



Opportunity for Ethiopian Creative Writers



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WHO WE ARE

CODE-Ethiopia (CE) is a non- governmental and non-profit making organization working on the establishment of a ‘Literate Environment’ in Ethiopia through development of reading culture. CE operates with financial support from the Canadian Organization for Development through Education (CODE). Currently CE works in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Regional States’ Education Bureaus and target communities. Since its inception in 1994 it has established 97 community libraries in rural Woredas/districts and trained librarians, library management committee members, supplementary book writers in local languages including English, editors and local educational newsletter producers.

In the past years, various foreign visitors have paid a visit to observe CODE-Ethiopia’s activities. One of them was the generous Canadian philanthropist, Mr. William Bill Burt who came to Ethiopia in 2007.



Mr. Bill Burt

At the end of his visit, he promised to sponsor an award for a literary contest in Africa. As a result, the Burt Award for African Literature BAAL was conceived as a project bearing his name and Ethiopia became one of the countries selected for the project. Since 2010, CE has shouldered the responsibility of organizing the literary competition in Ethiopia.

3rd Round Award Ceremony

MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE AWARD

The main objectives of the Burt Award for African Literature are:

- Recognize excellence in young adult literature from Ethiopia;
- Support and motivate the development of supplementary reading materials at a critical stage of learning – the transition period between mother tongue and English medium of instruction;
- Strengthen the English language skills of youth and help foster an enthusiasm for love of reading;
- Stimulate and support the African publishing industry and the development of African literature and
- Increase the stock of English books in schools and libraries in Ethiopia.



So far, CE has successfully organized and facilitated three rounds of literary contests and awarded nine novelists who stood from 1st -3rd positions in each round. It has also published the award winning novels that targeted Ethiopian young adult readers in the age group 12-18. The Award ceremony of the third one was held on February 1, 2014 and the potential winners are identified. They are under editing and improvement.



2013

You are cordially invited to participate in the 5th round of BAAL competition launched in September, 2014