

Koichiro Matsuura
UNESCO Director-General

"We do not take tolerance in its negative sense: as supercilious indifference to others. On the contrary: we regard tolerance as a positive outreach of human minds to understand others, and so to uncover, or to forge, common ethical ties. Accumulated prejudices, grudges, fears, nurtured on abiding mutual ignorance, are recognised seedbeds of war. To replace anxious mistrust with greater insights into one another's cultures and aspirations, is to help us learn to sympathise with one another, and prepare the way for lasting peace."



Sowing the seeds of tolerance ...

2003 UNESCO Prize for Children's
and Young People's Literature
in the Service of Tolerance



The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in collaboration with Grupo Editorial SM of Spain, created the **UNESCO Prize for Children's and Young People's Literature in the Service of Tolerance** in 1995.

Awarded for the first time in 1997, the prize has now become an established event in the world of children's books.

The prize is given every two years in recognition of **works of fiction** for the young that best embody the concepts and ideals of tolerance and peace and promote mutual understanding based on respect for other people and cultures. Emphasis is placed on the context in which such books are published in a world where intolerance is at the root of so much human misery.

The books we are looking for are those that encourage children and young people to accept differences and reject discrimination in all its forms. Books that open their minds to other cultures and ways of life, thus helping them to overcome fear based on ignorance which all too often leads to intolerance, conflict and war.

The works may be **novels, collections of short stories and illustrated picture books** falling under two age categories: books for children up to the age of 12, and those for young people aged 13 to 18. Entries should only be books published in 2000-2001, and nominations will remain open until 31 January 2002 (deadline for receiving entries at UNESCO in Paris).

Publishers (not authors) are invited to submit one book per category (i.e. a maximum of two books per publisher) through the National Commission for UNESCO in their countries.

Direct submissions to UNESCO will not be accepted. Where no National Commission exists, other arrangements may be made.

All books must be accompanied by a summary in English or French. Publishers are kindly requested to send **three copies** of each book submitted in order to facilitate evaluation by the reading committee and members of the International Jury.

The author of the winning book in each age category will receive US \$8,000 generously donated by the Grupo Editorial SM. The other finalists on the short list will be awarded honourable mention. The names of the publishers will appear on the award diplomas. The prize-giving ceremony is expected to take place at the Bologna Children's Book Fair (Italy) in 2003.



A complete list of National Commissions and their addresses is available on UNESCO's website at the following URL:
www.unesco.org/general/eng/partners/commission/listecn.shtml

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