

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME ADDRESS

By
KAILASH BALANI

Distinguished guests and friends,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 57th Annual General Meeting of The Federation of Publishers' and Booksellers' Associations in India. I am indeed thankful to our guests and members who have been kind enough to spare their valuable time to be here with us this evening.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

During the period under report, 6 meetings of our Executive Committee have been held, out of which 5 meetings were held in Delhi and 1 outside Delhi (at Bangalore) on 20th November 2011. During the last (6th) Executive Committee meeting held at Bangalore, the members of The Bangalore Booksellers and Publishers Association raised their problems being faced by them, i.e. harassment by officials of Weights & Measurement Department of State Government, and Octroi being levied on the printed books. In this regard position was explained/suggestion made for taking action as advised to avoid such problems. Assurance was also given that the Federation would extend necessary help to them as may be required. The Executive Committee held at Bangalore coincided with a Seminar on 'Piracy of Books' and 'Production & Marketing of e-books' (details given under the head 'Seminars' in following pages). It may be mentioned that holding of the Executive Committee meeting at Bangalore was in keeping with our known policy to hold such meetings in different regions of the country so as to seek personal involvement of our local members as also of the affiliated regional Associations.

SEMINARS

SEMINAR ON 'PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF EXPORT OF INDIAN BOOKS' ORGANISED BY FPBAI AT DELHI

In keeping with our objectives to promote and upgrade publishing and book distribution, the Federation organizes seminars, training courses, workshops etc.

from time to time. In pursuance of this, a one-full-day Seminar on 'Problems and Prospects of Export of Indian Books' was organized by the Federation in its office at New Delhi on 13 May 2011. The main thrust of this seminar was to apprise the participants the significance of export of books, the desirability of bringing out books in tune with the requirements of the overseas market, underline the export potential, identify the markets for different types of books and make the participants understand the export mechanism. The seminar was very well attended (there were as many as 26 participants from various firms which included a good number of youngsters). The speakers who addressed the seminar on different aspects of Export of Indian Books (Promotion and Sale of Medical & Health Care Books; Promotion and Sale of Law Books; Promotion & Sale of Academic and Library Reference Books; Countrywise analysis and Export Documentation) included, Mr. Kailash Balani, President, FPBAI; Mr. S.K. Ghai; Mr. Sridhar Balan; Mr. Raj D Mirchandani; Mr. Sukumar Das and Mr. T.R. Chadha.

SEMINAR ON 'PIRACY OF BOOKS' AND 'PRODUCTION & MARKETING OF E-BOOKS' ORGANISED AT BANGALORE ON 20th NOVEMBER 2011

The Seminar on 'Piracy of Books' and 'Production & Marketing of e-books' was organized by The Federation in collaboration with The Bangalore Booksellers & Publishers Association on 20th November 2011 at Bangalore. The seminar was addressed by Mr. Manas Saikia, Cambridge University Press India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi; Mr. Manish Arora, Universal Law Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd., Delhi; Mr. S.C. Sethi, Chairman, Seminar Committee FPBAI; and Mr. Kailash Balani, President, FPBAI, who was the key speaker at the seminar on "Production & Marketing of e-books"

PROGRAMMES

A 2-DAY PROGRAMME ON 'PubliCon 2011: The Business of Publishing' ORGANISED BY FICCI ON 28-29 SEPTEMBER 2011

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), is the largest and oldest apex business organization in India, a non-government, not-for-profit organisation and voice of India's business and industry. FICCI had organized a 2-day programme in collaboration with our Federation on Publishing Industry 'PubliCon 2011: The Business of Publishing' on 28-29 September 2011 at FICCI, New Delhi. Some of the issues that were discussed during this programme are National Book Promotion Policy; Digital Publishing; Children Publications; IPR

in Publications; Rejuvenation of Libraries, and Export Potential of Indian Publishing Industry. I, in the capacity of President FPBAI, had participated in the above programme. I was invited to panel discussion on the 'National Book Promotion Policy' which is likely to be approved and released by the Ministry of HRD for the benefit of authors, publishers, booksellers, public libraries and others.

CONFERENCE ON 'THE FUTURE OF PUBLISHING' ORGANISED AT GOA ON 16-17 SEPTEMBER 2011

A Conference on 'The future of Publishing' was organised by Mr. Leonard Fernandes of Cinnamonteal Publishing at Goa on 16-17 September 2011. I was invited to speak on 'Where Digital Books are Headed?'. The text of my speech has been given in the FPBAI Newsletter (August – October 2011 issue). The conference was well attended and quite successful.

BOOK FAIRS

9th NATIONAL BOOK FAIR, LUCKNOW

Our U.P. based Association, Knowledge Tree Foundation, Lucknow, organized the prestigious National Book Fair, Lucknow, 9th of its kind, in collaboration with our Federation, from 16 to 25 September 2011.

Chief Patron and former President, FPBAI, Shri S.C. Sethi, while speaking at the inauguration of the Book Fair, said that the theme of the Fair this year would be 'Children's Literature'. Mr. Sethi said that the importance of books could not be sidelined even in this age of Internet.

The fair was inaugurated by eminent Hindi writer Narendra Kohli on September 16 and the Chief Guest at the closing ceremony and prize distribution function was Mayor Dinesh Sharma on September 25. This book fair had over 170 stalls with several new publishers stepping in, including Government departments, social organizations amongst others. There were also publishers of law books in the fair.

BANGALORE BOOK FESTIVAL 2011

The Bangalore Booksellers and Publishers Association (BBPA), affiliated to the Federation, had organised 9th Bangalore Book Festival-2011 from 18 to 27 November 2011 at the spacious Palace Grounds, Gayatri Vihar, Bangalore. The Bangalore Book Festival is a prestigious book fair and has earned lot of name and fame across the country. More than 200 book sellers and publishers, including Multinational Publishing Houses, from across the country took part in the festival.

Bangalore, the vibrant city, has thousands of authors, book lovers, rich student community and also profound readers who eagerly look forward to such a mega event. The event made use of all available media opportunities, both conventional and emerging, which made this event as a mega festival.

36TH INTERNATIONAL KOLKATA BOOK FAIR 2012

Publishers & Booksellers Guild, Kolkata has informed that the 36th International Kolkata Book Fair 2012 has been scheduled to be held from 25th January to 5th February 2012 at Kolkata.

20TH NEW DELHI WORLD BOOK FAIR

As you are aware, 20th New Delhi World Book Fair is scheduled to be held from 25 February to 4 March 2012. National Book Trust, India, the organizer of this fair, had earlier proposed the rental of Rs.43,000/- per stall (3x3 sq.mtr.) + 10.3% Service tax; Rs. 42,000/- for bare space (3x3 sq.mtr.) + 10.3% service tax. This was objected to by us in a meeting with Chairman, NBT in their office. Subsequently, they had informed us that the increase in rentals is due to increase in hall rent by the ITPO. They have also stated that ITPO has recently further increased the rates for Halls in this quarter, and accordingly cost to the Trust per stall has again enhanced but the same is not being passed by the Trust to the participants. It is, therefore, now upto the members to participate in the 20th New Delhi World Book Fair.

NATIONAL BOOK PROMOTION POLICY

Final Draft of the National Book Promotion Policy as approved by the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE), Department of Higher education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, has been received in Federation Office (copy of the Draft NBPP has been reproduced in FPBA Newsletter recently published for kind information of our members). The finalized National Book Promotion Policy is expected to be harbinger of a new era of reading and learning. The Policy proposes concrete measures for promoting books that will provide everlasting sustenance and joy to our society.

BAN IMPOSED ON USE OF PLASTIC

Delhi Government had recently announced that production and use of plastic bags will be completely banned in the Capital. We welcome the decision of the Government. However, as books have always been a powerful vehicle of cultural development as also the most effective means of education, to ensure that books reach the end users in good, dust-free, undamaged and un mutilated condition, pollution free, and free of insects etc., the books are shrink-wrap-packed in 110 micron film. Hence, the Federation had taken up the cause of books and written a letter to Hon'ble Chief Minister with the request that in the interest of students, book lovers and readers at large, the ban imposed on use of polythene should not be made applicable to books. We are happy to inform that, in reply, we have received a copy of the letter from Chief Minister's Office sent to Secretary (Environment) GNCTD forwarding our letter for consideration and appropriate necessary action. We would request our members to use their good offices to approach Delhi Government to consider our request favourably.

REPRESENTATION ON PLACING BOOKS AND CD-ROMs (Other than Entertainment) UNDER EXEMPTED LIST OF CENTRAL GST AND STATE GST

On the issue of placing books and CD-ROMs (other than entertainment) under exempted list of Central GST and State GST, we had sent a letter to Shri L.K. Advani, Chairman, BJP Parliamentary Party, New Delhi who had forwarded the same to Ministry of Finance with the request to get the same examined in light of the facts stated therein and take appropriate action. We hope to receive some favourable response. In addition, we had also sent a letter to Shri Sushil Modi, Chairman, GST in the above matter, to which we have not received any response so far. We request our members having contact with Shri Modi to help us taking our concern with appropriate authorities.

EXCLUSION OF BOOKS AND OTHER EDUCATION MATERIALS FROM THE PURVIEW OF THE STANDARDS OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES (ENFORCEMENT) ACT, 1985 AND RULES THERE UNDER

The Federation has been receiving complaints from our several members informing that they are being harassed (challaned / raided / fined) by officials of the Department of Weights and Measures for non-implementation of Weights

and Measures Act and Rules there under, and therefore they need urgent help for overcoming the problem being faced by them. To address this complaint The Federation had recently sent a representation to Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Administration, New Delhi giving the significance of book in the civilized society and requesting him to kindly exclude 'Books' from the purview of the above Act and Rules there under so that our members are not put to any unmerited harassment. We have so far not received any response from the Ministry. We would request our members also to kindly use their good offices to request the Ministry to help us in mitigating the above problem.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS TO FPBAI MEMBERS

In keeping with our tradition in the recent past to honour some of our leading and distinguished Members as token of our appreciation for the commendable work done by them for the Indian Book Industry, awards will also be presented to the members at the AGM, whose names are given below:

FPBAI Best Publisher (English) Award

Ms. Kalpana Shukla, K.W. Publishers Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi

FPBAI Outstanding Contribution Award

Mr. Manish Arora, Universal Law Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd., Delhi

FPBAI Best Bookseller Award

Mr. T. Ramanujam, T.R. Publications Pvt. Ltd., Chennai

FPBA NEWSLETTER

FPBA Newsletter has been receiving applaus from our various readers since its publication. We have been bringing out FPBA Newsletter every quarterly. After our last (56th) AGM on 4th December 2010, we have brought out three issues of FPBAI Newsletter, the first one (January 2011-March 2011 issue) was sponsored by Star Educational Books Distributor Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi; the second ((April 2011-June 2011 issue) was sponsored by Om Books International, New Delhi, and the third one (August 2011 – October 2011 issue) has been sponsored by KW Publishers Private Limited, New Delhi, and copies distributed to all our members,

important institutions, universities, and libraries, Government Institutions, Government Officials, NBT, CAPEXIL etc.

It has always been our endeavour to make each issue of this Newsletter more informative and interesting. At times we introduce new features in our Newsletter. As you are aware we had introduced a new column entitled '**Success Story**' of our members in our August 2010-October 2010 issue. Our recent issue (August – October 2011 issue) contained a 'Success Story' of Manhar Patel (Art Book Centre, Ahmedabad). We wish to continue this column by inserting "Success Stories" of our members who by the dint of their hard work have carved a prominent place for themselves in the Publishing Industry. Hence, we request our members to keep on sending their entries to us.

GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE

The Federation have got Trade Mark approved for Good Offices Committee issued by the Office of the Trade Mark Registry – which means that this Trade Mark is owned by the Federation. This is a big achievement for the benefit of our members as this will help in functioning of the GOC smoothly.

The GOC had also issued an 'Appeal' addressed to Vice Chancellors of Universities in India and Directors of Institute regarding purchase of Quality Books/Good Books by Libraries as per Terms of Supplies Recommended by GOC, contained in the latest issue of FPBA Newsletter. It is stated therein that ethics have been sidelined these days to some extent, and that the lure for getting supplies on high rates of discount by some university libraries and other institutes result in the libraries selecting books which are outdated, old editions and not quality books. Appealing to the Vice Chancellors to issue necessary instructions to the libraries that they should insist on getting supplies of quality books/good books only from the members of the State and National level Book Trade Associations and Federations on the terms and conditions recommended by the GOC, their support has been solicited in the matter which is very vital for the book industry and the libraries.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF FPBAI

The Audited Accounts of the Federation for the financial year ending 31st March 2011 show that its financial position is quite sound. The main features of the Accounts are highlighted as follows:

BALANCE SHEET

1. The Balance Sheet discloses an excess of income of Rs.7,97,801.76 over expenditure during the year under report as compared to excess of income of Rs.6,88,534.0 over expenditure during the previous year - thus registering an appreciable increase of Rs. 1,09,230.76.
2. The amount of Rs. 2,01,000.00 shown against 'Building Fund', and Rs. 43,415.00 shown against 'Antipiracy & Copyright Fund' would be utilized for the purposes in due course of time.
3. The amount of Rs. 7,25,000.00 shown against 'Seminar & Training Programmes for Book Industry' would be utilized by launching programmes etc. on appropriate topics in due course.
4. FDR in the Bank totaling to Rs. 49,00,000.00 has been indicated for the year under report as against FDRs totaling to Rs. 44,37,957.20 for the previous year. There is thus a sizeable increase of Rs. 4,62,042.80 in the FDR amount. Besides this, an amount of Rs.15,13,353.75 is indicated in our Current Account for the period ending 31 March 2011, and (in Income & Expenditure Account) an amount of Rs.2,56,473.80 is shown as 'Interest on FDRs & Others' received during the year under report.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

5. Against 'Meeting and Entertainment Expenses' figure of Rs.3,67,192.80 is mainly made up of expenses on 56th AGM (Rs. 3,00,268.00 to Hotel Le Meridien), and expenses of Rs.33,948.00 incurred in respect of visit to Jaipur in connection with 10th EC meeting held there in November 2010.
6. Total amount of Subscription received from members is Rs.13,84,903.00 during the period under report as against total amount of Rs.11,70,664.00 received during the previous year – registering an increase of Rs. 2,14,239.00.

I am happy to inform that after 56th AGM, we have so far enrolled 66 new members with the Federation.

7. Collection of funds in respect of GOC amounts to Rs. 1,40,000.00 as against expenses thereon amounting to Rs. 95,600.00 during the year under report, thus giving a net saving of Rs. 44,400.00. (Collection shown under GOC is on account of annual fee etc. paid by the subscription agents).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Now I have to mention few words, rather as my pleasant duty, to express my personal thanks for the obligation that I have received during the course of my tenure as President of FPBAI in the course of the year. I have been very fortunate to have received continuous support and valuable guidance from all our members, particularly from our Executive Members with whom I had regular interaction. I am indeed thankful to all of them. In particular, I would like to place on records my grateful thanks to Mr. Sunil Sachdev, Mr. S.C. Sethi, Mr. Sukumar Das, Mr. Bhupinder Chowdhri, Mr. A.S. Chowdhry, Mr. M.G. Arora, Mr. R.P. Puri, Mr. Raj D Mirchandani, Mr. Manas Saikia, Mr. Vinod Vasishtha, Ms. Kalpana Shukla, and several other senior members for their valuable guidance and advice.

I also owe my thanks for the unfailing cooperation received from my colleagues – Vice Presidents Mr. Baldev Verma; Mr. Balram Sadhwani; Dr. Himansu Bandyopadhyay; Mr. A.K. Pandey; Hony. Secretary Mr. J.L. Kumar; Hony. Joint Secretary Mr. Vikas Chowdhary; and Hony. Treasurer Mr. Prashant Jain. I am thankful to all of them for the help and support extended by them in the discharge of my duties.

I would also like to convey my sincere thanks to the various State Booksellers & Publishers Associations affiliated to us for the active help and cooperation extended by them, notably Delhi State Booksellers & Publishers Association (DSBPA); The Bangalore Booksellers & Publishers Association (BBPA) whose President Mr. Balram Sadhwani and its office bearers were so very helpful in organizing our Executive Committee Meeting (20 November 2011) as also Seminar on 'Piracy on Books and e-books' at Bangalore on the same day; Knowledge Tree Foundation, Lucknow; Booksellers' & Publishers' Association of South India, Chennai; Publishers' & Booksellers' Association of Bengal, Kolkata;

Publishers & Booksellers Guild, Kolkata; Rajasthan Publishers & Booksellers Association, Jaipur; and Lanka Booksellers Welfare Society, Varanasi.

I am happy to place on records my sincere thanks to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, specially Smt. Vibha Puri Das, Secretary, Higher Education; Shri Amit Khare, Jt. Secretary (BP&CR); Shri G.R. Raghavender, Director; and Dr. Suresh Chand, Special Officer (BP&CR), for the valuable support extended by them to us for carrying out our activities. We are also grateful to National Book Trust, India, particularly its Chairman, Prof. Bipan Chandra; Mr. M.A. Sikandar, Director for associating us in their decision-making process in respect of various issues etc. pertaining to the Indian Book Industry and lending their support to the activities/programmes undertaken by us.

We also express our thanks to Mr. Ramesh K. Mittal, Chairman, and Mr. S.K. Ghai, Ex-Chairman, Books, Publications and Printing Panel (CAPEXIL) for having shared our concerns and lent us their valuable support in various matters.

I also owe my thanks to our hardworking and devoted staff in the Federation Office for their ungrudging assistance and cooperation in the performance of my duties.

