refugees in its use so that they can produce their own books. They are currently printing short stories.



Children enjoying reading books

Aid Organizations as Catalysts

I worked as the project manager for the Myanmar Refugee Aid Library Project from 2000 to 2001, and there was as much joy as suffering in this work. One of the greatest joys was to learn from a camp leader that of the more than ten aid organizations in the camp, they liked SVA best because we regard refugees as people who can change their own lifestyle, not as aid recipients, and provide assistance that empowers them.

The late Mr. Arima Jitsujo, the founder and former Executive Director of SVA, often reminds SVA staff that aid organizations are catalysts. In a chemical reaction, catalysts do not change, but they can activate and accelerate change in others.

Refugees are not powerless or wretched objects of pity. They are people with the capacity to live in difficult conditions; people who have pride in themselves. The role of aid organizations is to create opportunities for them to further develop their powers.

(translated by Cathy Hirano)



Reading story books for children at Mae Ra Ma Luang Camp library (photos in pp. 10-11 courtesy of SVA)

Miyake Takafumi

Born in 1962. A sociology major at Hiroshima Shudo University, he has worked at the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan and later in 1994 joined the Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA—former Sotoshu Volunteer Association). His main areas of activities include support of educational activities in Thailand, Cambodia and Laos, research, policy-making, etc. From 2000 to 2001 he was in charge of assistance to the Myanmar Refugees in Thai-Myanmar border. He is also member of various societies of education, children's rights, etc.

Miyake Takafumi

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Publishing Circumstances

Australia

Indigenous Publishing

The publication of books by Indigenous Australians was a rare event until recent years. Only two mainstream publishers—University of Queensland Press and Fremantle Arts Centre Press—have made books by Indigenous Australians a significant part of their publishing programme. Despite its name, even Aboriginal Studies Press, which was established in 1964, did not publish its first book by an Indigenous author till 1978.

Aboriginal Studies Press is one of three Indigenous presses in Australia. It concentrates on academic titles in the area of Indigenous studies but also now publishes biography, autobiography, children's books and art books, many of them by Indigenous authors. The other two Indigenous presses—IAD Press (part of the Institute for Aboriginal Development in Alice Springs, NT) and Magabala Books (Broome, WA)—specialise more in books by Indigenous authors.

All five of the publishers mentioned are non-profit organisations and rely to some extent on funding from government agencies. The three Aboriginal presses emphasise that they publish many of their titles for the sake of the community, considering it important to give a voice to people whose stories might not otherwise be heard. Because the Indigenous publishers lack the marketing resources of the mainstream, many titles do not sell quickly but they do sell steadily enough to stay in print.

Cambodia

Setting up NFE-MIS

Concerned about the lack of data, information and indicators of NFE (non-formal education), the NFE Department organized the workshop on developing Non-Formal Education Management Information System (NFE-MIS) from 4–8 December 2001.

Through this workshop, the MoEYS has established a NFE National Task Force to manage and conduct the NFE-MIS. The Task Force comprises leaders and staff of NFE Department, Department of Planning, and Department of Primary and Pre-school, and some organizations: UNESCO, UNICEF, OXFAM, etc.

The NFE National Task Force organized NFE Technical Working Groups and District Implementation Teams to implement the work plan for the pilot NFE-MIS in two districts (Kang Pisei district, Kampong Speu province and Damnak Chang Eur precinct, Kep ville).



Indigenous publication (Australia)

The purpose of NFE-MIS is to conduct collections of data and information, and process it. The pilot NFE-MIS implementation will run from May to December 2002 according to the tentative work plan prepared.

China

China Publishing Group

China Publishing Group was established on 9 April 2002. It is a large state publishing institution including twelve bodies, namely the People's Press, the People's Literary Press, the Commercial Press, Zhonghua Book Company, Encyclopedia of China Publishing House, China Fine Arts Publishing House, People's Music Publishing House, SDX Joint Publishing Company, China Translation and Publishing Corp., Xinhua Bookstore Head Office, China National Publishing Industry Trading Corp. and China National Publications Import & Export (Group) Corp.

The China Publishing Group has at present a staff of 5000 and a total of RMB 5 billion as capital. The sales in 2001 amounted to RMB 2.5 billion.

The Group is under the leadership of the CPC Ministry of Propaganda and accepts the guidance of the General Administration of News and Publications.

The China Publishing Group will now set about constructing its subsidiary—the China Distributing Group, which is made up of three distributing enterprises, which are the Xinhua Bookstores Head Office, China National Publishing Industry Trading Corp. and China National Publications Import & Export (Group) Corp. The Group's present plan is; 1) to establish the investment controlling corporation, undertaking efficient capital operation and maximizing capital effectiveness; 2) to establish the service controlling corporation, providing socialized services ranging from strategic counsel, information collection and analysis to copyright attorney, binding and layout design, proofreading and advertising; 3) to establish the overseas development controlling corporation, unifying the operation of the overseas business, taking care of contact and cooperation with large international media corporations, expanding international markets, and participating in the



Workshop on developing NFE-MIS (Cambodia)

international competition; 4) to organize the reader's club service company, expanding and attracting members, enforcing the cooperation with the internal publishing companies, providing books and periodicals and electronic video, audio publication services for readers and expanding a wider publishing market.

The founding of China Publication Group is the first step towards implementing the development programme. The group will complete its internal resources consolidation, structure adjustment, and business reorganization in two years. Thus it will achieve the goal of overall planning, general operating, resource sharing and mutual complementation with clear-cut obligation and coordinative development. In the meantime, selectively absorbing superior assets inside or outside the industry into the group is the second step. The third step is to form effective capital accumulation and mass management by 2005.

Indonesia

National Book Day

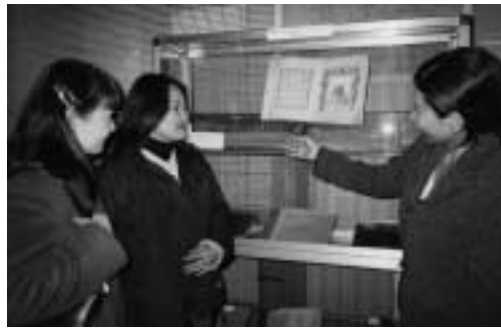
On 17 May, in Jakarta, the Education Minister, H. Malik Fajar, M. Sc., on behalf of the President of the Republic of Indonesia, proclaimed that day as National Book Day. In the ceremony, directly broadcast by the state-owned television, TVRI, the minister said that to enlighten the life of the people has been the commitment of the founding fathers of the Indonesian nation, as embodied in the preamble of the 1945 Constitution. Such a mission is part of the proclamation of Indonesian Independence.

Best Books Awarded

Lautan Susu Coklat (The Sea of Chocolate Milk), written by Renny Yanuar, published by PT Grasindo, won the first prize of the 2002 Adikarya IKAPI Book Award in the category of children's books. Among books for adolescents, the first award was seized by *Santri Tengik (Spiteful Disciple)* authored by Varuni Dian Vijayanti, published by PT Adicita Karya Nusa. Besides, there were also awards given for the best illustrations and book designs. In the category of children's books, the first winner for



"Rights of Book Publication" meeting (Iran)



"Lord Genghis, Living For Ever in Books" exhibition (Mongolia)



Oo Po Kyar Memorial Library, Henzada (Myanmar)

illustrations and book design was a book entitled *Masa Kecil Putra Sang Fajar (The Childhood of The Dawn's Son)*, published by PT Remaja Rosda Karya, with Tatang Rukyat and Sutaryo having the credit for the award.

Iran

73,000 Iranian Books in the 15th Tehran International Book Fair

From 1-10 May 2002, 1,722 Iranian publishers participated in the 15th Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF) with over 73,000 books presented in 991 pavilions. According to the Executive Committee of Domestic Publishers Union in the Fair, there was an increase of 20% in the number of the registered publishers and their books this year. "In the Fair there were 482 publishers from other cities, 371 publishers of aid-educational books, and 202 children's and young adult's book publishers". "The number of the books exhibited in the Fair in different sections were as follows: 48,479 with general topics (titles), 17,873 educational books, 6,700 books for children & young adults".

During the Fair, a conference on "Investigating the Rights of Book Publications in Iran" was held. Advisor for cultural affairs of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance as well as the chairman of the conference, Morteza Shafi'ee Shakib, stated that it consisted of a group of intellectuals and thinkers in the field of Iranian book publishing, a representative of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) as well as a number of representatives of domestic and foreign organizations. He pointed out that the main objectives of this conference were to provide a ground for debates and investigation of domestic publications in the fields of science, law, jurisprudence and economics.

Japan

Publishing Situation

Though the sales amount in the publishing field is still at a low level, the same as the previous year, the number of new titles is increasing. In April 2002 it was 7,129 (13.3% increase) and the sum total from January to April was 24,573 (8.3% increase).

As for the best-seller in the first half of this year, besides the three titles of Harry Potter series which have sold well since last year, there are some books on Japanese language, books on how to master English, and simple statistics books such as *If the world were a village of 100 people*, etc. No new trends are evident, and publishing circles continue to make effort by trial and error to find a breakthrough in this prolonged depression.

Meanwhile, the reading promotion movement is very active through storytelling at bookshops, enriching school libraries, and morning reading time at schools. It seems that the publishing community feel the necessity to attract new readership and a way to stimulate publishing.

Mongolia

Great Khan's History Revealed

The Exhibition, "Lord Genghis, Living For Ever in Books" has recently opened in the Central Library of Mongolia on the occasion of the 840th anniversary of Genghis Khan's birth.

Over 180 books and sutras that tell about the Great Khan are presented in the exhibition, offering a chance to see ancient historic books, including "The Secret History of Mongolia", composed in 1240, and "History of Yuan Dynasty", consisting of 210 volumes.

A family-tree book of Mongolia was among the most interesting pieces in the exhibition. It is believed that Mongolians originated from Borte (wolf) and Goo Maral (hind). A 100 x 352 cm paper with a family tree of 42 descendants of Borte and Goo Maral was on show to the public for the first time.

Also, a 71.1 m long and 22 cm wide rolled-book, named "Treasure Rosary" was mounted in the exhibition. Over 60 books written by foreign scholars and scientists were presented in the exhibition.

Myanmar

Oo Po Kyar Commemorative Library

Oo Po Kyar, an educationist and a well-known writer of short stories, was honoured in his hometown, Henthada by building a library. Oo Po Kyar has written nearly a dozen books and several dozens

of short stories in his time. His writings are still very much appreciated by the present generation because of his lucid writings and encouragement for the readers. His patriotic stance and new research on Myanmar historical heroes inspired for the youth. Dr. Tin Tun Oo, a well-wisher, who himself is a native of the late author's town and one who belongs to present publishing world as Proprietor of General Knowledge Publishing House, donated Kyats two million for the building and ensured the library committee to further assist in the smooth running of the library in this small town. An opening ceremony was held on 27 April 2002, at the town, 70 miles west of the capital city of Yangon. Writers as well as local administration heads came to make tribute to the late writer at the library opening.

Nepal

Awards of Excellence to Nine Persons

Bhupalman Singh Karki Pragya Parishad (Bhupalman Singh Academy), the largest private sector social endowment trust of Nepal, has honoured nine persons with cash prizes and commendation certificates for their exemplary contributions to the field of Nepali language, literature, religion, education, health, music, sports and social service.

In a special investiture ceremony held on 14 May, the prestigious Bhupalman Singh Karki Puraskar award worth Nrs.200,000 (US\$2,600) was conferred on *Trimurti Prabandha Samiti* (Three Statues Management Committee). The Committee has launched a project to construct life-size statues of late poet Lekh Nath Poudyal, eminent dramatist Balkrishna Sama and late poet laureate Laxmi P. Devkota. The Nrs50,000 worth prize for creative writing went to Basu Pasha for his historical novel *Pratap Malla*. Winners of other awards include: an old-age asylum Nisahaya Seva Ashram, Arun Sayami for his contributions to medicare services, music composer Bulu Mukarung, songster Bhairab Bahadur Thapa, essayist Shesh Raj Sivakoti, and sportsman Ganesh Thapa.

New Zealand

Literacy Initiatives for Secondary Schools

In the 2002 Budget, the Government set NZ\$4 million aside for initiatives to boost literacy in secondary schools. While New Zealand secondary schools have high average rates of literacy, too many students perform at the lower levels. The secondary literacy leadership programme, modelled on a successful programme in primary schools, is to start mid-year.

NZ \$1 million will help all secondary schools access the secondary literacy leadership programme by the end of 2002. Over the next 3 years NZ\$3 million will fund in-depth literacy professional development programmes.

A national advisory group for secondary literacy leadership includes five secondary school principals.

In setting up these initiatives, the government showed its commitment to improving literacy achievement in all groups of students.

Copyright Licensing Writer's Award

New Zealand's copyright collective Copyright Licensing Limited has announced a new annual award, the Copyright Licensing Limited Writer's Award, to provide support for New Zealand writers of non-fiction books.

The award of NZ\$30,000 will enable a New Zealand writer of proven merit to devote time to a specific non-fiction project as well as cover research expenses. The award is funded by a deduction of up to 2% of Copyright Licensing Limited's annual domestic licensing income from the copyright fees paid by educational institutions. It will be administered by a committee of representatives from the New Zealand Society of Authors (PEN NZ Inc) and the Book Publishers Association of New Zealand, as well as an educationalist. The winner of the inaugural award will be announced at the end of October 2002.

Further information is available from Copyright Licensing Ltd., PO Box 36-477, Northcote, Auckland 1309, New Zealand, phone: (64) 9 480 2711, fax: (64) 9 480 1130, e-mail: kbrake@copyright.co.nz

Pakistan

Promotion of Children's Literature

In Pakistan, it was felt that adequate supplementary reading material was not available especially for children of different age groups. Thus the need was felt for the availability of good juvenile

literature which is of paramount importance for developing the mental abilities and personality of a child.

To fill this vacuum, the National Book Foundation (NBF) has initiated numerous book promotional schemes. One of its schemes, "Promotion of Children's Literature", has provided adequate incentives to the authors and publishers to develop healthy reading material for children of different age groups.

The NBF has adopted the procedure of advertising of the scheme in the newspapers for its proper implementation. The entries, including books/manuscripts are selected by the members of the in-house committee, and then forwarded to the committee of experts. The experts' committee decided finally and on their recommendations the selected titles are given cash awards to the best writers of children's literature to encourage them to write good books in ten disciplines including primer, nursery rhymes, picture story books, games and sports, everyday science, fiction, general knowledge, Pakistan, religion and biography.

In 2001-2002, 67 awards along with commendation certificates have been given to the writers of the best books and manuscripts.

The competition amongst authors to write quality children's books may go a long way towards the promotion of good healthy children's literature, and will prove the best source for developing the reading habit from the very beginning.

Philippines

Annual Celebration of Philippine Book Development Month

The National Book Development Board (NBDB) in coordination with the book publishing industry celebrated the Philippine Book Development Month in June. The celebration that started in 1997 is pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 120. The theme for this year's celebration is "Making Good Books Accessible to More Readers."

Trade book publishers held a month-long book sale while storytelling sessions are held at bookstores and the national park. Bookstores were opened at provincial areas, seminars and forums on book development, book publishing, readership and paper for book publishing were held.

Book publishers, paper manufacturers and traders, government officials in education, trade and industry, and other agencies gather to tackle problems on requirements for paper in book publishing, its supply and procedures for tax and duty-free importation of paper.

Another highlight is the donation of books to the "Book Lover's Club" and the "Book Drive" for the NBDB staff to supplement the book donation programme in the regions.

For regional activities, NBDB in cooperation with Office of Presidential Assistant for Political Affairs (OPAPA) and Mindanao Media Association sponsored the Mindanao Book Publishing and Readership Summit.

To cap the month's celebration, three fora on paper for book publishing were held from 24-28 June 2002.

Basic Education Curriculum

The 2002 Basic Education Curriculum is a response to the research findings on achievements of Filipino learners. It is only a physical revision of the present curriculum where adjustments have been made in its form but content remains the same. Its form has been simplified to include only five core learning areas and content namely English, Filipino, mathematics, science and *Makabayan* (nationalism). Values are integrated into all these learning areas. The integration of these subject areas in *Makabayan* is deemed necessary in order to provide opportunities for learners to make functional use of knowledge, skill and attitudes learned and developed about self, country and its socio-political, economic, cultural, aesthetic and spiritual requirements.

Since the 2002 Basic Education Curriculum guarantees that there is no change in the objectives, content and competencies, new books are not required. All books previously prepared in different learning areas will still be used.

Rep. of Korea

Seoul International Book Fair 2002

The Seoul International Book Fair (SIBF) 2002 was held from 7-12 June with this year's slogan "Into the Book, Into the World, Into the Future". On the occasion of the FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan which coincided with the SIBF 2002, a special exhibition titled "Beautiful Korea" was arranged for Koreans as well as foreign visitors who were coming to Korea to see football matches. 500 book titles and 70 photographs of Korean cultural heritage, living culture, folklore and the nature of Korea were exhibited. This exhibition also provided visitors with an opportunity to view the past and present of Korean publishing culture.

An international workshop on translation and publishing of Korean literature



Seoul International Book Fair 2002 (Rep. of Korea)



30th National Book Fair (Thailand)

was held on 8 June in cooperation with Korea Literature Translation Institute. Professionals who have been engaged in translation and publication of Korean literature discussed ways to share Korean literature with the world.

Due to the FIFA World Cup fever all over the country, there was a decrease in the number of visitors to the fair, still a good number of book lovers visited the SIBF 2002.

Sri Lanka

World Book and Copyright Day

The World Book and Copyright Day designated by UNESCO falls on 23 April. On that day, the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB), in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Publishers' Association, organized a book exhibition and a seminar to commemorate the occasion. The NLDSB plays a vital role in promoting reading and publishing, and in protecting intellectual property through copyright in Sri Lanka. Organising book exhibitions nationwide, assisting author publishers under the publications assistance project, promoting the reading habit development among school children and organizing seminars on copyright and many other related topics are some of the activities carried out by NLDSB.

The Minister for Justice, Law Reform, National Integration and Buddha Sasana was the chief guest at the inauguration of the Book Exhibition and Seminar, held at the National Library Auditorium. The Book Exhibition was open to the public from 23 to 27 April 2002. The seminar themes were "Copyright Law and its Implementation in Sri Lanka" by Mahinda Relapanawa and "The Challenges of Information Communication Technology on Copyright" by Henry Samaranayake. The NLDSB has also published a poster for World Book and Copyright Day 2002.

Thailand

30th National Book Fair

The 30th National Book Fair was opened by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn on 29 March 2002 with the theme "Book is Life, Regular Reading

for the Perfect Life." It was organized during 29 March–8 April 2002 by the Department of Curriculum and Instruction Development, Ministry of Education in cooperation with the Publishers and Booksellers Association of Thailand.

The Fair attracted about 500,000 visitors throughout the country. Programme comprised of an exhibition which displayed books written by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and Her Royal Highness Princess Galyani Vadhana, and books awarded in the 2002 National Book Contest, seminars, training, workshops, and discussions. To promote the distribution of books from cities to villages, used books were donated by the general public for giving away to rural areas.

Regional Book Fair

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction Development, Ministry of Education with the Bureau of Education, Religion and Culture in Phitsanulok Province, agencies under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education, and the Publishers and Booksellers Association of Thailand organized the Regional Book Fair during 28 June–2 July 2002 in Phitsanulok Province, one of the centre provinces in Northern Thailand.

The aims of this Fair are to support and spread book publishing and dissemination, and to enhance the reading habits in students and the public in the regional part of the country. Programmes are as the same as the 30th National Book Fair and including academic activities of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction Development such as training courses on writing, editing and web page creating, etc.

Uzbekistan

The Centre of Enlightenment

Since independence in Uzbekistan, books have started to be published in different spiritual and philosophical styles. Numerous books, albums, placards, booklets in Uzbek, Russian, English and other languages, telling about Uzbekistan, about people's culture and values,

are being published at editorial-publication share company "Sharq" (east).

Founded in 1997, "Sharq Ziyokori" shareholders company publishes and sells books, textbooks and stationery. In addition to this, "Sharq Ziyokori" receives public and private orders for publishing. Since 2001 the company has published and put on sale more than 60 books, children's books and albums to the amount of 470,000 copies, and 30 textbooks and manuals (640,000 copies).

People like books published by "Sharq", not only for the rich spirituality and knowledge but also for their high-quality paper and very artistic, wellthoughtout design.

"Sharq Ziyokori" also helps and supports libraries visited by aged people, and libraries of children's homes.

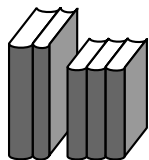
Viet Nam

New Royalty Law to Solve the Publishing Contradictions

The book market in Viet Nam has had a very loose control on the pricing system. Prices are rather high for readers since the circulating fee was from 22% to 45%. Meanwhile, writers or translators get only 10% of the price for royalties, which is not encouraging incentive for good translators to work on books. Few good ones have been found over the past few years, and the quality of translation is rather low.

To deal with this reality, on 11 June, the Prime Minister launched Resolution No 61/2002/ND-CP on new royalty system aiming to encourage the creativeness of the authors and assure their property right as well as their copyright.

In short, a publication office can use 10% of its turnover for royalty funds, and the editor-in-chief or the director can decide special payment for a book or an article according to the quality of the work. This new resolution will be applied immediately.



Outstanding New Books

Australia

In Fear of Security: Australia's Invasion Anxiety

The author passionately argues that security fears have dominated and distorted Australia's foreign policy and national life since the earliest days of its colonial history up to the recent refugee crisis. He believes that powerful images of national identity and otherness have been based on the notion of security and that those images have been used in violent and anti-democratic ways to resolve bitter political conflicts. He points out that it was security fears that underpinned, amongst other things, Australia's once racist immigration policy.

In Fear of Security: Australia's Invasion Anxiety by Anthony Burke, Pluto Press Australia (Locked Bag 199, Annandale, NSW), 371 pages, A\$39.95 (approx. US\$20), ISBN: 1-86403-126-3



In Fear of Security (Australia)

Cambodia

Rose of Dream

This book describes the achievements of Preah Bاده Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, the King of Cambodia, and his followers in developing the country in the Sangkum Reas Niyum Regime (1950s and 1960s). It uses the simple words, short phrases or sentences and is easy to understand.

Rose of Dream by Sar Bopha, 112 pages, 15,000 riel (approx. US\$4.00)

China

Open Questions in the Century Historical (Archaeology Volume)

This volume selected tens of valuable "mysteries" from the history of China and abroad, and gives a detailed account of the cause and effect of these mysteries, providing valuable research leads for historical archaeology.

Shi Ji Cun Yi published by Shanxi People's Publishing House (No.15, Jianshe Nan Lu,



Rose of Dream (Cambodia)



Gender Journalism in the New Order (Indonesia)



The History of Children's Literature in Iran vol. 2 (Iran)

Taiyuan, China, 030012) 559pages, ISBN: 7-203-04168-9, RMB27.5 (approx. US\$3.30)

Indonesia

Gender Journalism in the New Order

With an introduction by Dr. Karlina Leksono Supelli, this book contends that, in Indonesia, there is something wrong with the social and cultural structure regarding the relations between men and women in all spheres of life. Through content analysis of the news on women in two prominent newspapers, namely *Kompas* and *Jawa Pos*, during the period from July 1996 to June 1998, the author tries to show the male dominance over women in all areas of life, portraying how the asymmetry in their relationship is formed by the patriarchal culture prevailing in Indonesian society as well as by global capitalism, which titillates commercialism, tending to regard everything, including women's bodies, as commercial commodities. Such a situation has been aggravated by the authoritarianism of the New Order, by whose unrestricted power the press has been subdued to become its servant.

Pers, Negara & Perempuan (Press, State, & Women) by May Lan, S. S., M. Si., Kalika, Jl. Bugisan Selatan (Gg Jonegalan II, 325, Bantul, Yogyakarta), in cooperation with Yayasan Adikarya Ikapi, and The Ford Foundation (Jakarta), 140 x 210 mm, 366 pages

Iran

The History of Children's Literature in Iran

The History of Children's Literature in Iran (HCLI) is a research project undertaken by "The Foundation for Research on the History of Children's Literature" which started in 1997. Volumes 1-4 have already been published and work continues on the remaining volumes 5-7.

The HCLI project entails such issues as the appearance of culture and literature in Iran, the formation of oral literature its components, followed by the appearance of children's literature in ancient times, after Islam, and its development up to The Islamic Revolution in 1978.

The HCLI, as an extensive research project will also review the literature of the different ethnic cultures in Iran, and also religions other than Islam, such as Zoroastrianism, Christianity and Judaism.

The History of Children's Literature in Iran by Mohammad H. Mohammadi & Zohreh Ghaeni, The Foundation for Research on the History of Children's Literature in Iran (Tehran PO B0x 16335-176, fax: (98) 21 8716954, e-mail: chlhistory@hotmail.com), Vols. 1-4 published in 2001-2, ISBN: 964-92715

Japan

2002 Publishing Yearbook and Complete Catalogue of Japanese Books-in-Print

Two most essential yearbooks published for decades are now combined and available in a 3-volume *Publishing Yearbook and Complete Catalogue of Japanese Books-in-Print CD-ROM 2002*.

In addition to usual lists and statistics, the *Publishing Yearbook* (Vols. 1 & 2) this year carries a list of about 8,000 titles whose digital contents are available on the web as of March 2002 and about 1,000 print-on-demand titles.

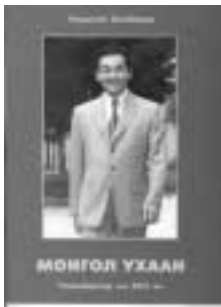
Volume 3 is the CD-ROM version of the catalogue of more than 610,000 titles in stock. The publisher seized to publish the bulky printed version this year. With the spread of the Internet, search of book titles became easy on the web. But as not all people can have access to the Internet, CD-ROM with the contents of the Japan Book Publishers Association search system offers a convenient substitute, with a higher speed.

At the same time, recording on paper in book form is still indispensable. Thus, annual record of book titles, statistical data, list of publishers, etc. along with digital data in the Catalogue are all mutually complementary and are necessary factors for sales promotion.

Shuppan Nenkan (in print) & *Nihon Shoseki Soumoku* (CD-ROM) by Japan Book Publishers Association and Shuppan News Co., Ltd. (Tokyo), 2002, 182 x 256 mm, 3,500 pages in total (vols. 1 & 2), 35,000 yen (approx. US\$290.00), ISBN: 4-7852-0104-5



2002 Publishing Yearbook and CD-ROM (Japan)



Mongolian Mind
(Mongolia)



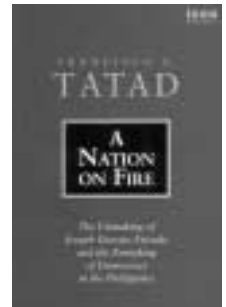
Pushkar Shumser Memorial
Volume (Nepal)



Billie's Kiss (New Zealand)



A Journey (Pakistan)



A Nation on Fire
(Philippines)

Mongolia

Mongolian Mind

Within the past decade, Mongolia, which has chosen a path to democracy, human rights and market economy has embarked irrevocably on the new way towards development and progress. In his book *Mongolian Mind*, President Bagabandi wrote about new seeds of development and growth, that emerged inevitably from the linkage between the historical tradition of the Mongol state set up by Genghis Khan and today's reform. This gives hope for potential of deep content. He put forward a scientifically based doctrine combining nature and historical philosophy, thus conveying to his readers a new cognition.

Mongolian Mind by Natsagiin Bagabandi (President of Mongolia), Erel Publishing House (Ulaanbaatar), 2001, 147 x 208 mm, 35 pages, ISBN: 999-29-0-040-7

Myanmar

A Flower Bunch under the Rain and Sun

Myanmar has an average output of two dozens of collected poems published in book form annually. National Literary Award Committee has always been easy to choose a book among those collected poems vying each other for the coveted



A Flower Bunch under the
Rain and Sun (Myanmar)

prize in the country. Among this year's output, a collection of poems was published by a well-known soldier poet.

His superb style made him the winner of poetry in three annual prizes since 1994. The poet is currently a chief editor for the monthly literary magazine *The Nation's Glory*.

A Flower Bunch under the Rain and Sun by Myinmu Maung Naing Moe

Nepal

Pushkar Shumser Memorial Volume

This is a treatise commemorating the contributions of the late Pushkar Shumser JBR who was the pioneer Nepali lexicographer, writer and novelist of the pre-democracy era. Born in 1901 in the Rana aristocracy of Nepal, he had partial paralysis from birth. In 1937, he became the chairman of the newly established Nepali Language Translation Council. With the advent of democracy in 1951, Mr. Shumser became a member of the First National Education Commission in 1956. In the post-democracy era, he also served as chairman of the Nepali Language Publications Committee until his death in 1960.

The notable literary works include *English Nepali Dictionary Part 1* (1936); *Part II* (1938); *Anthology of Nepali Maxims and Usages* (1941); and a collection of short stories and one-act plays.

Pushkar Shumser Memorial Volume Centenary Context by Jeevan Chandra Koirala, Kula Chandra Koirala Memorial Academy (Kathmandu), 2001, 420 pages, Nrs600 (approx. US\$8.00)

New Zealand

Billie's Kiss

In 1903, on a remote Scottish island divided between Protestant and Catholic inhabitants, a ship explodes as it docks in Stolnsay harbour. Billie Paxton, an illiterate and fascinating young woman who leaps off the ship and survives, is suspected of causing the explosion. Lord Hallowhulme, owner of the island, is involved in controversial plans for bringing progress to this out of the way environment. The writing is vivid and sensual, and the narrative has elements of mystery and romance.

This indicates the trend among leading New Zealand writers for setting their stories in other countries in order to reach a wider market.

Billie's Kiss by Elizabeth Knox, Victoria University Press, Victoria University of Wellington (PO Box 600 Wellington New Zealand), 215 x 139 mm, 320 pages, approx. US\$15.00, ISBN: 0-86473-426-3

Pakistan

A Journey

A Journey is, in a way, a short journey across Pakistan, its villages, towns, countryside and scenic spots. Through the eyes of 'Shahid', the main character, one catches a glimpse of the customs, traditions and inherent features of cultures that are being maintained and valued to this day. The main characters of the book are beautifully interwoven. They care for each other and share their joy and sorrows.

Some flaws and drawbacks in our societal set-up are pointed out through the day-to-day experiences of the characters. Children are made to realize the difference between good and bad in a sense that does not bear any semblance of homilies. As a matter of fact what makes the book unique is that it highlights day-to-day events and experiences that may be trivial yet significant. The book is definitely going to prove an important landmark in the field of literature for children.

A Journey by Nilofar Sultana, National Book Foundation (Islamabad), 2001, 216 x 140 mm, 57 pages, US\$1.50, ISBN: 969-37-0186-0

Papua New Guinea

Grassroots Book Re-printed

Post Printing, the printing arm of South Pacific Post, has re-printed the classic collection of cartoons entitled *Grassroots Guide to Papua New Guinea Pidgin*.

This is a well-known Papua New Guinea's funniest guide to Tok Pisin, one of the three national languages, written by a popular grassroots cartoonist Pastor Bob Brown.

Grassroots Guide to Papua New Guinea Pidgin by Pastor Bob Brown, contact to Paul Spinks, Post Printing Manager (phone: (675) 3091051, e-mail: pspinks@spp.com.pg)

Philippines

A Nation on Fire

A former Senator of the Philippines writes, "It is no small tragedy that a country which had preceded most of the Third World in the art of democracy and whose sociopolitical ethos and living standards once elicited envy had



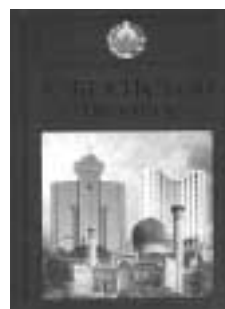
What is East Asian Painting?
(Rep. of Korea)



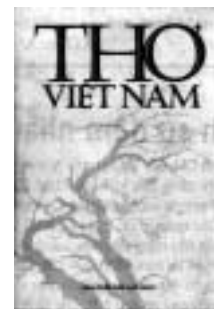
Collection of Sinhala Folk Verses (Sri Lanka)



www.grandmother.com
(Thailand)



Uzbekistan on the Way of Progress (Uzbekistan)



Vietnamese Poems
(Viet Nam)

suddenly become a political and economic backwater—disparaged by its neighbours, shunned by foreign investors, and disowned by some citizens. What has gone wrong? What must Filipinos do to regain what they had lost? And what must they do to catch up with their more fortunate neighbours?"

A Nation on Fire by Francisco S. Tatad, ICON Press Inc. (Lourdes Road cor San Miguel Avneue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City), 2002, 153 mm x 230 mm, 658 pages, US\$14.95, ISBN: 971-92555-0-1

Rep. of Korea

What is East Asian Painting?

The Korean Publishers Association has been designating 20 titles every quarter of a year as "This Month's Best Books for the Youth" since 1984, supported by the Korea Publishing Fund. This book is one of the 17 titles which were selected in the first quarter of this year.

"Art" usually means "western art" to the Korean youth because of the general westernization of the Korean society. Reading this book, one could recognize the authors' great efforts to help readers rediscover the East Asian paintings. The two co-writers conducted a survey, selected 100 questions about their own traditional art genre and gave explanations on them with excellent illustrations.

This book is a great guide to traditional Korean as well as East Asian paintings.

What is East Asian Painting? by Jo Yong Jin and Bae Jae Yeong, Youl Hwa Dang Publisher, 2002, 162 x 231 mm, 18,000 won (approx. US\$14.50), ISBN: 89-301-1080-0

Sri Lanka

Collection of Sinhala Folk Verses

The compiler's years-long research project, which has yielded this interesting range of folk poems primarily centered on the virtual Sinhala heartland of Yatinuwara in the hill country of Sri Lanka. The poems evince the lived experience of the Sinhalese and exemplify the poetic sensibility of the ordinary people in all its important dimensions.

The tones and moods of the poems however, are complex and varied, particularly poignant are those created through the everyday toil and torments

of the villagers. The book includes different types of poems such as farmers, labourers of different types, lovers, children, folk games, and poems for gods and Buddha etc. Some critics call this a golden treasury of Sinhala verse.

Jana Kavimihira: Collection of Sinhala Folk Verses compiled by P. K. Ariyaratne Sarvodaya Vishva Lekha, 41 Lumbini Mawatha, Ratmalana, 2001, 140 x 210 mm, 326 pages, SLR.450.00 (US\$10.00), ISBN: 955-599-235-5

Thailand

www.grandmother.com

This novel is written from the experiences of the author who is an elderly woman and is not familiar with modern technological knowledge.

One day she saw her grandchildren 'chat' on the computer with people of their same age, then she joined for 'chat' with them.

The story is carried forward by the elderly group who create the website "www.grandmother.com" for being the place where the elderly people can relay and exchange their knowledge and experiences to be beneficial of everyone.

This book was judged the 2002 winner for novel awards as announced by the National Book Development Committee of Thailand under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education.

www.grandmother.com by Duang Jai, Puendee Publishing House (<http://www.puendee.com>), 2001, 203 x 144 mm, 804 pages, approx. US\$ 9.00, ISBN: 974-7083-36-1

Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan on the Way of Progress

The photo-album *Uzbekistan on the Way of Progress* in Uzbek, English and Russian languages stands out for its significance and rich sense. It tells about the success and victories attained in the last decade by Uzbekistan in political, economic and social spheres, the great changes that nation is undergoing, the splendid landscapes of local nature, ancient history, rich culture and diverse arts of Uzbekistan.

This album consists of ten parts, which thoroughly describe the historical way of development chosen by the nation, the

lifestyle of the people, and the beauty of the motherland.

The last decade was really the time of creation. Numerous buildings have been constructed and important reforms have been made. During this period new enterprises, modern colleges, beautiful hotels, squares and statues, avenues and bridges have been created.

The beautiful colour pictures printed on the high quality paper of the photo-album can be a real introduction to modern Uzbekistan and the changes which the nation is undergoing.

Uzbekistan on the Way of Progress by publishing house "Uzbekistan"

Be Careful, Children

The life is full of disasters like fire, earthquake, tornados, landslips and snow slides and others. When such disasters happen the most important task is to protect and safeguard people and victims.

Our ancestors said: "Disaster is all around you, and only God can save us!" Not to fall into panic and help others, one must be brought up very brave and devoted. This is what this book teaches us. This book is adored and widely read not only by youngsters but also by adults.

Asra, Bolam, Uzingni by Iskandar Rahmon, the Literacy and Arts Publication House after G. Gulom, 2002

Viet Nam

Vietnamese Poems

This is a special collection of poems composed by 1,000 Vietnamese authors during the past century, including those who lived in South Viet Nam during the Viet Nam war. It really attracts readers with its historical significance, showing the vicissitudes of the country through the wars and the North-South separation. The collection will certainly become a valuable work for the future generations as well as literary researchers.

Tho Viet Nam collected and edited by Gia Dung, Labour Publishing House, 150 x210 mm, 1,700 pages, 225,000 VND (approx. US\$16)

GATHERINGS



8th Delhi Book Fair leaflet (India)



Book Exhibition (Nepal)

Date	Title	Country (City) Organisers	Content
2002 Apr. 23	World Book and Copyright Day Celebration (WBCD)	Philippines (Quezon City) National Book Development Board (NBDB)	Various associations of the book industry gathered at NBDB to express their support for and commitment to reading and writing and copyright. The NBDB received a recognition award from the Youth for United Philippines of the United Nations Association of the Philippines for organizing the Philippine celebration of WBCD for 6 consecutive years.
May 1 -12	Book Exhibition	Nepal National Publishers Organisation	A total of 100,000 people visited the exhibition in which Nepalese and Indian publishing organisations participated.
May 5 -Sep. 14	Opening Exhibition	Japan (Tokyo) The International Library of Children's Literature (ILCL)	To commemorate the opening of ILCL, a special exhibition of Books Museum, displaying lots of attractive picture books, is being held. contact: URL: http://www.kodomo.go.jp (in Japanese)
May 24 -28	The 9th Beijing International Book Fair	China (Beijing) China National Publications Import and Export (Group) Corporation	There are nearly one thousand publishing organizations from 42 countries and regions with more than 100 thousand kinds of books, audiovisual products and electronic publications. And over 8,000 items of contracts and mutual consent are reached. contact: phone: (86) 10 6506 3050, fax: (86) 10 6506 3101, e-mail: cnpiec@cnpiec.com.cn
June 28 -30	Writers Congress & Book Fair	Myanmar (Yangon)	Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association conference held every four years was held for the third time. The occasion was preceded by the weeklong Book Fair from 26-30 June 2002.
July 1	Launch of Competition for Novels	Viet Nam Writers' Association	In commemorating the 45th anniversary of the foundation of Viet Nam Writers' Association (founded 1957), a competition for novels is being launched, starting from 1 July 2002 and ending 1 July 2004. This is the first time the Association has made it clear that not only writers at home, but also overseas Vietnamese writers, are encouraged to participate.
July 20	Montana New Zealand Book Award	New Zealand	At the Booksellers Conference (20-23 July), the best books published in New Zealand over the last year is announced. contact: Sandra Noakes, Booksellers NZ Ltd., fax: (64) 4 472 8628, e-mail: sandra.noakes@xtra.co.nz , URL: http://www.booksellers.co.nz
Aug. 5 -8	Training Course on Professional Translation	Thailand (Bangkok) Faculty of Humanities, Ramkhamhaeng University	The purpose of this course are to inculcate code of ethics and conscious mind in the participants, and to equip them with knowledge and skills to become good translators. The programme is comprised of lectures and discussions on the principle of translation, and group practice on translation in the fields of computer, science, technology, politics, economics and the business.
Aug. 23 -Sep 1	Melbourne Writers Festival	Australia (Melbourne)	An opportunity for book lovers to meet and hear writers from Australia and overseas. contact: URL: http://www.mwf.com.au
Aug. 24 -Sep. 1	8th Delhi Book Fair	India (New Delhi) India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) Federation of Indian Publishers (FIP)	This book fair is ITPO's tribute to the 13,000-strong Indian Publishing Industry which produces the largest number of English titles after USA and UK. India also features among the 10 largest book-producing countries in the world with over 50,000 new titles every year. Coinciding with the fair, a number of workshops and seminars, librarians' meets and authors' meets will be organised. contact: General Manager (Domestic Fairs), ITPO, e-mail: itpo@giasdl01.vsnl.net.in
Sep. 18 -22	Indonesian Book Fair	Indonesia (Jakarta)	Organized by Indonesian Book Publishers Association (IKAPI) in cooperation with Dyandra Promosindo, it includes a book fair, seminars, book launchings, etc. contact: URL: http://www.dyandra.com/2002/bookfair
Oct. 4 -8	First International Islamic Arts and Handicrafts Congress	Iran (Isfahan)	Handicrafts from Iran and other countries are displayed at the congress, and the current situation and future prospects of Islamic art and culture will be discussed.
Nov. 8 -16	Asian Children's Festival (ACF) 2002	Singapore National Library Board (NLB) and others	The ACF is an annual dedication to the growth, development and happiness of children. It will continue to feature an exquisite forum of internationally renowned and celebrated children's storytellers, writers, puppeteers, children's librarians and child prodigies. Key highlights are Asian Storytelling Carnival, Asian Children's Writers and Illustrators Conference, Budding Writers Award, etc. contact: National Library Board, Singapore, fax: (65) 6 3323616



Utilization of Information Technology in Publishing and Book Development

Following are excerpts from the reports presented at the 2002 APPREB Experts Meeting, Kuala Lumpur, 19-21 February 2002

China

The Chinese E-publishing Industry is developing rapidly although it started late. So far China has trained a powerful team and formed a good developing posture. The production level of E-products has basically reached the international advanced level. We have carried out technical development and applied digitization to Chinese Cultural heritage.

China has 85 E-publishing houses, over 500 producers engaging in E-publications, and nearly a thousand software developers. Most of the E-publishing houses are in Beijing and coastal cities. In 1999 E-publications reached a total of 1,884 categories, 2,254 categories 39.897 million tapes (discs) in 2000, and 2,793 in 2001 respectively.

China also established a group of databases that have tactic significance for economic development. These E-publications and databases with mainly traditional content, provide an information service for the whole society through CDs and Internet. Their customers have over 6,000 spread throughout the mainland of China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Southeast Asia, US, Germany, and Australia, etc., which have laid a good foundation for the digitization and networking of national cultural heritage.

China also pays close attention to the construction of network environment and the exploration of network resources while it makes endeavour to develop an E-publishing Industry.

The Chinese Internet environment has made dramatic progress in recent years. According to *CNNIC 9th Chinese Internet Development Statistic Report (2001/1)*, by the end of 31 December 2001, the computers going online in China had hit 12.54 mil-



E-publications at a book fair in China

lion, an increase of 40.6% over the same period last year; the number of people going online had reached 33.7 million, an increase of 11 million people over the same period last year with an increase rate of 49.8%. The international output bandwidth in China was 7,597.5 m, going up 1.7 times over the same period last year. The Internet has penetrated into Chinese society. The number of people going online to the Internet has shot up. Surfing the Internet at home has become the major way of going online for Chinese people.

China is building and has completed a party of important online publishing projects, which have tremendously enriched the Internet resource and powerfully pushed the transference from the traditional publication to E- and online publications. The significant projects involve online newspapers, online libraries, online bookstores and remote education online. With the State Digital Library as the representative, the digital level and online search level of the libraries of universities are quite high. They can provide the online search of Chinese information, and most libraries online have established data exchange and online search relations with the overseas data centres, which fully meet the search needs of domestic customers. China has more than 300 bookstores online, offering order online. Some bookstores online also offer E-payment download from the Internet service. Due to the imperfections of both logistic and dispatch systems, it is hard to form a good developing posture. (Mr. Zhou Mingtao, Deputy Director, Publishers Association of China)

Fiji

Use of computers has increased the production of books as more and more individuals, businesses, offices, and agencies turn to desktop publishing to spread their views. Significantly, the number of books published by their authors has grown, showing that large investment is not needed and that technical skills have spread. Whether these books are distributed effectively is another question altogether as most individuals have neither the networks nor the financial setup to market well. Nevertheless, the availability of books has increased over time and we should celebrate each gain.

Use of the Internet has increased the sale of books. For example, the Book Centre at USP and *fijilive.com* sell books via the Internet. Orders come from all over the nation and the world, and books are dispatched quickly. The Institute of Pacific Studies is implementing Internet shopping keyed to its website and integrated with its stock and dispatch system.

Some schools have received supplies or

gifts of computers, and either case is admirable. Negative and positive effects exist side by side. On the negative side, urban schools are much better off than rural ones, thereby privileging certain socio-economic sectors of the population. A negative effect of the cost of computers may be that books are not supplied. Only one person at a time can effectively work on a computer. If computers break, replacement is not certain. On the positive side, as education in future will be more and more computer-based, accustoming Fiji's students to computers in whatever possible ways, no matter what the difficulties, is essential.

For the same reasons that language is an issue in textbook production, so it is in Internet use. Moreover, the cost of local products is high, in terms of equipment and trained personnel. For example, Fiji has its own television broadcasting service but the bulk of its programmes are imported. With its small population base, Fiji will never be able to mount more than a fraction of the websites that are mounted abroad, and a vast imbalance of internal versus external information is inherent.

(Ms. Linda Crowl, Publications Fellow, Institute of the Pacific Studies, University of the South Pacific)

India

The National Book Trust, India (NBT) is working towards digitizing some of its books. It will be outsourced on royalty basis in the ratio of 30:70. It would have multimedia features, animation etc. But these can never replace books. A book of 50 pages would have a development cost of Rs.100,000. Reading a novel or any serious book electronically is not comfortable, but it can certainly tempt the reader to buy the book. The Net therefore can be a viable marketing tool in India. Buying books online requires e-commerce, which is not yet prevalent.

Secondly, the Net is explored only by people who know English. Information provided on websites needs to be given in Roman script. At one point the NBT attempted to provide information of its language publishing by scanning the annotated language catalogues but it creates a problem in uploading. To put 18 different Indian language scripts would not only require specific skill sets and expertise but would also be difficult to administer. Hence it requires very careful thinking as to what to give and for whom.

Thirdly, at present we are using telephone network for email but data and visuals require better bandwidth. Yet one can explore online sessions with authors, there can be educational programmes. Goa University has launched a Virtual University. The Indian Institute of Technology and

National Institute of Design have started on-line teaching.

Digitising and networking have become popular in the field of libraries. For example Del-net founded in 1992, is a Delhi based organisation. It maintains an online union catalogue of books available in its member-libraries. The information can be retrieved by author, title, subject, conference, series, etc. It has 10,26,827 bibliographic records, and it lists 16,497 periodicals. All this is regularly updated and new titles are added annually. At present it is connected to 367 libraries in and outside Delhi. 150 universities are on the Net. But India has 60,000 public libraries and there are an estimated 10,900 college and university libraries. The total number of libraries under government and autonomous bodies is 2000. What has been covered by Net is only a small portion of the whole.

(Dr. Varsha Das, Director, National Book Trust, India)

Thailand

The advancement of information technology in Thailand has been hindered by the high price of equipment and access. A computer set costs as much as the yearly per capita income. The Report of the 1999 Business Trade and Services Survey by the National Statistical Office shows that there are only 155 establishments for computer and related activities in the entire kingdom. Only 2-3% of the population have access to computers and a much lower number have access to the Internet.

Mobile phones are very popular in Thailand. For those who have mobile phones or access to the Internet, they tend to have less time for reading. The advantageous side of IT for reading is its network of clients which stimulate exchange of information on books and reading.

Web boards for bookworms and book forums on the Internet are very active with high numbers of visitors each day. This helps increase the total number of book readers.

Information technology will be very useful for book development. One can search for information on books and publishing through the Internet. Progress in IT also assist illustrators and book designers to work more easily. However, digital pictures generally lack feeling and tenderness.

(Ms. Porn-anong Niyomka Horikawa, Vice-President for International Affairs, The Publishers and Booksellers Association of Thailand)

Publications on Reading Survey in Mongolia and Bangladesh

Two publications on reading surveys arrived at ACCU recently.

The first is *Mongolia: Access To Books And Other Printed Materials, A Discussion Paper 2001* published by Ministry of Education, Culture and Science of Mongolia (MOECS). It is the report of a survey conducted in 2001 on the overall state of the book situation in Mongolia. It covers findings on the industry, textbook development, mass media, libraries, etc. along with statistics and reports according to regions. Along with the report, it also includes survey questionnaires and other key reference materials to facilitate its use as a resource document. Published in both Mongolian and English, it will be a useful resource for students, researchers, and those involved in the field. This report was prepared as part of the activities undertaken to support the development of Mongolian book sector capacity by UNESCO, the Mongolian Foundation for Open Society (the Soros Foundation) and the Mongolian Government. (MOECS: Room 117, Government Building 3, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia)

The other report is "Reading for Children: Action Research for a Post-Literacy Intervention" published by Save the Children USA Bangladesh Field Office. It reports the encouraging findings of a research that tested the effectiveness of the Reading for Children (RfC) intervention as a viable post-literacy strategy in Bangladesh. The latter part of the report illustrates in detail how the research was conducted, offering a valuable resource for implementations in other regions. (Save the Children USA, Bangladesh Field Office: House 35A, Road 9A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka 1207, Bangladesh)



Mongolia: Access To Books And Other Printed Materials, A Discussion Paper 2001

New Initiative of UNESCO "The Global Alliance for Cultural Diversity"

Joining together representatives from the public, private and civic society sectors who share an interest in fostering creative diversity, "the Global Alliance for Cultural Diversity" is an innovative UNESCO-sponsored initiative that is intended to promote the ability of developing and transitioning countries to produce and disseminate their creative products at both the local and international levels.

Global Alliance projects will contribute to the development of local creative industries, including those related to books, publishing, music, cinema, audio-visual and crafts, as well as encourage respect for copyright and piracy prevention. In this undertaking, UNESCO is working in collaboration with other international organizations in particular with UN members to promote multilateral partnerships amongst public, private and civil society sectors for ensuring a more diversified and equitable array of cultural goods and services worldwide. The Global Alliance activities will also be supported by a special extra-budgetary fund to provide accompanying measures for the projects in the concerned countries.

Through the Global Alliance, partners will become part of a strategic network committed to cultural and economic development, allowing them to benefit from the increased resources and profile at the local and international level. These partnerships will contribute to the development of cultural industries, rich in diversity.

For more information, please contact:

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2002 Regional Workshop for Cultural Promotion of the "Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity"

ACCU and UNESCO co-organised the Workshop from 12 to 16 March 2002, in Tokyo. Oral and intangible heritage is now widely recognised as an important factor for, among other things, preserving cultural identity and ensuring cultural diversity. Many forms of cultural expressions, however, are in danger of disappearing due to globalisation, ageing of the tradition-bearers, etc, and immediate action to safeguard them needs to be taken. UNESCO launched the new programme of the Proclamation of Masterpieces, in response to such urgent needs.

The major purpose of the Workshop was to promote among the UNESCO Member States in the region the idea and the system of this new UNESCO programme and to encourage their future participation in the programme. While the very widely known 1972 World Heritage Convention covers tangible cultural heritage and natural heritage, this programme calls attention to the protection of cultural expression and cultural spaces which have transmitted from people to people.

19 cultural expression/spaces are included in the list of the Masterpieces of Humanity for the first Proclamation in May 2001, and six of them are from countries in Asia. Those proclaimed Masterpieces include centuries-old traditional theatres such as India's Kutiyattam and China's Kunqu Opera, a minority group's traditional chants like Hudhud Chants of the Ifugao people in the Philippines, and Cultural Spaces of the Boysun District in Uzbekistan. Under the programme, each Member State may submit a single national candidature every two years. Then, the files go through, first, the expert evaluation by designated NGOs and then the evaluation by the International Jury, then the Director-General makes the Proclamation.

At the Workshop, the representatives from those 6 countries with Masterpieces

Training Course on Survey and Restoration of Historic Monuments (Nara)



shared with the fellow participants their experience of national candidature selection and the impact of the proclamation upon their countries at national and local levels. In the case of India, for example, the only three remaining families which carry the very elaborate art of Kutiyattam started having forums for the first time, as a consequence of the international recognition and national attention.

The participants also shared their ideas on four broader themes surrounding the oral and intangible heritage: identification of such heritage in multi-cultural or multi-ethnic society; training and education of younger generation; women's role in transmission; and use and relevance in modern society. As intangible heritage is "live" heritage, the field visits to observe two samples of Japanese intangible heritage were integral parts of the workshop. The participants visited a Japanese traditional textiles Edo-Komon atelier and the National Noh Theatre, and met with expert practitioners of each heritage.

Thirty experts or government officials from twenty-eight countries, and two International Jury Members of the Proclamation programme (Rep. of Korea and Vanuatu) and one Japanese expert as Resource Persons, as well as three UNESCO representatives participated.

The Workshop was made possible by the UNESCO/Funds-in-Trust for the Preservation and Promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage, as well as that for the Promotion of International Cooperation and Mutual Understanding.

The list of countries which participated: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

Activities and Programmes of the Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office

The Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office, Asia/Pacific Centre for UNESCO (hereinafter referred to as ACCU Nara Office) was established in Nara City, August 1999, as a key centre in Japan for protecting World Heritage, including cultural heritage in Asia and the Pacific region.

The ancient capitals of Asuka-kyo, Fujiwara-kyo and Heijo-kyo were established in the present Nara area more than one thousand years ago. Therefore, Nara still possesses many precious wooden structures like Horyuji Temple, which was founded in the Asuka era, 607 A. D., and valuable cultural assets such as ancient tombs.

ACCU Nara Office has been conducting programmes, taking advantage of this abundant cultural heritage and institutions related to cultural properties protection. Major projects for the fiscal year 2001 were as follows:

ACCU Nara Office held a "Training Programme on Survey and Restoration of Historic Monuments" for 29 days from 13 November 2001, with 13 experts in the field of cultural heritage protection from 13 countries in Asia and the Pacific. The training focused on the excavation/survey of archaeological sites and restoration/maintenance of historic buildings. The Training Programme were widely disseminated through *Cultural Heritage News* No. 1 published in February 2001 and the Internet (<http://www.nara.accu.or.jp>).

Some comments from the participants were "I have found a clue to solving the technical questions regarding conservation", "The lectures on the latest technology of preservation, restoration and excavation were significant and will be useful in the future". The Training Programme will certainly be much more worthwhile when the participants utilize the fruits of their training in the respective countries.

In order to stress the importance of cultural heritage protection to the general public, ACCU Nara Office organized the Seminar focusing on "protection and fostering of wooden culture" in July 2001 and the International Symposium entitled "Let's think all together of World Heritage Protection—Cultural Heritage is irreplaceable properties for all human beings" in March 2002.

ACCU Nara Office will be sponsoring the training programmes and international



Workshop participants at Edo-Komon atelier (Tokyo)

conferences in close collaboration with UNESCO, the World Heritage Centre, ICCROM (the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property) and some other international organizations.

ACCU Nara Office has been developing the "Asia-Pacific Cultural Heritage Website" since 1999 to collect data on cultural heritage protection. You will find the contents gradually expanding at <http://www.nara.accu.or.jp/chdb>.

NFE Initiatives Taken in Afghanistan

ACCU, UNESCO and the Non-formal Education (NFE) Directorate, Ministry of Education of Afghanistan had a series of meetings in Kabul in May 2002 to discuss a project for promotion of NFE in Afghanistan.

The three parties agreed on the project, which consists of (1) developing NFE learning materials for 100 adult literacy classes and 54 NFE schools for children and (2) training for NFE facilitators in and near Kabul.

Out-of-school girls and illiterate women, who had little chance to study due to the conflicts which have continued for the last 23 years, are the main target of the project. 40 titles of NFE learning materials for adults such as *Why Literacy for Women* (booklet), *A Balanced Diet* (pie chart), and *Integrated Farming* (poster) as well as a picture book for children titled *Meet My Friends!* (theme: respect for diversity of culture) will be published in Dari and Pashto.

For training of NFE facilitators, three ACCU/UNESCO handbooks for capacity building of NFE personnel, in "teaching-learning", "material development", and "learning centre establishment and management" will be adapted and used in training programmes. It is expected that the initiative will contribute to the reconstruction of education in Afghanistan not only by promoting NFE itself but also by complementing formal education.



Adult literacy class at bus centre (Afghanistan)

2002 Schedule of Meetings and Training Courses of ACCU

(C) Cultural activities, (E) Educational activities, (P) Planning and Personnel Exchange activities, (N) Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation activities (Nara office)

Date	Place	Programme
2002		
May 1-17	Tokyo, Japan	24th Travelling Exhibition in Asia and the Pacific "Clothes and People" (C)
July	Tokyo	2002 ACCU International Exchange Programme under the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust for the Promotion of International Cooperation and Mutual Understanding (P)
July	Nara, Japan	Seminar for Cultural Heritage Protection (N)
July 9-13	Tokyo	ACCU-APPEAL Joint Planning Meeting on Regional NFE Programmes in Asia and the Pacific (E)
Aug.	Sri Lanka	Feasibility Study on Establishment of a Literacy Resource Centre for Girls and women (LRC) (E)
Sep. 2-3	Tokyo	Jury Meeting for 2002 Photo Contest in Asia and the Pacific "The Joy of Sport" (C)
Sep. 12-14	India	Planning Meeting on the Development and Piloting of MANGO/NFE-MIS Software (E)
Sep.	Nara	Training course for Restoration of Cultural Heritage (N) Training of Young Leaders in Cultural Heritage Protection (N/P)
Oct. 1-27	Tokyo	35th Training Course on Book Production in Asia and the Pacific "How to Produce Education Materials in Printed Media" (C)
Oct.	Sri Lanka	Consultative Meeting for Establishment of LRCs (E)
Oct.	Nara	Group Training Course for Restoration of Cultural Heritage (N)
Dec. 3-12	Myanmar	Regional Workshop on the Capacity Building for Trainers or NFE Facilitators in Rural Areas in Asia and the Pacific (E/P)
Dec.	Japan	ACCU International Programme for International Educational Exchange of Teachers and Professionals (School Teachers Invitation Project) (P)
Dec. 3-5	Tokyo	Meeting of the Editorial Committee of the Asian/Pacific Co-publication Programme (ACP) (C/P)
Dec. 6	Tokyo	International Jury Meeting for the 2002 Noma Concours (C)
2003		
Jan.	Japan	ACCU International Programme for International Educational Exchange of Teachers and Professionals (School Teachers Invitation Project) (P)
Mar.		2003 Capacity Building Workshop of LRC (E/P)

A Fresh Start at ACCU Secretariat, Tokyo

ACCU Secretariat in Tokyo was reorganized on 1 April 2002, with the aim of further strengthening regional cooperative programmes as well as effective integration of existing programmes, as shown in the back cover of this issue.

The "Planning Division", newly established in the General Affairs Department, explores extrabudgetary resources to vitalize and sustain ACCU regional activities, and also coordinate personnel exchange programmes financed by those resources. The "General Affairs Division" puts more emphasis on publicity of ACCU activities, besides handling personnel affairs, financing and accounting, Executive Boards and membership.

In the Programme Department, "Culture Division", an integrated combination of the

former Cultural Affairs Division and Book Development Division, deals with cultural heritage, photo contest, copublication of children's books, APPREB activities, publication of ABD and more from a broader perspective. Furthermore the former Literacy Promotion Division has been renamed "Education Division", and it continues to handle material production, personnel training, network building and IT application in the field of literacy and non-formal education in pursuit of the realization of Education for All.

Having made a refreshed start with a new re-organization, all at ACCU are determined to strive for the furtherance of Asia-Pacific regional programmes in full cooperation with UNESCO and its Member States in the region.

ACCU Organization Chart and Programme Activities

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General Affairs Department

General Affairs Division e-mail: general@accu.or.jp

Planning Division planning@accu.or.jp

ACCU International Exchange Programme under the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust for the Promotion of International Cooperation and Mutual Understanding

ACCU Invitation Programme for International Educational Exchange of Teachers and Professionals



Preservation and Promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage

Data Bank on Traditional/Folk Performing Arts in Asia and the Pacific
<http://www.accu.or.jp/jpaap>

ACP (Asian/Pacific Copublication Programme)

Tokyo Training Course on Book Production

Culture Division

culture@accu.or.jp

Photo Contest and Travelling Exhibitions

Noma Concours for Picture Book Illustrations
<http://www.accu.or.jp/noma>

UNESCO Asia Bunka News Bulletin

ABD (Asian/Pacific Book Development)

UNESCO APPREB Activities
<http://www.accu.or.jp/appreb>



Programme Department

Asia-Pacific Literacy Data Base
<http://www.accu.or.jp/litbase>

AJP (Asian/Pacific Joint Production Programme of Materials for Neo-Literates in Rural Areas)

PLANET (Joint Production of Package Learning Materials on Environment)



PALM (Package for Developing Adult Learning Materials)

LRC (Literacy Resource Centres for Girls and Women)

Education Division

literacy@accu.or.jp

Regional Workshops for NFE Personnel in Asia and the Pacific

ACCU-APPEAL Joint Planning Meeting on Regional NFE Programmes in Asia and the Pacific

MANGO (Map-based Analysis for NFE Goals and Outcomes)



Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office

Asia/Pacific Programme for Regional Cooperation in Protection of Cultural Heritage
<http://www.nara.accu.or.jp/chdb>

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