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## NEWS RELEASE

### **UOB invites emerging and established artists to share their talent at the 34<sup>th</sup> Painting of the Year competition**

**Singapore, 23 June 2015** – United Overseas Bank (UOB) is inviting Southeast Asia’s emerging and established artists to enter the UOB Painting of the Year competition<sup>1</sup>, the longest-running art competition in Singapore.

Winners of this year’s competition will have the opportunity to interact with fellow artists at art exchange workshops overseas and be part of art education activities for underprivileged children. Their works will also be exhibited at the UOB Art Gallery. These activities are part of the Bank’s expanded art programme this year.

Mr Wee Ee Cheong, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, UOB Group, said the UOB Painting of the Year competition is one of the ways in which the Bank can help artists to realise their full potential.

“Just as we have been helping businesses grow and fulfill their ambitions, we started the UOB Painting of the Year competition to identify artistic talents and help them showcase their works to a wider community. Three decades on, we remain committed to this vision,” said Mr Wee.

The Bank started its annual UOB Painting of the Year competition in Singapore in 1982 and has since extended it to Thailand in 2010 and then Malaysia and Indonesia in 2011. Over the years, the competition has helped discover and nurture emerging artists as they have taken their first steps in their career. It has also encouraged established artists to push their creative boundaries.

The competition has cultivated a strong alumni of artists across the region over the last 33 years. They include Mr Goh Beng Kwan from Singapore, the first winner in 1982 and subsequent recipient of the prestigious Cultural Medallion award from the National Arts Council Singapore; Ms Pannaphan Yodmanee from Thailand whose artworks on global warming are currently on exhibition at the Yuz Museum in Shanghai, China; Mr Gan Tee Sheng from Malaysia who is well-known for artworks depicting

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<sup>1</sup> Please refer to the UOB Painting of the Year fact sheet for competition details

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## NEWS RELEASE

human desires and the subconscious mind; and Mr Antonius Subiyanto from Indonesia, the winner of the 2014 UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year award who has gone on to exhibit in numerous cities in his country.

### **Making art accessible to the community**

As part of UOB's wider art programme, the Bank partners with UOB Painting of the Year winners to hold activities for children who may not have an opportunity to be exposed to the arts.

In Singapore, 2014 UOB Painting of the Year country winner Ms Om Mee Ai conducted an abstract art workshop today at the UOB Plaza Atrium for 30 children from Thye Hua Kwan Family Service Centre @ Tanjong Pagar. Through this workshop, children can use art to express themselves more fully and confidently.

During the art workshop, Ms Om also gave the children a preview tour of her *Colour of Mind* art exhibition at the UOB Art Gallery at UOB Plaza 1. The exhibition will open to the public this evening and the 14 paintings on display seek to illustrate the effect of colours on the viewers' thoughts.

### **Creating an artists' creative exchange across Southeast Asia**

Ms Om will also participate in an art workshop in Bangkok on 27 June 2015 with fellow 2014 UOB Painting of the Year country winners from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, as well as local Thai artists. The artists will share their painting techniques with one another and create artworks together with renowned Thai artists Mr Suwit Jaipom and Mr Dinhin Rakpong-Asoke. Mr Jaipom is celebrated for his large crayon paintings and Mr Rakpong-Asoke for his portrait and illustration skills.

Ms Om said the art workshop will encourage artistic dialogue among artists in the region and improve the standard of Southeast Asian art.

"This art workshop is a valuable opportunity that allows us to learn from one another and stimulate our creative thoughts for future art pieces," said Ms Om.

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## NEWS RELEASE

### **UOB and the arts**

UOB recognises the vital role that art plays in society. It has been supporting the development and appreciation of art in Southeast Asia for more than four decades, starting with the collection of paintings from emerging artists in Singapore.

The Bank's flagship arts programme is the UOB Painting of the Year competition. Started in 1982, this is the longest running art contest in Singapore. Over the years, it has helped launch the careers of many well-known artists in Southeast Asia and provided them an avenue to share their works with a wider audience. Past winners include Singapore Cultural Medallion winners Mr Goh Beng Kwan and the late Messrs Chua Ek Kay and Anthony Poon.

To further promote Southeast Asian art, the Bank extended the UOB Painting of the Year competition to Thailand in 2010 and to Malaysia and Indonesia in 2011. [www.uobpoy.com](http://www.uobpoy.com).

### **About United Overseas Bank**

United Overseas Bank Limited (UOB) is a leading bank in Asia with a global network of more than 500 offices in 19 countries and territories in Asia Pacific, Western Europe and North America. Since its incorporation in 1935, UOB has grown organically and through a series of strategic acquisitions. UOB is rated among the world's top banks: AA1 by Moody's and AA- by Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings respectively.

In Asia, UOB operates through its head office in Singapore and banking subsidiaries in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines, as well as branches and representative offices.

UOB plays an active role in the community, focusing on the arts, education and children. It has, over more than three decades, held the longest-running competition in Singapore, the UOB Painting of the Year, which has since been extended across Southeast Asia. In recognition of its contributions to the arts, UOB was conferred the Singapore National Arts Council's Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award for the tenth consecutive year in 2014. UOB also encourages its employees across the region to be involved in its regular volunteer activities. This includes the annual UOB Heartbeat Run which is held in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

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