

International Assembly of independent publishers

A unique intercultural and professional event
Cape Town (South Africa), 17-22 September 2014

to promote and strengthen bibliodiversity together



International
Alliance
of independent
publishers

1/ The International Alliance of independent publishers

More information at: www.alliance-editeurs.org

The International Alliance of independent publishers is a non-profit association that coordinates a support network [composed of 85 publishing houses and 9 groups of publishers from 45 different countries](#). The Alliance directly or indirectly represents some **360 publishing houses, divided into six language networks** (English-language, French-language, Arabic-language, Spanish-language, Portuguese-language and Persian-language). The Alliance organises international conferences and carries out advocacy work to foster independence. It also offers support to international publishing projects, which may take the form of assistance with translation or co-publishing. In short, the Alliance contributes to the promotion and distribution of literary outputs from the South to the North, and modestly tries to reverse one-way trade flows. The Alliance participates in improving access to works and ideas, and in defending and promoting bibliodiversity¹.

2/ The International Assembly of independent publishers

More information at: <http://www.alliance-editeurs.org/-international-assembly-of-122-?lang=en>

Why an Assembly? – speech from the publishers

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).

*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 Assembly 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;*
- *cooperative and innovative publishing between independent publishers, based on equity principles;*
- *new forms of partnerships with other professionals from the book industry meeting to foster bibliodiversity.*

¹ The term **bibliodiversity** is used to describe cultural diversity applied to the world of publishing. As an echo of the term biodiversity, it refers to the necessary diversity of the editorial output made available to readers.

1st step – preparatory workshops between 2012 and 2014: from practices to propositions promoting bibliodiversity

From November 2012 to April 2014, independent publishers met in Latin America, Africa, Europe and the Arab world to take part in thematic preparatory workshops. The general meeting in September 2014 in Cape Town (South Africa) will conclude this process.



The preparatory workshops:

- **Bibliodiversity in action in the Spanish-speaking area** –in partnership with the Guadalajara Book Fair (24 to 28 November 2012)
- **Books donation: rethinking the system** –in the margins of the Paris Book Fair (20 and 21 March 2013)
- **African youth literature: what visibility on the international market?** –in partnership with the Bologna Book Fair (23 and 24 March 2013)
- **Local and national languages: what opportunities for publishing in Africa?** –Ouagadougou (11-13 June 2013)
- **Fair Trade book: a real issue for tomorrow/** Co-publishing, rights transfers and other solidarity publishing partnerships –Ouagadougou (14-17 June 2013)
- **Diffusion of social sciences and humanities works: what innovative strategies to make it work?** –in partnership with the Frankfurt Book Fair (13-15 October 2013)
- **Digital publishing, what issues for bibliodiversity in the Arab-speaking world?** –in partnership with the Abu Dhabi Book fair (April 2014)



2nd step – 2014 Cape Town General meeting: independent publishers from the 5 continents meeting to support bibliodiversity



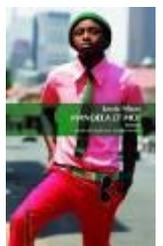
Following the preparatory workshops, a general meeting will be held between 17 and 22 September 2014 in Cape Town, South Africa. This event has been set up in partnership with the **Open Book Festival** (<http://openbookfestival.co.za/>). This exciting literary festival works for greater democratization of reading in South Africa by bringing together local and international authors at lectures, debates and concerts, throughout Cape Town. This partnership thus provides the ideal forum for discussing the issues of independent publishing and will enable the general public to learn more about the diversity of editorial production across the five continents.

The meeting in Cape Town has **two main objectives**:

- 1/ to establish a **series of recommendations and proposals** aimed at public authorities, international organisations, and professional groups;
- 2/ to supplement and validate the **tools accompanying the recommendations**. These tools, developed by independent publishers, will allow other book professionals, public authorities, NGOs, etc. to put bibliodiversity "into practice".

An overview of the agenda:

- Presentation of conclusions from the Assembly workshops: what concrete measures are required for bibliodiversity?
- Activities and events in partnership with the Open Book Festival
 - International Bibliodiversity Day, 21 September 2014: press conference, artists' contributions, literary picnic, readings, and more
 - Promoting "solidarity" co-publishing ("Terres solidaires" collection...)
 - Debate on feminist publishing
 - Debate on censorship in all its forms (political, economic, religious, etc.)
 - The 1st annual Salon de l'Écrit et du livre en langues africaines (African languages literary event)
- Meetings of professional groups:
 - Summit of Latin American independent publishing groups
 - General Assembly of the Pan-African association Afrilivres
- Meetings between South African publishers and players (booksellers, publishers, authors, etc.)
 - How can we support and develop publishing in African languages?
 - Does digital publishing represent an opportunity in developing countries?
 - Digital printing: what are the opportunities for independent publishers?



Participants:

The list of Alliance members is available at <http://www.alliance-editeurs.org/-les-editeurs-?lang=en#r124>, and forms the basis of the publishers invited to Cape Town, depending on the budgets found. The Cape Town meeting will also be an opportunity to bring together twenty or so additional professionals: authors, translators, booksellers, librarians, digital specialists, etc.

3/ How to take part in this unique event?

To implement the thematic preparatory workshops between 2012 and 2014, the Alliance established partnerships with various public and private organisations: the Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation, the Prince Claus Foundation, the Fondation de France, the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, the Centre National du Livre, the Ile-de-France region, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Frankfurt Book Fair, Bologna Book Fair, Abu Dhabi Book Fair, and more. These partnerships rely on financial support and/or contributions in kind (loan of rooms for example) but also on a shared understanding of the content and objectives of the workshops.

The Alliance is currently **pursuing partnerships for holding the meeting in Cape Town in 2014**, and especially **financial support** for the arrival of publishers in Cape Town (flight tickets and accommodation) –an average of 2000 euros per publisher. With your support, a publishing professional can take part in this unique event, a place of cultural and inter-linguistic exchange, be the spokesperson for independent publishers of your country, and thus represent your commitment to cultural diversity.

Your support will of course be highlighted in our communication materials on the website and the Alliance Facebook page.

Professionals, public authorities, institutions, private organisations and civil society: let's promote and strengthen bibliodiversity together!



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