



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**LAUNCH OF THE SINGAPORE BICENTENNIAL ON 28 JANUARY 2019**

*i Light Singapore, Light to Night and BALIKSG will launch in conjunction with the Singapore Bicentennial. This marks the start of a suite of events throughout 2019, all set to ignite curiosity for Singapore's history.*

**Singapore, 26 January 2019** – 28 January 2019 will see the launch of the Singapore Bicentennial. To mark this occasion, other nationwide events and initiatives, such as i Light Singapore by the Urban Redevelopment Authority, Light to Night Festival by National Gallery Singapore, and *BALIKSG*, an augmented reality trail by National Heritage Board, will kick-off at the same time.

The launch will be held at the Asian Civilisations Museum, and will be officiated by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. During the programme, guests will be able to visit several installations by i Light Singapore, Light to Night Festival and *BALIKSG*. For a list of some of these featured installations, please refer to [Annex A](#).

Following the launch on 28 January, the public can look forward to an array of diverse and immersive events in 2019, planned to spark an interest amongst Singaporeans for the nation's history – not just in the 200 years since 1819, but also 500 years prior.

Through these events, the Singapore Bicentennial Office will explore the ancient history of Singapore to provide context to the 200 years from 1819; examine the impact and influence others from around the region and the world had on Singapore; highlight the contributions of the wide cast of characters and communities that have led to our evolution; and more. For the complete events listing for 2019, please refer to [Annex B](#).

Minister Josephine Teo, Co-Chair of the Ministerial Steering Committee for the Singapore Bicentennial Office says, "We would like to ignite a curiosity amongst Singaporeans for our long and rich history, through our various events, which we've planned in collaboration with government agencies, our community partners, ethnic groups, religious institutions, and so forth. This is true to the spirit of openness that Singapore embodies. We should



always keep an open mind about different peoples, cultures, religions, values and beliefs. There's always something to understand and learn from.”

The commemoration will require the contributions of many – over 270 community partners, and around 4,000 volunteers from schools, associations, and community organisations – to bring history to life, and encourage reflection.

For more information, please visit [www.bicentennial.sg](http://www.bicentennial.sg).

#END#

**ISSUED BY**

AKA Asia, on behalf of the Singapore Bicentennial Office  
Prime Minister's Office



### **About the Singapore Bicentennial**

The Singapore Bicentennial marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the British in Singapore, a key turning point in our history. But our story didn't start in 1819 – it started 700 years ago. The Singapore Bicentennial is an occasion for us to reflect on this history, before and after 1819; to understand our journey from a place with a geographically strategic location, to a people with a unique Singaporean DNA. The commemoration seeks to feature the huge cast of contributors who've led to our evolution, look at the regional and global developments that have influenced our place in the world, and more.

### **About the Singapore Bicentennial Office**

Part of the Prime Minister's Office, the Singapore Bicentennial Office (SBO) is committed to coordinating a nationwide commemoration that incorporates partner agencies and various community groups in programmes that contribute to a shared reflection and appreciation of Singapore's longer history. SBO is guided by an Advisory Panel comprising historians, archaeologists and community leaders, and supported by a diverse group of volunteers in this ground-up initiative.

Beyond events, SBO collaborates with many longstanding religious and educational institutions, associations and clans, as well as businesses and individuals, to provide research and resource support, even as they make plans to release a range of diverse projects and products. We hope that this will generate interest and spark reflection on our rich cultural heritage.