

Promoting & strengthening bibliodiversity together

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF INDEPENDENT PUBLISHERS



PREPARATORY WORKSHOPS – 2013 / GENERAL MEETING – 2014

WHY AN INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY?

We, 82 independent publishers and 9 collectives – representing over 360 publishers – from 45 countries in Latin America, North America, Asia, Africa and Europe, are united on solidarity grounds as one alliance, the International Alliance of Independent Publishers. We created this alliance in 2002 to make our voices heard, to take untraveled roads, to **build a new solidarity movement** and to **oppose all forms of oppression** (economic, political, religious, and ideological).

FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS, WE HAVE BEEN PROMOTING BIBLIODIVERSITY THROUGH:

- ▶ **Solidarity co-publishing**, copyright transfers, translations (in English, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, French, Persian, Portuguese...);
- ▶ **Advocacy** (against predation, censorship, the lack of public policies to support books industry);
- ▶ **Research and training** (physical and online resource centres, in situ training designed by the beneficiary and adapted to individual professional practices);
- ▶ **Human and intercultural meetings** (essential to the development of collective projects based on trust and mutual understanding).

In this age of deep transformation, we wish to convene a meeting to reflect on our practices, listen to **new ideas** and include **new generations of publishers** who share our concerns. Considering two new factors – **emergence of new digital actors and global financial crisis** – we wish to **question our role and reaffirm the issue of bibliodiversity**.

In this spirit, we have decided to hold the **International Meeting of Independent Publishers**, which will be a series of **preparatory and thematic workshops in 2013**, closing with an **Assembly of allies (general meeting) in 2014**. The whole process will lead to:

► **propositions and recommendations towards bibliodiversity aimed at public authorities** (on issues of taxes, textbook markets, donations of books, imports and exports, support funds for translation and co-publishing, supports for national collectives of independent publishers, etc.);

► **cooperative and innovative publishing between independent publishers, based on equity principles** (development of digital platforms for independent publishers, development of new economic models, (re)appropriation and ownership of literary spaces by publishers, examination of cultural taboo areas, potential of digital technologies on the spreading of ideas, sustainable exchanges of practices and practical knowledge, long term professionalisation, etc.);

► **new forms of partnerships with other professionals from the book industry meeting in the context of bibliodiversity** (creation and development of alliances, collectives and cooperatives, mutualisation of methods and tools, facilitation of inter-professional exchanges, experimentation with free software, dialogues with new media, setting up of solidarity alternatives, etc.).

Gathering more than 100 independent publishers from the five continents, the International Meeting of independent publishers is a unique event, professional and intercultural. Professionals, public authorities, institutions and civil society representatives are invited to join us to strengthen and keep bibliodiversity alive.

PARIS, ON 26 OCTOBER 2012

By the **International Committee of Independent Publishers:**

Nouri Abid (*Med Ali publishers, Tunisia*),

Serge Dontchueng Kouam (*Presses universitaires d'Afrique, Cameroon*),

Susan Hawthorne (*Spinifex Press, Australia*),

Hamid Medhipour (*Forough Verlag, Germany*),

Araken Ribeiro Gomes (*Contra Capa, Brazil*),

Juan Carlos Sáez (*JC Sáez Editor, Chile*)

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY, A GUIDE

1st STEP - 2013 PREPARATORY WORKSHOPS: FROM PRACTICES TO PROPOSITIONS PROMOTING BIBLIODIVERSITY

Throughout 2013, independent publishers will meet in Latin America, Africa and Europe, in the context of preparatory and thematic workshops. The 2014 general meeting in Cape Town (South Africa) will close this process. These workshops have a tri-fold objective: develop and mutualise cooperative and innovative work practices between independent publishers; sustainably strengthen professional capacities and human relations amongst the book industry's actors; formulate concrete propositions towards bibliodiversity.

THE WORKSHOPS WILL BE HELD OVER THREE TO FIVE DAYS, AND ARE STRUCTURED ON A COMMON TEMPLATE:

- ▶ **Practical training** (with the intervention of professionals and/or specialists, depending on the themes) and **knowledge and experience sharing** based on concrete projects and little known initiatives;
- ▶ **Formulation of propositions and recommendations towards bibliodiversity.**

For workshops to meet expectations, publishers will design their own daily programme, based on the local context in which they operate and on their concerns. As beneficiaries and actors, the transmission of practical knowledge and practices is at the heart of these days.

To enrich these workshops and promote cooperation, some professionals from the book industry, associative structures, and private and public institutions are invited to share original projects and unique experiences that could be repeated in the publishing sector.

The conclusions of each workshop are centralised by the International Committee of Independent Publishers – and redistributed to participants – to collectively build the 2014 general meeting' agenda.



EXAMPLES OF WORKSHOPS TO PROMOTE BIBLIODIVERSITY

► **Books donation: rethinking the system**

In the margins of the Paris Book Fair (France), March 2013

In partnership with the Ile-de-France Region



► **African youth literature: what visibility in the international market?**

In the margins of the Bologna Book Fair (Italy), March 2013

In partnership with the Bologna Book Fair

► **Digital publishing, what issues for bibliodiversity in the Arab world?**

In the margins of a book fair (Algiers, Beirut, Cairo, Tunis...)

► **Distribution of human and social sciences works: what innovative strategies to succeed?**

In the margins of the Frankfurt Book Fair (Germany), October 2013



▶ **Fair trade books: tomorrow's issue**

Co-publishing, copyrights transfers and other solidarity editorial partnerships

In the margins of a book fair (Abidjan, Casablanca, Dakar, Ouagadougou...)



2nd STEP – THE 2014 GENERAL MEETING IN CAPE TOWN: ONE HUNDRED INDEPENDENT PUBLISHERS UNITED FOR BIBLIODIVERSITY

After the 2013 preparatory workshops, a general meeting will be held in 2014, in Cape Town.

In order to achieve this, and in line with practical case studies and sharing of practical knowledge during the workshops, it is essential for publishers to discuss the evolution of bibliodiversity in their countries and publishing houses since 2007:

- ▶ **How does bibliodiversity** materialise itself on a daily basis for a Malian publisher, an Indian publisher, an Argentinian publisher?
- ▶ **How does independent publishing** empower itself in the various countries?
- ▶ **How does the publishing field** in Madagascar, Peru or Afghanistan professionalise itself?

The general meeting, a unique intercultural and multilingual space in the field of publishing, is in itself a reflection of international independent publishing. **For four days, publishers will discuss their background, for some their struggle, share their experiences and the risks they face.**

Communication digital tools offer the possibility for publishers to be in regular and quasi instant contact – but they cannot replace human exchanges, essential to trust and solidary relations characteristic of a network such as the Alliance's.

The general meeting is moreover a decisive moment for the Alliance's governance: directions for the coming years, and the ensuing programme of activities, will be decided upon there, collectively. In the spirit of long term capacity building of its members, the Alliance therefore continues to work towards an international solidarity professional network – to promote the circulation and access to works and ideas.

As a unique event, the general meeting primarily serves publishers' desire to federate around common wishes: to promote and strengthen bibliodiversity together.

PUBLIC AUTHORITIES, INSTITUTIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS, MEDIA... BECOME A PARTNER OF THIS EVENT!

BOOK PROFESSIONALS, CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS, READERS: PARTICIPATE TO THE GENERAL MEETING, YOUR OPINION IS ESSENTIAL!





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