

Widespread enthusiasm reported for International Book Year, UNESCO Chronicle, Paris 1971, no 6.

Mounting enthusiasm coupled with far-ranging plans are already manifest for International Book Year (1972). This was reported by experts from leading non-governmental organizations of the book professions as well as from developing regions and major book producing countries, who met at Unesco House to draw up detailed plans for the year.

A number of countries have already set up national committees for the year. Plans are being made to issue special commemorative postage stamps and to hold lectures, seminars and book fairs. Initiatives are being taken to assist developing countries in building up national book industries.

The experts created a committee of members drawn from the various international professional organizations in the book field and from the major geographic areas of the world to support International Book Year, which was proclaimed by acclamation at the sixteenth session of Unesco's General Conference last November.

The professional organizations have plans to make International Book Year themes integral parts of their conferences during 1972. A major initiative of the professional organizations is the drafting of an international Charter of the Book, setting forth the treatment which books should be accorded, nationally and internationally, in order to allow them to play their full rôle in education, development and mutual understanding. A discussion among professional organizations resulted in the plan for establishing, before the end of 1971, a text of a charter which could be adopted successively by the international book organizations in the course of 1972.

Noting that additional funds were needed to promote International Book Year activities, the experts called upon countries to recognize the importance of providing funds for projects linked to IBY.

Four themes were selected by Unesco's General Conference for the year: encouragement of authorship and translation, with due regard to copyright; production and distribution of books, including the development of libraries; promotion of the reading habit; and books in the service of education, international understanding and peaceful co-operation...