

AFRICAN PUBLISHING REVIEW

A Newsletter of the African Publishers Network

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APNET ORGANISES TWO REGIONAL TRAININGS FOR TRAINERS IN TANZANIA AND GUINEA

The Regional Training of African Trainers is one training model and initiative of the leadership of African Publishers Network (APNET) which focuses on the training of trainers within the African publishing industry. The idea is that APNET training should reach every nook and cranny of Africa. Hence, it is financially impossible to train all publishers across Africa. The most cost-effective method and strategy is to train and equip trainers to go back to their respective countries and train publishers and other stakeholders there based on the identified training needs by the Publishers Association. Training at the national level with an indigenous resource person is highly cost-effective. APNET would continue to monitor the training in those countries.

Objectives

The Regional Training seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- i. To train trainers from East and Southern Africa; enhance their competence and skills for future training of publishers and other

stakeholders in their respective countries.

- ii. To increase the number of competent trainers in the African publishing industry.
- iii. To empower National Publishers Associations (NPAs) to organise workshops at a reduced cost to build the capacity of publishers.
- iv. To build the list of APNET Faculty of certified trainers for future training in other African countries.

Areas of Training

The trainings covered the following areas of publishing:

- Legal aspects of publishing
- Learning best practices of publishing processes/ management
- Insights into electronic publishing
- Rights & licenses
- Setting up a sustainable profitable publishing house
- Formation and/ or strengthening of Reprographic Rights Organisations (RROs)

• Continued on page 20

Page No.

IN THIS ISSUE

1	APNET ORGANISES TWO REGIONAL TRAININGS FOR TRAINERS IN TANZANIA AND GUINEA
2	APNET FORMALISES PARTNERSHIP WITH WIPO TO ORGANISE MENTORSHIP TRAINING
2	UN SDG BOOK CLUB AFRICAN CHAPTER RELEASES SDG 5 READING LISTS
3	APNET'S INTERVENTION ON OPEN SCIENCE INITIATIVE IN AFRICA
5	APNET PARTICIPATES IN ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR 2021
6	SHARJAH INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR PUBLISHERS CONFERENCE 2021 INVOLVES MASSIVE AFRICAN PARTICIPATION
8	WIPO & APNET TO ORGANISE MENTORSHIP TRAINING FOR AFRICAN (FRENCH) PUBLISHERS
8	AFRICAN BOOK FAIRS
8	THE 18TH GHANA INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR ENDS ON A SUCCESSFUL NOTE
9	NIGERIA INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR 2021 (HYBRID EXPERIENCE)
10	5TH EDITION OF THE CONAKRY CHILDREN'S INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR ORGANISED
12	ABIDJAN INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR TO HOLD FROM 18 – 22 MAY, 2022
13	23RD NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR
14	SENEGAL NATIONAL BOOK FAIR
15	ASSEDI ELECTS A NEW LEADERSHIP
24	APNET ADOPTS A NEW CONSTITUTION
25	WIPI REPORT: THE STATE OF THE GLOBAL PUBLISHING INDUSTRY IN 2020
26	40TH SHARJAH INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR ATTRACTS 1.69 MILLION ATTENDEES

APNET FORMALISES PARTNERSHIP WITH WIPO TO ORGANISE MENTORSHIP TRAINING



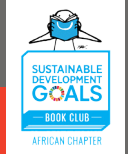
On 30th November, 2020 the Board of APNET and World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to build capacity for African Publishers on “**Training & Mentorship Programme within the Publishers’ Circle**”. WIPO’s Publishing Circle programme saw the launch of a new initiative for African publishers in 2021. Kicking off with publishers from English-Language African publishers a new mentoring programme aimed at building capacity in African countries and helping publishers improve their businesses. This programme is a partnership between WIPO and APNET with support from the IPA (International Publishers Association) and ARIPO (African Regional Intellectual Property Office). All publishers, mentors and mentees were asked to sign the Publishers Circle Charter, demonstrating their commitment to the work that the Circle aims to achieve.

Following a call for applicants, 15 publishers from Nigeria, Kenya, Rwanda, Ghana, South Africa, and Namibia successfully completed the programme and were matched with publishing experts from around the world for personalized online one-to-one sessions, suited to the needs and time available for both parties. Each publisher sets

their own objectives of what they wanted to learn from their mentor and what they wanted to achieve from the sessions. Publishers were keen to improve their businesses in a variety of ways ranging from digitization of content to selling via ecommerce channels, sourcing, and building relationships with authors, improving the editorial process, and protecting their IP against piracy. Feedback from participants was that it was an enriching and worthwhile process, with both mentor and mentee learning new things. Many new long-term relationships have been forged.

The mentoring programme was complemented by the first APNET Regional Training for Trainers workshop, which was attended by WIPO’s Director of Copyright Law Division, Michele Woods and WIPO’s legal Counsellor, Thomas Dillon, as well as a workshop on Audiobook Strategy delivered in partnership with BEAT Technology.

The programme is now entering its second phase with French-Language African publishers. APNET is issuing a call for any publishers who wish to sign up as mentor, as well as any that wish to confirm their participation as a mentee. Those who previously registered interest will be contacted to confirm their participation, other may register their interest via wipotrainning-programme@gmail.com.



5 GENDER EQUALITY



UN SDG BOOK CLUB AFRICAN CHAPTER RELEASES SDG 5 READING LISTS

UN SDG Book Club African Chapter, launched on 23rd April, 2021, aims to use books as a tool to encourage African children in the ages of 6-12 to interact with the principles of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a curated reading list of books published in Africa that relate to each of the 17 SDGs. The Book Club involves books in Arabic, English, French, and Kiswahili as well as other African languages.

The proud organisers of the Book Club include:

- African Publishers Network (APNET)
- Pan African Writers’ Association (PAWA)
- Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA)
- African Library & Information Associations & Institutions (AfLIA)
- Borders Literature for all Nations
- United Nations Information Centre Windhoek/United Nations Namibia

Positives of the African SDG Book Club:

- Promotes books and reading to children

• Continued on page 16



“OPEN SCIENCE IN AFRICA: KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES REFLECTION BY THE AFRICAN OPEN SCIENCE ACTORS ON THE DRAFT UNESCO RECOMMENDATION” APNET’S INTERVENTION AT THE AFRICAN REGIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER MEETING ON OPEN SCIENCE DELIVERED BY APNET CHAIRMAN, MR SAMUEL KOLAWOLE ON 15TH DECEMBER, 2020.

Let me begin by extending our appreciation to UNESCO and the African Union Commission for Human Resources Science and Technology, in collaboration with the Department of Science and Innovation of South Africa for organizing this online African Regional multi-stakeholder meeting on Open Science and for extending this generous invitation to African Publishers Network (APNET) to make an intervention on key challenges and opportunities relative to African publishers as key African Open Science Actors on the Draft UNESCO Recommendation.

African Publishers Network, a pan-African and continental organisation established in 1992, brings together national publishers associations and publishing communities to strengthen indigenous publishing throughout Africa. APNET with its Secretariat in Accra, Ghana currently has a membership of 42 National Publishers Associations in Africa.

The concept of Open Science as conceived by UNESCO and its stakeholders is a good idea that should contribute immensely to human development and advancement through open access to scientific research and data, as

well as enhancing collaboration amongst researchers and scholars for quicker and better results. Therefore, APNET welcomes the initiative and the developments it can bring to Africa and the rest of the world.

Looking through the draft recommendations on Open Science that is the subject of this meeting, one is tempted to conclude that every possible area of concerns has been provided for. However, experience and the generalisations that permeate the recommendations call for caution and pose challenges to successful implementation of the concept in developing regions, like Africa and how those in these regions will benefit from the concept in the long run.

To illustrate this, under the Aims and Objectives of the recommendations, item 4 talks about providing an international framework for Open Science policy and practice that recognises regional differences in Open Science perspectives, takes into account in particular, the specific challenges of scientists and other Open Science actors in developing countries and contributes to reducing the digital, technological and knowledge divides existing between and within countries, yet, there is no particular or specific recommendation on how this is to be achieved. Rather, member states are encouraged to ensure adequate investment of at least 1% of national GDP on research and development expenditure and provide reliable internet connectivity and bandwidth use for scientists and science-users across the world.

These “encouragements” suggest that success hinges on those requirements being put in place. In developing regions where governments are struggling to fund education and where there are challenges with internet connectivity and bandwidth, there is automatically a playing field that is not level.

Recommendation can be good. Applying them universally without addressing the peculiar challenges of individual countries and regions and adjusting for the different levels of development in implementation of the recommendations will not be equitable.

It is in line with this that I will make the following other observations:

- In developing countries, open access funding policies are mostly directed at financing technical infrastructure required to operate open access online platforms, with little or no measures directed at funding content production.
- In African and other developing countries, private investment in and public funding of scientific research are scarce.
- In the absence of measures or capacity to incentivize content production and scientific research, UNESCO’s initiatives on open science can have unintended negative effects, as they recommend publication models that discourage investments in African publishing industries.
- One very important question to consider is how does UNESCO’s draft recommendation affect African creators, scholars, and publishing industries?

- An important step to answer this question is a proper impact assessment for Africa. As it is often the case, one size does not fit all in public policies directed at promoting scientific research. In spite of the fact that these recommendations are said to intend a level playing field, the realities of African economies could negate the good intentions.
- If African publishers are not allowed to sell and license their content, investments in open access online platforms will only encourage increased use of content produced by developed countries, rather than promoting African research.
- UNESCO’s mission includes promoting cultural diversity and freedom of expression. Independent publishing industries are vital to achieve these objectives in Africa and in other developing countries.
- Policies that compromise the sustainability of private and independent publishing industries in developing countries are contrary to UNESCO’s mission and undermine efforts to achieve it.
- The statement that information and research should be available for free is demagogical, and disregards the costs involved in producing and promoting quality research.
- Publishing and accessibility of quality research require services associated with content production, peer reviewing and enhanced discoverability of content by relevant audiences. These services,

which are not considered in UNESCO’s recommendation, have costs.

- The way payment of these costs is set out influences authors’ ability to publish their works and the availability of research outputs produced by developing countries.
- For example, in open access Gold Models (which stemmed out of European and other developed countries’ policies on open access) the author pays to be published and users have access for free. Publication costs are born jointly by authors and publishers.
- In developing countries, by creating a free reading experience to users, these models often generate obstacles to publication.
- In recent years, the open access model adopted by some developing countries is the diamond model. In this model, neither the author nor the reader pays. Technical infrastructure (including platforms, software, hardware, etc) is funded through public funding, while content is curated by academics on a voluntary basis.
- However, these models are more prompt to raise concerns related with quality of content (absence of professional editorial and peer reviewing services, which are not funded), and in addition might create opportunities for State censorship, insofar as governments funding the platforms might to some extent decide what is published.

• Continued on page 27

APNET PARTICIPATES IN ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR 2021



The Acting Executive Director represented APNET to participate in the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF) to among other things create more awareness about APNET and African publishers and books to publishers in the Asian and Arabic countries. The Fair was scheduled to take place from the 23rd to 29th of June, 2021. Abu Dhabi International Book Fair has introduced translation and e-book grant for interested publishers.

SHARJAH INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR PUBLISHERS CONFERENCE 2021 INVOLVES MASSIVE AFRICAN PARTICIPATION

Sharjah International Book Fair Publishers Conference organised by Sharjah Book Authority (SBA) in partnership with International Publishers Association (IPA) was held from Sunday 31 October – Tuesday 2 November 2021 at the Expo Centre, Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The Publishers Conference preceded the 40th Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF) organised from November 3-13, 2021.

Sharjah Book Authority, the organiser of the SIBF partnered APNET to invite seven (7) African publishers in addition to many African publishers and authors they had already invited. The three-day Publishers Conference was a blend of panel discussions on relevant publishing issues and meetings to buy and/or sell rights of books.



Some of the African participants at the Sharjah International Book Fair Publishers Conference. A short meeting was held to encourage the African Publishers to support and help develop APNET to be sustainable. This will help APNET to continue to promote African publishing within and outside Africa.



IPA holds an Annual Publishers Dinner in Sharjah

IPA HELD AN EVENING SESSION TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY IN SHARJAH, UAE.



Bodour Al Qasimi, IPA President addressing the audience at the celebration.



Mr. Yamoah – Ghana (extreme left), next Mrs. Amina HachimiAlaoui - Morocco, Bodour Al Qasimi – UAE, Akoss Ofori-Mensah & Ernest Oppong – Ghana, Mr. Mohamed Radi (Egypt)



Participants interacting before the start of the 125th celebration

WIPO & APNET TO ORGANISE MENTORSHIP TRAINING FOR AFRICAN (FRENCH) PUBLISHERS

The mentoring programme is now entering its second phase with French-Language African publishers. APNET is issuing a call for any publishers who wish to sign up as mentor, as well as any that wish to confirm their participation as a mentee. Those who previously registered interest will be contacted to confirm their participation, other may register their interest via wipo-trainingprogramme@gmail.com.

AFRICAN BOOK FAIRS

THE 18TH GHANA INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR ENDS ON A SUCCESSFUL NOTE



Participants at the 18th GIBF Exhibition Area

The 18th Ghana International Book Fair (GIBF) was held at the National Theatre of Ghana from **Thursday, 26th August to Sunday, 29th August, 2021**, under the theme, **“Ghana: A Nation of Readers for Development”**. The Fair opened from 9am to 6pm daily, with events such as Workshops, Reading with Champions, 18th GIBF Personality of the Year, Ghana Publishers Association (GPA) SHS Debate Competitions, book launches, Literacy Games and other allied programmes. The 18th GIBF was the first Book Fair organised in Ghana in the midst of a pandemic. It involved a lot of Literacy/Reading programmes for students from primary to tertiary level, workshops for the book industry players as well as cultural, educative and interesting events for the participants.

This year’s Book Fair had 61 exhibitors and 25 resource persons. The foreign participants came from countries which include India, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Botswana. There was a decline in the participating nationalities due to the restrictions of the pandemic. A total attendance of about 14,000 was recorded for the four-day period.

One of the innovations that was implemented to include people who could not physically attend the Book Fair was the live streaming of the events on the GIBF Facebook page by Ezi IT Services. This was the first time most of the GIBF events were streamed live for virtual participation by many Ghanaians and foreigners. The videos of the events are impressive records for the organisers and the viewership of the videos has been increasing gradually with time.

The 19th GIBF is scheduled to take place from 25th - 28th August, 2022.



NIGERIA INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR 2021 (HYBRID EXPERIENCE)



1. INTRODUCTION

The 20th Nigeria International Book Fair (NIBF 2021) came up from **Tuesday, 27th July to Thursday, 29th July** at Harbour Point Event Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos State. The book fair, for the first time, was combination of onsite and virtual versions.

2. NIBF 2021 VENUE

Onsite:

The onsite version of the book fair took place at Harbour Point Event Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos State.

The venue, strategically located and in close proximity to some tourist centres in Lagos, was spacious enough to accommodate all the programmes and exhibition space for the book fair. The parking space for vehicles was more than enough and the facilities such as restrooms, changing rooms and covid-19 prevention machines were of international standard.

Virtual:

The virtual version of Nigeria International Book Fair 2021 run concurrently with the onsite version of the book fair. The virtual version had a landing page www.nigeriabookfair.com. The selected programmes of the book fair were broadcast live on the landing page and YouTube Channel. The landing page also contained the virtual version of the onsite exhibition stands.

3. SAFETY & SECURITY

Due to the global pandemic, covid-19, safety measures as directed by the Lagos State Safety Commission, were put in place in order to ensure safety of the book fair’s participants. Safety officers were deployed to the venue of the book fair to monitor and assess the safety measures and protocols put in place. The safety measures and protocols put in place at the book fair were as follows:

- Body Temperature Check

- and Sanitizing Machines
- Hand washing points
- Compulsory usage of Face Mask by the participants
- Placing of hand sanitizer bottles in strategic locations at the venue
- Instant Cleanliness of the exhibition grounds and programmes venues as well as toilet facilities
- Provision of First Aid Box in case of emergencies

The 20th Nigeria International Book Fair attracted many important personalities within the country. For the security of these personalities, exhibitors, visitors as well as the items brought for exhibition and programmes, we engaged bancers (external private security officers) to work with the security personnel that were provided by Harbour Point. The presence of these bancers day and night ensured decorum and orderliness throughout the period of the book fair.

PARTICIPATION

Exhibitor

The analysis of the exhibitors in both onsite and virtual versions of NIBF 2021 is as follows:

Exhibitors	Onsite	Virtual
Local Exhibitors	67	68
Foreign Exhibitors	02	05
Total	69	73

Visitors

The 2021 edition of Nigeria International Book Fair had a total number of **7,658** visitors at the onsite version, while the online had **528** participants. The online participants came from over 20 countries such as USA, Ireland, UK, Australia, Germany, Canada, Austria, Malaysia, India, China, Singapore, Spain, etc.

• Continued on page 26



5TH EDITION OF THE CONAKRY CHILDREN'S INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR ORGANISED



The 5th edition of the Conakry Children's International Book Fair took place from the 3rd to 6th of November 2021, in a decentralized mode at the six exhibition sites across the city of Conakry. It was highlighted by book exhibitions and sales, training workshops for writers, teachers and publishers of children's books, official launches of new children book titles, illustration exhibitions, various promotional activities, educational games, etc.

The fair focused on activities targeting teachers, publishers, parents, students, and authors:

- i)- training workshop for teachers in the development of educational tools to support the use of children's books at school;
- ii)- seminar for representatives of participating countries to the *Resources Educatives* project (Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Senegal) and ;

iii)- training workshop for publishers and authors in accessible children's books.

The 5th edition gathered 24 publishers and booksellers from 8 participating countries:

- **Guinea:** Ganndal and Har-mattan-Guinea editions
- **Senegal:** ARED, NARA and NEAS
- **Ivory Coast:** Editions EBURNIE
- **Mali:** Éditions Gafé, Bibook éditions
- **Niger:** Éditions de l'Aïr, éditions Gashingo
- **Canada (Quebec):** Quebec America International
- **Benin:** Kama Gold, Bookconect, Éditions Ruis-seauxd'Afrique
- **Burkina Faso:** Éditions Téminys, Éditions Sankofa and Gurli

- **AFRILIVRES Association:** Donniya and Cauris books editions
- **Guinean booksellers:** Carrefour de Guinée, Sallyaabhe, LibrairieMima, Papyrus Guinea

Among public activities, it is important to mention the participation of more than 65 primary and secondary schools invited to the sites in the 5 municipalities of Conakry to participate in the reading games. The enthusiasm toward these games were evident because of the large participation of schools.

A total of 1,200 book vouchers were donated by the UNDP Bureau in Guinea that enabled students and teachers to acquire a significant number of reading books at all of the stands. In addition, the reading game was supported by a virtual component in the CCFG media library where young readers were able to participate in the game jointly organized by Ganndal and YouScribe and which allowed the winners to obtain free reading codes on YouScribe platform for 3 months.

The next edition is expected to be held in November of 2022.

Aliou Sow
General Delegate of the Conakry Children's International Book Fair

<https://www.facebook.com/saloninternationaldulivrejeunesse-deconakry>



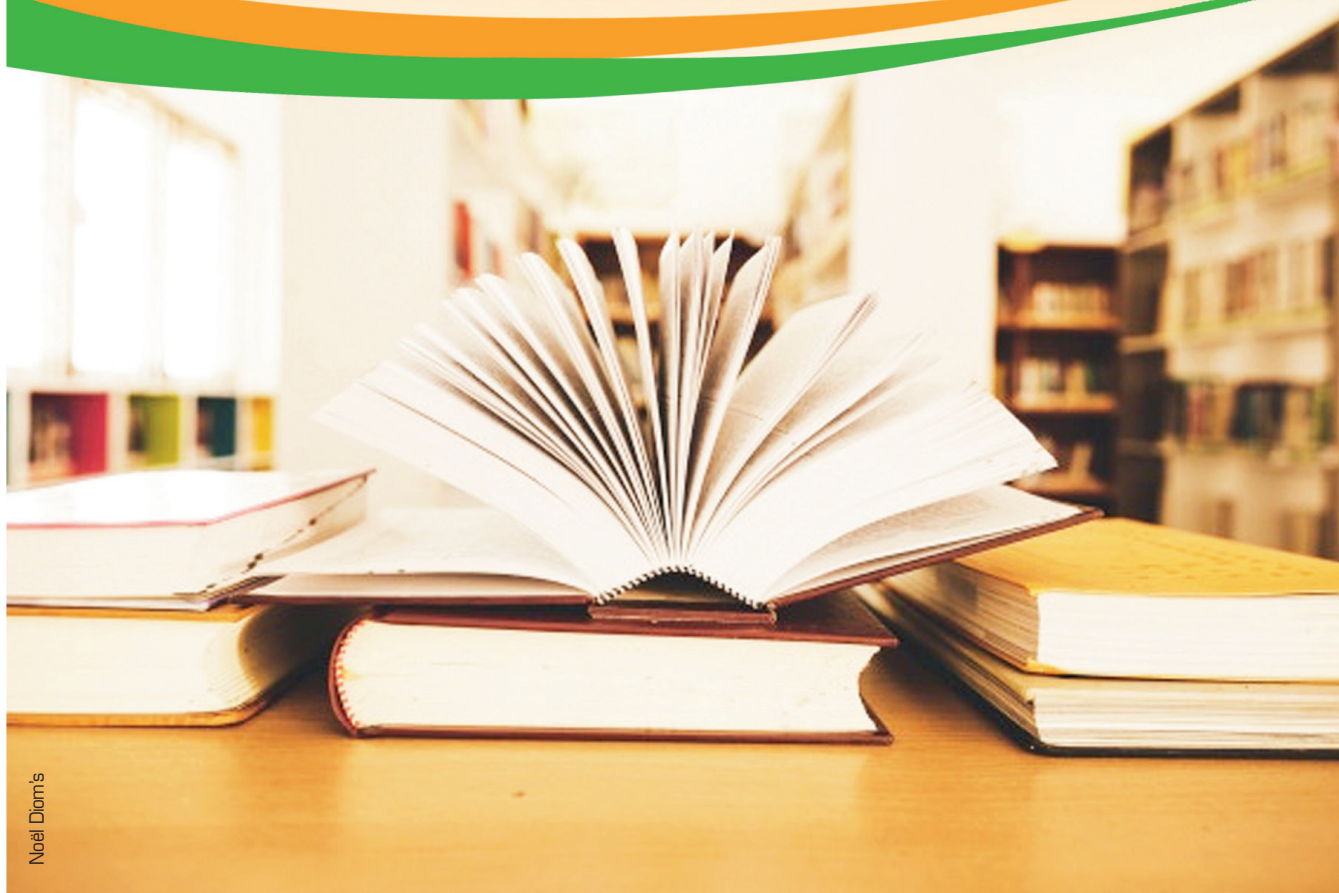
Children's event and book exhibition at the 2021 Conakry Children's International Book Fair



ABIDJAN INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR TO HOLD FROM 18 – 22 MAY, 2022



SALON INTERNATIONAL DU LIVRE D'ABIDJAN CÔTE D'IVOIRE



Noel Diom's

**18 - 22
MAI 2022**

Abidjan

• Réservez votre participation
en contactant le Commissariat Général :



+ 225 05 66 38 62 38



: silacotedivoire@gmail.com

Last year, Kenya Publishers Association (KPA) was forced to postpone the Nairobi International Book Fair due to the COVID-19 pandemic that saw a spike in the infection rates.

This year, the 23rd Nairobi International Book Fair (NIBF) will be held from 28th September to 2nd October, 2022 at the Sarit Expo Centre in Westland’s Nairobi, Kenya.

This year, we celebrate 23 (Twenty-Three) years of annually holding the Nairobi International Book Fair.

Two years ago, Nairobi International Book Fair went virtual and a total of 100,000 visitors visited our virtual platform on <https://nairobiinternationalbook-fair.co.ke/>

The theme for the 23rd Nairobi International Book Fair is ‘Publishing in the New Era’.

Activities lined up during the Book Fair period are:

- a. Workshops and seminars on topical issues
- b. Book launches

- c. Children’s activities
- d. Presentation of the Jomo Kenyatta Prize for Literature
- e. Budding Authors Seminar, Seminar on how to get published.
- f. Books clearance sale and raffle for books – Publishers will sell books at huge discounts.
- g. BOOKS EXHIBITION
- h. Authors Buffet workshop

Present State of the Nairobi International Book Fair

The Nairobi International Book Fair is organized by the Kenya Publishers Association. Kenya Publishers Association believes that this year the Book Fair will be like no other. The public seems keen in KPA’s forth coming Book Fair

Two years ago, we had more than one hundred thousand (100,000) visitors visited our virtual Book Fair. This has made NIBF one of the largest book fairs in Sub-Saharan Africa.

During KPA’s virtual Book Fair, we had 66 local Exhibitors and 15 international exhibitors from China, Egypt, Uganda, Korea,

Senegal, Iran, Tanzania, South Africa, India, Pakistan, US and Nigeria. Exhibitors range from Digital Publishers, Book Publishers, Authors, Printers, Embassies, NGOs and Government Departments.

The Nairobi International Book Fair (NIBF) is the regional marketplace for books and it brings together publishing professionals, authors, booksellers, print suppliers, media, and readers from Africa and around the world. The NIBF has been held for the last 23 years and has grown to be one of the leading book exhibition place in the region.

Books whether creative works or factual texts, serve as a reflection of the society from which the writers are drawn. It is often taken for granted that when we read, positive change is the inevitable outcome. When one looks at the social ills afflicting our nation it is easy to conclude that even though we read the results, to a large extent do not seem to suggest that the desired change takes

• Continued on page 14





SENEGAL NATIONAL BOOK FAIR

The organization of the second edition of the show in Dakar, from December 2 to 5, 2021, is a response to the demand of actors and professionals, to relaunch economic and cultural activities, after two years of restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is how we should assess the choice made by the scientific committee to reflect on the theme “Literature and COVID-19”. The idea being to analyze the impact of the pandemic on literary creation and production.

60 publishing houses including one from Ivory Coast and one from Guinea took part in the fair. Many events and professional meetings were held. The various actors also reflect on the urgency of positioning the Dakar International Fair at the level of major events in Africa.

• Continued from page 13

place. This being the case it is therefore important to ensure that society can still be able to communicate effectively on issues that confront it and at the same time be able to do so through books.

Not only did Covid-19 bring with it diffuse uncertainty but also an opportunity. Many of us used to talk of not having time to write; we were busy with meetings and other engagements. Suddenly, we found ourselves indoors with

more time on our hands. There are those who have joined writing groups and others who are writing privately. This is a time to explore the joys and sorrows of the pandemic and thereby create an artistic memory that will be interrogated by many in the future as they reflect on the coronavirus pandemic. If you find yourself in a lockdown today, make it a creative lockdown. As you attend this year’s Nairobi International Book Fair, may you find inspirations from those books that you will pick from those shelves.

ENTRY IS FREE.

The Kenya Publishers Association is happy to invite you to celebrate the book at the *23rd Nairobi International Book Fair, 2022*.

Kindly note that KPA and Sarit Centre Expo management have ensured that all necessary MOH COVID-19 protocols have been put in place and will be followed during the duration of the Book Fair.

ASSEDI ELECTS A NEW LEADERSHIP



Mr. Charles Pémont, President of the Association of Publishers of Côte d'Ivoire, ASSEDI

The Association of Publishers of Côte d'Ivoire, ASSEDI, in accordance with its statutory and regulatory provisions held its annual Ordinary General Assembly (AGO) on Wednesday, December 29, 2021, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Cardinal Bernard dedication room. Yago from the Carrefour Siloë Bookstore located in Cocody Saint-Jean.

This AGO which marked the end of the mandate of the outgoing President Anges Félix N'DAKPRI (December 2018 - December 2021) was also marked by the renewal of the statutory bodies of ASSEDI.

At the end of the elections organized under the supervision of the Director of Books, Plastic

and Visual Arts of the Ministry of Culture and the Arts and Entertainment Industry, Mr. Henri NKOUMO, represented by his collaborator Mr. KoffiKoffi Didier, the following results were proclaimed:

1. In respect of the position of Statutory Auditor, Mr. Jean Derbé, CEO of JD Éditions (sole candidate) was re-elected for a second non-renewable term of 3 years;
2. As President, Mr. Charles Pémont, Managing Director of l'EncreBleue (single candidate), was elected for a 3-year term renewable only once.

The three-year term of office of the Chairman and the Auditor is set from December 29, 2021 to December 28, 2024.

All our congratulations and best wishes go to the President and the Auditor of ASSEDI.

Done in Abidjan, Thursday, December 30, 2021

Anges Félix N'DAKPRI

Honorary President of ASSEDI



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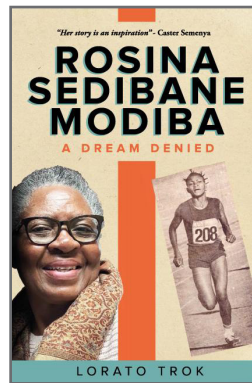
◇ Multiple opportunities to use the curated list to promote the love of reading and education.

- Great promotion for publishers
 - ◇ Promotes great children books –also internationally
 - ◇ Not a selling platform; it is a list of recommended books with links to the publisher’s website
 - ◇ Stimulates local action; children learning in their own language on important topics
- Selling opportunities of selected books for publishers
 - ◇ Publishers with selected books will be given a digital sticker that they can affix on the front covers for reprinting or electronic copies.
- Great book industry collaboration
 - ◇ A chance to showcase African Publishing locally and internationally
 - ◇ Inspires action from booksellers and libraries; events, promotions etc.
 - ◇ Stimulates publishers to promote the themes of the SDGs

Calls are made to African publishers and authors to submit children’s books suitable for the announced SDG. After the assessment of the Selection Committee, a reading list is generated for each language before it is publicized.

Since the inception of the UN SDG Book Club African Chapter, reading lists for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 to 5 have been published. Below is the Reading Lists (English, Kiswahili, French and Arabic) for SDG 5 published in December 2021.

SDG 5 – GENDER EQUITY & THE EMPOWERMENT OF ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS READING LIST



Title: Rosina Sedibane Modiba: A Dream Denied

Author: Lorato Trok

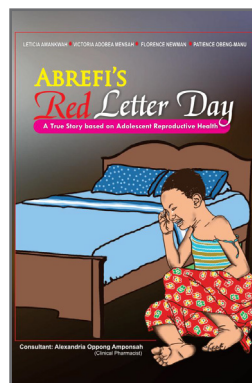
Publisher: New Africa Books

Country: South Africa

ISBN: 789-1-4856-3055-5

Website: <https://newafricabooks.com>

Set in 1970s South Africa, at the height of apartheid, this is the inspiring and moving biography of South Africa’s first black female athlete to compete in multi-racial races. When the political climate was volatile and it was illegal to compete against whites, Rosina not only competed, she set multiple records. Children will learn about gender bias in the local cultures of black South Africans and about racial discrimination through the lens of Rosina’s athletics career. (Blacks like her parents had to carry a *dompas* to be allowed into the stadium where there was a separate entrance reserved for blacks). Rosina Sedibane Modiba forms part of the unearthing of stories of black people who contributed to humanity without much encouragement during the difficult time of Apartheid. As part of a series by Lorato Trok dedicated to unsung heroes, the book introduces children to the decolonising agenda gaining enormous momentum across the world. According to the author, “...reclaiming our own stories should be at the heart of the decolonisation project”. Enriched with press cuttings, photographs, great chapter headings and text boxes to highlight principles and quotes, Rosina Sedibane Modiba presents a great African woman and role model for our children.



Title: Abrefi’s Red Letter Day

Author: Alexandra Oppong Amponsah

Illustrator: Michelle Aikins

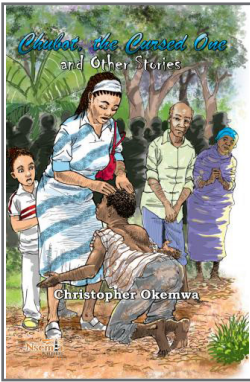
Publisher: Adwinsa Publications

Country: Ghana

ISBN: 978-996-463-155-3

Website: None

This excellent story argues for the introduction of puberty education for boys and girls into the formal education agenda and into the responsibilities of parents at home. Miss Arifa is an exemplary schoolteacher, handling Abrefi’s embarrassing experience with her first period with tact, knowledge and wisdom. Intergenerational support is put on display with Abrefi’s grandmother serving her daughter as a font of womanly and cultural wisdom at her time of transition from childhood to womanhood. With terrific illustrations and other resources: pictorial diagrams, a list of useful tips, a quiz and a glossary.



Title: Chubot, the Cursed One & Other Stories

Author: Christopher Okemwa

Illustrator: Robert Kambo Maina

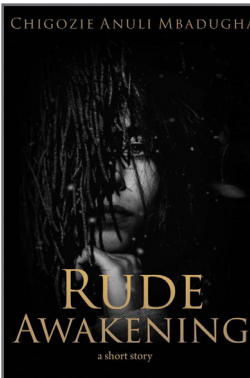
Publisher: Nsemia Inc.

Country: Kenya

ISBN: 978-1-926906-15-7

Website: www.nsemia.com

Set in modern Kenya, these exciting stories cut across a wide range of social concerns. A woman living in the Kibera slum introduces her children to a life of thievery with unforeseen consequences. In *The Cowardly Girl*, Nyamoita evades Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), an initiation rite prized in her culture. Post-election violence spotlights the hostility between the Kalenjin and Kikuyu tribes. *Chubot, the Cursed One* provokes philosophical debate when the cry for mercy of the murderer, the “Cursed One” puts the bereaved woman in what would be for many, an impossible position. Recommended for older children, a recurring theme in the volume is the role of women in society and the longing for equity. Stand-out features are the depiction of women triumphing where men fall short and heroines are catapulted by circumstances rather than by the intentional activity of a society seeking to engineer their success. With great ink drawings by Robert Kambo.



Title: Rude Awakening

Author: Chigozie Anuli Mbadugha

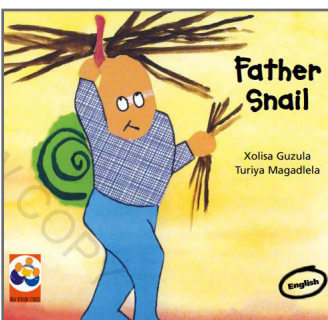
Publisher: CambaBooks Limited

Country: Nigeria

ISBN: 978-978-57741-6-0

Website: www.cambabooks.com

Rude Awakening is a stand-alone novella/short story from the award winning short story collection, *Beyond the Trial*. Nkechi's life takes an unexpected turn when her husband, Afam, dies intestate in a road traffic accident. Greed motivates members of his birth family to scramble for his property and alienate his marital family. Older children should be encouraged to read this book which addresses the burning issue of inheritance rights in traditional Igo culture (South East Nigeria). Older children should be encouraged to reference the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria which guarantees freedom from discrimination: section 42 (1) & (2). Older children can also discuss the novella in the light of the Supreme Court decision of 2014 [*Mrs. Lois Chitru Ukeje and Enyinaya Lazarus Ukeje v Mrs. Gladys Ada Ukeje*] which upholds the right of female children to inheritance in Igboland and invalidates Igbo customary laws denying female descendants the right to inherit.



Title: Father Snail

Author: Xolisa Guzula

Illustrator: Turiya Magadlela

Publisher: New Africa Books

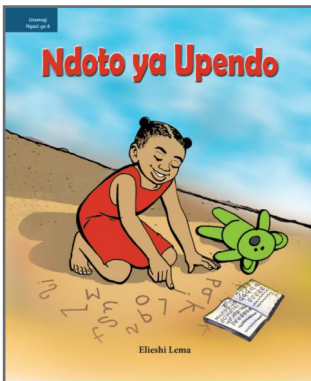
Country: South Africa

ISBN: 978-1-86928-077-2

Website: <https://newafricabooks.com>

This delightful story for the very young underlines the high value of woman as home-maker. But Mama Sele is not at home today. Left to fend for themselves, Father Snail and his son, Rabbit, present a fun picture that challenges gender stereotypes.

KISWAHILI READING LIST SDG 5 GENDER EQUALITY ORODHA YA USOMAJI WA KISWAHILI: SDG 5 USAWA WA KIJINSIA



Kichwa Cha Kitabu (Book Title): Ndoto ya Upendo

Mwandishi (Author): Elieshi Lema

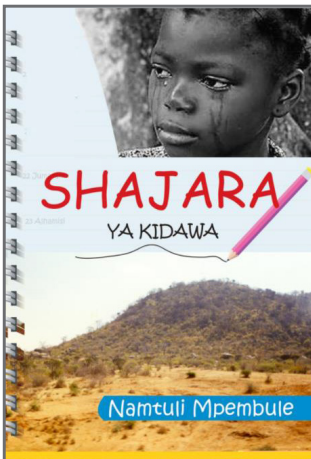
Mchoraji (Illustrator): Michael Sagikwa

Mchapishaji (Publisher): E&D Vision Publishing Ltd

ISBN: 9987-622-26-7

Lugha (Language): Kiswahili

A girl named Upendo has a brother who has access to education. Upendo is left to stay at home hence being denied access to education. Later on, Upendo maneuvers her way to school and meets a kind headteacher who offers to meet Upendo's parents. The headteacher intends to convince Upendo's parents to allow their daughter to join school. Gender equality is exhibited in Upendo's effort to join school.



Kichwa Cha Kitabu (Book Title): Shajara ya Kidawa

Mwandishi (Author): Namtuli Mpembule

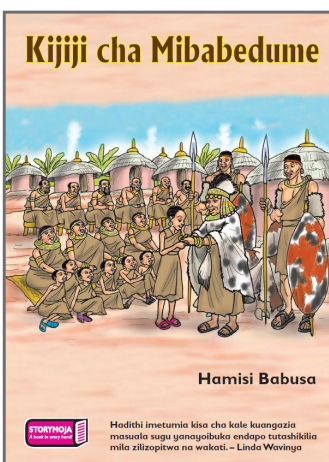
Mchoraji (Illustrator): Hajulikani

Mchapishaji (Publisher): Readit Books Ltd

ISBN: 9789987463190

Lugha (Language): Kiswahili

Shajara is a girl who suffers setback of her life due to lack of education. She opts to go to the city in search of green pastures. Luckily, she joins high school and she progresses up to secondary level where she hopes to resuscitate her dreams of pursuing education.



Kichwa Cha Kitabu (Book Title): Kijiji cha Mibabedume

Mwandishi (Author): Hamisi Babusa

Mchapishaji (Publisher): Storymoja Publishers

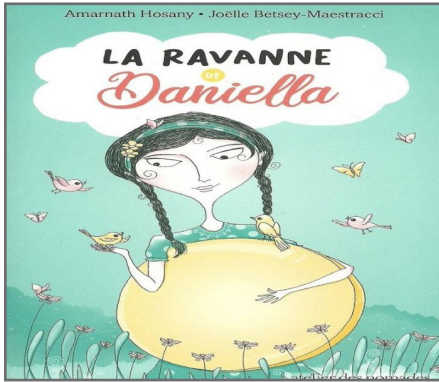
ISBN: 978-9966-066-64-0

Lugha (Language): Kiswahili

A girl by the name Binti Kitabu uses her wisdom acquired through books to change the mindset of the adamant villagers from cultural and primitive practices. She becomes the heroine of the story when she finally transforms archaic villagers.

FRENCH READING LIST SDG 5 GENDER EQUALITY

LISTE DE LECTURE EN FRANÇAIS ODD 5 ÉGALITÉ ENTRE LES SEXES



Titre: La ravanne de Daniella

Auteur: Amarnath Hosany

Illustration: Joelle Betsey Maestracci

Éditeur: Atelier Nommade

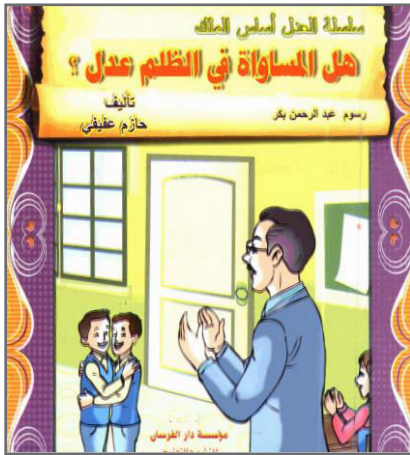
Pays: Ile Maurice

ISBN: 9782919300259

Français Site web: <http://www.atelierdesnomades.com>

Daniella a 11 ans et vit au Quartier-Militaire à l'île Maurice. La petite fille assiste à un spectacle de ravanne sur la place du village et est séduite, elle veut jouer de cet instrument ! Mais voilà, la pratique de la ravanne est réservée aux garçons, quelle injustice ! C'est la rencontre avec un vieux musicien qui accepte de l'initier qui fait tout basculer. Daniella découvre cet instrument mais aussi l'amitié et la liberté. C'est un livre très bien écrit et illustré qui traite avec pertinence la problématique de l'ODD_5.

ARABIC READING LIST SDG 5 GENDER EQUALITY



Title: Rude Awakening

Author: Chigozie Anuli Mbadugha

Publisher: CambaBooks Limited

Country: Nigeria

ISBN: 978-978-57741-6-0

Website: www.cambabooks.com

عندما دخل المدرس محمود فصله في وقت متأخر بشكل غير عادي، سمع ضوضاء عالية، وكان الطالبان أسامة وتامر يتشاجران، وكان بعض الطلاب يحاولون منع الشجار، والآخر كان هادئاً للغاية عندما دخل المدرس محمود فقرر معاقبة الجميع في الصف لأنه يعتقد أن المساواة في الظلم عادلة. أخبرته إسرأء كيف أن المساواة في الظلم يمكن أن تكون عادلة وناقشت معه هذه النقطة حتى اقتنع برأيها وقال إنه لن يعاقب الفصل كله. ثم اعترف أسامة وتامر بأنهم تشاجروا بالفعل واعتذروا لبعضهم البعض ويعتذرون عن المعلم والصف بأكمله.

When a teacher, Mahmoud, enters his class unusually late, he hears a loud noise. Two students, Usama and Tamer, are fighting. While some students were trying to prevent the fight, others were very quiet when Mr. Mahmoud entered. This leads to discussions on equality in injustice, accountability and fairness between Mahmoud and his students.



REGIONAL TRAINING FOR TRAINERS FROM EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA IN TANZANIA

The first batch of the APNET's Regional Training for Trainers from East and Southern Africa was held in the **Golden Tulip Hotel** located at Toure Drive, Msasani Peninsula in **Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**. The three-day training was held from **15th – 17th September, 2021**.

Participants

The Training involved 7 Resource Persons, 1 moderator and 14 trainees from 8 African countries selected by the National Publishers' Associations (NPAs). The table below contains the list:

No.	NAME	COUNTRY	ORGANISATION
RESOURCE PERSONS			
	Samuel Kolawole	Nigeria	APNET Chairman & CEO, University Press Plc, Ibadan
	AsareKonadu Yamoah	Ghana	CEO, Adaex Educational Publications Ltd President, Ghana Publishers Association & APNET Board Member
	Lawrence KibaaraNjagi	Kenya	CEO, Mountain Top Publishers President, Kenya Publishers Association & APNET Treasurer
	Andrew Paul Joseph	South Africa	Digital Publisher, Wits University Press, Johannesburg
	GbenroAdegbola	Nigeria	MD, First Veritas Educational Content Delivery Ltd
	Two trainers from WIPO: Michelle Woods	Switzerland	Director of the Copyright Law Division at WIPO
	Thomas Dillon		A legal counsellor in the Building Respect for IP Division
MODERATOR			
	Ernest Opong	Ghana	Acting Executive Director, APNET

TRAINEES			
	NAME	COUNTRY	PUBLISHING HOUSE
	James Odhiambo	Kenya	Executive Officer, Kenya Publishers Association
	Maureen Lynda Masamba	Malawi	President, Book Publishers Association of Malawi
	IsaieMicomyiza	Rwanda	Chairman, Rwanda Children's Books Organisation (RCBO)
	Ms DimakatsoMalema	South Africa	Marketing Officer, UNISA Press Member, Publishers Association of South Africa (PASA)
	Gabriel Kitua	Tanzania	CEO, GDY Publications Company Ltd. Chairman, Publishers Association of Tanzania
	Hermes Damian Salla	Tanzania	Founder Director, Africa Proper Education Network
	Mkuki Bgoya	Tanzania	MD, Mkukina Nyota Publishers Limited
	Mrs. Rahma Abdallah Muhdhar	Tanzania	Acting Manager, Dares Salaam University Press (DUP)
	TumsifuUsiri	Tanzania	Editorial Coordinator, E&D Vision Publishing Ltd
	Kihwelo John Zachariah	Tanzania	General Manager, Kyando Book Publishers & Co.Ltd
	Theodosia Joseph Mahali	Tanzania	Country Manager, East African Publishers, Tanzania
	David Kasozi Kibuuka	Uganda	Managing Director, Roots Publishers Ltd & Former Chairman, Uganda Publishers Association
	Elijah Chimbongwe	Zambia	Country Manager, East African Publishers, Zambia & Secretary, Book Publishers Association of Zambia
	Masimba Tinashe Madondo	Zimbabwe	CEO, Consultus Publishing Services& Chairman, Zimbabwe Book Publishers' Association

The Regional Workshop was sponsored by Sharjah Book Authority (SBA) in United Arab Emirates. World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and International Publishers Association (IPA) were partners who helped by recommending and providing some resource persons for the training. APNET remains grateful to the sponsor and the partners for the successful organisation of the Regional Workshop. Special thanks to the Publishers Association of Tanzania (PATA) and its Chairman, Mr. Gabriel Kitua for hosting and organising the logistics of the training.

It was recommended at the Training that APNET should develop and distribute the following standardized templates/documents for training purposes and to also serve as a guide to African publishers:

- House style manual
- Printing agreement
- Publisher-Author Agreement
- Compilation of African Ebook conversion experts

At the end of the training, certificates of participation were given to the trainees and certificates of appreciation to the sponsor, partners and resource persons.



Mr. David Kibuuka presenting a Certificate of Participation to Mrs. Maureen Masamba



Mr. Njagi presenting a Certificate of Participation to Mr. Gabriel Kitua

APNET'S REGIONAL TRAINING FOR TRAINERS FROM WEST, CENTRAL AND NORTHERN AFRICA IN GUINEA



The second batch was directed to train trainers from West, Central and Northern Africa from **16th – 18th November, 2021** at the Palm Camayenne Hotel, Conakry, Republic of Guinea. The Board of APNET acknowledges the contributions of Kopinor (Main Sponsor), WIPO (Sponsor and Partner) and Coact Imprints Pvt Ltd., India (Sponsor). The Training was hosted by National Publishers Association of Guinea (ASSEGUI).

THE TRAINING INVOLVED 7 RESOURCE PERSONS, 1 MODERATOR AND TRAINEES FROM AFRICAN COUNTRIES. THE TABLE BELOW CONTAINS THE LIST OF THE PARTICIPANTS.

No.	NAME	COUNTRY	ORGANISATION
RESOURCE PERSONS			
	Samuel Kolawole	Nigeria	APNET Chairman &CEO, University Press Plc, Ibadan
	Asare Konadu Yamoah	Ghana	CEO, Adaex Educational Publications Ltd President, Ghana Publishers Association & APNET Board Member
	Lawrence Kibaara Njagi	Kenya	CEO, Mountain Top Publishers President, Kenya Publishers Association & APNET Treasurer
	Richard Crabbe	USA	International Communications and Publishing Consultant Past Chairman, APNET
	Lilian Kawira Mutegi	Kenya	Managing Director of Uptyke Consulting Ltd,
	Two trainers from WIPO: Michelle Woods	Switzerland	Director of the Copyright Law Division at WIPO
	Thomas Dillon		A legal counsellor in the Building Respect for IP Division
MODERATOR			
	James Odhiambo	Kenya	Executive Officer, Kenya Publishers Association
TRAINEES			
No.	NAME	COUNTRY	PUBLISHING HOUSE
	Aliou Sow	Guinea	Chairman of the National Publishers Association of Guinea (ASSEGUI) Past Chairman, APNET
	D. Gérard Houessou	Benin	President ASSEDIB, President ASSAC-livre & CEO of Éditions du Flamboyant and Communications.
	Anges Félix N'DAKPRI	Côte d'Ivoire	President of the Publishers Association of Côte d'Ivoire& Managing Director of GAD Editions
	Dr Emad Eldeen Elakehal	Egypt	Founder and MD of Ibiidi Publishing
	Kwabena Agyepong	Ghana	Managing Director of Education Logistics (Gh) Ltd. and the Honorary Treasurer of the Ghana Publishers Association
	Safaa Ouali (Morocco)	Morocco	Administrative Manager, Editions le Fenec
	Dr. Samuel Okere	Nigeria	An Associate Professor of Publishing and Media Studies & the Director of Babcock University Press
	Moustapha Ndoye	Senegal	Director of Excel Publishers
	Mohamed Lamine Camara	Guinea	Éditions L'Harmattan
	Jean-Baptiste Zebelamou	Guinea	Director of Innov Editions.
	Mamadou Laho Barry	Guinea	Elohim
	Abdoulaye Fode Ndione	Senegal	Founding Member of Senegalese Association of Publishers
	Pépé Guilavogui	Guinea	Editorial and Marketing Officer, Éditions Ganndal

The training was very successful and the participants had the opportunity to acquire new knowledge. APNET is expecting more workshops at the national level.

At the end of the training, certificates of participation were given to the trainees and certificates of appreciation to the sponsors, partners and resource persons.



Mr. Richard Crabbe presenting a Certificate of Participation to Mr. Aliou Sow



Safaa Ouali (Morocco) presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Richard Crabbe (a resource person)

APNET ADOPTS A NEW CONSTITUTION



The amended Constitution of APNET was adopted on 21st July, 2021 by the General Council of the African Publishers Network.

The Board formed APNET Constitution Review Committee on 31st July, 2020 with responsibility of reviewing the APNET Constitution to be more suitable and in line with the modern trends of the publishing industry and the best practices for a continental organisation.

The six-member committee comprised:

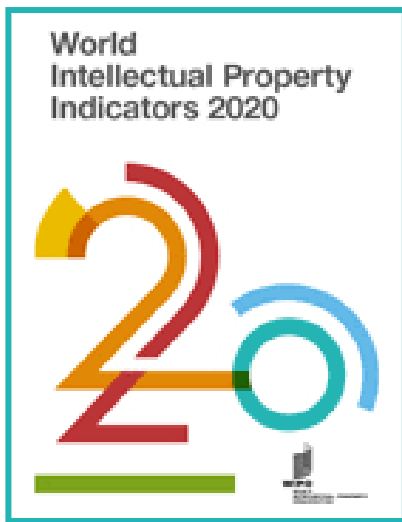
1. Mr. Asare Konadu Yamoah, the Chairman of the Constitution Review Committee; Board Member and President of Ghana Publishers Association.
2. Mr. Masimba T. Madondo Zimbabwe (Southern Africa) Chairperson of Zimbabwe Book Publishers Association.

3. Mrs. Maureen Lynda Masamba Malawi (Central Africa) President of Book Publishers Association of Malawi.
4. Mrs. Amina Hachimi Alaoui Morocco (Northern Africa) Founding Member of Professional Union of Publishers of Morocco.
5. Mr. Gbadega Adedapo Nigeria (West Africa) Former President of Nigerian Publishers Association.
6. Mr. Samuel Majwega Musoke Uganda (East Africa) President of Uganda Publishers Association

Ernest Oppong (Ag. Executive Director) was the secretary to the Committee.

WIPI REPORT: THE STATE OF THE GLOBAL PUBLISHING INDUSTRY IN 2020

— Source: IPA



In a newly published report by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), data gathered from a worldwide publishing industry survey done in 2020 suggests that countries had very mixed experiences in the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic. However, it is important to note that available data indicators vary from country to country.

The data reveals interesting dynamics and trends. The United States reported the largest sales revenue (USD 23.6 billion), followed by Japan, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Italy. It also appears that trade sector revenue accounted for 50% or more of total revenue for 15 of the 18 countries for which 2020 data by sector is available – while in Brazil, the Netherlands, and Turkey, educational sector revenue made up the majority of total revenue.

The report also highlighted the growing significance of digital/audio formats, the share of which ranged from 2% in Brazil to 33.1% in Japan and generated a high percentage of total revenue in Nordic countries.

The U.K. generated the largest share of total revenue from foreign markets, followed by Spain, New Zealand, and Portugal, while foreign market share remained below 5% for the remainder of countries. Online sales generated a highly significant portion of total publishing industry revenue in the UK, Brazil, Malta, Sweden, Turkey and the U.S. Elsewhere, like Spain, Italy and New Zealand, brick and mortar sales continue to generate the bulk of total revenue.

Overall, there was a sharp decline reported in titles published in 2020 compared with the previous year – except in Italy, which saw a 25.6% growth. Excluding several notable exceptions – Belarus, Mexico, and New Zealand – in all countries where data was available, the trade sector accounted for more than half of all titles published. Interestingly, Norway and Sweden saw the largest shares of digital/audio formatted titles published (51.5% and 57.3%, respectively).

The total revenue generated from sales of children’s books amounted to USD 8.8 billion, with France, Turkey, Italy, Germany and Norway leading the world in highest number of children’s books titles published in 2020. The highest number of books published and deposited in a national repository was recorded by Germany – though this number actually constitutes a significant decrease in deposits from 693,722 in 2019 to 435,324 in 2020. This seems to indicate a larger trend, as among the 53 countries for which data is available for 2019 and 2020, only 13 reported an increase in the number of books deposited in 2020 while the remaining 40 saw a decrease.

Finally, Finland reported the greatest music item deposits in 2020, while the most films and videos were deposited in Japan. The U.S., with 3.9 million registered ISBNs, was by far the biggest user of the ISBN identifier in 2020, followed by the Republic of Korea, Germany, China, the U.K., and Indonesia. Yet still, both the U.S. and the U.K. reported fewer ISBN registrations in 2020 than in 2019, perhaps due to the negative impact of the COVID-19-related restrictions imposed in these two countries.

Frankfurter Buchmesse

The report and its findings were recently discussed in-depth during session entitled “[The Impact of COVID on the Global Publishing Industry](#)”, which took place at the 2021 Frankfurter Buchmesse and is now available in the media library. During the 45-minute virtual session, a diverse panel of speakers explored how different members of the publishing industry have been impacted by the pandemic in a variety of ways and how the community has come together to weather the worst of the pandemic. The session was moderated by Benedicte Page, Deputy Editor of *The Bookseller* and featured IPA President, **Bodour Al Qasimi** as well as **Carsten Fink**, Chief Economist at WIPO; **Andre Breedt**, Managing Director of **Nielsen Book**; and **John Degen**, Chair of the **International Authors Forum**.

40TH SHARJAH INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR ATTRACTS 1.69 MILLION ATTENDEES

— By Ed Nawotka



The 40th Sharjah International Book Fair was held November 3-13 in the United Arab Emirates. The SIBF attracted 1,692,463 visitors representing 109 nationalities. In all, some 1,632 publishers attended from 83 countries. Spain was the guest of honor country. This year, the professional program attracted 550 people for panel discussions, rights meetings, and networking.

The show, which caters to the public and offers books for sale, conducted more than 1,000 activities, including 440 cultural sessions, 355 shows, performances, seminars and workshops for children, and sessions with more than 85 authors, including Nobel Prize-winner Abdulrazak Gurnah; TV host Trevor Noah; and novelists Yasmina Khadra, Amitav Ghosh, and Chetan Bhagat.

“On these strengths, SIBF has emerged as the world’s largest book fair this year,” said Ahmed bin Rakkad Al Ameri, chairman of the Sharjah Book Authority, which runs the fair. “The conclusion of the book fair marks not the end but the beginning of a new journey of cultural excellence for the UAE and the Arab region – one in which the distinct voices of writers and intellectuals are heard and begin to resonate with the whole world. We look forward to seeing more and more creative minds contributing to humanity by achieving shared developmental goals through cultural appreciation and exchange.”

Sharjah will serve as the guest of honor at three major European book fairs next year, including the London Book Fair, Bologna International Children’s Book Fair, and the Guadalajara International Book Fair.

• Continued from page 9

4. PROGRAMMES OF NIBF 2021

- a. International Conference
- b. Publishers Seminar
- c. Librarians Workshop
- d. Booksellers’ Conference & Book Presentation
- e. Authors Groove
- f. Spelling Bee and Mathematics Competitions
- g. Interactions and Presentations by Nigerian Society of the Blind;
- h. Presentation and Discussion by UN SDG Book Club, African Chapter;
- i. Discussion and Interaction by Reproduction Rights Society of Nigeria;
- j. Interaction and Book Reading by Network of Book Clubs and Reading Promoters in Nigeria;
- k. Launching of Dr Wale Okediran’s Book by Evans Publishing Group;
- l. Children’s Book Reading by Laterna Ventures Limited; and
- m. Seminar on: Bringing Book Manufacturing Nearer to the Market Place – A Post Covid Strategy for Attainment of Local Book Production by Chartered Institute of Professional Printers of Nigeria.

NIGERIA INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR 2022

The 21st Nigeria International Book Fair is scheduled to hold from Thursday, 12th May to Saturday, 14th May, 2022 at Harbour Point Event Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos State.

The book fair’s theme is: Copyright and Sustainable Growth in the Book Ecosystem: Setting a New Agenda.

Registration for the book fair is in progress.

Visit www.nibfng.org for more information and registration.

• Continued from page 4

- This is a particular concern in social and human sciences, but also in other scientific areas, such as medical research. Freedom to publish scientific research is vital in all scientific areas.
- At the moment, most developing countries (including African countries) don't have the financial resources to implement incentives for research, content production and curation. If international funding is entirely channelled to bear the costs of technical infrastructure, that will limit African publications to be made available.
- Imposing open access publication models does not bring benefits to authors and publishing industries in developing countries when public funding is directed only at financing technical infrastructure, failing to provide incentives for content production and curation, and ignoring the need to prioritize professional publication of research produced by authors and scholars in developing countries.
- Despite the virtues of open access models, the existence of and access to premium published content continues to be important.
- The reasons why publishing in specific journals is important relate to the value offered by those publications, notably peer reviewing processes, quality filters, discoverability of content and curation services specifically designed for content to be made avail-

able to relevant audiences, who in turn value the curation they benefit from.

- Premium professionally published content is important for scientific progress, but also for researchers' professional rank, and should continue to be available for scientific authors at their discretion.
- In that regard, public policies that force authors to publish exclusively under open access models are unfair to the author, as they prevent the author from accessing the publishing market and as a result impair the authors' ability to reach suitable audiences.

How Can The Draft Recommendation Be Improved To Benefit African Countries?

- Encourage policies and programs to fund content production and research by African authors, scholars, and publishers.
- Establish measures to preserve and promote the sustainability of independent publishing industries in Africa. Publishing industries are vital to preserve Africa's cultural heritage and ensure that African voices are heard at a global level.
- Include a provision to safeguard that any policies stemming from the recommendation are without prejudice to copyright protection, which is the bedrock of the publishing industry, and freedom to publish under different publication models.
- Set out transparency mechanisms to avoid predatory publishing that brings no value to

authors or to audiences and misappropriates open access publication models without the necessary curation.

- Encourage governments to keep scientific research and publishing industries harmless in contexts of trade sanctions.

APNET invites UNESCO, AU and other partnering organisations to critically look into the aforementioned challenges and possible solutions made and address them in the Draft Recommendation so that the interests and motivations of researchers, authors and publishers of scientific publications do not die. Considering the perspectives of the African publishing industry would help to sustain the industry. APNET is always available for further engagement to help make this initiative mutually beneficial to all actors especially in the publishing industry.



EDITORIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Mr. Nshimirimana Dieudonné (President, Burundian Book Publishers Association)
- Mr. Mpuka Radinku (Exec. Sec., Publishers Association of South Africa)
- Mr. Emmanuel Abiola Abimbola (Exec. Sec., Nigerian Publishers Association)
- Mr. James Odhiambo (Exec. Sec., Kenya Publishers Association)
- Mr. Ernest Oppong (Ag. Exec. Dir., APNET)



NEWSLETTER

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 Telephone: +233 302 912764 / +233 24 694 6773 / +233209115191
 Email: info.africanpublishers@gmail.com / www.african-publishers.net