

IICLO REPORT

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For the Future of Children and Book

Tomiyasu Yoko, Chief Director



I am honored to announce that I have been appointed to be the Chief director of the International Institute for Children's Literature, Osaka (IICLO).

Although I am a children's writer rather than a researcher, I have decided to accept the position due to the many long-standing connections I have had with the foundation.

However, after formally accepting this role, I found myself realizing just how little I truly knew about the foundation. I had not fully understood the circumstances under which the former Osaka prefectural International Institute for Children's Literature, once located in Expo '70 Commemorative Park in Senri, had been transformed into its present form and relocated to the Osaka Prefectural Central Library, nor had I grasped the full details of the foundation's current situation. Looking back now at its history, I am struck by the fact that fifteen years have already passed since it left Expo Park, and that the foundation has not only survived but continues its activities to this day—it almost feels miraculous.

This is undoubtedly thanks to the generous support and encouragement of so many people who understand the significance of the foundation's mission. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you.

The Center for International Children's Literature at the Osaka Prefectural Central Library, which holds approximately 900,000 items of children's literature, continues to collect materials today with the cooperation of publishing

companies, with our foundation serving as the point of contact. These materials are preserved permanently at the Center, are made available for public access, and will continue to be used as resources for research, education, and outreach activities in the future.

As a writer, it is deeply reassuring and gratifying to know that even when a published book goes out of print, it can still be properly preserved and continue to exist without being lost.

In an age when books are consumed quickly and their life spans grow ever shorter, this offers one possible answer to the question of how we can protect the life of books. As long as The Center for International Children's Literature preserves and maintains these works, there may come a day in the future when forgotten books are brought back into the light. New researchers may connect new readers with books from the past.

The vast body of literature published from the Meiji and Taisho periods through to the present

day is, I believe, an irreplaceable asset not only for children, but for society as a whole. In order to ensure that the stories embodied in each book, along with the thoughts, knowledge, and information they contain, are not simply consumed and lost, I sincerely ask for your continued and increased support of the foundation.

Thank you very much for your ongoing encouragement and cooperation.

Walter Wick's Talk and Workshop

Walter Wick, an American picture book author gave a lecture about his work and devised a workshop for children.

<Lecture for adults>

Title: American Picture Book Author Walter Wick's Talk on His Work.

Date: November 2, 2024

Place: Osaka Prefectural Central Library

Interviewer: Kiire Kyoko (Editor at Shogakukan)

Participants: 42

Outline of the talk: Walter Wick talked about how he became a picture book author and the process of creating "I Spy" picture book series.



Walter Wick and Kiire Kyoko

<Workshop for children>

Title: Let's Play with Mirrors: Exploring the World of Walter Wick.

Date: November 2, 2024

Place: Osaka Prefectural Central Library

Participants: 27

Outline of the workshop: After Walter explained how to create the illusion scenes using the mirrors in *Can You See What I See?* the children used mirrors and building blocks to create their own illusion scenes. They took photos and shared them with the participants.



* This project was supported by the following companies: Suntory Holdings Limited., and Musashi I-Techno Ltd.

* Subsidized project of Kodomo Yume Fund

* Copies of the report of the lectures are available for 1,100 yen.

Workshop with Harriët van Reek

Dutch picture book author Harriët van Leek came to Osaka and devised a workshop called “Let’s Make a Mini Picture Book with Harriët van Leek” for both children and adults.

Date: July 7, 2024

Place: Osaka Prefectural Central Library

Translator: Matsushita Hiroko (Part time Lecturer at Kansai University)

Participants: 30



Lectures on Literature for Young Children

We held an event focused on Literature for Young Children. An author and a researcher each delivered a lecture from their respective perspectives, followed by a discussion between them.

Some valuable materials were exhibited at the entrance of Osaka Prefectural Central Library. IICLO supported the exhibition.

Date: December 8, 2024

Place: Osaka Prefectural Central Library

Lecturers: Ishii Mutsumi (Writer and Translator) and Miyakawa Takeo (IICLO)

Moderator: Doi Yasuko (IICLO)

Participants: 43



* Cooperation: Osaka Prefectural Central Library

* Subsidized project of Kodomo Yume Fund

* Copies of the report of the lectures are available for 1100 yen.

Talk by Picture Book Author Suzuki Mamoru

Suzuki Mamoru, a picture book author gave a lecture called 'The Wonders of Picture Books and Birds' Nests: What Birds' Nests Teach Us'.

Date: September 8, 2024

Place: Osaka Prefectural Central Library

Participants: 64

* Co-Organizer: Osaka School Librarian Group

* Cooperation: Osaka Prefectural Central Library

* Subsidized project of Kodomo Yume Fund



Children's Books Published in 2023

Online lecture that introduces approximately 300 children's books published in 2023 by theme, genre, and age, and discusses current trends in children's books.

Distributing Period: August 10, 2024 to December 16, 2024

Lecturer: Doi Yasuko (IICLO)

Participants:102

The Winner of the 41st Nissan Children's Storybook and Picture Book Grand Prix

The 41th Nissan Children's Storybook and Picture Book Grand Prix, a storybook and picture book contest for new authors, was held and 38 works were chosen.

*There were 1,814 entries ; 1,493 volumes in the Storybook Category and 321 volumes in the Picture Book Category

☆In the Storybook Category

* Grand Prix *

Harukaze no Mahoutsukai (Wizard Who Brings the Spring Breeze) by Shino.

☆In the Picture Book Category

* Grand Prix *

Uragawa (Reverse Side) by Kawahara Kumiko.

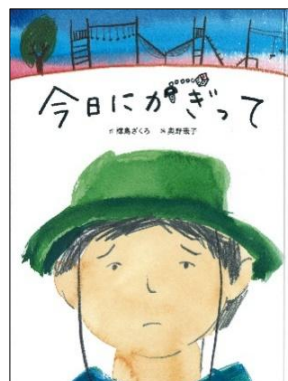
An award ceremony was held at Lighty-hall at Osaka Prefectural Central Library on March 8th, 2025. A special lecture was given and is available for free on YouTube.

Special Lecture: "Tips for Writing Stories"

Lecturer: Yoshihashi Michio (children's book author)

Distributing period: April 2nd, 2025 – March 2026

*The books by the winners of the 40th Grand Prix both in the Storybook Category and the Picture Book Category were published by BL Publishing in December, 2024.



In the Storybook Category

Kyo ni Kagitte (Just Today) by Kabashima Zakuro.

illustrated by Okuno Kanako.



In the Picture Book Category

Sannindake no Naisho no Hanashi (A Secret Talk for Just Three of Us) by Suzy.

IICLO Bulletin No. 38

IICLO advertised for articles on children's literature for *IICLO Bulletin* No.38 and three out of four articles were accepted.

<Contents>

A Study on the Results of 'Child's Hour' Listeners' Inquiries from 1928 to 1932. by Hatakeyama Choko.

【Report】

The Relationship between Iwaya Sazanami and Kubota Beisai: By Using Postcards in the Iwaya Family Collection. by Doi Yasuko.

A Study of Takao Akio (Fuin) 2: Pioneering Activities in the Early Days of Radio Broadcasting. by Endo Jun

The Magazine, Dowa Kyoiku(Children's Story Education) During the Fifteen Years' War: Focusing on the Relationship with Manchuria. by

Teramae Kimiko

The Process by Which "We" Aimed to Create "Juvenile Literature": Reading the Draft of the "Declaration of Juvenile Literature" from the Furata Taruhi Materials. by Sato Motoko

An Examination of Colonialism in the Korobokkuru Monogatari Series: From the Perspectives of the Ainu and the Wajin-Japanese. by Suzuki Hiroe

On the Representations in Uno Akira's Picture Books: From his Picture Book: Debut to Anoko (That Girl) (1966). by Matsumoto Ikuko

Lectures and Activities for Reading Promotion

1. Dispatch IICLO Staff for Lectures

IICLO dispatched our staff to give 42 lectures to librarians, school librarians, teachers, volunteers for children's book activities, parents and people who are interested in children's books, giving advice on book selection and reading promotion, running a course on conveying the pleasure of books and participating in reading clubs etc.

2. Study Meetings with School Librarians

Eleven meetings were held with 27 school librarians in Osaka. The themes are book selection and reading promotion.

3. Judging and Committee Member Duties

(1) Serving as a judge for the 20th Osaka Children's Book Band contest (Organized by Osaka reading promotion committee and Asahi

Newspaper)

(2) Serving as a judge for the "The composition of experiences that expand the Kokoro-no-wa "circle of the heart" (Kokoro-no-wa) 2024 contest (Osaka prefecture welfare department)

(3) Serving as a judge for the 43rd competition for poems and book reports connected with human rights. (Organized by Osaka prefecture, Education Council of Osaka prefecture, and Committee for Human rights in Osaka)

(4) Serving on the book selecting committee of Smile with Picture books Project by the Osaka Izumi Co-operative Society

4. Research meetings

(1) Two research meeting of the Kansai branch of the Japan Society for Children's Literature were held at Osaka Prefectural Central Library on May

18, 2024 and March 23, 2025.

(2) One research meeting of the West Japan branch of the Japan Society for Children's

Literature in English was held at Osaka Prefectural Central Library on Jun 29, 2024.

Events for Children

Story Monorail

A unique event "Story Monorail" was held in which participants enjoyed stories in a reserved monorail carriage and watched a Panel theater in Saito.

Date: September 24, 2024

Participants: 240

Performers: IICLO staff, Ohanashi-Poppo, Puppet Play Circle Palette

Support: Osaka Monorail Co., Ltd., Hankyu Hanshin Properties Corp.



Storytelling sessions and workshops

(1) Event exhibiting old Kamishibai

We held an event with a performance of Gaito-Kamishibai.

Date: November 9, 2024

Place: Osaka Prefectural Central Library

Performers: Shiozaki Otogi Kamishibai Museum staff

Host: Osaka Prefectural Central Library and IICLO

Supporter: Shiozaki Otogi Kamishibai Museum

(2) Story-telling sessions for children

- Six story-telling sessions for children were run at the Children's reading room in Osaka Prefectural Central Library by IICLO staff and Ohanashi-Poppo.

- Story-telling session at Suita City Yamada-ekimae Library (twice) by IICLO staff and Ohanashi Poppo.

(3) Story-telling sessions and workshops

- Three picture book reading sessions at the National Museum of Art, Osaka
- at Toyonaka Higashioka Elementary School (twice).

(4) Story-telling Sessions in children's homes

Storytelling sessions and puppet shows were held at children's homes in the Osaka.

Storytelling sessions: 6

Puppet shows: 3

Performer: Ohanashi Poppo,

Puppet Theatre Clarte

* Supported by Kozu Seiwa Kai

(5) Children's story exchanges between China, Korea, and Japan were held in Japan and IICLO staff devised a picture book making workshop. (August 16 to 23, 2024).

Participants: 100

Place: Tokyo and Gumma

Host: The Executive Committee of Children's story exchanges between China, Korea, and Japan



Mail Magazine

IICLO issues a mail magazine around the 20th of each month. Subscription is free, and we hope you will subscribe. As of Augst 20 2025, there were 4,471 subscribers. The contents are as follows.

<Contents>

1. Information from IICLO
about events on children's literature and culture in Japan: introducing events by other groups
2. Column
 - (1) Talk on a recently published children's book: IICLO professional staff talk about a new book with specialists in children's literature.
 - (2) Essays on children's literature:
An essay written by the chief director and the IICLO professional staff on children's literature, for example on the work of Miyazawa Kenji
 - (3) A Treasury of Words in Children's Books:
Impressive words and phrases in children's books are introduced.
 - (4) Places to go! :
Reports on exhibitions, films and lectures related to children's literature and culture
 - (5) The Children's Literature Authors I Met by Miyakawa Takeo
This section attempts to re-tell the history of contemporary Japanese children's literature from the perspective of Miyakawa Takeo.
 - (6) Let's Challenge to Write a Story! 2025
Tomiyasu Yoko
3. Information about events on children's literature and culture in Japan: introducing events by other groups
4. Present: A book chosen by lottery is introduced in "Talk"

YouTube “IICLO Channel”

IICLO opened YouTube channel in April, 2020 (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgPj7D2ReQ0J03zhMMLfuIA>).

Made for children, one or two children's book introductions are uploaded in a program called “Adventures in the Sea of Books” every Friday. For adults, a book review is uploaded every month.



Research Projects

A Study of Children's Literature and Culture as Seen in Postcards from the Meiji Period: An Analysis of the Collection Formerly Held by Iwaya Sazanami.

The IICLO is conducting a joint project with researchers from outside the institute to study children's literature during the Meiji and Taisho Periods.

- Research meetings: 4
- Two articles were printed in IICLO Bulletin No. 38
- Research members: Asaoka Yasuo, professor at Shirayuri University, Onuki Toshihiko, Associate Professor of Chiba Institute of Technology, Kagawa Masanobu, curator at Hyogo Prefectural Museum of History, Kakimoto Mayo, lecturer and assistant professor of Kyoto Kacho Women's College, Kim Sungyeon, The president of Kurushima Takehiko Memorial Hall, Nakagawa Rieko, lecturer at Toyooka College, Sakai Masayo, professor of Aichi Shukutoku University, Matsumoto Ikuko, curator at Kariya City Art Museum, Meguro Tsuyoshi, assistant professor of Kobe University, Miyakawa Takeo, chief director

of IICLO, Endo Jun, IICLO special researcher/ associate professor at Mukogawa Women's University, Doi Yasuko, IICLO senior researcher

* The project applied for the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research and was selected for funding through 2024-26.

Comprehensive Study of Furuta Taruhi and children's culture-based on a database of Furuta's books and materials

Miyakawa Takeo (IICLO chief director) participated in this research project.

* The project applied for the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research and was selected for funding through 2020-24.

Geopolitics of Anglophone Literature and Cultural Diplomacy in East Eurasia in the Cold War

Washitani Hana (IICLO special researcher) participated in this research project.

* The project applied for the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research and was selected for funding through 2024-27.

The Women Pioneers Project in Japanese Film History

Washitani Hana (IICLO special researcher) participated in this research project.

* The project applied for the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research and was selected for funding through 2020-24.

The Re-evaluation of Modern Dowa and Doyo in Teaching Japanese and the Identification of New Teaching Materials

Miyakawa Takeo and Doi Yasuko participated in this research project.

* The project applied for the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research and was selected for funding through 2022-25.

A Fundamental Study on Children's Literature in the Chinese-speaking World

Doi Yasuko (IICLO) participated in this research project.

* The project applied for the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research and was selected for funding through 2024-27.

Publications and Websites

Hon Navi Kids, Book Research System

“Hon Navi Kids (Book Navigation for Kids)” is a system where children play online, choosing words and feelings to find the books they like.

IICLO independently drew up the keywords and the outlines of stories. In 2024 we added 1885 titles.

This project is being conducted in collaboration with Fujitsu Japan Limited.

Picture Book Making Workshops for Kids The Adventure of Book Sea The Adventure of Finding Secrets of Manga

IICLO maintains internet system called “Picture Book Making Workshops for Kids”, “Adventures in the Sea of Books”, and “The Adventure of Finding the Secrets of Manga” for our internet system supported by Justice Co.

Recommended Children's Books for Internet Manabi Library

IICLO was asked by Benesse Corporation to

select recommended books for an internet library.

Children's Home Library Grant Program

IICLO dispatched a member of the selection committee for the Itochu Foundation's Children's Home Library Grant program.

Materials issued by IICLO

- *Report on Lectures and Discussion: Literature for Young Children from the Beginning to the Present by Ishii Mutsumi and Miyakawa Takeo.* 1,100 yen
- *Reports on an International Lecture: American Picture Book Author Walter Wick's Talk on His Works.* 1,100 yen
- *Reports on the forum “Keep Exploring Children's Literature—Looking back on the works of Miyake Okiko”.* 1,320 yen

- *Reports on an International Exchange Project in 2023: The World of Francesca Sanna, Picture Book Author, Making a Picture Book with Picture Book Author Francesca Sanna!* 880 yen
- *Report on Lecture: "Images of the 'West' in Japanese Children's Books: Beginning with Ishii Momoko's Translations" by Stepen Choi.* 880 yen
- *Report on Lecture: Beyond Words: Storytelling with Pictures by David Wiesner and Shaun Tan.* 1,100 yen
- *The Diverse World of Cinderella Stories by Yokokawa Sumiko.* 880 yen
- *Report on Lecture: Surprised and Enjoying Devised Picture Books Beginning from its British History by Miyake Okiko.* 1,430 yen
- *Reports on Forum: Children's Books: Present and Future.* 880 yen
- *Report on Lecture: Czech Children's Books: Now and in the Past by Kimura Yuko.* 880 yen
- *Reports on Serial Lectures: History of British Children's Literature with Visual Images by Miyake Okiko.* 1,540 yen
- *Reports on Lectures: Children's Reading Culture from View Point of Kamishibi' by Asaoka Yasuou.* 880yen
- *Reports on an International Lecture: Let's Talk about Park Jong-chae's Work.* 1,000 yen
- *Reports on Lecture: Children's Literature for Young Children by Miyake Okiko.* 1,100yen
- *Reports on an Lecture: The Way to Illustrate "Fantasy": The World of Aman Kimiko & Tomiyasu Yoko.* 1,320 yen
- *IICLO Bulletin No. 1-38* 1,100 yen – 2,750 yen

In Appreciation of Donations

We have received many donations from 309 people, 2,819,693yen.

In Appreciation of Book Donations

We have received many donations of Children's books and materials about them from publishers, authors, researchers, and small magazine circles. These materials were taken over by Osaka Prefectural Central Library International Institute for Children's Literature, Osaka for preservation in perpetuity and are open to the public.

The number of donations of this year

Books	3,320
Magazines	2,716
Others	1,025
Total	7,061 items

Our thanks go to;

Clare Bradford (Australia)

蒋 风 (China)

Lastenkirjainstituutti (Finland)

Internationale Jugendbibliothek (Germany)

金 永順 (Korea)

Kęstutis Urba (Lithuania)

Harri ë t van Reek (Netherlands)

高 明美 (Taiwan)

Ann Hotta (U.S.A)

Catherine Butler (UK)

The International Institute for Children's Literature, Osaka, 2023

All Japanese names in the News appear in the traditional order, surname followed by given name.