JOINT TLRC & WWC ANNUAL MEETING 2020

“Literary Justice for All: Tolerance through Diversity”
Yangon, Myanmar
December, 2020

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Place: Yangon, Myanmar
Venues: Taw Win Garden hotel, Yangon Arts and Science University (Arts hall)
Working language/s: English and Myanmar

II. PROJECTED AGENDA FOR THE MEETING:

Day I

13:00-17:00 Creative Writing workshop for Myanmar participants by Kaitlin Kaldmaa
18:00-19:00 Keynote panel on “Literary Justice for All: Tolerance via Diversity”
19:00-21:00 Opening Dinner and Cultural show by PEN Myanmar

Day II

9:00-10:00 Closed session for TLRC members. Opening formalities — Strategic plan 2020-2023. Short reports from the centres. Open to new centres that wish to join TLRC.
10:00-11:00 Panel 1: Mother tongue education.
How the immersion educational models could be improved? — How to prevent governments and public opinion to banish or discredit mother tongue education? — How to avoid the derogation or discredit of education in mother tongue or in the tongue of the territory? — The cases of linguistic replacement and demographic substitution by movements of population (Tibet) — The concept of mother tongue in today’s world
11:00-11:30 Coffee break
11:30-12:30 Panel 2: Translating the minority perspectives
How to develop literacy projects in endangered languages? — How to promote literary translation among minority languages? — How to train translators in local languages? — How to encourage ‘periphery to periphery’ literary contacts?
12:30-13:30 Lunch
13:30-14:30 Panel 3: Targeting translators as traitors
In war, translators and interpreters are often targeted by insurgent groups as traitors for collaborating with foreign entities. Tens of thousands of them seek resettlement in the countries of their former employers. If their asylum applications are denied, they become refugees elsewhere.
In conflict zones, literary translators as well as linguists hired by journalists, NGOs, visiting dignitaries, and foreign corporations face similar challenges.
14:30-15:00 Coffee break
15:30-16:30 Panel 4: Media presence to fight fragility
How can minority languages be more present in the mass media? — What can we do against prejudices and barriers? — How can we build successful strategies and encourage the complicity with the local population?
16:30-17:00 Closed session for TRLC members. Conclusions of the day. PEN members only.
18:30-21:00 Evening event: Free the Words festival (International, Local + ethnic)
Day III

9:00-10:00 Closed session for WWC member. Opening formalities — Strategic plan 2020-2023. Short reports from the centres. Open to new centres that wish to join WWC. Presentations about women situation by attending centres

10:00-11:30 Panel 1: The Women’s Manifesto and VIDA Count session
What motivated creation of The Women’s Manifesto and the many impacts it has had. The PEN VIDA UNESCO count – opening with a discussion of why PEN is doing this: Why we have a WWC at all, and what we intend to get out of undertaking this statistical analysis. Then a hands-on session on how to complete the survey for those who have not yet, or those who’ve started but want help.

Any centre represented who’s undertaken a PEN VIDA style count should report on their results – both the statistical results and what impact it’s had over time:

11:30-12:30 Panel 2: Online trolling and Woman writers
Online trolling is a form of often anonymous harassment through social media. Woman appear to be some of the most violently attacked in this way, and in some cases this gendered, online hatred has led to real damage – especially to woman. Trollers incite hatred and sometimes physical violence against their targets. Why woman? What can we do?

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-14:30 Panel 3: Authoritarian Regimes and the Particular Impact on Women Writers
Authoritarian states are generally ruled by a dominant male group and informed by a dominant male culture. The propaganda that they seek to circulate is informed by this culture. What happens to woman writers in these circumstances? How does this effect publishing in these areas? Are there certain topics that are censored? What happens when the regime has ended?

14:30-15:00 Coffee break
15:00-15:30 WWC closing session
15:30-17:00 Workshop on Children’s Writing and Publishing forum (focused on the topic of the meeting)
18:30-20:30 Closing ceremony

Day IV

Asia-Pacific Network Centres Meeting (Closed session for Asia Pacific Centre members only)

*A draft agenda is forthcoming*

The meeting will present an opportunity to explore and develop PEN’s strategy in the region.

9:00-10:30. Presentations about FoE situation by attending Centres (+ Centres updates)
10:30-12:00 Panel 1.
12:00-13:00 Lunch
13:00-14:30 Panel 2.
14:30-15:00 Coffee break
15:00-16:30 Panel 3.