



To enhance bilateral ties: Wolf (left) and Warnk giving details on the book at a pre-launch press conference at the National Translation Institute (ITNMB) recently.

Bilingual book of fairy tales

Bahasa Malaysia-German anthology the work of 20 volunteers

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A BILINGUAL anthology of Malaysian and German fairy tales and folklore will be launched at the KL International Book Fair in April.

Third-year collaborators National Translation Institute (ITNMB) and Goethe-Institut Malaysia announced recently that the book would contain seven Malaysian stories translated into German and five German stories translated into Bahasa Malaysia.

Twenty volunteer Malaysian-German translators were supervised by the book's coordinators, Goethe's German Cultural Centre director Dr Volker Wolf and J.W. Goethe-University Southeast Asian Studies lecturer Holger Warnk to ensure that the translations were faithful to the original tales.

"Traditional fairy tales are well received as readers get to immerse themselves into a new

culture. They appeal to adults and children alike," Wolf explained when asked why fairy tales were chosen.

ITNMB and Goethe said they were extremely proud of their work, tentatively titled *Kisah Dongeng dan Cerita Rakyat Malaysia dan German (Dongeng)*, as it was testament to their contribution to the present-day cross-cultural international community and global lifestyle.

"With this book, we also hope to build literary awareness and strengthen bilateral ties between both countries," Warnk said.

Wolf and Warnk added that they hoped to see Malaysia as the focus of the Frankfurt International Book Fair in Germany in the near future. The fair is the largest in terms of publishers represented.

"For that, we will need to have dozens more Malay-German translations," Warnk said.

Dongeng will be the fourth bilingual Malay-German book published under the ITNMB-Goethe collaboration since 2007.