

## **Major New Literary Prize Established in Asia**

### ***Man Asian Literary Prize Will Recognise New Works By Regional Authors***

HONG KONG - A major new literary prize was launched today to recognise the work of Asian writers and to bring them to the attention of the world literary community. The prize is a joint project of Man Group plc and the Hong Kong Literary Festival Ltd, which together announced the prize's creation.

Called the Man Asian Literary Prize, the award will seek entries from Asian writers for works that are yet to be published in English. Entries will be submitted in English, and the prize is intended to provide a broader platform for the cream of new Asian literature to be brought to the attention of English-reading audiences around the world.

The Hong Kong International Literary Festival, sponsored by Man Investments, is the region's most recognised festival highlighting the achievements of authors throughout greater Asia. Man Group plc (the parent company of Man Investments) is a leading London-based global provider of alternative investment products and solutions as well as one of the world's largest futures brokers.

Matt Dillon, Regional Managing Director of Man Investments, Asia Pacific announced its establishment at the conclusion of the 2006 Man Hong Kong International Literary Festival. The first annual prize will be awarded in Autumn 2007.

"Through this new prize we aim to foster the publication of new Asian voices in English and to help make those voices more widely heard", Mr Dillon said. "One of the most important tasks facing our world in recent times has been for the English-speaking peoples to have a better understanding of Asian society and culture. We very much hope this prize will encourage that activity".

Peter Gordon, Director of the Hong Kong International Literary Festival, said Asian writers were becoming increasingly significant on the world literary scene.

"Asia is becoming an important source for new writing for major international publishers and this award will help facilitate publishing and translating of Asian literature into English", Mr Gordon said.

# Literary Festival 2006

“Since the purpose of this prize is to facilitate publication and translation rather than to merely reward existing publication activity, the Prize will focus on ‘new’ works, as yet unpublished in English”, he said.

The Man Asian Literary Prize will be administered by a new and independent not-for-profit entity. It is anticipated that the judging panel will be drawn from international literary and academic communities.

The Man Asian Literary Prize has a unique combination of features. It is explicitly focused on Asia, as distinct from, for example, the Asia-Pacific/Pacific Rim. It is based in Asia and it will be for currently unpublished works with the explicit objective of encouraging the publication of more works by Asian writers.

Further details including application procedures, eligibility and prize money will be finalised over the coming months and will be announced in Autumn 2006.

Man Group plc is also the sponsor of the Man Booker Prize for Fiction and the Man Booker International Prize, two of the world’s premier literary prizes.

- Ends -

## NOTE TO EDITORS

Background Paper attached

### **The Man Hong Kong International Literary Festival Ltd**

The Man Hong Kong International Literary Festival was conceived by a group of journalists, publishers, editors, authors and academics in 2000 and was held for the first time in 2001. The Festival aims to entertain, educate and inspire through the promotion of English literature with an Asian focus. It is the leading English-language festival in Asia, and the only world-class festival focusing on writing with Asian roots. The 2006 Festival includes a 10 day programme with over 60 events and more than 40 authors from around the world, celebrating the best in fiction, narrative non-fiction, poetry and writing for children.

# Literary Festival 2006

## **Man Group plc**

Man Group plc is a leading global provider of alternative investment products and solutions as well as one of the world's largest futures brokers. The Group employs over 3,000 people in 15 countries with key centres in London, Pfäffikon (Switzerland), Chicago, New York, Paris, Singapore and Sydney. Man Group plc is listed on the London Stock Exchange (EMG.L) and is a constituent of the FTSE 100 Index. Man Investments, the asset management division of Man Group plc, is a global leader in the fast growing alternative investments industry. Man Financial, the brokerage division of Man Group plc, is one of the world's leading providers of brokerage services.

Man Investments has supported the Festival since 2002 and is proud once again to sponsor the Man Hong Kong International Literary Festival 2006.

[www.mangrouplc.com](http://www.mangrouplc.com)

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