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## NEWS RELEASE

### **UOB celebrates SG50 by drawing generations of Singaporeans together for a community art project**

**Singapore, 22 July 2015** – In celebration of Singapore’s Golden Jubilee, United Overseas Bank (UOB) today brought together different generations of Singaporeans to paint a wall mural that depicts their love for their home and country.

The first winner of the UOB Painting of the Year competition in 1982, Mr Goh Beng Kwan, 30 children from the Association for Persons with Special Needs (APSN) Katong School and 20 UOB employees gathered at Block 119 Aljunied Avenue 2 to give a two-storey shop house a colourful facelift. Together the group painted a mural on the façade of the building measuring about seven metres high and 15 metres wide.

The mural, titled *Home*, is a montage of the children’s drawings of the people and places in Singapore that are closest to their hearts. Mr Goh weaved elements from each piece into a vibrant mixed media mural artwork.

Mr Goh, 79, praised the children’s creativity and said it was a meaningful experience to work with them to produce a piece of community art to mark Singapore’s 50<sup>th</sup> birthday.

“As they say, home is where the heart is and I am delighted to help our young Singaporeans use art to express the love for what is dear to them during this Golden Jubilee. I also appreciate this opportunity to share my passion for art with the children and hope our mural painting today will have a lasting impact on their creativity and self-confidence,” Mr Goh said.

Mr Goh is a pioneer Singapore artist well known for his abstract art paintings. He won the inaugural UOB Painting of the Year competition with his abstract collage *The Dune* and received the Cultural Medallion from the National Arts Council in 1989 for his achievements in visual arts.

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The mural painting session was facilitated by Social Creatives, a non-profit social enterprise which aims to promote art to the public through community art. It is the third of six art events which UOB will be organising this year for more than 100 children from the Bank's charity partners. These activities are part of the Bank's programme to share art with the community and are designed in collaboration with past UOB Painting of the Year competition winners.

The first event was held in April, where 2014 UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore) Established Category finalists Ms Hong Sek Chern and Mr Chua Say Hua taught contemporary Chinese ink painting at a Mother's Day art workshop for children from APSN Katong. In June, winner of the 2014 UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore) competition Ms Om Mee Ai conducted an abstract art painting workshop for children from Thye Hua Kwan Family Service Centre @ Tanjong Pagar.

Other UOB Painting of the Year artists who have committed to support the Bank's community art programme include Mr Alvin Ong and Mr Esmond Loh, two of the youngest UOB Painting of the Year winners.

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### **Background: UOB and art**

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 by local 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](http://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. 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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