

News Release

Co. Reg. No. 193500026Z

UOB marks 90th anniversary with \$30 million support for disadvantaged students in ASEAN

The programmes focus on uplifting the lives of more than 120,000 students through education

Singapore, 3 March 2025 – UOB today announced that it will commit \$30 million to programmes which support the education of disadvantaged children and students across Southeast Asia.

The programmes mark the Bank's 90th anniversary and are in line with the Bank's focus to do right by its communities. Together, the programmes will positively impact and uplift the lives of more than 120,000 children and students from less privileged backgrounds through education. The programmes are designed to empower and inspire communities by providing them with the knowledge and skills needed to progress and build resilience.

The four programmes are:

- a) UOB will partner a leading education technology (EdTech) platform based in Indonesia to provide 90,000 children from underprivileged families across 60 cities in Southeast Asia with a headstart at school. Through the EdTech platform, children mainly from Indonesia and Vietnam can gain easy access to quality educational resources in areas such as coding, computational training and digital literacy over the next three years.
- b) As part of the UOB My Digital Space Programme, about 20,000 children from disadvantaged backgrounds across Southeast Asia will receive digital learning tools and skills this year. Launched in 2020, the UOB My Digital Space Programme is a multi-year programme that aims to bridge the digital gap for children from disadvantaged backgrounds across the region and to connect them to a world of digital learning opportunities. Since its launch, the programme has benefitted about 38,000 students across the region.



- c) Through The Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund in Singapore, about 11,000 students from low-income families will receive 90 days of pocket money to help them through school. The students can use this money for school-related expenses such as buying meals, paying for transport or other schooling activities.
- d) UOB will provide pre-tertiary scholarships to 90 students from the region over the next few years for them to study in Singapore. The scholarships will cover their education fees and living costs.

Mr Wee Ee Cheong, Deputy Chairman and CEO, UOB, said, “UOB has always been steadfast in our commitment to doing right by our communities. As we celebrate and reflect on the past 90 years, we know we could only achieve what we have because of the loyal and continuous support of all stakeholders, including the community. We believe strongly in supporting education as this is an investment in our collective future across the ASEAN region. As we look to the future, we will continue to be guided by our core values of honour, enterprise, unity and commitment.”

Celebrating the Bank’s heritage

The Bank today also announced the opening of the UOB Gallery, titled “Right By You: The UOB Story”. The gallery commemorates the rich history and milestones of the Bank from its founding in 1935.

The new UOB Gallery chronicles the key milestones that have defined the Bank’s journey over the past 90 years. It offers visitors insights into how UOB has helped to shape and contribute to society across the pillars of Culture, Commerce and Community. Other than contributing to the region’s economic development, the Bank has also played key roles in uplifting communities across ASEAN.

The gallery offers visitors a throwback to UOB’s past, even as the Bank looks to the future, constantly evolving to meet the ever-changing needs of its customers. In addition, it will feature UOB’s culture and values, which have been the foundation of building a sustainable enterprise and guides us to do Right by all stakeholders.

The gallery also explores the life and achievements of the late Dr Wee Cho Yaw, Chairman Emeritus and Honorary Adviser to the UOB Group, and pays tribute to his achievements in business, contributions to society and his life philosophies that underpinned them all.



The gallery is located at UOB's Main Branch in Raffles Place and is open to the public. It follows the opening hours of the Main Branch. Admission is free. Please refer to the Annex for more details on the gallery.

Over the course of the year, UOB will announce a series of exciting and impactful UOB90 initiatives and programmes to celebrate our journey, while giving back to the communities in which we operate.

-Ends-





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 more than 470 offices in 19 markets 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 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.

For media queries, please contact:

Olanda Low

Group Strategic Communications and Brand

Email: Olanda.low@uobgroup.com

Tel: (65) 6539 3981



Annex: UOB Gallery



The UOB Gallery, titled “Right By You: The UOB Story”, commemorates the rich history and milestones of the Bank as it marks its 90th anniversary in 2025.

Starting out as a single branch by the historical Singapore River, the Bank has developed and grown alongside Singapore, supporting – and being supported by – the country’s economic growth. As UOB celebrates its 90th anniversary this year, Singapore will be celebrating its 60th birthday.

The Gallery showcases UOB’s impact in Singapore and across the region. It offers visitors a unique look into how UOB has helped to shape and contribute to society throughout its history – serving both as a tribute to the past and an inspiration for future progress.

As the Bank continues to evolve, its growth story will be captured in this living gallery where the content will be refreshed from time to time to keep pace with the developments of the organisation and the dynamic landscape that it operates within.

Apart from panel displays, there will be multimedia booths and several historical artefacts such as coin banks and selected cards from the older series of the UOB Lady’s Card.

As part of its launch, the UOB Gallery also explores the life and achievements of the late Dr Wee Cho Yaw, Chairman Emeritus and Honorary Adviser to the UOB Group. The Gallery pays tribute to his achievements in business, contributions to the Chinese community and society at large, and his life philosophies that underpinned it all.

Culture, Commerce and Community

The UOB Gallery is organised into three key thematic pillars which explore the diverse facets of how UOB has influenced society, not just by its primary role to provide banking services to businesses and consumers:

- **Culture:** The Gallery elaborates on the values that continue to define the Bank today: being honourable, enterprising, united and committed. The Culture pillar delves into the Bank's history and culture, tracing its roots operating from a single office in Bonham Building in Raffles Place in 1935, into a banking group with about 470 offices in 19 countries and territories.
- **Commerce:** The Gallery takes visitors through UOB's role in the development of financial services through its multiple innovative contributions such as introducing 24-hour banking through Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) in 1980 and launching a credit card specially targeted at women in 1989. Both were firsts in Singapore when they were launched. This pillar also features UOB's acquisitions through the years including Chung Khiaw Bank in 1971, Overseas Union Bank in 2001 and the game-changing acquisition in 2022 of Citigroup's consumer banking businesses in our four key Southeast Asian markets. In line with its tradition of constant development, the Bank is positioning itself for the future with solutions in sustainable finance and digital banking.
- **Community:** Since its inception, UOB has strived to contribute to the development of the communities that it operates in. The Bank is known for its support of the social development of children, education and the arts. As a leading arts patron, the Bank is a founding partner of the National Gallery Singapore, and a partner of the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and National Arts Council to promote art and artists. The UOB Painting of the Year competition, launched in 1982 in Singapore, has developed into one of Southeast Asia's most recognised art competitions.





Visitor Information

- **Admission:** The UOB Gallery is open to the public. Admission is free.
- **Gallery Location:** UOB Main Branch, 80 Raffles Place, UOB Plaza, Singapore 048624

- **Gallery Opening Hours:**

The UOB Gallery will follow the opening hours of the UOB Main Branch:

Monday to Friday, 9.30am-4.30pm

Saturday, 9.30am-12.30pm

Sunday and Public Holidays, Closed

