

World of children very complex: Austrian writer



Heinz Janisch among Austrian children

Tehran Times Culture Desk

TEHRAN (MNA) — Austrian writer Heinz Janisch is convinced that the world of children is very complex and difficult for adults to understand.

Janisch, who is attending the Festival of European and Iranian Children's Literature currently underway at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) in Tehran, said that the world of children has many common features regardless of which part of the world they live in.

"The festival is a point where various cultures meet. It is like a school in which we are all students. We teach children and they teach us in return," he observed.

"We mean to bring the worlds of children and adults closer in our books, while children help various cultures mingle with each other in their own world," he said, adding that illustration plays a major role in the world of children's literature.

Stefan Schwartz, the representative of the Austrian organization X-change, which is one of the main sponsors of the event, pointed to the curiosity of children and their great interest in discovering unknown worlds.

"The children's literature of Europe and the Middle East is of high quality and great variety and the festival is the best forum to exchange thoughts and experiences," he explained.

A number of European writers, illustrators, and scholars are participating in the festival. Several plays with the central theme of ancient legends and modern stories of Iran and European countries are being staged during the event.

The program also features writing and illustration workshops in which children are being asked to write stories based on European illustration works on display at the festival, while Iranian stories are being selected for European children to write about.

In addition, book fairs, exhibitions of illustrations, and screenings of films for children are being held at the festival.

The event is being sponsored by the Austrian non-governmental organization X-change with the cooperation of several organizations from Finland, Sweden, Iran, and Norway and will run through until October 8.

IIDCYA is located on Hejab St. near Laleh Park.

