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About The Society
Dear writers, there’s definitely more to look forward to!

Wow! Two years have flown by. I can still remember the day our Society was set up, the new faces that came onboard to serve alongside the Society and the insurmountable tasks awaiting our attention. We have not scaled the entire mountain, but we sure have made notable progress.

I am happy to report that we are financially healthy through the running of various literary programs and member’s subscriptions. This enables us to do more as we bring Malaysian writers to new communities across the country. In fact, we now have active writer’s groups in Penang, Kuching and Kota Kinabalu.

Since becoming an official society, we have also been representing writers in meetings with government agencies, writing bodies in South East Asia and also London, U.K. These meetings discuss various issues including industry policy-making, availability of funds and writer’s support.

I would like to thank the Committee for serving alongside me in the Society. I believe that the writer’s community appreciates the voluntary time and energy poured in to elevate the literary works in our country.

It has been exciting times and more exciting times await us! So dear writers, write on!

Always,

Gina

GINA YAP LAI YOONG
A Society dedicated to the professional advancement of Malaysian writers, writing locally or abroad.

Malaysian Writers Society, fondly known as MYWriters, was established in September 2016 to facilitate activities and programs related to Malaysian writing and publishing. These include regular organization and facilitation of MYWriters Write-In, MYWriters Retreat, MYWriters Fest, MYWriters Gathering, and other online activities on a regular basis.

MYWriters is an inclusive and non-profit initiative, providing a platform for Malaysian writers that transcends genre, language, function, medium, and experience levels. Our members include published and emerging writers.

As of September 2018, we have 6,172 Online Members and 90 Society Members.

Our Vision

- To foster and raise critical interest in creative writing by Malaysian writers across genres, languages, mediums, functions, and experience levels;
- To encourage, promote, support, defend, and advocate for the interests of Malaysian writers, literary translators, editors, and creators of creative writing content;
- To hold activities that will enable the professional development of Malaysian writers, promote camaraderie and cooperation between writers in the community and those within the Malaysian literary and publishing industry, and the general advancement of Malaysian literature.
Exco & Committee

Exco: Anna Tan, Gina Yap Lai Yoong, Lokman Hakim & Tina Isaacs.
Committee: Fahmi Mustaffa, Helveron Sagulu, Izad Ishak, Joanne Ch’ng, Lisa Ong, Michelle Leong, Pepper Lim, Shakila Munisamny, Tany Leia Harris & Zedeck Siew. (Hanna Alkaf resigned as Assistant Secretary in October 2016.)
Make a difference in the future of the Malaysian writing community

While most of our programs and activities are made available at no cost, there are some privileges for those who register as Society Members. Society Membership is renewed on an annual basis.

As of 31 August 2018, we have 90 members, of which 49 are Full Members and 41 are Candidate Members. In summary, there are 3 types of Memberships offered:

(1) **Full Member**
Individuals who fulfill the following criteria: Malaysian citizens or Permanent Residents of full age with at least 1 publication in which they have been credited as author, editor, literary translator/contributor in Approved Publication listed below.

(2) **Candidate Member**
Individuals who fulfill the following criteria: 1) Malaysian citizens or Permanent Residents of any age who aspire to achieve publication in Approved Publication listed below; or 2) Non-Malaysians of full age who have been residents in Malaysia for a continuous period of at least 1 calendar year, are residing in Malaysia at the time of application, and is involved in the Malaysian writing community.

*Note: Candidate Member can upgrade to Full Member upon fulfillment of terms.*

(3) **Affiliate Member**
Corporate Bodies, Associations or Legal Entities, whether incorporated in Malaysia or otherwise, that conduct business in the Malaysian Literarly & Publishing Industry, who wish to cooperate with MYWriters and agree to abide by Society’s Guidelines and Practices.

**Approved Publication**
At least 1 publication from any of the categories listed as follows in which you have been credited as author, editor, literary translator or contributor: 1) Any publication bearing an International Standard Book Number (ISBN), 2) Film, Screen or Play Credits, able to be certified by Producer of Film, TV or Play Production if so required, or 3) Any literary magazine or periodical, in print, eformat or online, which fulfills ALL of the following criteria:

- has been in publication for a minimum period of 5 years;
- has published at least 20 issues since its commencement; and
- is a paying market, i.e. pays for written contributions by way of monetary compensation.
Why Be A Member?

Society Membership is voluntary and highly recommended. Your application to Malaysian Writers Society is an introduction to a community of writers who are committed to the highest standards of ethics, education and professional excellence in growing the writing industry in our country. You’ll also be able to enjoy the following privileges:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BENEFITS</th>
<th>FULL MEMBER</th>
<th>CANDIDATE MEMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ONLINE EVENTS &amp; ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to members-only features on MYWriters website, YouTube Channel, and other online platforms</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MYWRITERS MEMBERS-ONLY EVENTS</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organized exclusively for members such as Book Sales (booth at #ArtforGrabs, KLIBF), Writing Retreats and Mass Book Launches. Additional Terms &amp; Conditions may apply.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MYWRITERS PUBLIC EVENTS</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50% off any charges for events such as MYWritersFest every October; Mass Book Launch, Author Meet &amp; Greet Sessions; Workshops, Seminars/Talks, Forums, and Trainings, etc.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES In MYWRITERS ANTHOLOGY</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunity to be published in MYWriters annual Emerging Writers Anthology. Exclusively for writers with no previous publication</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENERAL PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to be published in MYWriters publications such as MYWritersZine, MYWriters annual Malaysian Writers Anthology etc.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESOURCES, ADVICE &amp; COUNSEL (to be implemented soon)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to quick legal advice, publishing advice, participation in critique groups, mentorship programs etc.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GROUP OUTINGS/TRIPS (to be implemented soon)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group discounts/privileges when attending literary events such as George Town Literary Fest, Cooler Lumpur, Ubud Writers Fest, Singapore Writers Fest, Asia Pacific Writers &amp; Translators (APWT) conference, etc.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPEAKING OPPORTUNITIES</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invitation to speak at festivals/events through MYWriters.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROFILE/BOOK LISTING (to be implemented soon)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listing on MYWriters website – Members’ profile, photo, online book sale link, and social media/website link.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REPRESENTATION (to be implemented soon)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literary representation overseas and awareness promotion on members’ books/works.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Malaysian Writers Society (Persatuan Penulis Malaysia) was founded in October 2014 by Tina Isaacs, who started a Facebook group for WRITERS hailing from MALAYSIA (Malaysian citizens/Permanent Residents, and foreign expats who write, live and work in Malaysia); that transcends genre, language, function, medium and experience levels.

It’s a closed online group that provides support and networking opportunities for writers – a safe haven to discuss industry matters and challenges, as well as share publication and job opportunities. The platform facilitates interaction, provides support and fosters a sense of community through initiated physical gatherings, craft/learning exercises, industry news sharing and various writer-focus discussion.

Continues on next page…
The online group has since grown in numbers reaching the 6,000 members tier within 3 years and continues to grow with an average of 30 members weekly. Writers that fit the above-mentioned criteria can join the online group for free. Simply search for ‘Malaysian Writers Community / Komuniti Penulis Malaysia’ on Facebook, and submit your member request. An administrator will approve accordingly.

Some of the online activities held in our community include:

**Writing Prompts**
(a) #MYWriters1stLiner  
(b) #MYWritersPoetryPrompt  
(c) #MYWritersWritingPrompt  
(d) #MYWritersWhatAreYouWorkingOn  
(e) #MYWritersWeeklyThought  

**Community Sharing**
(a) #MYWritersSubmissionCall  
(b) #MYWritersReference or #MYWritersResources  
(c) #MYWritersOpportunity  
(d) #MYWritersTraining  
(e) #MYWritersEvents  

**Resources**
(a) #MYWritersDATABASE  
(b) #MYWritersPublications  
(c) #MYWritersWritingServices
On-The-Ground Programs

We believe that it is important for the writer’s support network to be brought on-ground as well through programs and activities that enhance the writer’s journey. This includes professional development and providing platforms to reach a wider readership.

Bridging the gap by connecting writers to writers and writers to readers

Besides activities and programmes held regularly in our online community Facebook group, we also organize on-the-ground initiatives to encourage writers to collaborate and support each other’s writing journey. Below are some of our regular events:

- MYWritersFest
- #MYWritersGathering
- #MYWritersTrainings
- MYWritersRetreat
- #MYWritersWriteIn

Note: Detailed reports of these programs are provided in part 2 of this report.
MYWriters Penang (Overview)

Established in 2016, MYWriters Penang is headed by an unofficial committee. The group runs various initiatives, including weekly write-ins, monthly critiques and bi-monthly readings.

The writing community in Penang, known as MYWriters Penang, is active and vibrant. The writers regularly meet up for write-ins, group critiques, reading performances, trainings and book-selling events. MYWriters Penang also published an annual zine known as NutMag and runs their own online monthly newsletter (subscribe here: www.nutmagazine.weebly.com/contact.html). You may also join MYWriters Penang Facebook Group to stay updated with what’s happening in the writing scene in Penang.

The MYWriters Penang Committee 2016/2017
Chairperson: Anna Tan
Committee: Wilson Khor, Mark Walker & Vicknesh Suppramaniam

The MYWriters Penang Committee 2018/2019
Advisory Panel: Anna Tan, Gina Yap Lai Yoong & Vicknesh Suppramaniam
Active Committee: Diyaa Mani & Wilson Khor

Note: Detailed reports of these programs are provided in part 2 of this report.
Programs & Activites
#MYWritersFest (previously known as #MYWritersBookFest) is a month-long festival in October that celebrates local writers and their writings, where writers meet readers in intimate settings, and writers are given the opportunity to showcase their creative works.

A series of Meet & Greet sessions, a mass book launch, book sales, readings and signings are held at various locations in Malaysia. The public is invited to meet and mingle with local writers, find out about their writings and publications, buy their books, take wefies and get autographs!

In addition, a series of professional and practical workshops/trainings are also held to equip and enrich the journey of a Malaysian writer. This series is known as MYWriters Professional Development Series where writers are trained by trainers with knowledge and skills that apply in the local context.
Meet & Greet Overview:

- Held at 11 venues in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Pahang and Sabah.
- Total number of participating authors: 39 (26 members & 13 non-members).
- Unfortunately, the Melaka session at MPH Bookstore, Mahkota Parade was cancelled last minute by the venue provider.
- Unofficial Teh Tarik Sembang session held in Kota Kinabalu to gather local writers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Number of Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixi Mass Launch at Kedai Fixi, Jaya Shopping Mall, Petaling Jaya</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constant Gardener Coffee, Penang</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silverfish, Bangsar Village 2, Kuala Lumpur</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shah Alam Children’s Library, Selangor</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH Bookstore, NuSentral, Kuala Lumpur</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hin Bus Depot, Penang</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readings @ Seksan, Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poets Day at The Flame, Subang Jaya</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BACA – The Reading Room &amp; Café, Temerloh</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Times Bookstore, Suria Mall, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finale at Berjaya Times Square, Kuala Lumpur</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total number of author appearances</strong></td>
<td><strong>39</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Malaysian Writers Society (Persatuan Penulis Malaysia)

Annual Report Sept 2016 – 2018

Professional Development Workshop Series Overview:

- Held at 3 venues in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur.
- Total number of workshops conducted: 15.
- Workshops were conducted in English and Bahasa Melayu.
- Total participants: 112 (52 members & 60 non-members).
- New membership applications increased.

MYWritersFest2016 Overview:

- The 2016 fest earned a total of RM4,050 in fest participant and workshop fees, with a net income of RM2,052.
- Expenses incurred were mainly for venue payments and printing of bunting, postcards and t-shirts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Number of Workshops</th>
<th>Number of Participants</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Members</td>
<td>Non-Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerakbudaya, Petaling Jaya</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premier Language Center, Kuala Lumpur</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shah Alam Library</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Meet & Greet Overview:

- Held at 7 venues in Kuala Lumpur, Sabah, Penang, Perak, Sarawak and Pahang.
- Total number of participating authors: 54.
- Unofficial Teh Tarik Sembang session held in Johor Bahru to gather local writers.
- Sembang MYWriters was held in Klang Valley so writers could meet with society leaders for a time of dialogue.
- We kept the same fest icon design for branding purposes.
- Did-You-Know promo posters were introduced to educate the public about the festival.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Number of Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Festival Kick-Off and Mass Book Launch at Wiken KL, Sunway Putra Mall, Kuala Lumpur</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesselton Artisan Market, Kota Kinabalu</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutmag Launch at The Art Assembly, Georgetown, Penang</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharpened Word, Old Andersonian Club &amp; Café, Ipoh</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word of Mouth at Le Café Rouge, Kuching</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BACA – The Reading Room &amp; Café, Temerloh</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festival Finale at Commune, Sunway Velocity, Kuala Lumpur</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total number of author appearances</strong></td>
<td><strong>54</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Malaysian Writers Society (Persatuan Penulis Malaysia)

Annual Report Sept 2016 – 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop</th>
<th>Number of Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Guide to Self-Publishing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step by Step: Earning A Living through Freelance Writing</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editing for Fiction Writers</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copyrights &amp; Deciphering Legal Contracts for Writers</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jangan Main Terbit: Pengenalan Proses Penerbitan</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perancangan dan Pembentangan Sebuah Novel</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaedah Menulis Rencana Berkaitan Budaya</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budaya Dalam Puisi</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Media, Branding and Maintaining a Media Presence for Authors</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interview Techniques for Writers</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>So, What’s So Great About Your Book?</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading &amp; Performing Your Fiction Aloud</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>So, You Wanna Be A Screenwriter?</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10¾ Things You Should Know About Being Published Internationally</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Professional Development Workshop Series Overview:**

- Held at 4 venues in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur.
- Total number of workshops conducted: 14.
- Workshops were conducted in English and Bahasa Melayu.
- **Total participants: 54 (26 members & 28 non-members).**
- New membership applications increased.

**MYWritersFest2017 Overview:**

- The 2017 Fest earned a total of RM373 from its total income of RM3,897.
- The increase in expenses was mainly due to inclusion of travel expenses of RM1,299. These expenses were incurred for members of the exco who attended fest events in Kuching, Ipoh, KK and Penang.
- The Professional Development Workshop component covered up the losses with a net income of RM1,850.
MYWriters Retreat

The idea of a writing retreat began when writers raised the issue of having difficulty to find time to write amidst a busy life. The intention of the retreat is to set aside time to focus on our writing projects individually. MYWriters Retreat is held annually at different locations across Malaysia.

**Retreat 2016**
Anchors: Tina Isaacs & Gina Yap Lai Yoong
Location: Genting Sempah, Pahang
Dates: 1 – 18 September
Number of writers: 9
Special thanks to Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam for hosting us at his vacation home.

**Retreat 2017**
Anchor: Anna Tan
Location: Baru Feringghi, Penang
Dates: 15 – 18 September
Number of writers: 7

**Retreat 2018**
Anchor: Anna Tan
Location: Georgetown, Penang
Dates: 22 – 24 June
Number of writers: 11
MYWriters Gathering

The online community meets once a year just to network, chat and get to know each other better offline. We normally organize the gathering in conjunction with festivals such as Hari Raya, Chinese New Year, Deepavali, National Day, etc. Writers pay for their own F&B at the selected venues.

Annual MYWriters Gathering 2017
• 12 August, 3pm, Charlie’s Café.
• Provided an intimate setting for online members to meet, interact, collaborate and network.
• During this meeting, writers were introduced to the society and the programs available for Society members.
• 50% were new faces and Non-Members. This was a successful membership drive. New members continued to attend MyWriters events.
MYWriters Write-In

The initiative began with monthly write-in sessions in Bandar Kinrara (Puchong), Lakefields (Sg Besi), and the KABO Café (Bangi), anchored by Gina Yap Lai Yoong, Tina Isaacs and Lokman Hakim respectively.

Participation grew as members became accustomed to the idea of gathering to create a writing space, with participation from as little as 3 writers and growing to 15 at a time. Many participants have lauded the write-ins as a wonderful activity to motivate their individual writing.

Write-ins are activities open to Members and Non-Members. Each session is anchored by a committee member and is normally held at a café with free internet and power supply. Writers pay for their own drinks. Each session lasts for 3-4 hours. Writers spend the first 30 minutes sharing their writing goals before proceeding to write. At the end of the session, they share whether they have achieved their goals.

We organize more than 100 write-in sessions every year across Malaysia with an average of 5 writers for each session. The 3 regular write-in sessions are as follow:

1. The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, NuSentral, Kuala Lumpur
   10am – 2pm, every Saturday • Anchored by Lokman Hakim

2. LUMA, George Town, Penang
   2pm – 10pm, every Monday • Anchored by Anna Tan & Diyaa Mani

3. Old Town White Coffee at Kinrara, Puchong, Selangor
   3pm – 6pm, every Sunday • Anchored by Gina Yap Lai Yoong
Book Sales for Society Members

One of the privileges of being a Society member is the opportunity to sell their books through art events that the Society participates in. The society bears the cost of the booth rental. For every successful sale, the Society takes 10% of the book price and pays the rest to the writers.

To date, we have carried more than 50 titles on consignment from the Society members and sold books at more than 30 venues in Klang Valley, Penang, Sabah and Sarawak.

The following are some of the events we have participated in and will continue to participate to promote and sell Members’ books:

- Art4Grabs (quarterly)
- Hin Bus Depot (bi-monthly)
- MANZA Charity Christmas Bazaar 2016
- KL Alternative Bookfest 2017
- Jesselton Art Market, Sabah
- Artwave Festival 2017
- Penang Zine Fest 2017
This is a project by the Society to encourage and support emerging writers. Oftentimes, new writers argue that it is a challenge to breakthrough into the publishing industry even through writing competitions because established writers have the upperhand.

This anthology aims to provide a platform for unpublished writers to stand a chance for publication among emerging writers like themselves. Open to Candidate Members only, it is also a chance for them to convert their Candidate Membership to Full Membership.

We kickstarted this project in March 2018 in two folds:

1) Call for submissions
2) Crowdfunding for the publication

The call for submissions received poetry and stories, out of which 13 writers’ writings were selected by the working committee for publication. The anthology is scheduled to be published by the end of December 2018.

The crowdfunding initiative saw a total of RM2,320 collected from 28 donors. The Society received RM2,088 after deducting the service charge applied by MYStartr.

Project Committee
Leader: Joanne Ch’ng
Judges & Editors: Angelina Bong, Anna Tan, Foo Sek Han, Gina Yap Lai Yoong & Pepper Lim
Production Crew: Joanne Ch’ng & Gina Yap Lai Yoong
MYWriters Penang

Write-In Session

Weekly Write-ins were initially held at McDonalds, Karpal Singh Drive every Monday from 7.30pm to 10.30pm. The group was spearheaded by Anna Tan in early 2016 and later moved under the MYWriters banner when the society was registered. A monthly write-in was also held on the first weekend of the month together with LUMA.

From 25 to 30 November 2016, MYWriters Penang hosted a “Drop-in Writing Space” in LUMA from 10am to 10pm daily in conjunction with the annual National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) and the George Town Lit Fest. This gathered up to 8 regular writers, most of whom attended the evening sessions.

Subsequently, the weekly write-ins were moved to LUMA, every Monday from 11am to 10.30pm. The group grew from an average of 3 persons to an average of 6 regulars in the last quarter of 2017. In 2018, the write-in times were changed from 2pm to 10.30pm as it was noted that very few writers attended the morning slot.

In 2017, the group also started the monthly critique session, where writers share their current works in progress every third Monday of the month from 8pm onwards. We normally see more participants during critique sessions than during normal write-ins.

Due to changes in circumstances, including job opportunities, the average attendance for the weekly write-ins have dropped to 3 pax. The monthly write-ins on the weekends were also discontinued in 2018 due to low turnout. Sessions will be re-commenced when we are assured of sufficient participation in the future.
Readings

Readings were held on a monthly basis from 2016 to 2017 at various cafes in Penang, including The Big Fat Hen in 2016, The Constant Gardener from January to July 2017, and Penang Science Café for the 2nd half of 2017. These were complemented by quarterly specials which included activities such as bookmark making sessions, writer’s workshops, social gatherings.

In 2018, the Readings schedule was changed to a bi-monthly basis. The first meeting of the year, themed Island Living – Hidden Alleyways, was held in Carbon on March 11 with readings by Anna Tan, Diyaa Mani, Shangeetha Ganesan and Wilson Khor W. H.. A total of 8 pax attended the session. The second session, themed Island Living – Growing Up, was held in More by Arang on 12 May with readings by Anna Tan, Aaron Hor and Diyaa Mani. Mark Walker and Lim Wan Phing also read additional pieces during the open mic session. A total of 7 pax attended the session.

Year-End Dinner

As part of the group’s social activities, MYWriters Penang organised a year-end dinner at Chili’s Gurney Plaza in December 2016. The 2017 year-end dinner was held at Kitchen Chemistry, Hin Bus Depot and included a gift book exchange.
NutMag Publication

NutMag is an annual anthology of writings by MYWriters Penang, with one main criteria — the writer must either be a Penangite or be currently based in Penang. Two chapbooks have been produced so far, with another currently in process.

To launch the zine in 2016, the Penang team e-mailed writers in Penang whom they had connections with. The team received a total of 13 submissions, from which the top 10 were selected. The first anthology was printed with seed money from Say It Like You Mean It, a local creative mentorship programme. A first batch of 50 copies were printed, with a second run of 30 copies.

The second edition of NutMag was themed *Coffee or Tea?*. A total of 23 submissions were received and the 10 best were selected by the Penang committee and two guest reviewers: Gina Yap (representing the Society) and Vicknesh (one of our regular attendees). The zine was launched at MYWritersFest2017 on 15 October and has sold 38 copies to-date.

For 2018, the committee changed the format for submissions slightly by including subthemes to the main theme of Island Living. A total of 21 submissions have been received and the committee is currently in the process of making the selection. The target publication date is October 2018.
Penang Writer’s Workshops

MYWriters Penang holds annual workshops every June.

2017 Overview

Workshops were held in LUMA on 10 June. The workshops were priced at RM30 each, with a 50% discount for Society members. The programme made a loss of RM80.50 due to the low number of attendees in comparison to organization costs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Attendees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Editing 1.01: Polishing Your Manuscript</td>
<td>Joe Chin</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publishing Agreements: Negotiating Terms &amp; Conditions</td>
<td>Tina Isaacs</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Going Indie: Basics of Self-Publishing in Malaysia</td>
<td>Anna Tan</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copyright: Writers’ Rights &amp; Responsibilities</td>
<td>Tina Isaacs</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2018 Overview

Workshops were held at Settlements Co-working Space on 23 June, together with a writing retreat from 22-24 June at the Urban H Hotel. The workshops were priced at RM50 each or at a package of RM120 for all three workshops, with a 50% discount for Society members. The Island Living Retreat was priced at RM300 (Society Members: RM250). The program made a net profit of RM670.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Attendees</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From Zero to Someone: A Character Development Workshop</td>
<td>Hamizah Adzmi</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free your authentic voice with expressive writing</td>
<td>Shannon Frances</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senses &amp; Places</td>
<td>Angelina Bong</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Island Living Retreat</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MYWriters Penang

Plans for 2019 onwards

Weekly Write-In @ LUMA
- Every Monday, 2pm to 10pm (6:30pm – 7:30pm dinner break)

Monthly Critique Session @ LUMA
- Every 3rd Monday of the month, 8pm to 10pm

Quarterly Readings @ LUMA
- January, April, July & October
- 4pm – 5:30pm, every 2nd Sunday of the month

Quarterly Hin Bus Depot Pop Up Market
- January, April, July & October
- 11am – 5pm, every 1st Sunday of the month

NutMag Publication
Next issue to be published and launched in October 2019.
Financial Matters
Registration & Membership Fees

Malaysian Writers Society’s income is mainly generated via registration and annual fees. The Society charges a one-time registration fee of RM40 and an annual subscription of:

1) Full Members: RM60
2) Candidate Members: RM30
3) Affiliate Members: RM200

During 2016, the Society collected a total of RM6,860 from the registration of 56 Full Members and 18 Candidate Members. 31 Full Members and 9 Candidate Members renewed their memberships in 2017, which is a rate of 55% and 50% respectively. New registrations in 2017 amounted to 6 Full Members and 10 Candidate Members.

Total registrations in 2018 up to 30 June 2018 amounted to 7 Full Members and 25 Candidate members, with 5 Full Member renewals during the period.

As of 30 June 2018, the membership numbers are as follows:

- Full members – 47
- Candidate members – 39
MYWritersFest

The Society’s second biggest source of income is the annual MYWritersFest which is held in October every year.

The 2016 fest earned a total of RM4,050 in fest participant and workshop fees, with a net income of RM2,052. Expenses incurred were mainly for venue payments and printing of buntings, postcards and t-shirts.

The 2017 fest, however, only earned a total of RM373 from its total income of RM3,897. The loss maker was from the festival component itself with participant fees of RM1,697 (2016: RM1,380) but high costs of RM3,173 (2016: RM1,978).

The increase in expenses was mainly due to inclusion of travel expenses of RM1,299 in 2017. These expenses were incurred for members of the exco who attended fest events in Kuching, Ipoh, KK and Penang. The Professional Development Workshop component covered up the losses with a net income of RM1,850 (2016: RM2,651).

Members’ Book Sales

The Society takes up booths at Art4Grabs (KL) and Hin Pop Up Market (Penang) on a regular basis. The Society carries books on consignment from members at a rate of 10%. Due to the low consignment rate and low sales, the Society has made a net loss of RM393 in the 6 months ending 30 June 2018 (Period from incorporation to 31 December 2017: loss of RM209).
Other Projects/Income

Other projects mainly consisted of the Penang Writer’s Workshops (2017 and 2018) and Artwave festival (2017) attended by MYWriters Penang. The workshops made a net loss of RM81 in 2017 but a profit of RM669 in 2018. MYWriters Penang did not seek to attend any further festivals in 2018 as the Artwave festival was a flop both in terms of finance as well as a performance/reading avenue.

In 2018, MYWriters launched the Malaysian Writers Anthology 2018 which sought submissions from Candidate Members as well as a crowdfunding campaign to cover printing costs. As of 30 June 2018, the Society raised RM2,088 via crowdfunding (net of Mystartr admin fees) and received membership applications from 20 Candidate Members who took advantage of the waiver of registration fees during the period. The publication of the anthology will take place in the later half of the year with a launch date planned before 31 December 2018.

Cash and Bank Balances

Other Matters
Media Highlights

On The News: TV Programs, Radio & Print

• 2 September 2016 – Gina Yap Lai Yoong and Tina Isaacs represented the society to share about the local writing scene and the upcoming MYWritersFest2016 on Vbuzz Astro Ulagam TV Programme (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ow1CbWq3CPY)

• MYWritersFest2016 was highlighted in Discover KL. (https://discoverkl.com/2016/09/26/events-klang-valley-september26-october2/)

• MYWritersFest2016 + Society Introduction by The Star newspaper, 30th September 2016 and online at https://www.star2.com/culture/books/book-news/2016/09/30/meet-malaysian-writers-at-the-mywriters-fest-2016/#SdDLi2G0dzJovGvq.01


• AFO Live With Mag on MYWritersFest2017 with Gina Yap Lai Yoong (https://youtu.be/avwBRmZJx3g)
Other Important Things

2017

Rep in KLIBF/PBAKL Organizing Committee

- Gina Yap Lai Yoong represented the Society in various meetings between January to April.
- The Society was also represented by Gina Yap Lai Yoong on the Malaysian Panel of Discussion at Malaysia Book of Records 1,000 Writers Gathering.

Ad Hoc Committee: Freelance Rate Card & Best Practices Meeting

- Meeting held on 20 May 2017, 3pm to 6pm at Gerakbudaya Bookstore
- Anchored by Pepper Lim and Tina Isaacs.
- The intention is to set a credible benchmark for writing & publishing in Malaysia, backed by industry data.
- Phase 1 to be executed in 2019. There are 3 stages.
  - Stage 1: Initial Survey of Rates
  - Stage 2: Each Category Rate Survey
  - Stage 3: Rate Card Announcement and Application

- Application: All paid Members are to use the Rate Card as their basic requirement. This includes procedures, payment schedules and rates. If clients refuse to comply, the Society will assist to obtain legal support to enable them in taking legal action.

Collaboration with Penang Zine Fest July 2017

- Happened on 8 July at Lokalhouz, Penang.
- We were the co-organizer with the support of the Penang Writers Team who provided marketing, consultation and venue support.
Other Important Things

2017

Cooler Lumpur

- February/March – British Council met up with Gina Yap Lai Yoong and Tina Isaacs to do an interview research on creative hubs in Southeast Asia and Malaysia.

- Tina Isaacs attended Cooler Lumpur 2017, representing the Society at a panel discussing Creative Hubs in Malaysia organized by British Council Arts Malaysia, in conjunction of the launch of its study titled "Mapping Creative Hubs in Malaysia".

- A PDF copy of the report is available at www.britishcouncil.my/creativehubsreport

Creative Hub Roundtable

- Gina Yap Lai Yoong represented the Society in a roundtable meeting with other art disciplinary leaders to discuss and prepare a proposal paper for the government to consider and execute.

- Meeting was held in July at Pusat Kreatif Kanah-Kanak Tuanku Bainun, Taman Tun Dr Ismail, Kuala Lumpur.
Other Important Things

2018

Rep in Call-For-Interest in KL Baca 2020 Initiative

- Gina Yap Lai Yoong represented the Society the briefing of this initiative.
- The Society decided not to take part as there was no allocated budget from the project owner, and there was no certainty of the Society’s plan for 2020.

Society Newsletter Rollout

- Debut: June 2018
- 2nd Newsletter: Aug 2018
- Aimed to be written bi-monthly by the President

DE Convention Partnership

- The organiser approached the Society and offered 20 complimentary tickets for Society Members on a first-come-first-served basis.
- A discount was also given for online members, which was later converted into a buy-one-free-one promo.
- We had a total of 14 writers from our Society and online group attending the two-day convention to learn about online marketing.

Meeting with Commonwealth Short Story Prize Organiser

- Gina Yap Lai Yoong represented the Society to discuss about Malaysian writers’ participation and growth in Commonwealth countries.
- We recommended that Malay entries be made acceptable in the Prize to encourage more Malaysian entries.
Our Constitution

The following pages are the Constitution drawn up and submitted to the Registry of Societies Malaysia for the Malaysian Writers Society (Persatuan Penulis Malaysia).

All Society Members must oblige to the Constitution at all times.
CONSTITUTION
PERSATUAN PENULIS MALAYSIA (MALAYSIAN WRITERS SOCIETY)

CLAUSE 1 NAME

1. The Association shall be known as PERSATUAN PENULIS MALAYSIA (MALAYSIAN WRITERS SOCIETY) Hereinafter referred to as "the Association".

2. Meaning of name:

3. Level: Kebangsaan

CLAUSE 2 ADDRESS

1. The registered address is

63A ELITIS TIRAI RIMBA, VALENCIA
47000 SUNGAI BULOH
SELANGOR

or at such other place as may from time to time be decided by the Committee; and the postal address is

63A ELITIS TIRAI RIMBA, VALENCIA
47000 SUNGAI BULOH
SELANGOR

2. The registered and postal addresses shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Registrar of Societies.

CLAUSE 3 OBJECTIVE

The Society is an association dedicated to the professional advancement of Malaysian writers, whether writing locally or abroad.

The Society aims to:

(1) foster and raise critical interest in creative writing by Malaysian writers across genres, languages, mediums, functions, and experience levels;

(2) encourage, promote, support, defend, and advocate for the interests of Malaysian writers, literary translators, editors, and creators of creative writing...
content;

(3) hold activities that will enable the professional development of Malaysian writers, promote camaraderie and cooperation between writers in the community and those within the Malaysian literary and publishing industry, and the general advancement of Malaysian literature.

CLAUSE 4 MEMBERSHIP

(1) Membership shall be unlimited in number.

(2) Membership shall be categorized into:

(a) Full Members, which shall be open to all individuals who fulfill the following criteria:
   (i) of full age;
   (ii) Malaysian citizens or Permanent Residents;
   (ii) have at least 1 publication in which they have been credited as author, editor, literary translator or contributor in an Approved Publication listed in Appendix I.

(b) Candidate Members, which shall be open to all individuals who fulfill the following criteria:
   (i) Malaysian citizens or Permanent Residents of any age who aspires to achieve publication in an Approved Publication listed in Appendix I; or
   (ii) non-Malaysians of full age who has been in residence in Malaysia for a continuous period of at least 1 calendar year and is in residence in Malaysia at the time of the application, is involved in the Malaysian writing community, with or without publication in which they have been credited as author, editor, literary translator or contributor in an an Approved Publication as listed in Appendix I.

(c) Affiliate Members, which shall be open to all corporate bodies, associations or legal entities whether incorporated in Malaysia or otherwise, that conducts business in the literary or publication Industry in Malaysia;

(3) Every application for membership shall be proposed and seconded by 2 existing Full Members and shall be forwarded to the Secretary who shall, at the first convenient opportunity, submit it to the Committee for approval. The Committee may at its discretion reject any application without assigning any reason thereof.

(4) Every applicant whose application has been approved in 4(3) shall, upon payment of the prescribed registration fee and first annual subscription, be admitted as a member of the Society and be entitled to all the privileges of membership, according to their categorization of membership.

(5) A university or university-college student shall not be eligible for membership without the prior approval of the Vice-Chancellor of the university concerned.
(6) Only Full Members of good standing who have no arrears in subscription shall have voting rights and be qualified to be nominated for and serve as Committee members of the Society.

CLAUSE 5 RESIGNATION AND TERMINATION

(1) Any member who wishes to resign his membership from the Society shall give 14 days notice in writing to the Secretary and shall pay up all dues. The Committee shall have the discretion to re-admit any person who has resigned his membership on his reapplication, upon payment of fresh registration fees and the appropriate subscription.

(2) Any member who fails to comply with the constitution or guidelines of the Society, or has acted in a manner to bring disrepute upon the Society, or a candidate member under 4(2)(b)(ii) who is reported to have left Malaysia for a continuous period exceeding 6 months, may be expelled or suspended for a period of time as the Committee deems fit. Before the Committee expels or suspends the member, the member shall be informed of the grounds for such proposed expulsion or suspension in writing and be given an opportunity to explain and clear himself in person. Such suspension or expulsion shall be enforced, unless otherwise reversed by a general meeting upon appeal by the said member.

CLAUSE 6 SOURCE OF INCOME

(1) The registration fee for all categories of membership shall be RM40.00 (Ringgit Malaysia Forty only) and the annual subscription payable for each category of membership shall be as follows:-

(a) Full Members: RM60.00 (Ringgit Malaysia Sixty only)

(b) Candidate Members: RM30.00 (Ringgit Malaysia Thirty only)

(c) Affiliate Members: RM200.00 (Ringgit Malaysia Two Hundred only).

(2) All annual subscription shall be payable to the Treasurer in advance no later than 1 month of the expiry of the calendar year from payment of the last annual subscription (hereinafter "the membership expiry date").

(3) Any member who is in arrears of their subscription for a period exceeding 2 months after the membership expiry date shall automatically be denied the privileges of membership until he settles his account in full, and shall, as soon as practicable, receive a written notification of his arrears in subscription signed by and on behalf of the Secretary.

(4) Any member who allows himself to be in arrears of subscription exceeding 12 calendar months after the membership expiry date shall automatically cease to be a member of the Society and the Secretary shall at the first convenient opportunity,
deregister him from the membership charter. The Committee may direct that legal action be taken against him, if necessary, provided that they are satisfied that he has received due notice of his debts.

(5) The Committee shall have the power to re-admit any person who has allowed his membership to lapse through arrears, upon payment of fresh registration fees and the appropriate subscription.

(6) Special subscriptions or levies for particular purposes may be raised from members by resolution of the general meeting of the Society. If any member fails to pay such subscription within such period as may be resolved, the amount due shall be treated in the same way as arrears of annual subscription.

(7) The Society is also at liberty to source and acquire other financial sources in the form of donations, sponsorship and revenue from commercial activities, which shall then be treated as part of the Society's monies.

**CLAUSE 7 GENERAL MEETING**

(1) The supreme authority of the Society is vested in a general meeting of the members. At least 50 voting members or where the voting members present represent twice the total number of committee members, whichever is the lesser, must be present at a general meeting for its proceedings to be valid and to constitute a quorum.

(2) If half an hour after the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting shall be postponed to a date (not exceeding 30 days) to be decided by the Committee, and if a quorum is not present half an hour after the time appointed for the postponed meeting, the members present shall have the power to proceed with the business of the day but shall not have the power to alter the constitution of the Society or make any decision affecting the whole membership which is not already provided for under the constitution.

(3) A bi-annual general meeting of the Society shall be held as soon as possible after the close of each second financial year but not later than April on the date and a time and place to be decided by the Committee. The business of the bi-annual general meeting shall be:-

(a) To receive the minutes of the previous annual general meeting;

(b) To receive the Committee's report on the working of the Society during the previous years;

(c) To receive the Treasurers' report and the audited accounts of the Society for the previous year;

(d) To elect a Committee and to appoint auditors for the ensuing years (if applicable);
(e) To deal with such other matters as may be put before it.

(4) The Secretary shall send to all members, at least 14 days prior to the meeting, an agenda including copies of minutes and reports, together with the audited accounts of the Society for the previous years. Copies of these documents will also be made available at the registered place of business of the Society for the perusal of members. Attendance at a general meeting by a voting member may either be physically in person or using video-conferencing facilities. The Secretary shall make arrangements for video-conferencing facilities at the general meeting venue, provided notice of intention to attend by video-conferencing is made in writing by the member intending to attend in such manner, at least 7 days prior to the date appointed for the general meeting.

(5) An extraordinary general meeting of the Society shall be convened:-

(a) whenever the Committee deems it desirable; or

(b) at the joint request of not less than twice the number of committee members, stating the objects and reasons for such meeting.

(6) An extraordinary general meeting requisitioned by members shall be convened for a date within 30 days or the receipt of such requisition.

(7) Notice and agenda for an extraordinary general meeting shall be forwarded by the Secretary to all members at least 14 days prior to the date fixed for the meeting.

(8) Paragraphs 7(1) and 7(2) of this constitution regarding the quorum and the postponement of a bi-annual general meeting shall apply also to an extraordinary general meeting, but with the provision that if no quorum is present after half an hour from the time appointed for a postponed extraordinary general meeting requisitioned by the members, the meeting shall be cancelled, and no extraordinary general meeting shall be requisitioned for the same purpose until after the lapse of at least six months from the date thereof.

(9) The Secretary shall forward to all Committee members a copy of the draft minutes of each annual and extraordinary general meeting no later than 3 months after its conclusion.

CLAUSE 8 COMMITTEE

(1) A committee consisting of the following (termed "Office-Bearers of the Society"), shall be elected at the bi-annual general meeting: a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, and at least 7 Ordinary Committee Members being representatives of the various states within Malaysia.

(2) All Committee members of the Society shall be from the Full Members categorization, be in good standing and not be in arrears of subscription or disqualified to hold office under Sections 9A and 49 of the Societies Act 1966.
Names of the above office-bearers shall be proposed and seconded, and election will be by a simple majority vote, by members present and voting at the bi-annual general meeting. All the office-bearers shall be eligible for re-election each term.

(3) The function of the Committee is to organize and supervise the day-to-day activities of the Society and to make decisions on the matters affecting its running, within the general policy laid down by the general meeting. The Committee shall not act contrary to the expressed wishes of the general meeting without prior reference to it and shall always remain subordinate to the general meeting. The Committee shall furnish a report to each bi-annual general meeting on its activities during the previous year(s). The Committee may make regulations for the purposes of carrying into effect the provisions of the Constitution, which shall be application to all members.

(4) The Committee shall meet at least once every 3 months. The President acting alone, or not less than 4 Committee members acting together, may call for a meeting of the Committee to be held at any time. At least half of the Committee members must be present for its proceedings to be valid and to constitute a quorum for the meeting. A 14-day prior notice of each meeting shall be given to the Committee members.

(5) Attendance at a Committee meeting may be physically in person or using video-conferencing facilities. The Secretary shall make arrangement for such facilities to be available at the meeting venue, provided notice of the intention to attend by video-conferencing is provided at least 48 hours prior to the time appointed for such meeting.

(6) Where any urgent matter requires the approval of the Committee arises and it is not possible to convene a meeting, the Secretary may obtain such approval by means of a circular letter sent electronically, setting out the deadline to respond. Before a decision of the Committee is deemed to have been obtained, the following conditions must be fulfilled:

(a) the problem or issue and proposal for which approval is sought must be clearly set out in the circular and forwarded to all members of the Committee;

(b) at least half of the members of the Committee must indicate whether they are in favour or against the proposal; and

(c) the decision must be by majority vote.

Any decision obtained by circular letter shall be reported by the Secretary to the next Committee meeting and be recorded in the minutes of such meeting.

(7) Any member of the Committee who fails to attend 3 consecutive meetings of the Committee without satisfactory explanation shall be deemed to have resigned from the Committee. In the event of resignation or death of a member of the Committee, the Committee shall have the power to co-opt any Full Member of the Society to fill the vacancy until the next election of Committee members.
(8) The Committee shall give instructions to the Secretary and other officers for the conduct of the affairs of the Society, and may appoint such officers and such staff as it deems necessary. It may suspend or dismiss any officers or staff for neglect of duty, dishonesty, incompetence, refusal to carry out the decisions of the Committee, or any other reason which it deems good and sufficient to protect the interests of the Society.

(9) The Committee may establish any sub-committee for any purpose arising out of or connected with any of its duties, functions and aims laid out under this Constitution. Any Full Members, Candidate Members or authorized representatives of Affiliate Members may become members of these sub-committees, but only Full Members may be appointed by the Committee to head such sub-committees.

(10) The previous Committee shall pass over to the new Committee all Society's documents such as registration certificate, registered constitution, copy of Annual Returns, notification letters, books of accounts, bank books, cheques and receipts, land titles, lists of assets and any such documents in its possession that affects the interests of the Society.

CLAUSE 9 DUTIES OF OFFICE BEARERS

(1) The President shall during his term of office preside at all general meetings, all meetings of the committee and shall be responsible for the proper conduct of all such meetings; have the casting vote and shall sign the minutes of each meeting at the time they are approved; in conjunction with the Secretary and/or Treasurer, sign all cheques on behalf of the Society.

(2) The Vice-President shall assist the President in carrying out his duties and deputize for the President during the latter's absence.

(3) The Secretary shall conduct the business of the Society in accordance with the constitution, and shall carry out the instructions of the general meeting and of the Committee. He shall be responsible for conducting all correspondence and keeping all books, documents and paper except the accounts and financial records; attend all meetings, and record all proceedings; keep a membership register consisting of details such as name, identity card number, date and place of birth, occupation, name and address of employer, email address, telephone number and residential address; file annual returns within 60 days form the date of the bi-annual general meeting to the Registrar of Societies; in conjunction with the President and/or the Treasurer, sign all cheques on behalf of the Society.

(4) The Assistant Secretary shall assist the Secretary in carrying out his duties and shall act for him in his absence.

(5) The Treasurer shall be responsible for the finances of the Society. He shall be wholly responsible for keeping accounts of all its financial transactions and shall be responsible for their correctness; in conjunction with the President and/or the Secretary sign all cheques on behalf of the Society.
(6) The Ordinary Committee Members shall assist the Committee in carrying out its duty as directed by the President or the Committee.

CLAUSE 10  FINANCIAL PROVISION

(1) Subject to the following provisions in this Constitution, the funds of the Society may be expended for the purpose necessary for the carrying out of its objects, including the expenses of its administration, office-bearers and paid staff, and the cost of audit of its accounts, but they shall on no account be used to pay the fine of any member who may be convicted in a court of law.

(2) The President, Secretary and Treasurer between them may hold a petty cash advance not exceeding RM10,000.00 (Ringgit Malaysia Ten Thousand only) at any one time. All money in excess of this sum shall, within 7 days of its receipt, be deposited in a bank account in the name of the Society.

(3) All cheques or withdrawal notices of the Society's account shall be signed jointly by the President, the Secretary and/or the Treasurer. In the absence of any of these signatories for a long period, the Committee shall appoint one of its members to sign in his place.

(4) No expenditure exceeding RM10,000.00 (Ringgit Malaysia Ten Thousand only) at any one time shall be incurred without the prior sanction of the Committee. No expenditure exceeding RM50,000.00 (Ringgit Malaysia Fifty Thousand only) in any one month shall be incurred without the prior sanction of the members at a general meeting. Expenditure of RM10,000.00 (Ringgit Malaysia Ten Thousand only) and below at any one time may be incurred by the President together with the Secretary and/or Treasurer for any purpose necessary for the carrying out of the Society's objects. Should monies held in the Society's bank accounts exceed RM100,000.00 (Ringgit Malaysia One Hundred Thousand only), a reasonable sum to be determined by the Committee shall be invested into fixed deposits allowing sufficient remaining sums for the daily running of the Society's financial obligations.

(5) As soon as possible before the end of each financial year, the Treasurer shall prepare a statement of receipts and payments and a balance sheet for the year, which shall be audited by an Auditor appointed under Clause 11. The audited accounts shall be submitted for the approval of members at the next general meeting, and copies shall be made available at the registered place of business of the Society for the perusal of members.

(6) The financial year of the Society shall be for a term of 12 months commencing on the 1st of January and ending on the 31st of December of every year.

CLAUSE 11  AUDITORS

(1) Two persons, who shall not be office-bearers of the Society, shall be appointed, by the bi-annual general meeting as Auditors. They shall hold office for 2 years and
may be reappointed.

(2) The Auditors shall be required to audit the accounts of the Society for the year, and to prepare a report or certification of it for presentation at the bi-annual general meeting. They may also be required by the President to audit the accounts of the Society for any period within their tenure of office, at any date, and to make a report to the Committee.

CLAUSE 12 PROPERTY ADMINISTRATOR / TRUSTEES

(1) 3 Trustees, who must be over 21 years of age, shall be appointed at the bi-annual general meeting and shall hold office during the pleasure of the society. They shall be vested in them all immovable properties whatsoever belonging to the Society upon execution of a Deed of Trust.

(2) The Trustees shall not sell, withdraw or transfer any of the property of the Society without the consent and authority of a general meeting of members.

(3) A Trustee may be removed from office by a general meeting on the grounds that, owing to ill health, unsoundness of mind, absence from the country or for any other reasons, he is unable to perform his duties or unable to do so satisfactorily. In the event of the death, resignation or removal of a trustee the vacancy shall be filled by a new Trustee appointed by a general meeting.

(4) All immovable property must be registered of the Society in the name of the Society and all conveyancing papers in relation to this property are deemed valid and effective as if it were executed by the registered owner provided the instrument of registration was executed by 3 office bearers of the Society during their valid appointment as certified by the Registrar of Societies and sealed with the seal of the Society.

(5) The Committee may not sell, mortgage, withdraw or transfer any properties or assets of the Society which value at the time exceeds RM20,000.00 (Ringgit Malaysia Twenty Thousand only) without the consent and authority of a general meeting.

CLAUSE 13 INTERPRETATION

(1) Between bi-annual general meetings the Committee shall interpret this constitution and when necessary, determine any point on which the constitution are silent or ambiguous.

(2) Except where contrary to or inconsistent with the policy previously laid down by the general meeting, the decisions of the Committee shall be binding on all members of the Society unless and until varied or countermanded by a resolution of members at a general meeting.
CLAUSE 14 ADVISOR / PATRON

The Committee shall if it deems fit and necessary appoint qualified persons to be the Advisor or Patron of the Society. The person appointed must give his consent in writing.

CLAUSE 15 PROHIBITION

(1) All forms of gambling as defined in the Common Gaming Houses Act, 1953 shall be prohibited in the premises of the Society.

(2) Neither the Society nor its members shall attempt to restrict or in any other manner interfere with the trade or prices or engage in any Trade Union activities as defined in the Trade Union Act, 1959.

(3) The Society shall not hold any lottery, whether confined to its members or not, in the name of the Society, its office-bearers or members without prior approval from the authority concerned.

(4) "Benefits" as mentioned under section 2 of the Societies Act, 1996 shall not be given by the Society to any of its members.

CLAUSE 16 AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

This Constitution shall not be amended except by resolution of a general meeting. Any such amendment to the constitution shall be forwarded to the Registrar of Societies within 60 days of being passed by the general meeting and shall only take effect from the date of their approval by the Registrar of Societies.

CLAUSE 17 DISSOLUTION

(1) The Society may be voluntarily dissolved by a resolution of not less than four-fifths (4/5) of the voting membership present in a general meeting called specifically for its purpose.

(2) In the event of the Society being dissolved as provided above, all debts and liabilities legally incurred on its behalf shall be fully discharged, and the remaining funds shall be disposed of in such manner as may be decided upon by a general meeting.

(3) Notice of dissolution shall be forwarded to the Registrar of Societies within 14 days of its dissolution.

CLAUSE 18 FLAG, LOGO AND BADGE
1. Flag
   - Description

2. Logo
   - Description
   The words "MALAYSIAN WRITERS" in bold white with the title of I in "Malaysian" in the shape of a love-heart, over a black background with a design of letters bursting out of an open book below it, with a red ribbon bookmark jutting out between a page on the left hand side.

3. Badge
   - Description

CLAUSE 19  APPENDIX I - APPROVED PUBLICATIONS


2. Film, Screen or Play Credits, able to be certified by Producer of Film, TV or Play Production if so required.

3. Any literary magazine or periodical, in print, eformat or online, which fulfills all of the following criteria:-

   (a) has been in publication for a minimum period of 5 years;

   (b) has published at least 20 issues since its commencement; and

   (c) is a paying market, i.e. pays for written contributions by way of monetary compensation.
Malaysian Writers Society
(Persatuan Penulis Malaysia)
Registration No: PPM-008-10-06092016
(Incorporated in Malaysia)

Financial Statements for the period from
6 September 2016 (date of incorporation)
to 31 December 2017
# Malaysian Writers Society
(Persatuan Pemulis Malaysia)
(Registration No: PPM-008-10-06092016)
(Incorporated in Malaysia)

Financial Statements for the period ended
31 December 2017

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<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>Statement by the Board Of Committee</td>
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<td>Auditors’ Report</td>
<td>3-5</td>
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<td>Statement of Financial Position</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>Statement of Income and Expenditure</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>Statement of Receipts and Payments</td>
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<td>Notes to the Financial Statements</td>
<td>9-10</td>
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Malaysian Writers Society  
(Persatuan Pemulis Malaysia)  
(Registration No: PPM-008-10-06092016)  
(Incorporated in Malaysia)

Society Information

Chairman  
Gina Yap Lai Yoong

Vice Chairman  
Lokman Hakim Bin Abdul Wahid

Honorary Secretary  
Syamsuratina Binti Ishak

Vice Secretary  
Farah Hanna Binti Mohd Alkaf

Honorary Treasurer  
Anna Tan Shuh Ping

State Representative  
Shakila A/P Munisamy  
Muhamad Khairul Izad Bin Ishak  
Herveron Bin Sagulu  
Leong Chin Hsien  
Ong Li Yuan  
Pepper Lim Kean Kheng  
Zedeck Siew Kee Tau  
Mohd Fazmi Bin Jusoh @ Mustaffa  
Datin Tutu Dutta A/P K.S. Dutta  
Intan Fazliana Binti Din  
Joanne Ch‘ng Yu Rou

Auditors  
PETER NG & CO (AF 002263)  
Chartered Accountants
Malaysian Writers Society  
(Persatuan Penulis Malaysia)  
(Registration No: PPM-008-10-06092016)  
(Incorporated in Malaysia)  

Statement by the Committee

We, the Chairman and Honorary Secretary of Malaysian Writers Society, do hereby state that in the opinion of the Committee, the financial statements set out on pages 6 to 10 are properly drawn up in accordance with the Malaysian Private Entities Reporting Standard and the Society Act, 1966 in Malaysia so as to give true and fair view of the financial position of the Society as at 31 December 2017 and of its income and expenditure and cash receipts and payments for the financial period ended 31 December 2017.

On behalf of the Committee,

.............................................  .............................................
Gina Yap Lai Yoong  
Chairman  

Date: 17 May 2018  

Syamsuriatina Binti Ishak  
Honorary Secretary
Malaysian Writers Society
(Persatuan Penulis Malaysia)
(Registration No: PPM-008-10-06092016)
(Incorporated in Malaysia)

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Malaysian Writers Society, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2017, the statement of income and expenditure and the statement of receipts and payments for the period then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, as set out on pages 6 to 10.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Society as at 31 December 2017, and of its statement of income and expenditure and its statement of receipts and payments for the period then ended in accordance with Malaysian Private Entities Reporting Standard and the Society Act, 1966 in Malaysia.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with approved standards on auditing in Malaysia and International Standards on Auditing. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors’ Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our auditors’ report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence and Other Ethical Responsibilities

We are independent of the Society in accordance with the By-Laws (on Professional Ethics, Conduct and Practice) of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants ("By-Laws") and the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants’ Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants ("IESBA Code"), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the By-Laws and the IESBA Code.

Responsibilities of the committee of the Society for the Financial Statements

The committee of the Society are responsible for the preparation of financial statements of the Society that give a true and fair view in accordance with Malaysian Private Entities Reporting Standard and the Society Act, 1966 in Malaysia. The committee of the Society are also responsible for such internal control as the committee of the Society determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements of the Society that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
Responsibilities of the committee of the Society for the Financial Statements (cont’d)

In preparing the financial statements of the Society, the committee of the Society are responsible for assessing the Society’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee of the Society either intend to liquidate the Society or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors’ Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements of the Society as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors’ report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with approved standards on auditing in Malaysia and International Standards on Auditing will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with approved standards on auditing in Malaysia and International Standards on Auditing, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements of the Society, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society’s internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee of the Society.
(Registration No: PPM-008-10-06092016)

Auditors’ Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (cont’d)

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee of the Society’s use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Society’s ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors’ report to the related disclosures in the financial statements of the Society or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors’ report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Society to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements of the Society, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the committee of the Society regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Other Matters

This report is made solely to the members of the Society, as a body, and for no other purpose. We do not assume responsibility to any other person for the content of this report.

PETER NG & CO
Firm Number : AF 002263
Chartered Accountants

NG WEI SUM
Approved Number :3344/12/19 (J)
Chartered Accountant

Penang

Date: 11 May 2018
Malaysian Writers Society  
(Persatuan Penulis Malaysia)  
(Registration No: PPM-008-10-06092016)  
(Incorporated in Malaysia)  

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>RM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assets employed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventories</td>
<td>6,283</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and bank balances</td>
<td>13,962</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td>20,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accruals</td>
<td>8,296</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net current assets</td>
<td>11,949</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financed by:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated fund</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11,949</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the financial statements.
Malaysian Writers Society  
(Persatuan Penulis Malaysia)  
(Registration No: PPM-008-10-06092016)  
(Incorporated in Malaysia)

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period ended 31 December 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Period from 6 September 2016 (date of incorporation) to 31 December 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration fees</td>
<td>2(d)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual fees</td>
<td>6,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation</td>
<td>1,373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festival income</td>
<td>7,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Booth income</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other projects</td>
<td>476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20,251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditors’ remuneration</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festival expenses</td>
<td>5,521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Booth expenses</td>
<td>355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other projects expenses</td>
<td>814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration expenses</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative expenses</td>
<td>1,037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus for the year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the financial statements.
Malaysian Writers Society  
(Persatuan Penulis Malaysia)  
(Registration No: PPM-008-10-06092016)  
(Incorporated in Malaysia)

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period ended 31 December 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period from 6 September 2016 (date of incorporation) to 31 December 2017 RM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Cash and bank balances at beginning of the period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration fees</td>
<td>3,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual fees</td>
<td>6,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation</td>
<td>1,373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festival income</td>
<td>7,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Booth income</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other projects</td>
<td>476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

20,251

Payments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payments</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Festival expenses</td>
<td>4,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Booth expenses</td>
<td>355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other projects expenses</td>
<td>814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration expenses</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative expenses</td>
<td>1,037</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6,289

Cash and bank balances at end of the period

13,962

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the financial statements.
Malaysian Writers Society  
(Persatuan Penulis Malaysia)  
(Registration No: PPM-008-10-06092016)  
(Incorporated in Malaysia)

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Principal activity

The Society is principally engaged in the provision for management and administrative services to the members.

2. Significant accounting policies

(a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements of the Society have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in compliance with Malaysian Private Entities Reporting Standard and the Society Act, 1966 in Malaysia.

(b) Inventories

Inventories are carried at anticipated realisable value.

(c) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when there is a present obligation, legal or constructive, as a result of a past event, when it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefit will be required to settle the obligation and reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

(d) Income recognition

Income is recognised on cash receipt basis.
**Malaysian Writers Society**  
(Persatuan Penulis Malaysia)  
(Registration No: PPM-008-10-06092016)  
(Incorporated in Malaysia)

3. **Accumulated fund**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2017 RM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At incorporation date</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of income over expenditure</td>
<td>11,949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 31 December</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>11,949</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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