

## **UOB clients and colleagues become interior decorators for the day to help a few families prepare for the Lunar New Year**

**Singapore, 18 January 2017** – Sixteen families living in Bukit Batok will usher in the Lunar New Year with their flats freshly painted and newly furnished – the handiwork of more than 100 United Overseas Bank (UOB) employees and clients.

Led by UOB Deputy Chairman and CEO Mr Wee Ee Cheong, the 100 volunteers, in conjunction with Fei Yue Community Services<sup>1</sup>, rolled up their sleeves today to help spruce up the homes of these financially stretched families.

It took more than six hours for the volunteers to apply fresh coats of paint in the 16 homes and to set up the new furniture which had been donated by the Bank's clients based on the families' requests.

Mr Eric Tham, Head of Group Commercial Banking, UOB, who helped with the painting, said the joy he saw on the faces of the families' when they took in the new look of their homes made all the effort worth the while.

"Spring cleaning the home in preparation for the Lunar New Year and the festive celebrations that follow can be quite costly, especially in this unpredictable economic environment. Nevertheless, these customs are important for those who observe the occasion. As such, we wanted to do our part to help these families in particular celebrate the festivities with their loved ones without worrying too much about how to get it all done," Mr Tham said.

Across the region, the Bank's employees in China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand are also working with local charities to give schools and homes a makeover in the lead up to the Lunar New Year.

### **Stocking up on seasonal treats and school supplies**

No Lunar New Year celebration is complete without food and UOB clients sponsored goodie bags for all 360 families residing in the block where Fei Yue's Senior Activity Centre is located. Each bag was filled

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<sup>1</sup> Fei Yue Community Services is a non-profit voluntary welfare organisation established in 1996, with a mission to change lives through the provision of quality social services. Their services and programmes cater to the needs of different client populations including infants and children, youths and the elderly. More information can be found here – [www.fyccs.org](http://www.fyccs.org)

with Lunar New Year treats including pineapple tarts, 'love letters' and everyday grocery items such as cooking oil, soya sauce and chocolate milk powder.

New school bags and stationery were also donated by the Bank's clients to the 70 children from the Fei Yue Student Care Centre.

UOB client Mr Ho See Chek, CEO of Medicell Pharmaceutical, who was one of the participants today, said he was glad to be part of the event.

"As we celebrate the Lunar New Year, it is important that we remember those among us who may not have the financial means to celebrate with their families as fully as they would wish. I hope that through our efforts today, these families will have a cosy environment in which to host their family and friends, and that they may build lasting memories for the festive period and the years to come," Mr Ho said.

#### **UOB aims to raise S\$800,000 for local charities in support of art, children and education**

The household painting exercise is a prelude to UOB's annual Commercial Banking Lunar New Year dinner where the Bank and its clients raise funds for charity. The Bank is committing to match client donations up to S\$250,000, with the aim to raise S\$800,000 from the evening's fundraiser.

The chosen beneficiaries for the money raised at this year's UOB Commercial Banking Lunar New Year dinner are *The Business Times* Budding Artists Fund, *The Straits Times* School Pocket Money Fund, and Fei Yue Community Services. These beneficiaries support art, children and education, the focus of the Bank's corporate social responsibility programme.

The dinner will be held on 2 February 2017 at the Pan Pacific Hotel.

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#### **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, 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 and Thailand, as well as branches and representative offices.

UOB plays an active role in the community, focusing on art, children and education. It has, over more than three decades, held the longest-running art 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 twelfth consecutive year in 2016. 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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