



Patron's Note **DR G V G KRISHNAMURTY**

Doctor of Laws, Jhansi and
London (Honoris Causa)
Former Election
Commissioner of India

I deem it a great honour to have been chosen as a Patron for a prestigious organisation like Afro-Asian Book Council, devoted to promotion of books and knowledge, not only in our two continents Asia and Africa but all over the world.

Two quotations from a couple of famous people come to my mind spontaneously. One is what the great Roman orator and thinker of Julius Ceaser's time, Marcus tullius cicero said, 'a room without books is a body without soul'. The other is what Charles Eliot said, 'books are the quietest and most constant of friends, they are the most accessible and wisest couelors and the most patient teachers.'

Books are thus hooks to human hearts, staple diet to minds and igniters of thought and creation. The Afro-Asian Book Council is a poineering organisation, dedicated to aggressively and effectively promote all organs of the book industry among the member countries. It has got a very resourceful executive committee, with a dynamic leader in the book in Shri Sukumar Das.

The council promotes book fairs all over the world from time to time and participates in exchange programmes encouraging publishing of books disseminating knowledge to all those who want to better their lives. I am sure the council will play a major role in the future for the world of knowledge.

from the desk of
the Secretary General
SUKUMAR DAS

With the monsoon setting into Delhi, AABC was infused with a new impetus. We have a new Director, Dr Terry O'Brien, a bestselling author, broadcaster, quiz enthusiast, and educationist. We have on board the 'Who's Who' from the publishing industry joining us. I firmly believe we have a **TEAM: Together Each Aim's Met.**

New members have joined us and committees have been formed for us to usher in more ebullience. Three cheers for all!

Director's Note
DR TERRY O'BRIEN

Asia and Africa make almost 64 per cent of the world. Yet the book-scape of this part of the world needs to be sketched the world over. Thus AABC (Afro-Asian Book Council) is committed to cross borders and speak in one voice. We need to assert our presence and this we shall. Yes we can. Join us, friends of these two continents.

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(Effective from February 5, 2010)

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BOOK FAIR NEWS

'Stars and Starlets'... and Publishing?

FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR, 9-13 OCTOBER 2013

Frankfurt, Germany

Hollywood goes to Frankfurt. Try something new with us this year! You give us the names of your authors, and we'll give them a spot on the Walk of Fame. In addition to our popular, tried and tested 'Stars & Starlets' list, this year, we're offering an additional new service that will allow you to promote your authors and ensure that they show up on the radar screen of our press attendees. We'll bring the exclusive Walk of Fame to Frankfurt and arrange a proper red-carpet-style flurry of camera flashes. Be part of the action and take advantage of our network of over 9,000 journalists.

MARCUS GOGOLIN

Libraries

DELHI BOOK FAIR, 23 AUGUST-02 SEPTEMBER 2013

Pragati Maidan, New Delhi,

This year, the theme of the Delhi Book fair is Libraries and Readership. No one underestimates the role of libraries in the growth of readership. Public libraries propagate the book-reading habit. In its report to the nation, the National Knowledge Commission, set up by the Prime Minister, made recommendations on libraries and accordingly, a National Mission on Libraries was set up. This year, the National Library of Kolkata and Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation, which is supporting a network of 30,000 libraries in different states are both participants in the fair. Bravo!

Sri Lanka Beckons

COLOMBO INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR, 14-22 SEPTEMBER, 2013

Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference

Hall (BMICH), Colombo, Sri Lanka

For the 15th year, Sri Lanka's largest book exhibition, organised by the Sri Lanka Book Publishers Association, will showcase 500 stalls of local and foreign publishers and around 150 publishing companies who will participate in the fair.

Export Markets

PUBLICON 2013, SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2013,

FICCI Federation House, New Delhi

PubliCon 2013 will focus on 'Export Markets' for books and content, with Africa and South Asia in the spotlight. The sessions explore the potential for export of books and educational content from India to other emerging economies. Eminent publishers, key stakeholders from India and abroad and delegates are expected to come together to discuss and debate the scope of book markets in emerging economies, the role India can play in the dissemination of knowledge as well as the publishing industry in general.

africa

Books for Africa help alleviate poverty of the imagination where imagination is most needed – where war and hunger, corruption and injustice seek to crush inspiration.

ALEXANDRA FULLER

author of the bestselling book
Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight

...bringing books closer to people for better education and self-improvement.

Nigeria International Book Fair, 1-6 May 2013.

asia

The next generation is on screen for news, books, social networking, routine interaction and search. Publishers have much to gain from figuring out how to play the game.

CYRIL PEREIRA

Co-chair of Asian Publishing Convention (APC), 11-12 July, Manila, Manila Phillipines

Hopefully the teachers and the pupils will be able to make use of the new libraries in their schools.
BookBus Project, India Blog, Rajasthan

Publishing Next's Conference

**Third edition of
Publishing Next's
Conference**

20-21 SEPTEMBER 2013

Panaji, Goa.

Publishing Next' annual conference platform brings together publishing professionals within an environment that fosters creative dialogue and intellectually stimulating exchange of ideas. This platform concentrates exclusively on new technologies and business practices and provides an opportunity for small and large publishers alike to acquaint themselves with advances in publishing and printing technologies.

The third edition aims to address:

- book distribution • retail
- neglect of Indian language publishing
- diminishing readership
- creating 'purely Indian content'
- growth of self-publishing
- problems of small and independent publishers and authors
- fostering entrepreneurship within the publishing sector

Awards

AABC's own member, **Mr Rasu Ramakrishnan**, received the Library Association of Singapore's Lifetime Contribution Award from Singapore President, Tony Tan Keng Yam at the International Federation of Library Associations' (IFLA) World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) dinner reception on 18 August 2013 for his pivotal role in promoting knowledge. Congratulations, Mr Ramakrishnan!

Dr Terry O'Brien, Director of AABC, has been awarded the Author's Recognition Award (H.D. Mehra Award) from Rupa & Co along with a cash award of Rs 1 Lakh. The other recipients of this award were Ruskin Bond, Chetan Bhagat and Gulzar. Congratulations, Dr O'Brien!

A thought to ponder upon

In the West, e-books are perceived as the future. But can we say the same of developing nations? Low literacy rates and poor accessibility of technological devices pose a challenge particularly in the rural and poorer urban sectors. Yet is there a market? How big is it? Can their reach be widespread?

Notable Quote True there is a nose-diving of the Indian rupee, but it has helped the exporter.

Sukumar Das
Secretary General,
Afro-Asian Book Council
Managing Director, NCBA Exports



The Afro-Asian Book Council was founded in 1992. Our main objective is to provide a platform for Asian and African members of the book publishing industry to achieve intellectual self-reliance through mutual assistance and cooperation between Africa, Asia and the world. Towards this aim, AABC

- organises exhibitions
- holds training programmes
- engages in dialogue
- holds seminars
- addresses grievances

The Preface to the Constitution of AABC reads: The cardinal theme of the Council is to bring the authors, translators, publishers, printers and others involved in book development in Asian and African countries on a single forum. The purpose is to work towards intellectual self-reliance and cooperation conducive for the smooth flow of books and Rights in the world market in general and Afro-Asian countries in particular.

aabookcouncil.org