

NEWS RELEASE

UOB Volunteers bring Sunshine to Young Artists as Haze lifts



Singapore, 29 June 2013 - The blue skies and colourful birds at the Jurong Bird Park provided creative inspiration for students from Very Special Arts Singapore (VSA) and more than 30 volunteer partners from United Overseas Bank (UOB) at an art jam this morning.

The group, which included autistic children aged between seven and 18 years old, enjoyed the respite from the haze and spent the morning painting and taking photographs of the Pelican Cove's feathery residents as they swam and swooped for fish.

UOB has supported VSA since 2007 in line with the Bank's community focus on art, education and children. The two organisations work together to organise art rehabilitation activities that help children with special needs hone their social skills and unlock their artistic talent.

NEWS RELEASE

“Thankfully, the haze cleared up and we were able to enjoy the good weather with the children at the Bird Park. It was so moving to see the children opening up and bonding with us over a simple watercolour painting. Their love for nature was touchingly expressed through their art. Words could not say enough,” said Ms. Clara Ho, a manager at the Bank.

A UOB spokesperson said that they worked closely with VSA during the week to monitor the haze situation and ensure the health and safety of the children and volunteers.

Background: UOB in the community

- In 2012, employees from UOB volunteered more than 1,900 hours of their time to helping various beneficiaries, including helping charities use art as a way of bringing people together and developing talent
- All employees are granted two days of paid volunteer leave each year to perform volunteer work with the Bank’s named beneficiaries, which are aligned with its CSR focus areas of art, education and children
- In June 2013, UOB organised its annual UOB Heartbeat Run/Walk, where more than 4,000 employees and their families walked along the Punggol Waterway Park to raise funds for charities that support disadvantaged children develop their potential through art education and early skills intervention
- The event raised S\$560,000 in contributions from the Bank, its employees and its customers, which benefitted programmes at Metta School and Towner Gardens School
- The Bank’s flagship programme is the UOB Painting Of The Year (POY) competition, the longest running art competition in Singapore. Over the last 31 years, the UOB POY competition has launched the careers of many professional artists including Cultural Medallion winners Goh Beng Kwan and the late Chua Ek Kay and Anthony Poon. In 2011, UOB extended the competition to include artists from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand

– Ends –

NEWS RELEASE

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 through a series of strategic acquisitions. Today it operates in Asia through its branches and representative offices as well as banking subsidiaries in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

UOB plays an active role in the community, focusing on the arts, education and children. For three decades UOB has organised the prestigious UOB Painting Of The Year Competition and Exhibition. In recognition of its contributions to the arts, UOB was conferred the National Arts Council's Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award for the eighth consecutive year in 2012. 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 Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and mainland China.

About Very Special Arts Singapore

Very Special Arts Singapore (VSA Singapore) is a charity which provides people with disabilities with opportunities to access the arts for rehabilitation and social integration. Through its three programmes, Arts for Livelihood and Employment (ALIVE), Arts in Learning, Rehabilitation and Training (ALERT), and Arts in Dance, Drama, and Music for Everyone (ADD-ME), VSA Singapore nurtures and develops creative talents and enriches the lives of people with disabilities and the community they live in.

VSA was launched in Singapore by our patron and Ambassador-at-large, Professor Tommy Koh, on September 1993. The organization is affiliated to VSA – The International Organization on Arts and Disability in the United States and the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) in Singapore.

For more information, please visit our website: www.vsa.org.sg and our Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/vsa.singapore>

For media queries, please contact:

Clarence Lim
Group Brand Performance and Corporate Communications
Email: Clarence.LimJM@UOBgroup.com
Tel: 6539 3950

Jean Khong
Group Brand Performance and Corporate Communications
Email: Jean.KhongLY@UOBgroup.com
Tel: 6539 3981