

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

Books Alive

For two weeks in August, bookshops across Australia took part in the Books Alive promotion, a multi-million dollar campaign developed by the Australia Council from an Australian government initiative. The intention was to boost book sales, which have been flagging since the imposition of a goods and services tax two years ago.

Supported by extensive advertising on television and in newspapers and magazines, the campaign's focus was on motivating Australians to read more. As an incentive, consumers were offered the chance to buy a book by one of six popular authors at a special low price of \$5 if they bought another book at full price.

The six books (by Geraldine Brooks, Bryce Courtenay, Anna Fienberg, Morris Gleitzman, Sally Morgan and Matthew Reilly) covered a wide range of genres, from children's books to fiction and non-fiction for adults. Their authors assisted in the campaign by participating in readings and other events in capital cities and some of the larger regional centres across the country.

The promotion was not without its critics, some of whom wondered whether the money might have been better spent on a longer-term strategy which might more effectively and equitably have made all books more accessible and attractive to lapsed readers.

Bangladesh

Bangla Academy: The Hub of the Development of Bengali Language and Literature

Bangla Academy, Bangladesh's national academy of arts and letters, is an institution devoted to the development of the language, literature and culture of the land.

The emergence of Bangladesh as an independent and sovereign country is the outcome of the historic language movement of 1952. In that movement many students sacrificed their lives on 21 February 1952 and many others suffered imprisonment. Finally the then government gave recognition to Bengali as one of the official languages of the country.

At that time one of the demands was to establish an Academy to undertake



Books Alive poster (Australia)



Cultural Minister visiting Ekushey Book Fair organized by Bangla Academy (Bangladesh)

necessary measures in order to develop the Bengali language and culture. As a result the Bangla Academy was formally launched on 3 December 1955 by the then Government of Pakistan.

The UNESCO decision on 17 November 1999 to declare 21 February the International Mother Tongue Day commemorating the martyrs of Language and recognizing all the mother tongues of the world, symbolizes an international recognition to this language movement, of which Bangla Academy stands as an embodiment.

The Academy produces standard textbooks and advanced treatises on various branches of knowledge, including science and technology. Its work also includes compilation and publication of dictionaries, bibliographies and encyclopaedias. Research work on language, literature and culture is another important responsibility of the Academy. Major works of the world's literature are translated into Bengali and major works in Bengali into English. The folk-literature of the country is collected, preserved and published. The Academy publishes five journals: a research journal, a journal on science and technology, a journal of creative writings, a journal in English and one for children.

The Academy organises in February a month-long Ekushe celebration (celebration of 21st) and the Book Fair, which has earned celebrity in the whole region. Recently, the book fair has been taken across the world through website. Public and private publishing houses publish hundreds of books in this month every year.

Bhutan

Youth Information Center

The Youth Information Center recently shifted from its old location to the Sports Complex, which is centrally located. It was formally opened on 6 June 2003. The centre provides information related to the needs of youth and particularly on adolescent health, careers and job opportunities. Also, it has a collection of storybooks for children aged 8-15 years old. Since the centre has many children visiting it, the staff here has started 'storybook sessions', that is, reading out aloud to groups of children at the weekends and during term holidays. It is

hoped that these sessions and the availability of the books will provide interest and encouragement to these children to read on their own and continue reading into adulthood and throughout life.

China

Open Schedule of Publication Distribution Market

The Chinese government has four main commitments after its entry into the WTO.

First, it will open book and newspaper distribution services step by step over 4 years.

The second commitment is in audio-video and entertainment software service. The government will allow foreigners and Chinese partners to establish co-operative enterprises engaging in audio-video and entertainment software distribution services.

The third commitment is in the intellectual property convention related to trading. The law, judiciary and administrative executive institution of copyright in China will completely link to the requirements of the world treaty.

Fourthly, the government will allow foreign capital to establish joint-venture enterprises engaging in advertising services with the Chinese side controlling the stock in the first 2 years after entry and it will allow foreign capital to control the stock 4 years after entry. The opening-up of advertising services will have deep influences on the development of the whole periodical industry in China.

India

28th Kolkata Book Fair

Louis Toledo Sande, the Cuban national award-winning writer, inaugurated the 28th Kolkata Book Fair on 28 February 2003. The Fair, which had Cuba as its focal theme, attracted 2.5 million people in 12 days. 600 leading publishers participated.

The Cuban pavilion displayed 300 titles, most of which included writings by Jose Martine, Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and Antonio Marco.

The Fair authorities organised a number of seminars on topics which included "Changing reading habits in children", "Role of women in creating



28th Kolkata Book Fair (India)

reading habits”, “Demand for improvisation in production of books for better qualities”, “Anti-piracy programmes”, etc.

With the exception of the World Book Fair organised by the National Book Trust in New Delhi, the Kolkata Book Fair is undoubtedly not only the largest but also the most popular of all the book fairs in the country. Mainly a buyers’ book fair, it is actually a bazaar, faithfully incorporating the Indian concept of ‘melas’ sans giant wheels or merry-go-rounds, where people storm to buy books. Besides books, one can also find hawkers and sellers of financial institutions, banks, postal departments etc., predictably supported by the long line of people waiting to gather information. Another unique feature of the Fair was the 200-odd stands devoted to ‘Little Magazines’. Little magazines, mostly irregular publications, are an important part of the Bangla literary landscape. There is even a little magazine for the visually handicapped, in Braille.

Indonesia

National Book Village in Magelang

On 17 May 2003, the Education Minister, Malik Fajar, on behalf of President of the Republic of Indonesia, Megawati Sukarnaputri, inaugurated the founding of the National Book Village at Kyai Langgeng Park, in Magelang, Central Java. It is the first book village in Indonesia, and the twenty-first one in the world. According to Malik Fajar, it is an investment activity which will bear fruit in perhaps five to ten years. It would be ideal if each province of Indonesia had its means of learning or a kind of book village which would enable the people to obtain scientific knowledge. The event was organized to celebrate the National Book Day and to commemorate the birthday of the Indonesian Book Publishers Association (IKAPI).

Iran

Iranian National Museum Library

According to Mohammad Reza Riazi, Head of the Iranian National Museum library, the library, holding 23,000 volumes of archaeological books on Iran and neighboring areas, is among the world’s unique libraries.

He said that the library currently owns

12,000 volumes of books in English, German, French, Italian and Russian, and 6,000 in Persian and Arabic. “Meanwhile, 200 specialized periodicals and 5,000 books on other subjects such as history, literature, geography and natural sciences are also available at the library,” he noted, and added that around 700 scripts and 4,000 historical documents are also showcased in the Iranian National Museum library. “The library opened simultaneously with the inauguration of the Ancient Iran Museum and the former Archaeological Department in 1937 with 1,000 volumes of books handed over by the Ministry of Culture”.

In a report released by the Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization, it has been mentioned that since archaeological excavations by foreign and Iranian experts expanded in Iran, the library’s book collection became richer day by day.

“The library owns 30 illustrative stone tablets and over 100 travel memos,” he concluded.

Japan

To Promote Reading Culture

The phenomenon of the lack of interest in reading has continued for a long while. It is an undeniable fact that, young people especially, no longer read as they used to because of various factors. The sales amount of the publishing sector has continued to fall steadily for six years.

To cope with it, the publishing sector is taking the lead in positively supporting the reading promotion movement. For example, the “Reading for 10 minutes in the morning” movement is practiced before class in 13,000 elementary and junior high schools today.

The government established the law in 2001 to promote children’s reading, and approved 13 billion yen for total expenditure on books purchase per year in the school libraries. But, on average, only about 30% of the budget allocated to local governments has been used for this purpose.

Nonpartisan Diet members established an assemblyman federation for promoting reading with the aim of improving the reading environment for the general public and to promote and spread reading culture. It pressures the central



Mr. Boris Shapiro with the book *Healthy Lifestyle* (Kyrgyzstan)

and local governments towards realizing that objective.

People in publishing circles have to try hard to make them realize the seriousness of the present reading situation.

Kyrgyzstan

Is Science about Sex on Trial?

The Court is considering a complaint submitted by Akim Toktaliev against Boris Shapiro, the chief author of the book *Healthy Lifestyle* and the co-author who is an officer of the Ministry of Education, and also the printing house which has published 750,000 copies of the book. The plaintiff has estimated the general damage made by this book at 5 million som, which is about 120,000 US dollars.

Healthy Lifestyle is a manual for teachers which has been used for four years to teach the senior class students in schools of Kyrgyzstan. The authors of the book, who are representatives of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education of Kyrgyzstan and also nationally well-known scientific figures, have had a difficult time adapting this book to be understood by teenagers. The book includes key rules for a healthy lifestyle, starting from food and sports, up to uneasy and “touchy” topics of sexual relations. The last topic, by the way, became a “stumbling-block” to the continuation of the course for today.

The Committee for the Protection of Honour of the People of Kyrgyzstan have considered it inadmissible to hold discussion with secondary school students on topics concerning sexual relationships. According to Akim Toktaliev, the chairman of the committee, “... this book leads to debauchery and teaches children immoral behaviour”. Akim Toktaliev has added that teaching such a subject at schools “contradicts the Asian mentality”.

In the meantime, Boris Shapiro, the chief author of the book, the chairman of the Republic “AIDS” Association, a person whose profession compels him to speak about such themes, states the reasons: “Teenagers are one of the basic AIDS risk groups, therefore today it is necessary to inform the young generation about the undesirable consequences of promiscuous sexual relations.



At Children's Library, Vientiane (Lao PDR)



J. Begzsuren using OPAC in the Metropolitan Central Library, Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia)



Elizabeth Kerr, Peter Hubscher (sponsors), Michael Cooper and Stephanie Johnson (winners) at Montana Awards (from left to right) (New Zealand)

Lao PDR

Children Need Books, Readers Need Writers

One of the greatest challenges facing the encouragement of reading in Laos has been the lack of books published in the Lao language, especially for children.

In a recent speech, Kongduane Natavong, Director General of the National Library, said that obstacles facing the National Reading Promotion Project had been compounded by a shortage of trained writers and illustrators for creation of new books.

The first workshop was held in January 2003, the topic being "Creative Writing" and the second on "Literature Critics and the Roles of Editor" was conducted in August 2003. A total of five workshops will be held and they will be completed by 2005. The final workshop will be an international conference held to promote the sharing of resources and sharing of professional practices with participating representatives from some of the neighbouring countries of Laos.

Mongolia

Internet Services in the Ulaanbaatar Public Library

The Ulaanbaatar Metropolitan Central Library (MCL) named after D. Natsagdorj was connected to Internet in 1999. The Internet catalogue holds bibliographic records of 36,000 resources. The MCL webpage contains a fulltext database of Mongolian literature. The MCL organizes "Guide Training of the Internet" and shows how to use free e-mail accounts.

In library automation, MCL has been using Alice software since 1998, so there are data on 10,000 registered patrons and fingerprints for library loan service. In 2003, MCL is working to publish a library CD Catalogue. For more information and enquiry: <http://www.mclibrary.edu.mn> and contact library automation and Internet administrator J. Begzsuren at e-mail address: mcl-ub@magicnet.mn

Myanmar

Exhibition to Mark 200th Book of Centurion Publishing House

The Centurion (Yar-Pyae) Publishing House with U Soe Nyunt as head of the enterprise, marked their 200th book

written by the late author U Shwe Aung, which was on display at the exhibition held for a week in Yangon. The exhibits included all the covers of two hundred books published by the same house. In addition, there were some illustrations of books and magazines done by the late master illustrators in the last half a century. There was a brisk book sale with discount at the exhibition. It was attended by contemporary writers and illustrators along with librarians and school teachers. The famous octogenarian writer, Paragu, opened the exhibition and he was presented with donations for a Reference Library which is under construction. The project would be named "Shantiniketan" after Rabindranath Tagore's Centre in India.

New Zealand

Montana New Zealand Book Awards

The country's most prestigious book awards were presented by the Prime Minister, Helen Clark, at a ceremony in Christchurch in late July 2003. The Montana New Zealand Book Awards are presented annually for the best books in various categories with the Supreme Awards, the Montana Medal for Non-Fiction and the Deutz Medal for Fiction being presented to the authors of the winning book of each genre. This year's winners were Stephanie Johnson (Fiction) for her novel *The Shag Incident* (Vintage) and for Non-fiction, Michael Cooper for *The Wine Atlas of New Zealand* (Hodder Moe Beckett). In addition to their medals, each author received a cash prize of \$15,000.

Pakistan

Braille Books for Visually Handicapped

The Education policy 1972-80 provided specifically for the improvement of institutions for the education of the handicapped which had always remained a neglected sector until that time. Accordingly, the Prime Minister instigated in 1975, the establishment of Braille Printing Press. It was set up by the National Book Foundation (NBF) using locally manufactured machines which were installed at Regional Office of NBF Karachi in 1976.

The NBF started work and provided numerous books to visually handicapped

persons at country level, free of cost. It was established to cater to the needs of visually handicapped readers for the purpose of their education, through the Holy Quran as well as other books. So far, the National Book Foundation has published 360 titles and has achieved the distinction of publishing the first ever *Holy Quran in Braille* with Urdu translation. It has done much for the welfare of visually handicapped persons, yet a lot remains to be done.

Papua New Guinea

Education Reforms

The Papua New Guinea education system is currently undergoing major reforms aimed at providing relevant education for all school age children. The reforms, being implemented through the Curriculum Development Division of the national Department of Education, involve revision and development of curriculum materials for children from preschool up to grade 12.

The main objective is to develop materials that are suited to the needs of Papua New Guineans. Basically this means that PNG is trying to provide a kind of education that will ensure that a child is proud of and has a sense of belonging to his/her culture, and will at the same time be equipped with the appropriate skills and knowledge needed to contribute meaningfully to the development and progress of a modern nation.

Prior to the reforms a child started formal education in a foreign language, and was taught foreign concepts. This approach to education alienated children from their own cultures, communities, traditions and obligations. In addressing these problems, the new reform education system is aimed at strengthening children's identification with their culture and their community. It encourages realistic expectations for the children, their families and their communities, and allows all children to continue their journey to higher grades and level of education without the fear of being pushed out of the system. Under the reforms, formal education starts in a language the children already know and speak confidently. They learn and improve their use of English as they progress to higher grades.

Philippines

Executive Order Affecting the Book Publishing Industry

On 31 March 2003, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo issued Executive Order No. 189 (EO) entitled "Transferring the National Book Development Board (NBDB) from the Office of the President to the Department of Education". The basis for the EO is the recognition of the vital importance of textbooks and other educational materials in the school population, particularly those of the primary and the secondary levels under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education (DepEd).

The NBDB is an agency created under Republic Act No. 8047 (Book Act). The Book Act was founded on the government policy of privatization. Under the law, the NBDB is tasked primarily to formulate and implement a National Book Policy with a corresponding National Book Development Plan geared towards the development of the book publishing industry.

NBDB at present, as an interagency body, has autonomy in its policy development efforts. Transfer may eliminate such autonomy and instead all decisions may have to pass through the bureaucratic set up of DepEd. Policies on pricing and selection of books, as well as criteria for the selection of books, may be affected by DepEd's decisions and suggestions. NBDB therefore may not be able to fast-track actions, nor to respond to vital concerns of the publishing houses and other clients because of the tedious process which they may encounter in the new set-up.

Rep. of Korea

Seoul International Book Fair 2003

Seoul International Book Fair 2003 was held from 4-9 June 2003. While the number of foreign exhibitors decreased due to fears of SARS, that of the domestic exhibitors increased. 130 domestic exhibitors and 66 foreign exhibitors participated in this year's edition of SIBF. A special exhibition titled "Bestsellers in Korea during the last 100 years" provided visitors with a retrospective view of the history of modern Korean publishing culture which began with the introduction of modern publishing facilities. Another remarkable special exhibition was "The Most Beautiful Books from all over the World". By courtesy of Stiftung Buchkunst (Book Art Foundation based in Frankfurt, Germany), 155 titles which had been awarded with book design prizes by the foundation from 1991 to 2002 were



Seoul International Book Fair 2003 (Rep. of Korea)



Mr. Pongpol Adireksarn, the Minister of Education (left) and Dr. Prapatpong Senarith, Deputy Secretary-General of the Office of Vocational Education Commission visiting Academic Fair (Thailand)

exhibited in this special exhibition.

The organizer, the Korean Publishers Association, invited Mr. Holger Ehling, Vice-President of Frankfurt Book Fair, to the SIBF 2003. It was agreed between both parties that Korea will be the guest of honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2005.

Singapore

Readasia

Readasia is a book club organised by the Book Council and the National Library Board to promote Asian literature. This is where people meet like-minded people, fellow book lovers and find a captive audience to share their thoughts and views on the book they have read.

This book club aims to enable readers to get more out of their reading experience through a lively and informal discussion session. A different book will be selected for each one, hence, every session promises to be a different experience. It is held every third Thursday of the month.

e-mail: readasia@nbdc.org.sg

Thailand

The Academic Fair

From 23-26 July 2003, the Ministry of Education organized the Academic Fair with the theme "Creativity and Collaboration for National Education Reform" at the Ambassador Hotel. Its main objectives were to demonstrate the achievements of education reform, to exhibit learning materials, and to campaign for the year of reading and learning promotion.

The fair was divided into four important sections. Section I: exhibition of remarkable achievements of education reform done by schools and agencies concerned. It exhibited learning materials, instructional innovations, students' projects, books and technology materials produced by teachers and students, reading promotion, etc. Section II: workshops and seminars concerning the topic of children's book production and editing, qualitative research and basic education curriculum implementation. Section III: activities on stage that comprised many interesting shows such

as talk shows and student performances. Section IV displayed a variety of textbooks, books and learning materials from several private publishers. It is expected that teachers, students, parents and other people will clearly understand education reform and reading promotion so that they will effectively implement them in order to achieve the targeted objectives.

Viet Nam

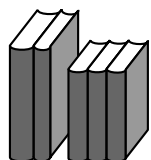
Problems in Publication Law

The publishing scene in Viet Nam has been developing, flourishing thanks to the reform, and at the same time getting out of control. To deal with this, the mass media has started raising its voice, demanding that amendments be made, since many articles in the current Publishing Law are not clear, with so many terms and definitions, i.e. the definition of *books and publications, first edition, second, third edition ... and reprint, published or being in charge of this publication by Mr. A, Mrs. B. etc.* The private entrepreneurs and even some state publishers, have been taking advantages of these loopholes to get permission as well as to neglect paying royalties, or reduce them. Authors, then readers, are the ones who have to suffer a lot, because no one can know about the real circulation, or how many times a book has been reprinted, since not many publishers, and almost no private entrepreneurs, have asked for permission or put the number of editions in the cover, which means the author has no way to complain and no basis to take legal action.

Another unclear article is the prohibition of "*promulgating the pornographic and decadent way of living.*" Later, this was amended to: "*The cultural products are prohibited to have these following contents*" (with some examples).

These points have been stirring up more criticism.

Proper research not only by policy makers but also by the professional researchers and linguists needs to be involved in the coming amendments to make them suitable for modern life.



Outstanding New Books

Australia

The Default Country

A highly original book in which lexical cartographer J.M. Arthur, an exhibition curator at The National Archives of Australia, has made 'word maps' of Australia which she uses to interpret the relationship between Australian English and the country. Arthur shows the discrepancies between the words Australians use and the intrinsic nature of the country. She argues that modern Australians' use of language betrays the persistence of the words and phrases which early colonial settlers used to describe the landscape.

The Default Country: A lexical cartography of twentieth-century Australia by J.M. Arthur, UNSW Press (UNSW, Sydney, NSW 2052), 216 pages, A\$39.95 (approx. US\$26.00), ISBN 0-86840-542-6

China

Advice to Sleep

This book is written in a common, pithy style, and is most absorbing. From a specialist's viewpoint, it elaborates on the physical function of sleep and principles of sleep-medicine. This book also introduces advanced concepts about sleep-medicine and clarifies some popular misconceptions about sleep. Meanwhile, starting with daily life, it gives a series of methods to improve the quality of sleep, prevent insomnia, and cure various sleep disorders.

Shui Mian Zhong Gao by Huang Xizhen, Guangdong People Publishing House, 146 Pages, RMB13.5 (approx. US\$1.60), ISBN: 7-218-04255-4/R-129

Fiji

Chinese in Fiji

The author traces the migration from China to Fiji, from the 1870s to the present day. It tells of the sacrifices they had to make, the laws that affected them along the way, and the communities they forged in country. Politics in China have affected their lives in Fiji. Education and enterprise have been mainstays. Written by the former principal of the prestigious Yat-Sen School, the book is highly readable and a valuable source for further research about Chinese in the greater Pacific.

Chinese in Fiji by Bessie Ng Kumlin Ali, Institute of Pacific Studies, University of the South Pacific (Suva, ips@usp.ac.fj), 210 x 147 mm, 2002, 287 pages, ISBN: 982-02-0339-2



A Default Country (Australia)



Advice to Sleep (China)



Intellectuals and Power in the New Order (Indonesia)



The Anecdotes (Iran)

India

When the Vulture Descends

A novel that captures the ethos of the Cold War era, holding a mirror to the world of man as he stood in the dangerous eighties – lost, without mooring, seeking reprieve yet afraid of the next horizon, afraid that evolution might mean extinction.

In this work of fiction, the main plot deals with the Soviet takeover of India at the height of the Cold War and how the forces of the free world fight back. The KGB does this with the help of a fast-rising politician, Raj Kamath, who visualises a new India of his dreams, without hunger and poverty and without the five-star culture imposed on this poor land by the corrupt. But what Soviets have in store for him is 'Operation Grand Slam'. To the question "Why has the operation been named Grand Slam?" the KGB agent has a simple answer: "Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Afghanistan and now India – Grand slam!"

The eagerness of the Russians was like that of a vulture that slowly circles in the sky when far below in some desert or barren land it sees a lone man walking aimlessly to his death. The vulture has patience. As long as it remains high in the sky, the man below is safe.

When the Vulture Descends by Mandeep Raj, 2003, 522 pages, Rs350 (approx. US\$7.60), ISBN: 81-7476-431-1

Indonesia

Intellectuals and Power in the New Order

Stimulated initially by the writer's research on the now defunct *Prisma* magazine, which was meant to develop an alternative thinking against the dominant political discourse of the New Order, this book examines thoroughly and critically the intellectuals in Indonesia during the reign of Soeharto, especially in their struggles with capital, power and culture.

Launched on 5 June, Dhakidae's book is hailed by some intellectual circles as perhaps the best one written by an Indonesian on the New Order. Its focus is on capital, state power, and the social institutions which were consequently built, and chiefly on the critical intellectual discourse.

Cendekiawan dan Kekuasaan dalam Negara Order Baru by Daniel Dhakidae, Penerbit PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama (Jl. Palmerah Barat 33-37, Jakarta 10270), 2003, 150 x 240 mm, approx. US\$17.50

Iran

The Anecdotes

The Bologna International Book Fair selected the Iranian book *The Anecdotes* as the winner of the "New Horizons" section. They chose this book because of its creative method and rich contents from ancient literature combined with modern graphics, as well as for its stylistic form, choice of paper, pagination and superb layout. It is rewritten by Hossein Moallem, illustrated by Bahram Khaef and the graphic design is by Parsanejad, and 10,000 copies have been published. It contains ancient Persian literature, satires and moral stories for children and young adults.

This book is a collection of old stories and anecdotes selected from the masterpieces of old Persian literature (*Golestan* by Sa'adi, *Masnavi* by Rumi" etc.). The stories selected by Hossain Moalem are ones which are short and seem to be most interesting to children and teenagers.

Bahram Khaef, the well-known Iranian illustrator, has illustrated the book and Korosh Parsa-nejad has done the graphic design. The quality of the paper, the illustrations, the lay-out and the graphic design, all strive to present a combination of modern and old which has turned out to be very successful.

The Anecdotes, Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children & Young Adults (IIDCYA), 2003, 210 x 270 mm, 108 pages, ISBN: 964-432-576-1

Japan

Speeches of Yamamoto Shugoro

Yamamoto Shugoro, popular writer of historical novels, is an expert describing Japanese people's heart. The essence of the Japanese mind is said to be expressed directly in his period stories.

This book explains the speeches and phrases chosen from his works including novels and essays. His viewpoint of the human drawn there by diverse themes, such as the humanity of a downtown area, a craftsman's pride, unfortunate

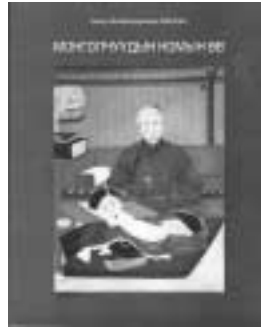
Asian/Pacific Publishing Scenes



Kyrgyz Fairy Tales (Kyrgyzstan)



The Dog's Lion (Lao PDR)



Book Legacy of the Mongols (Mongolia)



Noguchi Hideyo's Biography (Myanmar)



The Case of the Missing Kitchen (New Zealand)

women's life, "Bushido" how Japanese samurai (warrior) should live and die, etc. has surfaced. This is a good guide to read his literature and gives any generations hope to "live" positively.

Yamamoto Shugoro no Kotoba by Kiyohata Yasumasa, Shinchosa co. (71 Yaraicho, Shinjuku, Tokyo), 2003, 190 pages, 680yen (approx. US\$5.00), ISBN: 4-10-610027

Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyz Fairy Tales: The Fairy Stone 2003
The first book of "Kyrgyz fairy tales" series was published in Kyrgyzstan since its sovereignty. The last time similar editions for children were published was in 1989. The idea of series for children came to the publishing house "Raritet" four years ago, but only today has it begun to be realized in colorful and magic fairy tales. 5,000 copies of the book have been published. This amount is big enough for the population of Kyrgyzstan. Publishers have no doubts about the success of this series.

The publishers consider books of fairy tales series for children as the best way to teach a new generation the ancient national traditions which still exist. And like fairy tales of all peoples, they teach to love each other, respect each other and bring up better personal standards. The director of "Raritet" publishing house has said: "We have very impressive folklore heritage. Today children of Kyrgyzstan should read the national fairy tales. These books will teach the children to love our Motherland from the childhood". They do not concede foreign ones on quality of the edition and illustrations.

"*Kyrgyzskie volshebnye skazki*", "*Kyrgyzskie skazki: volshebniy kamen*", Raritet (publishing house), 2003, 220 x 150 mm, approx. US\$6-7.00

Lao PDR

The Dog's Lion

This outstanding picture book is a characteristic and enjoyable folktale with quality printing.

It tells about a hermit who enabled a hunter's dog to change into a deer, then to a tiger, a lion and back into a dog again. Readers will be excited by the adventures of the unfortunate and mischievous dog.

The story was retold by P. Phouangsaba, a senior Lao writer, and printing was supported by the Sotoshu Fukushima Shamusho in Japan.

Ma Pen Rasasy by P. Phouangsaba, Konglue Nainghang, Children Home for Culture and Education and Shanti Volunteer Association (PO box 6244, Vientiane), 2003, 268 x 190 mm, 16 pages, 15,000 kips (approx. US\$1.50)

Mongolia

Book Legacy of the Mongols

The book contains bibliographic studies of 40 rare, valuable books that were selected as outstanding patterns from over 1.5 million ancient manuscripts and xylographic prints kept at the State Central Library of Mongolia (The National Library of Mongolia). The author describes Mongolian books from the form, structure, components and art points of views and introduces a research preface. In accordance with the author's research opinion, Mongolian books can be classified as in the following example.

From the form point of view: Inscribed on stone, in the form of a sutra or with oblong separate pages, bound like a note-book, and scroll.

The book consists of introductory research preface and 12 chapters with 96 colour photos. Every chapter includes rare manuscripts and printed sutras, many of which are national treasures of Mongolia. The book is dedicated to scholars, lecturers, students, and members of the public interested in Mongolian culture and history.

Book Legacy of the Mongols by Jambaldorji in Serjee, Sodpress Co. Ltd., Ulaanbaatar, 2001, 200 x 250 mm, 76 pages, US\$ 15.00

Myanmar

Noguchi Hideyo's Biography in Myanmar

Japan's well-known surgeon Noguchi Hideyo's biography is translated into Myanmar and published with the assistance of Daido Life Foundation under the pioneer programme of "Japanese Mirror Series". The translation is done by Nan-Mya-Kay-Khine, a Ph.D. student at Kyoto University. The presentation ceremony of the translated book was attended by the Minister of Education and his deputy ministers at the Higher Education Department in the University campus in

Yangon. Representatives from Daido Life Foundation and Japanese embassy officials were present on the occasion. Education Minister U Than Aung gave a talk about the book and the pursuit of learning especially related to reading of biographies of successful people in every walk of life.

Noguchi Hideyo's Biography in Myanmar, Daido Life Foundation, 2003, 150 x 210 mm, 178 pages, free distribution

New Zealand

The Case of the Missing Kitchen

Barbara Else burst upon the New Zealand literary scene with her first, marvellously witty novel *The Warrior Queen*, which was shortlisted for the Montana New Zealand Book Awards.

She has followed this with three further first-rate novels only one of which (*Gingerbread Husbands*) attempted to recapture the whimsical humour and delightful entertainment of her debut novel.

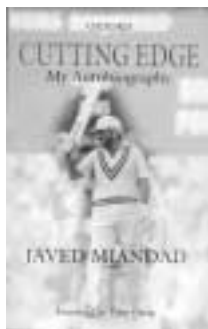
In her latest offering Else has returned to what I believe to be her natural metier with this highly amusing parody of the thriller genre. This is a well paced, hugely entertaining read that will confirm her reputation as one of New Zealand's most accomplished novelists

The Case of The Missing Kitchen by Barbara Else, Vintage (Random House New Zealand, Private Bag 102950, North Shore Mail Centre, Auckland, fax: (64) 9 444-7524), 2003, 197 mm x 125 mm, US\$16.20, ISBN: 1 86941 574 4

Pacific Islands

Cook Islands Maori Names, Ingoa
Names play a major role in Maori society emotionally, physically, and spiritually. People can be given new names to mark events. The author gives definitions and colloquialisms attached to each name. This is a valuable cultural and linguistic resource.

Cook Islands Maori Names, Ingoa by Jon Jonassen, published by the Institute of Pacific Studies, University of the South Pacific (Suva, Fiji), 210 x 147 mm, 159 pages



Cutting Edge (Pakistan)



Atlas of Philippine Coral Reefs (Philippines)



A Korean History from a Spiritual Perspective (Rep. of Korea)



Romance of the Sakai (Thailand)



From Boison Jungles to Kandy Forests (Uzbekistan)



Proper Research in the Formation of Vietnamese Language (Viet Nam)

Pakistan

Cutting Edge

This is a detailed book on the cricket career of Javed Miandad. Cricket is the most popular game in Pakistan, which was world champion in 1992 and runner-up in 1999. It has produced many famous cricketers, and Javed Miandad is one of them. He is not only the highest run scorer of Pakistan but a very successful captain. He is currently the coach of the national team. People have been waiting for his autobiography for a long time.

From the streets of Karachi to the great test centres of the world, from schoolboy wonder to batting legend and international hero, from an enthusiastic rookie to the architect of a nation's cricketing fortunes, this is the Miandad story in his own words.

Cutting Edge-Javed Miandad (An Autobiography) by Javed Miandad, Oxford University Press (7- Shalimar Plaza, 99-West Blue Area, Islamabad), 2003, 228 x 139 mm, 344 pages, US\$7.89, ISBN: 0-19-579918-6

Philippines

Atlas of Philippine Coral Reefs

The Atlas of Philippine Coral Reefs is part of a continuing series of updates on the state of reefs in the Philippines (see also <http://philreefs.org>). More than 50 reefs are described, evenly representing Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao regions. Part of the purpose of this publication is to facilitate the documentation of the on-site reef condition so that monitoring and evaluation is fostered by the information made available.

Atlas of Philippine Coral Reefs by Porfirio M. Aliño, Evangeline F.B. Miclat, Cleto L. Nañola Jr., Hilly Ann Roa-Quiaoit, and Reuben T. Campos, Goodwill Bookstore, Inc., 2002, 282 pages, ISBN: 971-12-0249-2

Rep. of Korea

A Korean History from a Spiritual Perspective

This book is based on the *History of Joseon from a Biblical Perspective* written by Ham Sok Hon in early 1930s. In his first manuscript, the aim of his writing seemed to be to confirm God's will and to find out its meaning in Korean history. But the title of the book changed

into the current one with the modification of the first manuscript after Korea's liberation, and the chapter about Korean history after the Korean War was added to the latest edition.

This book defines Korean history as a history of suffering. However, the author claims that the suffering should not be regarded as fate but should be overcome so that Korea can make a leap to a higher level.

Ddeuseuro bon hanguk yeoksa by Ham Sok Hon, Hangilsa Publishing Co. Ltd., 2003, 154 x 225 mm, 504 pages, 15,000 won (approx. US\$12,50), ISBN: 89-356-5463-9 04800

Singapore

Gateway to Malay Culture

This book is included in a new series *Montage Culture Series* with "Gateway to Peranakan Culture", "Gateway to Chinese Culture", and "Gateway to Indian Culture" (forthcoming).

In publishing *Montage Culture*, Asiapac Books hopes to play a part, albeit a small one, in promoting racial harmony in Singapore. The books, fully illustrated, are warmly received for their lighthearted and accessible format. For more details, visit www.asiapacbooks.com.

Gateway to Malay Culture by Terence Nunis & Asiapac Editorial Board, Asiapac Books, 210 x 150 mm, 176 pages, S\$9.50, ISBN: 981-229-326-4

Thailand

Romance of the Sakai

This book was published in two languages (Thai and English, parallel text) by the Department of Curriculum and Instruction Development to commemorate the occasion when UNESCO honoured His Majesty King Chulalongkorn the Great, on the 150th anniversary of his birth date on 20 September 2003.

The play *Ngo Pa* deals with the lives of the wild Sakai, their love and jealousy. The story ends with the deaths of the three main characters. It is the Thai literary work that thoroughly explores the living conditions of the Sakai, and is written in verse, being melodious in every way and possessing all the requirements of the art of writing according to the principles of verse drama. Even though it is a story of primitive people

who lived in the forest far from civilization, the author has employed his genius to stir different emotions in the readers.

Ngo Pa (Romance of the Sakai) by King Chulalongkorn, Rama V, translated into English by Associate Professor Malithat Promathatavedi, Kurusapa Press (Bangkok), 2002, 15,000 copies, 145 x 210 mm, 548 pages, distributed for free

Uzbekistan

From Boison Jungles to Kandy Forests

The author of this book, Dadahon Nuri, has described his own adventures of the past fifty years with a sincere sense of humour. He is not only a famous literary man, but also a gifted painter, a musician, an orientalist and interpreter, a teacher and a specialist in local lore. Maybe because of that, his works of literature are very interesting and realistic.

The book leads readers to the nicest places in Uzbekistan like Bostanliq, Sorkhan Valley and the ancient city of Bukhara. Then they can travel with the author to India and Sri Lanka. The natural beauty of mountains and forests is described in an artistic and realistic manner.

From Boison Jungles to Kandy Forests by Dadahon Nuri

Viet Nam

Proper Research in the Formation of Vietnamese Language

"A Proper Research in the Formation of Vietnamese Language Based on Old Chinese Sources and Procedure in Forming Vietnamese Based on Old Chinese" by the famous Vietnamese linguist, Professor Nguyen Tai Can, is a masterpiece with many impressive and important explanations on the procedure of interpreting old Chinese and forming present-day Vietnamese based on the old Chinese in Romanized form. The book gives readers an abundant cultural knowledge, especially those who are interested in linguistics and orientalism.

Nguon goc va qua trinh hinh thanh cach doc Han-Viet by Nguyen Tai Can, National University Publishing House, 350 pages, 200 x 300 mm, VND30.500 (approx. US\$2.00)

GATHERINGS



<http://hkbookfair.com> informing Hong Kong Book Fair 2004 will be held from 21 to 26 July 2004

Date	Title	Country (City) Organisers	Content
2003 July 29 –Aug. 3	Hong Kong Book Fair	China (Hong Kong) Hong Kong Trade Development Council	This annually book fair includes books, printed matters, stationery, printing services and multimedia education products. Exhibitors came from Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan & Thailand. Contact: Exhibitions Department, Unit 13, Expo Galleria, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center, 1 Expo Drive, Wanchai, Hong Kong, phone: (85) 2 22404388, fax: (85) 2 28240249, http://hkbookfair.com , e-mail: exhibitions@tdc.org.hk
Aug. 18 –22	National Workshop on "Literature Critics and the Role of an Editor"	Lao PDR (Vientiane) National Library, Shanti Volunteer Association, Japan Foundation	The training workshop is the second in five phases of 3 years project duration (2003-05). 30 participants exchanged experience and practice in the field of literature critics, editing on stories, folktales, poems and non-fiction for children. The next workshop will be in January 2004 on the topic "Illustrations for Literature".
Aug. 30 –Sep. 7	The Manila International Book Fair	Philippines (Manila)	The fair serves as a forum for the entire book industry, from large publishers and retail conglomerates to independent outfits, agents, wholesalers, jobbers, distributors, librarians, where meaningful special events take place such as seminars, quiz competitions, film showings and other informative activities. Contact: Primetrade Asia, Inc., Unit 302 Villa Building, 78 Jupiter Street, Bel-Air, 1209 Makati City, Metro Manila, Philippines, phone: (632) 896-0661, 896-0682, fax: (632) 896-0695, e-mail: ptrade@philonline.com , www.philippinebookfair.com
Sep. 12 –13	Annual Conference of the Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand	Australia (Canberra)	The theme of the conference is government and publication. Papers deal with Victorian libraries in the Mechanics, Institute period; the Cold War and book printing in Melbourne; Ned Kelly, bibliography, and folklore; print and common law in the 1700s; New Zealand's attempt at a Domesday Book; government control of cheap fiction; museums, lyceums, athenaeums as forerunners to Mechanics, Institutes; Australia and the Florence Agreement; newspaper registrations in New Zealand; etc. Contact: (organizer) Ross Harvey, School of Information Studies, Charles Sturt University, Locked Bag 675, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2678, Australia, phone: (61) 2 6933 2369, fax: (61) 2 6933 2733, e-mail: rossharvey@csu.edu.au , http://www.elibank.net
Sep. 14 –8	Indonesia International Book Fair	Indonesia (Jakarta)	Organized by Indonesian Book Publishers Association (IKAPI) in cooperation with Dyandra Promosindoby, this event includes a book fair, seminars, book launchings, meeting with authors, etc. http://www.dyandra.com/2003/ibf
Sep. 17 –21	Beijing International Book Fair (BIBF)	China (Beijing)	The 2003 BIBF is held in Beijing Exhibition Center. It is an indispensable arena for Asian book business and initially consolidated its position in the world. http://www.bibf.net
Sep. 26 –Oct. 5	8th Bangkok Book Fair	Thailand (Bangkok) The Publishers and Booksellers Association of Thailand (PUBAT)	This annual book fair is organized with the aim of promoting publishers to increasingly produce books of high quality. It will provide a good opportunity for parents, teachers, students, and other people to see and select various kinds of interesting educational and technological materials. This is to promote the reading habit and support the year of reading promotion.
Oct. 2 –6	National Young Writers' Festival	Australia (New South Wales)	To be held in Newcastle, New South Wales, this festival will cover many forms of writing that are rarely seen at other writers' festivals, including graffiti, zines, comics, rap, blogging and fan fiction, as well as other forms of writing such as theatre, film, journalism, poetry, short stories and novels. Online forums on the festival's website allow young writers to discuss their ideas for the festival program. http://www.youngwritersfestival.org
Nov. 14 –15	Asian Congress of Storytellers (ACS) 2003	Singapore	Organized by National Book Development Council of Singapore (NBDCS), with a stronger cast and greater variety in programming (workshops on early childhood, parenting, senior citizen care, teenage counselling and self-healing), ACS 2003 offers joy of storytelling. http://www.nbdcs.org.sg
Dec.1	Deadline of MDA National Scriptwriting Competition 2003	Singapore	The Media Development Authority of Singapore (MDA) is organizing a National Scriptwriting Competition to help scriptwriters get recognised and produced. The First Prize winner will get an MDA Golden Pen Award of \$7,500 cash, a trophy and certificate. The competition will close on 1 December 2003. http://www.mda.gov.sg
2004 Apr. 22 –25	Tokyo International Book Fair (TIBF) 2004	Japan (Tokyo) Reed Exhibitions Japan Ltd.	TIBF is the gateway to the world's second largest publishing market-Japan. It includes many kinds of events with 6 specialized fairs. http://www.reedexpo.co.jp/tibf
June 4–9	Seoul International Book Fair 2004	Rep. of Korea (Seoul)	Organized by Korean Publishers Association (KPA) and others, this annual book fair invites participants from abroad and domestic. http://www.sibf.co.kr , e-mail: moon@kpa21.or.kr