

Publishing Circumstances

All articles in *Publishing Circumstances*, some in more detail, are available on-line at "Trends in Books and Reading" section (<http://www2.accu.or.jp/02/02-02/02.html>) of APPREB Internet Website (<http://www.accu.or.jp/appreb>).

Australia

The Uncertain Future of Novels

It is well known that most mainstream publishers in Australia have moved away from publishing poetry, leaving it to smaller independent publishers who can survive on the short print runs that the genre's limited readership necessitates.

What's less well appreciated is that novels too face an uncertain future. Fortunes are made by a few best-selling novelists but, for many others, the pickings are slim. And unpublished authors have very little chance of even having their manuscripts read—very few publishers accept unsolicited novels, preferring to receive them by way of a literary agent. Unfortunately for new writers, finding an agent is very nearly as difficult as finding a publisher.

Some say publishers are playing safe with the novels they choose because their marketing departments don't feel able to promote a novel unless it has an 'angle' or deals with a pressing issue. At least partly, however, it's because many readers, even dedicated booklovers, are turning to other literary genres—history, biography and essays—to find the pleasure and stimulation they once sought in fiction. The award-winning Australian writer Drusilla Modjeska thinks it "has to do with changes in ideas and practices of writing. We have to face the possibility that in this time of moral and political confusion, it's non-fiction that's more likely to have something to say that readers want to hear."

Bangladesh

Banglapedia

Bangladesh for the first time will publish a unique national encyclopedia (Banglapedia) in early 2003. Published by the Asiatic Society Bangladesh (ASB) both in Bengali and English, the full range of knowledge about Bangladesh with more than 6,000 alphabetical entries are included. It covers comprehensively Bangladesh's history and heritage, arts and humanities, society and economy, state and governance and science and technology. This is 11,000 page book in 10 volumes with write-ups of 1,300 writers and researchers from home and abroad with 800 maps and 3,000 pictures and graphics. A total of 10,000 sets, 5,000 each in Bengali and English is to be published.

2002 Book Year logo theme: "Present books to your nearest and dearest ones in every occasion" (Bangladesh)



ASB took up the Banglapedia project in 1998 at a cost of BDT 80 million, to which UNESCO made a modest contribution under the participation programme through Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO. Professor Sirajul Islam is the Project Director and Chief Editor. Contact: Banglapedia Marketing Officer (Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, 5, Old Secretariat Road, Nimtali, Dhaka 1000), fax: (880) 2 9560500, e-mail: info@banglapedia-bd.org, URL: <http://www.banglapedia-bd.org>

Bhutan

Copyright and Related Rights Seminar

A seminar on copyright and related rights was organised by the WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) in cooperation with the Ministry of Trade and Industry, in Thimphu on 23 and 24 May 2002. The seminar was attended by government employees and people from private sector working in fields related to copyright and related rights. The participants were informed about the Copyright Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2001, which had been passed by the 79th session of the National Assembly. Further, the participants were also made aware of the Copyright and Related Rights and how these rights worked. This is indeed a very significant development as copyright violations and infringements are a serious threat to the growth of creative arts industry.

Cambodia

Training Course on Teaching Methods and Using the Textbook

To enhance the capacity of NFE (Non Formal Education) staff to understand clearly and be able to use the textbook "Combating Trafficking in Women and Children", the NFE Department organized a training workshop financially supported by UNIAP. It was held from 8-10 August 2002.

Those who participated were provincial NFE personnel, heads of CLCs, contracted literacy teachers, personnel of NFE department, personnel of concerned ministries and some organizations, 42 persons in all.

This training course aimed to build up the participants' ability to conceptualize deeply on teaching methodology and



China College Teaching Material Network (China)

have a foundation and capacity for teaching and using this textbook.

Contents of the course included: Combating the trafficking of women and children in Cambodia, the region, and the world; Strategies and the measures to prevent human trafficking; etc.

China

China College Teaching Material Network Opens

On 16 August 2002, China College Teaching Material Network (<http://www.sinobook.com.cn>), the common website co-managed by hundreds of university presses, opened.

China Renmin University Press is responsible for its concrete implementation and management. It is sponsored by the University Press Association of China and the National Colleges and Universities Press, and also is under the direct guidance of the Education and Administration Sector. Aiming to serve advanced education, the university press, and the mass of consumers, it is a unique network which provides information about teaching materials and academic works and deals with education books.

The network is made up of Macro Guidance, Publishing House World, and others, carrying out the three functions of the release of publishing news of national colleges and universities, teaching material books review, connecting the network issuing centres and business to business book e-commercial centres of hundreds of university presses.

Sampling Investigation Report on Reading and Buying Inclinations of People across China (2002)

Organized by the Chinese Institute of Publishing Science, this project is the first large-scale sampling investigation report on reading and buying inclinations with basic knowledge, carried out continuously across the whole nation.

The investigation is carried out through multilayer sampling. Over 2 million data are collected from all the aspects concerned. Data processing is finished through SPSS analyzing software, which is universally popular.

It covers various forms of publishing and is a comprehensive analysis for Chinese people's reading habits and

buying activities, as well as the market capacity for various publications. Meanwhile, it predicts the future developing trends of various publication markets.

The investigation results are of great reference value for national publishing administrative institutions. They are a strategic basis for publishing units to work out their topic selection, marketing plan and future developing direction.

Fiji

Conference on Print Culture across the South Pacific

The Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand held a conference on Print Cultures across the South Pacific, in Dunedin, New Zealand, on 10 September 2002. Papers given were: Sydney Shep (Australian beer labels); Wal Kirsop (Australian commercial circulating libraries in the 1800s); Sarah Jones (Maori moko—facial tattoos), Ian Morrison (Capt. Cook's tapa cloth books); Ross Harvey (where NZ newspapers got their copy in the late 1800s); Paul Hunt (serial fiction in the *Otago Witness* 1861–1906); Susan Woodburn (Melanesian Mission Press, Norfolk Island and London Mission Press, Gilbert Islands); Linda Crowl (Introduction of text culture in the Pacific Islands); Paul Eggert (Books and politics: Dutch-Westralian poet-anarchist Willem Siebenhaar meets D. H. Lawrence in 1922); and John Ross (Compiling a descriptive bibliography of Harold Pinter's writings).

As part of the conference, the Society held its annual general meeting, and displayed and sold copies of the Society's and other publishing houses' publications. Otago University, which hosted the conference, also gave a guided tour of its state-of-the-art library and its latest exhibition of prints in books of ancient ruins.

India

Piracy in India

According to Indian Copyright Law, piracy is a cognizable offence, yet a large number of books are being pirated, thereby depriving the publisher of Indian Rupees 30,000 million (approx. US\$625 million) annually and approximately Rupees 1,000 million (approx. US\$21 million) from the exchequer, which the Indian Government could have earned by way of corporate tax. The International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA), which represents the global copyright industry, estimates piracy in India to be costing the international publishers US\$40 million.

This growing menace of piracy is adversely affecting authors and publishers. When the painstaking work of an author being pirated, he is deprived of royalty and the publisher loses because the buyers have access to low-priced pirated editions. Such editions are feasible in the absence of their development, overheads, royalty, promotion and other expenses.

Large-scale photocopying by the student and teaching community, who should have otherwise purchased their desk copies, also deprives the authors and publishers of their rightful dues.

In order to combat the menace of piracy and violation of reprographic rights, the Federation of Publishers and Booksellers Association in India (FPBAI) has organised a number of seminars involving students, teachers, printers, publishers, police and legal luminaries to raise awareness and also to find out ways and means to combat this threat.

With the help of the police, FPBAI has also conducted a number of raids to unravel the organised racket. FPBAI has also engaged Akash Chittranshi, a full-fledged copyright lawyer, to interact with the various agencies, including the Government, to advise the Federation on preventive steps to control the piracy.

Indonesia

The New Board of IKAPI

Opening the 15th Congress of IKAPI (The Indonesian Book Publishers Association), the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Ms. Megawati Sukarnoputri encouraged the organization to do its best to make books low-priced by printing them on cheap paper, and fought unflinchingly against book piracy.

Taking place from 23–25 September 2002, in Jakarta, the congress selected the new board of IKAPI for the period of 2002–06. Makfudin Wirya Atmadja was elected IKAPI President, assisted by six chairpersons, namely, Awod Said, Kartini Nurdin, P. M. Winarno, Arianto T, Yos Paguno Amir, and Fahmi Umar. The other personnel on the board are Robinson Rusdi (General Secretary), Syaiful Zein (Secretary), and Muharizal (Treasurer). The Congress also elected a new IKAPI Council Board consisting of Rozali Usman, Alfons Taryadi, Arselan Harahap, Sahar L. Hasan, Setia Dharma Madjid, Firdaus Umar, Fauzi Lubis, Zulkifli Lubis, and Agus Winarno.

Monthly Magazine on Book Publishing
In August 2002, Gramedia Literary Agent, in cooperation with Indonesia Tera book

Magazine on publishing
Matabaca (Indonesia)



publishing company, launched a monthly magazine on book publishing, called *Matabaca* (Reading Eyes). In its first edition, the Chief Editor of the magazine, T. Jacob Koekeritz declared that it was intended to be a kind of response to the enthusiasm which has been brewing in the world of Indonesian book publishing these last few years. *Matabaca*, the only magazine on book publishing now existing in Indonesia, provides various columns, featuring different aspects of book publishing such as book reviews, profiles of book people, the launching of ideas, news on events in book publishing, data resulting from survey or research on the visitors to bookshops or book fairs, and so forth. Contact: Jalan Palmerah Selatan 26-28, Jakarta 10270, phone: (62) 21 5483008, fax: (62) 21 5357044

Iran

12 New Libraries Opened in 2001

Twelve new libraries were established in 2001, said the Director of Library Affairs affiliated to Tehran's Municipality, Maziar Nilchi. During the spring in 2002, Nilchi said Iranian youth and young adults spent some 1.5 billion hours at libraries. "We are still in need of 1,000 more libraries," he continued, saying he hoped that with the cooperation of the Management and Planning Organization and further private contributions, more libraries would be built in Tehran.

He added that at present there are 52 libraries in Tehran, of which 12 are open 24 hours. Nilchi announced that the total number of library staff and personnel, which stood at 23,786 in 2001, reached 101,194 in 2002, and that the number of people attending libraries increased by about 100 percent compared to the last year.

"Although we have progressively had to compete with cinema and satellite for people's time and attention, books still remain the most credible source of information for most people and a good friend to the youth in their leisure time," Nilchi explained, and added that financial problems of some families prevent them from including books in the household's shopping list. He said he considered building new libraries a cultural investment, and that the government must provide adequate subsidies in order to make it possible for all people in Iran to have access to books.



Mayram Akaeva presents books to librarians (Kyrgyzstan)



Exhibition of Children's Book Illustration (Mongolia)



MWJA Conference (Myanmar)

5,812 Titles Published in March–June
5,812 titles of books were published in the first three months of the current Iranian year (started 21 March 2002), according to the Public Relations Department at "Khane Ketab" (Book House).

The department said that publication of books in the period showed a growth of 5% compared to the figure for the same period last year. It said the number of books published amounted to 26,839,304 volumes. A major portion of the publications were literary books. 1,502 titles of literary books were published in the period under study. Some 17% of the books were for children.

Japan

Keen Competition among Online Bookstores

Competition among online bookstores has been increasing. They belong to certain groups such as publishing companies, wholesale distributors, ordinary bookstores, transport companies, other newly developing independent companies and foreign-owned companies. Each has its own characteristics and competes with others to get more users. The ordinary bookstore group is in the lead so far, as they were first to enter the field.

In fact, the business of online bookstores has been active since 2000. Among them, the foreign-owned Amazon.co.jp has recently developed rapidly, based on its gross capital strength and worldwide information network. Its most featured point is free delivery to users.

Following this trend, the independent group has also made delivery free of charge. As books cannot be sold cheaper than marked price by the law of Resale Price Maintenance, charge and swiftness of delivery, and ease of ordering are regarded as most important. In short, this business could not succeed without sales of large quantities.

It is not clear yet how online bookstores can survive if they continue delivery free of charge.

Kyrgyzstan

Charitable Action of Meerim Foundation
Charitable action "Kitep Bilim Bulagy" (the Book is a source of knowledge) has developed since its launch on 8 June

2001. This action was initiated by the head of "Meerim" Foundation, Mayram Akaeva. Only for 16 months of the Charitable action activity over 50 thousand books were collected by dint of joint efforts, among which over 16 thousand books were distributed through oblasts and regions.

Moreover, the Children's Education Museum Project is one of the main activities of the Meerim Foundation in the education and training for the youth of Kyrgyzstan, in order to prepare them for life in a new democratic society.

Lao PDR

Children's Library in Children's Home for Culture and Education

The Children's Home for Culture and Education (CH) was established in 1996 in central Vientiane. Every weekend, about 700 children come there for training and to play in the field of culture and education.

One section in CH, the favourite for the children, is the library named "True Friend". There are more than 10,000 books for children, including reading books, picture books, kamishibai, etc., about 80% of them in Lao language. Each year, the members of the library have been borrowing around 20,000 books. Besides the reading service, the children also enjoy such interesting and creative activities as storytelling, drawing, toy making, and drama.

The library has organized a mobile team on reading promotion for children in remote areas. At weekends and on holidays the promoters have travelled to schools, villages and children's cultural centres throughout the country, which are utilized by 6,000 children per year.

Mongolia

Exhibition of Children's Book Illustrations

Mongolian Children's Book Illustration Art attained an advanced level of development in 2001. The Art Exhibition "Galaikhan" held by Damba Odgerel confirms this advancement. Researchers estimated that 108 illustrations made for a book "Tales on Horseback" by Dashdondog, a children's writer, are creations displaying a new level of abstract thinking. Damba Odgerel is an artist who has been awarded a second prize in the

State Competition of Children's Book Illustration for his works made for a story "Talk Among Cow, Sheep and Goat" by Agvaankhaidav, a 19th century writer.

Myanmar

Third Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association Conference

The Third Conference of the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association (MWJA) which is a four-yearly affair, was held in Yangon. More than 200 delegates attended the three-day occasion.

During the Conference, 6 central executive members presented papers on promotion of writing and journalism. They were "Active participation of journalists in carrying out tasks for development of literature under the leadership of MWJA", "Preserving national heritage, classical literature and contemporary Myanmar literature widely exposing them to local and international spheres", etc.

The Conference then unanimously nominated 5 new central executive members and elected 25 central executive committee members, for the coming four-year term.

Nepal

Nepalese Journalist Bags Magsaysay Award

Bharat Dutta Koirala, senior journalist of Nepal with a professional career of over forty years received the Ramon Magsaysay Award, 2002, for his contributions to the field of Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts. Mr. Koirala was one of the founders of Nepal Press Institute, a pioneering media training institution in Nepal, and has worked in several prominent media organisations of Nepal. He is credited with introducing reporting on development of rural Nepal and launching an advocacy through the media for the improvement of the living conditions of the ignorant people of the rural areas. He also pioneered the publication of *Wall Newspapers*, a low cost and convenient medium of expression, which became very popular among the new literates in the rural areas. In the post-democracy era, he advocated de-licensing of air waves and himself took the initiative in the establishment of the first independent private FM radio station in Nepal in 1997. Presently, he has been



Mr. Bharat Dutta Koirala
(Nepal)

putting his efforts into helping to create a "free, independent and pluralistic media and promoting public debate in democracy".

Mr. Koirala is presently the Secretary-General of Nepal Press Institute, Chairman of Media Services International and Chairman of Himal Association.

New Zealand

Survey Shows Popularity of Books and Reading

The recent 2002 Cultural Experiences Survey conducted by Statistics New Zealand for the Ministry for Culture and Heritage showed that 93% of New Zealanders aged 15 and over had recently experienced at least one of the cultural activities asked about. It showed the most popular activities were purchasing books or music, using public libraries, and visiting art galleries or museums.

The survey, conducted in the first quarter of 2002, asked which, if any, cultural activities people had experienced over either a four-week or 12-month period. It asked how often they had experienced these activities, how interested they were in New Zealand content in each activity, and whether any barriers had prevented them from experiencing these activities.

The most popular cultural activity over the four weeks prior to the survey was purchasing books. An estimated 43% of the adult population said they had purchased at least one book during this period. Book buying was most common among women, people aged 25 to 44 years, and those with tertiary qualifications.

The popularity of books is also evident in the use of public libraries by an estimated 39% of the adult population over a four-week period. Library use was also more common among women than men but, unlike many cultural activities, it was most popular among older people, and those who were not employed or were on lower incomes.

Most people who participated in the various cultural activities were interested in New Zealand content. Major reasons for not participating in cultural activities were income, cost, and lack of time. A detailed report analysing results from the survey is to be released at a later date.

Pakistan

Brief of Readers Club Scheme

The National Book Foundation is running highly innovative book promotional schemes, one of the most popular being the Readers Club Scheme. The project aims to provide books to the masses at 50% discount. The scheme is successfully operative at 37 stations of Pakistan, playing an effective role in developing reading habits in the society. At all existing stations the response of the readers is very positive and there is increasing demand to extend the activities of the Readers Club to other cities of the country. The project is confined to developing reading habits by providing supplementary material at subsidized rates to the public, excluding textbooks, magazines/journals and obscene/cheap literature.

The attraction in the scheme to buy books at half price has gained so much popularity in the cities where it is in operation that the booksellers of small cities have now started showing interest in it. This change has taken place only after the successful implementation of the scheme in major cities of the country.

Pakistan is among those countries which have the lowest literacy rates and inadequate educational facilities, resulting in a higher drop-out rate, yet it is trying to squarely meet the situation. In such circumstances, this scheme has been an excellent motivating factor for all segments of society to divert their habits towards reading. As a result affordable knowledge will be made available at their doorsteps.

The scheme has the history of successful experiences with best academic benefits at the most economical rates, earning the Government a good name at minimal cost. It encourages readership, which ultimately encourages writers, booksellers and all those connected directly or indirectly with the production of books. It helps in creating a literate society with outstanding social benefits in the border spectrum. The scheme initially started with five major cities of Pakistan and today it has extended to 52 cities.

Papua New Guinea

Adult Literacy

"Adult literacy is most vital and must be seriously addressed for the benefit of the country's adult population who are illiterate." Member for Lae in the National Parliament, the Hon. Bart Philemon, made these remarks during a presentation of classroom materials to an adult

literacy class at the Tent City in Lae. The Tent City adult literacy class took deliveries of materials worth K4,189.00 for its school at a time when the school needed such materials the most. The school has in operation two Tok Pidgin classes and an English class. More than 80 women are currently enrolled in this school including elementary school aged children.

Mr. Philemon told the gathering that more than two million adult Papua New Guineans were illiterate and it was important to support the work of adult literacy in the country. He also took time to acknowledge the contribution from the Australian High Commission and thanked Australia for the assistance.

Philippines

Proposed Legislation

The private publishers through the Philippine Educational Publishers Association (PEPA) in coordination with the other organizations concerned presented a proposed bill to the Senate and the House of Representatives. The bill which had already sought sponsorship by at least two legislators is entitled "*An Act Mandating that Educational Curriculum and the Consequent Preparation of Textbooks and Related Materials Should Have Continuity and Stability and that the Same Should Not Be Affected by Any Change Within the Government During the Period of at Least Six Years Amending for the Purpose R.A. 8047 of the Book Publishing Industry Development Act.*"

The Philippine Book Fair

The annual Philippine Book Fair was held from 31 August to 8 September 2002 in Mandaluyong City. About 80 exhibitors participated in more than 200 booths.

In 2002, the Fair celebrated its 13th anniversary. This is considered the biggest and most successful industry event in the country, as proven by its increasing exhibitors' sales and fair visitors. It showcased a wide assortment of publications and state-of-the-art educational materials.

The Fair aimed to promote good reading habits that would thereby create opportunities for personal growth and enhancement. It also aimed to provide a venue where an exchange of ideas could take place among publishers, booksellers, academicians, writers, manufacturers, distributors of educational materials and journals and magazines, e-marketing industries on educational materials and all those connected with book development, publishing, printing and related

trade within and outside the country. The theme of the Book Fair was "Building Strength through Reading."

Rep. of Korea

Publishing and Printing Promotion Bill Approved

In an attempt to promote the publishing and the printing industry systematically in the knowledge and information society of the 21st century, the Korean government prepared a bill of the "Publishing and the Printing Industry Promotion Law" and it was approved at the Korean National Assembly on 31 July 2002. This law will take effect from 26 February 2003.

Main features of the law are as follows:

1. The government shall prepare and enact support measures for the publishing and the printing industry such as support for publishing of good quality books, international exchanges, etc. every 3 years.
2. Every publication must have an ISBN for the establishment of a desirable publication distribution system.
3. The registration system of a new publishing house will change into the notification to its concerned district office.
4. Indication of the fixed price of a publication is mandatory. Online bookstores are allowed to give a discount within 10% on publications which have been published within the past one year.
5. The administrative right to control illegal reproductions will be endowed to concerned organizations for a sound publication distribution system.

Sri Lanka

2002 Colombo International Book Fair

The 2002 Colombo International Book Fair organized by the Sri Lanka Book Publishers' Association with the participation of the SWRD Bandaranaike National Memorial Foundation was held from 10 to 15 September. The Fair had over 180 exhibition booths, and drew over 130,000 visitors who purchased books to the value of over Rs.40 million when compared to 100,000 visitors who purchased books to the value of Rs.30 million in the 2001 Book Fair from 120 exhibition booths.

The principal sponsor of the Book Fair was Weerodara Enterprises, a leading stationer in Sri Lanka, with the co-sponsors being Hatton National Bank (official banker). Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation and Sri Lanka Broadcasting



Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (Sri Lanka)

Corporation (electronic media co-sponsors), and "Island" and "Divaina" (print media co-sponsors).

The Ministries of Education and Cultural Affairs sponsored various educational and cultural events and film shows, while Sybil Wettasinghe's "Let's draw with Aunty Sybil," held for 2 days was also a highlight, as was the daily photographic and Art Exhibition along with cultural items and musical shows by Isipathana Vidyalaya.

Another important feature of the fair was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Federation of Book publishers and Booksellers Associations of India with the Sri Lanka Book publishers' Association and the Booksellers Association of Ceylon. This was aimed to facilitate the introduction of Sri Lankan books to the Indian market.

Thailand

Thailand Education Fair 2002

The Thailand Education Fair 2002 was organized by the Ministry of Education from 15 to 20 August 2002, with the theme "Opening the World of Basic Education". It was organized on the occasion of the three-year implementation of the Basic Education Act B.E. 2542 (A.D. 1999), and the implementation of Basic Education Curriculum B.E. 2544 (A.D. 2001).

The purposes of this fair were to prepare education personnel for education reform and basic education curriculum management, to gather knowledge and experiences of education personnel to analyze the condition of basic education management, and to provide activities in order to make education administrators, teachers, supervisors, education institute administrators, parents, students, and the public clearly understand and gain knowledge related to the management of basic education.

There were exhibitions of educational institution curricula and learning plan of 8 subject groups and other activities, i.e. Information Technology Library Project, The Development of IT System for the Disabled Project, and The Development of Computer Aid Instruction for Primary and Secondary School Level Project, as well as symposiums, seminars and discussions.



Education Fair poster (Thailand)

Uzbekistan

International Scientific Conference

The fourth International Scientific Conference devoted to "Information and Communication Systems in Publishing: Technology and Technics in the Market Economy" was held at the "Sharq" publishing house on 12-13 September 2002.

During the two days of the conference, participants first of all visited the workshops of the "Sharq" publishing house and exchanged their experience with the chiefs of these workshops and departments. The Conference was specially enriched by the visits to special education institutions of Tashkent and reports by representatives of national and foreign publishing companies in Tashkent.

On the second day of the Conference participants travelled to Andijan to visit local staff of regional publishing houses and to participate in the official installation of modern publishing machines. Contact: Mr. Odil Rahimov, Chief Engineer, "Sharq" publishing house, phone: (998) 71 1335815, fax: (998) 71 1394317, e-mail: adroz dov@online.ru

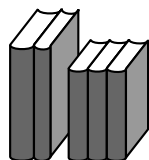
Viet Nam

Reformed Textbooks for Primary Education

The Department of Primary Curriculum, Ministry of Education and Training together with the ad-hoc experts on educational issues have been launching reformed textbooks for primary schools to be used nationwide from this school year beginning September.

This event has created a big debate in the country, since a new beginning was created for the first grade children: i.e. E is the first vowel instead of O as well as many changes in text and exercises. A lot of criticism has been published in the mass media in general.

However, this is the first year for it to be implemented, and according to the experts, the aim is to help children to have an easy beginning, so that they can have a real childhood instead of being loaded down by books, classes and extra classes. Vietnamese teachers will reach a conclusion at the end of the year.



Outstanding New Books

Australia

Number 2 Home

The author tells the poignant stories of Japanese people who migrated to Western Australia before 1901, some as early as the 1870s. They included families, farmers and fishermen, businessmen and itinerants. They worked hard to establish themselves in their chosen country. Many applied to become citizens but most were rejected, and the few who succeeded lost not only their citizenship but also their property and possessions—and often their freedom—when World War II began.

Number 2 Home: A Story of Japanese Pioneers in Australia by Noreen Jones, Fremantle Arts Centre Press (Locked Bag 199, Annandale, NSW), 2002, 371 pages, A\$24.95 (approx. US\$14), ISBN: 1-86368-368-2

Bhutan

Dzongkha-English Dictionary

This dictionary is the result of twelve-years of research work tirelessly carried out by the Dzongkha Development Commission. It is one of the first dictionaries to be officially published. The dictionary has 13,000 words with a lot of new words included. The terminology, spellings and word order are arranged alphabetically. Intended for the general user, it is not only authentic but also very simple to use as there is no information on grammar and phonetics. The dictionary makes an important contribution to the standardization and popularity of the national language, Dzongkha, especially since publications in Dzongkha are limited and the Dzongkha language itself is relatively new and still evolving.

Dzongkha-English Dictionary by Dzongkha Development Commission (PO box 122, Thimphu), 2002, 200 x 100 mm, US\$4.00, ISBN: 99936-15-00-5

China

Old Suzhou: Changes over the Last Hundred Years

This is a picture history of change in Suzhou City from 1895 to 2000. The book portrays characters, reflects events, and represents folk customs through precious photos, which record the difficulties and hardships the ancient city went through in the 20th century.

Lao Suzhou: Bai Nian Li Cheng, Jiansu Ancient Book Publishing House (165, Zhongyang Lu, Nanjing 210009), 408 Pages, RMB198.00 (approx. US\$24.00), ISBN: 7-80643 641-3/K. 186



Number 2 Home (Australia)



Dzongkha-English Dictionary (Bhutan)



The Orange Twilight (Indonesia)

Indonesia

The Orange Twilight

In this romance, the author, a veteran journalist and poet, working as an editor in UI Press, tries to portray a certain quarter called Patrajayan in the town of Sala, Central Java, which at the beginning of the 20th century was known as a den of gamblers, thieves, opium smokers, drunkards and hookers. There occurred all sorts of suspect activities, such as the tricking of gullible young people into signing unknowingly a contract to work in Deli plantation in North Sumatra, the illicit sexual transaction between the members of a popular wayang group and their male or female admirers, and many other depravities, including those committed by persons of noble birth. This moving story is told in standard Javanese language, with a very rich vocabulary.

Candikala Kapuranta by Sugiarta Sriwibawa, Penerbit PT Dunia Pustaka Jaya, (Jalan Kramat Raya, No. 5-K, Jakarta 15450), 2002, 140 x 200 mm, 173 pages, approx. US\$2.00

Iran

Father, Love, Son

This is a rewriting of the events of "Ashura"; the 10th day of the 1st month in the Islamic Calendar which is one of the important events in Islamic history. The writer describes a part of the events of the martyrdom of Imam Hossein. He uses the animal point of view in place of the human. An important point of this story is the loving relationship between father and son that because of love they sacrifice themselves for the religious faith.

Father, Love, Son by Shonae, Seyed Mehdi, The Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children & Young Adults, 1998, translated into English in 2002, 210 x 150 mm

Japan

Newscaster

The author is one of the most famous newscasters in Japanese TV. After working at the Asahi Shimbun, one of the three Japanese major newspapers, he has been the anchorman of *Chikushi Tetsuya News 23* since 1989. Consisting of 13 chapters, this book is written in essay

form on the basis of his 13 years of memories and experience as a newscaster.

In his programme, he discusses various current events objecting to the tendency of Japanese in general to follow others blindly, and his timely comments are persuasive. Reflecting his basic attitude, the philosophy of the popular newscaster is found in many pages of this book.

Newscaster by Chikushi Tetsuya, Shueisha Inc. (2-5-10, Hitotsubashi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-8050, URL: <http://www.shueisha.co.jp/>) 2002, 175 x 110 mm, 221 pages, ¥660 (approx. US\$5.50), ISBN: 4-08-720145-7

Lao PDR

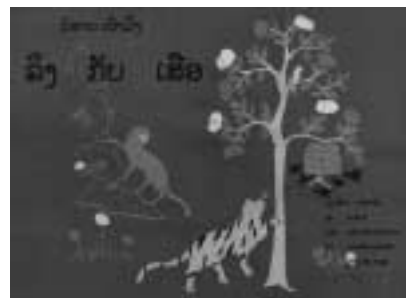
The Monkey and the Tiger

Lao people consists of many ethnic groups who have rich traditional folktales including Hmong. This book is based on one of the Hmong's famous tales printed with good quality of format and content.

It describes about a tiger which was lied by a monkey for hitting the wasps' nest, pinched by a crab, falling a hole, etc. Each part gives reader to have joy and wisdom. There were many kinds of animals in the folktales such as the bees, birds, deer, turtles, peacocks, guinea fowls, etc., which children can learn about.

The highlight of this picture book is written, illustrated and knitted by Hmong people's hands translated into Lao language by Lao and Japanese linguistic experts.

Ling Kab Seu by Yang Xang, illustrated by Dua Lee, Yang Long and Yang Ying, translated by Douangdeuane Bounyavong and Yasui Kiyoko, National Library (PO box 122, Vientiane), Fukuinkan Shoten Publishers, Inc. (Tokyo, Japan), 2001, 190 x 265 mm, 32 pages, not for sale



The Monkey and the Tiger (Lao PDR)



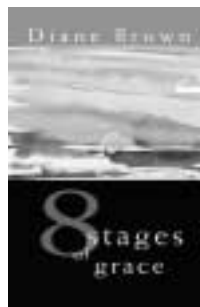
History of Yuan Dynasty (Mongolia)



Bank of Knowledge Series 1 (Myanmar)



Human Rights and Press (Nepal)



8 Stages of Grace (New Zealand)



The String Figures of Nauru Island (Pacific Islands)

Mongolia

History of Yuan Dynasty

History of Yuan Dynasty (Yuan Shi) is a great historical Mongolian work of the 13th and 14th century, which is an essential source in Chinese language. Officials led by Wan Wei and Sung Lian wrote this book under the guidance of King Ju Yuan Jan, of Min State. It contains a chronicle of Mongolian history for 165 years, from the era of Genghis Khan to that of Togoontemur Khan. Authors started to write the history in Hung U's second year in February (1369) and finished it in July, Hung U's third year, so it took 331 days to complete.

This book was translated at the Mongolian Central Library.

History of Yuan Dynasty transliterated from Mongolian script by A. Alimaa, D. Borolzoi, S. Munkhsaikhan and Turshintugs, Bembi San Publishing House (Ulaanbatar), 2002, 170 x 250 mm, 150 pages, US\$9.00, ISBN: 99929-5-627-5

Myanmar

"Bank of Knowledge" Series

A collection of papers read by scholars, writers, historians and educationists, conducted by Myanmar Writers and Journalists Associations, was published in two volumes, to honour the recent Third Conference of the Association in June, 2002. (see p.14) The papers are meant to facilitate the needed background information for writers and budding authors in their professions. The fortnightly paper-reading sessions were held under the auspices of the Association, aptly named the "Bank of Knowledge Series" to enable the coverage of different pursuits of knowledge for people in the field of writing. The papers are a selected collection of the above programme totaling 14 in two volumes.

The titles are *History of Education Development, Environmental Awareness in Traditional Literature, Governance in the Days of Myanmar Kings*, etc.

The two volumes are distributed free to the Conference delegates and township writers branches and libraries.

Thuta Sarpay Sar-dan Vol. I & Vol. II, Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, 2002, 300 pages in each, 120 x 185 mm

Nepal

Human Rights and Press

There was paucity of reading materials informing the public on the international covenants and the status of their implementation in Nepalese context. This book in Nepali language has served a long felt need of indigenous language readers in knowing more about human rights, its scope and application to the welfare of peoples in democratic societies. One of the authors Mr. Sushil Pyakurel is the member of Human Right Commission, Nepal and the second author Mr. Kundan Aryal is a journalist.

The book is ramified into 10 chapters and include such topics as United Nations and Human rights, the Institutional Framework for the enforcement of Human Rights, the Fundamental Rights, Rights Against Discrimination, Human Rights in Nepal's Constitution and Human Rights in Mass Communications.

Manav Adhikar Ra Press by Sushil Pyakurel and Kundan Arya, Nepal Press Institute (PO Box 4128, Kathmandu) with the grant assistance from Danish Cooperation Agency (Danida), 2002, 168 pages, Rs. 175 (approx. US\$2.25)

New Zealand

8 Stages of Grace

Poet and novelist Diane Brown has combined the two strands of her writing talent to create New Zealand's first verse novel.

The story follows critical stages in the lives of two neighbours in an Auckland suburb. Ruth is coming to terms with the death of her ex-husband, while Grace, a newcomer from Korea married to an insensitive local man, is trying to adapt to her new life. The two women become tentative allies in their difficulties. Ruth's other friendships with women, and her problematic relationship with Chris, her teenage son, twine through the verses. The poetry is luminous, and the narrative compelling. Brown won the Jessie Mackay Award for the Best First Book of Poetry in 1997.

8 Stages of Grace by Diane Brown, Vintage, Random House NZ (18 Poland Road, Glenfield, Auckland New Zealand), 2002, 197 x 127 mm, 220 pages, approx. US\$14.00, ISBN: 1-86941-525-6

Pacific Islands

Footprints in the Tasimauri Sea: A Biography of Dominiko Alebua

Born in the remote Tasimauri area on the Weather Coast of Guadalcanal around 1905, Dominiko Alebua grabbed the opportunities of his time. Trained as a catechist for the Roman Catholic Church, he built important alliances with European missionaries, and was Headman for the British colonial administration for 16 years. Alebua did much to change his society as Solomon Islands became independent. This is a 20th century story of weaving different practices, ideas, and customs to evolve new ones and to establish and maintain position in society.

Footprints in the Tasimauri Sea: A Biography of Dominiko Alebua by Tarcisius Kabutaulaka, Institute of Pacific Studies (University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji), 2002, 147 x 210 mm, 121 pages, \$16, ISBN: 982-02-0336-8

The String Figures of Nauru Island

Nauru, with its tiny population on a single uplifted island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, has more *ekawada*, string figures, than any other place on earth. The art of string figure making survives today through knowledge passed from generation to generation. This book is the definitive work on Nauruan *ekawada* as well as a commentary on Nauru's history and society. This fine volume comes in two formats: wire bound for practitioners of string figures and spine bound for libraries and students of Nauruan culture.

The String Figures of Nauru Island, by Honor Maude with members of the International String Figure Association, University of the South Pacific Centre on Nauru and Institute of Pacific Studies, 2001, 294 x 210 mm, 200 pages, \$37, ISBN: 982-02-0148-9

Pakistan

Pakistan Colours

This is a collection of paintings by different painters. The main theme of these paintings is Pakistan. Various artists have paid a visual tribute to the stunning lie of the land in varied colours and contours. Some have painted the identifiable to replicate it and others have



Pakistan Colours (Pakistan)



Sindhi Diaspora in Manila, Hong Kong, and Jakarta (Philippines)



In Search of 1000 Years of Eurasia (Rep. of Korea)



Sinhala Alphabet with a Difference (Sri Lanka)



Micro-economics in Context (Viet Nam)

transformed the observable into a subjective response. These individual responses, informed by historical, geographic and architectural insights, exalt the collective to form an extraordinary explanation.

The book is sub-divided into four sections for the four provinces of Pakistan. In each section the author has highlighted the artists and their works of the provinces, thus covering 146 paintings of 65 artists. These paintings have shown the hidden aspects of many beautiful sights of Pakistan.

Pakistan Colours by M. Athar Tahir, Tanabana Publications (Lahore), 2001, 148 pages, 292 x 228 mm, US\$31.00

Philippines

Sindhi Diaspora in Manila, Hong Kong, and Jakarta

When India was partitioned in 1947, the whole province of Sindh was annexed to Pakistan. Sindhi Hindus, about 25 percent of the Sindh population, moved to India and other parts of the world. The features of this diaspora—their community life, business dealings, religion and family life—are what Thapan engagingly talks about in her book.

Through questionnaires and interviews, documentary and audiovisual material, participation in the community's social activities in the three cities, Thapan shows how sociological research findings can be presented in an informative, reader-friendly way, not just serving to document a whole community's way of life, but allowing readers to find "similarities, rather than difference, in people."

Sindhi Diaspora in Manila, Hong Kong, and Jakarta by Anita Raina Thapan, 2002, Ateneo de Manila University Press (Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, phone: (63) 2 4265984; fax: (63) 2 4265909; e-mail: unipress@admu.edu.ph), 152 mm x 228 mm, 268 pages, US\$28.00, ISBN: 971-550-406-X

Rep. of Korea

In Search of 1000 Years of Eurasia

The four co-authors, who are professors of oriental and the occidental history respectively, began to concentrate on issues such as exchanges, conflicts and

interactions between oriental and the occidental civilization before the discussions on the clash and the coexistence of civilizations took off in Korea. Their main concern is the Mongolian Empire which conquered most of Europe as well as Asia and at the same time provided chances for encounters of remote civilizations. This book is about the influences of the Mongolian Empire on the world history and civilizations.

Eurasia Cheonnyeoneul Gada by Park, Han Je et al, Sakyajul Publishing Co., Ltd., 2002, 148 mm x 210 mm, 288 pages, 13,800 won (approx. US\$11.50), ISBN: 89-719-6892-3

Sri Lanka

Sinhala Alphabet with a Difference

"Akuru Mihira 2" is the second book in a series dedicated to those who are learning Sinhala for the first time in their lives. The title of the book itself means first taste of Sinhala letters (akuru) brings sweetness (mihira) to the life of little children. This is a book that makes little children sing and dance as they learn how to read and write Sinhala, the language spoken by the Sinhalese. Children will treasure the memories of these pleasant experiences as they grow up and they will begin to love to read and write in Sinhala.

This is a book meant for little children and is thus designed on the basis of certain principles that govern their psychology of learning.

Akuru Mihira 2 by J. B. Dissanayake, S. Godage & Brothers (661, Pde S Kularatna Mawatha, Colombo 10), 2002, 210 x 275 mm, 38 pages, SLRs 250, ISBN: 955-20-5499-0

Thailand

The Panorama of Bangkok in the Reign of King Rama IV: a New Discovery

This book is a collection of important panoramic photographs of Bangkok in the reign of King Rama IV taken by Francis Chit (1830–91), a Thai-Christian, who learned photography from M. Pallegoix and M. Larnaudee who were French missionaries. Mr. Chit was a court photographer until the middle period of King Rama V.

This book received the Honorable Mention Award for the most beautiful book of the 2002 National Book Contest.

It is written in both English and Thai language and accompanied by excellent photographs in black and white.

The Panorama of Bangkok in the Reign of King Rama IV: a new discovery by Pipat Pongrapeeporn, photographs by Francis Chit, Muang Boran Publishing House (under the Viriyah Business Co., Ltd., phone: (66) 2 281 1988-9, fax: (66) 2 282 7504), 250 x 350 mm, 160 pages, 650 Baht (approx. US\$15.00), ISBN: 974-7383-00-4

Uzbekistan

For Peace and Security in Afghanistan

In this collection, the endeavours of President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov towards establishing peace in Afghanistan and decisively fighting against terrorism were included. It is intended for educational-ideological agitations, students of higher and secondary schools, teachers and the general public. It was published in cooperation with the Jizzakh regional department of the Republican Centre for Spirituality and Enlightenment.

President Islam Karimov: for Peace and Security in Afghanistan, Tashkent Islamic University, 2002

Viet Nam

Micro-economics in Context

This book explains the basic content of micro-economics in general, and in the context of the transitional period of Viet Nam. This has been co-authored for the first time by Vietnamese and American economics professors, orientating readers to acknowledge that there will never be perfect happiness for one person or a group of people, but happiness belongs to everybody, so happiness mainly depends on the ecological environment, that is, a sustainable economic development with proper strategy.

Kinh te vi mo trong nen kinh te chuyen doi co-authored by Neva Goodwin, Pham Vu Luan, Thomas Weisskopf, Frank Ackeman, Kelvin Lancaster, Thomas Gottschang, Nguyen Bach Khoa, Hoang Van Kinh, Vu Duc Minh and Vu Thi Minh Phuong, National Politics Publishing House, 150 x 220 mm, 654 pages, 72,000 VND (approx. US\$4.00)

GATHERINGS



The Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library brochure (Japan)

Date	Title	Country (City) Organisers	Content
2002 July 3	Book Exhibition on Myanmar Women's Day	Myanmar (Yangon)	The Book Exhibition 2002 included current publications on the state of women in Myanmar and many old books related to culture, education and traditional status of the Myanmar feminine world.
Oct. 2 -6	Grand Book Festival	Rep. of Korea (Seoul) Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Korea	Organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Korea in association with the Korean Publishers Association and Kyobo Book Centre, the aim of this event was to raise people's awareness of the necessity and importance of reading and thus to materialize the reading culture in daily life. It consisted of two parts, exhibitions and events. New titles as well as old classics, North Korean publications, excellent books for children and youth, e-books, Braille books and magazines were exhibited.
Oct. 4 -6	Brisbane Writers Festival	Australia (Brisbane)	An opportunity for book lovers to meet and hear writers from Australia and overseas. contact: URL: www.brisbanefestival.com.au
Oct. 7	New National Library Open	Japan (Kyoto)	The Kansai-kan, a new branch of the National Diet Library whose main library is located in Tokyo, was opened to the public. It was newly constructed in Kyoto (Kansai area) to secure additional stack space and for a new facility serving as a "digital library". Contact: URL: http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/index.html
Oct. 8	Awards Ceremocy	Nepal Madan M. Trust	Hariram Joshi, a scholar in Culture received the Madan Memorial Literary Award for his treatise "Abhinav Sanskriti Kosh" (Abhinav Dictionary of Culture). Similarly, the eminent novelist Diamond Shumser Rana received the Jagadambashri Award for his contributions to literature and arts for over a century.
Oct. 10 -20	2002 Book Fair	Viet Nam (Hanoi) Ministry of Culture and Information	Participated by more than 100 Vietnamese and 22 foreign companies, this is the biggest book fair so far in Viet Nam. Two seminars on the Amendment of Publication Laws and Printing Technology and Materials were held. contact: Pham Xuan Sinh, Director of the International Relations Department, fax: (84) 4 8267101
Oct. 11	World Book Day Aotearoa	New Zealand	A New Zealand-wide celebration of the joy of books and reading, with key events in most centres. contact: Jayne Wasmuth, Booksellers New Zealand, level 1, East Wing, Survey House, 21-29 Broderick Road, Johnsonville, Wellington, phone: (64) 4 4785511, fax: (64) 4 4785519, e-mail: jaynewasmuth@booksellers.co.nz , URL: www.booksellers.co.nz
Oct. 31 -Nov. 2	Training Course on Printed Matter Design	Thailand (Bangkok) Sukhothaihammathirat Open University	Training Course on Printed Matter Design was provided for publishers, printed matter design personnel and interested people with the aims of helping the participants to gain experience and knowledge on the principle of printed matter design, the art of design, colour technique and picture selection, as well as advertisement design. contact: National Printing Technology Training Center, phone: (66) 2 5034909
Nov. 17 -20	The Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA) Annual Conference	New Zealand (Wellington)	The conference included the presentation of the LIANZA Children's Book Awards on 18 November. contact: Steve Williams, LIANZA, Old Wool House, Level 5 139-141 Featherston Street, Wellington, New Zealand. phone: (64) 4 4735834. fax: (64) 4 4991480, e-mail: steve@lianza.org.nz , URL: www.lianza.org.nz
Dec. 5	Myanmar Poets' Day	Myanmar	Poets' Day falls on 5 December this year. The programme of the Day includes the National Literary Awards Ceremony and Paying Homage to Veteran Writers of the country and several literary talks held on the same day in different cities all over the country. Myanmar Poets' Day now encompasses writers', journalists', poets' and cartoonists' professions.
2003 Sep.	Colombo International Book Fair	Sri Lanka (Colombo)	The 2003 Colombo International Book Fair will be held in connection with the literary month, September, when many book exhibitions and fairs are held every year.
Oct.	International Congress	Iran	International Congress of "Seda-ye Pa-ye Ab" (Foot Step of Water) will be held to commemorate the 75th birth anniversary of contemporary poet and painter, Sohrab Sepehri. The secretariat invites prose and art works on Sohrab Sepehri for the congress. Deadline: 5 January 2003. contact: e-mail: info@sohrab-sepehri.org , URL: http://www.sohrab-sepehri.org