

# PHILIPPINE PAVILION

Forum 1, Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main

Note: The Pavilion has two event stages: the Proscenium Stage and the Arena Stage. Simultaneous translation from English to German will be available for all days of the fair.

Schedule as of 12 September 2025.



## 15 OCTOBER 2025, WEDNESDAY

### Proscenium Stage

09:45 -  
10:00

\*\*\*\*\*

10:00 -  
11:00

“That You May Know Us”

**Our National Literature:  
Filipino Spirit and Imagination**

Merlie Alunan & Kristian Cordero

**Event type:**  
Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Literature  
Non-Fiction  
**Language:**  
English

Two award-winning poets and translators, across time and space, converse about the state of Philippine national literature from the perspective of the periphery.

**Performance | Ako'y Kampupot**

Kuwerdas Filipinas & Bianca Camille Aguila

11:30 -  
12:30

“What Moves Us”

**Film and Literature:  
Tension and Translation**

Angelo R. Lacuesta & Tanya Yuson

**Event type:**  
Presentation  
**Theme:**  
Film, TV &  
Interactive Media  
Cross Media  
**Language:**  
English

Prize-winning fictionist Lacuesta and international film producer Yuson discuss the techniques and tension involved in crossing over to film popular literary works.

**Performance | Ang Himala ay Nasa Puso  
by Vincent de Jesus**

The Philippine Madrigal Singers and Song Weavers Philippines with Kuwerdas Filipinas

13:00 -  
14:00

“What Bewitches Us”

**Heritage for Our Youth**

Corazon Alvina, Regalado Trota Jose, & Victorino Manalo

**Event type:**  
Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Heritage  
Society,  
Politics &  
Culture  
**Language:**  
English

Museum curators, archivists, and directors are always on their feet, exploring many creative ways of passing on our heritage to future generations.

14:00 -  
14:30

**Performance by the Adat Paranglubion  
Kulintang Ensemble & Akayu**

14:30 -  
15:00

**Poetry for Freedom, Justice, and Peace**

Marjorie Evasco & Maria Rilke Arguelles

**Event type:**  
Reading  
**Theme:**  
Cultural  
Performance  
Poetry  
**Language:**  
English,  
Other Philippine  
Languages

A reading in eight Philippine languages of *If I Must Die* by the late poet-professor Refaat Alareer. With background music from Nathan Neil Manimtim.

### Arena Stage

09:45 -  
10:00

**Performance | Pokpok Alimpako  
by Francisco Feliciano**

The Philippine Madrigal Singers and Song Weavers Philippines

10:00 -  
11:00

“That You May Know Us”

**Writing Poetry for a Nation**

Virgilio Almario

**Event type:**  
Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Poetry  
National Artist  
**Language:**  
English

National Artist for Literature Almario, through his lifetime dedication to poetry, has helped shape a nation's identity, bring about social change, preserve its heritage, and build communities for its just future.

11:30 -  
12:30

“What Moves Us”

**Comics: The Gamechanger  
through the Years**

Jay Ignacio & Russell Molina

**Event type:**  
Presentation  
**Theme:**  
Comics &  
Graphic  
Narratives  
**Language:**  
English

The popular and beloved literary form undergoes a major shift, and transforms into a new way of looking at its own shape and substance.

13:00 -  
14:00

“What Bewitches Us”

**Books and Documentaries:  
Facts of Life**

Howie Severino & Nick Deocampo

**Event type:**  
Presentation  
**Theme:**  
Society,  
Politics &  
Culture  
Cross Media  
**Language:**  
English

In a time of deep fakes and conspiracies, books and documentaries become authoritative and reliable sources of facts and truth.



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## 15 OCTOBER 2025, WEDNESDAY

### Proscenium Stage

15:00 -  
16:00

#### “While We Are Away: the Diaspora”

##### Worlds Shaped by Home Away From Home

Candy Gourlay, Ester Tapia, & Maya Butalid

**Event type:**  
Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Diaspora,  
Fiction  
Society,  
Politics &  
Culture  
**Language:**  
English

A YA fictionist, a poet, and a memoirist write from afar but always about the home country: their conflicted remembrances of it even as it remains their bastion of strength; their anxieties over issues of exile and identity, integration and resistance as they struggle to make a life in their host countries.

16:00 -  
17:00

#### “What We Imagine”

##### Dismantling Imperial Narratives

Filomeno Aguilar Jr., Lisandro Claudio, & Patricia May Jurilla

**Event type:**  
Discussion  
**Theme:**  
History  
Society,  
Politics &  
Culture  
**Language:**  
English

Three historians show how history writing can take down imperial narratives in the specific areas of the economy, of identity and migration, and of books and publishing.

17:00 -  
18:00

#### “What We Keep and Remember”

##### The Constantino Legacy: At Home and Abroad

Red Constantino & Angel Velasco Shaw

**Event type:**  
Discussion  
**Theme:**  
History  
Society,  
Politics &  
Culture  
**Language:**  
English

Red Constantino, a climate activist, and Angel Velasco Shaw, an educator and art curator, evaluate the impact of Renato Constantino's books which have raised a generation of activists here and abroad.



18:00-  
18:30

##### Poetry for Freedom, Justice, and Peace

Virgilio Almario, Mookie Katigbak-Lacuesta, & Paul Alcosoba Castillo

**Event type:**  
Reading  
**Theme:**  
Cultural  
Performance  
Poetry  
**Language:**  
English

A poetry reading by Philippine national artists, followed by a performance of Alamat ng Lahi (by Amado Hernandez and Lucio San Pedro).

##### Performance | Sa Mahal Kong Bayan

The Philippine Madrigal Singers and Song Weavers  
Philippines & Kuwerdas Filipinas

### Arena Stage

15:00 -  
16:00

#### “While We Are Away: the Diaspora”

##### Hunting for Artifacts: 19th Century German Explorers in the Luzon Cordillera

Analyñ Salvador-Amores & Claudius Kamps

**Event type:**  
Presentation  
**Theme:**  
History  
Society  
Politics & Culture  
**Language:**  
English

Amores and Kamps tell the story of how 19th century German explorers in the Cordillera collected an astounding number of artifacts and specimens now stored in five museums: Dresden, Leipzig, Frankfurt, Berlin, and Vienna.

##### Performance | Kalinga bamboo music

Akayu

16:00 -  
17:00

#### “What We Imagine”

##### Framing Stories: Truth in Art and Film

Kawayan de Guia & Tanya Yuson

**Event type:**  
Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Cross media  
Society, Politics  
& Culture Film,  
TV & Interactive  
Media  
**Language:**  
English

Prize-winning painter De Guia and film producer Yuson talk about how to frame stories that speak the truth, or disrupt conventions both in art and film, not just technically but also metaphorically as both are framed from multiple points of view.

17:00 -  
18:00

#### “What We Keep and Remember”

##### Indigenous Values/Multiple Spaces

Kidlat Tahimik, Filomeno Aguilar Jr., Roby Alampay, & Eric Zerrudo

**Event type:**  
Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Heritage,  
Society,  
Politics &  
Culture  
**Language:**  
English

A National Artist, a scholar and educator, an archivist and cultural manager, and a podcast journalist discuss Filipino alternative spiritualities and spaces where they thrive across time. This conversation will cover the Filipino concepts of kapwa, bukas loob, maalwang buhay, social media as the new town hall, our popular Catholic piety, and indigenous wisdom — all a manner of continuing resistance to one Western standard of modernity.

##### Performance | Bathala by Reginald Bernaldez

Kuwerdas Filipinas

18:00-  
18:30

##### The Sisa Performance for Children of Gaza



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## 16 OCTOBER 2025, THURSDAY

### Proscenium Stage

**09:45 - 10:00**  
**Performance | Katubo by Ramon P. Santos**  
Kuwerdas Filipinas

**10:00 - 11:00**  
**“That You May Know Us”  
Our Heart, Our Music**  
Dr. Ramon Santos & meLê yamomo

**Event type:**  
Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Heritage  
Society,  
Politics &  
Culture  
**Language:**  
English

National Artist for Music Ramon Santos and meLê yamomo introduce to the international public how and why our music is at the center of our world, inherently in our hearts making us all fine music makers.

**11:30 - 12:30**  
**“What Moves Us”  
How Do We Write About  
Climate Change?**  
Marjorie Evasco, Maria Paz Luna,  
& Red Constantino

**Event type:**  
Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Current Issues  
Society,  
Politics &  
Culture  
**Language:**  
English

Three different kinds of writers: a poet, a social activist, and a climate advocate explore the many sensible yet creative ways of climate change writing that truly matters.

**Performance | Paraiso by Ryan Cayabyab**  
The Philippine Madrigal Singers and Song Weavers Philippines

**13:00 - 14:00**  
**“What Bewitches Us”  
Filipino Fliptop: Biggest in the World**  
Alaric Yuson

**Event type:**  
Presentation  
**Theme:**  
Literature  
Non-Fiction  
**Language:**  
English

Yuson helped make Filipino fliptop known as the biggest in the world. Through video clips, he will show how their fliptop has inspired communities to hold their own rap battles in different languages and spaces, sometimes in cockfight arenas, in various parts of the country.

### Arena Stage

**09:45 - 10:00**

**10:00 - 11:00**  
**“That You May Know Us”  
The Chinese in Our Stories**  
Yvette Tan & Charlson Ong

**Event type:**  
Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Current Issues  
Society,  
Politics &  
Culture  
**Language:**  
English

Two fictionists of Filipino-Chinese ancestry speak to the Chinese in their works: the quality of it, the degree of integration into Filipino life, and how that dramatically changed in the context of the West Philippine Sea dispute.

**11:30 - 12:30**  
**“What Moves Us”  
Women’s Fiction from the  
Global South**  
Cecilia Manguerra Brainard, Jessica Zafra,  
& Ayu Utami

**Event type:**  
Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Literature  
Fiction  
**Language:**  
English

Writers from the Philippines and Indonesia discuss the symphonic quality of their novels as different elements from their histories and heritage compose and mark it as distinctly global south.

**13:00 - 14:00**  
**“What Bewitches Us”  
First Books, First Writing Workshop**  
Patricia May Jurilla & Ian Rosales Casocot

**Event type:**  
Presentation  
**Theme:**  
History  
Academic &  
Specialist  
**Language:**  
English

Book historian Jurilla accounts for the first literary books of the Philippines and fictionist/poet Casocot shares the history of the longest-running writing workshop in Southeast Asia.

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## 16 OCTOBER 2025, THURSDAY

### Proscenium Stage

14:00 -  
15:00

#### Poetry for Freedom, Justice, and Peace: A Dialogue for Hope

Arne Svingen, Ayu Utami & Virgilio Almarino

**Event type:**  
Reading

**Theme:**  
Cultural  
Performance  
Poetry

**Language:**  
English,  
Other  
Philippine  
Languages

A dialogue in solidarity: Filipino, Indonesian, and Norwegian writers call attention to the conflicts and wars of the world. How have these changed the world's narrative of desperation and hope? In a special literary way, they all contribute to the story. With background music by Nathan Neil Manimtim.



15:00 -  
16:00

#### “While We Are Away: the Diaspora” Covering a Home Country

Aurora Almendral, Marga Ortigas, & Dorian Merina

**Event type:**  
Discussion

**Theme:**  
Diaspora  
Non-Fiction,  
Technology &  
Innovation  
**Language:**  
English

Three journalists discuss how they cover the home country from afar. What considerations are there for such reporting: selecting and projecting Philippine stories to an international audience?

**Performance | Cello Music**  
Damodar Das Castillo

16:00 -  
17:00

#### “What We Imagine” Philippine Media: Struggles for Freedom

Howie Severino, Roby Alampay, & Patricia Evangelista

**Event type:**  
Discussion

**Theme:**  
History  
Non-Fiction,  
Technology &  
Innovation  
**Language:**  
English

Three journalists retell the stories of media struggles for freedom under three different presidents: Marcos Sr., Duterte, and Marcos Jr.

**Performance | First Quarter  
Storm Medley Song**  
The Philippine Madrigal Singers and Song Weavers Philippines with Kuwerdas Filipinas

### Arena Stage

14:00 -  
15:00

#### Writing Through the Wounds: Filipino & Palestinian Literatures in Relational Solidarity

Allan N. Derain & Genevieve Asenjo

**Event type:**  
Discussion

**Theme:**  
Current Issues  
Society,  
Politics &  
Culture  
**Language:**  
English

Literature is both wound work and world-making. This panel brings together Filipino, German-Palestinian, and Palestinian writers in diaspora whose works bear witness to the wounds of empire, occupation, displacement, erasure, and resistance. Anchored in relational comparison, the panel explores how writers from different geographies of struggle can speak with one another, through listening and imagining otherwise: what does it mean to write not as isolated voices but as co-dreamers of a liberation? What images of return, resistance, or futurity do our stories share—and where do they diverge, challenge, or provoke? This conversation centers on radical hope: of finding a language for the world to come, where no one is left unnamed or unspoken.

15:00 -  
16:00

#### “While We Are Away: the Diaspora” Translation is Politics

Roger Friedlein, Annette Hug, & Danton Remoto

**Event type:**  
Discussion

**Theme:**  
Translation  
**Language:**  
English

Three translators of literary and historical texts explore how translation serves as a lifeline—bridging cultures and ideas—precisely because no two languages are truly equal. They reflect on how the act of translation is inherently political, involving strategic choices that shape meaning, representation, and power.

16:00 -  
17:00

#### “What We Imagine” Fashion, Politics, and the Anti-Imperial Imagination

Stephanie Coe & Filomeno Aguilar Jr.

**Event type:**  
Discussion

**Theme:**  
Rizal  
Fiction  
Society,  
Politics &  
Culture  
**Language:**  
English

As Coe captures the politics of colonial clothing in the 19th century, Aguilar revisits the historical construction of Filipino nationhood and what then constituted the anti-colonial imagination.

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## 17 OCTOBER 2025, FRIDAY

### Proscenium Stage

- 09:45 - 10:00** **Performance | Gangsa Music**  
**Akayu**
- 
- 10:00 - 11:00** **“That You May Know Us”**  
**War and Peace : Religion and Race**  
Darwin Absari, Albert Alejo SJ, Lisandro Claudio, and Kidlat Tahimik
- Event type:** Discussion  
**Theme:** Current Issues, Society, Politics & Culture, Religion & Spirituality  
**Language:** English
- From the beginning of time, wars have been waged in the name of religion and race. How has the long relentless experience of the world's conflicts, engendered by colonialism and conquest, shaped the practice of our faith, and forged our sense of nation? From the local millenarian rebellions to conversion to Masonry of 19th-century Propagandists, to WW2 guerrilla fighters, and the EDSA People Power, faith and national independence have been the undercurrent of many of our struggles.
- 
- 11:30 - 12:30** **“What Moves Us”**  
**Reading is Everyone's Business**  
Ani Rosa Almario & Dina Ocampo
- Event type:** Discussion  
**Theme:** Current Issues, Academic & Specialist, Children's Literature & YA  
**Language:** English
- Progressive educators Almario and Ocampo share stories of communities taking into their own hands creative and unconventional ways of addressing the country's literacy crisis. It takes a village to teach reading: through a wealth of stories — their very own and from afar, or from a time past, and in their own languages.
- Performance | Bahay Kubo, Sitsiritsit Medley, and Da Coconut Nut by Ryan Cayabyab**  
The Philippine Madrigal Singers and Song Weavers Philippines
- 
- 13:00 - 14:00** **“What Bewitches Us”**  
**Sports and the Woman Question: An Interview**  
Hidilyn Diaz
- Event type:** Discussion  
**Theme:** Heritage, Society, Politics & Culture  
**Language:** English
- The first Filipino Olympic champion is a woman, and for a sport commonly associated with men: weightlifting. This by itself is a story of how our national sports program has given our young boys and girls ample opportunities to excel in sports.

### Arena Stage

- 09:45 - 10:00** .....
- 
- 10:00 - 11:00** **“That You May Know Us”**  
**Very Visual Stories**  
Corazon Alvina, Angelo R. Lacuesta, & Ian Sta. Maria
- Event type:** Discussion  
**Theme:** Literature, Technology & Innovation, Fiction  
**Language:** English
- Books are stories we tell visually in words and pictures, designed as works of elegant form and of substance that stimulates and disrupts. Books are cultural artifacts, and making them rises and falls with our creativity and resourcefulness.
- 
- 11:30 - 12:30** **“What Moves Us”**  
**Cartooning the Politics of Everyday**  
Manix Abrera & Dione Kong
- Event type:** Discussion  
**Theme:** Comics & Graphic Narratives  
**Language:** English
- This discussion looks at the rising popularity of a new genre of comics among young creators —works that document lived realities, whether seemingly ordinary or profoundly extraordinary.
- 
- 13:00 - 14:00** **“What Bewitches Us”**  
**Superheroes of World Literature**  
Annette Hug, Luis Castellvi, Zoë Beck, & Alexandra Rak
- Event type:** Presentation  
**Theme:** Society, Politics & Culture, Cross Media  
**Language:** English
- World literature is often defined by major, influential novels from various countries that have been translated into English to reach a broader international audience. These works enter the global literary canon thanks to the courageous and essential work of translators— true literary superheroes.
- Performance | Mga Salin at Halaw - Lihim ng Pag-Ibig**  
Jonathan Zaens



## Forum 1, Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main

*Schedule as of 12 September 2025.*

The imagination peoples the air

PHILIPPINES GUEST OF HONOUR  
FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2025

**17 OCTOBER 2025, FRIDAY**

## Arena Stage

Ambeth Ocampo, Filomeno Aguilar Jr.,  
& Noelle Sv-Quia

A book launch for the German editions of Rizal's novels: *Noli Me Tangere*, published by Insel Verlag, and *El Filibusterismo*, published by Morio Verlag. Rizal scholars Ambeth Ocampo & Filomeno Aguilar Jr., and Rizal descendant Noelle Sy-Quia will talk about the novels and their place in Philippine literature and history.

**15:00 -** **Dulces Las Horas by**  
**16:00** **Francisco Buencamino Sr.**  
Bianca Camille Aguilla & Kuwerdas Filipinas

**Event type:** Discussion  
**Theme:** Rizal  
Society, Politics & Culture  
**Language:** English

Patrcio N. Abinales &amp; Ambeth Ocampo

Anderson, a world renowned political scientist whose book *Imagined Communities* is one of the most cited in the world in many areas of cultural studies, was deeply fascinated with Jose Rizal and his novels. This conversation between Patricio N. Abinales and Rizal historian Ambeth Ocampo, both long-time friends of Anderson, will share not just how Anderson used Rizal's works to interrogate the complexities of nationalism and resistance in Southeast Asia, but also anecdotes of Anderson's foray into Filipino culture.

Budjette Tan & Jay Ignacio

Today's graphic novels have spiritual energy and a mythical quality to both the story and the art. They explore themes from our epics and local mythology to make new stories and inspire new myth making.

**Event type:** Discussion  
**Theme:** Comics & Graphic Narratives  
**Language:** English

Angelo R. Lacuesta (moderator)  
Nick Deocampo, Patrick Flores,  
& Vincent Paul-Boncour

This panel is a tribute to a giant in the Philippine film industry, Mike De Leon, who as director and cinematographer, is known for the visuality of his films, and the clarity of his social commentary, often drawn from the works of our authors such as Pete Lacaba, Nick Joaquin, and Edgardo Reyes.

**14:30 - Poetry for Freedom, Justice, and Peace**  
**15:00** Dorian Merina, Renato Evangelista, Ryan

**Event type:** Cuatrona, Fr. Albert Alejo, & Akayu  
**Reading** Philippine traditional poetic forms featuring Dorian  
**Theme:** Merina (laji), Renato Evangelista (ambahan), Fr.  
**Cultural** Wilmer Tria (tigsik), and Fr. Albert Alejo (tanaga).  
**Performance** With background nose flute music from Akayu.  
**Poetry**  
**Language:**  
 English,  
 Other Philippine  
 Languages

Patrick Flores &amp; Miljohn Ruperto

**Event type:** Presentation  
**Theme:** Heritage Society, Politics &

**Performance | Cello Music**  
Damodar Das Castillo

Dean Francis Alfar &amp; Yvette Tan

Alfar and Tan, known speculative fictionists whose works imagine a highly technological future, explore how to critically and responsibly navigate the use of AI in creative work.



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## 18 OCTOBER 2025, SATURDAY

### Proscenium Stage

**09:45 - 10:00**  
**Performance by Rosie Sula and Adat Paranublion Kulintang Ensemble**

**10:00 - 11:00**  
**“That You May Know Us”  
Mindanao History, Politics, and Culture**  
Patricio N. Abinales, Fr. Albert Alejo, & Tom McKenna  
This panel shares stories of Mindanao, unheard of and unwritten in official history textbooks, and the politics that have kept up long-term and deep-seated prejudices against the island and its people, the Moro Filipinos. Such prejudices continue to be systematically spread by ignorance and miseducation.

**11:30 - 12:30**  
**“What Moves Us”  
Ladlad, the Optics of Gender**  
Ian Rosales Casocot, Blaise Gacoscots, Chuckberry Pascual, & Danton Remoto  
In the '90s, to contribute to the *Ladlad* Series was almost like the official coming out for Filipino gays, a long way since. Today, in the 21st century, the queers are a force to reckon with, socioeconomically and politically.  
**Performance | Babaylan by Raylan Nico Julayco**  
Kuwerdas Filipinas Duet: Nico Julayco and Jezreel Lastra

**13:00 - 13:45**  
**“What Bewitches Us”  
Writing Far, Writing Home (1)**  
Maya Butalid, Deepa Paul, & Marga Ortigas  
Filipinos in Europe speak of their varied writing experiences with narratives about and from the home country, with or without nostalgia. Does the distance make them more objective? Does it make them more critical from a point of love?

**13:45 - 14:30**  
**“What Bewitches Us”  
Writing Far, Writing Home (2)**  
Maria Renker, Gene Alcantara, & Ester Tapia  
How do Filipino writers in the diaspora build an audience? Who do they write for, and do they inherently desire to be read by their own country?

### Arena Stage

**09:45 - 10:00**

**10:00 - 11:00**  
**“That You May Know Us”  
The Haunting of the Regions**  
Genevieve Asenjo, Ian Rosales Casocot, & Darwin Absari  
Imperial Manila is haunted by its failure to look to the arts and culture, literature and languages of the regions as much as the regions are haunted by the specter of invisibility and neglect. The challenge is to establish how the pieces fit into the bigger picture, how the local contributes to the national.

**11:30 - 12:30**  
**“What Moves Us”  
Cordillera and Moro People: Dis/Engagement**  
Analyn Salvador-Amores & Darwin Absari  
The Cordillerans of the north and the Moro of the south explore the ties that bind them, and how historically they waged unrelentingly fierce resistance to the Spanish and American colonizers. Salvador-Amores and Absari will focus on visual and material culture representation as continuing resistance in decolonizing archives.

**13:00 - 14:00**  
**“What Bewitches Us”  
Delight and Innocence in Filipino Children’s Books**  
Liza Flores, Beth Parrocha, Danielle Florendo, & Aldy Aguirre  
In a world riven by deep conflicts and wars, are there still delight and innocence in our children’s books?

**14:00 - 15:00**  
**Legislation for Arts and Culture: A Conversation (TBC)**  
Senator Loren Legarda  
The Visionary of the Philippine Guest of Honour Project Honorable Senator Loren Legarda on the difficult and lonely work of passing powerful legislation for culture and the arts.

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## 18 OCTOBER 2025, SATURDAY

### Proscenium Stage

**14:30-15:00** **Performance by The Philippine Madrigal Singers and Song Weavers Philippines, Jonathan Zaens & Damodar Das Castillo**

**15:00 - 16:00** **“While We Are Away: the Diaspora” Stories We Build for Our Children**  
Gigo Alampay, Candy Gourlay, & Mary Ann Ordinario

**Event type:** Discussion  
**Theme:** Children's Literature Young Adult  
**Language:** English

A children's book publisher who is first a reading advocate, a YA author, and a publisher-writer of children's books from Mindanao discuss how they creatively raise our children to be good citizens of our nation: critical, creative, and contributive to an equal and just future.

**Medley of Filipino Folk Songs**  
Justin Texon & Janna Texon

**16:00 - 17:00** **“What We Imagine” West Philippine Sea: Ecology and Assertion**  
Maria Paz Luna, Charlson Ong, & Nicolas Pichay

**Event type:** Discussion  
**Theme:** Current Issues Society, Politics & Culture  
**Language:** English

The West Philippine Sea dispute is not just a legal and geopolitical matter but is also about our people's stories of sovereignty, how the dispute has affected our marine environment, and the public perception of a large Filipino-Chinese community.

**18:00 - 18:30** **Inscribing Peace: Bangsamoro peace agreements to the UNESCO Memory of the World**

**Event type:** Discussion  
**Theme:** Current Issues Society, Politics & Culture  
**Language:** English

Nassef Manabilang Adiong, Carlo Ebeo, Arvin Villalon, & Reden Ulo  
This peace education initiative aims to sustain peacebuilding in Mindanao through historical awareness, dialogue, and cultural understanding. By recognizing all landmark peace agreements and officially committing to memory the region's historic path from conflict to autonomy and reconciliation, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and partners from BARMM and South Korea provide the tools and knowledge toward this task.

### Arena Stage

**15:00 - 16:00** **Gabi ng mga Aswang**  
Christi-Ann Castro

**Event type:** Discussion  
**Theme:** Heritage Fiction, Society, Politics & Culture  
**Language:** English

**“While We Are Away: the Diaspora” Materiality of Mythology**

Allan N. Derain, Fr. Andrew Recepcion, & Budjette Tan

While myths are abstract narratives, they are entwined with the material world, with objects perceived to have powers. Derain shows how such objects insert themselves into daily lives; Recepcion locates the intersections of our mythologies and contemporary articulations of Filipino spirituality; and Tan, how urban legends crowd the imagination of city dwellers.

**16:00 - 17:00** **“What We Imagine” Rizal and Remembrance**  
David Guerrero & Noelle Sy-Quia

**Event type:** Discussion  
**Theme:** Rizal Society, Politics & Culture Biographies  
**Language:** English

A panel on how descendants of the Rizal clan have passed on family lore about the national hero. Sy-Quia is a great-granddaughter of Maria Rizal, Jose's sister, and Guerrero is the son of the first and foremost translator of the Rizal novels.

**Performance | Mi Ultimo Adios**  
The Philippine Madrigal Singers and Song Weavers Philippines, Kuwerdas Filipinas & Akayu

**18:00-18:30** **Poetry for Freedom, Justice, and Peace**  
Ian Rosales Casocot, Nicolas Pichay, & Ned Parfan

**18:30 - 19:00** **Performance | Payapang Daigdig by Felipe P. De Leon**  
The Philippine Madrigal Singers and Song Weavers Philippines





# PHILIPPINE PAVILION

Forum 1, Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main

Note: The Pavilion has two event stages: the Proscenium Stage and the Arena Stage. Simultaneous translation from English to German will be available for all days of the fair.

Schedule as of 12 September 2025.



## 19 OCTOBER 2025, SUNDAY

### Proscenium Stage

- 09:45 - 10:00** **Performance by the Adat Paranublion Kulintang Ensemble & Akayu**
- 10:00 - 11:00** **“That You May Know Us”**  
**The Laji, Tanaga, Ambahan, and Tigsik**  
Renato Evangelista, Dorian Merina, Fr. Wilmer Tria, & Fr. Albert Alejo  
Four poets introduce four of our traditional poetic forms. With performance of sample works.  
**Performance | T’boli Chant**  
Rosie Sula
- 11:30 - 12:30** **“What Moves Us”**  
**Women in Arts and Media**  
Mina Esguerra, Patricia Evangelista, Angel Velasco Shaw, & Tanya Yuson  
Four women creatives in art and museum curation, romance, journalism, and film share their stories of independence and critical assertion against all kinds of censorship.  
**Performance | Babae Ka (Inang Laya)**  
The Philippine Madrigal Singers and Song Weavers Philippines
- 13:00 - 14:00** **“What Bewitches Us”**  
**Traditional Philippine Theater: The Sarsuwela and Komedya and the Bikol Dotok and Tanggal**  
Nikki Carsi-Cruz & Fr. Andrew Recepcion  
How do colonial theater forms become sites of resistance, giving communities ways to voice dissent and sustain suppressed cultural beliefs and practices?  
Dr. Nikki Carsi-Cruz and Fr. Andrew Recepcion show how the sarsuwela, komedya, and the Bicol dotok and tanggal, rooted in spirituality and community, connect the seen and unseen. Their respect for nature and the spirit world, piety and community, and ethic of sacrifice challenge today’s culture of desolation, materialism, and ecological destruction  
**Performance | Anong Sarap by Leon Ignacio**  
The Philippine Madrigal Singers and Song Weavers Philippines with Kuwerdas Filipinas
- 14:00 - 15:00** **“What We Imagine”**  
**A Creative Crisis: To Engage, Or Not To Engage**  
Russell Molina, Kawayan De Guia, Danielle Florendo, & Aurora Almendral  
A journalist, a visual artist, a children’s book author, and an illustrator talk about two types of agency for creatives in times of crises: to write, or not to write—to engage or not to engage.  
**Performance | Sambayan by Josefino Chino Toledo**  
The Philippine Madrigal Singers and Song Weavers Philippines, Kuwerdas Filipinas &, Akayu
- 16:00** **Handover Ceremony**  
As the Philippines completes its moment as Guest of Honour, we pass the torch to the next country, carrying with it the spirit of shared stories, friendship, and imagination. This handover marks not an ending, but a continuation, a bridge between cultures and communities, ensuring that the dialogue of books, ideas, and creativity lives on.

### Arena Stage

- 09:45 - 10:00** .....
- 10:00 - 11:00** **“That You May Know Us”**  
**Fictionalizing Time**  
Ian Rosales Casocot, Jose Dalisay, & Robin Sebolino  
Not limited to historical fiction, this panel will speak more to the concept of time as a character in the novel. Three writers across generations talk about their works in the context of imagined stories grounded in periods of time.
- 11:30 - 12:30** **“What Moves Us”**  
**Philippine Food History and Culture**  
Guillermo Ramos Jr. & Claude Tayag  
Food is culture, food has history, and our foodways are as richly diverse as we are as a people spread over 7600 islands. With Doreen Fernandez’s seminal characterization of basic Filipino cuisine, Ramos and Tayag show the many wonderful variations of their own specific locales.
- 13:00 - 14:00** **“What Bewitches Us”**  
**Baybayin: Ancient Philippine Syllabary**  
Howie Severino  
Among our young people, there is a growing interest in reviving the ancient Philippine syllabary called the Baybayin. Severino, who leads this movement, will give the backstory, introduce the audience to the old alphabet, and render names from the audience in baybayin.
- 14:00 - 15:00** **“What We Imagine”**  
**Philippine-German Connections in Cinema**  
Nick Deocampo & Ingo Petzke  
Deocampo, multi-awarded Filipino filmmaker and historian, and Petzke, internationally renowned film historian who translated Deocampo’s book to German, will trace back landmark Philippine-German film connections that have enriched the art and practice of filmmaking in both countries.



# PHILIPPINE STAND

Hall 5.1 A95 & B95, Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main

The business hub for Philippine publishing — where bold titles, rights deals, and global partnerships take shape

Note: Schedule as of 12 September 2025. More events will be added.



## 15 October 2025, Wednesday

9:45

### Philippine Stand Opening Ceremony

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

The Philippine Stand Opening Ceremony warmly welcomes visitors to the heart of the Philippines at the fair. More than an opening, it is a celebration of stories, voices, and imaginations carried across seas and skies.

10:30 - 11:30

### Hunting for Artifacts: 19th-Century German Explorers in the Luzon Cordillera

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

Regalado Trota Jose & Analyn Salvador-Amores

Hunting for Artifacts: 19th-Century German Explorers in the Luzon Cordillera revisits the expeditions of German travelers who journeyed into Northern Philippines in search of knowledge, curiosities, and cultural treasures. The discussion explores the objects they collected, the stories and encounters that marked their travels, and the legacies these left behind.

11:30 - 12:30

### Auslander im Frankfurt: Launching of the German Translation of Auslander

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

Al Joseph A. Lumen

Isang Balangay celebrates the publishing of the German-language version of Al Joseph A. Lumen's *Auslander*, a novel speaking to those estranged, both physically and socially, from their homeland.

13:00 - 14:00

### Komiks with a K: Screening and Talkback with Jay Ignacio

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

Jay Ignacio

Jay Ignacio's *Komiks with a K* takes the familiar komiks form and gives it a sly, sometimes biting twist. This screening brings his sharp humor and everyday absurdities to the screen, followed by a conversation with the creator himself. An evening where panels turn into stories, and stories turn into questions worth asking.

13:00 - 14:00

### Trese in Portuguese: The Ceremonial Handover of the Brazilian Edition of Trese Comics

VENUE:  
Manlilikha Space

19th Avenida and Budjette Tan

This marks a milestone for the acclaimed Filipino graphic novel as it finds new life in translation. This event celebrates the arrival of *Trese* in Brazil, where Filipino myth and folklore meet a new community of readers. The handover ceremony is not only a symbolic crossing of cultures but also a testament to the power of stories to travel, transform, and connect worlds.

14:00 - 15:00

### The Live Lines of Carlo Vergara

VENUE:  
Manlilikha Space

Carlo Vergara

Experience the artistry of Carlo Vergara as he sketches live, sharing his technique, inspiration, and the stories that fuel his work. A rare chance to see a master illustrator at work.

16:00 - 17:00

### Paghilom: Justice in Pursuit of Healing

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

Fr. Albert Alejo & Roby Alampay

Can healing take place without justice? Join a multi-faceted discussion on *Paghilom* (Healing) and discuss how families go through grief and seek vindication in absence of their loved ones.

17:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

### Guest of Honour-FBM Networking

Guest of Honour-FBM Networking is a dedicated space for meaningful exchange, bringing together publishers, authors, cultural workers, and industry partners to spark collaborations and build lasting connections.

## 16 October 2025, Thursday

9:00 - 10:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

### Coffee and Books: Breakfast with Book Development Association of the Philippines (BDAP) - Canada

A focused gathering of Filipino and Canadian publishers, authors, and partners to exchange ideas, explore collaborations, and build lasting industry ties.

10:00 - 11:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

### Launching: Deeper Ground, Darker Shadows

Eddie Quitoriano

(University of Wisconsin Press & ADMUP)

Launching *Deeper Ground, Darker Shadows*: Eddie Quitoriano's latest work dives deep into the complexities of identity, memory, and the human experience. Bold, unflinching, and unforgettable, this book stakes its claim as a powerful voice in contemporary literature.

11:00 - 12:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

### F. Sionil José in Translation: Stories and Journeys from the Philippines

This showcase features the German editions of F. Sionil José's *Poon*, *Spider Man*, and *Collected Short Stories*, works that reveal the struggles, hopes, and histories of Filipino life. Presented alongside *Viajeros*, a digital photography book of journeys across cultures and landscapes, it offers fresh ways of encountering the Philippines through story and image.

11:00 - 12:00

VENUE:  
Manlilikha Space

### Philippine Comics takes Flight: Turnover of International Titles

Paolo Herras

This event shines a spotlight on Philippine komiks as they make their way to readers across the globe. More than just stories in panels, they carry the humor, struggles, and imagination of the Filipino, opening doors for our voices to be seen and heard worldwide.

12:00 - 13:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

### In Her Own Write: Women and the Future of Publishing

Mookie Katigbak-Lacuesta

This discussion spotlights the voices and vision of women reshaping the publishing world. More than breaking barriers, they are setting the agenda—reimagining stories, leadership, and the future of the written word.

11:30 - 12:30

VENUE:  
Manlilikha Space

### CJ Reynaldo: Art That Speaks

CJ Reynaldo

Experience the magic of live drawing with CJ Reynaldo. Through each line and sketch, he turns silence into vibrant storytelling, offering a unique window into his world.

# PHILIPPINE STAND

Hall 5.1 A95 & B95, Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main

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Note: Schedule as of 12 September 2025. More events will be added.



13:00 - 14:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

**Sadyah Vindicated: Launching of the Arab Translation of Genevieve L. Asenjo's Lumbay ng Dila**  
Genevieve Asenjo

Isang Balangay celebrates the publishing of the Arab-language version of Genevieve L. Asenjo's *Lumbay ng Dila*, a tale about seeking justice amid cold-blooded and turbulent circumstances.

14:00 - 15:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

**Impressions of an Archipelago: Spanish Travelers and Writings on the Philippines**  
Roger Friedlein

This showcases three works that capture centuries of encounters: sweeping chronicles from 1521 to the present, vivid early reports from 1521–1794, and a gallery of explorers and wanderers whose journeys shaped how the Philippines was seen and remembered. Together, they reveal a rich history of travel, exchange, and discovery.

15:00 - 16:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

**Markets of Resistance: Stories of Survival and Community**  
Angel Velasco Shaw

It is a gathering that brings the marketplace to life as a space of culture, creativity, and struggle. Inspired by Angel Velasco Shaw's groundbreaking anthology, the event explores how markets become arenas of resilience—where barter, exchange, and storytelling challenge systems of power and nurture community.

16:00-16:30

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

**Sensible Forms: The Art of Form and Feeling**  
Patrick Flores

Sensible Forms is a talk that explores how form shapes the way we see, feel, and understand the world around us. It looks at the interplay between design, perception, and meaning, inviting audiences to reflect on how creative expressions can move beyond aesthetics to engage both thought and emotion.

17:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

**Philippine Stand Reception**

Step into the heart of the Philippines at the Stand Reception, a gathering of friends, authors, and partners from around the world. Celebrate with us as we share stories, flavors, and the vibrant spirit of Philippine creativity, all in one welcoming space that feels like home.

## 17 October 2025, Friday

09:00 - 10:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

**Coffee and Books: Breakfast with Book Development Association of the Philippines (BDAP) - Turkey**

Publishers, authors, and other industry partners from Turkey come together to exchange ideas, explore collaborations, and build lasting industry ties.

10:00 - 11:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

**Celebrating Translations of Cecilia Manguerra Brainard's Fiction**

Cecilia Manguerra Brainard, Senja Pozar, Leonard Garzaro, Mohamed Radi, Dejan Trajkoski, & Dimitris Tsoukatos

This panel celebrates the international reach of Cecilia Manguerra Brainard's works through translations into Greek, Portuguese, Slovenian, and beyond. Join translators, publishers, and readers in exploring how Brainard's stories resonate across cultures, and how translation serves as a bridge that carries Philippine literature to the world.

11:00 - 12:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

**Launching: San Rafael by Leila Rispens-Noel**  
Cindy Wong, Leila Rispens-Noel, Pradeep Saxena, and Che de Leon, author of *Silence* (moderator)

Rispens-Noel's latest novel follows Isabel, a seventeen-year-old living in a poor rural village, who longs for the chance to go to college and make a difference in her community. Unfortunately, tragedy strikes and takes away her parents and crushes her ambitions.

Meanwhile, Gabriel—the son of the wealthy San Rafael Plantation owner—is attracted to Isabel as conflict between his father and the workers intensifies. But when Marcos declares martial law, their relationship is doomed. Though separated for eleven years, neither has forgotten the other. Will they reunite and be able to fulfill their hopes and dreams?

12:00 - 13:00

VENUE:  
Manlilikha Space

**From Lines to Life: Ardie Aquino Live**  
Ardie Aquino

Join Ardie Aquino for a live drawing experience where sketches become stories. See firsthand how imagination, skill, and storytelling merge in every stroke.

13:00 - 14:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

**Unveiling of the "Hero, Artist, and Ethnographer: Dr. José Rizal in the Philippines and in Germany" Exhibition**

Jeremy Barns, Arvin Villalon, & Carlo Ebeo

This launch presents a digital exhibit that retraces Rizal's journeys and exchanges between the Philippines and Germany, highlighting his artistry, ethnographic work, and enduring legacy. More than a commemoration, it is an invitation to rediscover Rizal as a figure who bridged cultures and continues to inspire across generations.

13:00 - 14:00

VENUE:  
Manlilikha Space

**Baybayin: Writing a Past**  
Howie Severino

A hands-on workshop that traces Baybayin as both script and story. Participants will learn its forms and flow, while reflecting on how writing becomes a way of remembering. More than technique, it's an invitation to connect with a past that still shapes the present.

14:00 - 15:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

**Moro Warrior: Untold Stories of Resistance**  
Tom McKenna

Centered on the legacy of Moro leaders and communities who stood against occupation, the discussion goes beyond the battlefield to explore questions of identity, leadership, and memory. It is an invitation to reflect on how history is remembered, whose voices are heard, and what these narratives mean for the present.

15:00 - 16:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

**The Making of A Vocabulario: Imagining Bikol and Beyond**

Mimi Caldera Soriano, Fr. Wilmer Tria, Ryan Cuatrona, & Kristian Cordero

This launch traces the rich journey of language, memory, and identity through the lens of the *Bikol* vocabulary. More than a record of words, it opens a space to imagine histories, communities, and futures shaped by the power of language.



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15:00 - 16:00

VENUE:  
Manlilikha Space

**Pulse of the Page: Aria Chelabian Live**  
Aria Chelabian

Step into a world where imagination flows in real time. Watch Aria Chelabian transform blank pages into living stories, each stroke breathing life into characters, moments, and emotions. This is more than drawing—it's a front-row seat to creativity in motion.

16:00 - 17:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

**Book Launching: Fr. Wilmer Joseph Tria's Pinoy or Finoy: Funny and Punny Stories on Decolonization, and Alexandra Amanda Madrigal Eduque's Consuelo: Stories of Hope**  
Fr. Wilmer Tria & Alexandra Madrigal Eduque

This is to celebrate the two new works that highlight the richness of Philippine stories. With humor, reflection, and hope at their core, these new books open conversations on identity, resilience, and the everyday experiences that shape us.

17:00 - 18:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

**Philippine Comics at the Fair: A Tale of Many Pages**  
Kat Olan, Bambi Eloriaga-Amago, Mike Alcazaren, CJ Reynaldo, & Ardie Aquino

In this event, comics creators unleash the raw energy of Philippine komiks—with bold lines, fearless stories, and voices that refuse to be contained. From satire to superheroes, heartbreak to resistance, these pages carry the pulse of a people and the fire of imagination now breaking onto the global stage.

## 18 October 2025, Saturday

09:00 - 10:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

**Coffee and Books: Breakfast with Book Development Association of the Philippines (BDAP) - Singapore**

Filipino publishing professionals meet with their Singaporean counterparts to barter ideas and forge new partnerships.

10:00 - 11:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

**Things Hidden Since 1521: Novel-Writing as Ethnography of Precolonial Philippines**  
Kahlil Corazo

This talk explores the potential of novel-writing as a form of ethnographic practice, using my historical novel *Rajah Versus Conquistador* as case study. The novel reconstructs the precolonial Cebuano world at the time of Magellan, drawing on archival sources, linguistic evidence, and anthropological theory. By treating fiction as "thick description" in Clifford Geertz's sense, the presentation shows how imagination, when disciplined by cultural logic and historical constraint, can help recover sensory and social dimensions erased in colonial chronicles—such as the role of bathing and smell in Cebuano culture, or the hidden political influence of women like the babaylan and binukot.

11:00 - 12:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

**The Four Horsemen of Pinoy Sci-Fi**  
Renato Tranquilino, Che de Leon, Cindy Wong, & Marga Ortigas

A one-for-the-books conversation about the future of the Philippines with the "Four Horsemen" of Pinoy Sci-Fi, featuring different literary "prophecies" on the nation's destiny. Witness how our writer-seers Renato Tranquilino, Che De Leon, Cindy Wong, and Marga Ortigas penned different archipelagos marred by earthquakes, stunned into silence, overtaken by AI, or ravaged by the apocalypse.

11:00 - 12:00

VENUE:  
Manlilikha Space

**Animating the Zsazsa Zaturannah**  
Avid Liongoren

How does a cult-favorite komiks heroine make the leap from page to screen? This session dives into the process of animating *Zsazsa Zaturannah*—from translating camp and comedy into movement, to capturing her larger-than-life spirit in every frame. A closer look at how animation keeps her story fabulous, fearless, and alive.

12:00 - 13:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

**Seams of Sediton: Threads of Resistance in Culture and History**  
Stephanie Coe

This conversation examines how clothing and textiles transcend their functional purpose to become powerful markers of identity and resistance. By tracing the ways fabric, fashion, and craft intersect with politics and history, the talk reveals how everyday materials carry hidden stories of defiance, resilience, and creativity — reminding us that even the smallest stitch can be an act of rebellion.

12:00 - 13:00

VENUE:  
Manlilikha Space

**Sketching the Moment: Live with Dione Kong**  
Dione Kong

Join Dione Kong as she brings her illustrations to life in real time. Witness the flow of creativity, the shaping of characters, and the storytelling that emerges stroke by stroke. A rare opportunity to experience an artist's process and imagination up close.

13:00 - 14:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

**Onib and Me: Between the Canvas and the Soul**  
Bettina Rodriguez-Olmedo

Through stories, insights, and encounters with his work, the talk offers an intimate look at Onib's vision and legacy, while also exploring how art shapes and transforms the lives of those who experience it. It is both a tribute and a dialogue—between artist and audience, memory and meaning.

13:00 - 14:00

VENUE:  
Manlilikha Space

**Story of Your Life: A Lifescribing Story Circle**  
Kimi Lu, Joan Gallares, Nikki Lizares, Jo Uygongco, Techie Calibuso, & Liezl Razon

Have you ever considered writing about yourself? This is another dimension to "writing what you know." This program introduces Lifescribing, the practice of writing and keeping life stories as legacy for future generations.

14:00 - 15:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

**Book Launch of the German Editions of Noli Me Tangere and El Filibusterismo**

The book launch of the German editions of *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo* marks a historic moment—bringing Jose Rizal's timeless works to new readers and opening fresh conversations on freedom, identity, and nation across cultures.

14:00 - 15:00

VENUE:  
Manlilikha Space

**Filipino Komiks: Live Drawing**  
Manix Abrera

Experience the vibrant world of Filipino comics come alive on the page. In this dynamic session, artists draw in real time — blending imagination, humor, and storytelling traditions that have made comics a beloved part of Philippine culture. Audiences are invited to witness the creative process up close, where every line and sketch unfolds into a story.

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The imagination peoples the air  
PHILIPPINES GUEST OF HONOUR  
FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2025

15:00 - 16:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

## Feel the Kilig: A Conversation on Filipino Romance

Mina Esguerra, Elisa Bonnin, & Anna Liza Recto-Ruth

Get ready to fangirl, laugh, and swoon — this talk is all about the kilig moments that make Filipino love stories so extra. We're breaking down what makes hearts race, texts linger, and love stories totally iconic. Come through, feel the vibes, and spill some tea on love, Filipino style.

15:00 - 16:00

VENUE:  
Manlilikha Space

## Tumbang Preso and Beyond: Interactive Workshop in Filipino Street Games

Virgie Nicodemus

Step into the streets and relive the joy of Filipino childhood. This hands-on workshop brings classic games like Tumbang Preso to life, along with other beloved street games that have shaped generations. It's playful, energetic, and nostalgic — a chance to run, laugh, and reconnect with the fun, community-driven spirit of traditional Filipino play.

16:00 - 17:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

## She Publishes, She Persists, She Slays: Philippine Books

Kath Derla, Jane Vergara, Danielle Florendo, & Kat Olan

Celebrate the bold, brilliant women shaping Philippine literature. This event highlights authors, publishers, and creators who are breaking barriers, telling powerful stories, and leaving their mark on the literary scene. It's a space to honor persistence, creativity, and the unstoppable spirit of women in books — because they don't just write, they slay.

16:00 - 17:00

VENUE:  
Manlilikha Space

## The Gubat at Iba Pa: A Discussion

Mara Cason, RM Topacio-Aplaon, & Cyan Abad

An energetic reading session featuring voices from the rural reaches of the Philippines. Find out how literature flourishes away from the city centers, and in places once called the boondocks, the jungle, the rainforest, and the like.

11:00 - 12:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

## In the Name of the Trees: Book Launch

Anvil Publishing, Inc.

Spinifex Press launches Merlinda Bobis' "In the Name of the Trees," another landmark novel by the Bikol writer Merlinda Bobis, showcasing her mastery in writing close to nature.

11:00 - 12:00

VENUE:  
Manlilikha Space

## Hagod in Motion: Randy Valiente

Randy Valiente

Feel the pulse of Hagod as Randy Valiente sketches live. Bold, aggressive, and unstoppable, his style turns imagination into visual impact you can feel.

14:00 - 15:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

## Isang Awit, Isang Mundo (One Song, One World): The unitive power of song in Karaoke

In this musical conversation, explore how the Filipino throat chakra manifests itself through the pages, as songs describe a world of narratives that are sung, not spoken.



## 19 October 2025, Saturday

09:00 - 10:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

## International Healthcare Professionals-Here to Stay

Benjamin Nabert

This conversation celebrates the enduring role of migrant doctors, nurses, and caregivers whose skill, dedication, and compassion have become vital to communities worldwide. More than a workforce, they are lifelines, reshaping the future of healthcare across borders.

10:00 - 11:00

VENUE:  
Pilipinas Space

## Paghilom: Justice in Pursuit of Healing

Fr. Alejo & Roby Alampay

Can healing take place without justice? Join a multi-faceted discussion on Paghilom (Healing) and discuss how families go through grief and seek vindication in absence of their loved ones.

10:00 - 11:00

VENUE:  
Manlilikha Space

## Ilog at Dagat: A Poetry Reading with Filipino and Palestinian Writers

Two countries, whose lifeblood flows like the bodies of water around them, come together for an hour of fluorous verses in this celebration of similarities and differences through the written and spoken word.

More events coming soon!





# ASIA STAGE

Hall 5.1 A75, Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main

Note: Schedule as of 12 September 2025. This list includes only speakers from the Philippines; additional speakers will be announced. All programs will be in English.



## 15 October 2025, Wednesday

10:00 - 11:00

**Event type:**  
Conversation  
**Theme:**  
Textbook Production  
Academic

### The Journey of Rex Education and the Philippine Book Publishing Industry

Atty. Dominador Buhain

This panel traces the evolution of textbook and academic publishing in Asia, spotlighting the Philippines and the country's Book Development Act. Learn how government laws and policies, specifically one publisher's journey, continues to transform the industry to this day.

13:00 - 14:00

**Event type:**  
Panel Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Children's Literature  
Supply Chain

### Children's Books in Asia: Supply and Demand

Mary Ann Ordinario, Russell Molina, & Gladys Doronila (moderator)

With 20 percent of its 4.8 billion population aged below 15 years old, Asia has become a goldmine for children's publishing. But what educational, aesthetic, and psychosocial considerations are front and center in the development of Asian books for children? What kinds of stories are millions of Asian kids reading now?

14:00 - 15:00

**Event type:**  
Panel Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Book Design  
Children's Literature  
Comics and Graphic  
Novels

### Writing and Book Design for Young Adults and Graphic Novels

Bambi Eloriaga-Amago, Ardie Aquino, & Luis Gatmaitan (moderator)

Is the Western definition of young adult literature still relevant in Asia? Explore how young adult books and graphic novels are evolving in tone, themes, and design to reflect the realities of today's youth and their coming of age. This panel talks teen angst, Asian style.

15:00 - 16:00

**Event type:**  
Panel Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Translation

### Translation Programs: Do They Work?

Danton Remoto, Mimi Caldera Soriano, & Tina Pangan-Cagalingan (moderator)

Governments and publishers invest in translation, but are the results meaningful? This panel unpacks what works, what doesn't, and what truly matters when Asian stories are brought to the global stage. It also asks: Who gets to be in the room when it happens?

16:00 - 17:00

**Event type:**  
Panel Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Industry Development  
Academic

### How Revolutionary is Academic Publishing in Asia?

Galileo Zafra & Rica Bolipata Santos

Are revolutionary ideas getting published or filtered out? Do academic publishers champion bold research or play it safe? Dive into the politics, practices, and possibilities of academic publishing across Asia.

17:00 - 18:00

**Event type:**  
Panel Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Literary Awards

### The Logistics of Book Awards

Dean Francis Alfara & Ani Rosa Almario (moderator)

Book awards shape reputations and draw attention to outstanding literature. Are book awards supportive of emerging literature?

## 16 October 2025, Thursday

10:00 - 11:00

**Event type:**  
Panel Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Industry Development

### IPA Support for Asian Publishing

Atty. Dominador Buhain

Can a global publishing alliance amplify Asian voices? Learn how the International Publishers Association (IPA) is working with Asian nations to address industry challenges and how publishers' associations are leveraging IPA initiatives to drive change on the ground. Asian countries who have hosted IPA Conferences share best practices.

11:00 - 12:00

**Event type:**  
Panel Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Creative Industries

### Creative Industries and Publishing

Charisse Aquino-Tugade & Ann Claire Cabochan (moderator)

Centuries of creative brilliance in Asia remains haunted by postcolonial bias. Today, governments are stepping up to develop trade for creatives and publishers. This panel explores how Asia is reclaiming its narrative and creative voice through uplifting its creative industries.

13:00 - 14:00

**Event type:**  
Panel Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Technology and AI  
Education Systems

### How Has Generative AI Changed the University Landscape?

Genevieve Asenjo & Ronaldo Amorado

From AI-written essays to automated research, the academic world is at a crossroads. Join educators and experts as they discuss how universities are adapting, resisting, and reimagining education in the age of AI.

14:00 - 15:00

**Event type:**  
Panel Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Technology and AI

### Publishing in the Time of AI

Ace Molo & Emerson Cuyo (moderator)

As AI tools rewrite the rules of publishing, who protects authorship? This session digs into the copyright chaos, policy responses, and what publishers can do to safeguard creativity in a tech-driven world.

15:00 - 16:00

**Event type:**  
Panel Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Copyright and  
Intellectual Property

### Copyright Issues in Asian Publishing

Atty. Rodelio Dascal & Representative Rufus Rodriguez

From textbook piracy to overlooked author rights, copyright remains a shaky foundation in Asian publishing. What needs fixing, and what can be learned from global best practices? This panel divulges untold stories on why copyright still struggles in Asia and why we continue to fight.

16:00 - 17:00

**Event type:**  
Presentation  
**Theme:**  
Children's Literature  
Industry Development

### From Bangkok to Manila – Explore Southeast Asian Children's Book Markets

Frances Ong

Across Southeast Asia, children's literature account for a third of a country's book sales. In this part of the world where the median age is 32.5 years, books shape early literacy and national identity. This session explores the complexities of the ASEAN children's book market and how different countries are building vibrant markets through policy, publishing, and cultural pride.

## 17 October 2025, Friday

10:00 - 11:00

**Event type:**  
Panel Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Industry Development  
Publishing Services

### Publishing Services in Asia

Jorge Abiva Garcia, Atty. Dominador Buhain, & Miriam dela Cruz (moderator)

From editorial to illustration, Asia is powering global publishing behind the scenes. Find out why the world's biggest publishers are printing in Asia with outsourcing as a rising trend, and what this means for regional talent and economies.

11:00 - 12:00

**Event type:**  
Panel Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Textbook Production  
Literacy and  
Readership

### Textbooks in Asia: For Learning or for Governing?

Paolo Sibal, Atty. Dominador Buhain, & Toots Policarpio (moderator)

Education or indoctrination? In many countries, textbooks are tools of both learning and nation-building. This panel unpacks the double life of textbooks in Asia and how governments balance a nation's goals with a student's practical and developmental needs.

# ASIA STAGE

Hall 5.1 A75, Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main

Note: Schedule as of 12 September 2025. This list includes only speakers from the Philippines; additional speakers will be announced. All programs will be in English.



**13:00 - 14:00**

**Event type:**  
Panel Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Cross-Media

## Books to Cross-Media

Tanya Yuson, Don Timothy Buhain, &  
Atty. Andrea Pasion-Flores (moderator)

Creatives are embracing audio, mobile, and digital to reach new audiences. While making leaps through different dimensions of formats and adaptations, there are things that still slip between the cracks. Find out how cross-media storytelling has reshaped the publishing world.

**14:00 - 15:00**

**Event type:**  
Panel Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Literacy and Readership

## NGOs and CSOs as Reading Advocates

Gigo Alampay, Alex Madrigal Eduque,  
& Dina Ocampo (moderator)

Civil society and non-government organizations are key players in promoting literacy, but partnerships can be tricky. This panel unpacks what collaborations work, which ones don't, and how to turn advocacy into a sustainable community effort.

**15:00 - 16:00**

**Event type:**  
Panel Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Censorship

## Censorship in Asia

Patricia Evangelista & Roby Alampay (moderator)

Is free expression really free? Despite constitutional protections, censorship, may it be official or self-imposed, still casts a shadow over Asian publishing. This discussion tackles cancel culture, political red lines, and the quiet compromises writers make in order to put their work under the spotlight.

**16:00 - 17:00**

**Event type:**  
Panel Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Industry Development  
Supply Chain

## Asian Books for Asian Readers

Asa Montenejo, Camille Abaya,  
& Danda Buhain (moderator)

From broken supply chains to global competition, the odds are stacked against Asian books in Asian markets. Discover what's holding back demand—and how Asian publishing industries can turn patriotism and pride into global opportunity.

**17:00 - 18:00**

**Event type:**  
Panel Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Indie Publishing

## Grassroots Publishing in Asia

Yasmin Arquiza, Ronald Verzo, & Jane Arguelles (moderator)

No sales, publicity, or a marketing team? Meet the superheroes of independent publishing who hustle their books into homes, schools, and online carts without big budgets or big names. A survival guide from the ground up.

## 18 October 2025, Saturday

**10:00 - 11:00**

**Event type:**  
Panel Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Gastronomy and Food  
Books

## Gastronomy in Books

Guillermo Ramos Jr., Claude Tayag,  
& Xandra Ramos-Padilla (moderator)

Once a bookstore staple, food books now compete with viral cooking reels on TikTok and ready-to-eat, bite-sized online content. This panel stirs the pot on how food publishing is evolving, and what still makes a cookbook worth buying.

**11:00 - 12:00**

**Event type:**  
Panel Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Female Voices

## Women's Writing in Asia

Ester Tapia, Beverly W. Siy, & Rochit Tañedo (moderator)

From gender and sexuality to language and censorship, Asian women writers walk a fine line with every turn of phrase. Hear how they navigate expression, identity, and the invisible pressures of self-censorship.

**13:00 - 14:00**

**Event type:**  
Panel Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Romance  
Young Adult

## The Transnationality of Romance

Segundo Matias, June Pauline Sandoval,  
& Mina Esguerra (moderator)

Are love stories anchored in their time and place, or made for the world? This panel explores how Asian romance authors and publishers write and rewrite the universal language of love across borders, cultures, and market expectations.

**14:00 - 15:00**

**Event type:**  
Panel Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Healing Fiction

## The Rise of Healing Fiction

Tetch Canon Garcia &  
Kristian Cordero (moderator)

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, Korean and Japanese "healing fiction" has captivated readers from around the world. In this panel, discover the rise of soft, soulful narratives and how other Asian stories encapsulate voices of hope and healing.

**15:00 - 16:00**

**Event type:**  
Panel Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Queer Voices  
LGBTQ+ Literature

## Pride Across Genres: Queer Literature in Asia

Chuckberry Pascual

Queer stories now fill up bestselling lists, proving that pride is not a seasonal pitch—yet breaking out of the niche still has its risks. In this panel, discover how LGBTQ+ writers in Asia defy the gravity of market hesitation and objectification with authenticity, representation, and resistance.

**16:00 - 17:00**

**Event type:**  
Panel Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Comics and Graphic  
Novels

## Comics: From Fantasy to Reality

Randy Valiente & Katrina Olan

Can comics and graphic storytelling teach science or unpack history? This panel looks at how comics are breaking genre molds and entering educational spaces with powerful impact and visually dynamic forms.

**17:00 - 18:00**

**Event type:**  
Entertainment  
**Theme:**  
Illustration

## The Filipino-German Illustrator Battle

Aldy Aguirre & Ace Enriquez

Filipino and German illustrators interpret words and phrases from the audience through on-the-spot graphics and drawings.

## 19 October 2025, Sunday

**10:00 - 11:00**

**Event type:**  
Panel Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Religion and Spirituality  
Diasporic Literature

## Religion and Spirituality in Contemporary Literature

Fr. Dennis Tamayo, Edgar Trono, &  
Cecilia Manguerra Brainard (moderator)

From prayer books to personal revelations, faith-based literature resonates deeply with Asian readers. How do religious publishers configure their content to appeal to different cultures while remaining faithful to scripture.

**11:00 - 12:00**

**Event type:**  
Panel Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Crime Fiction  
Mystery and Suspense

## The Scene of Crime in Asia

Kath Eustaquio-Derla, Rolando Vivo,  
& Nida Ramirez (moderator)

Crime fiction walks a tightrope in Asia, where laws are strict and sensationalism is frowned upon. Are writers critiquing violence or glamorizing it? This panel goes inside the minds of Asia's crime authors and publishers.

**13:00 - 14:00**

**Event type:**  
Panel Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Paranormal Literature  
Mythology and Folklore

## Writing the Paranormal in Asia

Yvette Tan & Mike Alcazaren

Asian paranormal fiction blurs myth and modernity, reality and folklore. Meet the creatives that reimagine ancient spirits and mythical creatures as they keep old beliefs and legends eerily alive.

**14:00 - 15:00**

**Event type:**  
Performance  
**Theme:**  
Romance  
Poetry

## Readings in Romance and Poetry

Ambassador Nathaniel Imperial, Tara Frejas,  
Gene Alcantara, Maria Rilke Arguelles, & Merlie Alunan

Asian poets and romance writers perform their most evocative works in a celebration of love, longing, and lyrical expression.

# OTHER STAGES

Join us at these other stages for more talks, readings, and social events that spotlight Filipino authors. Visit the PHL-GOH website and FBM Connect for more details on the events listed below.

Note: Schedule as of 16 September 2025.



**14 October**  
**17:00-18:30**

**Event type:**  
Opening  
Ceremony

## **Frankfurter Buchmesse Opening**

Congress Centre Messe

Rosalie Sula, Philippine Madrigal Singers, Merlie Alunan, Marjorie Evasco, & Mookie Katigbak Lacuesta

**17 October**  
**16:00 - 17:30**

**Event type:**  
Reception

## **Phoenix/ Central Books Reception**

Hall 5.1 A100, Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main

Maria Ressa & Jens Stoltenberg

**15 October**  
**14:00**

**Event type:**  
Conversation

## **What impact do lies, fake news, and framing have on a society?**

**Patricia Evangelista and Elisa Hoven in conversation**

PEN Booth

Patricia Evangelista & Elisa Hoven

**18 October**  
**11:00**

**Event type:**  
Discussion

## **Panel Goethe Institut**

OFF Stage

Katrina Tuvera

**16 October**  
**11:00 - 11:45**

**Event type:**  
Discussion

## **Talk with Apprentices at Azubistro**

Azubistro

Allan Derain & Annette Hug

**18 October**  
**10:00**

**Event type:**  
Conversation

## **Panel on structural issues impacting on translation between bigger and smaller languages**

OFF Stage

Annette Hug

**16 October**  
**14:00 - 14:30**

**Event type:**  
Reading

## **Jessica Zafra, A Pretty Bad Girl**

Hall 3.1 C100

Jessica Zafra, Moderated by Rainer Nitsche, & Translation by Niko Froba

**18 October**  
**12:30**

**Event type:**  
Conversation

## **Reading and discussion between Allan N. Derain and Annette Hug, moderated by Lenny Kaye Bugayong**

OFF Stage

Allan Derain & Annette Hug

**16 October**  
**17:00 - 18:00**

**Event type:**  
Discussion

## **Translating Allan N. Derain's "Aswanglout" from Filipino into German or English**

Zentrum Wort (Translator's Stage)

Jessica Zafra, Allan Derain, Annette Hug, & Moderated by Patricia Klobusiczky

**18 October**  
**12:40**

**Event type:**  
Conversation

## **Patricia Evangelista im Gespräch über ihr Buch "Some People Need Killing - Eine Geschichte der Morde in meinem Land"**

F.A.Z. Halle 3.1, E70

Patricia Evangelista & Andreas Platthaus (Moderator)

**17 October**  
**17:00 - 18:00**

**Event type:**  
Reading,  
Book Signing

## **Reading and signing of How to Stand Up to a Dictator**

FBM Centre Stage

Maria Ressa

**18 October**  
**14:00**

**Event type:**  
Discussion

## **The importance and the difficulties of remembering historical crimes**

Hall 3.1 C100

Jose Dalisay, Katrina Tuvera, Patricia Evangelista, & Annette Hug

**17 October**  
**16:00 - 17:00**

**Event type:**  
Conversation

## **A Conversation between Ressa and Stoltenberg**

FBM Centre Stage

Maria Ressa & Jens Stoltenberg

**19 October**  
**14:00 - 15:00**

**Event type:**  
Conversation

## **Big Technology in the Service of Culture and Democracy**

FBM Centre Stage

Maria Ressa



# PHILIPPINES IN FRANKFURT

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Note: Schedule as of 12 September 2025.



## TALKS AND READINGS

**12 & 15 - 18 October**

**Event type:**

Reading  
Conversation

**Theme:**

Fiction  
Graphic Novel  
Contemporary  
Queer  
Diaspora

**Language:**

German

**Admission:**

Free

**LiteraturBahnhof: The Guest Country Hour**

*LiteraturBahnhof im Haus des Buches (15th-18th), Braubachstraße 16, 60311 Frankfurt am Main*

From October 15-18, Haus des Buches becomes a stop for Philippine storytelling, as authors from the archipelago share stories of memory, resistance, and identity. It welcomes the Philippines into the Haus des Buches' well-loved literary program, featuring riveting readings from different luminaries in Philippine literature.

**12 October | 11:00 - 12:30**

Introduction to the Literary History of the Philippines with Annette Hug & Martin Maria Schwarz [Kickoff at LiteraturLounge im Haus am Dom, Domplatz 3, 60113 Frankfurt am Main]

**15 October | 17:15 - 18:15**

The Guest Country Hour: Filipino Authors Present their Books with Allan N. Derain & Katrina Tavera

**16 October | 17:15 - 18:15**

The Guest Country Hour: Filipino Authors Present their Books with Paolo Herras, Jay Ignacio, & Budjette Tan

**17 October | 17:15 - 18:15**

The Guest Country Hour: Filipino Authors Present their Books with Blaise Gacoscas & Jessica Zafra

**18 October | 17:15 - 18:15**

The Guest Country Hour: Filipino Authors Present their Books with Jose Dalisay

**15 October 19:30**

**Event type:**

Reading  
Discussion  
Book Signing

**Theme:**

Coming of Age  
Young Adult  
Language:

English

**Admission:**

Ticketed

**At the Frankfurt Book Fair: Ein ziemlich böses Mädchen — Reading and Discussion**

Jessica Zafra & Cornelia Zetzsche  
*Buchhandlung Weltenleser, Oeder Weg 40, 60318 Frankfurt am Main*

Often with a sarcastic undertone and wit, this book reveals the stark contradictions in Philippine society, not as an accusation, but as a detailed observation of completely contrasting, foreign ways of life. Told from the perspective of a girl who initially seems naive, but who then observes with increasing keenness and causticity.

**15 & 17 October**

**Event type:**

Reading  
Conversation

**Theme:**

Diaspora  
Novel  
Experience  
History

Graphic Novel

**Language:**

English

**Admission:**

Free

**Booked at Zentralbibliothek:**

**Filipino Plot Twists**

*Stadtbücherei Frankfurt - Zentralbibliothek Hasengasse 4, 60311 Frankfurt am Main*

Big stories. Bigger twists.

The Frankfurt Zentralbibliothek becomes a place where literature stops behaving and starts fighting back. This isn't your soft-focus, quiet-clap book reading; it's a full-on Filipino storytelling smackdown, a mic drop in the middle of the library, a literary riot disguised as a reading.

**15 October | 19:30 - 21:30**

Booked at Zentralbibliothek: Filipino Plot Twists with Jose Dalisay & Beverly W. Siy

**17 October | 19:30 - 21:30**

Booked at Zentralbibliothek: Filipino Plot Twists with Budjette Tan & Ambeth Ocampo

**16 October 19:00 - 21:00**

**Event type:**

Reading  
Conversation

**Theme:**

History  
Graphic Novel  
Language:

English

**Admission:**

Free

**First, There Were Islands: Philippines at the Weltkulturen Museum**

Jay Ignacio & Ambeth Ocampo  
*Weltkulturen Museum*

*Schaumainkai 29-37, 60594 Frankfurt am Main*

Before the Republic, before Rizal, before Google Maps, there were islands. And people who moved across the sea, like it was second nature. This isn't your grandmother's history lesson. We're cracking open a real cabinet of curiosities, no colonial creepiness, just living memory: a tattooed truth and a gold shard that once touched skin. Ambeth Ocampo (a.k.a. Rizal's coolest stan) and Jay Ignacio (bladed-hand king) take us on a trip through memory, myth, and visual fire.

**17 October 18:00 - 20:00**

**Event type:**

Reading  
Conversation

**Theme:**

History  
Diaspora

**Language:**

English

**Admission:**

Free

**Last Call Manila: An Evening With Jose Dalisay**

Jose Dalisay, Luis Castellvi, & Jan Wiele (moderator)

*Instituto Cervantes- Frankfurt, Staufensteinstraße 1, 60323 Frankfurt am Main*

Aurora V. Cabahug arrives at the Manila International Airport in a zinc coffin. She worked in Saudi Arabia, where she was killed. The investigation develops into an exciting insight into a volatile society and into people who often have degrading experiences in foreign countries. Jose Dalisay is one of the most influential writers in the Philippines. His works deal with socially and historically important topics such as the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos and the Filipino diaspora.

## BOOK SIGNINGS

**11 & 18 October**

**Event type:**

Book Signing

**Theme:**

Comics  
Graphic Novel

**Language:**

German

**Admission:**

Ticketed

**Book Signing at Comicluden X-tra-BooX**

*Xtra-BooX, Berliner Straße 20, 60311 Frankfurt am Main*

Comics, creators, and killer signatures.

Drop by ComicLaden X-tra-Boox for a special book signing featuring Filipino comic artists bringing bold stories and iconic visuals straight from the page to your hands. Meet the minds behind the panels, get your copies signed, and maybe even snag a quick sketch or selfie.

**11 October | 13:00**

With Paolo Herras, Randy Valiente, & Jerico Marte

**18 October | 13:00**

With Mike Alcazaren, Budjette Tan, & Carlo Clemente

**17 October 16:00 - 18:00**

**Event type:**

Book Signing

**Theme:**

Comics  
Graphic Novel

**Language:**

German

**Admission:**

Ticketed

**Book Signing at T3 Bookshop**

Ace Enriquez, Jerico Marte, & Carlo Clemente  
*T3 Terminal Entertainment Comics & Spiele Große Eschenheimer Straße 41a, 60313 Frankfurt am Main*

Celebrate the bold and vibrant world of Filipino comics at T3 Bookshop! Meet the creators whose illustrated stories have sparked imaginations and redefined the genre. From heroes and monsters to everyday life drawn in unforgettable lines, these artists bring the Philippines' rich comics tradition to Frankfurt. Get your copies signed, swap stories, and take home not just a book, but a piece of the country's visual storytelling heritage.

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Note: Schedule as of 12 September 2025.

The imagination peoples the air  
PHILIPPINES GUEST OF HONOUR  
FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2025

## CULTURAL EVENTS (EXHIBITIONS, FILM, WORKSHOPS, TOURS, & PERFORMANCES)

**18 - 29  
September**

**Event type:**  
Performance  
**Theme:**  
Contemporary  
Art  
**Language:**  
English  
**Admission:**  
Ticketed

**Sincerely Yours,  
the Philippines — Festival for Dance,  
Performance, Karaoke**  
*Künstler\*innerhaus Mousonturm*  
Waldschmidtstrasse 4, 60316 Frankfurt am  
Main | [www.mousonturm.de](http://www.mousonturm.de)

*Sincerely Yours, the Philippines* is an allusion to the motto "Love the Philippines," used by the Philippines' Department of Tourism. Eisa Jocson continues her exploration of the connections between embodiment, labor migration, and the construction of Filipino identity.

**20 September  
2025 -  
18 January  
2026**

**Event type:**  
Exhibition  
**Theme:**  
Architecture  
**Language:**  
English  
**Admission:**  
Ticketed

**SULOG: Filipino Architecture  
at the Crosscurrents**  
*Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM)*  
Schaumainkai 43, 60596 Frankfurt am Main  
[dam-online.de](http://dam-online.de)

Contemporary Filipino architecture is at the nexus of interconnected and intersecting forces. Once imagined as limited within the confines of the Philippines as a geographical setting, Filipino architecture is recast as the continuous flow of people, places, and processes.

**20 September  
17:00 - 19:00**

**Event type:**  
Entertainment  
Performance  
**Theme:**  
Comedy  
**Language:**  
German/English  
**Admission:**  
Ticketed

**Read Your Roots**  
*Brotfabrik*  
Bachmannstraße 2-4,  
60488 Frankfurt am Main

*Read Your Roots* celebrates the Filipino diaspora experience in German-speaking Europe through storytelling, stand-up comedy, and literature. Featuring multitalented Filipino-Austrian singer and standup artist Vincent Bueno and hosted by Cyndi Kurleto, the evening combines humor and reflection to explore identity, belonging, and the role of books in shaping cultural pride across generations.

**27 September  
2025 -  
11 January  
2026**

**Event type:**  
Exhibition  
**Theme:**  
Photography  
Contemporary Art  
**Language:**  
English  
**Admission:**  
Free

**New Beginnings:  
Philippine Photographic Art**  
*Fotografie Forum Frankfurt (FFF)*,  
Braubachstraße 30-32,  
60311 Frankfurt am Main  
[www.fff Frankfurt.com](http://www.fff Frankfurt.com)

This exhibition presents a diverse selection of photographic works from an archipelago in Southeast Asia. The artists explore a range of concerns: personal identity, tradition, spirituality, storytelling, migrant labor, urban life, survival, memory, and the concept of home.

The participating artists include Xyza Cruz Bacani, Nana Buxani, Tommy Hafalla, Gina Osterloh, Augustine Paredes, Wawi Navarroza, Veejay Villafranca, and MM Yu.

**06 - 20  
October**

**Event type:**  
Entertainment  
Performance  
**Theme:**  
Iconography  
Experience  
**Language:**  
English  
**Admission:**  
Free

**Booked at Zentralbibliothek:  
Filipino Plot Twists**  
*Stadtbücherei Frankfurt - Zentralbibliothek*  
Hasengasse 4, 60311 Frankfurt am Main

A Filipino literary powerhouse iconography exhibit turns the library into a shrine of Philippine book publishing cultural chaos featuring: Butch Dalisay's vintage fountain pen, delicate but deadly, one that's killed more fictional lovers than heartbreak ever could; Bebang Siy's bicycle helmet with a collection of picked-up coins around the metro, accompanied by her daily notes and struggles as a Filipino and a woman; Budjette Tan's drafts from the underworld of *Trese*, still searching for the next monster; and Ambeth Ocampo's glasses with his Freud (a super cute and iconic doll) — dusty but sharp, half-scholarly, half-shady.

**09 October -  
07 November**

**Event type:**  
Exhibition  
**Theme:**  
Children's  
Literature  
History  
Visual Arts  
**Language:**  
English  
**Admission:**  
Ticketed

**Mga Kuwento ni Lola Basyang:  
Filipino Stories for Children**  
*Zentrale Kinder-und Jugendbibliothek*  
(Central Children and Youth Library),  
Arnsburgerstraße 24,  
60385 Frankfurt am Main  
[stadtbuecherei.frankfurt.de](http://stadtbuecherei.frankfurt.de)

The exhibition surveys the history of Severino Reyes's *Mga Kwento ni Lola Basyang* from its initial production to its iterations in various media: illustrated book, dance, television, and cinema. Stories for children form an important part of the Philippine literary tradition.

**10 October -  
04 December**

**Event type:**  
Exhibition  
**Theme:**  
Religion  
Tradition  
History  
Visual Arts  
**Language:**  
English  
**Admission:**  
Ticketed

**Philippine Pasyon: History, Form,  
Practice**  
*Haus am Dom, Domplatz 3*,  
60311 Frankfurt am Main  
[hausamdom-frankfurt.de](http://hausamdom-frankfurt.de)

The exhibition focuses on texts of *The Passion of Christ* from the Philippines. The *Passion* texts reveal the story of the suffering of Christ and his death that leads to salvation. These texts testify to the production of text and image in the telling of a religious narrative that became a performative tradition during the Lenten season in the Philippines. The exhibition will feature pages from the texts that reveal modes of poetics, translation, graphic design, printing techniques, and drawings.





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## CULTURAL EVENTS (EXHIBITIONS, FILM, WORKSHOPS, TOURS, & PERFORMANCES)

**10 - 30 October**

**Event type:**  
Film  
Presentation  
Conversation  
**Theme:**  
Film  
Society  
History  
**Language:**  
English  
**Admission:**  
Ticketed

**A Philippine Season: Kidlat Tahimik and Nick Deocampo**  
*Deutsches Filminstitut Filmmuseum (DFF)*  
*Schaumainkai 41,*  
*60596 Frankfurt am Main*  
[www.dff.film](http://www.dff.film)

The program spotlights filmmakers Kidlat Tahimik and Nick Deocampo, whose works examine Filipino identity shaped by colonial histories and state control.

**10 October | 19:00**  
*Perfumed Nightmare*  
Artist's Talk: Kidlat Tahimik

**11 October | 18:00**  
*Oliver & Revolutions Happen Like a Refrain in a Song*  
Artist's Talk: Nick Deocampo

**11 October | 20:15**  
*Sinong Lumikha ng Yoyo?*  
Artist's Talk: Kidlat Tahimik & Nick Deocampo

**12 October | 18:00**  
*Balikbayan #1*  
Artist's Talk: Kidlat Tahimik

**\*Special Feature: Dekada '70, Lualhati Bautista's powerful depiction of family life under Martial Law.**

**18 October | 17:30**  
*Dekada '70*  
Screening and Panel Talk with Annette Hug & Beverly W. Siy

**13 October 14:00 - 16:00**

**Event type:**  
Discussion  
**Theme:**  
Film  
**Language:**  
English  
**Admission:**  
By Invitation

**Philippine-German Film Connections**  
Nick Deocampo & Ingo Petzke  
*Goethe Universität*  
*Theodor-W.-Adorno-Platz 1,*  
*60629 Frankfurt am Main*

This special session explores the shared threads and cinematic dialogues between the Philippines and Germany. Featuring renowned film historian and filmmaker Nick Deocampo and German scholar and translator Ingo Petzke, the conversation dives into histories of collaboration, influence, and resistance on screen.

**13 - 18 October 11:00**

**Event type:**  
Tour  
**Theme:**  
History  
**Language:**  
English  
**Admission:**  
Free

**Jeepney Journey - Philippinische Kultur meets Frankfurt**  
*Roßmarkt, 60313 Frankfurt am Main*

Forget everything you know about usual bus tours, this one comes with a barker, a karaoke mic, and a jeepney in the middle of Frankfurt. This is not just a cultural showcase, it's a loud, proud, joyride through Philippine identity, where the roads of memory meet the highways of diaspora.

**15 October 19:30 - 21:30**

**Event type:**  
Reading  
Entertainment  
Performance  
**Theme:**  
Graphic Novel  
Comics  
Panel Reading  
**Language:**  
English  
**Admission:**  
Free

**Komiks Live! Philippine Graphic Novel Readings**  
Manix Abrera, Mike Alcazaren, CJ Reynaldo, Bambi Eloriaga-Amago, Kat Olan, & Dione Kong  
*Romanfabrik*  
*Hanauer Landstraße 186,*  
*60314 Frankfurt am Main*

Comics, but make it live. Watch Filipino comics in this one-night-only event, where Filipino graphic novels take center stage and receive the spotlight they deserve. Artists read their work, panel by panel, with all the drama, weirdness, and feels you didn't know you needed. It's raw, it's real, it's ridiculously cool.

**16 October 11:00 - 13:30**

**Event type:**  
Tour  
**Theme:**  
History  
**Language:**  
English  
**Admission:**  
Free

**José on the Go: A Rizal Stroll with Ambeth Ocampo**  
*Goetheplatz, 60313 Frankfurt am Main*

Join a special walking tour in Frankfurt with historian Ambeth Ocampo as your guide, exploring the footsteps of Jose Rizal during his time in the city. Discover the places Rizal lived and worked, hear stories that bring his stay to life, and get a deeper look into how Frankfurt shaped one of the Philippines' greatest heroes. It's history, storytelling, and a stroll through the city, all rolled into one unforgettable experience.

**18 October 20:00**

**Event type:**  
Entertainment  
Performance  
**Theme:**  
Cultural  
**Language:**  
Filipino, English  
**Admission:**  
Ticketed

**Concert**  
The Philippine Madrigal Singers and Song Weavers Philippines, Morobeats, Jonathan Zaens, & Damodar das Castillo  
*Romanfabrik*  
*Hanauer Landstraße 186,*  
*60314 Frankfurt am Main*

**19 October 19:30**

**Event type:**  
Entertainment  
Performance  
**Theme:**  
Cultural  
**Language:**  
Filipino, English  
**Admission:**  
Ticketed

**Concert**  
The Philippine Madrigal Singers and Song Weavers Philippines, Jonathan Zaens, Akayu, Kuwerdas Filipinas, Damodar das Castillo, Justin and Janna Texon  
*Evangelische St. Katherinenkirche*  
*An der Hauptwache, Zeil 131,*  
*60313 Frankfurt am Main*

# PHILIPPINES BEYOND THE CITY

Guest of Honour Philippines carries its stories to other towns, cultural spaces, campuses, festivals, and communities

Note: Schedule as of 05 September 2025.

The imagination peoples the air  
PHILIPPINES GUEST OF HONOUR  
FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2025

## TALKS AND READINGS

**02 October**  
**19:00**

**Event type:**

Reading  
Conversation

**Theme:**

Diaspora  
Novel

**Language:**

German/English

**Admission:**

Free

**Welcome Philippines! – Das Blaue Sofa welcomes the 2025 Frankfurt Book Fair Guest of Honour**

Miguel Syjuco & Ninotchka Rosca  
*Bertelsmann Repräsentanz*  
*Unter den Linden 1, 10117 Berlin*

With a focus on her novel *State of War*, author Ninotchka Rosca offers insights into her extensive literary oeuvre. The novel is now considered a classic of Philippine literature. Miguel Syjuco will also present his latest novel, *I Was The President's Mistress*—a politically charged work about power, manipulation, and media-driven truths.

**09 October**  
**17:00**

**Event type:**

Presentation  
Conversation  
Book Launching

**Theme:**

Diaspora  
History  
19<sup>th</sup> Century

**Language:**

English

**Admission:**

Free

**The Philippines in the 19th Century**

Stephanie Coe & Annette Hug  
*Simon-Bolivar-Saal, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Potsdamer Str. 33, 10785 Berlin*

The Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut in Berlin, in cooperation with the Southeast Asia Reading Room of the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, will host an evening of book presentations highlighting recent works on Philippine history and literature of the 19th century.

**13 October**  
**19:00 - 21:00**

**Event type:**

Reading  
Conversation  
Book Signing

**Theme:**

Coming of Age  
Indigenous  
Queer

**Language:**

German

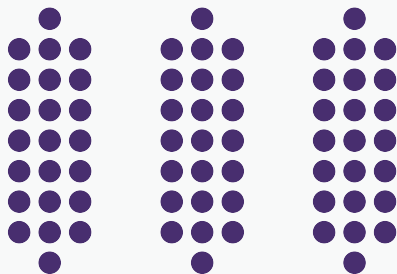
**Admission:**

Ticketed

**Reading the Philippines:  
A Conversation and Reading**

Candy Gourlay & Blaise Gacoscas  
*Bücher bei Dausien Wehl & Co. KG*  
*Salzstraße 18, 63450 Hanau*

*Reading the Philippines* brings together Filipino authors for an afternoon of conversation and literature at Bücher bei Dausien. Through readings from their own works, the writers open windows into the country's many worlds, its layered histories, shifting cities, and landscapes shaped by both beauty and struggle.



## CULTURAL EVENTS (FILM, WORKSHOPS, TOURS, PERFORMANCES, & EXHIBITIONS)

**05 September**  
**17:00**

**Event type:**

Entertainment  
Performance

**Theme:**

Cultural

**Language:**

English

**Admission:**

Ticketed

**Pagtatahip | Winnowing | Windsichten:  
An Ambisonics/Wave Field Synthesis  
Sound Installation**

*Hörraum (The Listening Space)*, Humboldtforum im  
Berliner Schloss, Schlossplatz 1, 10178 Berlin  
[www.humboldtforum.org](http://www.humboldtforum.org)

What echoes linger in the silences of historical archives? Can the sounds of our ancestors, preserved in fragile wax cylinders and fading magnetic tapes, speak truths beyond fidelity? In *Pagtatahip*, meLê yamomo invites audiences into an immersive sonic weaving of past and present, where the reverberations of empire and memory are brought into resonance.

**27 September**  
**2025 -**  
**28 March**  
**2026**

**Event type:**

Entertainment  
Performance

**Theme:**

Community  
Indigenous

**Language:**

English

**Admission:**

Free

**Pieces of Life: The Philippine  
Collection | Pieces of Life: Die  
Philippinen-Sammlung der  
von Portheim-Stiftung**

*Völkerkundemuseum der J. & E. von  
Portheim-Stiftung für Wissenschaft und  
Kunst (vPST), Hauptstraße 235,  
69117 Heidelberg | [www.vkm-vpst.de](http://www.vkm-vpst.de)*

The exhibition sheds light on the material culture of Philippine communities in conversation with contemporary art. The collection includes possessions and belongings across the Philippine archipelago: baskets, personal adornment, textile, domestic objects, beads, agricultural and fishing equipment, weapons, among others.

**11 - 20**  
**October**

**Event type:**

Entertainment  
Performance

**Theme:**

Children's  
Literature  
Cultural

**Language:**

English

**Admission:**

Free

**Liwaliw: The Philippine Experience  
(Die Philippinen im Kulturforum)**

*Kulturforum Hanau*  
*Am Freiheitsplatz 18a, 63450 Hanau*

Step into — a showcase of joy, flavor, and community spirit that brings to life the magic of Filipino culture. This exhibit is vibrant, unpolished, a little noisy, but always full of heart. No pressure, just play. Tara, liwaliw tayo!

**11 October**  
**14:30 - 18:30**

**Event type:**

Workshop  
Workshop

**Theme:**

Children's  
Literature  
Graphic Novel  
Arts & Crafts

**Language:**

English

**Admission:**

Free

**Liwaliw: The Philippine Experience  
(Die Philippinen im Kulturforum)**

Danielle Florendo, Liza Flores  
Beth Parrocha, & Randy Valiente  
*Kulturforum Hanau*  
*Am Freiheitsplatz 18a, 63450 Hanau*

Join this workshop with artists Danielle Florendo, Beth Parrocha, Liza Flores, and Randy Valiente. Think street games, tasty bites, lively sounds, and plenty of chances to create alongside the artists. It's spontaneous, vibrant, a little noisy, and always heartfelt — just like Filipino culture itself.

# PHILIPPINES BEYOND THE CITY

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Note: Schedule as of 05 September 2025. All events are in English.



## FESTIVALS

**04 September -  
11 November**

### **Berleburger Literaturpflaster**

For 32 years now, the festival *Berleburger Literaturpflaster* has been dedicated to the respective focus of the Frankfurt Book Fair. This comprehensive cultural showcase, in which the guest country is presented, is enjoying growing popularity.

#### **04 September | 19:30**

*Dreams & Nightmares - Impressions from 150 Years of Philippine Literature* by Annette Hug  
BZW Bildungszentrum Wittgenstein GmbH  
Limburgstraße 74, 57319 Bad Berleburg

#### **09 September | 19:30**

*History of the Philippines: Colonial Heritage - Resistance - Paths to Independence and Democracy* by Jörg Schwieger & Siegfried Deduro  
*Dritter Ort - Bücherei der Zukunft*  
Poststraße 42, 57319 Bad Berleburg

#### **17 September | 19:30**

*Instructions for the Philippines*  
by Joscha Remus  
Sanitätshaus Kienzle  
Sählingstraße 16, 57319 Bad Berleburg

#### **18 September | 18:00**

*Wild Song: Reading* by Candy Gourlay  
Jugendcafé am Markt  
Marktplatz 1, 57319 Bad Berleburg

#### **19 September | 18:00 - 21:00**

*Adobo - The National Dish of the Philippines*  
by Josephine Saßmannshausen  
Schulküche der Städtischen Realschule  
Hermann-Böttger-Weg 9, 57319 Bad Berleburg

#### **26 September | 18:00 - 21:00**

*Adobo - The National Dish of the Philippines*  
by Josephine Saßmannshausen  
Schulküche der Städtischen Realschule  
Hermann-Böttger-Weg 9, 57319 Bad Berleburg

#### **01 October | 19:30**

*Climate Crisis & Justice in the Philippines*  
by Hannah Wolf  
*Dritter Ort - Bücherei der Zukunft*  
Poststraße 42, 57319 Bad Berleburg

#### **08 October | 18:00 - 21:00**

*Strange Natives - The Forgotten Memories of a Forgetful Old Lady*  
by Paolo Herras & Jerico Marte  
Sparkasse Wittgenstein  
Poststraße 15, 57319 Bad Berleburg

#### **06 - 10 October | 09:00 - 13:00**

Graphic Novel Workshop  
by Paolo Herras & Jerico Marte  
*Dritter Ort - Bücherei Zukunft*  
Poststraße 42, 57319 Bad Berleburg

#### **16 October | 19:30**

Reading: *Killing Time in a Warm Place*  
by Jose Dalisay  
EJOT Holding GmbH & Co. KG (Foyer)  
Im Herrengarten 1, 57319 Bad Berleburg

#### **19 October | 19:30**

Reading: *Ein ziemlich böses Mädchen*  
by Jessica Zafrá  
Hotel Alte Schule  
Goetheplatz 1, 57319 Bad Berleburg

#### **21 October | 19:00**

*Die Straßenkatzen von Manila* by Archie Oculos  
Volksbank Wittgenstein  
Poststraße 30a, 57319 Bad Berleburg

#### **29 October | 9:30**

*Human Dignity and the Church: "The Example of the Philippines"* by Prof. Dr. Dennis Solon  
Evangelische Stadtkirche Bad Berleburg  
Schlossstraße 18, 57319 Bad Berleburg

#### **04 & 13 November**

The new CAPITOL presents:  
Philippines on Screen - Cinema Highlights  
*Das neue CAPITOL*  
Im Herrengarten 8, 57319 Bad Berleburg

#### **04 & 13 November**

The new CAPITOL presents: Let the Philippines melt in your mouth - fitting for the cinema highlight  
*Das neue CAPITOL*  
Im Herrengarten 8, 57319 Bad Berleburg

#### **11 November**

*Multivision: "Philippines - 7,107 Islands Full of Contrasts"* by Tobias Hauser and David Hettich  
Bürgerhaus am Markt  
Marktplatz 1, 57319 Bad Berleburg

**15 - 17  
September**

### **Internationales Literaturfestival Berlin Lettrétage Veteranenstraße 2, 10119 Berlin**

The international literature festival Berlin, ilb for short, is one of the most important literature festivals in the world. Every year in September, the festival brings together over 100 international authors for book premieres, readings, and panel discussions. For more than 20 years, the festival has been offering literature enthusiasts the unique opportunity to gain curated insights into the fascinating world of international literature.

#### **15 September | 09:00**

Creative Writing & Spoken Word Workshop  
with Candy Gourlay  
Dokumentationszentrum Flucht, Vertreibung,  
Versöhnung Stresemannstraße 90, 10963 Berlin

#### **16 September | 11:30**

Opening with Candy Gourlay:  
*Wild Song* with Candy Gourlay  
Haus der Berliner Festspiele  
Schaperstr. 24, 10719 Berlin

#### **17 September | 09:30**

Candy Gourlay: *Wild Song*  
with Candy Gourlay  
House of the Berlin Festival  
Schaperstr. 24, 10719 Berlin



# PHILIPPINES BEYOND THE CITY

Guest of Honour Philippines carries its stories to other towns, cultural spaces, campuses, festivals, and communities

Note: Schedule as of 05 September 2025. All events are in English.



## FESTIVALS

**13 October 19:00** **Literaturhaus Bonn | Philippines: *Imagination Peoples the Air* with Jessica Zafra, Katrina Tuvera, & Allan N. Derain**  
Bundeskunsthalle  
Helmut-Kohl-Allee 4, 53113 Bonn

*The imagination peoples the air*, the Philippines' Guest of Honour motto at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2025, builds a bridge to the country's vibrant cultural and literary diversity. As is tradition, the Literaturhaus Bonn will be presenting renowned authors and texts from the guest-of-honour-country on the eve of the fair.

**19 October 19:00** **Harbour Front Literaturfestival Hamburg | Reading: *The Collaborators* by Katrina Tuvera**  
Rathauspassage  
Rathausmarkt 3, 20095 Hamburg

The Harbour Front Literature Festival is delighted to welcome Filipino author Katrina Tuvera with her novel *tors* (*Die Kollaborateure*)! She will present her latest work about loyalty, betrayal, and life under Japanese occupation. *Die Kollaborateure* tells the story of a family caught between survival and conviction—an impressive portrait of the colonial past. Tuvera has published a collection of short stories and two novels, both of which have won the Philippine National Book Award. She has also co-edited two anthologies of Philippine literature. *tors* is her first book in German. We cordially invite you to an evening with one of the most important literary voices in Southeast Asia.

**21 October** **Göttinger Literaturherbst | Reading: *The Collaborators* by Katrina Tuvera**  
Nikolaistraße 22, 37073 Göttingen

The story of the democratization of the Philippines is complex. This is exactly what Philippine author Katrina Tuvera shows in her novel *tors*. She focuses on a family in the late 1990s, when the entire nation followed the impeachment proceedings against the president. Father Carlos is in the hospital and begins to remember his childhood in the countryside during the war, the independence of the Philippines, the rise of Marcos and the military dictatorship, betrayal and adaptation, rebellion and submission. The author discusses this insightful novel about political entanglements and complicity with Cornelia Zetzsche. The event will include summarized translations from English into German.

**22 October 19:45** **Literaturhaus Stans | Reading: *Aswanglout* by Allan N. Derain & Annette Hug**  
Alter Postplatz 3, 6370 Stans, Switzerland

The signs are impossible to ignore: The girl Luklak is transforming into a crocodile. More precisely, into an aswang, a mythical creature from the Philippines. Fascinated, Luklak discovers the power of her new body, but her father despairs. In *The Sea of the Aswang* (Unionsverlag, 2025), Allan N. Derain tells, in evocative language, of spirit beings, zealous priests and colonial rulers, of father and daughter, and the astonishing journey of one courageous girl. This novel by Allan N. Derain, winner of multiple Philippine National Book Awards, has been translated from Filipino (Tagalog) into German by Swiss author and translator Annette Hug.

**22 October 19:00** **Starke Philipppinische Frauenstimme - Lualhati Bautista's *Die 70er* with Beverly W. Siy & Annette Michael**  
Buchpalast München  
Kirchstraße 5, 81675 München

The Philippines, the guest country at the Book Palace, presents the first book in the series. Lualhati Bautista (1945-2023) has inspired reflection on the role of women and the political situation in the country with her novels. Her clear, powerful writing style continues to inspire young female authors in the Philippines today. Beverly "Bebang" Siy, who wrote the afterword to this book, knew her personally. Publisher Annette Michael will be presenting the evening.

**24 - 26 October** ***The Philippines visits Zofingen – Imagination peoples the air* with Jose Dalisay, Allan N. Derain, Blaise Gacoscos, Katrina Tuvera, Beverly W. Siy, Jessica Zafra, & Ronald Verzo II**  
Pilatusweg 15, 4800 Zofingen, Switzerland

In 2025, the Frankfurt Book Fair will welcome the Philippines as its Guest of Honour – and Zofingen in the canton of Aargau is looking forward to literature from the island nation. Shaped by centuries of colonial history, migration, and cultural diversity, Philippine literature reflects the multifaceted identity of the island nation. From oral traditions and speculative fiction to comics and graphic novels, it showcases an impressive range of forms of expression. With 7,641 islands, 183 languages, and a population of over 115 million, the cultural landscape of the Philippines is a unique melting pot that you can explore at the Zofingen Literature Days!

**24 October | 18:00**  
Opening with musician Stella Cruz, followed by Apéro Riche

**25 October | Kulturhaus West**  
**09:30** | Rainer Werning and Jörg Schwieger: *Handbook Philippines* | Moderation: Urs Heinz Aerni

**11:00** | Katrina Tuvera: *The Collaborators*  
Moderation: Sarah Christen | Reading: Ariela Sarbacher

**13:00** | Jose Dalisay: *Last Call Manila*  
Moderation: Annette Hug | Reading: Thomas Sarbacher

**14:30** | Annina Keller: *Anna. Rösti, Zuckerrohr & Liebe*  
Book Launch | Moderation: Marina Villa

**16:00** | *Care as Commodity – Homeland as Price*, Panel discussion with Lenny Kaye Bugayong, Beatriz Lorente, Martina Merten & Lina Ermert | Moderation: Philipp Zahn

**17:30** | Blaise Gacoscos: *Der Junge von Ilocos*  
Moderation: Sarah Christen | Reading: Hanspeter Müller-Drossaart

**20:00** | Film Evening with *The Woman in the Septic Tank* by Marlon N. Rivera

**26 October | Kulturhaus West**

**10:00** | *A Living Room in a State of Emergency – Feminism under Martial Law*, Panel Discussion with Annette Hug, Beverly Siy, & Lina Ermert on the Novel *The '70s* by Lualhati Bautista and its Political Impact | Moderation: Ana Sobral | Reading: Ariela Sarbacher

**11:30** | Jessica Zafra: *Ein ziemlich böses Mädchen*  
Moderation: Monika Schärer | Reading: Thomas Sarbacher

**13:30** | Annette Hug: *Wilhelm Tell in Manila*  
Moderation: Esther Schneider

**15:00** | Allan N. Derain: *Aswanglout*  
Moderation: Monika Schärer | Reading: Thomas Sarbacher

# PH GATHERINGS

## PRESS EVENTS, CELEBRATIONS, & SOCIAL GATHERINGS

PH Gatherings is where all the energy comes alive, with press cons, celebrations, and hangouts that put Filipino creativity and culture front and center

Note: Schedule as of 04 September 2025.

The imagination peoples the air  
PHILIPPINES GUEST OF HONOUR  
FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2025

### PRESS CONFERENCES

**04 September  
11:00 - 14:00**  
**Press Conference at the  
National Library of the Philippines**  
1000 Kalaw Ave, Ermita, Manila,  
1000 Metro Manila

**Admission:**  
By Invitation

Authors, publishers, and culture movers give a preview of what the Philippines is bringing to Frankfurt as its Guest of Honour — events, collabs, and content that's putting Philippine stories on the global stage.

**11 September  
17:00 - 19:00**  
**Guest of Honour Send-Off at the  
Manila International Book Fair**  
SMX Convention Center Manila

**Admission:**  
By Invitation

This gathering brings together authors, publishers, and book lovers to celebrate the Philippines as Guest of Honour. It's the perfect space to connect and share ideas over everything Philippine literature has to offer.

**13 October  
11:00**  
**Jeepney Journey - Philippinische Kultur  
meets Frankfurt**  
Roßmarkt, 60313 Frankfurt am Main

**Admission:**  
By Invitation

With conversations and sneak peeks into what the country is bringing as Guest of Honour, this moving press event celebrates Filipino creativity, color, and culture.

**14 October  
11:00 - 12:00**  
**FBM Opening Press Conference**  
Frankfurt Studio, Hall 4.0  
Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main

**Admission:**  
By Invitation

**14 October  
12:30 - 13:30**  
**Press Preview of the Philippines  
Guest of Honour Pavilion 2025**  
Guest of Honour Pavilion, Forum 1,  
Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main

**Admission:**  
By Invitation

Step inside the Philippines' Guest of Honour Pavilion and get an exclusive behind-the-scenes look. This press tour showcases the country's literature, culture, and creativity on full display, highlighting exhibits, programs, and featured authors. It's a first-hand glimpse at how the Philippines is taking center stage at the 2025 fair, celebrating stories that connect the nation to the world.



### CEREMONIES

**14 October  
19:00 - 20:00**  
**Opening of the Guest of Honour Pavilion  
2025 Philippines**  
Guest of Honour Pavilion, Forum 1,  
Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main

**Admission:**  
By Invitation

The Philippines officially opens its Guest of Honour Pavilion at the Frankfurter Buchmesse 2025. Inspired by the theme *The imagination peoples the air*, the pavilion is a space for books, art, and ideas, an open invitation to experience the country's stories and creative spirit.

**15 October  
09:45**  
**Philippine Stand Opening Ceremony**  
Philippine Stand, Hall 5.1 A95 and B95,  
Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main

**Admission:**  
Open to All

The Philippine Stand Opening Ceremony warmly welcomes visitors to the heart of the Philippines at the fair. More than an opening, it is a celebration of stories, voices, and imaginations carried across seas and skies.

**19 October  
16:00**  
**Handover Ceremony**  
Guest of Honour Pavilion, Forum 1,  
Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main

**Admission:**  
By Invitation

As the Philippines completes its moment as Guest of Honour, it passes the torch to the next country, carrying with it the spirit of shared stories, friendship, and imagination. This handover marks not an ending, but a continuation, a bridge between cultures and communities, ensuring that the dialogue of books, ideas, and creativity lives on.

### RECEPTIONS

**15 October  
11:00**  
**Asia Stage Reception**  
Asia Stage, Hall 5.1 A75,  
Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main

**Admission:**  
Open to All

Join us at the Asia Stage Reception, a warm gathering that brings together voices, stories, and communities from across Asia.

**16 October  
17:00**  
**Philippine Stand Reception**  
Philippine Stand, Hall 5.1 A95 and B95,  
Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main

**Admission:**  
Open to All

Step into the heart of the Philippines at the Stand Reception, a gathering of friends, authors, and partners from around the world. Celebrate with us as we share stories, flavors, and the vibrant spirit of Philippine creativity, all in one welcoming space that feels like home.

**17 October  
16:00 - 17:00**  
**Phoenix/Central Books Reception**  
Stand A100 Hall 5.1  
Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main

**Admission:**  
By Invitation

Join the Phoenix/Central Books Reception, a gathering that celebrates stories, connections, and the vibrant publishing spirit of the Philippines. Meet authors, publishers, and fellow book lovers in an evening of meaningful exchange, where ideas spark and partnerships take flight.