

News Release

Co. Reg. No. 193500026Z

UOB raises more than \$2.6 million for charity at its annual Commercial Banking Lunar New Year celebrations

Singapore, 7 February 2025 – UOB, together with about 1,200 business clients, raised more than \$2.6 million for charity as part of the Bank’s annual Lunar New Year festive celebrations.

The funds, raised through a series of art workshops and a fundraising gala dinner with clients, will be donated to various charities to support the arts, children and educational causes. These charities include *The Business Times* Budding Artists Fund, *The Straits Times* School Pocket Money Fund, Central Singapore CDC, Lakeside Family Services and Ren Ci Hospital. The proceeds will also go towards assisting local enterprises in their innovation efforts under the UOB-Singapore Management University Asian Enterprise Institute.

Mr Wee Ee Cheong, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, UOB, said, “Our tradition of combining art, philanthropy and community engagement reflects our commitment to doing right by our stakeholders. Through the generosity of our clients, we continue to drive meaningful change by supporting children, education and the arts. Together, we are fostering a more inclusive and culturally vibrant society.”

As part of the fundraising efforts, UOB auctioned two pieces of artworks, and the winning bids were made by Mr Low Kok Ann, CEO of Hafary Holdings Ltd and Mr Neo Kah Kiat, BBM, Founder, Chairman, CEO of Neo Group Limited for bids of \$250,888 and \$238,000 respectively at the fundraising gala dinner on 6 February 2025. More than 40 clients also participated in an art workshop on 23 January 2025, where Mr Wee applied finishing touches to these art pieces.

Titled “Eternal Spring”, the first piece is a commissioned artwork by artist Karina D. Simon, 2022 UOB Painting of the Year award winner. The piece depicts the Chinese character “永” as a bonsai plant in a contemporary art form using coloured pencils on paper. The art piece preserves the core essence of spring – to always inspire and to be a reminder of the positivity of spring, even when seasons change.



The second art piece, titled “Everlasting Blooms”, is a 3-D paper sculpture and carving by established paper artist, Ceres Lau. “Everlasting Blooms” evokes a sense of beauty and vibrancy, transcending the fleeting nature of time. It is a symbol of abundance, wealth and longevity, representing a world filled with opportunities, hopes and vitality.

Mr Low Kok Ann, CEO of Hafary Holdings Ltd, said, “We were inspired to leverage the strength of business and our appreciation of the arts, to contribute collectively to the community. Through UOB’s extensive ASEAN trade network, we will continue to foster strong connectivity not just within the business community but also build a more inclusive society through UOB’s commitment to worthy causes such as this initiative.”

Mr Neo Kah Kiat, BBM, Founder, Chairman and CEO of Neo Group Limited, said, “In partnering UOB through the years, we have formed not just strong business connections, but also jointly supported the community together. We appreciate these meaningful initiatives that UOB holds annually, which uplift our community and strengthen our business networks and bonds”.

Two other UOB Commercial Banking clients, Mr Ching Chiat Kwong, Chairman of Jadeite Properties Pte Ltd and Mr Kelvin Lim of LHN Group, had both donated \$250,000 each to join the Bank’s support for the local community through this annual fundraising effort.

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About UOB

UOB is a leading bank in Asia. Operating through its head office in Singapore and banking subsidiaries in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam, UOB has a global network of around 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. Today, UOB is rated among the world's top banks: Aa1 by Moody's Investors Service and AA- by both S&P Global Ratings and Fitch Ratings.

For nearly nine decades, UOB has adopted a customer-centric approach to create long-term value by staying relevant through its enterprising spirit and doing right by its customers. UOB is focused on building the future of ASEAN – for the people and businesses within, and connecting with, ASEAN.

The Bank connects businesses to opportunities in the region with its unparalleled regional footprint and leverages data and insights to innovate and create personalised banking experiences and solutions catering to each customer's unique needs and evolving preferences. UOB is also committed to help businesses forge a sustainable future, by fostering social inclusiveness, creating positive environmental impact and pursuing economic progress. UOB believes in being a responsible financial services provider and is steadfast in its support of art, social development of children and education, doing right by its communities and stakeholders.

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