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UOB and Painting of the Year artists draw out children's creativity for Mother's Day

Singapore, 28 April 2015 – Children from the Association for Persons with Special Needs (APSN) Katong School enjoyed an afternoon of painting Mother's Day cards at an art workshop organised by United Overseas Bank (UOB).

Accompanied by UOB volunteers, 12 aspiring young artists learnt contemporary Chinese ink painting techniques from established local artists Ms Hong Sek Chern and Mr Chua Say Hua. The husband-and-wife duo were winners of the 2014 UOB Painting of the Year competition and are known for their modern interpretations of the traditional ink artform.

The artists also took the children on a guided tour of their ongoing *City Landscape* exhibition at the UOB Art Gallery at UOB Plaza 1, to share their understanding and experience of art. The 18 paintings displayed at the exhibition is part of a current series by the artists to explore ways of depicting cities including Singapore and New York, by featuring their architectural elements.

Ms Hong Sek Chern, Gold Award winner of the Established Artist category for 2014 UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore), said the workshop was a fulfilling and enjoyable experience.

"I am glad to help UOB inspire our young ones. By sharing our art with the children, we were able to help them express their love and gratitude to their mothers creatively and with confidence on Mother's Day in two weeks' time," Ms Hong said.

As part of the Bank's art programme, UOB organises regular art activities for children who may not have an opportunity to be exposed to the arts.

Today's workshop is the first in a series of six art events which UOB will be organising this year for some 100 children from the Bank's charity partners. These activities are designed in collaboration with past UOB Painting of the Year competition winners and include museum and studio visits.

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Other UOB Painting of the Year artists who have committed to support the Bank's endeavours include Ms Om Mee Ai, winner of the 2014 Singapore leg of the competition; Mr Goh Beng Kwan, winner of the first competition in 1982 and a Cultural Medallion recipient; Mr Alvin Ong and Mr Esmond Loh, two of the youngest UOB Painting of the Year winners.

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Background: UOB and the Arts

UOB recognises the vital role that art plays in society. It has been supporting the development and appreciation of art in Southeast Asia for more than four decades, starting with the collection of paintings from emerging artists in Singapore.

The Bank's flagship arts programme is the UOB Painting of the Year competition. Started in 1982, this is the longest running art contest in Singapore. Over the years, it has helped launch the careers of many well-known artists in Southeast Asia and provided them an avenue to share their works with a wider audience. Past winners include Cultural Medallion winners Mr Goh Beng Kwan and the late Messrs Chua Ek Kay and Anthony Poon. www.uobpoy.com.

The UOB Art Gallery located at the lobby of UOB Plaza 1, is a free space offered to UOB Painting of the Year winners to showcase their works. This is where members of the community can gather to appreciate works by artists in the Bank's 1,500 strong UOB Art Collection.

Background: *City Landscape* exhibition

This exhibition, comprising 18 paintings by Ms Hong Sek Chern and Mr Chua Say Hua, is an ongoing series by the artists to explore ways of depicting the city. For Say Hua, his artworks highlight the wear and tear of time on buildings such as old shophouses. Sek Chern views cities as constantly evolving and uses the traditional Chinese ink painting medium to portray the urban sprawl.

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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. 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, Thailand and the Philippines, as well as branches and representative offices.

UOB plays an active role in the community, focusing on the arts, education and children. It has, over more than three decades, held the longest-running 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 tenth consecutive year in 2014. 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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