The annual Sheikh Zayed Book Award has announced nine shortlisted candidates in the Literature, Children’s Literature, and Young Author categories for its 2015 prize.

The announcement follows the conclusion of a series of meetings held by the Award’s scientific committee in Abu Dhabi, which included judges from Japan and Spain, who met to assess reports submitted by the judges and the evaluation of nominated works.

"After the judges’ rigorous assessment of the nominations, the scientific committee selected an array of high-quality titles for its shortlist. Winners of each category will be announced next month," Dr. Ali bin Tamim, the Sheikh Zayed Book Award’s Secretary-General, explained.

The three books named under Literature include: Hana Al Qahiri (This is Cairo) a novel by Ibrahim Abdelmaguid from Egypt, published by Dar Al Masr Al Lubnaniyyah (2014), La Stampa Tadoll Umni Alai (No Moles to Lead my Mother to Me) a poetry collection by Ghassan Zaqtan from Palestine published by Dar Al Ahliyyah (2014) and Majaneen bint Alahem (The Fools of Bethlehem) a novel by Qasem Alaya from Palestine, published by Noile-Hachette Antoine (2013).

Titles under Children’s Literature include Sitt el Koll (Against the Tide) by Taghreed Al Najar from Jordan, published by Al Salwa Books (2013).

Fatat Allati Iqafat Aahir Shahinyyat Ibn Al Muqaffa’ (The Girl Who Traced the Characters of Ibn Al Muqaffa’) by Nabih Mhadi from Lebanon, published by Dar Al Hada’eq (2014) and Al Samaka Al Mufakkarah (The Thinking Fish) by Hassan Abdallai from Lebanon, published by Dar Al Adab (2013).

In the Young Author category, the following titles were shortlisted: Harakyyet Al Badee’ il Khilaf Al Shi’i (Aesthetics of Poetic Discourse) by Said Laouadi from Morocco, published by Kunour Al Masria (2014), Mawsat Al Tamtheel Fi Falasfat Ibn Rushd (Representation in Ibn Rushd’s Philosophy) by Fouad Ben Ahmed from Morocco, published by Dar Dhiqaf (2014) and Sharq Al Dal’i (East Ring Road) a novel by Khaleed Ahmed from Egypt, published by Dar Al Masri (2014).

The announcement of the first three shortlisted categories marks the first batch in a sequence of three expected announcements to reveal the shortlisted candidates in the rest of categories to follow over the coming weeks. The shortlisted nominations were earlier filtered down from 90 longlisted titles announced earlier this year across all categories.

Winners in all categories will be announced in March, to be followed by Award’s Ceremony celebrating the winning achievements on 11th May, coinciding with the silver jubilee edition of the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair.