

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC) Postponed to 3-4 October 2020

Children's literary festival to prelude with Book Illustrators Gallery in May and host online sessions in response to COVID-19 virus

Singapore, 23rd March 2020 – The Singapore Book Council, which organises the Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC), has decided to postpone the 11th edition of AFCC from 28–31 May to **3–4 October 2020**, in view of the evolving COVID-19 outbreak in Singapore and around the world. In response to the situation, AFCC will be scaling down the festival to two days and making parts of the festival digital.

As a prelude to AFCC, the Book Council will also be organising the popular Book Illustrators Gallery (BIG), an exhibition that showcases the best illustrations from Asian picture books from 1–30 June 2020 at the National Library Building.

“Ensuring the health and safety of our speakers, audience members and staff was our first priority, hence we made the decision to postpone AFCC,” says William Phuan, Executive Director of the Singapore Book Council. “However, in view of the COVID-19 situation and how it has disrupted book fairs and events all over the world, we also wanted to use this opportunity to rethink and refresh AFCC. Hence,

we are looking at how to leverage technology to take parts of the festival online or digital like live streaming, and still engage the community in a safe and accessible way.”

The theme for AFCC 2020 is “Voyages”, where audiences are invited to envision a world filled with possibilities as the festival traverses boundaries, redefines narratives and discovers new truths. The main AFCC festival will now take place over two days in October in a scaled down version. Attendees can expect some of the festival’s sessions to be available online or on digital platforms in the form of webinars and live-streamed talks. This will ensure that the festival will still be accessible to attendees who may not be able to physically take part. The full programme and new venue of AFCC will be announced at a later date.

As a lead-up to the festival in October, the popular Book Illustrators Gallery (BIG) will be held from 1–30 June 2020. A key feature of AFCC, BIG showcases the best illustrations from graphic novels, comics and picture books by illustrators and artists from Southeast Asia, Asia and of the Asian diaspora. The artworks for this year’s gallery will be selected by special guest curators from the Philippines, India, Japan and Indonesia – AFCC’s past countries of focus. Free and open to the public, the exhibition will take place at the Central Public Library, National Library Building.

More details for BIG are listed in Annex A. More information about AFCC will be made available in the next few months. Please check our website for more updates: afcc.com.sg.

For media related enquiries, please contact:

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About Singapore Book Council

The Singapore Book Council (SBC) is an independent charity with IPC status. Established in 1968 to support Singapore authors and literature, SBC aims to Build Our Imagine-nation by developing creativity, imagination, original thought and empathy. Our programmes focus on creative writing, reading, illustration, translation and storytelling. We are committed to developing a multicultural, diverse literary arts sector through our festivals, training workshops and courses, as well as book awards to recognise excellence.

Vision: International recognition for quality, diverse Singapore literature.

Mission: To develop, support and advocate a multicultural literary arts sector.

SBC is currently chaired by Ms Claire Chiang, co-founder of Banyan Tree Hotels and Resorts.

The Book Council develops and advocates Singapore's books and literary arts scene by organising a variety of festivals, including the annual Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC); giving out prestigious awards such as the biennial national award Singapore Literature Prize (SLP); supporting community outreach through the #BuySingLit movement; and building professional capacity through our Academy programmes.

Because it all starts with a story.

SBC is supported by the National Arts Council of Singapore under the Major Company Scheme for the period from 2019 to 2021. For more information, please visit www.bookcouncil.sg.

About Asian Festival of Children's Content

The Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC), organised by the Singapore Book Council, is the leading festival in Asia focusing on children's books and stories and young adult (YA) fiction. Targeted at writers, illustrators, translators, publishers, parents, teachers and media producers, this one-of-a-kind festival offers a series of exciting panel discussions, workshops, lectures, masterclasses, pitching sessions, networking events and public activities promoting the creation and appreciation of quality children's literature and YA with a focus on Asian themes. For the past 10 years, the AFCC has since grown to become a key literary event in the region, attracting many local and international speakers, as well as thousands of delegates and participants.

For more information, please visit www.afcc.com.sg.

Annex A: Book Illustrators Gallery

Event Name: Book Illustrators Gallery (BIG)

Date: 1 - 30 June 2020

Time: Open 10am - 9pm daily

Venue: Central Public Library, National Library Building

100 Victoria Street, #B1-01, Singapore 188064

Free Admission

The Book Illustrators Gallery (BIG) is a key highlight of AFCC. The popular exhibition showcases a diverse selection of artworks from picture books, comics and graphic novels by illustrators and artists from Southeast Asia, Asia and of the Asian diaspora. For the first time, the 2020 edition of BIG will feature artworks selected by guest curators from AFCC's former countries of focus, including Philippines, India, Japan and Indonesia.

Photos of the 2019 edition of BIG can be found [here](#). Please credit the Singapore Book Council.

Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC) Postponement Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. What is AFCC?

The Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC) is an annual festival organised by the Singapore Book Council that promotes and advocates the creation, development and appreciation of quality Asian stories for children and young adults.

The festival's main programmes comprise conference presentations, discussion panels, masterclasses, workshops, and lectures. AFCC is a unique event in Asia that provides an opportunity for various practitioners, including writers, illustrators, translators, editors, publishers, academics, teachers, librarians and parents to meet, learn, hone their craft, and develop cross-cultural collaborations.

AFCC 2020's theme of Voyages invites speakers and delegates to consider uncharted territories in children's literature and publishing.

2. Why has AFCC 2020 been postponed?

Due to the evolving COVID-19 outbreak in Singapore and around the world, we have decided to postpone AFCC 2020 to 3–4 October for the safety of our speakers, audience members and staff.

3. Where can I get festival guides for AFCC?

The festival guide and an e-version for AFCC 2020 will be made available closer to the start of the festival.

4. Will there be a book fair and a festival book store?

There will not be a book fair this year, but AFCC will still have a festival bookstore. Visitors to AFCC will still be able to purchase books by featured speakers at the festival bookstore.

5. How do I volunteer for AFCC?

We will publish a call for volunteers three months before the festival. Keep your eyes peeled!

6. How is this year's AFCC going to be different?

The festival will be scaled down from its usual four days to a two-day version, from 3-4 October 2020. The venue will be announced at a later date. You can also be part of the festival by joining its live streams and webinars for selected programmes.

7. Where can I find out more information about AFCC?

Please visit afcc.com.sg, [subscribe to our newsletter](#), or follow us on [Facebook](#) for information and updates on AFCC.

8. How do I get tickets for AFCC 2020?

More ticketing information will be provided at a later date.

9. What measures are the Singapore Book Council taking to ensure the safety of delegates, speakers and staff at AFCC?

Everyone present at AFCC will undergo temperature screening and will be required to provide their contact details for potential contact tracing. Attendees will be asked to fill out a travel and health declaration form, and are encouraged to refrain from attending if they are unwell, and to abide by Stay-Home Notices if they have been issued one. We reserve the right to deny entry to visitors who do not cooperate with the aforementioned measures. We will be closely observing [guidelines laid out by the National Arts Council](#) with regard to organising arts and culture events. These include adopting social distancing measures such as ensuring 1-metre distance between our participants and limiting access to attendees at our free standing events. We remain flexible should the situation change.

10. I intend to travel from overseas to Singapore for AFCC. Will I be allowed to attend AFCC?

As of 18 March 2020, Singaporeans, residents and visitors entering Singapore are issued a 14-day stay home notice (SHN). If you are placed on SHN, you are required to remain in your place of residence at all times. As such, attendance at AFCC will only be open to delegates residing in Singapore who have not been overseas within 14 days before the start of the festival. However, we invite you to join our livestreams and webinars which will be more convenient, and just as informative. You may refer to the Ministry of Health (MOH's) [Border Control Measures](#) or [its advisories](#) for further information.

11. What happens if the COVID-19 situation worsens in October or if the DORSCON level is raised to red?

We are monitoring the situation closely and have put in place measures to protect our visitors, audience and staff. SBC's events, including AFCC, will closely follow [guidelines from the National Arts Council \(NAC\)](#) and advisories from the [Ministry of Health \(MOH\)](#).

12. I know someone who has contracted COVID-19. Can I still go for AFCC?

If you know someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, we advise that you monitor yourself for symptoms of the virus and refrain from attending AFCC should you feel unwell or have had direct contact with a COVID-19 case. If you have been issued a Stay-Home Notice (SHN) or placed under Home Quarantine Order, we request that you adhere to the regulations and abide by the guidelines indicated by MOH.

13. My question is not answerable by any of your FAQs. Who do I reach out to?

You may email us at info@bookcouncil.sg or call +65 6342 5119.