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## THE 62<sup>ND</sup> BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR

Today, on the first day of the fair, a collaboration has been announced between the Bologna Children's Book Fair and the Malaysian Book Publishers Association for the coming edition of the International Publishers Congress in Kuala Lumpur

Having become a Patron Member in 2024 of the International Publishers Association (IPA) – the world's largest federation of national, regional and specialised publishers' associations – Bologna Children's Book Fair (BCBF) today, on 31 March, the first day of its 62<sup>nd</sup> edition, has announced **the official collaboration with the Malaysian Book Publishers Association (MABOPA)** for the organisation of the 35<sup>th</sup> International Publishers Congress (IPC), scheduled to take place in Malaysia in 2026.

The collaboration sees BCBF/BBPlus and MABOPA come together in an agreement to improve international cooperation and the exchange of knowledge and to bolster their commitment to the publishing industry.

The announcement was made at the BolognaBookPlus Theatre during the launch event for the congress and was attended by Gvantsa Jobava, IPA President, José Borghino, IPA Secretary General, and Sheikh Faisal Sheikh Mansor, MABOPA President.

BCBF's admission to the IPA was an important acknowledgement of the work that Bologna has been doing for over sixty years serving the international community of children's publishing and, for the last five years, with BolognaBookPlus, for the sector of generalist publishing. Thanks to the agreement with the Malaysian Book Publishers Association, BCBF's active and constructive participation in the organisation of the next IPC congress in Kuala Lumpur marks a significant step in support of the fair's mission: to intercept and respond to the needs of publishers from all over the world, contributing to the debate on the challenges that the publishing industry is facing during the current complex historical moment.

On the same occasion, MABOPA and Publishers without Borders (PWB) - represented by Mr Simon de Jocas, PWB Co-Founder - signed a Memorandum of Understanding, and Mr Mingzhou Zhou was announced as the IP Congress' first Ambassador.

Bologna, 31 March 2025

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