

Job description Managing Editor of the Prince Claus Fund Library

As Managing Editor of the Prince Claus Library you are responsible for the production of books within a new series of visually led books, closely working with writers, editors, photographers and publishers. The Managing Editor will take each book proposal from inception to the final end product and figure out which ones that make good commercial sense and are applicable to the Fund's mission. If there are proposals where the topic is interesting to the Fund but the proposal is not as good as it should be, the Library Managing Editor should get the people proposing the idea to think differently about their book, asking them to come up with a clear concept for the book, one that makes sense and is supported by visual material and one that will attract the attention of an appropriate publisher. (Also if any of the book projects are not for the Library, the Managing Editor will give them to a Policy Officer at the Prince Claus Fund with an assessment of their worth -- why one might want to see them and why they would be interesting for the Fund, even though they do not have a capability of being a full blown commercial Library title.)

Once the book projects are fielded, the Library proposals either go the Director of the Prince Claus Fund, with a written report or directly to the Library advisory editorial board, again with a written report about why this project is important for the Library and why the Library should invest. If a decision has been taken on a book by the Editorial Board, the Managing Editor will figure out a publisher, contract and schedule for the book. The Managing Editor also examines book distribution networks and investigates publishing contracts so the best distribution deal can be negotiated. After a Library book is published, the Managing Editor will negotiate the business of publicity with the publisher in question, getting the best press and exposure for the book from the publishers. In addition the Managing Editor will develop his own non-western publicity contacts, people and publications that western publishers wouldn't normally go to, so that Library books have a real worldwide recognition at least in terms of the publicity.

Each Library book requires its own special database that should be used again, when that area of the world is revisited again in another title, mining the experience of a previous title to get the best for upcoming books. Spreading the word about the Library is important so more publishers propose projects they are willing to collaborate on with the Library as long as the books fit into the Fund's overall mission. The Library Managing Editor is editor and publicist, organiser and cheerleader.

Library books show off the hard ideas of the Fund -- about creativity and visual innovation in the areas of the world where the Fund operates, and about the importance of culture as a vehicle for transforming politics and society. Library books address social engagement through the arts. The Library Managing Editor is aware of what the books should do and make sure they do it in the cut-throat realm of publishing. In effect to make sure that these good ideas are not lost overlooked like so many other good ideas.

Financially

The Board of the Prince Claus Fund agrees on a budget for the Prince Claus Fund Library. From this budget the books should be paid as well as the fee for the Managing Editor and the costs for the meetings of the members of the Editorial Board. The members of the Editorial Board do not receive fees for the advising work.