

National Book Development Council of Singapore

Storytelling ● Reading ● Writing ● Publishing

MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release

DIVERSE CULTURES, DISTINCT LITERATURE

Singapore to be the Guest of Honour Country at New Delhi World Book Fair 2015

1 As part of celebrating 50 years of close and cordial bilateral diplomatic relations, Singapore is the Guest of Honour Country at the upcoming New Delhi World Book Fair to be held from 14-22 February 2015 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, India.

2 Supported by the National Arts Council (NAC) and the Media Development Authority (MDA), this endeavour intends to raise the profile of Singapore in India, and to give recognition to the authors, illustrators, publishers and other key players involved in Singapore's publishing industry. The delegation will arrive in Delhi in two waves: publishers on 11 February, and authors and illustrators on 13 February.

3 Ms Claire Chiang, NAC Board Member and Chairperson of National Book Development Council of Singapore (NBDCS) is leading the fifty strong delegation comprised of authors, illustrators, poets, graphic novelists, publishers, librarians, booksellers and arts administrators to represent Singapore at the New Delhi World Book Fair.

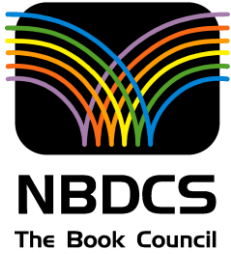
4 Ms Kathy Lai, NAC CEO, said, "Singapore is delighted to be participating as Guest of Honour Country in the New Delhi World Book Fair in 2015, a milestone year that marks 50 years of diplomatic relations between Singapore and India. The National Arts Council is honored to be given the opportunity to present Singapore writing and publishing at this platform, for the international community to learn more about Singapore content and our multi-lingual literary scene. I'm confident that the Singapore delegation will also find the Book Fair an excellent platform to cultivate and build new contacts."

5 The New Delhi World Book Fair provides a great opportunity for Singapore authors and publishers to reach out to the Indian market and to test its potential, thereby positioning Singapore as a Hub for Asian Content. The Singapore delegates to the Fair will participate in forums, panel discussions, school visits, bookstore events and official functions organised by the National Book Trust (NBT), India and the High Commission of India in Singapore.

6 NBDCS is leading the delegation and will also manage the Singapore Pavilion at the Fair.

7 Singapore's presence at the New Delhi World Book Fair signifies the first concerted attempt by local literary artists and publishers to make their presence felt in the region. This paves the way for publishers and writers to actively participate in other regional fairs, particularly in the Malaysia and Philippines Book Fairs, where there is a large English speaking population and a thriving publishing industry in the English language.

8 Started in 1972, the New Delhi World Book Fair is India's oldest book fair and is currently a major calendar event in the publishing world. The Fair is organised by the National Book Trust, India, an apex body of the Government of India under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Each year, a country is invited to be the Guest of Honour Country. Last year, Poland was the Guest of Honour Country for New Delhi World Book Fair 2014.



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(For information on programming highlights, please refer to **APPENDIX A**. For a listing of author and illustrator delegates, refer to **APPENDIX B**. For a listing of participating publishers, refer to **APPENDIX C**.)

Please contact Mr R Ramachandran for further enquiries:

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National Book Development Council of Singapore (NBDCS)

NBDCS is a non-profit, charitable organisation 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 and the Hedwig Anuar Children's Book Award for published works; the Scholastic Asian Book Award; and the Scholastic Picture Book Award for unpublished works. Its 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, please visit www.bookcouncil.sg.



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ANNEX A General Programming for New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF)

DATE	ACTIVITY
11 Feb	Arrival of Publishers in Delhi
12 Feb	Globalocal Annual Forum for Publishers, organised by the German Book Office India
13 Feb	Globalocal Forum Day 2 Arrival of Authors and Illustrators Meet the Authors event at Oxford Bookstore, Connaught Place 6.00pm
14 Feb	NDWBF Opening Ceremony 10.30am Talks by authors in the Singapore Pavilion Participation in NDWBF 11.00am-8.00pm
15 Feb	CEOSpeak (A Forum for Publishers) 9.00am The Ashok Hotel Pavilion programmes Book signing and talks at selected bookstores and Book Fair Venues 11.00am onwards Afternoon Reception by the High Commission of Singapore (India)
16 Feb	Rights Table at Book Fair (Publishers) 11.00am to 5.00pm School programmes Book signing and talks at selected bookstores and Book Fair Venues 11.00am onwards Networking Reception hosted by NBT 7.00pm onwards
17 Feb	School programmes Pavilion programmes Departure of Delegates



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ANNEX B

Singapore Delegation to NDWBF 2015

PARTICIPATING AUTHORS

Chow Teck Seng

Singapore-born, Chow's Chinese poems have won literary awards including the 2014 Singapore Literature Prize and the 2009 Singapore Golden Point Award. His poems and short stories are seen in both English and Chinese anthologies, local and overseas Chinese press, and in printed and online literary journals. A featured writer in the 2014/2012 Singapore Writers' Festival and 2014 London Book fair, his poems were also translated and published in English and French for the 2012 Festival FrancoAnglais de Poésie, Paris.

Coonoor Kripalani

Coonoor Kripalani writes bilingual books in Hindi and English for pre-schoolers. Beautifully and colourfully illustrated, with a fresh and contemporary look for presenting the Hindi alphabet, numbers, colours, and shapes to children aged between 2 to 6 years, the books are published by the Global Indian Foundation, Singapore. Additional titles include *Jungle Animals/Jungli Jaanvar*, *Market/Bazaar*, *In the Park/Park Mein Sair* and most recently, *Let's Do Yoga/Aao Yoga Karein* (Scholastic India, 2013), a popular and lively story of two children doing yoga together.

David Liew

David is a children's book illustrator who is also an active member of the Maker community, where he creates models and miniature art. He is the illustrator of the Eliza Teoh's *Ellie Belly* series, as well as Melanie Lee's *The Adventures of Squirky the Alien*. During the 2014 Singapore Writers Festival, David launched *Nightmare on Eat Street*, a hybrid young adult book he had both written and illustrated.

Gwee Li Sui

Gwee Li Sui is a poet, graphic artist, and literary critic. His works of verse include *Who Wants to Buy a Book of Poems?* (1998) and *One Thousand and One Nights* (2014). He also wrote Singapore's first full-length graphic novel in English, *Myth of the Stone* (1993), which appeared in a special twentieth-anniversary edition last year. A familiar name in Singapore's literary scene, Gwee has also written on a range of cultural subjects.

Haresh Sharma

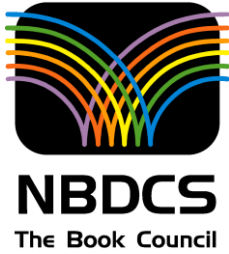
Resident playwright of The Necessary Stage, Haresh has written more than 100 plays which have been staged in 15 cities. His play *Off Centre* was selected by the Ministry of Education as a Literature text for 'O' and 'N'-levels in 2006. In 2011, he was named the Goldberg Master Playwright by New York University. His play, *Still Building*, was chosen to represent Singapore at the 1992 Cairo International Festival of Experimental Theatre and in Glasgow, Scotland for Mayfest 1994. It was also staged in London's Albany Theatre that year.

Isa Kamari

Isa has written nine novels in Malay, seven of which were translated into English. He has also published two collections of poems, a collection of short stories, and a collection of theatre scripts. Isa was conferred the S.E.A. Write Award (2006) and the Anugerah Tun Seri Lanag (2009). In 2007, his contributions to the nation were officially recognised when he was conferred the most prestigious arts award in Singapore, the Cultural Medallion; he was the first non-full-time artist to receive the award.

Josephine Chia

Josephine, a Peranakan, was born in Singapore. She lived in UK for thirty years but returned home in 2012. Josephine writes both fiction and non-fiction and has published eight books: two novels, one collection of short stories, two memoirs, two on self-help/yoga, and one on cookery. In November 2014, she was awarded the Singapore Literature Prize for Non-Fiction for her book, *Kampong Spirit: Gotong Royong, Life in Potong Pasir 1955 to 1965*. She teaches creative writing and is a mentor to aspiring writers.



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K Kanagalatha

Kanagalatha has published two collections of poetry in Tamil: *Theeveli (Firespace)* in 2003 and *Paampuk Kaattil Oru Thaazhai (A Screwpin in Snakeforest)* in 2004. She has also published a short story collection *Nan kolai Seyium penkkal (Women I Murder)* in 2007, which won the biennial Singapore Literature Prize in 2008. The English translation of her Tamil short story collection *The Goddess in the Living Room* was published in 2014. Her poems and short stories have been published in multilingual anthologies in Singapore and in various Tamil literary journals in India, Malaysia, France and Sri Lanka. Her works have been translated into English, German and French. She is currently the Sunday editor for Tamil Murasu, Singapore's Tamil daily newspaper.

Otto Fong

Otto Fong was a science teacher at Raffles Institution before becoming a full-time author and self-publisher. He is the author of The Straits Times' children's bestseller *Sir Fong's Adventures In Science* comic book series, and has a new sci-fi horror series *Black Peony* for young adults. Otto is currently an Outreach Fellow at the National University of Singapore, where he is creating a new *Sir Fong* comic book for the Centre of Quantum Technologies.

Rama Kannabiran

Rama Kannabiran is a fictionist and essayist in Tamil language. He is an author of four fiction books. He received the National Book Development Council Book Award (1982), the South East Asian Award (1990) and the Cultural Medallion (1998). He has been an Advisory Panel Member for the National Arts Council since 1990.

Rosemarie Somaiah

Rosemarie Somaiah, author, storyteller and educator, runs the Asian Storytelling Network. She has presented her work in various international festivals. Her books include *The Never Mind Girl and other stories* by Ethos Books, and *Indian Children's Favourite Stories* by Tuttle Publishing. Her poems and short stories for adults are in *Ceriph, Vol 2 - Housing Singaporean Thoughts; Coast* (a monotitular anthology); and *Balik Kampung* published by Math Paper Press. Her stories have been translated into Malay, Tamil, Mandarin and Korean.

Dr Seetha Subbiah

Dr. Seetha is a Clinical Psychologist with expertise in severe and chronic emotional and psychological conditions in children and adolescents. The book, *DID YOU HEAR THAT? Help for Children Who Hear Voices*, was developed based on her 18 years of clinical experience in schools, hospitals, and private practices in Singapore, USA, India, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, and Japan.

Sunita Lad Bhamray

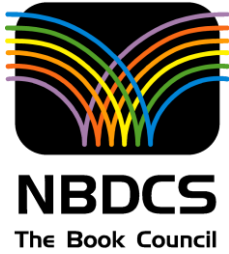
Sunita Lad Bhamray is an educator by profession and a writer at heart. She lives in Singapore and has written *Triumphs of the Turf*, a book about the glamorous world of horse racing. Her children's book *Grandma Lim's Persimmons*, is influenced by the culture of Southeast Asia. Her inspiration comes from the people around her and most importantly from her memories of Pune where she spent her growing years.

Susanna Goho-Quek

Susanna Goho-Quek's first picture book, *God is Hu?*, shows her love of painting, nature and telling stories to children. A grandmother herself, she loves working with children. Susanna has also established herself as one of the most respected names in the antiques and collectibles market. She was also an interior decorator, art exhibition planner and fashion designer. An energetic lady, she is currently working on her next picture book, as well as organising an exhibition of Chinese opera costumes.

Verena Tay

A fiction writer, storyteller, and theatre practitioner, Verena Tay has published three collections of plays and a short story collection, *Spectre; Stories from Dark to Light* in 2012. She has also edited seven short story



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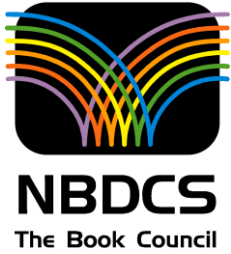
anthologies, comprising the six books in the popular *Balik Kampung* series (2012-2015), and *A Monsoon Feast: Short Stories to Celebrate the cultures of Kerala and Singapore* (2012). She has also worked in public affairs, marketed books, and edited newsletters and books on teaching and learning issues in higher education.

Yong Shu Hoong

Yong Shu Hoong has published five poetry collections, including *Frottage* (2005) and *The Viewing Party* (2013), which won the Singapore Literature Prize in 2006 and 2014 respectively. His poems have been included in literary journals like *Asia Literary Review* (Hong Kong) and anthologies like *Language for a New Century* (W.W. Norton, 2008). He has also edited the anthology, *Passages: Stories of Unspoken Journeys* (2013). He currently teaches creative writing at the Nanyang Technological University and writes for *Esquire Singapore*.

Zafar Anjum

Zafar Anjum is a journalist, writer, publisher and filmmaker who currently works as the Asia Online Editor at Executive Networks Media, Singapore. He has been published in India, the US, the UK, Singapore and other countries. His most recent works include *Iqbal: The Life of a Poet, Philosopher and Politician* (2012), *The Resurgence of Satyam* (2012), and *The Singapore Decalogue: Episodes in the Life of a Foreign Talent* (2012). He also blogs, mentors budding writers and is the editor of a literary website.



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ANNEX C Singapore Delegation to NDWBF 2015

PARTICIPATING PUBLISHERS

1. Alston Publishing House | Sim Wee Chee
2. AK Publishing | Almond Ko
3. Armour Publishing | Christina Lim
4. AsiaPac Books | Lim Li Kok
5. Bubbly Books | Yong Shu Chiang & Eliza Teoh
6. Candid Creation | Phoon Kok Hwa
7. Crimson Earth | Vijayanand Thamocharan & Premalatha Govindasamy
8. English Corner | Betty Tan
9. Ethos Books | Ng Kah Gay
10. Experiences & Experiments Books | Catherine Khoo
11. Marshall Cavendish | Steven Lim & Eugene Tan
12. Monsoon Books | Philip Tatham
13. NUS Press | Peter Schoppert
14. Pan Asia Publishing | Evelyn Chia
15. Pustaka Nasional | Syed Ali bin Ahmad Semait
16. World Scientific | Yee-Hong Khoo