

**IBBY - HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN AWARD  
AND ASTRID LINDGREN MEMORIAL AWARD**

**THE CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR BOLOGNA SHOWCASING  
THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S LITERATURE AWARDS**

The Bologna Children's Book Fair has always been a privileged opportunity to showcase the latest trends in illustration and publishing for children and young adults. In over fifty editions, the Fair has also become the main worldwide platform for all major international children's literature awards.

**IBBY - HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN AWARD**

The most prestigious international children's literature award, created to encourage the best of children's publishing and promote its circulation throughout the world, is awarded at the 55<sup>th</sup> edition of the Bologna Children's Book Fair on Monday, March 26 at 14:30 at the Caffè degli Illustratori.

Two categories – authors (since 1956) and illustrators (since 1966) – are awarded every two years. The evaluation criteria include innovation, aesthetic and literary quality as well as the ability to identify with the children's point of view while stimulating their curiosity. The winners will be chosen by a jury of 10 international experts from a shortlist of five authors and six illustrators.

The Ashai Reading Promotion Award is also announced on the same occasion. The biennial initiative, sponsored by the Asahi Shimbun newspaper company, was established in 1986 to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> IBBY Congress held in Tokyo; it awards institutions having significantly contributed to the promotion of reading among children and young people. The judging panel, chaired this year by Sunjidmaa Jamba da Ulaanbaatar, comprises six members appointed by the IBBY Executive Committee for 2018. The winning project will be chosen from a list of 17, nominated by IBBY National Sections worldwide according to parameters such as the consistence with IBBY's mission, originality, replicability, sustainability and the possibility of assessing the results, as well as growth potential and procurement of other financial sources, impact and viability for a period of at least two years prior to application.

**ASTRID LINDGREN MEMORIAL AWARD**

Just like the legendary character of Pippi Longstocking she gave birth to, author Astrid Lindgren always fought for peace and democracy, the preconditions for children's right to access literature. Her profound humanist spirit, hallmark of the stories read by children worldwide, lies at the heart of the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, the world's largest annual children's literature award in value (SEK 5 million, about €500,000), run by the Swedish Art Council and established in memory of the great Swedish author, who died in 2002 at the age of 94.

The list of candidates includes authors, illustrators, storytellers, and anyone in the world promoting reading among children and young people, including institutions or organizations. They are nominated by annually selected organizations worldwide, and the list is presented every year at the Frankfurt Book Fair. The prize celebrates the winner's entire work, and cannot be posthumous.

The winner(s) of the prize, chosen by a jury comprising 12 experts including authors, booksellers, critics, scholars and illustrators, are announced on Tuesday March 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:45 pm in a live streaming from Stockholm at the Caffè degli Illustratori of the Bologna Children's Book Fair. Helena Sigeland, director of the Prize, will be in Bologna along with Robert Rydberg, Swedish ambassador in Italy.