

SHEIKH ZAYED BOOK AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The winners of the ninth edition of the Sheikh Zayed Book Awards were unveiled yesterday. Osama Alaysa from Palestine received The Literature Award for his novel *Majaneen bait lahem (The Fools of Bethlehem)*, while Hanawa Haruo from Japan received the Translation Award for his Japanese translation of Naguib Mahfouz's Cairo Trilogy (*Palace Walk, Palace of Desire and Sugar Street*). The Arab Culture in Other Languages Award went to Sugita Hideaki, also from Japan, for *Arabian-Naito to Nihon-Jin (The Arabian Nights and the Japanese)*. The final award, for Publishing and Technology, went to The Arab Scientific Publishers Inc from Lebanon. The recipients will receive their awards at a ceremony next month during the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair. The awards were launched in 2007 to promote scholarship and creativity in Arab culture, with cash prizes totalling Dh7million – Dh750,000 for each winner in eight categories. However, the board of trustees withheld four awards this year, saying the nominations did not meet the awards' standards for winning. – The National staff