



Ministry of Education  
SINGAPORE

# PRESS RELEASE

19 July 2017

## **FLOURISH IN THE WONDERLAND OF OUR LANGUAGES**

### ***ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR MOTHER TONGUE LANGUAGES (MTL) SYMPOSIUM 2017 IS NOW OPEN!***

The 6<sup>th</sup> Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) Symposium – featuring the theme “Flourish in the Wonderland of Our Languages” - will focus on making MTL learning come alive through an immersive and experiential approach for both children and their parents.

2. The MTL Symposium will be held on Saturday, 19 August 2017, from 11am to 8pm at the Suntec Singapore Exhibition and Convention Centre, with Mr Ng Chee Meng, Minister for Education (Schools) as the Guest-of-Honour. There will be exhibitions to provide parents with fun and effective strategies to guide their children in learning and using MTL effectively. Parents can also get to meet experts and local celebrities who will share useful tips and personal stories on creating a conducive and meaningful bilingual environment for their children.

3. As a platform for educators, parents and students (especially young children from pre-school to lower secondary levels), the Symposium seeks to recognise the efforts of schools and MTL communities in encouraging our young to learn MTL and in promoting MTL as living languages. Into its sixth year, it strives to forge stronger relationships with pre-school centres, schools and the community to nurture our children to become active learners and proficient users of MTL.

### **Highlights of Mother Tongue Languages Symposium 2017**

4. In addition to 30 sharing sessions and workshops, and 43 exhibition booths, the Symposium this year will also see exciting new features.

(New) MTL Pledge Wall – We Will!: An interactive wall for parents and children to express their commitment to the learning and promotion of MTL in their daily lives.

(New) MTL Story Quest: A fun-filled, immersive journey into the fictional world of stories including well-known Chinese, Malay and Indian folklore. Children will explore four adventure zones – the mountain, the forest, the ocean and the sky – and engage in interactive activities. They may even get to interact with characters as they come alive from the stories.

(New) Launch of Myth Masters Card Game: Myth Masters is a bilingual card game developed by the National Library Board (NLB) to encourage children to

read in their MTL by exposing them to classics, legendary characters and idioms through fun and play. Children can collect and trade the game cards by borrowing MTL books and participating in reading activities at public libraries.

Sharing sessions and workshops: Local and international experts, and celebrity parent speakers, such as Ms Zoe Tay<sup>1</sup>, Mdm Zaza Majid<sup>2</sup> and Mr Puravalan Narayanasamy<sup>3</sup> will share their insights on creative ways to involve children in the learning of MTL. Participants will also get to learn from pre-school curriculum experts. Talks on the revised 2015 Primary School MTL Curriculum will be conducted by MOE curriculum officers and primary school teachers.

Exhibition booths: Parents and educators can explore fun and innovative ways of nurturing a child's love for MTL learning via booths set up by pre-school centres, schools and community partners.

5. A wide range of selected MTL learning resources including books, CDs and picture cards will be available for sale. Visitors can browse through recommended picks and specially produced books by partner organisations such as the Lee Kuan Yew Fund for Bilingualism (LKYFB). Local illustrators and authors Mr Lee Kow Fong<sup>4</sup> and Mr Khairudin Saharom<sup>5</sup> will also be present to meet with parents and children.

### **Registration Details**

6. **Admission to the Symposium is free** and the first 5,000 visitors will receive a goody bag. Registration for the sharing sessions and workshops is now open to the public at [www.mtls.com.sg](http://www.mtls.com.sg) on a first-come-first-served basis. Members of the public may also visit the website for a list of activities and exhibitions at the Symposium.

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## **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

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<sup>1</sup> Ms Zoe Tay, a mother of three sons, is a Mediacorp artiste and one of Singapore's entertainment icons. She has played the female lead in countless television dramas, especially on Chinese media.

<sup>2</sup> Mdm Zaza Majid, a mother of twin daughters, is an Assistant Programme Director with local Malay radio station Warna 94.2FM.

<sup>3</sup> Mr Puravalan Narayanasamy, a father of two children, is a popular figure on both stage and television, having taken on many diverse roles in stage plays, television productions and a feature film taken in India. He has conducted a variety of workshops and sharing sessions for young aspiring artistes.

<sup>4</sup> Mr Lee Kow Fong received his MA in Children's Book Illustration from Cambridge School of Art, Anglia Ruskin University, UK in 2011. Besides teaching as a full time lecturer at Ngee Ann Polytechnic, he is also actively involved in the promotion and creation of children's picture books in Singapore.

<sup>5</sup> Mr Khairudin Saharom is a familiar face in the media, having hosted many television programmes for both local and regional networks. He is also the illustrator of *What Salamah Didn't Know*, an LKYFB-funded resource.