

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Singapore Book Council presents the second edition of Translation Day Singapore

The SG Culture Pass Eligible two-day event brings together 10 international and local translators, writers and artists to explore multilingualism, accessibility and the art of translation



SINGAPORE, 10 SEPTEMBER 2026 — Following its launch in 2025, Translation Day Singapore (TDSG) is back for a second edition from 26–27 September 2026 at The Arts House. The two-day event will feature speakers such as International Booker Prize winner Deepa Bhasthi, award-winning playwright Alfian Sa'at, and prolific translator Shanna Tan, and will convene translators, writers, artists and language enthusiasts to explore how meaning travels across cultures and forms.

TDSG is a key programme from the [Singapore Book Council \(SBC\)](#), one of the country's premier nonprofits that has been supporting the local literary scene by championing its writers, illustrators, translators, and other creatives. The event was started with the intention of honouring Singapore's rich, multilingual literary scene, and celebrating translation as a way of promoting appreciation for different cultures and communities.

Building on the success of its inaugural edition, this year's TDSG line-up includes 2025 International Booker Prize winner Deepa Bhasthi; literary translators Shanna Tan, Gene

Png, Christina Ng; accessibility artists Grace Lee-Khoo and Lily Goh; and writers and playwrights Alfian Sa'at and Izyanti Asa'ari, among others.

The programme, which can be accessed [here](#), invites audiences to consider not only how words are translated, but also how stories, experiences and ways of seeing can be carried across language and form.

Celebrating women in translation and multilingualism

The programme this year will feature a panel discussion *Carrying Her Voice: Women in Translation* by Singaporean writers and translators Christina Ng, Gene Png and Shanna Tan. The panel will pose questions around how women's writing travels across cultures, negotiating questions around visibility and women's agency.

Additionally, Deepa Bhasthi, the first Indian translator to win the International Booker Prize in 2025 for *Heart Lamp*, will give a lecture on multilingualism as a lived experience, arguing for a translation approach that allows languages to retain their distinct rhythms and textures rather than cater to standardised English.

Translation beyond words

The panel *Accessibility Interpretation as Creative Practice* features accessibility practitioners Grace Lee-Khoo and Joanna Ong, as well as Deaf artist and educator Lily Goh, and will discuss how practitioners like sign language interpreters, creative captionists, and audio artists translate live performances to convey meaning, emotion and atmosphere.

Professional development for translators

TDSG continues its commitment to supporting Singapore's literary translation practitioners through hands-on workshops focused on the craft of translation.

On the second day of the event, Singaporean translator Shanna Tan will lead a two-hour workshop on how translators of all levels can edit their own translation work. Also on the same day, Christina Ng will lead a workshop on translating cultural allusions and concepts.

Free public events

TDSG will also feature a number of [free events for the general public](#), including a book launch of *The Years in My Hair: 诗选 (1966-2017)* by Chinese literary pioneer Dan Ying, in a new English translation by Christina Ng. Deaf artist Lily Goh will also be leading a workshop on Deaf poetry, inviting audiences to experience how poetry can move across signed, spoken and written forms. Lastly, participants can enjoy a Rosetta Stone-style workshop, where they attempt to decipher a text in an unknown language using only an existing translation as a guide.

William Phuan, Executive Director of the Singapore Book Council, says: "Singapore is a diverse country, and translation remains key to knowing and appreciating our multifaceted culture. We are pleased to not only be bringing Translation Day Singapore back for a second run, but to also be exploring it in media beyond the written word."

Translation Day Singapore is supported by Arts House Group, the Asia Creative Writing Programme (ACWP), LTI Korea, the Tote Board Arts Fund and Singapore Writers' Festival.

The full programme is available at <https://www.bookcouncil.sg/translation-day-singapore-2026/tdsg-programmes>, and tickets may be purchased at <https://www.bookcouncil.sg/translation-day-singapore-2026/tdsg-tickets>.

Attendees will be able to tap on SG Culture Pass to purchase the 1-day pass or individual tickets.

Translation Day Singapore

Dates: 26 – 27 September 2026

Time: 10am – 9.00pm (Sat), 10am – 6.30pm (Sun)

Venue: The Arts House

About Singapore Book Council

Established in 1968, the Singapore Book Council (SBC) has for almost 60 years remained committed to developing and promoting a multicultural literary arts sector in Singapore. Its programmes focus on creative writing, translation, storytelling, reading and illustration. Its festivals, awards, workshops and school programmes reach out to Singapore's various language and ethnic communities, boosting creativity, imagination and empathy. SBC is a nonprofit and charity with IPC status. For more information, please visit the Singapore Book Council website: bookcouncil.sg.

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