



## Launch of KataKatha, Southeast Asian Conversations on Culture and the Arts

**13 November 2015, Kuala Lumpur** – Maybank Kim Eng, the investment banking arm of Maybank, launched its newly conceived and formative regional arts and culture initiative, **KataKatha** - Southeast Asian Conversations on Culture and the Arts, last night. The initiative is supported by Maybank Foundation and is conceptualised and curated in collaboration with cultural organisation PUSAKA.

KataKatha aspires to enhance an appreciation of Southeast Asia's commonalities through culture and the arts. It will be a platform of exploration for Southeast Asian arts, rooted in the perspective of a shared regional history, to serve as a catalyst for a sustained deliberation of ideas and collaboration among its finest proponents. KataKatha also aims to be a regional arts institution, creating an archive of creative work as a means of consolidating and preserving ASEAN's cultural identity.

Speaking at the press conference at the Grand Hyatt Hotel Kuala Lumpur last night, John Chong, Chief Executive Officer of Maybank Kim Eng Group said, "Maybank Kim Eng is proud to be investing in the advancement of the region's arts and culture as we truly believe in the ASEAN story. To fully unleash ASEAN's potential, there must be greater integration among its people. We believe that the key to bringing us together is to enhance our understanding of our shared history and heritage, which is why KataKatha was created. Art allows for creative expression, and encourages diversity in thinking, which is critical in the sustainability of ASEAN's growth as a single economic bloc. Culture is humanising and has the ability to bring communities together. KataKatha will be the platform to cultivate a greater appreciation of Southeast Asia's commonalities, promote its vibrant arts and culture, showcase our rich heritage and the region's talents."

For its commencement this year, KataKatha will bring together 10 principal Southeast Asian cultural figures from Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Singapore, and Malaysia to participate in a series of conversations around the theme of 'Shared History, Shared Culture, Shared Traditions'.





**KATAKATHA**  
SOUTHEAST ASIAN  
CONVERSATIONS  
ON CULTURE &  
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These are distinguished names from various fields of the arts: **Goenawan Mohamad (ID), Farish A. Noor (MY), Agnes Arellano (PH), Anocha Suwichakornpong (TH), Geraldine Kang (SG), Nadiah Bamadhaj (MY), Avianti Armand (ID), Kanakan Balintagos (PH), Pichet Klunchun (TH), and Lai Chee Kien (SG)**. There will also be a special appearance by eminent poet and painter, Latiff Mohidin.

Eddin Khoo, Founder-Director of Pusaka commented, "KataKatha is a truly formative gathering and novel in its approach to an exploration of creative life in Southeast Asia."

The inaugural KataKatha will take place in Kuala Lumpur from 12-15 November 2015. The 4-day conversation will be interspersed with public reading, movie screenings, and a public forum. The initiative will culminate in an exhibition, three months after the conversations in Kuala Lumpur. This exhibition will feature an integrated body of work inspired by the conversations, curated by Eddin Khoo, as well as an accompanying publication and film documentary about the conversations and artistic process.

Students from 5 universities in the region – University of Malaya, University of Chulalongkorn, University of Gadjah Mada, University of Philippines, and National University of Singapore – have also been invited to participate in the initiative. This is part of KataKatha's efforts to nurture the pipeline of arts and culture talents in Southeast Asia by allowing them to interact with and learn from some of the best artists in the region.

To follow these conversations on social media, please follow our pages at:

Facebook : KataKatha  
Twitter : @katakathaASEAN  
Instagram : KataKatha





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**Note to Editor:**

KataKatha will be hosting a series of public engagement events - a chance for Art enthusiasts, aspiring writers, filmmakers and the public to engage with the region's most prominent thinkers and cultural practitioners. The KataKatha public engagement events are as follows (free admission):

Date	Time	Programme	Venue
13 November 2015 (Friday)	4:00pm – 6:00pm	KataKatha Session With : Filmmakers (Kanakan Balintagos & Anocha Suwichakornpong)	Pawagam Jalan Ampas, Fakulti Filem + Video, ASWARA
		KataKatha Session With : Writers (Goenawan Mohamad, Farish Noor & Avianti Armand)	Art Printing Works (APW), Bangsar
		KataKatha Session With : Artists (Agnes Arellano, Nadiah Bamadhaj & Geraldine Kang)	Studio One, KuASH Theatre
	9:00pm – 10:00pm	Wayang Kulit Seri Warisan Pusaka	KuASH Theatre
14 November 2015 (Saturday)	6:00pm - 7:00pm	Film Screening: 'Graceland' by Anocha Suwichakornpong (Selected for Cannes Film Festival)	KuASH Theatre
	8:30pm - 10:30pm	Film Screening: 'Busong' by Kanakan Balintagos (Selected for Cannes Directors' Fortnight in 2011)	KuASH Theatre
15 November 2015 (Sunday)	3:00pm – 4:30pm	Public Forum: Creative Life In Southeast Asia: What Does It Mean, What Do We Share? (with Southeast Asia's 10 principal cultural figures)	KuASH Theatre
	5:00pm – 7:00pm	Public Reading by Latiff Mohidin, Goenawan Muhamad & Eddin Khoo	KuASH Theatre

**KuAsh Theatre, Pusat Kreatif Kanak-Kanak Tuanku Bainun:** 48 Jalan Tun Mohd Fuad, 60000, Kuala Lumpur.

**ASWARA:** 464, Jalan Tun Ismail, 50480 Kuala Lumpur.

**APW:** 29, Jalan Riong, Bangsar, 59100 Kuala Lumpur.





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### About Maybank Kim Eng

The Maybank Kim Eng group of companies comprises businesses stretching around the globe with offices in Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, India, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Great Britain and the United States of America. Maybank Kim Eng has been in Asia for more than 40 years and provides services in corporate finance, debt markets, equity capital markets, derivatives, retail and institutional securities broking and research. A leader in many of the Asian markets that it operates in, Maybank Kim Eng has won numerous prestigious awards in the markets that it serves.

Maybank Kim Eng is the fully-owned investment banking arm of Maybank; one of Asia's leading banking groups and South East Asia's fourth largest bank by assets. Maybank has been ranked among the World's Top 20 Strongest Banks by Bloomberg Markets for two consecutive years - 2013 and 2014 - and has an international network of offices in 20 countries serving more than 22 million customers worldwide.

### About Maybank Foundation

In conjunction with Maybank Group's 50th anniversary in 2010, Maybank Foundation was inaugurated as the main vehicle for corporate responsibility across the Group. Envisioned to be a beacon of hope for those who have fallen through the gaps in society, Maybank Foundation has been entrusted with the task of positively impacting communities in the markets that Maybank operates. Its activities encompass around 6 themes: Education, Community Empowerment, Healthy Living, Environmental Diversity, Arts & Culture, and Disaster Relief.

Maybank Foundation's focus is on creating positive impact in the communities that Maybank serves by implementing programs that will have the most tangible and sustainable results, efforts that will bring measurable change over the long term.

### About PUSAKA

PUSAKA is a cultural heritage organisation established to conduct research and create a comprehensive documentary archive of traditional performance in Malaysia, while strengthening the viability of these traditions at the community level. PUSAKA works intimately with some of the most distinguished cultural custodians throughout Malaysia, PUSAKA also attempts to respond to present-day challenges that threaten the continuity and integrity of traditional performance. Through organising regular public performances, lectures, and local instruction projects, PUSAKA aims to enhance the viability of traditional performance. In this way, PUSAKA supports the transmission of these performance traditions to a succeeding generation, while providing alternative performance platforms that, above all, preserve the dignity and stature of the traditional performer. In all its work, PUSAKA seeks to establish a deep interaction with aspects of history and contemporary ideas while illuminating and providing an intellectual context for the contemplation of broader aspects of culture, tradition and ideas.

For more information, please contact:

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