

3. Profiles of the Reader and Panellists

*Alphabetical order

International Panellists

Karina A. Bolasco (Philippines) Assistant General Manager, Anvil Publishing, Inc. Editor and poet



After working for National Bookstore, the Philippines' largest publisher, for 10 years, Karina A. Bolasco founded Anvil Publishing, Inc., which has been named the best publishing company in the Philippines as many as eight times and has established a reputation as the country's most trusted publisher. Bolasco has served as chairperson of both the National Committee on Cultural Education of the Philippines' National Commission for Culture and the Arts and its National Book Development Board. In 1995, she was named one of the Philippines' highest achieving women. Bolasco is also a familiar figure on the international stage, having spoken at various international conferences, including a meeting of the International Publishers Association.

Wen Hsu (Costa Rica) Illustrator



After graduating from the University of Costa Rica with a bachelor's degree in architecture, Wen Hsu obtained a second bachelor's degree in fine arts (illustration) at Rhode Island School of Design. After working as an art technician at the school, she went on to become a freelance designer and illustrator and currently designs handbooks and product packages in addition to illustrating picture books. Hsu has won a number of awards, including the Grand Prize at the 16th (2008) Noma Concours for Picture Book Illustrations.

Alaeldin Elgizouli Naeim (Sudan) Painter, designer and artist



Alaeldin Elgizouli Naeim lives in Egypt. He studied painting at the University of Sudan and obtained a master's degree in easel painting from Moscow State Academic Art Institute. He has taught art at a range of institutions, including universities and research centres, and has held many solo exhibitions of his own works. In addition to holding art workshops for children, he participates in a range of workshops and exhibitions both within and outside Sudan. While working as a novelist, newspaper columnist and Internet writer, he has won multiple awards, including the Second Prize at the 16th (2008) Noma Concours for Picture Book Illustrations.

Tajima Yukihiro (Japan) Textile dyer, picture book writer and woodblock artist



Tajima Yukihiro was born in Osaka in 1940 and graduated from the Crafts Division (dyeing) of the present Kyoto City University of Arts. He has been creating prints book illustrations using the Katazome method of dyeing for many years. Tajima received the first Japanese Picture Books Prize for *Jigoku no Sobe* in 1979, a Gold Plaque at the Biennale of Illustrations Bratislava for *Gionmatsuri* in 1981 and another Gold Plaque at the same event for *Ten ni Nobotta Namazu* in 1985. He was also awarded a silver prize at the Leipzig International Book Design Exhibition. Tajima participated in the Kochi International Triennial Exhibition of Prints from 2005 to 2008 and is a member of the Japan Print Association.

<http://www.eonet.ne.jp/~tajima-yuki-syu/>

Tanaka Naoto (Japan) Managing Editor, Grandmama-sha Publishing



Director of Fathering Japan (NPO)

Since 2003 Tanaka Naoto has been holding book reading events for children under the Papas' Picture Book Project in cooperation with three other fathers raising children. The co-author of *Ehon de Asobo!* (Shogakukan Inc.), supervising editor of *Akachan Ehon Note* (The Marbletron Inc.), Tanaka has also written several picture books, including *Kunkun Iinioi*, *Amaine*, *Shoppaiyo and Ehon Diary* (all published by Grandmama-sha Publishing). He has also translated two books by William Bee, *Beware of the Frog* and *Whatever* (translations published by The Sailor Publishing Co., Ltd.) and, in addition to his other activities, currently writes columns on picture books for magazines and newspapers.

<http://www.cam.hi-ho.ne.jp/g-mama>

Reader

Hayami Yu (Japan) Singer



Hayami Yu lived in both Guam and Hawaii between the ages of three and 14 and made her singing debut in Japan in 1982. Since then she has appeared in movies, TV programs and on the stage. She graduated from Sophia University's Faculty of Comparative Culture (now the Faculty of Liberal Arts) in 1990. A concerned environmentalist, Hayami represented the Japan Women's Global Environment Network International at the 1992 Earth Summit in Brazil. Married in 1996, Hayami has two children. In addition to singing and acting, she also translates picture books, publishes books on childcare and cooking and often appears on talk shows.

<http://www.keepsmling.co.jp>