OUR MISSION: TRANSFORM THE FUTURE OF AFRICAN PUBLISHING

The International Publishers Association’s Africa seminar series began in 2018. The initial event had publishers, policymakers, and creative industry stakeholders converge in Lagos, Nigeria to explore the nexus of sustainable development, education, and the future of publishing. It attracted 200 attendees from over 20 countries — making it the largest global forum on African publishing ever held.

In just one year, the seminar has evolved into a continent-wide, multi-sectoral platform for creative thinking, collaboration, and action to shape the future of African publishing. What differentiates this seminar from other events is its focus on near term impact. This focus — on moving from words to action — is captured in seminar-specific action plans which gain consensus on key industry challenges and identify scalable pilot projects as possible solutions. After the event, an action plan committee implements pilot projects to present their learnings at the next seminar. In this way, industry stakeholders learn and grow together by being exposed to innovative, replicable solutions to the African publishing industry’s most pressing challenges.

Through its seminars, action plans, partnerships and collaborations, the International Publishers Association is promoting progress and building a community of doers that are transforming the future of African publishing.
The seminar Africa Rising: Realising Africa’s Potential as a Global Publishing Leader in the 21st Century will build on last year’s discussions on the role of the publishing industry in sustainable development.

As we enter a new phase in the global publishing industry’s development — in which future readers are increasingly likely to be found in emerging publishing markets — this is the African publishing industry’s time to shine. Africa has some of fastest mobile and internet connectivity growth rates in the world and nearly 60% of its population is below 24. If proper investments are made in literacy and education, and there is an enabling economic environment for jobs and investment, Africa’s youth bulge can be a catalyst for the future of African publishing and accelerated social and economic development.

This year’s seminar will attract more than 600 attendees from over 50 countries to discuss sectoral innovation and revitalisation. The seminar will feature keynotes by globally renowned authors, decision makers, and industry thought leaders; in addition to panel sessions and workshops on themes addressing the most pressing challenges facing the African publishing industry.

Join us in this unique opportunity to co-create a new future for African publishing.

Africa in Action

The African in Action initiative aims to empower African publishers and associations by bringing them together to discuss pivotal issues faced in the region, innovate scalable solutions and create a movement of change through signed agreements and action plans.

During this event, IPA has two MoU agreements set with Africa’s largest influencers in the publishing and education sectors. The African Publishers Network (APNET) agreement promises collaboration between both parties to advance common industry goals and promote the development of the publishing industry in Africa. While the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) agreement promises to promote the adoption and implementation of national book and reading policies in Africa and facilitate dialogue between various actors in the publishing industry.

The event includes a closed round table discussion of pressing issues and scalable solutions to consider.

Pre-event Initiatives *

Thursday, 13th of June 2019

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Pre-event Initiatives*
Thursday, 13th of June 2019

PublisHer Dinner
The PublisHer initiative was created by Bodour Al Qasimi, Vice President of the International Publishers Association (IPA) and Founder and CEO of Kalimat Group (Sharjah, UAE), as a forum for women to discuss critical issues they face in the publishing industry. The aim is to develop global action agendas through candid discussions with women publishers and to do so on the sidelines of key literary events.

This event celebrates women in publishing over an intimate dinner featuring a live performance and panel discussion.

Panel Discussion: Overcoming Publishing’s Diversity Problem

Moderator: Lorna Irungu Macharia — Managing Director, Gina Din Group (Kenya)

The publishing industry has a diversity problem. While publishing attracts a significant number of women, few are at the executive or board levels and many face significant gender pay gaps. Women are given more traditional functions such as communications, human resources, and educational divisions. In many countries, the publishing industry also remains unwelcoming to outsiders, whether they are female, or from other disadvantaged groups. This panel discussion will give attendees a chance to hear from leading women publishers about their paths to success and their views on how the publishing industry can take action to address its diversity challenge.

Panelists
• Thabiso Mahlape — Founder, Blackbird Books (South Africa)
• Ama Dadson — Chief Executive Officer, AkooBooks Audio (Ghana)
• Bibi Bakare-Yusuf — Co-founder, Cassava Republic Press (Nigeria)

Day One
Friday, 14th of June 2019

8:00am–9:00am
Registration and Welcome Reception

Welcome Address:
Lawrence Njagi – Chair, Kenya Publishers Association (Kenya)
Hugo Setzer – President, International Publishers Association (Mexico)
Professor Ngũg  wa Thiong’o – Professor of English and Comparative Literature, University of California Irvine, Writer, and Activist (Kenya)

10:00am–10:30am
Opening Keynote

Publishing Ecosystem Talk: Anna Bertmar Khan — Senior Technical Advisor, Dubai Cares (Sweden)
The impact of mother tongue on teaching and learning in early childhood education.

11:15am–11:30am
Coffee and Networking Break

11:30am–12:30pm
Panel Discussion 1: Textbook Policies: Reaching the Goal of a Textbook for Every Child in Africa

Moderator: Brian Wafawarowa – Director, Lefa Publishing and Research Services; Chair, IPA Inclusive Publishing and Literacy Committee (South Africa)

Achieving quality education in line with the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goal 4 requires providing students and teachers with sufficient teaching and learning materials. This session will discuss the scarcity of learning materials in African schools, the issues it causes for the region, and potential solutions for reaching the goal of a textbook for every child. It will draw from the varied successes of African countries including free textbook programs and market-based interventions to make textbooks cheaper.

Panelists
• Dr Julius Jwan — CEO and Director, Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (Kenya)
• Albert Nsengiyumva — Executive Secretary, Association for the Development of Education in Africa (Rwanda)
• Fatou Sy — Secretary General, Senegalese Publishers Association (Senegal)
• Richard Crabbe — Textbooks Consultant (Ghana)

*The events mentioned are private events by invitation only.
### Day One
Friday, 14th of June 2019

**12:30pm – 12:45pm**
**Overview on the general history of Africa**
Abdul Rahman Lamin – Programme Specialist, UNESCO Office of Nairobi (Kenya)

**Panel Discussion 2: Copyright Protection and the Threat of Piracy**

**Moderator:** José Borghino – Secretary General, International Publishers Association (Australia)

The adoption of new models for compensation using frictionless purchasing experiences and ethical appeals have reduced piracy for films and music, but it remains unclear if similar approaches could work in the publishing industry. This session will discuss the rise of piracy of digital and printed books as well as possible scalable solutions to reducing this epidemic.

**Panellists**
- Dr Maha Bakhiet – Director, Intellectual Property and Competitiveness Department, League of Arab States (Sudan)
- Dora Susan Salamba-Makwinja – Executive Director, Copyright Society of Malawi (Malawi)
- Keitseng Nkah Monyatsi – Copyright Administrator, Companies and Intellectual Property Authority, Ministry of Trade and Industry of Botswana (Botswana)
- Edward Sigei – Executive Director, Kenya Copyright Board (Kenya)

**1:45pm – 2:45pm**
**Lunch and Networking Break**

**2:45pm – 3:00pm**
**Publishing Ecosystem Talk:** Deborah Ahenkorah – Co-founder of Accord Literary (Ghana)

A short talk on cultivating the next generation of publishing industry leaders.

**Panel Discussion 3: Developing Africa’s Next Generation of Publishers, Writers, and Artists**

**Moderator:** Maimouna Jallow – Writer, Journalist, Media Trainer, and Editor at Re-Imagined Storytelling Festival (Kenya)

This session will draw on the experience of younger publishers, writers, and artists to understand the current state of Africa’s publishing ecosystem, as well as answer two pivotal questions: how can the publishing industry be improved? And how can the ecosystem evolve to develop Africa’s next generation of publishers?

**Panellists**
- Dr Peter Kimani – Author, Journalist (Kenya)
- Thabiso Mahlape – Publisher, BlackBird Books (South Africa)
- Abdulrahman ‘Abu Amirah’ Ndegwa – Author, Founder, Hekaya Initiative (Kenya)
- Dawn Makena – CEO, Storymoja Africa (Kenya)

**3:00pm – 4:00pm**
**Panel Discussion 4: Digital Transformation and Disruption in African Publishing**

**Moderator:** Okechukwu Ofili – Chief Executive Officer, Okadabooks.com (Nigeria)

This panel will discuss how emerging markets are now a main source of publishing industry growth and how digital transformation is allowing these developing publishing markets to leapfrog into the future. Discussions will also include how publishers and other industry ecosystem stakeholders can cooperate to respond to the evolving needs of readers of the future as well as how they can adapt to pressures for digital transformation.

**Panellists**
- Gersy Ileanyi Ejimofo – Founder, Digitalback Books (UK)
- Harry Hare – Chairman, CIO East Africa (Kenya)
- Chidi Nwaogu – Founder, Publisher (Nigeria)
- Chika Nwaogu – Founder, Publisher (Nigeria)
- Dorcas Wepukhulu – Coordinator, African Storybook, South African Institute for Distance Education (Kenya)

**4:00pm – 4:15pm**
**Publishing Ecosystem Talk:** Giacomo D’Angelo – Chief Executive Officer, StreetLib (Italy)

A short talk on emerging, disruptive business models in the publishing industry and the digital transformation imperative.

**5:15pm – 5:45pm**
**Panel Discussion 5: The Growing Threat of Self-Censorship**

**Moderator:** Kristenn Einarsson – Managing Director, Norwegian Publishers Association, Chair, IPA FTP Committee (Norway)

There is a growing trend of institutionalised censorship imposed by publishers themselves to avoid run-ins with government censors and interest groups that threaten free speech. The worsening trend of self-imposed control over literature, art, ideas, and opinions is a significant threat to freedom to publish in Africa if unchecked. This session will discuss the perils of self-censorship and explore ways in which publishers, writers, and other creative industry stakeholders can take a stand.

**Panellists**
- Sihem Bensedrine – President, Truth and Dignity Commission of Tunisia (Tunisia)
- Khanya Mncwabe – Centre Coordinator, PEN South Africa (South Africa)
- Gado Mwampembwa – Cartoonist (Tanzania)
- Dr Tom Odhiambo – Lecturer of Literature, University of Nairobi (Kenya)
- Gill Moodie – Commissioning Editor, NB Publishers (South Africa)
Day One
Friday, 14th of June 2019

Fireside Chat: A conversation with Sylvie Forbin, Deputy Director General, Copyright and Creative Industries Sector, World Intellectual Property Organization

6:45pm–7:15pm
Join Forbin in an intimate conversation with Dr. Marisella Ouma, head of legal services at Central Bank of Kenya and a former executive director of the Kenya Copyright Board. Forbin will discuss the World Intellectual Property Organization’s work supporting the development of African publishing.

Closing Remarks: Brian Wafawarowa – Director, Lefa Publishing and Research Services; Chair, IPA Inclusive Publishing and Literacy Committee [South Africa]

7:15pm–7:30pm

Networking Dinner and Show:
Sharjah Publishing City Speech: Ahmed Al Amri – Chairman, Sharjah Book Authority
Musicality of Language: A Multilingual Performance of Professor Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o’s Upright Revolution

8:30pm–10:30pm
Nguĩ wa Thiong’o’s short story ‘The Upright Revolution’ beautifully blends myth and folklore with an acute insight into the human psyche and politics to explain how and why humans began to walk upright. Originally written in Gikuyu, it has now been translated into 74 languages — making it the most translated story in the history of African literature. Thespian Bryan Ngartia and Company will be re-imagining the fable for the stage with a performance that celebrates cultural diversity and the beauty of language.
Day Two
Saturday, 15th of June 2019

8:00am–9:00am
Welcome Reception

9:00am–9:15am
Welcome Address: Bodour Al Qasimi – Vice President, International Publishers Association (UAE)

9:15am–9:45am
Opening Keynote

9:45am–10:00am
Publishing Ecosystem Talk: Wanjiru Koinange and Angela Wachuka – Co-founders, Book Bunk (Kenya)
A short talk on transforming public libraries into community centres for the digital age.

10:00am–11:00am
Panel Discussion 6: Creating the Readers of the Future
Moderator: Lawrence Njagi – Chair, Kenya Publishers Association (Kenya)
Strong national reading cultures contribute significantly to promoting literacy skills, enhancing learning opportunities, and addressing poverty. However, despite the presence of many literacy programs in Africa, little attention is paid to instilling a culture of reading amongst youth. The result is a generation that is reading less and watching more than ever before. This session will discuss the role of governments, donor agencies, publishers, librarians, teachers, and families in fostering a culture of reading.

Panellists
- Joan Mwachi-Amolo – Regional Director, East Africa, Worldreader (Kenya)
- Will Clurman – Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer, eKitabu (Kenya)
- John Mwazemba – General Manager, Oxford University Press East Africa (Kenya)
- Tonee Ndungu – Founder and Chief Information Officer, Kytabu Educational Platform (Kenya)
- Zukiswa Wanner – Journalist, Novelist (South Africa)

11:00am–11:15am
Coffee and Networking Break

11:15am–11:30pm
Publishing Ecosystem Talk: Dr Henry Chakava – Chairman, East African Education Publishers (Kenya)
A short talk on how the publishing industry can support African authors in reaching global audiences and publishing in indigenous languages.

11:30am–12:30pm
Panel Discussion 7: Lost Tongues: The Struggle to Preserve Indigenous African Languages
Moderator: Wanjeri Gakuru – Managing Editor, Jalada (Kenya)
A recent forum found that hundreds of indigenous languages, which contribute significantly to cultures and economies, are disappearing at an alarming rate. Despite efforts to preserve indigenous languages, such as UNESCO’s declaration of 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages, a great majority of these languages are likely to disappear. This session will explore the role governments, publishers, and authors can play in preserving and promoting indigenous languages.

Panellists
- Petina Gappah – Author, Lawyer (Zimbabwe)
- Kiarie Kamau – Managing Director, Chief Executive Officer, East African Educational Publishers (Kenya)
- Dr Anthony Kila – Director, Centre for International Advanced and Professional Studies (Nigeria)
- Dr Kimani Njogu – Associate Professor, Kiswahili and African Languages and Director of Taweza Communications and Africa Health and Development International (AHADI) (Kenya)
- Elinor Sisulu – Executive Director, Puku Children’s Literature Foundation (South Africa)

12:30pm–12:45pm
Publishing Ecosystem Talk: Andre Breedt – Director, Nielsen Book Research International (UK)
A short talk on building publishing industry stakeholder support for national book retail sales data collection systems.

12:45pm–1:45pm
Panel Discussion 8: Data Innovation: Developing Data and Statistical Capabilities to Support the Publishing and Creative Industries
Moderator: Samuel Kolawole – Chair, African Publishers Network (Nigeria)
There is a widespread agreement that the publishing and cultural industries can be a major driver of sustainable development and economic growth. However, the lack of industry data is a key weakness for planning and coordinating the publishing industry’s development and mobilising government industry support. This session will discuss the importance of data innovation to the future development of publishing and the creative industries and establishing their contribution to sustainable development.

Panellists
- Isabelle Kassi Fofana – President, Akwaba Culture Association (Ivory Coast)
- Monica Aba Brew-Hammond – Senior Lecturer, Department of Publishing Studies, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana)
- Dr Pali Lehohla – Former Statistician General, Former Head of Statistics South Africa (South Africa)
- Zachary Mwangi – Director General, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (Kenya)
**Day Two**

Saturday, 15th of June 2019

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>1:45pm–2:45pm</td>
<td>Lunch and Networking Break</td>
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<td>2:45pm–3:45pm</td>
<td><strong>Update on the Lagos Action Plan:</strong></td>
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<td>At the inaugural IPA seminar in Nigeria, an eight-member working group of key stakeholders was convened to develop and implement an action plan to translate seminar outcomes into concrete actions. The working group will discuss the Lagos Action Plan prioritised focus areas and progress made.</td>
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<td><strong>Discussion leader:</strong> Gbodega Adedapo – President, Nigerian Publishers Association (Nigeria)</td>
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<td><strong>Participation from:</strong></td>
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<td>• Lawrence Njagi – Chair, Kenya Publishers Association (Kenya)</td>
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<td>• Samuel Kalawole – Chair, African Publishers Network (Nigeria)</td>
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<td>• John O. Asein – Director General, Nigerian Copyright Commission (Nigeria)</td>
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<td>• Ernest Oppong – Acting Executive Director, African Publishers Network (Ghana)</td>
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<td>• Anges Félix Ndakpri – President, Ivory Coast Publishers Association (Ivory Coast)</td>
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<td>• Brian Wafawarowa – Director, Lefa Publishing and Research Services; Chair, IPA Inclusive Publishing and Literacy Committee (South Africa)</td>
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<td>2:45pm–3:45pm</td>
<td><strong>Copyright Workshop</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Moderator:</strong> Kiarie Kamau – Managing Director and CEO, East African Educational Publishers (Kenya)</td>
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<td><strong>Participation from:</strong></td>
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<td>• Michael Healy – Executive Director, International Relations, Copyright Clearance Center (UK)</td>
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<td>• Dr Marisella Ouma – Head of Legal Services at Central Bank of Kenya and a former Executive Director of the Kenya Copyright Board (Kenya)</td>
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<td>• Carole Croella – Senior Counsellor, Copyright Law Division, WIPO (France)</td>
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<td>• Maxwell Wahome – Managing Director, Longhorn Publishers (Kenya)</td>
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<td>3:45pm–5:45pm</td>
<td><strong>Coffee Break</strong></td>
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<td>5:45pm–6:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Closing Remarks:</strong></td>
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<td>Hugo Setzer – President, International Publishers Association (Mexico)</td>
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<td>Lawrence Njagi – Chair, Kenya Publishers Association (Kenya)</td>
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<td>6:00pm–7:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Gala Dinner and Show:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Emirates Airlines Speech:</strong> Hendrik Du Preez – Regional Manager East Africa, Emirates Airlines</td>
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<td>The gala dinner will include inspiring speeches, a delectable set course meal, and a live African entertainment show that will surely be the perfect end to a successful seminar.</td>
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The ‘Read. Write. Create. Africa’ photography collection by Omar Victor Diop will celebrate books and Africa’s rich heritage, culture, and languages. The full collection will be showcased in September at the Xposure exhibition in Sharjah as part of the Sharjah World Book Capital 2019 celebrations.

IPA is hosting this mini-series to promote and celebrate African talent and give seminar guests an exclusive first view opportunity. Omar will be showcasing five of his pieces during the seminar in the main hall.

Omar Victor Diop was born in Dakar in 1980. He developed an interest for photography and design as a means to capture the diversity of modern African societies and lifestyles. He draws inspiration from his rich African visual heritage, mixing photography with other forms of art, such as costume design, styling and creative writing.

Omar’s work is interrogative and intriguing, prospective, with a touch of vintage. His works of art are known to be both striking and beautiful. Making political statements that can inspire and empower generations.

Guests are encouraged to visit this never been seen before exhibition anytime during the seminar.
Sightseeing Tour

Join us for a sightseeing tour to discover the wondrous side of Nairobi, Kenya. Attendance is optional and prior registration is required.

Pre-booking is now available through KPA and IPA’s websites or you may also book through the registration desk during the seminar.
Biographies

Aba Brew-Hammond (Ghana)
Aba Brew-Hammond is the CEO of Hasford Publishers Ltd, a book publishing firm that specialises in children’s reading books, editing and writing, consulting on reading and literacy issues, and organising literacy workshops. She is also a senior lecturer in the Departments of Publishing Studies, Faculty of Art, and College of Art and Built Environment at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). She has taught at the university level for 19 years and secondary school for 17 years. Her areas of specialisation are English language, English literature, copy editing, and authorship development.

Abdulrahman ‘Abu Amirah’ Ndegwa (Kenya)
Abdulrahman ‘Abu Amirah’ Ndegwa is a Mombasa-based creative writer. He is also founder and managing editor of Hekaya Arts Initiative, a literary and cultural production and publishing platform for coastal narratives. His novel writing fiction project won the African Writers Trust Seed Fund and will be Hekaya’s publishing pilot project which attempts at connecting writers from the entire Swahili coast through one collaborative story. He has been published twice by Writivism and is a fellow at Art Managers & Literary Activists and African Writers Trust. Abu Amirah is also a student of psychology and currently working on publishing his first short story anthology and young adult novel.

Abdul Rahman Lamin (Kenya)
Abdul Rahman Lamin is programme specialist in social and human sciences at UNESCO Multi-sectoral Office for Eastern Africa, based in Nairobi, Kenya; a position he has held since January 2014. Between April 2009 and December 2013, he held the same post at UNESCO Office in Accra, Ghana, where he started his UNESCO (and UN) career. In the current position, he primarily provides programmatic leadership in the domain of social and human sciences, working closely with UNESCO programme sectors and across geographic regions, to coordinate regional and national interventions that are of exceptionally quality and profile, impact driven and highly visible in Member States. Educated in Sierra Leone and the United States of America, Lamin holds a PhD from the Department of African Studies and Research at Howard University in Washington D.C., a MA in international affairs from Ohio University in the USA, and BA (Honours) in English Language and Literature from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone.

Albert Nsengiyumva (Rwanda)
Albert Nsengiyumva is the executive secretary of the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA). He is also senior advisor for the Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT), supporting the new Digital Ambassador Program (DAP) led by the Rwandan Ministry of Information Technology and Communication (MiTEC) and the World Economic Forum (WEF). He is a former member of Cabinet Digital Ambassador Program (DAP) led by the Rwandan Ministry of Information Technology and Communication (MiTEC) and the World Economic Forum (WEF). He is also founder and general manager of “GAD”, a specialised agency in the publishing, distribution, communication, and event planning field. He has a Diploma of Specialised Higher Studies (DESS) in publishing and a Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Management (DSPM) in organisation. Nsengiyumva has worked for 15 years in the “Fraternité Matin” Group (public service state media) where he was director of “FratMat Editions” as well as publishing, sales & marketing director, and special advisor to the General Manager.

Ama Dadson (Ghana)
Ama Dadson is the founder and CEO of AkooBooks, Ghana’s first publisher and digital distributor of African audiobooks and winner of the African Entrepreneurship Award. Prior to founding AkooBooks, she was an IT professional for over 20 years serving clients across Africa and Europe and a consultant on ICT and e-sustainability projects for several international organisations.

Andre Breedt (UK)
Andre Breedt is the managing director of Nielsen Book Research International; focusing on the research and measurement areas of the business internationally. He has a background in book retail and market research. Since joining, he has worked on projects ranging from analysing the Chinese book market, to the expansion of the digital market. He has also been influential in the launch of new Nielsen BookScan markets, including Brazil, Mexico and India, and is currently leading expansion efforts globally. In his role, Andre has worked with numerous industry associations and bodies to develop standards and best practices, which are used internationally.

Angela Wachuka (Kenya)
Angela Wachuka is one of East Africa’s leading publishers of African literature. From 2008 to 2017, she was the executive director of Kwani Trust, where she published some of Africa’s leading literary and award-winning voices including Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Nuruddin Farah, Binyavanga Wainaina, Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor, Ayobami Adebayo and Jennifer Makumbi. Angela is a founding member of the Creative Economy Working Group, a critical intervention for influencing policy formulation, exchange of resources and the exploration of components within the creative economy sector in Kenya. She recently served as secretary to a national film committee appointed by Kenya’s Ministry of Sports, Culture and the Arts to align creative economy sector in Kenya’s creative sector. With a background in Anthropology and Law, Wachuka’s main interests lie in the intersection between media, popular culture and the creative industries. She previously worked for the BBC’s African News and Current Affairs Department in London, and holds a BA in Anthropology and Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). From 2011-2013, she was an International Arts Management Fellow at the Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC.

Anges Félix Ndakpri (Ivory Coast)
Anges Félix Ndakpri is president of Association des Éditeurs de Côte d’Ivoire (ASSEDI) and general commissioner of Salon International du Livre d’Abidjan (SILA). He is also founder and general manager of “GAD”, a specialised agency in the publishing, distribution, communication, and event planning field. He has a Diploma of Specialised Higher Studies (DESS) in publishing and a Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Management (DSPM) in organisation. Ndakpri has worked for 15 years in the “Fraternité Matin” Group (public service state media) where he was director of “FratMat Editions” as well as publishing, sales & marketing director, and special advisor to the General Manager.
Anna Bertmar Khan (Sweden)

Anna Bertmar Khan is a senior development and humanitarian professional with a life-long commitment to help fix problems affecting marginalised children. She is the senior technical advisor for Dubai Cares, a foundation that supports education in low-income contexts. Anna overlooks evidence and program strategy, helping to guide the work to ensure children and youth learn. In her earlier development work, Anna has been head of international programs for Plan International in Sweden, as well as worked with local NGOs in Pakistan that build poor communities’ ability to protect children from the exploitation of child labour. She has worked with the World Bank to address the root causes to the institutionalisation of children in Armenia. Anna has also worked for the United Nations in Iraq and Bahrain. In her humanitarian work, Anna has had different leadership and start-up roles for Medecins Sans Frontieres, including as general director for its Swedish office. Anna has a MSc in International Relations from the London School of Economics. She is based in Dubai with her husband and three children and is a passionate reader of literature from around the world.

Dr Anthony Kila (Nigeria)

Dr Anthony A. Kila graduated with a degree in political science and later specialised as a scholar of strategy and development. He is now Jean Monnet professor of strategy and development; centre director at the Centre for International Advanced and Professional Studies (CIAPS) Lagos; and chairs the CIAPS Press. Anthony is also an international director of studies at ECAPS in Cambridge; a fellow at the European Institute for Social and Economic Development; a regular commentator on the BBC; and a columnist whose articles and essays have been published in various news outlets. He is an expert of internationalisation and joint ventures and has worked on various international projects across the globe.

Bibi Bakare (Nigeria)

Bibi Bakare-Yusuf is co-founder and publishing director of Cassava Republic Press, one of Africa’s leading publishing houses. She has worked on gender issues in the public, private, and social sectors for the BBC, UnivFem, ActionAid, eShekel, the Central Bank of Nigeria, and the European Union. Bakar-Yusuf chairs the board of the Initiative for Equal Rights, the largest LGBTQ advocacy organisation in West Africa. An accomplished academic, she has received the Yale World, Desmond Tutu, and Frankfurt Book Fair Fellowships.

Bodour Al Qasimi (UAE)

Bodour Al Qasimi is vice president of the International Publishers Association (IPA). She is also founder and CEO of Kalimat Group, the first publishing house in the United Arab Emirates dedicated to publishing high quality children’s books and educational content; and founder of the Emirates Publishers Association. Bodour also chairs the committee of Sharjah World Book Capital 2019—the esteemed title awarded by UNESCO. She has been pivotal in driving many global initiatives in the effort to develop the publishing industry worldwide—she particularly focuses on supporting efforts to transform the publishing and digital content industries to contribute to innovation and cultural exchange. She leads a number of initiatives to promote youth and gender empowerment, economic development, and cross-cultural exchange.

Brian Wafawarowa (South Africa)

Brian Wafawarowa is president of the Publishers Association of South Africa (PASA) and a member of the executive committee of the International Publishers Association. He is the former executive director of learning services at Pearson South Africa and former chairman of the African Publishers Network. Brian has 25 years of experience in publishing and education and is currently carrying out research on policy and the African publishing and book sector. He holds an honours degree in English from the University of Zimbabwe, a master’s in literature from Wits University, and an executive MBA from the University of Cape Town.

Carole Croella (France)

Carole Croella is a senior counsellor at the copyright division of the culture & creative industries sector of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) headquartered in Geneva Switzerland. She works on the development and implementation of international legal standards in copyright and related rights. Her work involves updating international legal standards of protection for broadcasting organisations, capacity building and technical assistance activities for developing countries on copyright, collective management and other issues. Since 2013, she has been coordinating the WIPO/CDIP capacity-building project on “Strengthening the Audiovisual Industry in Africa”. Ms. Croella was a staff member of the European Commission of the European Union in Brussels, Belgium. Her main fields of activity were negotiation and implementation of key European copyright and related rights directives. She took part in the negotiation of several IP trade agreements between the EU and third countries and worked on harmonising the copyright and related rights legislation of Central and Eastern Europe countries in the lead up to the EU’s enlargement in 2004.

Chidi Nwaogu (Nigeria)

Chidi Nwaogu is a Nigerian serial software entrepreneur, writer, publisher and computer programmer. Since he was 19, Chidi has co-founded, grown and sold two internet companies. He is presently the co-founder and CEO of Publiseer — one of the largest digital publishers in Africa. He is a SensX fellow; been named OD Young Person of the Month for November 2018; and was the keynote speaker at the 2012 IT Leaders West Africa Summit. Chidi has been featured on many national newspapers for his pioneering contributions in the ICT field in Nigeria.

Chika Nwaogu (Nigeria)

Chika Nwaogu is the co-founder and chief technology officer of Publiseer. Since he was 19, Chika has co-founded, grown and sold two start-up companies. He was first discovered at the age of 21 by National Mirror newspaper which covered his remarkable story of LAGbook under the headline “Twins Pioneer Made-in-Nigeria Social Network”. Chika received international recognition in 2011 when TechCrunch, the world’s leading technology news website, reported how LAGbook grew by 35,000 registered members in just six months. Today, he is a respected gospel recording artist and songwriter in his home country with a music career spanning nearly two years.
Biographies

Dawn Makena (Kenya)

Dawn is the CEO of Storymoja. She leads a dynamic team in packaging and repackaging authentic African stories that teach, inspire and provoke young minds. A marketing and project management specialist by training, she has creatively combined her love of books, training and storytelling to weave exciting products and offerings. Dawn is a reading revolutionary on a mission to nurture a generation of young African readers and writers. She is a visionary and highly talented young leader who was the first Kenyan to participate in the Bill & Melinda Gates global programme INELI (International Network for Emerging Library Innovators). She has participated in various global programmes and trained information professionals in Kenya, Tanzania and Malawi.

Deborah Ahenkorah (Ghana)

Deborah Ahenkorah is a publisher who is passionate about producing world-class African children’s books. Her publishing house, African Bureau Stories, is committed to providing increased opportunities for African writers and illustrators to publish locally and internationally. Deborah Ahenkorah also established the Golden Baobab Prize, the prestigious literary award which over the past ten years has discovered and supported children’s book authors and illustrators across Africa. Deborah has championed and advocated for the African children’s literature industry from grassroots levels across communities to large global stages such as the World Economic Forum. She is an award-winning entrepreneur and her work has been celebrated by international organisations such as Echoing Green, the Aspen Institute and the Grinnell Prize for Social Justice.

Dora Salamba (Malawi)

Dora Susan Mawina is the copyright administrator and executive director of the Copyright Society of Malawi (COSOMA), which is both a copyright office and a collective management organisation. She has been involved in a number of assignments for the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in the area of copyright and related rights, as well as collective management of copyright and related rights. Dora is a tutor for the WIPO Distance Learning programmes, mainly teaching DL201e Advanced Course on Copyright and Related Rights and DL501 e on Introduction to Collective Management of Copyright and Related Rights for Policy Makers, and has been head tutor for the DL201E for four consecutive years. She is also a visiting lecturer for the Master of Intellectual Property Management of Copyright and Related Rights for Policy Makers, and has been head tutor for the DL201e Advanced Course on Copyright and Related Rights and DL501e on Introduction to Collective Management of Copyright and Related Rights for Policy Makers. She has been involved in a number of assignments for the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in the area of copyright and related rights. Previously, she worked as a legal assistant for the Malawi Copyright Office and was also a member of the collective management of copyright and related rights. She holds a Master’s Degree in Business Law from the Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar and a Master’s Degree in Business Administration from CESAG-UEMOA Center for Studies in Administration and Management.

Dorcas Wepukhulu (Kenya)

Dorcas Wepukhulu is partner development coordinator for African Storybook, a literacy initiative of the South African Institute for Distance Education (SAIDE). Based in Kenya, she is an experienced educationalist and teacher who is passionate about community involvement in the development and use of high quality digital multilingual children’s literature including Open Educational Resources (OERs); she supports learners and educators to use technology as a means to improve educational outcomes and knowledge acquisition. Dorcas is a Ford Foundation alumnus with a Master of Arts in sustainable international development from Brandeis University, USA.

Edward Sigel (Kenya)

Mr. Edward Sigel is the executive director of Kenya Copyright Board (KECOBO). KECOBO is a state corporation under the office of the Attorney General and the Department of Justice. It was established by section 3 of the Copyright Act 2001 and mandated with the administration and enforcement of copyright and related rights. Prior to his appointment as executive director, he had served at the organisation for over ten years as the chief legal counsel where he dealt with issues of prosecution, litigation, public education, copyright law reform as well as heading the department dealing with enforcement matters. He has vast experience in areas of intellectual property especially in the field of copyright. He has trained extensively on copyright in Kenya and the East Africa region as well as representing the country in international meetings and conferences. Edward holds a Master of Laws (LLM) degree and is an advocate of the High Court of Kenya.

Elnor Sisulu (South Africa)

Elnor Sisulu is a Zimbabwean-born South African writer and human rights activist. She has educational training in history, English literature, development studies and feminist theory from institutions in Zimbabwe, Senegal and the Netherlands. She is the author of the award-winning children’s book ‘The Day Gogo Went to Vote’. Her biography on her parents-in-law “Walter and Albertina Sisulu: In Our Lifetime” secured her the prestigious Noma Award for Publishing in Africa. Elnor has been highly involved in book promotion and literary development efforts for many years; her work with the Puku Children’s Literature Foundation to develop Pukupedia (the online encyclopedia of children’s books in all languages) is one such example. An expert in her field, she has been a judge for many literary awards including the Commonwealth Writer’s Prize, the Sanlam Youth Literature Prize, the Penguin Africa Writer’s Competition, the Alan Paton Award, and the Eslatal Prize.

Ernest Oppong (Ghana)

Ernest Oppong is acting executive director of African Publishers Network (APNET) and assistant executive secretary of Ghana Book Publishers Association (GBPA). He is a trained publisher holding a Bachelor’s degree in publishing studies from Kwaname Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). Due to his dedication at APNET, the network has been revived and they have been able to roll out its activities to promote book publishing in Africa – benefiting member-countries and the international publishing communities.

Fatou Sy (Senegal)

Fatou Sy is the co-creator and manager of Editions NARA, a young publishing company under Senegalese law established in 2008. The publishing house is the winner of the 2015 Senegal National Book Award and has received the 1st Alouine Diop Prize for Edition in Francophone Africa from the African Organization of the Francophone Off 2015. She is also secretary general of the Senegalese Association of Publishers. Fatou has a Master’s Degree in Business Law from the Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar and a Master’s Degree in Business Administration from CESAG-UEMOA Center for Studies in Administration and Management.
Biographies

Godfrey Mwampembwa (Tanzania)
Godfrey Mwampembwa, pen name Gado, is a Tanzanian political cartoonist, animator and comics artist. He is a member of the Cartoonists Rights Network (CRN), Cartoonists for Peace and Kenya Union of Journalists (KUJ). He is the most syndicated political and editorial cartoonist in East and Central Africa. Gado is the editorial cartoonist for the East African Standard in Nairobi and has also been published in the Daily Nation (Kenya), New African (United Kingdom), Courrier International (France) and Business Day and Sunday Tribune (South Africa). He has produced cartoons for Le Monde, The Washington Times, Der Standard and Japan Times. Gado is a 2007 Prince Claus Laureate and winner of the Kenya National Human Rights Commission (KHRC) Lifetime Achievement Award in Journalism (2018). He is a recipient of the prestigious Cartoon for Peace 2016 International Editorial Cartoon Award and the Visionaries Award from Ford Foundation for his innovative efforts on the frontlines of key social issues.

Gbadega Adedapo (Nigeria)
Gbadega Adedapo is president of the Nigerian Publishers Association (NPA); CEO of Rasmed Publications Limited; and chairman of the Nigerian Book Fair Trust. He currently serves as an executive committee member of the International Publishers Association (IPA) and board member of the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC). Gbadega has been recognised as one of the ‘20 Most Exceptional CEOs of the Year 2017’ by Tell Communications Limited. He has been awarded Printing/Publishing Personality Prize winner of the Year 2017 by African Mark of Leadership Excellence (AMLE), the Distinguished Service Award by the Association of Nigerian University Professional Administrators (Olabisi Onabanjo University Chapter); and the National Association of Proprietors of Private Schools (NAPSS) Ambassador Award.

Gersy Ifeanyi Ejimofo (UK)
Gersy Ifeanyi Ejimofo is founder and director of Digitalback Books — a virtual library platform offering readers instant digital access to a comprehensive collection of stories from across Africa and its diaspora. She has a BSc (Joint Honours) from the University of Birmingham and a master’s from the London School of Economics. Born in Germany, raised in Nigeria, and educated in the UK, Gersy has over 15 years of corporate experience. Recognising that Africans both on the continent and in the diaspora need to take a more proactive approach to their creative content, Gersy left her career in the city to gain more hands-on experience in the publishing industry. She has since worked on many projects for global publishers, developing and implementing digital strategies internationally.

Giacomo D’Angelo (Italy)
Giacomo D’Angelo is the CEO of StreetLib.com, a global publishing facilitator which manages over 250,000 titles of publishers and authors around the world; it acts as a gateway distributor to deliver digital books and audiobooks to and from anywhere in the world. At StreetLib, Giacomo drives strategy, profitability, international expansion and growth, with a special focus on the emerging markets. Giacomo combines a passion for the Internet and blockchain technologies with his love for books as the best tool for improving human potential. In 2016, Giacomo founded StreetLib USA in New York City and has been selected to participate in the International Innovators Initiative (IN2NYC) as the first start-up visa in the USA. In 2017, Giacomo and his team funded the new publishingstandard.com, with Sir Mark Williams as editor in chief, to focus on raising awareness of the global book markets. Since his appointment as CEO, StreetLib released a publishing portal for publishers from half of the world and started offering blockchain-enabled mobile wallet solution to authors in emerging markets.

Gill Moodie (South Africa)
Gill Moodie is the commissioning editor of NB Publishers — South Africa’s biggest trade publisher. Gill is the publisher of The President’s Keepers, one of the best-selling books in South Africa’s history that recently won the prestigious Jeri Laber International Freedom to Publish Award given annually by the Association of American Publishers. Published in 2017, Jacques Pauw’s The President’s Keepers, exposed how then President Jacob Zuma and his cronies perverted the law-enforcement agencies of the country to protect himself. Gill is a former journalist, who worked for the Sunday Times, Business Day and Daily Dispatch. She has also worked in publishing in the UK.

Harry Hare (Kenya)
Hare is the founder and publisher of CIO East Africa, an IT media company specialised in web, print, events and TV properties serving C-Level IT professionals in East Africa. He is also the managing director of Okaki Africa and Events Management Solutions. In addition, Hare runs DEMO Africa, a LIONS@FRICA initiative and the largest technology start-up event in Africa which brings technology start-ups, investors and technology buyers in one platform.

Dr Henry Chakava (Kenya)
Dr Henry Chakava is chairman of East African Educational Publishers and Kenway Publications. He is also part of the management board of African Books Collective (ABC), chairman of the Kenya Copyright Board, member of the Kenya National Commission to UNESCO, director of Kenya Copyright Board, and council member and chairman of the Kenya Institute of Administration (KIA). Dr Henry has been a great contributor to educational and cultural literature in the region, receiving many awards in recognition of his efforts. These include an Honorary Doctorate Degree by Oxford Brookes University (UK); a Prince Claus Award for work on culture and democracy in Africa; Award for Extraordinary Service to Kenya by the Kenyan Head of State; and the 1st Zimbabwe International Book Fair (ZIBF) Award for life-long contribution to the African Publishing Sector among others.
John Mwazemba (Kenya)

John Mwazemba currently heads Oxford University Press East Africa (OUPEA) and is former CEO of Phoenix Publishers. He is an experienced editor, writer and publisher. He was editor and publishing manager of the Macmillan Kenya Publishers — a large international publishing house. Well versed in his field, John has written assignments for the World Bank, the United Nations (the UN Economic Commission for Africa, and the United Nations Development Programme), and many other governmental and non-governmental organisations in Kenya. He has also worked for the African Economic Research Consortium. John is currently getting his PhD in communication studies at the University of Nairobi.

José Borghino (Australia)

José Borghino has been secretary general of the International Publishers Association since September 2015. He joined the IPA as policy director in 2013 where he oversaw policy development, organised the Prix Voltaire (IPA’s freedom to publish prize), and managed the IPA’s activities in the educational publishing sector including the Educational Publishers Forum. Before joining the IPA, José worked as the manager of industry representation at the Australian Publishers Association. He has been executive director of the Australian Society of Authors; a lecturer in literary journalism and creative industries at the University of Sydney; and editor of the online news magazine “NewMatilda.com”, EDITION5 Review magazine, and Education Australia magazine. José also held senior positions at the Literature Board of the Australia Council.

Dr Julius O. Jwan (Kenya)

Dr Julius Jwan is the director and CEO of the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD). He holds a PhD degree from the UK and three masters’ degrees. Prior to joining KICD, he was the director of programmes and technical services at the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) for three years. He also lectured at Moi University for over thirteen years and taught at both Ongalo Secondary School and Kaimosi Teachers’ Training College for six years. Dr Julius published three books and is the winner of the Best Doctoral Thesis Award by the British Educational Leadership, Management and Administration Society (BELMAS) in 2011. Dr Jwan has published widely on educational leadership and management in international journals and book chapters.

Keitseng Nkah Monyatsi (Botswana)

Keitseng Nkah Monyatsi is copyright administrator at the Companies and Intellectual Property Authority. She holds a master’s degree in intellectual property from the University Of New Hampshire School of Law (USA) and a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Botswana. Her specialties include trademark examination, research coordination, indigenous knowledge systems and copyright and neighbouring rights. Keitseng possesses a wealth of experience in the field of intellectual property (IP) dating back to 1997 when she joined the then Registrar of Companies. She expanded her career and experience by taking up various responsibilities at Armstrongs Attorneys, the Centre for Scientific Research Indigenous Knowledge and Innovation at the University of Botswana, the Department of Research Science and Technology, and the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) (Harare, Zimbabwe).
Biographies

Kiarie Kamau (Kenya)

Kiarie Kamau is the managing director and CEO of East African Educational Publishers (EAFP). He is also a council member of the Kenya Publishers Association (KPA), as well as council of management at the UK-based African Books Collective (ABC). Kiarie is a passionate publisher with an interest in the publishing of creative works in Kiswahili and other African languages. He has presented papers on publishing and literature in local and international forums, many of which have been published in books and journals including ‘Promoting Local Authorship in Kenya’, ‘The State of Publishing in East Africa’, and ‘The Guru of Publishing: Assessing Henry Chakava’s Contribution in Africa’. Kiarie is also an ardent commentator on literary issues in the dailies.

Dr Kimani Njogu (Kenya)

Dr Kimani Njogu is CEO of Twaweza Communications, Nairobi. He has a PhD in linguistics from the University of Nairobi and Yale University and has taught in the Kiswahili and African Languages Department at Kenyatta University. Kimani also chairs the Creative Economy Working Group and is actively involved in the creative sector as a writer, critic, translator, policy advocate and publisher. He is also the commissioner of Kiswahili Cross-Border Language Commission at the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN), an organ of the African Union, founding chair of the Kalasha Film and Television Awards Nominating Academy, and National Kiswahili Association (CHAUTA); and chair of the Board at the Legal Resources Foundation Trust, a human rights organisation. Kimani has also served on the Task Force for the Establishment of the East African Kiswahili Commission. He is extensively published in the areas of language, culture, media and governance and is winner of the Pan-African Noma Award for Publishing in Africa (2000) for a Kiswahili book on literary criticism.

Kristenn Einarsson (Norway)

Kristenn Einarsson has been in the publishing business for more than 40 years. He chairs the International Publishers Association Freedom to Publish Committee; is Managing Director of the Norwegian Publishers Association; and President of The Norwegian Academy of Literature and Freedom of Expression. He also chairs the board of two companies in television distribution. In the past, he was CEO of The Norwegian Book Clubs and Kunnskapsforlaget, as well as chair of the Norwegian Film Fund and the Norwegian Film Council.

Lawrence Njagi (Kenya)

Lawrence Njagi is chairman of the Kenya Publishers Association; managing director of Mountain Top Publishers; treasurer of the African Publishers Network; director of Kopiken; and director of the National Book Development Council of Kenya. He has been spearheading association issues and lobbying in the government and private sectors in a bid to protect and develop the Kenyan publishing industry. His efforts have also seen the growth of The Nairobi International Book Fair which is now a self-sustaining premier event in East and Central Africa. Lawrence sits in all key book and educational boards in both the government and private sectors. He is currently in the process of leading the formation of the Publishers Association of East Africa which aims at integrating the various National Associations to form a formidable voice able to articulate regional book issues.

Lorna Irungu (Kenya)

Lorna Irungu Macharia is managing director of Gina Din Group, a leading public relations firm in East Africa. Her work focuses on private, public, and social sector clients with a strong social impact mission. She is an advocate for combating gender-based violence and amplifying women’s voices in politics. Macharia has held a number of roles in media and entertainment including stints as a radio host, presenter, and producer. She was the recipient of the Archbishop Tutu and the Eisenhower International Fellowships through which she examined the role of women in politics.

Dr Maha Bakheet (Sudan)

Dr Maha Bakheet is the director of the Intellectual Property and Competitiveness Department at the League of Arab States (LAS), she joined LAS Cairo in October 2000. Her role involved establishing the intellectual property unit at LAS headquarter in Cairo in order to coordinate all the issues of intellectual property in the Arab region in cooperation with the other 22 member states of LAS. Prior to LAS, Dr Maha worked as a legal advisor at the Ministry of Justice in Sudan, and as director of the legal department of the Ministry of Culture and Information, and the Literary and Artistic Works Council in Sudan. She has been a member of the WIPO Academy Advisory Board and has taken an active role in the reformation of the Sudanese Legislations in Intellectual Property and the preparation of the Sudanese Accession to the WTO.

Maimouna Jallow (Kenya)

Maimouna Jallow is a Nairobi-based storyteller, communications consultant and director of Positively African – an organisation that brings together a Pan-African network of activists, artists and academics working at the intersection between art and social justice. In 2016 and 2018, the organisation held its flagship event, the Re-Imagined Storytelling Festival – a weeklong festival bringing storytellers from around Africa to perform and hold workshops in Nairobi. Maimouna is also the editor of Story Story, Story Come – an anthology of African folktales by writers from 8 African countries published by Pavaipo (Dec. 2018). She has also adapted and performed novels by African women for the stage and conducted workshops in Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Somalia, Egypt, UK, Edinburgh, Chile, Singapore, Sweden and Poland. She is currently a fellow of the inaugural Ford Foundation Africa #NoFilter initiative. Her work has been featured on the NYT, BBC, Forbes Woman Africa, and The East African, amongst others. Before her transition into storytelling, Maimouna worked as a producer and correspondent for the BBC World Service and managed Regional Communications for Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in the Horn of Africa region. She holds a Master’s in African Literature (SOAS).
Biographies

Dr Marisella Ouma (Kenya)

Dr. Marisella Ouma is an intellectual property law expert based in Nairobi, Kenya. Her experience in intellectual property spans a period of over 21 years with a specialisation in copyright and related rights including copyright in the digital environment and the interface between cybercrime and copyright infringement. Her other areas of interest include traditional knowledge, management of intellectual property and enforcement. She was the founding executive director of the Kenya Copyright Board, a position she held for over 10 years and has contributed to the policy and legal framework on intellectual property in Kenya and in Africa. She also served as the deputy solicitor general, Legal and Advisory Department at the Office of the Attorney General and Department of Justice. She is widely published and is a visiting lecturer at the Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe and the Strathmore University in Nairobi, Kenya. She has a LLB from the University of Nairobi, and LLM from Stockholm University and a Doctorate from Queen Mary University of London. Dr. Ouma is currently the head of the legal department at the Central Bank of Kenya.

Maxwell Wahome (Kenya)

Maxwell is CEO of Longhorn Publishers, a publicly listed company at the Nairobi Securities Exchange. He is a certified public accountant and a certified information systems auditor (CISA) with vast experience in financial consultancy, strategic planning and business performance improvement across various industries. He has previously worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) in Kenya and South Africa and has a good understanding of the publishing industry having served as the chief operations officer and currently the CEO of Longhorn Publishers Plc. Maxwell holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree in accounting from the University of Nairobi and is currently pursuing a Master’s degree in strategic planning from the Heriot-Watt University (UK).

Michael Healy (UK)

Michael Healy is the executive director (international relations) at Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) and is based in New York City. Prior to joining CCC, Michael was executive director of The Book Rights Registry and previously executive director of the Book Industry Study Group (BISG). Before moving to the United States in 2006, Michael worked for more than 20 years in the publishing industry in the UK, spending most of that time in senior editorial, sales and distribution roles in digital publishing. For much of his career, Michael has been closely involved in the development of standards for the international book trade. He was chairman of the International ISBN Agency, director of the International DOI Foundation, and has led the international ISO committee that developed ISBN-13. He currently chairs the International Standard Name Identifier (ISNI) Agency and is a director of the UK Copyright Hub. He is a frequent speaker at international conferences on copyright, licensing, and future trends in publishing.

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o (Kenya)

Ngũgĩ is an award-winning Kenyan writer and academic. He is the founder and editor of the Gikuyu-language journal Mũt iri and is currently Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Irvine. He has served as a lecturer in English at University College (Nairobi, Kenya), and as a visiting professor of English at Northwestern University (Evanston, Illinois). He was also senior lecturer and chairman of the department of literature at the University of Nairobi. Ngũgĩ presents his ideas on literature, culture, and politics through his novels, plays, short stories, and essays. Topics discussed include the struggle for Kenyan independence including the social, moral, and racial issues and its aftermath; the social and economic problems in East Africa; and what it was like to grow up in Kenya. Such works earned him awards and recognition as one of Africa’s most articulate social critics and activists.

Nokukhanya (Khanya) Mncwabe (South Africa)

Nokukhanya (Khanya) Mncwabe is a policy analyst and human rights consultant who currently serves as the centre coordinator of PEN South Africa—an organisation that celebrates literature and works to advance and safeguard the right to freedom of expression. Khanya has previously worked with Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (Uganda), the Heinrich Boell Foundation (South Africa), Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, and the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR) to ensure that human rights in Africa are respected, protected and promoted. She has a Bachelor’s of Social Sciences degree in politics and philosophy from the University of Cape Town and is concluding her legal studies at the University of South Africa.

Okechukwu Ofili (Nigeria)

Okechukwu Ofili is co-founder and CEO of OkadaBooks — the fastest growing mobile book reading app in Africa with over 200,000 users and growing at a rate of 5,000 users per month. He has written four bestselling books including ‘How Intelligence Kills’ and the children’s book ‘Afro: The Girl with The Magical hair’. He is an international blogger; four-time TEDx speaker; and one of Venture Africa’s ‘140 African Innovators to Watch’. He has also been listed on the Quartz Africa 2016 Innovators list.

Dr Pali Lehohla (South Africa)

Dr Pali Joba Lehohla is the statistician-general of South Africa. He is also an associate at Oxford University; consultant to the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative; and professor of practice at the University of Johannesburg. He has served as co-chair of PARIS21; and chair of the United Nations Statistics Commission, the Statistics Commission of Africa (StatCom Africa), and the African Symposium for Statistical Development (ASSD). He was also vice president of the International Statistics Institute (ISI). He served as a member of the Data Revolution Panel appointed by the UN Secretary-General and has recently been appointed to the Independent Accountability Panel for the health of women, children and adolescents. Pali is a sponsor of the Young African Statistician (YAS) movement and has been an advocate for improving the civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa. He has been recognised by the University of Ghana for his contribution to the development of statistics and awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Stellenbosch in 2015.

Dr Khanya Mncwabe

Khanya Mncwabe is a policy analyst and human rights consultant who currently serves as the centre coordinator of PEN South Africa—an organisation that celebrates literature and works to advance and safeguard the right to freedom of expression. Khanya has previously worked with Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (Uganda), the Heinrich Boell Foundation (South Africa), Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, and the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR) to ensure that human rights in Africa are respected, protected and promoted. She has a Bachelor’s of Social Sciences degree in politics and philosophy from the University of Cape Town and is concluding her legal studies at the University of South Africa.

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Biographies

Dr Peter Kimani (Kenya)
Dr Peter Kimani is a leading African author; he has published three novels including ‘Dance of the Jakaranda’, which was New York Times Notable Book of 2017. His fourth book titled ‘Nairobi Noir’, an anthology excavating the history of Nairobi, is due for release in February 2020. Peter continues to contribute to international and local publications, most notably the Daily Nation and The Standard, where he serves as senior writer and editor (respectively). He has taught at Amherst College, the University of Houston and is presently on the faculty of the Graduate School of Media and Communications, Aga Khan University. He is chair of the 2019 Caine Prize for African Writing judging panel.

Peter Tabichi Mokaya (Kenya)
Peter Tabichi Mokaya is the winner of the 2019 Global Teacher Prize. He graduated from Egerton University with a degree in Bachelor of Education in Science. He later taught at the Keriko Mixed Day Secondary School in 2016, a semi-arid village impacted by famine, drought and extreme poverty. Peter launched the Talent Nurturing Club, which has dramatically improved student attendance. He works with students to create renewable energy and devices that support people with disabilities. Under his guidance, students have reached the finals of the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair and won an award from the Royal Society of Chemistry. Peter has also pioneered ways to address the challenge of food insecurity in local communities, such as kitchen gardening and growing resistant crops to fight famine. In April 2019, Tabichi was appointed as Champion of Memory’ and two short story collections: ‘Rotten Row’ and ‘An Elegy for Easterly’. She is specialises in international trade and investment. She is the author of the novel ‘The Book of Memory’ and two short story collections: ‘Rotten Row’ and ’An Elegy for Easterly’. She is the recipient of the Guardian First Book Award and the McKitterick Prize from the Society of Authors. Petina lives in Harare, Zimbabwe, where she recently spearheaded the translation of George Orwell’s novel ‘Animal Farm’ into Shona. Her work has been shortlisted for the Orwell Prize; the Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award; the Los Angeles Times Book Award; the PEN America Open Book Award; the Frank O’Connor International Short Story Award; the Women’s Prize for Fiction; and the Prix Femina (Étrangers).

Petina Gappah (Zimbabwe)
Petina Gappah is an award-winning Zimbabwean writer and lawyer. As a lawyer, Petina specialises in international trade and investment. She is the author of the novel ‘The Book of Memory’ and two short story collections: ‘Rotten Row’ and ‘An Elegy for Easterly’. She is the recipient of the Guardian First Book Award and the McKitterick Prize from the Society of Authors. Petina lives in Harare, Zimbabwe, where she recently spearheaded the translation of George Orwell’s novel ‘Animal Farm’ into Shona. Her work has been shortlisted for the Orwell Prize; the Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award; the Los Angeles Times Book Award; the PEN America Open Book Award; the Frank O’ Connor International Short Story Award; the Women’s Prize for Fiction; and the Prix Femina (Étrangers).

Richard Crabbe (Ghana)
Richard Crabbe is an international communications and publishing consultant. He also works as a senior communications and publishing consultant at the World Bank in Washington, DC. From 2002 to 2012, he served as head of client relations in the World Bank’s Office of the Publisher. Prior to joining the World Bank in 2002, he was general manager of African Christian Press in Accra, Ghana (1982-2002). In his nearly 40-year career in publishing, he has also served as chairman of African Publishers’ Network (APNET); member of the Executive Committee, International Publishers Association (IPA); and president of the Ghana Book Publishers Association. He is an ardent advocate for collaboration among the private sector, governments and the development community to ensure that Africa’s children have the right books they need. He also champions training and mentoring the next generation of African publishers. Richard was lead author of the book, Textbook Development in Low Income Countries: A Guide for Policy and Practice.

Samuel Kolawole (Nigeria)
Samuel Kolawole’s career in the publishing industry spans close to two decades. He is the managing director of University Press Plc.; president of Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators of Nigeria (ICSAN); and chairman of African Publishers Network (APNET). Samuel has served as president of the Nigerian Publishers Association (NPA) and chairman of Nigeria Book Fair Trust (NBFT) in the past. He also has a first degree in law from Ogun State University and an MBA from the University of Liverpool. He is a fellow at the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators of Nigeria, and the National Institute of Marketing of Nigeria; as well as a member at the Institute of Directors, Nigeria. Samuel has written a number of articles including ‘Legal Aspects of Publishing’, ‘Legal Liabilities in Publishing’; and ‘Profitable Textbook Publishing and What Needs to be Understood’.

Sihem Bensedrine (Tunisia)
Sihem Bensedrine is a writer, journalist and activist focusing on democracy, freedom of the press and human rights. In 2001, she received the Special Award for Human Rights Journalism ‘Under Threat’ by Amnesty International and was awarded the IPA Freedom to Publish Prize in 2009. She also received the Alison Des Forges Award by Human Rights Watch in recognition of her efforts to expose human rights violations (the award celebrates the valor of individuals who put their lives on the line to protect the dignity and rights of others). Since 2014, Sihem is the head of the Truth and Dignity Commission, which is an independent state body for hearing testimonies of victims of state repression between 1955 and 2011.

Sylvie Forbin (France)
Sylvie Forbin is the deputy director general of the copyright and creative industries sector at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Her responsibilities include supporting the work of member states in the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), developing copyright infrastructure; conducting studies on the economic performance of creative industries; building capacity in developing countries to use the copyright system to extract greater economic value from their cultural and other creative works; and administering the Accessible Books Consortium. In the past, Sylvie worked at Vivendi Universal as vice president of Public and European Affairs, as well as Diplomat for several French embassies and ministries across the world.
**Biographies**

**Thabiso Mahlape (South Africa)**
Thabiso Mahlape is a publisher, writer and speaker. She founded publishing house Blackbird Books in August of 2015 as a means to give young black voices a platform. Thabiso holds a Bachelor of Information Science degree specialising in publishing from the University of Pretoria. She started working as an intern at Jacana Media in 2010 and won her first award in 2012. While at Jacana Media, Mahlape honed her skills as a publisher with several highly acclaimed bestsellers: the award-winning ‘Endings & Beginnings’ by Redi Tlhabi; the ground-breaking ‘My Father, My Monster’ by McIntosh Polela and Malakia wa Azania’s ‘Memoirs of a Born Free’ — all books which talk to multiple audiences on issues which impact South Africans. In between juggling submissions, proofs and sales, Mahlape is a columnist; she writes regularly for The Sowetan and has contributed to magazines such as Destiny and VISI. As a writer and a speaker her focus is largely on self-development, body politics, what it means to be a woman in South Africa as well as memory. She is part of the Mail & Guardian Top 200 2017 and was awarded a Certificate of Excellence for her work by the Premier of Gauteng, David Makhura.

**Dr Tom Odhiambo (Kenya)**
Dr Tom Odhiambo has a PhD from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa (2004). He then worked as a research officer at the Witwatersrand Institute for Social and Economic Research and also taught in the Department of African Literature at Wits University between 2004 and 2007. He has researched, written and published on African literature, culture and media. His interests and concerns include African governance and how to lift citizens from poverty, hunger, illness and disease. Odhiambo has taught communication, media, development studies and literature. He brings to the Governance Centre a strong conviction that an interdisciplinary approach to governance issues in Kenya and Africa may probably be the best way to address this seemingly intractable subject.

**Tonee Ndungu (Kenya)**
Tonee Ndungu is the founder of Kytabu, a digital textbook leasing application for mobile devices in the developing world. The company is valued at 5.6 million US dollars and is the education platform the Kenyan government will use to roll-out its laptop program with Safaricom and Microsoft. He formed his first non-profit organisation at age 25, The Kenya Wazimba Youth Foundation, raising 4 million Kenyan Shillings to travel to schools across the country talking about leadership. Today, Tonee is an innovation speaker and strategist who has contributed to many TEDx talks and leading conferences. A man with a motivational story, Tonee’s success was inspired by his own struggles in education as a dyslexic. He battled through the Kenyan education system, relying on audiobooks to not only compete with his peers — but thrive into the successful entrepreneur he is today.

**Wanjiru Gakuru (Kenya)**
Wanjiru Gakuru is a filmmaker, journalist, and essayist. She is the managing editor of Jalada Africa (a pan-African writers’ collective) and was appointed the 2018 Literary Ambassador for Nairobi by Panorama: The Journal of Intelligent Travel. In 2017, she served as co-curator and producer on the inaugural Jalada Festival, Africa’s first mobile literary and arts festival. Wanjiru’s writing has appeared in Transition Magazine; The Africa Report; and LA Times Magazine, among others. Her short story “Transaction” was featured in an exhibition at Stevenson Gallery, Johannesburg (SA).

**Wanjeri Koinange (Kenya)**
Wanjeri is a writer from Nairobi. Her debut novel ‘The Havoc of Choice’ — based on the events surrounding the 2007 Kenyan general election — will be published in 2019. Her writing has been published in several journals and magazines across the continent including Chimurenga, SlipNet and Commonwealth Writers where she served as a cultural correspondent for East and Southern Africa. During this stint, she published a piece about the McMillan Memorial Library — Kenya’s second oldest library and the major inspiration for the creation of Book Bunk. Wanjiru also explores ways in which art and creative production can be used to influence social change. These efforts are channelled through the Cape Town-based non-profit, Africa Centre, where she manages three of their core programs: Artists in Residence, Badilisha Poetry X-Change, and Talking Heads. She holds a bachelor’s degree in journalism and literature from the United States International University (USIU) and a master’s in creative writing from the University of Cape Town.

**Will Clurman (Kenya)**
Will Clurman is co-founder and CEO of eKitabu, East Africa’s leading distributor of digital content. eKitabu delivers digital content from African publishers, open source software, and programs to lower cost and widen access for inclusive and quality education; it has been recognised for excellence in accessible publishing by the Accessible Books Consortium hosted by United Nations. Before eKitabu, Will created the GSMA’s Global Mobile Security Product of the Year (awarded in 2012). He also won MIT’s Bicomp Competition for mobile software for the developing world. Since 1993, he has worked in content development and mobile applications for internet pioneers including Cloudmark, Openwave, Netscape and Time Warner. Will has taught primary and secondary school in the US and he has a master’s degree from MIT.
Biographies

Zachary Chege Mwangi (Kenya)

Zachary Mwangi is the director general of the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), a position he has held since 2012. He is in charge of designing strategies to enhance data quality across the National Statistical System, and provision of official statistics for evidence-based decision making in the country. He is also the chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), the apex decision making body for international statistical activities, including: setting statistical standards; concepts and methods; and their implementation at national and international level. He was appointed to serve in this position for a period of two years during the 49th session of the UNSC meeting held in New York in 2017, after serving as a vice chair. Mr. Mwangi holds a Master of Arts degree in economic policy management from Makerere University, Uganda, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics, first class honors, from the University of Nairobi. He has professional qualifications and exposure acquired locally and internationally in the following areas: statistical development; macroeconomic analysis and modelling; regional integration; project management; public expenditure management; risk management; among others.

Zukiswa Wanner (South Africa)

Zukiswa Wanner is a South African journalist and novelist based in Kenya. Her first novel ‘The Madams’ (2006) was shortlisted for the South African Literary Award; her third novel, ‘Men of the South’ (2010) was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Best Book (Africa Region); and her last novel, ‘London Cape Town Joburg’ (2014) won the K.Sello Duiker Memorial Award. Wanner has written two works of nonfiction, satirical nonfiction, and a literary travel memoir. She has also authored two children’s books. Wanner launched her publishing house in 2018 with a pan-African children’s book ‘Story Story, Story Come’. She is the founder and curator of Artistic Encounters at Goethe-Institut Nairobi. She is also curating the Goethe-Institut AfroYoungAdult, a project running in eight African cities which will result in three anthologies of young adult short stories in Swahili, French and English.
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