

2 Japanese authors among Zayed Book Award winners

PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE ALSO CHOSEN FOR PRIZE OFFERING A TOTAL OF DH7M

ABU DHABI

The Shaikh Zayed Book Award announced four winners in its ninth edition yesterday.

The Literature Award went to Osama Alaysa from Palestine for his novel, *Majaneen bait lahem* (The fools of Bethlehem), while Hanawa Haruo from Japan was named winner of the Translation Award for his work on Naguib Mahfouz's Cairo Trilogy (*Palace Walk, Palace of Desire and Sugar Street*) translated into Japanese.

The Arab Culture in Other Languages Award went to Sugita Hideaki, also from Japan, for his book, *Arabian-Naito to Nihon-Jin* (The Arabian Nights and the Japanese), while Arab Scientific Publishers Inc from Lebanon won the Publishing and Technology Award.

Dr Ali Bin Tamim, Secretary-General of the Award, congratulated the winners, stressing that their work deserved special recognition, as the Shaikh Zayed Book Award strives to live up to its name as it honours the memory of Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and its mission is to celebrate outstanding writers, intellectuals, publishers as well as young talent whose writings and translations have enriched Arab cultural, literary and social life.

Bin Tamim explained that the winners' selection came after extensive discussions by the Awards' Board of Trustees and the Scientific Committee of the results submitted by the judging panels across the award's nine categories.

He expressed his gratitude to the Board of Trustees, Scientific Committee, judging and reading panels for their efforts. He also thanked universities and cultural entities for their nominations, and acknowledged the hard work put in by the nominees this year.

No winners in 4 categories

The Board of Trustees announced withholding four awards this year for Literary and Art Criticism, Young Author, Contribution to the Development of Nations and Children's Literature as nominations in these categories did not meet the award's standards.

The award carries cash prizes totalling Dh7 million, with Dh750,000 per winner in all eight categories, and Dh1 million for the winner of the Cultural Personality of the Year. The winners also receive a certificate of merit and a gold medal.

The awards ceremony will take place in Abu Dhabi in May during the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair.

— WAM