



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

SINGAPORE LITERATURE PRIZE RETURNS TO RECOGNISE EXCELLENCE IN SINGAPOREAN WRITING

The biennial award will continue to promote authors and their works to local and international audiences

Singapore, 30 October 2015 – The National Book Development Council of Singapore (The Book Council) is pleased to announce that the submission period of the 2016 Singapore Literature Prize (SLP) has now opened! Building on the success of the previous iteration, the revamped SLP will award works in three genres (Fiction, Poetry, and Non-Fiction) in all four national languages, for a total of 12 prizes! Every winner will receive \$10,000 cash and many opportunities to promote their work, both locally and abroad.

2 Chairperson of the National Book Development Council of Singapore Ms Claire Chiang says, “We are very happy and excited to once again be able to award twelve prizes in the most prestigious literary award in Singapore. As the Book Council is a non-profit organization, the SLP, like all of our endeavours, is made possible only by funding and grants from government institutions like the National Arts Council, corporate sponsors, and individual donors. We thank all of you for helping us recognize some of the best in Singaporean contemporary writing.”

3 Previous Singapore Literature Prize winners include literary luminaries Lin Gao, Johar Buang, and KTM Iqbal, who have won other prestigious awards such as the SEA Write Award and the Cultural Medallion.

4 The Book Council will again be making every effort to promote the shortlisted and winning authors and works from the time they are announced in 2016 until well into the following year, author availability permitting. Authors and works will be marketed and publicized through paid advertising and news stories, and authors will be featured in events at libraries, bookstores, schools, and literary festivals as much as possible.

5 2014 English Poetry Co-Winner Mr Yong Shu Hoong comments, “As a two-time winner of the SLP for English poetry, in 2006 and 2014, I can say that the promotional efforts for the SLP winners and shortlisted writers have improved immensely. Over the past year or so, I have enjoyed visiting schools to conduct talks and workshops for students, as well as participating in panel discussions in various venues - from a cafe and public libraries in Singapore, to travelling across the Causeway to a festival in Johor Bahru. As a writer, I feel greatly honoured by the publicity and exposure given to my works.”

6 The SLP 2016 is now open for submissions until 8 January 2016. All Singaporean writers (citizens and permanent residents) who have published works from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2015 are eligible to submit their entries. The shortlist will be announced in May 2016, and the winners will be officially announced at a gala dinner in July 2016.
(For more details on the competition and prize categories, please refer to the website below.)

Please contact Adan Jimenez for further enquiries and interview requests:

Adan Jimenez

Assistant Director

DID: 6848 8294

Email: adan@bookcouncil.sg



About the Singapore Literature Prize (SLP)

Established in 1992, the Singapore Literary Prize is the most significant literary award for published literary works in Singapore. Organised by the National Book Development Council of Singapore, the SLP is a biennial competition supported by the National Arts Council, and aims to promote Singapore literary talent by recognizing outstanding published works by Singaporean authors in all of the four official languages. For more information, please visit: <http://bookcouncil.sg/awards/detail/singapore-literature-prize>.

About the Organiser - National Book Development Council of Singapore

The National Book Development Council of Singapore (The Book Council) is a non-profit, charitable organisation committed to addressing the needs of publishers, book suppliers, and libraries, as well as the reading and writing communities. Founded in 1969, the Book Council has been setting the stage for a vibrant literary arts community in Singapore for the past four decades. For more information, please visit: <http://bookcouncil.sg/>