



Press Release
For Immediate Release

The First Scholastic Picture Book Award Shortlist

**A New Asia-Wide Award to Encourage the Creation of
More Asian-Themed Content for Children**

Website: www.afcc.com.sg

Singapore, 11th May 2015 - The shortlist for the first Scholastic Picture Book Award (SPBA) was announced on 11th May by the National Book Development Council of Singapore (NBDCS). SPBA is a joint initiative between NBDCS and Scholastic Asia, the world's largest children's books publishing and distribution company.

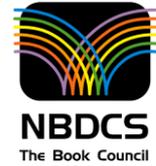
The award will be presented biennially to an outstanding unpublished picture book with distinct Asian themes by a writer and illustrator team of Asian descent living in Asia. As well as a \$10,000 cash prize, the winning book will also be published by Scholastic Asia.

There were a total of 136 entries from all over Asia, including Malaysia, the Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand, China, Taiwan, Japan, India, Pakistan, and Turkey. The judges have selected only five for the shortlist from a longlist of nine entries.

The Chief Judge of the SPBA says, "We thought that selecting the nine that made it to the longlist from 136 entries worldwide was difficult enough until we had to pare it down to just five. However, we are happy to present the shortlist, and are confident of our selection." The identities of the SPBA judges will only be revealed on the Awards Night of the Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC) which will take place on 2nd of June, when the winner for SPBA will be announced.

The Shortlist:

Name	Title	Country
Roya Yadollahi Shahrah and Vajihe Golmazari	The Bundle	Iran
Phung Nguyen Quang and Huynh Kim Lien	The First Journey	Vietnam
Ary Nilandari and Dewi Tri K.	Pandu, the Ogoh-Ogoh Maker	Indonesia
Ichinnorov Ganbaatar and Bolormaa Baasansuren	Purchased Dream	Mongolia
Kim Seon Young	Somi and the Clouds Gardener	South Korea



About the shortlisted books

The Bundle

When their grandma comes to live with them, the bundles she carries turn out to be full of new experiences for these Iranian children. Old souvenirs, new tastes, love and kindness spill from grandma's bundles in this warm-hearted tale.

Writer **Roya Yadollahi Shahrah** is 34; she has studied for a PhD in Persian literature.

Illustrator **Vajihe Golmazary** was born in Iran in 1986. As well as illustrating children's books she also works in video animation.

The First Journey

Alone, An embarks on his first trip during the Mekong Delta flood season. Facing rain and flood he crosses the Melaleuca swamp and although it is full of crocodiles and snakes he is not afraid because he knows at the end of the road, wonderful places are waiting for him.

Writer **Phung Nguyen Quang** is 26 and a professional author and illustrator of children books, living and working in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Nguyen Quang believes that every book is a separate world which can fire children's curiosity and imagination.

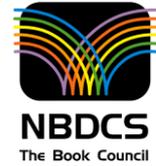
Illustrator **Huynh Kim Lien**, is 23 and lives in Ho Chi Minh City. A writer as well as an illustrator of children's books, Kim Lien participated as an illustrator in the Children's Books Publishing Programme by Room to Read in Vietnam.

Pandu, The Ogoh-Ogoh Maker

Hana is feeling lonely as her friends are busy preparing for Nyepi, the Silence Day, commemorated by Balinese every Saka New Year. She is so lonely that when she sees Pandu, a boy who sometimes makes her cry, she approaches him. Pandu is making an Ogoh-Ogoh, a symbol of his bad, to be burnt on the eve of Nyepi, but Pandu's Ogoh-Ogoh is funny, not scary as it is supposed to be. Hana helps him make changes hoping that after his Ogoh-Ogoh burns his bad, Pandu will be nice to her.

Writer **Ary Nilandari** is from Indonesia and a member of SCBWI Indonesia. As well as writing she also works as a freelance editor and translator. A winner of several awards, she has published 45 books for children, in which she celebrates diversity and promotes Indonesian cultural heritage.

Illustrator **Dewi Tri K.** loves illustrating and graphic designing. Her inspiration mostly comes from children. Dewi participated in INKtober 2014, and, as well as working on several children's books, she was also involved in the creation of www.topkids.tv, the first website in Indonesia providing special content for children.



Purchased Dream

Urumbai, an orphan buys a dream about having a happy family from a stranger. In the adventure that follows he has to rescue a wolf, an ibex, and an eagle, escape a devil, make a new friend, and find a house and a job before his dream of having a family comes true.

Writer **Ganbaatar Ichinnorov** was born in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in 1980. He graduated from the Institute of Fine Arts in Mongolia in 2004 and went on to graduate as a research student from Bunkyo University in Japan in 2012. He now lives in Saitama Prefecture in Japan.

Illustrator **Bolormaa Baasansuren** was born in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia Born in 1982. After graduating from the Institute of Fine Arts in Mongolia she studied children's book illustration in Italy and Russia. She has since gone on to win numerous international awards for her work. She now lives in Saitama Prefecture in Japan where she has illustrated several successful children's books including two other titles with Ganbaatar Ichinnorov.

Somi and the Clouds Gardener

Somi lives in a boring town where all the buildings are square and dull and it is always cold and cloudy. One day the clouds freeze all the way to the ground and Somi climbs them towards the sky. There he meets the Cloud Gardener and together they make interesting and happy clouds to cheer up the town.

Writer and illustrator **Kim Seon Young** was born in Seoul, Republic of Korea in 1979. He studied ceramics at university and went on to teach art for 10 years before becoming a professional illustrator.

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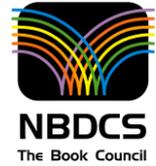
NOTE TO THE EDITOR:

About the AFCC

AFCC grew out of the highly popular, but publishing industry-focused, Asian Children's Writers and Illustrators Conference (ACWIC), which ran from 2000 to 2009. Recognising that in the 21st century children's content is about more than just books, and, leveraging on the success of ACWIC, NBDCS expanded it to create AFCC. The move proved popular with both industry players and the public; so much so that in the five years since 2010, AFCC has rapidly grown into the foremost professional and trade event for children's content in Asia.

About the National Book Development Council of Singapore (NBDCS)

NBDCS is a non-profit, charitable organisation in Singapore that promotes storytelling, reading, writing, and publishing through a variety of programmes and festivals, including the Asian Festival of Children's Content, the Singapore International Storytelling Festival, and the All In! Young Writers Media Festival. NBDCS also presents many annual and biennial awards, including the Singapore



Literature Prize, the Hedwig Anuar Children's Book Award for published works, the Scholastic Asian Book Award, and the Scholastic Picture Book Award for unpublished works. Their training arm, the Academy of Literary Arts and Publishing (ALAP) runs publishing-related and literary arts-focused courses and workshops throughout the year.

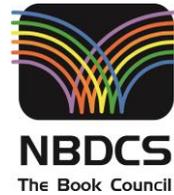
For more information about AFCC and NBDCS, please visit www.bookcouncil.sg or contact:

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