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The 2022 Chen Bochui International Children's Literature Award is Open to Submissions

Substantial Changes Announced for the 34th Edition of the Competition Submission Deadline: 30 September 2022

The Chen Bochui International Children's Literature Award (CICLA), formerly known as the Gardener Award for Children's Literature, was established in 1981 by Mr. Chen Bochui, a leading figure in China's children's literature. Running for 40 years, with 33 sessions held in total, the CICLA stands as one of the literary awards in China with the longest history and the most award-winners. In 2014, the Shanghai Municipal Press and Publication Bureau, the People's Government of Baoshan District of Shanghai, and the Professional Committee of the Chen Bochui Children's Literature Foundation came together to upgrade the award and transform it into **a yearly competition opened to all cultures and languages**. Since then, the number, quality and diversity of literary works and picture books submitted to the competition have improved steadily. Among the CICLA past awardees are renowned figures such as Michael Morpurgo, Cao Wenxuan, Hervé Tullet, Chris Haughton, Zhu Chengliang, and many more.

Placed under the motto of "Great Literature for Little Readers", CICLA carries forward Chen Bochui's original aspiration — **rewarding outstanding individuals and organizations engaged in the creation, publication, research, dissemination, and promotion of children's literature books globally**. The CICLA hopes to promote those ideals by broadening its influence worldwide and confirming its high level of recognition within the industry.

For its 34th edition, CICLA is introducing **significant changes** so as to open new opportunities to a larger number of participants, strengthen its ability to endorse new distinctive authors, and progress in the promotion and publicity of its laureates.

A renewed award structure: revamped award categories, more winning opportunities

Four award categories are presented in the 2022 (34th) CICLA—namely, Best Picture Book Award, Best Literature Award, New Chinese Writer Award, and Exceptional Achievement Award.

The **Best Picture Book Award** and **Best Literature Award** are open to **worldwide submissions** from publishing organisations and children's book authors **until 30 September 2022**. The entered works will be reviewed by an international jury of children's book experts in the



Autumn, and each award will feature up to 5 winning works, which will receive a 50,000 RMB cash reward to be shared between the authors and publishers of the book.

As a new addition, the Jury is also given the possibility to nominate a maximum of 5 Special Mentions in each award category. As in the past, the **Best Picture Book Award** is designed as an international category open to **books in all languages and countries**. In order to support diversity in Chinese-speaking children's literature, the **Best Literature Award**, which was initially reserved to Mainland China publishers accepts, from this year onward, **works published in Chinese language from any country and territory**, including for example the regions of Hong-Kong, Macao, and Taiwan, as well as Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, etc. Children's novels, poetry collections, tales, plays and individual short stories published in collections or magazines are among the genres admitted in the award.

The newly established **New Chinese Writer Award** also contributes to supporting the creation of original children's books in Chinese, with special interest in new voices and talents. Suggested and evaluated by the CICLA organizing committee, the recipients of this award are expected to be authors who have created, published, or illustrated more than two children's books in Chinese within the last five years or one single book of considerable artistic value, impact, and circulation. Finally, the **Exceptional Achievement Award** is aiming to distinguish institutions and individuals of outstanding importance in the creation, publication, research, promotion, or dissemination of children's literature, in China or abroad.

New Schemes to Champion the CICLA Winners

The CICLA Organizing Committee is launching a series of new initiatives to promote its Award winners. The CICLA "**Recommended Books of the Year**" will be issued yearly to cast light on the longlist of works that have made it to the last rounds of evaluation by the Jury. In parallel, the titles distinguished in the CICLA will be featured in **reading events and exhibitions in bookstores, schools and fairs** across China. **Professional networking** will not be forgotten in this new set of post-award activities. Networking and matchmaking sessions will also be organized to enhance cooperation between publishers, writers and illustrators.

The detailed regulations of the 2022 CICLA are available in [Chinese](#) and in [English](#).

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