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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*

### **SPECIAL EXHIBITION ON 1911 REVOLUTION LAUNCHED IN COMMEMORATION OF DR SUN YAT SEN'S 150<sup>TH</sup> BIRTH ANNIVERSARY**

*Exhibition explores significance of 1911 Revolution on China's modern history and  
Singapore*

**Singapore, 5 November 2016** – How was modern China born? When did Chinese men stop keeping pigtailed? What role did Singapore play in this? Answers to these and more can be found at the Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall's (SYSNMH) latest special exhibition, *One Night in Wuchang: 1911 Revolution and Nanyang* (天涯共此时: 武昌首义与南洋回响). The exhibition was launched this evening by Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean, in conjunction with the opening of SYSNMH's annual signature event *Wan Qing CultureFest*.

2 A joint collaboration with China's Memorial of Wuchang Uprising of 1911 Revolution, to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Dr Sun Yat Sen, the exhibition chronicles the story of the Wuchang Uprising and the 1911 Revolution that overthrew the Qing Dynasty, which eventually led to the birth of modern day China. Visitors will also discover how the Revolution brought about new ideas such as national identity and citizenship, and the impact it had on existing Chinese traditions. They can also discover more on the Uprising's far-reaching effects. In Singapore, it caused a pigtail-cutting craze to sweep the island, also triggering various fundraising campaigns and a surge of nationalist sentiments among the overseas Chinese.

3 Mr Alvin Ting, Senior Manager of SYSNMH, said: "The new exhibition sheds light on the Wuchang Uprising and 1911 Revolution, a turning point in China's modern history, and is a good reminder of the linkages between Singapore and China. Through this exhibition, we also hope to present insights into the significant historical event relevant to Singaporeans. Coupled with *Wan Qing CultureFest*, SYSNMH hopes to foster a greater appreciation of the different aspects of Chinese



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arts and culture, providing us with a more holistic understanding of our shared heritage.”

4 The exhibition, organised into three main sections, features over 150 artefacts and archival materials which provide a deeper insight into the Wuchang Uprising Society and its prominent figures. Of these, 80 items comprising coins, medals, personal artefacts and more are being displayed in Singapore for the first time. The symbolic eighteen-star flag and five-coloured flag of the new Republican feature prominently on numerous artefacts including ceramics, ink boxes and hair accessories. According to the exhibition curator Dr Tan Teng Phee, these demonstrate the people’s strong sense of pride and nationalism, the driving force that led to China’s subsequent development of nationhood and identity. A list of highlights and exhibition programmes can be found in **Annex A and B** respectively.

5 The *One Night in Wuchang: 1911 Revolution and Nanyang* exhibition stems from SYSNMH’s efforts in raising its global profile among Sun Yat Sen institutions world-wide. Since its re-opening in 2011, SYSNMH has worked closely with and established strong partnerships with overseas museums and prestigious Sun Yat Sen institutions, such as those found in China, Japan and US. The cultural and intellectual exchanges have further strengthened the Memorial Hall’s offerings to members of the public; Singaporeans are able to gain greater insights on the different perspectives of the 1911 Revolution. These offerings also complement SYSNMH’s permanent galleries, which highlight the vital role played by Singapore and Nanyang in the Revolution.

#### Rediscovering Chinese Traditions at Wan Qing CultureFest 2016

6 At *Wan Qing CultureFest 2016*, which returns for the sixth year, visitors of all ages can look forward to more than 60 programmes on unique aspects of Chinese culture. Visitors can take part in programmes that feature Chinese arts and culture in more contemporary ways. These include tea workshops where participants learn about Chinese tea culture and brew their own test tube flower tea; clay figurine workshops to get crafty with this age-old aspect of intangible cultural heritage;



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special guided tours and interactive storytelling sessions that will bring to life the story of the 1911 Revolution.

7 Over the two weekends, come and groove to the songs of local musicians including 53A and Please Insert Name (PIN), and local celebrities XuBin and Aloysius Pang. Mediacorp artistes Kayly Loh and Youyi will also be putting up performances with their *guzheng* and *pipa*. The Speak Mandarin Campaign is also collaborating with SYSNMH for the first time, with various activities to showcase the Mandarin language in fun and engaging ways. Please refer to **Annex C** for the full programme line-up.

8 Entry to SYSNMH and all activities are free during *Wan Qing CultureFest 2016*, which will be held till 13 November 2016. The special exhibition will be on display until 30 April 2017.

**- END -**

### **About the Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall**

Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall (SYSNMH), a heritage institution under the National Heritage Board, traces Dr Sun's revolutionary activities in the Southeast Asian region and highlights the impact of the 1911 Chinese Revolution on Singapore as well as Singapore's contributions to the Revolution.

The SYSNMH was re-opened to the public on 9 October 2011. The revamped Memorial Hall features a new storyline that introduces key community leaders in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century; highlights Nanyang as a base for Revolution; and explores the impact and influences of the 1911 Chinese Revolution on the Singapore Chinese community. It will also continue to promote the understanding of our history through research and publication; work with the community in outreach and education programmes as well as organise Chinese cultural events for all Singaporeans and visitors.



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### **About the National Heritage Board**

The National Heritage Board (NHB) was formed on 1 August 1993. As the custodian of Singapore's heritage, NHB is responsible for telling the Singapore story, sharing the Singaporean experience and imparting our Singapore spirit.

NHB's mission is to preserve and celebrate the shared heritage of our diverse communities, for the purpose of education, nation-building and cultural understanding. It manages the national museums and heritage institutions, and sets policies relating to heritage sites, monuments and the national collection. Through the national collection, NHB curates heritage programmes and presents exhibitions to connect the past, present and future generations of Singaporeans. NHB is a statutory board under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. Please visit [www.nhb.gov.sg](http://www.nhb.gov.sg) for more information.

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## **SERIES OF EVENTS OF THE WUCHANG UPRISING**

Between the autumn of 1911 and the spring of 1912, a series of catalytic events, collectively known as the 1911 Revolution, ushered in the demise of the last Chinese dynasty and ended the centuries-long imperial system of government. It is generally accepted that the revolution started with the Wuchang Uprising on 10 October 1911 and ended with the abdication of the last Qing emperor, Puyi, on 12 February 1912.

On 10 October 1911, Xiong Bing Kun (熊秉坤), a squadron leader from the 8<sup>th</sup> Engineering Battalion of the Hubei New Army, led a group of soldiers in the uprising by firing the first shot in Wuchang. Revolutionary soldiers within and around the city of Wuchang seized the Chu Wang Tai Armoury before splitting into three forces to attack the official residence of Rui Zheng, the Qing Governor-General of the Hubei and Hunan Provinces, who fled without much resistance. After a night of fierce fighting, the revolutionaries successfully captured the city of Wuchang on the morning of 11 October. They then established a military government at the Hubei Consultative Bureau and named former Qing commander Li Yuan Hong as the military governor.

The first uprising in Wuchang ignited a nationwide revolt and, within two months, 14 provinces in China as well as cities like Shanghai and Nanjing answered the revolutionary call through armed or peaceful means. Wuchang was thus known as the first to rise in revolt and the Red Mansion (or “Hong Lou”), a red-brick building that housed the headquarters of the Hubei Military Government, was later lauded as “The Gateway to the Republic”.

### **The Nanyang Response**



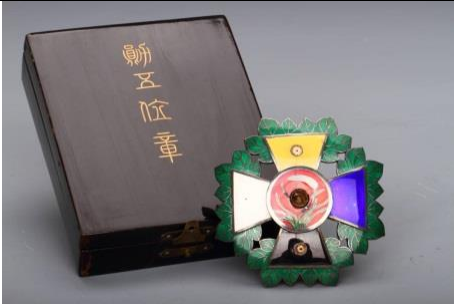

Singapore was an important revolutionary base in Nanyang for Dr. Sun Yat Sen. He had previously established the Singapore branch of the Chinese Revolutionary Alliance at Wan Qing Yuan in late 1905 to support his recruitment and fundraising efforts as well to direct his uprisings.

The 1911 Revolution left an indelible mark on Singapore’s Chinese community. First, it stimulated the rise of overseas Chinese nationalism. After the success of the Wuchang Uprising, many local Chinese celebrated the downfall of the Qing dynasty by burning the imperial dragon flags, cutting their pigtails as well as contributing funds to China. Second, the establishment of the Republic instilled new ideas of altruism, equality and freedom amongst overseas Chinese, and inspired them to contribute to the modernisation of China. Third, the success of the uprising fuelled the local Chinese community’s growing sense of confidence and encouraged them to advocate for greater representation under British colonial rule.

With the rise of Chinese nationalism and political consciousness, many of the local Chinese community eventually became key players in supporting the anti-Yuan Shih Kai movement in 1915 and the anti-Japanese movement during the 1930s, while continuing to be concerned about political developments in China up to the Second World War.





**ANNEX A**

**ONE NIGHT IN WUCHANG: 1911 REVOLUTION AND NANYANG EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS**




S/N	Picture	Caption
<b>SECTION 1: THE PROTAGONISTS OF THE WUCHANG UPRISING</b>		
1		The emblem of the "First Uprising" (Date Unknown)
2		Certificate of Recognition presented by Li Yuan Hong to Xiong Ji Zhen (1912)
3		The 5 <sup>th</sup> Class Order of Rank and Merit medal (1913)
4		Commemorative badge with Li Yuan Hong's portrait (1912)



**SECTION 2: EMBRACING THE NEW REPUBLIC**

5		<p>Famille Rose Danping vase decorated with the double-flag (Five-Coloured Flag and Eighteen-Star Flag) emblem (Date Unknown)</p>
6		<p>Famille Rose teapot with the double-flag (Five-Coloured Flag and Eighteen-Star Flag) emblem (Date Unknown)</p>
7		<p>Famille Rose vase presented to Dr. Sun Yat Sen by Peng Han Yi (1912)</p>
8		<p>Hairpin with the double-flag (Five-Coloured Flag and Eighteen-Star Flag) emblem (Date Unknown)</p>

**SECTION 3: THE NANYANG RESPONSE**

9		<p>Republic of China Commemorative Coin (1912)</p>
10		<p>Order of Blue Sky and White Sun with Grand Cordon (1920s)</p>
11		<p>Teachings of Dr. Sun Yat Sen (1950)</p>





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**ANNEX B**

**ONE NIGHT IN WUCHANG: 1911 REVOLUTION AND NANYANG SPECIAL EXHIBITION PROGRAMMES**

**PUBLIC TALKS**

To register, please email [NHB\\_WQY@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:NHB_WQY@nhb.gov.sg) or call 6256 7377.

**One Night in Wuchang: 1911 Revolution and Nanyang** (Conducted in Mandarin)

Date: Sunday, 6 November

Time: 10am – 12nn

*Speakers:*

1. Mr. Zhu Xiangde, Director of The Memorial of Wuchang Uprising of 1911 Revolution
2. Mr. Duan Jun Feng, Head of the Research Department, The Memorial of Wuchang Uprising of 1911 Revolution
3. Associate Professor Wong Sin Kiong, Department of Chinese Studies, National University of Singapore
4. Dr. Tan Teng Phee, Curator, Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall

Hear stories of the place, people and plot of the Wuchang Uprising and revolutionary activities in Nanyang, as well as the response of the latter to the success of the Chinese revolution.

**The Xinhai Revolution: A Macro-Historical Perspective** (Conducted in Mandarin)

Date: Saturday, 12 November

Time: 10am – 12nn

*Speaker:* Mr. Kua Bak Lim

Learn more on the history of the revolution from a macro historical perspective through a visual story of the Wuchang Uprising. The Speaker will also be discussing its subsequent impact on the revolutionary movement, as well as Singapore's role as the Southeast Asian headquarters of the anti-Qing revolutionary movement.

**“One Night in Wuchang: 1911 Revolution and Nanyang”:** The Curatorial Journey (Conducted in Mandarin)

Date: Sunday, 13 November

Time: 10am – 12nn

*Speaker:* Dr. Tan Teng Phee, Curator, Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall



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Go behind the scenes to understand how this special exhibition was conceived and curated by explaining how the key narrative and exhibition design were developed.

### **CURATOR'S TOURS**

*Limited to 15 participants per tour. To register, please email [NHB\\_WQY@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:NHB_WQY@nhb.gov.sg) or call 6256 7377.*

#### **English tour**

Date: Saturday, 12 November  
Time: 2pm

#### **Mandarin tour**

Date: Sunday, 6 November  
Time: 5pm

Date: Sunday, 13 November  
Time: 2pm

### **GUIDED TOURS**

#### **English tour**

Date: Saturday, 5 November  
Time: 8pm

Date: Sunday, 6 November  
Time: 6.30pm, 8pm

Date: Wednesday, 9 November  
Time: 10.30am

Date: Friday, 11 November  
Time: 10.30am

Date: Saturday and Sunday, 12 and 13 November  
Time: 5pm, 8pm

#### **Mandarin tour**

Date: Tuesday, 8 November  
Time: 10.30am

Date: Thursday, 10 November  
Time: 10.30am

Date: Saturday and Sunday, 12 and 13 November  
Time: 4pm, 6pm



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**ANNEX C**

## **WAN QING CULTUREFEST 2016 HIGHLIGHT PROGRAMMES**

### **Programme Description**

#### **Launch of Wan Qing CultureFest 2016 and Special Exhibition: *One Night in Wuchang 1911 Revolution and Nanyang***

Date: Saturday, 5 November

Time: 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Join in the festivities at the launch of *Wan Qing CultureFest 2016* and special exhibition, and enjoy a series of spectacular performances.

**1. 24 Festive Drum Performance**

24 Festive Drum is ready to showcase their exceptional drum skills. Get ready to be amazed!

**2. Flag Dance**

The opening act for the special exhibition and festival, be awed by the energetic performance inspired by the Wuchang Uprising.

**3. Speak Mandarin Campaign**

Catch finalists from the *Speak Mandarin Campaign Parent-Child Talent Competition 2016* Mr Foo Jong Chin and his son Tiger Foo, as they compare their childhoods in this original crosstalk.

**4. Performance by Singapore band 53A**

Comprising a dynamic young crew of talented music performers, 53A will be performing a variety of popular songs. Be sure not to miss this performance!

**5. Performance by Please Insert Name (PIN)**

Have fun with local band Please Insert Name (PIN), five talented, fun-loving individuals who have created their own distinct sound.

**Emcee: Lim Peifen 林佩芬**

### **Performance: Musical Instrument Extravaganza**

Date: Sunday, 6 November

Time: 7.30pm – 9pm

Enjoy a night of music by various Singapore groups, and be enthralled by their musical talents!



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### 1. VOX

Singapore's first pop/rock band on strings, VOX comprises four members who strum up a new sound with the acoustic violin, viola and cello. They will be performing the below songs:

- Home with Bach (Dick Lee's Home x Bach Cello Concerto) - Acoustic
- Rolling with Mozart (Rolling in the Deep x Mozart Symphony no. 40)
- One Night in Beijing
- Smooth Criminal
- Sweet Child of Mine

### 2. Singapore Broadway Harmonica Ensemble

Performing a series of English and Chinese evergreen tunes from the 1960s and 70s, Singapore Broadway Harmonica Ensemble will impress you with their various types of harmonicas and playing techniques.

### 3. Dance Performance by: Jeffrey Yong & APA Dance Theatre

From traditional to contemporary, enjoy the specially created dance performance which aims to inspire and entertain.

### 4. NUS CAC Band

Go on a musical journey, as the National University of Singapore band performs a genre of popular Mandarin songs that are unique to Singapore.

### 5. MediaCorp artiste Youyi

Youyi will play the *pipa* and sing three songs.

### 6. MediaCorp artiste Kayly Loh

Kayly will play the *guzheng* and sing.

**Emcee: Chen Ning 陈宁**

### **Make Your Own Mini Terrarium**

Date: Saturday, 6 November

Time: 4pm – 6pm

Date: Saturday, 12 November

Time: 2pm – 4pm

Build your own terrarium and create a mini-world of lush and beautiful plants. We guarantee that it will be a unique experience to bond with your family and friends, and will be tons of fun!

### **Test Tube Flower Tea Workshop**



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Date: Tuesday, 8 November, and Thursday, 10 November

Time: 2pm – 4pm

Tea is an integral part of Chinese tradition and lifestyle – take part in our Test Tube Flower Tea Workshop and learn more about tea culture as well as how to brew your own flower tea.

### **Movie Screening: 1911 Revolution**

Date: Wednesday, 9 November

Time: 2pm – 5pm

Catch **1911**, a historical drama which closely follows the key events of the 1911 Revolution. With a focus on characters Sun Yat-Sen and military commander Huang Xing, the story begins with the Wuchang Uprising of 1911 and follows through various historical events. Starring and co-directed by Jackie Chan, the film also marks Chan's 100th film in his career.

Visitors can also join in a sharing session after the movie by curator of SYSNMH.

### **Fun with Clay**

Date: Friday, 11 November

Time: 2pm – 4pm

Date: Saturday, 12 November, and Sunday, 13 November

Time: 5pm – 6pm

Come and join the Fun Clay Figurine workshop to make your own figurines such as Pokémon, soldiers, and other cute animals and add it to your collection.

The art of making clay figurines is an intangible cultural heritage, dating back thousands of years in China. Learn how to make your own clay figurines and get creative with the designs!

### **Performance: Pick of the Pops: Sing-A-Long Get Together**

Date: Saturday, 12 November

Time: 7.30pm – 9pm

Don't miss one of the highlights of *Wan Qing CultureFest* – as a finale to wrap up the entire YES 933FM Pick of the Pops campaign, local singers Alfred Sim, Tay Kewei, Bonnie Loo, Desmond Tan and Stella Seah, will be having a special Sing-A-Long Get Together at the Memorial Hall.



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**Emcee: Chen Ning 陈宁**

### **Performance: Rhythm of Youth**

Date: Sunday, 13 November

Time: 7.30pm – 9pm

A night with all the young and talented local artistes!

#### **1. XuBin 徐彬, & Aloysius Pang**

Artistes XuBin and Aloysius Pang will take the stage with their energetic performances. Stay on for a photo taking session (15 minutes) after the performance!

XuBin will sing 几分之几, his original, and 情非得已. Aloysius Pang will sing 黑色眼泪, his original, and 稻香. Both will perform a duet of 全因为你.

#### **2. JumpStart SG Band**

Go on a musical journey back in time with JumpStart SG Band, a 4-member bilingual acoustic live band. Sing along with our young singers as they perform various *Xinyao* hits – a genre of popular Mandarin songs that are unique to Singapore. These familiar songs include:

- (1) Kobi-O 情感联络站
- (2) 我的生活在这里
- (3) 我们是最好的朋友
- (4) 细水长流
- (5) 小人物的心声
- (6) 新加坡派
- (7) 关怀方式
- (8) 飞扬的青春

#### **3. Please Insert Name (PIN)**

Have fun with local band Please Insert Name (PIN), five talented, fun-loving individuals who have created their own distinct sound. All their music and songs are self-produced!

**Emcee: Chen Ning 陈宁**