

For immediate release

Translation takes centre stage in Singapore
Inaugural fest TranslateSingapore has something
for all lovers of language and culture
31 Oct – 12 Nov 2015

Singapore, 26 October 2015 – Singapore will see its first festival dedicated to translation and intercultural endeavours when The Select Centre rolls out the inaugural TranslateSingapore on 31 October. Spanning over two weeks, the festival will present a stimulating line-up of programmes that are targeted not only at practitioners and students, but also members of the public who have an interest in language and culture.

The festival features four main tracks: Industry, public, literary and education. The industry track is anchored by the Singapore Translation Symposium (3 Nov), a one-day forum that gathers practitioners, policymakers, academics and other stakeholders to discuss issues and trends in the translation sector. The public programme, *The Art of Subtitles*, invites the public to consider the underappreciated craft of subtitling in film, theatre and television, with a panel discussion and the screening of Singapore's earliest Hokkien opera film. Select@Singapore Writers Festival presents a series of literary programmes showcasing the intercultural and interdisciplinary aspects of literature and the arts, while well-known translators Daisy Ng and Jeremy Tiang will share their experiences with students and conduct translation workshops at schools.

Says William Phuan, Managing Director of The Select Centre: "Audiences can look forward to a series of thought-provoking talks, panel discussions, workshops and performances. Through the festival, we aim to raise public awareness about the role of translation in society, and facilitate the exchange of best practices among practitioners and organisations."



For more information about TranslateSingapore and its programmes, please refer to Annex B. Tickets to the festival are now on sale.

Ticketing

SINGAPORE TRANSLATION SYMPOSIUM

3 Nov, 9am – 5pm

Ngee Ann Kong Si Auditorium, School of Accountancy Level 2
Singapore Management University

Full-day Pass: \$80 (Standard); \$60 (Students, senior citizens)

Half-day Pass: \$60 (Standard); \$40 (Students, senior citizens)

Tickets are available at: <http://ptix.co/1j2jn9g>

THE ART OF SUBTITLING TALK + SCREENING

5 Nov, 7.30pm

The Projector

Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road, #05-00, Singapore 199589

\$10 (Standard); \$8 (Students, senior citizens, Singapore Translation Symposium pass)

Tickets are available at: <http://ptix.co/1L3G4RK>

Select@Singapore Writers Festival

31 Oct – 8 Nov

SWF Festival Pass is available at: www.singaporewritersfestival.com

- End -

For more information, please contact:

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INVITATION



On behalf of The Select Centre,
you are cordially invited to:

SINGAPORE TRANSLATION SYMPOSIUM

3 Nov | 9am - 5pm

Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium (Level 2)
Singapore Management University
School of Accountancy
60 Stamford Road
Singapore 178900

Singapore Translation Symposium is the anchor event of the TranslateSingapore festival. This year, we will convene a day of talks and panel discussions by prominent speakers who will explore the challenges facing translation in the 21st century. We will cap the Symposium with a Roundtable discussion, as stakeholders from the public, corporate and community sectors give their perspectives on the future of the Singapore translation industry.

Please RSVP [here](#) by 30 November 2015.



Annex A: About The Select Centre

The Select Centre is a not-for-profit arts company based in Singapore.

Firmly rooted in Southeast Asia, our aim is to advance the interflow of ideas and knowledge between different languages, cultures and disciplines through translation, adaptation and other forms of intercultural practice.

We have three strategic thrusts:

1. **Capacity Development:** To develop writers and translators through intercultural and interdisciplinary programmes;
2. **Advocacy & Outreach:** To promote intercultural practice among various stakeholders, including policy-makers, schools and the community; and
3. **Internationalisation:** To develop Singapore as a regional hub and gateway of ideas and knowledge to the world.

We believe that Singapore's multicultural nature and multilingual heritage are unique strengths that have yet to be fully tapped. We believe that Singapore can leverage on these advantages to bolster its status as a hub of ideas and a bridge between East and West. We aim to be an innovative organisation at the forefront of bringing different languages, cultures and disciplines together to advance human progress.

The Select Centre is a recipient of the National Arts Council's Seed Grant the period from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2018.

For more information about Select, please visit www.selectcentre.org

Annex B: Programmes

TranslateSingapore 2015

31 October – 12 November 2015

The first translation festival of its kind in Singapore, TranslateSingapore offers a thought-provoking and stimulating line-up of programmes this November!

Supported by National Arts Council . **Venue Partner** SMU Wee Kim Wee Centre . **In collaboration with** Singapore Writers Festival . **Programme Partners** Asian Film Archive, Writers' Centre Norwich . **Supporter** SIM University

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### **SINGAPORE TRANSLATION SYMPOSIUM**

**Date** 3 November

**Time** 9am – 5pm

**Venue** Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium (Level 2), Singapore Management University (SMU) School of Accountancy

The Symposium this year will touch on the larger issues facing translation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and end with a Roundtable discussion among stakeholders on the future of translation in Singapore.

#### **Welcome address**

9am – 9:15am

Keynote I **TRANSLATING DIGITALLY: WILL LANGUAGE STILL MATTER?**

**Featuring** Prof Kirpal Singh

**Time** 9:15am – 9:45am

We are living in a world where tomorrow has, once again, become very unpredictable. The Internet has encouraged a new way of receiving and disseminating information, based more on pictorial symbolism rather than verbal and linguistic finesse. Will language as we know it going to survive given the powerful digital tools today? In the coming decades, translation

may undergo a paradigm shift and translation will, probably, be more about how one reads an emoticon than how one makes \*love\* understood in a different language. Translation will, perhaps, not rely on letters and words; rather it will depend on how one reads images.

Keynote II **LITERARY TRANSLATION IN ISLAND SOUTHEAST ASIA: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE**

**Featuring** Prof Harry Aveling

**Time** 9:45am – 10:15am

Translation has been an integral part of island Southeast Asian literary traditions throughout history, and continues to have an important role to play in today's world. This talk examines the roles of translation in bringing foreign literature to the Malay world and also literature from the Malay world (including Singapore) to readers within and beyond the region, focusing on literature written in Bahasa Melayu/Indonesia. It concludes with a consideration of the challenges and potentials that translation programmes face in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Teabreak**

10:15am – 10:45am

Keynote III **TRANSLATING WORDS IN STONE: CONFUCIAN RHETORIC, DAOIST SPELLS, AND BUDDHIST MINDGAMES**

**Featuring** Prof Kenneth Dean

The epigraphical record of Singapore is rich and varied, and it presents special challenges to translation. Many stone inscriptions quote from the Confucian classics, weaving together "patches of fox fur to make a cape". How are we to translate and interpret these refined expressions of Confucian rhetoric? Another set of inscriptions present the miraculous powers of Daoist deities, or provide spells and talisman to exorcise malign influences. Finally, Buddhist monks have composed complex texts featuring complex use of variant characters designed to seemingly test the limits of communication. All these materials provide intriguing issues for translation studies.

**Time** 10:45am – 11:15am

**DISCUSSION AND Q&A**

**Featuring** Prof Harry Aveling, Prof Kirpal Singh & Prof Kenneth Dean

**Moderated by** Tan Dan Feng

**Time** 11:15am – 12:15pm

The keynote speakers convene to probe the issues, trends and concerns highlighted in their presentations.

**Lunch**

12:15pm – 1:30pm

Panel '**VERSUS**' OR '**UNIVERSAL**'?

**Featuring** Nazry Bahrawi, Chen Yi-chiao & Daisy Ng

**Moderated by** Arista Kuo

**Time** 1:30pm – 3pm

Three speakers will draw from their backgrounds as academics and practitioners to look at three areas pertinent to translators today, covering translation ethics, training and the impact of technology:

- a. Translatable versus Untranslatable
- b. Classroom versus Practice (Interpreting)
- c. Man versus Machine (Translation)

**Teabreak**

3pm – 3:30pm

Roundtable **NAVIGATING THE SINGAPORE TRANSLATION INDUSTRY**

**Featuring** Lee Siew Li, Susan Xu, Tan Dan Feng & K Kanagalatha

**Moderated by** Bashir Basalamah

**Time** 3:30pm – 5pm

With four official languages, the translation scene in Singapore is vibrant and fascinating. Demand is generated by a bustling corporate sector; a public sector that actively seeks to inform, educate and engage; a lively social and

community sector, and an artistic sector that is increasingly conscious of the multilingual character of the country. In this round table, translation practitioners, service providers, educators and users share their perspectives on the Singapore translation landscape and what more can be done to uplift it.

5pm – Symposium ends

### **NETWORKING MIXER**

**Time** 6:30pm – 7:30pm

**Venue** The Arts House, outside Screening Room

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Public Programmes

Panel **TRANSLATORS LAB FINAL PRESENTATIONS**

Featuring Prof Harry Aveling, Shelly Bryant, Subashree Krishnaswamy & Translators Lab participants

Moderated by Kate Griffin

Date 3 November

Time 7:30pm

Venue The Arts House Screening Room

Free Admission (Please register at <http://goo.gl/forms/M9u5WD6XkV>)

After seven weeks of online workshops, exercises and a 3-day boot camp, the participants of our Translators Lab are finally ready to present their translations! They will unveil their work translating the short stories and poems of Singapore writers Dr Sae'da Buang, KTM Iqbal, and Wong Koi Tet, as well as Indian writer Dilip Kumar. The Lab's workshop leaders Harry Aveling, Shelly Bryant and Subashree Krishnaswamy will also share their experiences of translating local literature.

Panel + Film **THE ART OF SUBTITLES**

Featuring Karen Chan, Alfian Sa'at & Yap Hon Ngian

Moderated by David Lee

Date 5 November

Time 7:30pm

Venue The Projector

"Subtitles offer a way into worlds outside of ourselves... Subtitles embed us," so states the book *Subtitles: On the Foreignness of Film*. Subtitling is often an unsung craft, yet good subtitles – in film, theatre and TV – can "embed" us in a multicultural world, adding a different texture to the artistic experience. Join Karen Chan (executive director, Asian Film Archive), Alfian Sa'at (resident playwright, WILD RICE) and Yap Hon Ngian (former head of subtitling, Mediacorp) as they talk about finding the sweet spot in subtitles through a combination of good translation and perfect timing. The discussion is moderated by David Lee (vice-chairman, Singapore Film Society).

Followed by complimentary screening of

TAMING OF THE PRINCESS 醉打金枝



Director Hsu Chiao Meng (徐蕉明)

Produced by Hong Kong United Co Ltd (港联有限公司)

Cast Xiao Lizhen (筱丽珍), Jin Shanghua (锦上花), Hokkien Opera Troupe (新麒)

麟闽剧团)

Singapore | 1958 | In Hokkien with English and Chinese subtitles

Taming of the Princess is a Hokkien period opera film based on a popular Chinese story about Tang Dynasty General Guo Ziyi's son Guo Ai, who rebukes his wife, Princess Sheng Ping, for not attending his father's birthday celebration. *Taming* was the first and only Hokkien (Amoy dialect) opera film wholly funded and produced by Singapore or Malaya film companies and talents. It was an unprecedented venture by local arts and cultural groups to document the vernacular Chinese traditional performing arts through cinema. The film's actors and actresses were renowned opera singers and stage performers from the local Sin Kee Lin Hokkien Opera Troupe, who were widely celebrated by Hokkien opera fans in the Southeast Asian region.

Taming is a restored work by the Asian Film Archive and it is courtesy of Mr and Mrs Chan Kam Yuen.

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### **SELECT@SINGAPORE WRITERS FESTIVAL 2015**

30 October – 8 November

The Arts House (TAH)

In collaboration with the Singapore Writers Festival, Select will organise a series of programmes as part of the SWF Beyond track. The various panel discussions, workshops and performances will showcase the intercultural and interdisciplinary facets of literature and the arts. Select will also be running the festival bookstore, The Select Centre Bookroom.

Admission to SWF events is by Festival Pass, except where stated.

#### **Panel NO ONE IS AN ISLAND**

**Featuring** Jeremy Tiang & Ari Larissa

**Moderated by** Lee Hui Min

**Date** 31 October

**Time** 11:30am – 12:30pm

**Venue** TAH, The Japan Foundation Play Den

With demand for translation between Chinese and English expected to rise with the growing clout of China on the world stage, translation experts share their views and experiences on bridging East and West.

Lecture **CHINA RE-VISIONED**

**Featuring** Chip Tsao & Xu Zhiyuan

**Date** 31 October

**Time** 2pm – 5pm

**Venue** Victoria Theatre

**Ticket Price** \$35

China is a rich topic ripe for discussion, and who better than Hong Kong's Chip Tsao and Beijing's Xu Zhiyuan to tackle the subject? Catch the two influential writers and public intellectuals together as they chew on the topic with their characteristic wit.

This session is in Mandarin with simultaneous English interpretation. This event is jointly presented by SWF, UnThinkTank and Select.

Workshop **MAKAN MISCHIEF**

**Featuring** Tan Joo Hymn & Evelyn Wong

**Date** 31 October

**Time** 4pm – 5pm

**Venue** TAH, Living Room

**Ticket Price** \$5

A young girl, Jen, meets a clever but mischievous mynah who can talk – and not just in one language! When she and her little brother, Kai, run into trouble, the mynah comes to their rescue. Through this workshop, children will have fun picking up words in the common local languages that they can use every day.



This session is in English, with some vocabulary in Mandarin, Malay and Tamil.  
For ages 5 to 10.

Workshop **HOW DO YOU TRANSLATE A POEM?**

**Featuring** Teng Qianxi

**Date** 1 November

**Time** 11am – 1pm

**Venue** Timbre Music Academy Hall

**Ticket Price** \$10

In this introductory-level workshop, participants will learn about basic translation and literary concepts by translating a contemporary Singapore poem from Chinese into English. Participants will be split into small groups to carry out “consensus translation”. Participants only need to have rudimentary knowledge of Chinese.

This session is in English. For ages 12 to 18.

Book Launch & Dramatised Readings **ANTOLOGI DRAMA MALAYSIA & SINGAPURA BY NAC AND ITBM**

**Curated by** T. Sasitharan

**Date** 1 November

**Time** 8:30pm – 9:30pm

**Venue** TAH, The Japan Foundation Play Den

**Free Admission**

Text comes to life through dramatised readings of excerpts from some of the best Singaporean and Malaysian plays translated into English and Malay. The plays are drawn from a new bilingual anthology commissioned by the National Arts Council and the Institute of Translation and Books Malaysia,

This session is in Malay and English.

Panel **VISION FOR A NATIONAL CANON**

**Featuring** K Kanagalatha, Annaliza Bakri & Chow Teck Seng

**Moderated by** Gwee Li Sui

**Date** 2 November

**Time** 7pm – 8pm

**Venue** TAH, Kumon Blue Room

Singapore's multicultural and multilingual heritage is often taken for granted. While the English, Chinese, Malay and Tamil literary scenes have flourished over the years, there has not been any sustained systematic effort to encourage interflows between the different language mediums. Talented young writers from different language backgrounds explore possible ways forward in this panel.

Book Launch & Performance **A QUEST FOR DANCE**

**Featuring** Santha Bhaskar, Nedumaran & Wong Chee Meng

**Moderated by** Stephanie Burridge

**Date** 2 November

**Time** 8:30pm – 9:30pm

**Venue** TAH, The Japan Foundation Play Den

In conjunction with the launch of *A Quest for Dance*, the memoirs of the late Singapore dance pioneer KP Bhaskar, a Malay poem ('*Terkocak*' by A. Ghani Hamid) and an English poem ('*Anger*' by Alvin Pang) will be interpreted through traditional Indian dance, choreographed by Cultural Medallion recipient Santha Bhaskar. The performance will be followed by a short discussion.

This book is made possible with the support of the National Arts Council.

Book Launch & Performance **SINGAPORE CROSSTALK**

**Featuring** Han Lao Da

**Conceptualised & Moderated by** Lee Chee Keng

**Date** 4 November

**Time** 8pm – 9:30pm

**Venue** TAH, Chamber

Crosstalk (or *xiangsheng*) is a traditional Chinese comedic performance conducted as a monologue or a dialogue, delivered in a rapid bantering

style. In conjunction with the launch of the collected essays of Cultural Medallion recipient Han Lao Da, performers will re-invent the well-known monologue *The Coffin is Too Big For The Hole* as *xiangsheng* to show the possibilities of the art form. Be prepared for an uproarious, gut-busting time!

This session is in Mandarin with English facilitation.

Book Launch & Reading **A HISTORY OF SINGAPORE MALAY POETRY**

**Featuring** Abdul Rahman Basrun, Abdul Muhaimin & Isa Kamari

**Moderated by** Nazry Bahrawi

**Date** 8 November

**Time** 5:30pm – 6:30pm

**Venue** TAH, British Council Gallery

In conjunction with the completion of the English translation of the work, *Potret Puisi Melayu Singapura (A Portrait of Singapore Malay Poetry)* by Cultural Medallion winner Isa Kamari, translators Abdul Rahman Basrun and Abdul Muhaimin and young poets will recite their favourite poems from the work in both English and Malay. A short discussion on the challenges of translation will be conducted.

This session is in English and Malay.

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SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

Featuring Jeremy Tiang & Daisy Ng

Date 6 & 11 – 12 November

TranslateSingapore will present a series of workshops in schools, featuring US-based translator and writer Jeremy Tiang, who has just been appointed the 2016 US National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Literary Translation Fellow, and Hong Kong-based Daisy Ng, one of the most sought-after interpreters in the Hong Kong and China. Students will have the chance to learn more about translator training and career development opportunities, as well as the qualities needed to be a professional translator and interpreter.