

# Zambia Board on Books for Young People Lusaka & Monze Workshops 2010

The Zambian Board on Books for Young People in conjunction with Ms. Anne Pellowski and Ms. Hellen Kay conducted two workshops sponsored by the IBBY-Yamanda Program in 2010. The objective of this training was to promote the production of children's books to help raise literacy levels among Zambian children. The target group for these reading materials was children from 2 to 7 years old. The workshops introduced aspects of children's book writing that have been ig-



Anne Pellowski, Hellen Kay & ZBBY members with books produced by participants

nored in Zambia such as the production of bilingual books using vernacular languages in relation to English.

## Participants

Teachers, librarians, writers/illustrators, parents and other people from the community that interact with children at various levels were brought together to learn and share ideas. Each participant made three pic-

ture books: The first one was done in participant's local language; second one in English and the third one was a bilingual book.

## Impact of workshops on participants

The workshops impacted participants in so many way e.g. the writers and illustrators got stimulated to write more books and looked forward to publishing their materials. Mr. Umba Soko, a celebrated children's book writer could not hide his excitement after producing the three books and had this to say: "It's unbelievable that I've been able to produce 3 books in two days...what an excellent way to provide reading materials to underprivileged children at a minimal cost!"

## Impact of workshop materials on children

During the official opening of the 2nd Lubuto Library in Zambia, a book display was mounted and selected workshop participants participated in read-aloud exer-



Lubuto Libraries President Jane Meyers talking to participants on the importance of the workshops

cises using bilingual books. This program impressed the US Ambassador to Zambia Mr. Mark Storella, the First Zambian Republican president Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, Lubuto Libraries President, Jane Meyers, officials from the Ministry of Education and other invited guests. ZBBY sends its gratitude to IBBY for facilitating the YAMANDA grant. The Fountain of Hope management offered their premises and actively participated in the program, thanks to them too. ■■



One of the outstanding books produced by participants reflecting the importance of teacher/librarian/parent interaction with students



Newly produced books by workshop participants ready to be used by students at Musamaria wa Bwino School

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**A**lthough the Ministry of Education in Zambia has been



Hellen Kay with the Monze team that comprised both men & women

trying hard to produce as many children's books as possible to cover the whole country, the challenges have been numerous. Some of these include the lengthy process involved in book production, non-availability of affordable book making materials etc.

## Benefits of Producing Fusible Web Books

During the two workshops participants observed that cloth is an easy medium to work with. This is true as the first books



Lusaka participants doing a hands-on book production exercise from start to finish

were made from cloth. Materials are also readily available in the United States of America, although not all are found in Zambia. This was pointed out during the workshop and Anne and Helen encouraged ZBBY to source those not available from the US through them. Participants appreciated the simple process of using folk tales to formulate children's books while the art of pressing down pictures on the pages was exciting and artistic. The books produced were of high quality in terms of permanency



Anne Pellowski, and Hellen Kay sharing book production ideas with participants

and durability. The books were readily available for publishing in multiple copies to be used in targeted schools like Msamaria wa Bwino, as a pilot project.

## Appreciation from the National Arts Council of Zambia and ZBBY

Ms. Mulenga Kapwepwe, Chairperson for the National Arts Council of Zambia appreciated the component of the two workshops that involved artists and



National Arts Council Chair Mulenga Kapwepwe & ZBBY President Moffat Moyo and workshop beneficiary Musamaria Bwino School Director.

illustrators from her organization. She observed that the workshops had raised the work of participants to another level, making them more creative in their work. Ms. Kapwepwe had this to say: "...with this newly acquired knowledge, I believe that artists and illustrators will be partnering efficiently with children's book writers and authors."

Mr. Gankhanani Moffat Moyo, the ZBBY Chairperson thanked the sponsors and hoped that the relationship with IBBY will develop to a higher level. ■ ■



Tina Trust School, the would be beneficiaries of the produced books.