

INTERNATIONAL THE NEWS

Islamabad

Fauzia wins global award for innovative use of technology

Fauzia Aziz Minallah, the creator of cartoon character ‘Amai’ and author of ‘Amai - The Bird of Light,’ an animated story promoting multiculturalism and peace, has won an award at the Global Junior Challenge (GJC) 2012 held in Rome. Fauzia received the medal from the City of Rome where 18 prizes were awarded to projects from all around the world.

The GJC is an international competition that rewards innovative use of technology for education in the 21st century and social inclusion. Promoted by the Municipality of Rome, GJC is hosted every two years by the Fondazione Mondo Digitale (Foundation of Digital World) under the patronage of the Italian Presidency and the sponsorship of the Italian Foreign Affairs Minister.

Talking to this scribe, Fauzia said, “The GJC is a unique opportunity to reflect on the importance of the challenges posed by 21st century education and the role of technology in didactic innovation, social innovation, development and the reduction of world poverty.”

Referring to the award-winning character, Fauzia said, Amai is a magical bird made of light and million tiny stars that can turn into a shooting star and take children on exciting adventures around the world. Amai means ‘mother’ in some parts of Balochistan.

“Amai loves children like a mother. She can fly children million miles up in the space and thousands of miles under the earth. She takes them back in the past as well as into the future. Amai wants children to know their world, love and respect it, and work for making it a humane one. Amai promotes values that will enable children to be responsible citizens of not only their own country but of the world too,’ Fauzia articulated.

Since 2002, ‘Amai - The Bird of Light’ has been used in picture books which were distributed free of charge among 10,000 children and special notebooks with messages on environment protection among another 10,000 children. All illustrations are made by Fauzia using Adobe Photoshop.

After the introduction of Amai’s animation in the first Children Literature Festival in November 2011, Amai’s animation was introduced at the Karachi Literature Festival, National Book Day in Islamabad, and Quetta Children’s literature Festival. In November, Amai will be introduced at the Peshawar Children Literature Festival.