

PROVERSE HONG KONG
PRESS RELEASE
29 APRIL 2010

At a well-attended and friendly luncheon at the Helena May, Central Hong Kong, yesterday, Dr Verner Bickley, MBE, Co-founder with his wife Gillian Bickley, of the Proverse Prize for unpublished writing, announced joint-winners of the inaugural Proverse Prize (2009).

They are: Laura Solomon (New Zealand), for her unpublished novel, "Instant Messages" and Rebecca Tomasis (Hong Kong), for her unpublished novel, "Mishpacha!"

Rebecca Tomasis was present with her husband and mother to receive a cash prize of HKD5,000, a selection of recent books published by Proverse Hong Kong and a copy signed by all present of Proverse author Errol Hugh's "A Personal Journey through Sketching". As a winner, resident in Hong Kong, Rebecca was also given one year's complimentary membership of the Hong Kong Writers' Circle.

Laura Solomon's cash prize of HKD5,000 has been received by her by telegraphic transfer.

Both novels will be published by Proverse Hong Kong within the next twelve months and the books may now be ordered in advance from the Proverse Hong Kong website: proversepublishing.com

Verner Bickley, Chairman of the English-Speaking Union (Hong Kong), introduced stunning excerpts from short-listed work by Lelawattee Manoo-Rahming (The Bahamas) and Rupert Chan (Hong Kong), and long-listed work by Vaughan Rapatahana (New Zealand and Hong Kong). (Ten writers were long-listed in all and five were short-listed.)

Guests included senior members of the Hong Kong community, who warmly congratulated the winners and writers.

Based on the extracts read from long-listed and short-listed work, the highest opinion of entries to the inaugural Proverse Prize was formed. Several offers of support were made and writers present immediately said they would enter for The Proverse Prize (2010). (Closing date for entry forms, 31 May; closing date for manuscripts, 30 June. Entry Documents can be read and downloaded from the Proverse Hong Kong Proverse Publishing website.)

The Proverse Prize is an international prize, based in Hong Kong, open to all who are at least eighteen years old on the date they sign the entry form.

In a message from her home near Prague, Czech Republic, Dr Olga Walló, member of the panel of Honorary Advisors to The Proverse Prize, congratulated the Founders, Winners, Entrants and Guests for "meeting in this way". She praised The Proverse Prize for its

unique vision in promoting the formula, "Writing plus Reading" equals "Understanding people all over our globe". Honorary Advisors Mrs Marion Bethel (Bahamas), Dr David Crystal (Wales), Dr Björn Jernudd (Sweden), Mr Larry Smith (Hawaii) and Dr Edwin Thumboo (Singapore) all sent messages of support.

Joint winner, Laura Solomon, wrote from New Zealand, "Winning the Proverse Prize is a great boost to my literary career. I thank Proverse Hong Kong for the way it supports and encourages new writing."

Mr Simon Overton, in the absence of Mr Lawrence Gray, Chairman of The Hong Kong Writers' Circle, attended to represent HKWC. After the event, he wrote to Co-Founder Gillian Bickley, "Having learnt more about The Proverse Prize I'm really impressed by the work that you and Verner do. I think that today's winners are hugely fortunate, and I think it's great that the others still have a chance to get published as you mentioned in your speech. More than getting in print, though, is the criterion of quality associated with the prize, which I think came through in the selections that Verner read aloud."

Media: For further information and to interview the winners, please contact Proverse Hong Kong at Email: info@proversepublishing.com OR Tel: (INT+852) 22593456 (land-line).

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