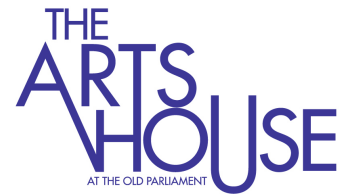




NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL
SINGAPORE



NEWS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE



*Organised by National Arts Council and The Arts House
In Conjunction with Singapore Writers Festival 2009*

**SPH-NAC Golden Point Award 2009 is open for submissions
from 10 March to 29 May 2009**

Application form available from:
www.singaporewritersfestival.com
www.nac.gov.sg
www.theartshouse.com.sg

For more information:
E: nac_gpa@nac.gov.sg

Singapore, 10 March 2009 – The SPH-NAC Golden Point Award (SPH-NAC GPA), Singapore's premier creative writing competition and only national writing competition to celebrate new writing in the four major languages, is open for submissions from today till 29 May 2009.

In its search for emerging and new creative writing talents in Singapore, the competition is open to unpublished writers who have not yet published a solo work – though writers who have been published in journals or anthologies will still be eligible to enter.

Organised by the National Arts Council (NAC) since 1993, the biennial writing competition invites entries in the categories of short story and poetry. Over the years, the competition has received entries by individuals from all walks of life – from engineers, accountants, social workers and even fitness instructors. Some noted prize-winners include writers like

Annur Othman and Denon Lim, as well as Young Artist Award recipients Alfian Sa'at, Cyril Wong and Tan Chee Lay.

Ms Ginney Lim, Executive Vice-President, Legal and Corporate Communications of SPH and General Manager of SPH Foundation, says: "SPH and the SPH Foundation are proud to be sponsors of the SPH-NAC Golden Point Award since its inception in 1993. As Singapore's leading media company with an emphasis on journalism and the written word, it is only apt that we support this competition to help develop and discover writing talent. This year's SPH-NAC Golden Point Award is especially meaningful to us as it coincides with our 25th anniversary."

Says Deputy Chief Executive Officer, National Arts Council, Mr. Khor Kok Wah, "For this year's SPH-NAC Golden Point Award, we eagerly await new talent, powerful stories and great poems. With our partner The Arts House, we hope SPH-NAC GPA will inject more life into our writing scene and trigger the Singapore stories, imagined or otherwise, that must be told."

Says Director, Artistic Development & Social Enterprise, The Arts House, Mr. Phan Ming Yen, "We are glad to partner NAC again for the *Singapore Writers Festival* and to work on the SPH-NAC Golden Point Award again. The spirit and essence of SPH-NAC GPA is very much in synergy with that of The Arts House's intent which is that of searching for new talent in Singapore and being able to create a platform or avenue for them to be heard. We hope that more new and hitherto undiscovered talent would emerge and add to the rich diversity of literary voices of Singapore. The spirit of participation is already an act of making oneself heard and in the arts, the more voices, always the merrier."

Open to all Singaporeans and Permanent Residents, participants of the SPH-NAC GPA may write on any subject or theme. Poetry entries must be submitted in a collection with a minimum of five poems, and not exceeding eight poems. Short story entries should not exceed 5,000 words. A panel of local and foreign judges will be appointed for each respective language category to assess and select the winning entries.

The SPH-NAC GPA is held in conjunction with the Singapore Writers Festival (SWF), the nation's only major literary event and one of the few literary festivals in Asia that is multi-lingual. The Singapore Writers Festival (SWF) and the SPH-NAC GPA is co-organised by the National Arts Council and The Arts House. Singapore Press Holdings and Singapore Press Holdings Foundation are also the Official Sponsors for SWF 2009.

Prizes

The following prizes will be awarded for each of the four languages for both the short story and poetry categories:

- First Prize** : \$4,000 cash, a trophy, and a \$6,000 enrichment grant. First Prize winners may also be offered the opportunity to be represented by a well-known, international publisher and/or by an established literary agent.
- Second Prize** : \$3,000 cash and a certificate
- Third Prize** : \$2,000 cash and a certificate

In the event that none of the above prizes are won, Merit Awards of \$500 may be awarded instead.

The Enrichment Grant of up to \$6,000 has been awarded to the First Prize winners of the SPH-NAC Golden Point Award competition since 1997, to provide them with sufficient funds to participate in writing seminars, workshops and literature festivals overseas.

Entry Forms and Submissions

The call for submissions for the SPH-NAC Golden Point Award commences on 10 March 2009. The official entry form will be available for download from the SWF website at www.singaporewritersfestival.com as well as the NAC www.nac.gov.sg and TAH www.theartshouse.com.sg websites respectively. All entries must reach the National Arts Council by 29 May 2009. All winners will be notified of the results by post in October 2009. The SPH-NAC Golden Point Award Presentation Ceremony will be held in conjunction with the Singapore Writers Festival in October 2009. For more information, the public can contact nac_gpa@nac.gov.sg.

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About the National Arts Council, Singapore

The National Arts Council (NAC) was established in September 1991 to spearhead the development of the arts in Singapore. To realize its vision of developing Singapore into a distinctive global city for the arts, NAC provides total support to nurture artistic talent, promotes the practice and appreciation of the arts among Singaporeans, builds up capabilities and resources, facilitates internationalization and advocates the value of the arts. Through its holistic range of programmes and initiatives to develop the entire arts value chain, the Council champions the growth of a vibrant arts sector where the arts is accessible to all, and the community of artists, arts groups and arts businesses can innovate, excel and achieve sustainability in the long term. www.nac.gov.sg

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The Arts House at the Old Parliament

Occupying the 181-year old building which was the former Parliament House and Singapore's first Court House, The Arts House was officially opened in March 2004 as the only gazetted government building designated as a multidisciplinary arts centre. The Arts House has since been offering its visitors a broad spectrum of activities ranging from contemporary arts & entertainment events to lifestyle options, and at the same time playing an active role in the development of the Singapore arts & creative scene with its strong intent in supporting and promoting Singapore artists and their artworks through its various initiatives and platforms in Singapore as well as internationally. The Arts House is managed by The Old Parliament House Limited, a not-for-profit full-service arts management company limited by guarantee. For further information, please visit www.theartshouse.com.sg.

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