



اتحاد الناشرين العرب  
ARAB PUBLISHERS' ASSOCIATION

### Meeting of the Committee of Arab Exhibition Managers in Abu Dhabi, 26th of April, 2018

"A step towards the achievement of the hoped for"

United Arab Emirates - Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, hosted the third meeting of the eighth session of the Board of Members of the Arab Publishers Association, the Committee of Directors of Arab Book Fairs took place on April 26, 2018, "A step towards the achievement of the hoped for" The meeting was attended by the most of directors of the Arab book fairs:



The meeting was opened by the President of the Arab Publishers Association, Mr. Mohammad Rashad, with a welcome speech to the guests and the importance of this meeting with the publishing profession and the book industry in the Arab exhibitions. And he praised the role of the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi, which attaches great importance to culture and the book, and presented in his speech the problems experienced by Arab publishers during their participation in the exhibitions.

Mr. Mohammed Al Shehhi, Chairman of the third meeting, delivered a speech welcoming the attendees and his happiness to host the third meeting at "Zayed Al Khair House", wishing the meeting to come out with resolutions and recommendations that contribute to the rise of the Arab publishing industry.

Mr. Saad Al Anzi, Chairman of the second meeting held in Kuwait delivered a speech in which he stressed the need to overcome all the problems that obstruct the development of the publishing movement in the Arab world, and his hope in describing the hope that we seek to achieve.



The participants started their sessions which focused on the reality of publishing and the book in the Arab exhibitions. The resolutions and recommendations issued by the first meeting in Alexandria and the second meeting were presented in Kuwait. There was discussion about activating them and working according to them.

The participants discussed the difficulties and obstacles faced by Arab publishers and Arab exhibitions departments, the most important of which is the piracy of books and all forms of infringement of intellectual property rights, in addition to the issue of freedom of publication and distribution through the problems of visas and VAT on books facing publishers and exhibitions managers. Supporting the publication of the Arabic book and participating in the book fair.

And the end of this meeting, which continued its discussions on four periods throughout the

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26th of April 2018, Mr. Mohamed Rashad announced the formation of a committee headed by Mr. Mohammed Al-Shehi to issue decisions and recommendations, and the membership of:

Mr. Fathi Albess

Mr. Bashar Jassim

Mr. Yousuf Al Bulushi

Mr. Abd-Elazim Magzoub

Mr. Bachar Chebaro

Mr. Mohamed Almaalej

Mr. Nasser Assi

Mr. Said Abdou

Mr. Khaled Qubayeh

The Committee met and made the following decisions and recommendations:

Decisions:

- 1- Emphasis on the decisions and recommendations of the directors of Book fairs in Alexandria 2016 & Kuwait 2017.
- 2- Cooperation and coordination between the Book fairs directors, the Arab Publishers' Association and local associations in revising the lists of publishing houses participating in exhibitions.
- 3- The documents of the disputed contracts are accepted by the local associations and the Arab Publishers' Association, in the disputes between two parties participating in the exhibitions.
- 4- Publishers' commitment to submit the catalog of instructional materials intended in advance for approval by the Book fairs Department.
- 5- The presidents of local associations undertake to ensure the list of delegates participating in the Arab book fairs before being approved by the exhibitions administrations
- 6- Dr. Khaled Azab, Head of Projects Management at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, was commissioned to prepare a report on the publishing movement in the Arab world.

Recommendations:

- 1- To confirm the directors of the Arab book fairs by studying the reduction of visa fees and subscriptions.
- 2- Work on rescheduling the Arab Book fairs every five years starting from 2020 until 2025, coordination between the exhibitions managers and the Arab publishers' association to prevent conflicts of dates.
- 3- The Arab Publishers' Association and the directors of the Arab Book Fair continue to work with the governmental and official bodies to work on canceling the value added tax on books in some Arab countries.
- 4- Urge publishers to respond to their local associations to update their database, to be a reference for exhibition managers.

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5- Support the cooperation between ALECSO and the Arab Publishers' association to classify publishing houses for quality certificates

6- Study the negative impact of the increase of exhibition ranges.

At the end of the meeting, Dr. Haitham El-Haj, Chairman of the Egyptian General Book Organization, requested to host the next meeting on the sidelines of the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Cairo International Book Fair in February 2019. The attendees thanked him for this generous invitation and they accepted.

Mohamed Rashad

President; Arab Publishers' Association

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