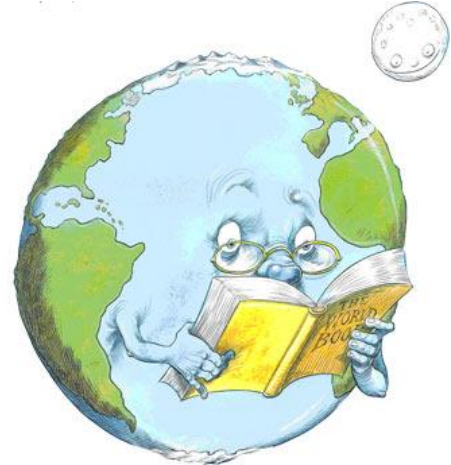


Calling young writers and poets



Students from SMK Assunta participating in a creative writing workshop organised by 'The World Book' project at Alice Smith School in Seri Kembangan. — NST picture by Mohd Khairul Helmy

KUALA LUMPUR: The chance to be published in an international book awaits aspiring Malaysian writers.

The Alice Smith School invites students from local schools to submit their poems or essays to the fourth edition of The World Book, which was launched at the school yesterday.

The chosen entries will be featured in the latest publication to be released in December alongside other works of fiction and non-fiction from across the globe.

The World Book, a collection of stories, poems and other written pieces of non-fiction, is a platform for budding writers to showcase their writing ability and share it with each other.

The idea of the book was conceived and developed by English teacher Rick Riddell five years ago.

The first publication in 2008 featured entries from eight schools in Southeast Asia.

The second book printed the following year published writings from 28 countries such as Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Ethiopia and Nigeria, among others.

The third book included SMK Seri Hartamas as a partner school. Three of its fifth-formers were featured last year, proving that there is no lack of literary talents in local public schools.

Encouraged by the positive response from Malaysian writers, Alice Smith School has invited SMK Assunta to be its partner this year.

Riddell, who is also project manager and editor of The World Book, is excited at the prospect of reading the works of local youths.

"Submit your writing to the project for the chance to be read worldwide," he said at the launch.

Some 30 students from SMK Assunta attended a creative writing workshop organised by The World Book project production team.

Form Three student Dilhara Jayasinghe said: "I am glad to be given this chance as there are many international students involved".

Principal Rita Shanthini Jayaratnam said this was the best opportunity for students to discover their talent in writing.

"It is a great honour to be published in The World Book, but more importantly, young people must be encouraged to give it a try."

Alice Smith Secondary principal Roger Schultz said the partnership between the international school and a local institution would allow students to learn and interact with each other.

"This is an example of how we have made creative writing and publishing more meaningful and relevant to students from different backgrounds around the world."

HSBC Bank Malaysia Bhd contributed RM20,000 towards publishing the book.

Executive director and deputy chief executive officer Jon Addis said: "We are excited to see the final product and hope the project will realise young people's dream of entertaining readers through the written word".

Official media partner, the New Straits Times, will run a series of articles on writing in the Learning Curve from next month until December to coincide with the release of The World Book 2011.

Writers have until July 15 to email their creative pieces to worldbook2011alicesmith@gmail.com.

Visit <http://www.theworldbook.net/> for this year's themes and further details.