

UAE



➤ The official ceremony choir performs at the 14th year of the 'Emirates Airline Festival of Literature' in 2022.

Literary luminaries converge to instil passion for written word

DUBAI

The largest contingent of Filipinos since their participation shall be featured in several platforms at the 15th year of the 'Emirates Airline Festival of Literature'

With the largest contingent since their participation, 10 Filipinos including a 13-year-old UAE-born who has published in the last two years two of her action-packed adventure trilogy novel, a Heriot-Watt University in Dubai (HWU-Dubai) alumna, a New York University Abu Dhabi professor internationally-acclaimed author, a long-time UAE resident-multi-awarded writer-poet-actress-photographer, and a husband-and-wife, shall be featured in several platforms that encourage the passion for the written word, at the 15th year of the "Emirates Airline Festival of Literature" first week of February.

At the "Children Take Over LitFest" for the opportunity to share her beginnings as a "young author" and how she invented the fictitious protagonist Alex Hades, is Grade 9 Cambridge International School-Dubai student Izabella Lebig.

Lebig told Gulf Today she had "discovered" her "Alex Hades and the Legend of the Dark Prince" (2020) and "Alex Hades and the Sister of Araddon" (2021) were among the nominated "earlier in 2022" for the annual gathering, this year, of almost 270 noted international fiction/non-fiction writers, poets and illustrators at the InterContinental Dubai Festival

City and the Mohammed Bin Rashid Library. After a series of interviews and the selection to a hosting workshop, she "will be hosting three segments and introduce Martin Kiszko, Hannah Gold and Philip Reeve (all from the UK)" as well.

The literary cultural event which has reaped regional and global awards for its message and under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai, originated in 2009 with 65 authors.

"Pleased and honoured" is Philippine Daily Inquirer columnist-author-historian-academic Ambeth Ocampo who replied on Thursday evening that he is "scheduled for the "school talk" on "Dirty Ice Cream, Banana Ketchup & Stinking Fish-Deliciously Filipino" on Feb. 4 (Saturday).

"It is going to be a conversation on my book 'Dirty Ice Cream' that is a way of looking at Philippine history through food. Contrary to popular belief, history is not confined to archival documents and rare books, but can be seen in everyday things like food. In our case the Philippines has itinerant vendors selling what we call 'dirty' ice cream. Despite the name people still buy it so telling the story of that

and other food in the Philippines says a lot of about our history, our culture and our people," said the National Historical Commission of the Philippines chairman (2002-2011)/National Commission for Culture & Arts chairman (2005 to 2007).

Interviewed concerning the over-all selection methodology and the observed largest haul of Filipino delegates, Emirates Literature Foundation Assistant Festival Director/Programming Head Tameez Inam said: "We pride ourselves on curating an independent programme by speaking to publishers and authors, looking at literary trends and genres, while also taking into consideration the wish list of audiences and of our own team-all of whom are avid readers with diverse tastes. For our 15th year, this is the biggest line-up yet, many of whom are returning authors like "Man Asian Literary Prize winner Miguel Syjuco and multi-awarded poet and writer Danabelle Gutierrez."

Inam said the curation is merit-based and cuts across race and age: "We aim to have a programme that is representative of the communities residing in the UAE, and that includes the Filipino community. This year we met the National Book Development Board at the London Book Fair and they supported

us by connecting us to some of the best speakers in the Philippines."

"We had to jump the bandwagon of the "World of Trese (I3)" with writer Budgette Tan and artist Kajo Baldissimo, for their groundbreaking work in komiks (comics), which was also adapted for a popular Netflix series. I am personally very excited to hear from Rissa Mananquil-Trillo, co-founder of HappySkin cosmetics, about building a world-class homegrown brand," she continued.

Contributing further are HWU-Dubai graduate author-poet-illustrator Pia Felagatan whose writings concentrate on philosophy, identity, mythology and astronomy; multi-awards recipient Philippine Centre of PEN International president Angelo Lacuesta into short/graphic/non-fiction stories; and his wife Mookie Katigbak-Lacuesta who had represented her country at the international literary fairs in The Netherlands, USA, Colombia, Macau and Malaysia.

There is so much literary talent in the Philippines and by Filipinos. We are honoured to play a small part in recognising them on an international cultural stage," Inam also said.

Mariecar Jara-Puyod, Senior Reporter

Lensman who took Muhammad Ali's pictures

SHARJAH: The Xposure International Photography Festival has announced that world-renowned sports photojournalist, filmmaker and author Neil Leifer will hold an incredible exhibition as well as giving an unforgettable seminar at this year's seven-day festival from 9-15 February. The exhibition, which will span Leifer's entire career as a photographer and photojournalist, will showcase his most iconic and powerful images, as well as some rarely seen photographs from his collection.

Neil Leifer has been a photographer for over six decades and has covered some of the most important events in the world of sports during those 60 plus years. Some of his most famous photographs include his shot of the legendary Muhammad Ali standing victorious over a defeated Sonny Liston during their historic 1965 heavyweight championship fight, his photograph of a triumphant American gymnast Mary Lou Retton during the 1984 Summer Olympics, and his iconic image of baseball legend Sandy Koufax during the 1965 World Series. Leifer's photographs have been featured in numerous publications such as Sports Illustrated and Time Magazine, and have been exhibited in galleries and museums around the world. His ability to capture the intense emotions and drama of athletic competition has solidified his place in the pantheon of sports photography.

His photographs capture the emotion and intensity of the moment, and have not only been featured in some of the most prestigious publications in the world but have earned him



numerous awards and accolades, being widely regarded as one of the best sports photojournalists in the world.

During the festival, Leifer will also be giving a seminar about his career, discussing his approach to photography and sharing stories from his time in the field. This is a unique opportunity for visitors, sports enthusiasts and photojournalists to gain insight into the mind of one of the

➤ Neil Leifer

most talented photographers in the industry and learn about the behind-the-scenes of capturing those unforgettable moments.

The exhibition will be held at the Xposure

International Photography Festival, which is one of the most important photography events globally. The festival attracts thousands of visitors each year and provides a platform for photographers, filmmakers and visual artists from around the world, to showcase their work and connect with other professionals in the industry.

Gulf Today, Staff Reporter

We need to 'balance classroom, digital learning'

DUBAI: Now that we are back to face-to-face learning, we need to focus on finding a balance between classroom and digital education, said the guest of honour Tadu Mamu, Consul (Press Information, Culture and Labour), Indian Consulate here.

She also highlighted the need to nurture young minds who will be instrumental in shaping the global agenda in the future.

She was speaking at the Global Conclave on Education, organised by Kyra Global in association with the premiere American University in the Emirates (AUE) and the Council for Social Development, New Delhi, here.

Thoughtfully titled, "Schools for the Future", the day-long hybrid event explored potential solutions to pertinent issues in education globally and stressed on the need to building and redesigning schools for the future without compromising on the values of equity and justice.

During his welcome note, K.P.R. Nair, Chairman of Kyra Global, Dubai resonated that the Conclave holds the promise towards finding a way forward in tackling the challenges that beset education in its current form, and making it more attuned towards the future.

In his opening remarks, Prof. Muthanna G. Abdul Razzaq, CEO and President of the American University in the Emirates (AUE), highlighted that the future of schools lies in the hands of efficient teachers and they should be equipped with the tools to support their students with practical learning.

While delivering the keynote speech, Prof. R. Govinda, Distinguished Professor, Council for Social Development, emphasised that the future schools should become more humane and meet the demands of life-long learning. The solution that he offered is to get into the concept of 'living school', which imbues in youngsters a sense of belongingness, empathy and compassion. He emphasised reconfiguring the learning spaces, by creating a new education ecosystem that balance both technology and classroom learning.

Gulf Today, Staff Reporter

Voice of youth at Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week

ABU DHABI: The Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) participated in a series of sessions at the Youth 4 Sustainability (Y4S) event that took place during Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW) at Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) from 14th-19th January 2023.

On 16th January, EAD was part of the "World Climate Simulation" session - a group role-playing exercise focused on international climate change negotiations. The session allowed participants to explore the risks of climate change and the challenges of negotiating international agreements to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions.

In a live, face-to-face setting, participants played the role of negotiators representing coun-

tries and regional blocs that must work together to create an agreement limiting climate change by reducing GHG emissions. Proposals were tested using a climate policy simulation model that provided participants with science-based feedback on the implications of their proposals for atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations, global mean surface temperature, sea level rise, and other impacts.

The event's facilitators included the EAD Youth Council, the UAE Climate Change Special Envoy Office, and Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy.

Another session at ADSW, featuring an expert from EAD, was the "Blue Carbon Habitats and Nature-Based Solutions". The conversation saw

Maita AlHameli, Section Manager - Marine Assessment and Conservation Team from the Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity Sector at EAD, joined by Jane Glavan, Co-Owner of Distant Imagery.

The panel discussion was moderated by a member of the EAD Youth Council and explored nature-based solutions, how they are applied in the UAE, and why Blue Carbon is one of the most important and effective nature-based solutions in combating climate change.

The session also highlighted how mangroves are playing a key role in mitigating the effects of climate change and delved into how to harness technology and innovation to enhance, protect, preserve, and restore blue carbon habitats - both

in the UAE and internationally.

The discussion also helped introduce youth to the concept of nature-based solutions, new ways of working in conservation, and means to enhance their work through cutting-edge and contemporary technology.

A third session on 17th January titled "EAD's 2022 Survey: Capturing the Voices of Youth on Climate Change" - was led by Khansa Al Blouki, Director, Environmental Outreach, Environmental Information, Science and Outreach Management Sector at EAD, who shared highlights of the UAE's largest ever climate change youth survey that was undertaken in the latter part of 2022.

WAM