

Meet the winners of the Zayed book prize

Among the many established and up-and-coming authors attending the fair are literary winners of this year's Sheikh Zayed Book Award, which were announced last month.

The Literature Award went to the Palestinian novelist Osama Alaysa for *Majanin Bayt Lahm (The Mad Men of Bethlehem)*.

A journalist and critic as well as the author of five novels and numerous short stories, Mr Alaysa has been imprisoned for his activism in Israel and writes about the suffering of the Palestinian people. Visitors can hear all about the novel and its inspiration tomorrow from 6pm on the Discussion Sofa.

Also appearing will be Sugita Hideaki, the winner of the Arab Culture in Other Languages Award for his book *Arabian-Naito to Nihon-Jin (The Arabian Nights and the Japanese)*.

It traces the influence of the Arabian Nights on all aspects of modern Japanese culture including children's literature, theatre, fiction, cinema and travel literature. Meet him on Saturday from 7pm in The Tent.

The official awards ceremony will take place during the book fair.