



Thank you to
our Sponsors



Tales from China's Magical Mountains



Sponsors



Venue Sponsors



Organizer



Contents

Contents			
Winning Entries			
Tsui, Yu Hei Iris	7	Shi, Sophia Lan	102
Lam, Charlie	15	Chan, Yat Fung Evan	104
Almeida, Siena	20	Li, Hao Long	106
Fang, Xun Emma	21	Kam, Kaitlyn	108
Kwok, Gianna	23	Pan, Ching Kan	110
Ro, Trinity	26		
Chan, Isaac	30	Fiction – Group 3	
Wai, Kaden	32	Cheung, Charlotte	113
Nga Ting Annette	36	Liu, Sarah	116
Liu, Yau Nam Justin	38	Chan, Tsz Kiu Rella	119
Poon, Tsz Yu	40	Cheung, Bethany	122
Ou, Shu Hua	42	Narayanan, Vijay Sathappan	125
Shah, Rishi	46	Ng, Megan	128
Ng, Sze Wah Ceres	50	Chan, Wing Tsun Valerie	131
Hui, Emma	52	Chan Man-Li, Cecili	134
Hon, Chryso	55	Ng, Cherie	137
Lam, Ady	65	Mei, Michelle	140
Chow, Kei Yin Audrey	72	Leung, Yin Tung Andrea	143
Chen, Lynn	74	Lee, Chloe	146
Ryan, Ffion	76		
Tang, Adrienne	77	Fiction – Group 4	
		Tang, Liana	150
Fiction – Group 1		Barlow Qing, William Robert	156
Chan, Jeffrey	79	Rhyu, Suah	161
Miller, Alexander	81	Hui, Tsz Hin	166
Wu, Sum Yu Alvina	82	Yuen, Nicole	171
Choy, Tung Shing	84	Eyunni, Gayathri	176
Tang, Yuen Hei Shannon	85	Huang, Yuhan	183
Cao, Chloe	86	Ng, Pollia	188
		Chu, Sui Lam	193
Fiction – Group 2			
Ho, Nga Kiu	88	Fiction – Group 5	
Yeung, Wing Kiu Angie	90	Sundar, Harshini	199
Chan, Annette	92	De Alwis, Kavinda	204
Yu, Yuet Magdalene	94	Wan, Jasmine	209
Cheung, Isabella	96		
Lee, Kai Yee Megan	98	Fiction – Group 7	
Poureshagh, Yasmin	100	De Groot, Leonardo	217
		Ching, Jonathan	219
		Lowther, Jessica	220
		So, Yan Tung Kristy	222
		Non-Fiction – Group 1	
		Yip, Cheuk Ka Tiffany	225
		Leung, Lok Hei	226
		Non-Fiction – Group 2	
		So, Wan Meghan	228
		Cheung, Chloe	230
		Wong, Christian Jake	232
		Yee, Chun Hong Brent Milton	235
		Non-Fiction – Group 3	
		Fung, Sum Yi Emily	238
		Zhou, Emily	241
		Chau, Hyatt	244
		Non-Fiction – Group 4	
		Ng, Natalie	248
		Poetry – Group 1	
		Wong, Angie	251
		Cheng, Ning Sang Nansun	253
		Chan, Him	254
		Poetry – Group 2	
		Tsoi, Micaela Emily	256
		Yu, Christabel	257
		David, Antonin	258
		Chan, Chun On	261
		Leung, Anna Petra	263
		Poetry – Group 3	
		Li, Annika	265
		Tsang, Eric	270
		Yau, Alicia	273
		Chan, Ka Yuen Dabby	276
		Ma, Tuen Hang Luann	279
		Poetry – Group 4	
		Chen, Dee Zion	283
		Chen, Man Chin	285
		Panda, Anouska	288
		Boey Jun Xin	291
		Tam, Tiffany	294
		Poetry – Group 5	
		Chaudhuri, Aishani	297
		Chan, Cyrus	298
		Nguyen, Trinity	300
		Poetry – Group 6	
		Chen, Ue	302
		Cheung, Charlize	302
		Choi, Mattea	303
		Chor, Damien	303
		Leung, Darren	304
		Poetry – Group 7	
		Kwan, Jordan	306
		Lin, Adrian	306
		Letters from our sponsors	
		Cover Arts	
		Cai, Ryan	319
		Chan, Suki	320
		Chen, Wanyu	321
		Chen, Yu Cheng	322
		Limin, Darrell Henderson	323
		Luo, Sifei	324
		Song, Zi Yi	325
		Wong, Yu Ke	326
		Academy, Liu, Ethan	327

WRITERS WHO STUDY THE PAST CAN SEE THE FUTURE

Authors sometimes beat scientists at their own game

MORE THAN 100 YEARS AGO, a writer named E. M. Forster wrote a story about a future where people stay in their own homes and never go out.

In his fictional world, everyone sends and receives information only through electronic means. And by gazing at screens, they create friendships, and group together to try to achieve things.

He wrote the story in 1909, before there was any such thing as the Internet, of course, or even television. In those days, people didn't even have radios in their homes.

So his view of life lived through screens came entirely from his imagination.

Today, we read his story and cannot help but be astonished how accurately he predicted the future.

Our lives today, thanks to the Covid-19 pandemic, have been so much like he described, as many of us stayed home and communicated only through screens, even for important activities such as going to school or spending time with friends and family members.

EVEN THE NAME WAS SIMILAR

And of course Forster was not the only writer who predicted the future. In 1898, a man named Morgan Robertson wrote a book about “the largest ship of its kind”. In his story, the “unsinkable” ship hits an iceberg and sinks, causing many to lose their lives in the Atlantic Ocean.

Just 14 years later, the story came true as the Titanic sank in that very ocean. In the book, the ship called the Titan — remarkably close to the name of the real one.

GAINING INSIGHTS

Does this mean writers can see the future?

No more than other people. But it does mean that the writing process — which means sitting and thinking and using your whole brain, including the factual left side and the imaginative right side — has enormous value. It helps writers work out things that other people don't.

Furthermore, writers have to think about the past and use that information to imagine the future. This also helps to make their work insightful. We anticipate what will happen.

TOUGH CHALLENGE

The most recent writing challenge we set you was a tough one. Unlike some earlier themes we have set, such as the voyages of Zheng He, there was no obvious real life central character, and no specific historical incident.

Instead, we asked you to write about the famous magical mountains of China.

Of course, we had done a lot of research before setting the theme, and we knew that there were a great many characters -- such as the “cold mountain poets” -- in the topic, if you dug deeply enough. And we knew that there were wonderful locations and ancient legends, too, such as the pine tree which “greet” visitors.

Many of you did your research and dug up these little “Easter eggs” that we hoped you'd find. Well done!

THEMES IN ASIA

We do we always choose themes in Asia? Because Asia is where most of humanity lives — about 60 per cent of all the people in the world.

Yet there are surprisingly few internationally successful books and movies from this part of the world. Most “hit” stories come from the west.

But times are changing, and people who buy books and watch movies want stories, fictional or fact-based, set in this part of the world. The creative industries on this side of the planet are definitely growing, and some of you, I know, will end up contributing.

The quality of pieces of writing submitted to this annual contest just gets better and better — and that means it's harder every year for the judges to do their work.

But it also means that the collection that we publish is also increasingly good. And anyone who dips into this wonderful collection will find that out for themselves.

Congratulations to everyone who entered!



Nury Vittachi
Hong Kong 2021