
ANNUAL REPORT

AUGUST 2013 – JULY 2014

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1. Introduction

August 2013 to July 2014 was another exciting year for the Book Council. The council was able to grow its existing core programmes, especially the Asian Festival of Children's Content and the Academy of Literary Arts & Publishing, while continuing to provide excellent content in its other programmes throughout the year. The significant development this year is due to the marked increase and seniority of the staff employed.

2. Administration

This period saw the Council not only increasing the number of staff but also recruiting staff at senior level. Last year staff strength was at a maximum of 12 persons approved by the Exco. The increase of staff was necessary to undertake new programmes and awards as well as a marked enlargement and improvement in the quality of existing programmes.

Three senior staff appointments at Assistant Director level were created to provide for wider responsibility and career development. These positions as well as that of Deputy Director facilitated career structure within the Council as well as enabling planning for succession.

a. **Book Council Staff**

The Council employs a total of 10 full time staff including:

- 1 Executive Director
- 1 Deputy Director
- 3 Assistant Directors
- 1 Vice Principal, ALAP
- 1 Senior Manager, Festivals
- 1 Manager, Admin & Finance
- 2 Executives

In addition the council continues to employ part-time staff and to outsource work in the following areas.

- Accounting
- Website Development and Maintenance
- Technical Support
- Artistic Director (SISF)

3. Finance

This is first time during the last ten years that there has been a deficit in the budget. Over this period the Council's budget had increased from \$ 50,000 to more than a million dollars. The Council's balance at the end of the FY 2014 of \$976,624 is healthy. Nevertheless the deficit of \$302,512 is heavy compared to FY 2013 surplus of \$75,623.

It must be explained that the expenditure for this financial year were high and it was undertaken with the clear objective that we had a healthy balance and hence this was the best time to review staff and office needs and prepare the Council to manage the growth of its programmes, projects and services in the following decade.

We have incurred a shortfall for the following reasons:

a. **Increase in Staff**

Staff numbers increased from 9 in the FY 2013 to 12 in FY 2014. We have not recruited though 2 of the 12 staff have resigned in this financial year.

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b. Decrease in donations

There was a marked decrease in donations. This financial year was a difficult year for Council in fund raising. At the same time pledged donations have not been forthcoming. Some donations that were pledged earlier were received after the financial year.

c. Equipment Upgrading

The Council undertook upgrading of the computer systems. Minor office renovations were made to accommodate additional staff.

d. PR and Media Relations

Additional expenditure was incurred with the engagement of a PR Company to manage Public Relations and Media Relations for our Festivals.

e. Publications

The Council undertook the publication of titles such as *Water and Beyond Folktales, Myths and Legends* (collection of AFCC papers) which required additional funds.

f. NAC Grant

The Council's last tranche of grant quantum from NAC of about \$60,000 is not reflected in the budget as it has not yet been received. Taking the following points into consideration the deficit would not be as large as it appears:

- NAC grant for the last quarter of FY2014.
- Collection of pledged donations (this would amount to about \$150,000).
- Application for Cultural Matching Fund which some of these donations would be eligible for.

It is estimated the total deficit would be considerably reduced when the outstanding sums due to the Council in FY 2014 are collected and accounted for.

Nevertheless, during the present financial year a more robust drive for donations and sponsorship will be undertaken and a conscious attempt will be made to present a balanced budget at the next AGM. In the meantime, all programme costings are being reviewed to see where additional savings, if any, can be made to reduce overall expenditure.

4. Staff Development

a. Staff Promotions and Awards

- Mr Kenneth Quek was promoted to be the Deputy Director in July 2013
- Mr R Ramachandran was awarded with the Life Time Achievement Award by the Library Association of Singapore in August 2013.
- Mr R Ramachandran was presented with an Award for Excellence by The Asia/Africa Book Council at the New Delhi World Book Fair in February 2014, for the promotion of reading in the region.

b. Conferences and Book Fairs

Staff were sent to the following conferences and book fairs from August 2013 to July 2014.

- Asia Pacific Writers Conference 2013, Bangkok

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- Children's Media Conference 2013, Sheffield
- Shanghai International Children's Book Fair 2013
- Bookaroo 2013, Delhi
- Taipei International Book Exhibition 2014
- New Delhi World Book Fair 2014
- London Book Fair 2014
- Asia Pacific Writers Conference 2014, Singapore

c. Local Training

Staff were sent for local training

- Workforce Development Authority courses
- Institute for Adult Learning courses (Advanced Certificate in Training and Assessment (ACTA))

d. Overseas Participation and Presentation

Mr R Ramachandran went on the following trips to where he presented AFCC and the bookcouncil's other events.

- Tokyo, Japan (with SCBWI Japan)
- New Delhi, India (with National Book Trust India)
- Gauhati, Shillong, India (with Asian Confluence)
- CEOSpeak, New Delhi (with National Book Trust India)
- Oxford Bookshop, New Delhi (with SCBWI India)

In addition, Mr Ramachandran travelled to Kuala Lumpur to attend the launch of Mohana's Gill's book *Myanmar: Cuisine, Culture and Customs*.

Mr Kenneth Quek travelled to Kuala Lumpur to attend the awards presentation of the Calistro Prize.

5. Singapore Writers Centre

a. Revamped Website

The council's website was redesigned and relaunched in January 2014. This was done primarily because the original design was not able to cope with the ever-increasing amounts of information being added, and it had become difficult for new visitors to the site to find relevant information. The redesign makes it easier and quicker to use.

b. Advice Centre

The council continues to give local authors and self-publishers advice and guidance either in person, over the telephone, or via email. Common queries include:

- ISBN application/legal deposit requirements
- Publishing process and writing
- Introductions to publishers and agents
- Awards
- Copyright Act
- Participation in Book Fairs

c. Writers Resource Kit

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After its third edition in 2011, we are looking to publish a fourth edition in 2015.

6. Festivals

a. **Asian Festival of Children's Content**

AFCC 2014 was a success with an increase in the number of tickets sold and also increased attendance for public events. We nearly took the National Library Building to full capacity, occasionally having seven concurrent events going on at the same time.

The country focus featuring India was a resounding success with Indian partner National Book Trust showcasing the best of Indian content and creators.

The following books were published for AFCC:

- *All About Rice! - An Annotated Bibliography of Rice Themed Stories*
- *One Big Story*, a compilation of papers and interviews from AFCC 2013
- 2 translated picture books: *Water* (into Tamil and Hindi) and *The Crane and the Crab* (into Chinese, Malay, and Tamil)
- 3 bilingual picture books: *The Naughty Mynah* by Evelyn S Wong (Chinese), *Where is My Home* by Nur-el Huda Jaafar (Malay), and *The Snail Who Didn't Want His Shell* by R Chandran (Tamil)
- *Near and Dear*, a co-publication with WritingWA in Perth, featuring short stories for children by seven Singaporean authors and seven Western Australian authors.

b. **Singapore International Storytelling Festival**

SISF 2013 featured a compelling lineup of storytellers from around the world. The workshops within the Asian Congress of Storytellers were small but intensive and the International Storyteller Showcase performances continued to be popular with the public with 3 sold out shows.

An Asian Stories showcase featuring local storytellers was also well attended, and there were additional specialised sessions for local foundations and institutions.

SISF 2013 had an increase of outreach sessions at schools, institutions and the National Library across Singapore.

c. **All In! Young Writers Media Festival**

All In! 2014 repeated the successful formula of earlier editions. With venue sponsorship from The Arts House, the students and young writers who attended were able to listen to and meet with practitioners and experts in the field.

d. **Asian Expressions**

After consultation with various partners, it was decided that it would be more suitable this year to rework the format of Asian Expressions. Instead of a four day event (2 days conference and 2 days workshops), individual events would be spread out over several months, and held in conjunction with the Language Months spearheaded by the National Heritage Board. In addition, in 2014, the Council intends to organise translation workshops concurrently with the Asia Pacific Writers Conference.

The first such event was *Menterjemahkan Kesusasteraan Melayu* held on 7 Sep 2013, in conjunction with NHB's Malay Language Month.

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7. Academy of Literary Arts & Publishing

a. Workshops

No.	Workshop Title	Trainer	Date	Attendance
1	Travel Writing in Digital Age & Publishing Your Own Travel Guide	Daniel Quadt	5-7 Aug 2013	5
2	Build Your Student's Strengths in Narrative Writing	Felix Cheong	17 Aug 2013	9
3	Young Adult (YA) Fiction 101: Fantasy	Samantha de Silva	7 Sep 2013	7
4	Using the Internet as a Tool for Publishing and Promoting Your Book	Simon Sharp	16 Sep 2013	11
5	Staying Ahead in the Digital Revolution	Simon Sharp	17-18 Sep 2013	6
6	Write a Memoir to Remember	Josephine Chia	5 Oct 2013	7
7	Writing and Illustrating Bilingual Picture Books	Lee Kow Fong	10-11 Oct 2013	13
8	Honing Your Craft: Advanced Copyediting and Proofreading	Shelley Kenigsberg	21 Oct 2013	30
9	Structural Editing of Non-Fiction	Shelley Kenigsberg	23 Oct 2013	31
10	Structural Editing of Fiction	Shelley Kenigsberg	25 Oct 2013	12
11	Did I Hear You Write? Using Storytelling to Support Children's Creative Writing	Sheila Wee	18 Jan 2014	20
12	Write Your Own Picture Book	Dr George Jacobs	22 Feb 2014	8
13	Write Better at the Workplace	Swee Leng Teoh	24 Feb 2014	19
14	Translation Rights	Samuel Seow	26 Feb 2014	11
15	Copyrights for ePublication	Samuel Seow	28 Feb 2014	14
16	Engaged Reading: How to Optimise the Reading Experience with Your Child	Kah Ying Choo	8 Mar 2014	2
17	Judge by the Cover	Xavier Comas	27-28 Mar 2014	20
18	Online Copywriting and Search Engine Optimisation: How to Create Compelling Content that Attracts and Engages Readers Online	Tim Tucker	7 Apr 2014	20
19	Social Media for Publishers: How to Use Social Media to Connect with Your Customers and Drive Your Business	Tim Tucker	8 Apr 2014	25
20	Introduction to Copyediting	Swee Leng Teoh	25 Apr 2014	28
21	Vivid: Making Characters Come Alive	Verena Tay	26 Apr 2014	17

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22	Structuring Stories for Picture Books	Ana Sousa Gavin	26 Apr 2014	20
23	Fiction Writing (Advanced)	Samantha de Silva	21 Jun 2014	26
24	Dialogic Reading	Dr George Jacobs	23 Jun 2014	22
25	eBooks for Asia: How Good Content and Design Makes or Breaks an eBook (The Art of Digital Storytelling in Asia)	Saad Chinoy and Wendy Wong	26-27 Jun 2014	10
26	Advanced Copyediting and Proofreading	Shelley Kenigsberg	10 Jul 2014	18
27	Structural Editing of Non-Fiction	Shelley Kenigsberg	11 Jul 2014	8
28	Come to Your Senses: Writing With All You've Got (+ the Goldilocks Factor)	Shelley Kenigsberg	12 Jul 2014	24
29	Reading Comprehension Strategies for Children with Dyslexia	Dr Noel Chia	26 Jul 2014	26

b. New Website

ALAP was given its own sub-domain internet address (www.alap.bookcouncil.sg) as the number of courses has increased significantly from previous years. This will also improve the profile and marketability of the Academy, separately from the Council.

8. Multilingual Programs

a. Programs

No.	Program Title	Trainer	Date	Language
1	SISF 2013 – Introduction to Mandarin Storytelling	Ng Kok Keong	6 Sep 2013	Mandarin
2	SISF 2013 – Storytelling Workshop	Muriel Bloch	6 Sep 2013	French
3	SISF 2013 –Storytelling Session	Muriel Bloch	7 Sep 2013	French
4	Translating Malay Literature	Mohamed Latiff Mohamed, Peter Augustine Goh, Shaffiq Selamat, and Nur-EI Huda Jaafar	7 Sep 2013	Malay
5	Tamil Language Festival 2014 – Storytelling Workshop	AKT Media	20 Apr 2014	Tamil
6	AFCC 2014 – The Use of Picture Books in Teaching	Candy Yen	31 May 2014	Mandarin
7	AFCC 2014 – Tell a Story With Picture Cards	Malavika PC	1 Jun 2014	Tamil
8	AFCC 2014 – Reviving the Love for Malay Children's Storybooks	Jumaini Ariff	1 Jun 2014	Malay
9	AFCC 2014 – Create Stories on the Family Tree	Tang Sulan	1 Jun 2014	Mandarin

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10	AFCC 2014 – How to Make Reading Fun for Both Parent and Child	Candy Yen	1 Jun 2014	Mandarin
11	AFCC 2014 – Learn to Express the Imagination	Mily Hu	1 Jun 2014	Mandarin
12	AFCC 2014 – Story Building	Malavika PC	1 Jun 2014	Tamil
13	AFCC 2014 – Encouraging Higher Order Thinking Skills in Children	Fazeila Isa	1 Jun 2014	Malay

9. Community Outreach

a. Book Events

No.	Book Event	Date
1	Finding Jasper – Book Launch	7 Nov 2013
2	Wide Awake Sound Asleep – Book Launch	15 Mar 2014
3	Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award Event – Panel Talk-cum-Reading	26 June 2014
4	Ying Chang Compestine – Meet-the-Author Session (as part of AFCC Year-Round Events)	9 July 2014

b. NTUC Back-to-School Fair

The council participated for the second year in the NTUC Back-to-School Fair at NLB Plaza. The council was invited to curate a small programme of local authors for talks and workshops. The target audience was NTUC's low-income families, as well as PMETs.

The Book Council will continue this partnership in December 2014.

c. SmartKids Asia

The council participated in the SmartKids Asia fair at Changi Expo. A complimentary booth was taken to promote AFCC 2014 and other programmes. In addition, local bookstore Woods in the Books was invited by the Council to share the space to sell books by local authors.

d. Transmedia Events

The Book Council has hosted a few transmedia discussion events in an effort to make more contacts with people in those fields. For example, the Transmedia Meet-Up group, which boasts professionals and practitioners in those fields, has met at our offices on two occasions, while StarHub chose us to host a small presentation of their new Crowdtivate crowdsourcing platform for creative people who would be more likely to use it.

e. Other events

The Council continues to participate in suitable events organised by other societies and partners to promote books by local authors, content creators, and publishers. This enables the Council to reach new groups and previously untapped audience. These include networking sessions with Six Degrees and other such networking groups who put creative and like-minded individuals together.

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10. Publications

This was a new area which the Council decided to explore, with the intention of providing project management services to private organisations or statutory boards wishing to publish in special areas. The Council focused on publications that were fully funded, as well as translations for existing publications.

In addition if funding opportunities arose to create new publications in niche areas such as bilingual books for children, the Council was able to spearhead such projects.

Thus far, the Council has published 12 books in total. The Council has contracted distributor MarketAsia to market and distribute some of these titles for sale at local bookstores.

a. *One Big Story*

The Council published a compilation of interviews and articles provided by speakers at AFCC 2013, both in print and ebook formats. This is a continuing series at each AFCC, the first of which was last year's *Beyond Folktales*.

b. *All About Rice! - An Annotated Bibliography of Rice Themed Stories*

The Council created and published an annotated bibliography of children's picture books on the theme of rice, with a focus on titles published in Asia.

c. *Water in Tamil and Hindi*

The Council published Hindi and Tamil translations of the book *Water* in conjunction with the National Book Trust of India. Written by Christopher Cheng from Australia (AFCC Board of Advisors) and illustrated by Susanna Goho-Quek. The translations are being sold by the Council for fundraising for AFCC, along with its original English counterpart, published last year. The books were launched at AFCC 2014.

d. *Near and Dear*

The Council supported WritingWA (Perth) in the publication of *Near and Dear*, a compilation of short stories by seven Singaporean authors and seven Australian authors. The Council assisted WritingWA in sourcing for a Singaporean illustrator to supplement the stories. The book was launched at AFCC 2014, and authors will be visiting schools in both countries, where the books will be given away.

e. *HDB Picture Book*

The Council served as publishing consultant to HDB for the creation and publication of *Maddie Makes Friends*. Ho Lee Ling was the author, and Patrick Yee was the illustrator. The project included working with HDB student volunteers to generate story ideas, as well as working with students at Republic Polytechnic to generate illustration ideas.

f. *Bilingual Picture Books*

For the second year, the Council conducted a workshop in November 2013 and selected three manuscripts from participants to be published as bilingual children's picture books. Selection of the manuscripts was done by an independent panel. The following titles were launched at AFCC 2014:

- i. *The Naughty Mynah* by Evelyn S Wong (Chinese)
- ii. *Where is My Home* by Nur-el Huda Jaafar (Malay)

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iii. *The Snail Who Didn't Want His Shell* by R Chandran (Tamil)

g. Translated Picture Books

The Council submitted a proposal to the LKY Fund for Bilingualism to translate and publish the following titles in Chinese, Malay and Tamil versions:

- i. *The Crane and the Crab* by SR Nathan
- ii. *What Sallamah Didn't Know* by Sharon Ismail
- iii. *The National Pledge* (illustrated with commemorative stamps) by Dr WK Tan
- iv. *Where's Grandma?* by Edmund Lim (HABA 2013 winner)

The three translations of *The Crane and the Crab* were launched at AFCC 2014.

11. Awards

Published Books

a. Singapore Literature Prize

With the major announcement of increased funding from NAC specifically for the SLP as well as some corporate sponsorship, the prize has been expanded to offer twelve categories. Fiction and Poetry will now be considered separately, and a non-fiction category has been added, in each of the four languages: English, Chinese, Malay, and Tamil. A significant portion of the funding will now be allocated for the marketing and promotion of the winners and shortlisted authors.

The Book Council has hired the services of PR firm Bridges-MC to take care of all the publicity, marketing, design, and event management work required for the award. The awards will be presented during SWF 2014.

b. S.E.A. Write Award

Chinese author, and previous SLP winner Yeng Pway Ngon was selected to be the Singapore recipient of this award in 2013. The chair of the Singapore selection committee, Professor Edwin Thumboo, stepped down from this position mid-year. Professor Wong Yoon Wah has taken over the position.

Due to the current political situation in Thailand, the Book Council is unsure of when, or even if, the 2014 award will go forward.

c. Hedwig Anuar Children's Book Award

This biannual award was presented at AFCC 2013 to *Where's Grandma?* by Edmund Lim, published by Epigram Books. The next award will be presented in 2015, and is now open for submissions.

Unpublished Works

a. Golden Point Award

The council was appointed by the NAC to manage GPA 2013. With well over 700 entries, the final selected winners received their prizes at the award ceremony timed to coincide with the Singapore Writers Festival 2013.

The next award will be presented during SWF 2015, and submissions are likely to open in early February 2015.

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b. Scholastic Asian Book Award

This biannual award was presented at AFCC 2014 to *What Things Mean* by Sophia Marie N. Lee from the Philippines. The first runner-up was *Sula's Voyage* by Catherine Torres, also from the Philippines, and the second runner-up was *Robin and the Case of the Summer Camp Kidnapping* by Vivek Bhanot from India. The final two shortlisted candidate were *Ergo Sum* by Aditi Krishnakumar from India, and *Dragonhearted: The Fine Spell of Words Alone* by Thia Shi Min from Singapore.

The next award will be presented in 2016, and is now open for submissions.

c. Scholastic Picture Book Award

This award was previously known as the SingTel Asian Picture Book Award, however SingTel declined to continue with the sponsorship. Scholastic has agreed to take over the sponsorship of the prize, with some changes to the rules, and as a biannual prize. The first Scholastic Picture Book Award will be presented at AFCC 2015, and is now open for submissions.

Digital Awards

a. Samsung KidsTime Authors' Award

The Book Council has partnered with Samsung to organize an award to give ASEAN authors a chance to have their works turned into a mobile application on the Samsung KidsTime platform. The award is open to both published and unpublished picture books by citizens of ASEAN nations. Samsung has pledged USD\$200,000 for the award, and is looking for 100 winners: 2 grand prize winners (who will receive SGD\$2,000 cash and whose work will be turned into a mobile app) and 8 second prize winners (whose work will be turned into a mobile app) from each ASEAN nation. Submissions for published works are now open, and submissions for unpublished works will open on 1 January 2015. The awards will be presented at AFCC 2015.

12. Special Projects

a. New Delhi World Book Fair, Feb 2014

The council was invited to participate in the New Delhi World Book Fair by the National Book Trust, India. The council presented a booth with a display of books contributed by authors and publishers who responded to an open call, as well as materials to promote AFCC, SISF and ALAP.

The council also organised a special presentation on the Asian Book Market with 4 speakers from India, Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore during the Book Fair.

The first midstream meeting of the AFCC Board of Advisors was also held at New Delhi, with the venue provided by the National Book Trust, India.

b. PUB World Water Day, March 2014

As part of PUB's World Water Day celebrations, the council presented a 10-minute stage adaptation of the book *Water*, in collaboration with The Learning Connections. Over 8,000 school children and participants saw the performance at World Water Day.

c. London Book Fair, April 2014

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The council was reappointed as the project manager for the Singapore Pavilion at the London Book Fair 2014, which took place in April. This will continue in 2015.

d. Budding Writers Project

The council renewed its support of the Budding Writers programme for primary and secondary school students, organised by publisher Marshall Cavendish.

e. Beyond Words Malay & Tamil

The council was appointed by the NAC to manage the Beyond Words Malay & Tamil programme beginning in 2nd half of 2014.

f. Asia Pacific Writers Conference, July 2014

The council collaborated with The Arts House and the Asia Pacific Writers and Translators Associations to organize the AP Writers Conference in Singapore from 17 – 20 July, which featured over 140 authors, aspiring writers, educators, publishers, editors, and translators, and consisted of many talks, panels, discussions, performances, book launches, workshops, and readings over the four days of the event.

13. New Partners

a. StarHub

StarHub partnered with the Council for AFCC 2014, taking up four booth spaces and announcing many of their children's programmes and initiatives at the Festival.

b. Tusitala & Potato Productions

Although we had previously worked with Tusitala to produce the ebook version of *Beyond Folktales, Myths and Legends*, this was the first time we worked with Potato Productions to create an Augmented Reality Rice Game for AFCC. Tusitala also produced an iPhone app for AFCC delegates to connect and communicate *pro bono*.

c. Samsung

Samsung has partnered with the Council to present a new award (Samsung KidsTime Authors' Award). It is our hope that this award will continue beyond this initial year. Samsung also took a booth at AFCC to announce their KidsTime app platform.

d. National Book Trust, India

NBT was the Council's partner during AFCC 2014's Indian Country of Focus programmes. They flew in 20 writers and illustrators, as well as three publishers.

e. writingWA, Australia

The Council partnered with writingWA for the publication *Near and Dear*, which featured short stories by seven Australian authors and seven Singaporean authors. They will be flying local authors to Australia for festivals and school visits.

f. International Board of Books for Young People

The Council has approached the many IBBY chapters in Asia to help promote various awards the Council administers, including the Scholastic Picture Book Award and the

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Samsung KidsTime Authors' Award. The Council hopes to foster these connections into full-fledged partnerships beyond merely the dissemination of information.

g. Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators

The Council has approached the many SCBWI chapters in Asia to help promote various awards the Council administers, including the Scholastic Picture Book Award and the Samsung KidsTime Authors' Award. The Council hopes to foster these connections into full-fledged partnerships beyond merely the dissemination of information.

h. Foreign Ministries of Culture and/or Information and Foreign Arts Councils

The Council has approached the many foreign ministries of culture and/or information of Asian nations, as well as various foreign arts councils to help promote various awards the Council administers, including the Scholastic Picture Book Award and the Samsung KidsTime Authors' Award. The Council hopes to foster these connections into full-fledged partnerships beyond merely the dissemination of information, and perhaps seek general funding and/or sponsored author visits in the future.

i. Aga Khan Foundation

A private, not-for-profit international development agency that seeks to provide long-term solutions to problems of poverty, hunger, illiteracy, and ill health in the poorest parts of South and Central Asia, Eastern and Western Africa, and the Middle East. A representative visited AFCC 2014 and was keen to pursue long-term partnerships. Thus far, they have agreed to help announce the Scholastic Picture Book Award and Scholastic Asian Book Award to Central Asia and the Middle East, regions the Council has traditionally not had many partners in.

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14. Council Meetings

a. Annual General Meeting

At the 2013 AGM approved the proposed changes to the constitution were approved, and subsequently sent to the Registrar of Societies. Confirmation of the constitution changes was received from the ROS in March 2014.

b. Why the Revision of the Constitution was needed

The Executive Committee (Exco) is the highest authority of the Council. It is elected by the members of the Council who are about 40 in number. The Council Members meet once a year at the AGM, to approve the annual report and the budget report, and to elect the Exco which manages the affairs of the Council through a Secretariat headed by an Executive Director.

The Exco is comprised of members who are elected at the AGM. Despite the longevity of the Council, it was felt in recent times that it has a low public profile and hence had difficulty in raising funds through donations and sponsorships. It was therefore proposed to institute a high level Advisory Board, a Patron, and provide for a high profile Chairman and members of the Exco to be elected. This would allow for the profile and status of the Council to be enhanced to empower its future endeavours.

Amendments to the constitution were necessary to allow for these changes, and to ensure that these changes were properly done the service of a lawyer was obtained *pro bono*.

c. The main points of the changes allow for the following:

- Appointment of a Patron for the Council
- Appointment of Official, Distinguished, and Individual Members to the Council
- Appointment of a Board of Advisors
- Update the Constitution with the new guidelines

The changes allowed for in the revised constitution will be implemented at this AGM.

d. Executive Committee Meetings

The Council's Executive Committee met six times during the period August 2013 to July 2014 to review the Council's activities, and to provide advice and direction on future programmes.