

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

between

International Publishers Association (IPA)

International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY)

The participating organizations, IPA and IBBY, acknowledge the intrinsic value and importance of reading and literacy, which are prerequisites for seeking and accessing information of any kind, and understanding and making use of it.

They also recognise copyright as the creative and economic foundation that underpins sustainable business models that enable the creation and distribution of culturally diverse books around the world. In addition, they support publishers' freedom to publish as being fundamental to publishers, in the same way as freedom of expression is to authors and illustrators.

Reading is a condition for participative citizenship, social inclusion, the creation of new knowledge, empowerment in the widest sense (personal, vocational, corporate, and organizational), and learning for life. Reading is the cornerstone of development; it unlocks human potential. It leads to better health, better employment and safer more stable societies. Reading matters to children, adults and nations.

Access to books of quality, that are pertinent to the reader's experience, in the reader's language, and culturally relevant, together with access to books from around the world through open borders, lies at the heart of a literate society. Education, support for local publishing and publishing in minority languages and sustainable access to books through book stores, libraries, as well as digital media are central pillars to our aims, goals, and values.

Reading is a lifelong process, which is most effectively ensured by granting each and every person the right and the means to read. Sustainable access to books and sources of information as a basic human right has to include the right to read as a precondition.

IBBY and IPA are committed to the principles of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child as ratified by the United Nations in 1990. It is our responsibility to uphold these rights.

In order to live up to these affirmations, we agree to work together on:

- formalization of partnerships between IPA and IBBY through:

- establishing associated status with each other, based on our common interests,
- and on maximization of each others' strengths to enhance our effectiveness and outreach.

We therefore agree to work on practical modalities, which include:

- Promotion of each others' major awards and events;
- Local coordination of reading-promotion activities, including the annual dedication of the month of April to celebrating and promoting reading; with International Children's Book Day on 2 April and World Book Day and the announcement of World Book Capital City on 23 April, as well as other appropriate events;
- Joint advocacy and support of each others' advocacy activities;
- Joint workshops and/or training sessions;
- Links to each other on the websites of our organizations;
- One free registration for one representative to each others' major conferences or meetings:
 - IBBY: World Congress (biennial)
 - IPA: World Congress (biennial)

Agreed to by

Liz Page
Executive Director of IBBY

José Borghino
Secretary General of IPA

Place & Date:

Place & Date: