



Participants with Mr. Sato, DG of ACCU, and staff members

Nurturing Publishing Professionals in the Digital Age—2002 Training Course on Book Production Held

Although the recent development of information technology has contributed to the remarkable progress in the production of printed materials, the number of people who are able to enjoy it is still very limited. Apart from economic constraints, lack of expertise and personnel in producing books require urgent attention, as books still remain the most fundamental medium for accumulation, inheritance, transmission and dissemination of human thoughts and knowledge. At the same time today's publishers should be well aware of how digital technology can contribute to effective book provision both in developed and developing circumstances. In some cases the latest technology can be a breakthrough to some of the problems publishers face today.

In answer to such needs, ACCU organized the 2002 Tokyo Training Course, which was its 35th regional one, with support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) from 1 to 27 October 2002. The theme of this year focussed on educational books for general readers and young people with emphasis on introduction to latest digital technology in the Japanese publishing scene with the support of Toppan Printing Co.

Three participants from the African region in addition to 6 from Asia and the Pacific, mostly editors, attended this year's course. Through the course, participants were expected to 1) Seek ways to improve the publication of educational materials by examining present situations, issues and problems, 2) Gain practical skills and knowledge in production of printed materials and 3) Exchange information and experiences among the participating countries.

The programme started with sharing of current issues and problems each participant had in pursuing their job. Though the level of technology and skills seemed to vary among the countries, participants found many issues in common and were eager to share their experiences. In the lectures that followed, planning and editing of magazines and books, publishing in the digital age, textbooks and reference materials in both printed and digital format, and copyright issues were covered. Between lectures, participants had the opportunity to visit related facilities and companies in Tokyo area, which included Japan's largest publisher, Kodansha, the largest textbook publisher, Tokyo Shoseki, and two types of printing firms, one with large-scale printing facilities and another with small-scale digital facilities such as those for books-on-demand.

Two workshops were held during the course for the participants to put into practice what they had learned. In the first one, participants made proposals for publications based on the needs and targets, while others suggested ideas for further improvement. In the course of the discussion, problems and issues as well as cultural characteristics of each country became evident, which greatly helped them to understand each other's situations.

The other one was an introductory session to the latest DTP application InDesign. With the assistance of the instructors, participants enjoyed producing a sample page each. However, it was stressed that latest technology has its shortcomings as well, and points that publishers should take in mind were mentioned. For example, a simple copier and a binding machine can be much more useful than a printing machine in some cases.

The course concluded with a field trip to Kyoto, a city with a long history and tradition. Along with visits to monumental tem-

ples and shrines, participants visited the National Diet Library Kansai-kan, and a publisher and a printer who made best use of its location and is successfully operating away from Tokyo where most publishers are concentrated.

In spite of the short period, participants learned greatly from Japanese publishing and fellow participants. ACCU hopes that the knowledge and experience acquired as well as the network established during their stay will give strength to future publishing in their respective countries.

List of Participants

Burkina Faso—Sawadogo Mamadou
English Teaching Advisor, Direction Générale des Inspections et de la Formation des Personnels de l'Éducation, Ministère des Enseignements Secondaire, Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique

Fiji—Tabalailai Marisilina Cirimaitoga
Senior Education Officer, Special Education, Headquarters, Ministry of Education

Kenya—Kiarie Kamau
Editor, East African Educational Publishers Limited

Kenya—Koinange Thuku Mukundi
Senior Editor, Kenya Literature Bureau

Malaysia—Hamidah Ahmad
Editor, Textbook Division, Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Malaysia



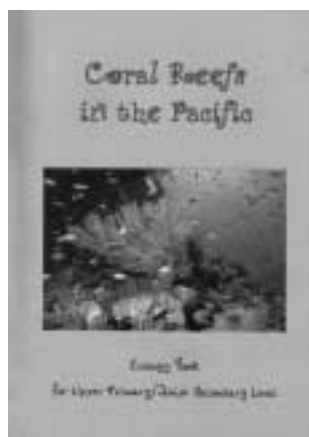
A visit to an editorial office in Kodansha

Nauru—Sinderina Silva-Julie Adeang
School Librarian, Nauru Secondary School

Papua New Guinea—Tito Karen Fabila
Senior Communication Officer, Media &
Communication Unit, Department of
Education

Philippines
—Annaleah Lioba Valledor Habulan
Managing Editor, Anvil Publishing Inc.

Thailand—Chutikarn Boonyathitisuk
Educational Official, Book Translation
Institute, Department of Curriculum and
Instructional Development, Ministry of
Education



“Coral Reefs in the Pacific” a co-publication by Pacific Island States

Coral Reefs in the Pacific is a collection of short writings and illustrations by writers, editors, book-designers and illustrators working in the Pacific region. They were brought together for a book production workshop in 1998, as a result of a joint initiative by two organisations: ACCU and the Institute of Education (IOE) of the University of the South Pacific (USP).

The workshop was held as an initiative under the auspices of APPREB, a programme which ACCU administers.

The idea for the book arose when IOE Director, Cliff Benson, attended an Asian/Pacific Co-Publication Programme (ACP) meeting in Tokyo and was exposed to the ACP ecology series. The Pacific workshop was a follow-up to the ACP meeting, with the idea of producing a Pacific ecology book, using the ACP series as models.

Workshop resource people included Dr. Neil Taylor and Ms. Sereana Tagivakatini, both science education specialists with the USP and world-renowned biodiversity specialist, Professor Randolph Thaman, also of the USP. Participants were from nine USP member countries, for all of whom coral reefs are a vital resource.

Coral Reefs in the Pacific is intended for Grade 7-8 children. It contains factual information that will increase their knowledge of coral reefs and their awareness of the importance of conserving them. There is also much to entertain readers, as the book offers a variety of stories, legends, poems, songs and games, all revolving around the theme of coral reefs and their usefulness—as a source of food, as protection against the erosion of vulnerable island coasts and as a means of livelihood to Pacific people. There is also much to be learned about Pacific cultures in these pages.

Threats to the existence of coral reefs and the exploitation of them are also the subject of some of the content. Like a thread running through the book, the writers draw attention to what can be done, individually and collectively, to conserve reefs. The illustrations add another dimension.

This book, the result of close collaboration between the ACCU, the USP and several Pacific countries, is a wonderful addition to language and ecology references for Pacific schools.

(by Cliff Benson, IOE, University of the South Pacific)



Practical DTP training at Tokyo International Centre

Computer Use in Publishing (Compiled from questionnaires to participants of the 2002 Training Course on Book Production)

Country	Languages of books published	Languages of books participants edit	Computer operating system used by the participants	Languages participants use on computers	DTP and related applications used in the country
Burkina Faso	French , few publications in national languages	French, English	MS/DOS - Windows	French, English	
Fiji	English, Fijian, Hindi			English	
Kenya	English, Kiswahili, mother tongues, French	English	Windows 98, Mac OS 9 and 10	English	CorelDRAW, Photoshop, Illustrator, PageMaker
Malaysia	Chinese, Tamil, English, Malay, Others	Malay	Mac OS 8.6 and 9.0	English	QuarkXpress, Photoshop, Illustrator PageMaker
Nauru	English, Nauruan		Windows	English	
Papua New Guinea	English, Tokpisin, Motu	English, Tokpisin	Windows 98	English	QuarkXpress, PageMaker, Photoshop
Philippines	English, Filipino (Tagalog and dialects)	English, Filipino	Windows 98 up, Mac OS 9 up	English	QuarkXpress, PageMaker, InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator
Thailand	mostly Thai, some in English	Thai	Windows 98, Mac OS 9	Thai	QuarkXpress, PageMaker Photoshop, Illustrator