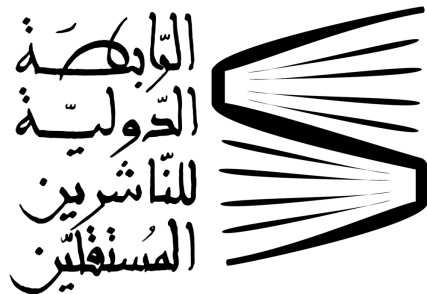


Meeting of the Arabic-language network of the International Alliance of Independent Publishers

Tunis, from 25 to 28 April 2010
on the fringe of the Tunis International Book Fair

An event created and organized by



Come one, come all!

Three years after the International Assembly on Independent Publishing in Paris in July 2007, we are delighted to be bringing together the Arabic-language network of the Alliance in Tunisia, during the Tunis International Book Fair.

In three years, the publishers of the Arabic-language network have strengthened their bonds, be it through joint publishing projects or regular meetings at various book fairs and shows, to our great joy. In fact, we are particularly interested in the increased development of "regional reasoning" within the Alliance – and the fostering of close ties among the publishers from the Maghreb and from the Middle East actually echoes this orientation.

This meeting represents a crucial step for the network in view of the programme of initiatives of the Arabic-language publishers for 2010 – a programme which the Alliance has undertaken to support as much as possible – one of the objectives being to put into place the conditions for the concrete realization of these various projects.

This top-quality programme fits perfectly with the Alliance's outlook for 2010-2011. On the one hand, the translation projects considered by the Arabic-language network meet our determination to encourage the flow of strategic translations. On the other hand, the international joint publishing projects in humanities and literature proposed by the publishers address major issues and alternatives, and encourage solidarity among publishers. Furthermore, putting into place transversal and interlinguistic projects, through partnerships with the publishers of the other linguistic networks, is one of the Alliance's priorities for the upcoming period.

This meeting also represents a strategic turning point for the injecting dynamism into the Arabic-language network, which will allow us to consider the incorporation of new members from countries that are under-represented within the network.

The reflection conducted on the setup of training courses in the publishing trades will give us the opportunity to define what tools need to be put into place to support publishers as they face the changes and developments in the industry. This discussion is all the more important given that the issue of new generations and the transfer of know-how in publishing firms will also be at the centre of our preoccupations.

Looking beyond publisher meetings, we wanted to organize a round table open to professionals, focussing on publishing and cultural diversity, at the heart of the Tunis International Book Fair – an opportunity for you to present your background as independent publisher and promote the concept of bibliodiversity.

Finally, this meeting will allow publishers to make contact with professionals in the publishing sector in Tunisia, at the International Book Fair but also during informal, friendly gatherings, because the Meeting of the Arabic-language network is first and foremost a human-size gathering.

We would like to extend our most heartfelt thanks to the Tunis International Book Fair, and in particular to its Director, Mr. Boubaker Ben Fraj. We would also like to thank the Tunisian Publishers' Union and all of our local partners for their support.

We are certain that our meeting will be another manifestation of the solidarity that exists between the members of the International Alliance of independent publishers – beyond the continents and borders.

Thierry Quinqueton, President, International Alliance of independent publishers

Nouri Abid, Coordinator, Arabic-language Network of the Alliance

Laurence Hugues, Director, International Alliance of Independent Publishers

International Alliance of Independent Publishers

Founded in 2002, the International Alliance of Independent Publishers is a non-profit association which coordinates an international network comprising 80 publishing houses and groups of publishers from 45 countries.

The Alliance organizes international meetings and carries out advocacy work to foster independence. It also backs international publishing projects — in the form of assistance with translation or co-publishing. Finally, the Alliance contributes to the promotion and diffusion of productions from the South to the North and modestly tries to invert one-way trade flows. The Alliance thus contributes to enhancing the accessibility of works and ideas, to defending and promoting bibliodiversity.

www.alliance-editeurs.org

Meeting agenda – may be modified slightly

All the meetings of the Arabic-language network will be held in Arabic and French.

Sunday 25 April 2010

Morning

Arrival and settling in of the participants at “Le Pacha” Hotel, Tunis

Afternoon

(Location: Meeting room – “Le Pacha” hotel)

6.30 pm – 8.30 pm: **Opening of the Meeting of the Arabic-language network**

- Greeting from the President of the Tunisian Publishers' Union
- Introduction of the President and Director of the International Alliance of Independent Publishers
- Presentation of the participants and of their publishing firms
- The initiatives of the Arabic-language network since the International Assembly on Independent Publishing in Paris in 2007
- Presentation of the outlook for 2010-2011 of the International Alliance of Independent Publishers and of the 2010 initiatives programme of the Arabic-language network
- Presentation of the programme of the Tunis meeting

Supper

(Meet in the hotel lobby at 9.00 pm)

Monday 26 April 2010

Morning

(Location: meeting room – “Le Pacha” hotel)

9.00 am – 11.15 am: **The translation and joint publishing projects of the Arabic-language network**

- Implementation of the **projects involving the translation** of humanities and literary works (among other from French, Spanish and Portuguese into Arabic) within the Arabic-language network for 2010-2011: nature of the projects, participants, distribution of the tasks, schedule, estimated budget

- Implementation of the **projects involving joint publishing** between Arabic-language publishers members of the Alliance, in humanities, literature and youth literature for the 2010-2011 period: nature of the projects, participants, distribution of the tasks, schedule, estimated budget

11.15 am – 11.30 am: Coffee break

11.30 am – 2.00 pm: **Looking at other publishing genres?**

- How to develop **publishing genres** that are under-represented within the Arabic-language network (creation of a youth literature collection, for example)
 - What publishing genres to favour?
 - Experiences and expectations of the publishers
 - Initial draft of a collection project

2.00 pm – 4.00 pm: Lunch and transfer to the Tunis International Book Fair

Afternoon

(Tunis International Book Fair)

4.00 pm– 6.00 pm (*Conference room*): **Round table on "publishing and cultural diversity"**, run by Thierry Quinqueton, with the participation of the publishers of the Arabic-language network

6.00 pm– 7.30 pm: **Visit of the Fair and contact with the professionals of the publishing industry present**

Welcome supper (at 8 pm)...

... in the presence of French-speaking Tunisian Alliance member publishers (Alif, Cérés and Elyzad), publishers who are members of the Tunisian Publishers' Union, the Director of the Tunis International Book Fair, the Director of the Institut français de Coopération...

Tuesday 27 April 2010

Morning

(Location: Meeting room – "Le Pacha" hotel)

9.00 am – 11.00 am: **How to strengthen and inject dynamism into the Arabic-language network**

- **Incorporation of new** members from countries that are under-represented within the Alliance (United Arab Emirates, for example)
 - Countries in which new members can be canvassed
 - New publishing firms to join the Arabic-language network
 - When and how to contact them, meet them

- In concert with the local professionals and partner institutions, discuss the implementation of **training in the publishing trades in the Arabic-language countries**
 - Training available in your countries
 - What you think are the priority needs in terms of the training of young publishers
 - Types of training to be developed (exchanges among publishers, online training, etc.)
 - How to integrate the digital issue in your publishing firms

- **New generations and the transfer of know-how** within publishing companies
 - Who will ensure the succession in your publishing firm?
 - How are you preparing for this succession?
 - Examples using concrete examples of transfer experiences

11.00 am – 11.15 am: Coffee break

11.30 am– 1.00 pm: **Relations between the Alliance's linguistic networks: the proposals of the Arabic-language network**

- How to **develop relationships and exchanges among the Alliance's various linguistic networks**
 - Interlinguistic projects
 - Thematic and transversal meetings
 - Nouredine Ben Khader award

1.00 – 3.00 pm: Lunch

Afternoon

3.00 pm– 7.00 pm: **Visit of Tunis**

Wednesday 28 April 2010

Morning

(Location: Meeting room – “Le Pacha” hotel)

9.00 am – 12.00 noon: **Summary of the meeting and recommendations**

- **Role of the Arabic-language network of the Alliance**
 - How the Arabic-language network participates in the Alliance's overall project
 - How the Arabic-language network can contribute to the promotion of the key concepts of the Alliance (independent publishing, bibliodiversity, etc.)
- Conclusions of the participants
- Conclusions of the International Alliance of Independent Publishers

1.00 – 3.00 pm: Lunch

Afternoon

3.00 – 6.00 pm: **Visit of Tunis bookstores**

Evening

Departure of the participants

Professional round table

"Publishing and cultural diversity", Monday 26 April from 4.00 to 6.00 pm, Tunis International Book Fair

At the end of the 1990s, a group of independent publishers in Chilli coined the term "bibliodiversity", thus defining cultural diversity applied to publishing. Inspired by "biodiversity", bibliodiversity refers to the necessary diversity of the publishing productions made available to readers. For several years, however, bibliodiversity has been threatened by overproduction and the financial concentration of the publishing industry, which favours the domination of a few major publishing groups and aims for high profits.

This is why the Alliance's publisher members have joined forces, knowing that there is a capital advantage to having an alliance of "independents", preserving the bibliodiversity of the global publishing scene, ensuring and guaranteeing the presence of essays, critical and analytical works in libraries, universities and more broadly in the public arena.

The publishers of the Arabic-language network of the Alliance will thus share their experience with professionals and with the public on the following issues:

- How to define cultural diversity in publishing, bibliodiversity
- Why cultural diversity is necessary in the present context (globalization, standardization of contents, financialisation of publishing, etc.)
- How independent publishers guarantee plurality and promotion of ideas, the true players and defenders of this cultural diversity applied to books (examples throughout the projects supported by the International Alliance of Independent Publishers, www.alliance-editeurs.org)
- Concrete measures and proposals of the independent publishers in favour of bibliodiversity (be it at the level of the public authorities, professional associations, players within the book chain, etc.)?

Moderator: Thierry Quinqueton, President. International Alliance of Independent Publishers

Participants: the publishers of the Arabic-language network of the Alliance

Participants in the Meeting of the Arabic-language network – 7 publishers from 6 countries

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Practical information

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Tunis International Book Fair - <http://www.foiredulivre.nat.tn/index.html>

Le Kram exhibition park - Tunis

Open Saturday 24 April to Sunday 2 May 2010, everyday from 10.00 am to 8.00 pm, without interruption

Useful contacts on site

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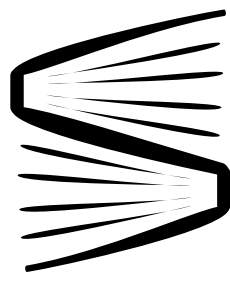
Acknowledgments

The International Alliance of Independent Publishers would like to thank the **Director of the Tunis International Book Fair** and his entire team for their valuable support and for having facilitated the implementation of this event.

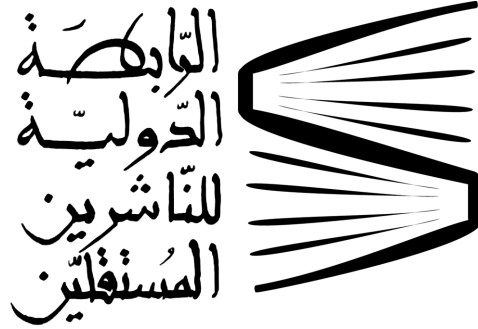
We would also like to thank our loyal partners – and first and foremost the **Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation**.

Our thanks also go to the **Institut français de Coopération de Tunis**, and the **Tunisian Publishers' Union** for their support.

Finally, we would like to extend our thanks to **Nouri Abid** and **Faouzia Abid** for their availability, their commitment and their friendship throughout the preparation of this meeting.



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