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Children's creativity lights up the UOB Mid-Autumn Festival lantern painting workshop UOB Painting of the Year winner Gong Yao Min shares his techniques with young painters from the Little Arts Academy



Singapore, 19 September 2013 – The creative energies of children from The Little Arts Academy lit up a lantern painting workshop organised by United Overseas Bank (UOB) in celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival today.

The 20 aspiring artists and their volunteer painting buddies were taught traditional brush techniques by well-known Chinese ink artist and UOB Painting of the Year award winner Mr Gong Yao Min. Another tradition associated with the festival is Chinese tea making and the children were shown the art by acrobatic tea masters.

The young artists were joined by UOB senior management including Mr Wee Ee Cheong, Deputy Chairman and CEO of UOB Group, who added the final brushstrokes to a lantern painted by Mr Gong. The lantern depicting a moonlit mid-Autumn night was presented to The Little Arts Academy as a gift.

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Ms Wiwin Wina Kumala, a UOB volunteer, said, “Decorating lanterns brings back many happy childhood memories of the Mid-Autumn Festival for me and I hope this time spent together becomes a special memory for the children too. They really amazed us with their talent and I can see that they are inspired to continue to explore new art forms.”

UOB has supported the Little Arts Academy since 2010 as part of the Bank’s community focus on art, education and children. The two organisations work together to organise activities that help disadvantaged children realise their potential through the arts.

The workshop is among the activities of the 2013 UOB Painting of the Year competition. The competition encourages artists to create works that push the boundaries of creativity and inspire the imagination of their communities. The annual competition opened for entries this week.

Background: UOB and the Arts

- Since the launch of UOB’s staff volunteerism programme in 2007, the Bank has organised art-related activities for beneficiaries including The Little Arts Academy, Very Special Arts Singapore and AWWA School in line with its community focus on art, education and children.
- The Bank’s flagship arts programme is the UOB Painting of the Year competition, the longest running art contest in Singapore. Over the past 31 years, it has launched the careers of many well-known artists including Cultural Medallion winners Mr Goh Beng Kwan and the late Messrs Chua Ek Kay and Anthony Poon.
- The 2013 UOB Painting of the Year competition is now open for entries. The overall winner of the competition will receive US\$35,000 and have a chance at a residency at the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum. www.uobpoy.com.

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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, Western Europe and North America. Since its incorporation in 1935, UOB has grown organically and through a series of strategic acquisitions. In Asia it operates 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 ninth consecutive year in 2013. 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.

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