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UOB employees and customers across Asia raise more than S\$1.1 million for children's charities at the annual UOB Heartbeat Run/Walk

Singapore saw a record turnout of more than 7,000 participants

Singapore, 24 July 2016 - This morning, more than 11,000 United Overseas Bank (UOB) employees, their families and customers, participated in the annual UOB Heartbeat Run/Walk event held in six markets in Asia, namely China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. Together, they raised over S\$1.1 million which will go towards improving the lives of children in Asia who are underprivileged or have special needs.

In Singapore alone, the annual event saw more than 7,000 runners and walkers at East Coast Park, the highest number of participants since it was first held 10 years ago. A mainstay in the Bank's calendar, the UOB Heartbeat Run/Walk embodies its key corporate social responsibility focus on children, education and art. The event features a three-kilometre walk, and a five- and 10-kilometre run.

In the areas of children and education, the more than \$1 million raised will go towards initiatives such as early intervention programmes for children with special needs. This will benefit 1,600 children and youth from the ages of five to 21, who will be taught social and work skills. The beneficiaries this year are the Movement for the Intellectually Disabled in Singapore Towner Gardens School, Pathlight School and Rainbow Centre – Yishun Park School.

To raise the awareness of art in the community, the Bank introduced a *Walk for Art* theme this year for the three-kilometre walk. Participants gamely took on the challenge, with many dressed in painting masterpieces. Adding to the fun in this annual fundraiser, UOB also organised a carnival with fringe art activities such as art jamming. Children from the three beneficiaries also participated in the three-kilometre walk and art sessions, accompanied by their families and volunteers from the Bank.

Mr Wee Ee Cheong, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, UOB Group, who again ran the 10-kilometre route at the Singapore event said, "Ten years ago, we launched the UOB Heartbeat Run/Walk to raise funds for those in need. By working together with various charitable organisations, we believe we can make a difference to the lives of those around us. Behind this annual event are thousands of UOB employees who enthusiastically volunteer their time and effort over many months to give back to the

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community. I am encouraged by my colleagues' enthusiasm in Singapore and across the region to rally together as one Bank in a concerted effort to build a better future for those with fewer opportunities in life, and those with special needs."

About the UOB Heartbeat Run/Walk

In 2007, UOB launched the UOB Heartbeat Run/Walk in Singapore to raise funds for local charities in support of art, children and education. Building on the success of the event in Singapore, UOB expanded this activity across Asia with Malaysia in 2008, Indonesia and Thailand in 2011, China in 2012 and Hong Kong in 2014. Since the start of the annual Heartbeat Run/Walk, UOB has raised more than S\$5 million to help improve the lives of underprivileged children and children with special needs. The Bank was awarded the Community Chest Outstanding Special Events Award in 2015.

– Ends –

Appendix: Heartbeat Run/Walk 2016 beneficiaries

Funds raised will benefit the following organisations:

China

YesKids Charity, where funds will go to support the education of underprivileged children and to improve their school facilities in remote villages located in Sichuan province. Donations this year will also be used to set up the "Traditional Art Scholarship" to promote traditional arts and craft.

Hong Kong

The Children's Cancer Foundation, an established organisation that aims to improve healthcare and quality of life for young cancer patients and their families. Initiatives include assisting major public hospitals in Hong Kong to enhance medical facilities and services in paediatric oncology.

Indonesia

Yayasan Daya Pelita Kasih, which equips special needs children, young adults and adults, with social and work skills through educational programmes, and Yogyakarta Biennale Foundation, a platform where artists and experts from various disciplines of art and culture can come together to exchange ideas and inspire creativity.

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Malaysia

Angel's Children Home, Shelter Home for Children, Dignity for Children Foundation and the Penang Cheshire Home, to run education, life skills and art programmes for underprivileged children.

Singapore

Movement for the Intellectually Disabled in Singapore (MINDS) Towner Gardens School, Pathlight School and Rainbow Centre – Yishun Park School, to support initiatives, including early intervention programmes, aimed at equipping over 1,600 children with special needs from the ages of five to 21 with social and work skills.

Thailand

Phra Dabos School, to enhance programmes that equip underprivileged youth with vocational education, including life and work skills.

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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