

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 10 October 2025.



15 OCTOBER 2025, WEDNESDAY

Proscenium Stage

09:45 -
10:00

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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 (Cebuano Song)
Kuwerdas Filipinas & Bianca Camille Aguila

11:30 -
12:30

“What Moves Us”
Film and Literature:
Tension and Translation
Angelo R. Lacuesta & Tanya Yuson
Prize-winning fictionist Lacuesta and international film producer Yuson discuss the techniques and tension involved in crossing over to film popular literary works.

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

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

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

14:00 -
14:30

Performance | Adat Parangnublon
Kulintang Ensemble & Akayu

14:30 -
15:00

Poetry for Freedom, Justice, and Peace
Marjorie Evasco & Maria Rilke Arguelles
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.

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

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

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

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

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



18:00 - 18:30
Lament of the Most Wretched Woman Written by Rizal: A Performance
Allan Derain & Rowena Festin; Performed by Camille Abaya, Directed by Missy Maramara

A tragic figure in José Rizal's *Noli Me Tangere*, Sisa embodies the sorrowful mother shattered by poverty, injustice, and colonial cruelty. Once gentle and loving, she turns mad after her sons, Basilio and Crispin, fall victim to the abuses of church and state. At once homage, it conjures the ghostly presence hidden in the GOH theme, "Imagination peoples the air," by bringing to life the unseen and the unspoken—the children lost to Tokhang's extrajudicial killings and the young lives erased in Gaza.

Arena Stage

15:00 - 16:00
"While We Are Away: the Diaspora"
Hunting for Artifacts: 19th Century German Explorers in the Luzon Cordillera
Analyn Salvador-Amores, Claudius Kamps, & Christopher Kast

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

Anthropologist Salvador-Amores with Kamps and Kast will tell the story of how 19th-century German explorers in the Cordillera collected an astounding number of ethnographic artifacts now stored in five museums: Berlin, Dresden, Leipzig, Munich, and Vienna. After more than a century of these artifacts being stored in the museums, they are digitally documented, and were brought back to the communities of origin for new narratives.

Performance | Kalinga Bamboo Music
Akayu

16:00 - 17:00
Legislation for Arts and Culture: A Conversation and a Launch
Senator Loren Legarda

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

Visionary of the Philippine Guest of Honor Project, the Honorable Senator Loren Legarda in conversation on the difficult and lonely work of passing powerful legislation for culture and the arts. It will be followed by the launch of the new German editions of Jose Rizal's two novels: *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*.

17:00 - 18:00
"What We Keep and Remember"
Indigenous Values/Multiple Spaces
Kidlat Tahimik, Filomeno Aguilar Jr., & Eric Zerrudo

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

A National Artist, a scholar and educator, a curator and cultural manager discuss indigenous values and spaces where they thrive across time. This conversation will cover the Filipino concepts of Kapwa, Bukas loob, and maalwang buhay in spaces as town plazas, museums and galleries, and the churches here and in diaspora. Our popular Catholic piety and indigenous wisdom are all a manner of continuing resistance to one Western standard of modernity.

Performance | Bathala by Reginald Bernaldez
Kuwerdas Filipinas

18:00 - 18:30
Poetry for Freedom, Justice, and Peace
Virgilio Almario, Mookie Katigbak-Lacuesta, & Paul Alcosoba Castillo

Event type: Reading
Theme: Cultural Performance
Language: English

A poetry reading by Philippine National Artist Almario with young poets Lacuesta and Castillo, accompanied on guitar by Manimtim. It will be followed by a performance of *Sa Mahal Kong Bayan*, with lyrics and music by Guillermo Santiago Cuina and Lucio San Pedro.

Performance | Sa Mahal Kong Bayan
The Philippine Madrigal Singers and Song Weavers Philippines & Kuwerdas Filipinas

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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, introduces to the international public how our music's diversity is what animates it and makes it unique in the world. meLê yamomo shows how Manila was the center of 19th-century world music, and how our musicians have shaped it as they migrated globally.

11:30 - 12:30
“What Moves Us”
How Do We Write About
Climate Change?

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

Marjorie Evasco, Maria Paz Luna, & Red Constantino

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”
FlipTop: The Biggest Rap Battle
League in the World

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

Alaric “Anygma” Yuson

Anygma founded, runs, and developed FlipTop over the last 16 years, into the biggest and most viewed Rap Battle League in the world. Through a video presentation, he will attempt to encapsulate FlipTop's extensive influence and impact on the overall Filipino HipHop culture, its alternative use and appreciation of the Filipino language, and how it has elevated modern Battle Rap from a niche art form to a global phenomenon.

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

Event type:
Discussion
Theme:
Literature
Fiction
Language:
English

Cecilia Manguerra Brainard, Jessica Zafra, & Ayu Utami

Fictionists, Filipino and Indonesian, discuss the symphonic quality of their novels through language, and how different 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**
Virgilio Almario, Andriy Lyubka, Mahmoud Muna, Matthew Teller, Arne Svingen, & Ayu Utami
- Event type:** Reading
Theme: Cultural Performance Poetry
Language: English, Other Philippine Languages
- Literary voices from different parts of the world come together to celebrate freedom, justice, and peace. They read from their works, or from the works of the many who are voiceless and rendered invisible. By this solidarity, they help the world move from a dark, difficult place to one of light and grace. In a special literary way, they all contribute to building an arc of hope.



- 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 | Transcendence by
Faye Mirabite**
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 their media struggles for freedom and independence.

Performance | First Quarter Storm Medley
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**
Nikki Carsi Cruz, Dorian Merina, Tarik Hamdan, Atef Abu Saif, & Genevieve Asenjo
- Event type:** Discussion
Theme: Current Issues Society, Politics & Culture
Language: English
- Literature is both wound work and world-making. Together, Filipino and Palestinian writers bear witness to the wounds of empire, occupation, displacement, erasure, and resistance. 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? At the center is 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-Colonial 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, Fr. Albert Alejo SJ, Lisandro Claudio, & Kidlat Tahirik
- Event type:** Discussion
Theme: 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 Muslim resistance and WW2 guerrilla engagement, the issue of Church and indigenous peoples, and the EDSA People Power—faith and national independence have been the undercurrent of many of our struggles.
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- 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, & Da Coconut Nut by Ryan Cayabyab**
The Philippine Madrigal Singers and Song Weavers Philippines
-
- 12:30 - 13:00** **Performance | Morobeats**
-
- 13:00 - 14:00** **“What Bewitches Us”**
Animating Zsazsa Zaturnnah
Avid Liongoren
- Event type:** Discussion
Theme: Comics & Graphic Narratives, Cross Media
Language: English
- A shy gay man swallows a magical rock that transforms him into a flamboyant female superhero! *Zsazsa Zaturnnah* is a beloved graphic novel by Carlo Vergara that is being adapted into an animated feature film set for release in 2026. Filmmaker Avid Liongoren will present the creative process behind the project & talk about the challenges of producing independent animation in the Philippines.

Arena Stage

- 09:45 - 10:00**
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- 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
- What constitutes world literature are all the big and important novels from different countries translated into English to be more accessible to the international market. They become part of the world literary canon, but what about transnational translations? Translators are the new superheroes who ferry works across languages, across cultures.
- Performance | Love's Secret by William Blake, translated by Lamberto Antonio; Music by Josefino Toledo**
Jonathan Zaens

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Proscenium Stage

14:00 - 15:00

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

Book Launch for *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*

Ambeth Ocampo, Filomeno Aguilar Jr., & Noelle Sy-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 - 16:00

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

Performance | Canto Patriotico de Maria Clara by Jose Rizal; Music: J. de S. Hernandez

Bianca Camille Aguilla & Kuwerdas Filipinas

“While We Are Away: the Diaspora”
Benedict Anderson and Jose Rizal
Patricio N. Abinales & 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.

16:00 - 17:00

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

“What We Imagine”
Graphic Novels: Spiritual and Mythical

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.

17:00 - 18:00

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

The Films of Mike De Leon: Visuality and Intertextuality

Angelo R. Lacuesta, 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.

Arena Stage

14:30 - 15:00

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

Poetry for Freedom, Justice, and Peace

Dorian Merina, Renato Evangelista, Ryan Cuatrona, & Fr. Albert Alejo SJ

Philippine traditional poetic forms featuring Dorian Merina (laji), Renato Evangelista (ambahan), Ryan Cuatrona (tigsik), and Fr. Albert Alejo (tanaga).

15:00 - 16:00

Event type: Presentation
Theme: Heritage Society, Politics & Culture Art Architecture Design
Language: English

“While We Are Away: the Diaspora”
Philippine Art in the World

Patrick Flores & Miljohn Ruperto

Curator Patrick Flores and Filipino-American artist Miljohn Ruperto share their personal and professional assessment of the place in the world of Philippine art.

Performance | Hiram by George Canseco
Damodar Das Castillo

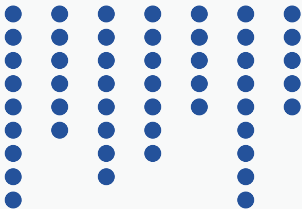
16:00 - 17:00

Event type: Discussion
Theme: Current Issues Fiction, Technology & Innovation
Language: English

“What We Imagine”
Speculative Fiction and AI Narratives

Dean Francis Alfar & 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 | Rosie Sula and Adat Paranublion Kulintang Ensemble**

10:00 - 11:00 **“That You May Know Us”
Mindanao History, Politics, and Culture**

Event type:
Discussion

Theme:
Heritage
Society,
Politics &
Culture
Language:
English

Patricio N. Abinales, Fr. Albert Alejo SJ,
& 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**

Event type:
Discussion

Theme:
Current Issues
Gender
Studies,
Society,
Politics &
Culture
Language:
English

Ian Rosales Casocot, Blaise Gacoscos,
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)**

Event type:
Discussion

Theme:
Diaspora
Society,
Politics &
Culture
Language:
English

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)**

Event type:
Discussion

Theme:
Diaspora
Society,
Politics &
Culture
Language:
English

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**

Event type:
Discussion

Theme:
Literature
Society,
Politics &
Culture,
Religion
and Spirituality
Language:
English

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**

Event type:
Discussion

Theme:
History
Society,
Politics &
Culture
Language:
English

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**

Event type:
Presentation

Theme:
Children's
Literature
Young Adult
Fiction
Language:
English

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 **“What We Imagine”
Framing Stories: Truth in Art and Film**

Event type:
Discussion

Theme:
Cross media
Society,
Politics
& Culture, Film,
TV & Interactive
Media
Language:
English

Manix Abrera & Tanya Yuson

Comics author and artist Manix Abrera 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.

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18 OCTOBER 2025, SATURDAY

Proscenium Stage

14:30 - 15:00
Performance | 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.

Performance | 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.

17:00 - 18:00
Technology for Truth: Reframing Stories - Young Journalists in Conversation with Nobel Laureate for Peace Maria Ressa

Event type: Discussion
Theme: Current Issues
Society, Politics & Culture
Language: English
Nobel Laureate for Peace Maria Ressa, Aurora Almendral, Lisandro Claudio, & Patricia Evangelista
In today's world of autocrats and populists who commandeer Big Tech to widely and instantaneously spread deep fakes and unspeakable lies in the service of their agenda, young journalists ask how do we now tell our stories?

18:00 - 18:30
Inscribing Peace: Bangsamoro Peace Agreements to the UNESCO Memory of the World
Carlo Ebeo, Arvin Villalon, & Reden Ulo

Event type: Discussion
Theme: Current Issues
Society, Politics & Culture
Language: English
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
Performance | Gabi ng mga Aswang by Christi-Ann Castro
Kuwerdas Filipinas

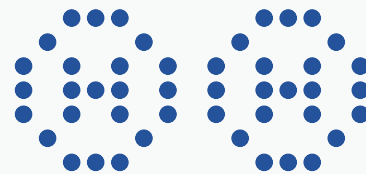
"While We Are Away: the Diaspora"
Materiality of Mythology
Allan N. Derain, Fr. Andrew Recepcion, & Budjette Tan

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 by Jose Rizal, Music by Ryan Cayabyab
The Philippine Madrigal Singers and Song Weavers Philippines with 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 10 October 2025.



19 OCTOBER 2025, SUNDAY

Proscenium Stage

09:45 - 10:00	Performance 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 SJ Four poets introduce four of our traditional poetic forms. With performance of sample works. Performance T'boli Chant Rosie Sula Event type: Discussion Theme: Literature Non-Fiction Language: English
11:30 - 12:30	"What Moves Us" Women in Arts and Media Mina Esguerra, Patricia Evangelista, Angel Velasco Shaw, & 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 Event type: Discussion Theme: Current Issues Society, Politics & Culture Gender Studies Language: English
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 Event type: Presentation Theme: Literature Non-Fiction Language: English
14:00 - 15:00	"What We Imagine" A Creative Crisis: To Engage, Or Not To Engage Russell Molina, Danielle Florendo, & Aurora Almendral A journalist, 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 Event type: Discussion Theme: Current Issues Society, Politics & Culture Language: English
16:00	Handover Ceremony As the Philippines completes its moment as Guest of Honour, we pass the torch to the Czech Republic, 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. Admission: By Invitation

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. Event type: Discussion Theme: Literature Fiction Language: English
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. Event type: Discussion Theme: Heritage Society, Politics & Culture Language: English
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. Event type: Discussion Theme: Current Issues Society, Politics & Culture Film, TV & Interactive Media Language: English



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

Schedule as of 10 October 2025.

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

15 October 2025, Wednesday

09:45

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

Analya Salvador-Amores, Claudius Kamps, Christopher Kast, Vanessa Gliszczynski, & Ricky Jose
A book launching and discussion.

10:30 - 11:30

Nuno sa Punso and Hordes of Creatures from Philippine Mythology come to visit the Philippine Stand

VENUE:
Manlilikha Space

Beth Parrocha

An invitation to mingle with Philippine Myth through live drawing with the artist and guests at the Philippine Stand.

11:30 - 12:30

Heimweh and Home: The Launch of *Ausländer*

VENUE:
Pilipinas Space

Al Joseph A. Lumen, Elmer Castigador Grampon (translator to German), & Cindy Llorente-Wiegand (editor)

In *Ausländer*, Al Joseph Lumen writes of love, grief, and belonging in a country not his own. This launch invites readers to listen, reflect, and share in the migrant's quiet resilience.

13:00 - 14:00

Komiks with a K

VENUE:
Pilipinas Space

Jay Ignacio

A documentary film covering the 1970s' so-called "Filipino Invasion of American Comics," the subsequent rise of Whilce Portacio in the US, his influence in the Philippines, and the eventual renaissance of Filipino independent komiks of the present.

Produced/Directed by Jay Ignacio

The Philippines once boasted a thriving, prolific komiks industry throughout the 1950s and 1960s. By the 1970s, there was an explosion of Filipino art in the American comic book industry. Master illustrators such as Tony DeZuniga, Alfredo Alcala, Alex Niño, and Nestor Redondo paved the way for other Filipinos to be showcased on the global stage. Now, 50 years later, how is the Philippine industry of komiks doing? This documentary film examines the past, as well as the current state of Filipino sequential art.

About the Producer: Jay Ignacio is a documentary filmmaker and komiks author, whose first graphic novel, *Alandal*, illustrated by Alex Niño, is an official selection of PICO 2021, and is published in Germany, Myanmar, and the USA.

13:00 - 14:00

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

VENUE:
Manlilikha Space

19th Avenida & 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

VENUE:
Pilipinas Space

A Launching: *Shards of Time* and *A Practical Guide to Sigbin Keeping: A Cozy Fantasy in the Island of Siquijor*

Mitos Suson & Cindy Wong

Upon returning to the enchanted island of Siquijor with her grandmother, Lola Ellie, *balikbayan* teenager Leklek Rosal makes a startling discovery—her so-called imaginary friend from her childhood, a *Sigbin* named Rocky, is in fact real! This revelation leads her to explore the mysteries behind her untapped magical abilities. They will be crucial for protecting Siquijor, but will she be ready in time? Under Lola Ellie's guidance, Leklek is beginning to feel more grounded in her Barangay. As Leklek prepares to face the *Wakwak* known as Ravenous, she finds a connection in her ancestral roots. In her quest to unearth the extent of her mystical powers, Leklek is joined by her cousin Bert, her boyfriend Eric, and Rocky the *Sigbin*, who provides supernatural support in her adventures. Together, they search the depths of her hidden mystical gifts. They must be particularly careful because a Vatican priest, Brother Simon Del Cano, is on a mission to uncover the reality surrounding *Sigbins*. As dark forces coalesce, can Leklek succeed in harnessing her power and destiny to safeguard her Barangay against the looming threat?

15:00 - 16:00

VENUE:
Pilipinas Space

Philippine Soft Power in Europe: A Launching

Eduardo Martin Meñez

A book launching and discussion.

16:00 - 17:00

VENUE:
Pilipinas Space

Paghilom: Justice in Pursuit of Healing

Mookie Katigbak-Lacuesta, Fr. Albert Alejo SJ, & Roby Alampay

Paghilom is often translated as healing—but in the aftermath of the Philippine drug war, can healing truly begin when justice has not yet come?

Rather than simply revisiting trauma, this dialogue seeks to reimagine how we accompany grief: not as passive observers, but as fellow witnesses committed to truth, memory, and the slow, collective work of *paghilom*.

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.

PHILIPPINE STAND

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PHILIPPINES GUEST OF HONOUR
FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2025

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.

9:00 - 11:00

VENUE:
Manlilikha Space

Ardie & Dione Present: Small Portraits, Small Talks, Big Connections

Ardie Aquino & Dione Kong

We're celebrating the simple act of connection through art. Create a small portrait, have a friendly chat, and leave with a unique keepsake to remember the moment.

11:00 - 12:00

VENUE:
Pilipinas Space

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

Baldur von Berlepsch, Alex Jose, Eddie Jose, & Evelina Jose Cichy (moderator)

A Tribute to National Artist F. Sionil José. Launching three newly translated works—*Po-on*, *Short Stories* by F. Sionil José, and *Memories Through Photographs*.

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, Charisse Aquino-Tugade, Ani Almario, & Atty. Andrea Pasion-Flores

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.

13:00 - 14:00

VENUE:
Pilipinas Space

Impolite Company: Sex, Religion, Politics—and Other Taboos

Miguel Syjuco

Miguel Syjuco, winner of the Man Asian Literary Prize for *Ilustrado*, discusses the literary traditions, intentions, and impact of his most recent novel, *I Was the President's Mistress!!*—a book about everything our mothers said were unfit for polite company.

14:00 - 15:00

VENUE:
Pilipinas Space

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

Roger Friedlein

A book launching and discussion.

14:00 - 15:00

VENUE:
Manlilikha Space

Live Drawing

Liza Flores

Experience a live art demo with Liza Flores, whose children's book illustrations and paper-cut creations have captivated audiences worldwide.

15:00 - 16:00

VENUE:
Pilipinas Space

Intersectional Spaces: Kapwa, Synergistic Energies, Creativity, Radical Pedagogy, Public Art, Cordillera Culture, and Heritage

Angel Velasco Shaw, Kidlat Tahimik, & Kawayan De Guia

Dialogue focuses on the Markets of Resistance Project multiverse as sites of interconnectivity, intervention and resistance to cultural norms and oppression, the mainstream art market, convergence of radical pedagogy, culture, art and heritage, and small press publishing as a means to build and sustain cultural currency and alternative forms of living.

16:00-17:00

VENUE:
Pilipinas Space

Sensible Forms: The Art of Form and Feeling

Patrick Flores & Tina Colayco

A book launching and discussion.

16:00 - 17:00

VENUE:
Manlilikha Space

Dumadaloy sa mga Ilog at Dagat (Voices in Transit Over Waters): Readings of Palestinian and Filipino Works

Tarik Hamdan, Atef Abu Saif, Allan N. Derain, Mikka Cabangon, Rowena Festin, & Chuckberry Pascual

Two Palestinian voices cross the borders of language. Two Filipino voices journey back across the same. Their words rise first in their own tongue, then move into English, then into Filipino—and in return, the Filipino flows into English, into Arabic. Each translation is a bridge. Each bridge, a reminder that what divides us is far less than what binds us.

This special gathering will feature the works of two Palestinian writers, Tarik Hamdan and Atef Abu Saif, and Filipino writers, Francisco Balagtas (represented by Allan N. Derain) with Mikka Cabangon, Rowena Festin, and Chuckberry Pascual, presented in their original Palestinian and Filipino languages and their translations in English, Filipino, and Arabic. By moving across languages, the readings highlight how literature can transcend borders. It aims to reveal not only the uniqueness of each voice, but also the shared longings, struggles, and hopes that bind us together.

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.



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FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2025

17 October 2025, Friday

09:00 - 10:00

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

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

VENUE:
Pilipinas Space

10:00 - 11:00

Connecting and Collecting: Launch of the Rizal Ethnographic Objects in Germany in a Digital Exhibition at the Country Stand of the Philippines

Jeremy Barns, Arvin Villalon, & Carlo Ebeo

In 1887, Dr. José Rizal donated a collection of ethnographic objects to the Ethnologisches Museum in Berlin, reflecting his deep engagement with the cultural and scientific environment of his time. Supported by the Office of Senator Loren Legarda, this project brings these objects to light through a collaborative study, examining their origins, materiality, and historical context.

The Ethnology Division of the National Museum of the Philippines and the National Book Development Board, in partnership with various organizations here in Germany, proudly present the Rizal Ethnographic Objects in Germany in a pioneering digital exhibition entitled CONNECTING AND COLLECTING.

VENUE:
Pilipinas Space

11:00 - 12:00

Launching: *San Rafael* by Leila Rispens-Noel, from the Philippines to Sri Lanka with Love

Cindy Wong, Leila Rispens-Noel, Pradeep Saxena, & Che de Leon, author of *Silence* (moderator)

The sunlight brings life, but we cannot get too close to the sun. For people like us, it is safer to stay in the shadows. Isabel, a seventeen-year-old living in a poor rural village, 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? What will become of the workers on the sugarcane plantation?

VENUE:
Pilipinas Space

11:00 - 12:00

Philippine Fauna in Focus Through Child Play

Beth Parrocha

Experience once more the simple joy of discovering images by connecting the dots by numbers.

VENUE:
Manlilikha Space

12:00 - 13:00

From Manila to Colombo: The Journey of *The Age of Umbrage*

Jessica Zafra & Pradeep Gamega

A book launching and discussion.

VENUE:
Pilipinas Space

12:00 - 13:00

From Lines to Life: Ardie Aquino Live

Ardie Aquino

Live drawing.

VENUE:
Manlilikha Space

13:00 - 14:00

Celebrating Translations of Cecilia Manguerra Brainard's Fiction

Cecilia Manguerra Brainard, Senja Požar, Filip Batkoski, Leonardo Garzaro, Nenad Saponja, Mohamed Radi, Dejan Trajkoski, & Dimitris Tsoukatos

This panel celebrates the international reach of Cecilia 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. *Join us to hear what Cecilia Manguerra Brainard's literary agent and publishers have to say, as we celebrate the translations of her novels and Selected Short Stories into Arabic, Greek, Slovenian, Portuguese, Macedonian, Japanese, Serbian, and Azerbaijani.*

VENUE:
Pilipinas Space

13:00 - 14:00

Baybayin: Writing a Past

Howie Severino

Howie Severino introduces the Philippine ancient syllabary called the *Baybayin* and shares its story of revival. He will also render names from the audience in Baybayin.

VENUE:
Manlilikha Space

14:00 - 15:00

VENUE:
Pilipinas Space

14:00 - 15:00

VENUE:
Manlilikha Space

15:00 - 16:00

VENUE:
Pilipinas Space

15:00 - 16:00

VENUE:
Manlilikha Space

16:00 - 17:00

VENUE:
Pilipinas Space

16:00 - 17:00

VENUE:
Manlilikha Space

17:00 - 18:00

VENUE:
Pilipinas Space

18:00 - 19:00

VENUE:
Pilipinas Space

Moro Warrior: Untold Stories of Resistance

Tom McKenna

A book launching and discussion.

Live Drawing

Aldy Aguirre

Watch artist Aldy Aguirre at work in this live demonstration. Known for his evocative watercolor and gouache pieces, Aguirre draws inspiration from nature, memories, dreams, and emotions, transforming the fleeting and intangible into delicate works of art.

Deeper Ground, Darker Shadows: A Book Launch

Patricio N. Abinales, Dr. Lisandro Claudio, Dennis Lloyd, & Eddie Quitariano

Deeper Ground, Darker Shadows is the memoir of Eddie L. Quitariano, who grew up in a rural part of the Philippine island of Mindanao and eventually became one of the top organizers of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and commander of the party's New People's Army (NPA). Coming to political consciousness as a university student, Quitariano chooses revolution over the priesthood and embarks on a life of unforeseen danger. Sent abroad as an envoy to seek military assistance from sympathetic governments and other radical factions, he travels from the Sandinistas in Nicaragua to Syria, Libya, North Korea, Peru, Brazil, and Yugoslavia.

Tara, mamista! (Join the feast!)

Arteena Lefty

The activity is a live drawing demo, but with a twist. *Tara, mamista!*—a Cebuano term meaning "Join the feast!"—invites viewers and attendees to join as Arteena Lefty recreates the dining scene in her graphic novel, *Unang Kadaugan*. The scene features a fun fact about the foods served by Rajah Humabon when he entertained Ferdinand Magellan during his visit to Cebu in 1521. The twist? During the live drawing, attendees present are invited to participate and be drawn in the scene as if they were part of the feast.

The Making of A Vocabulario: Imagining Bikol and Beyond

Emilia Caldera Soriano, Fr. Wilmer Tria, Ryan Cuatrona, Alexander Madrigal Eduque, & Kristian Cordero (moderator)

A translation of *VOCABULARIO DE LA LENGUA BICOL* brings you on a journey of discovery way back in time, to 17th century Bicol, in early Spanish colonized Philippines, through its sophisticated language, each word telling a story about a people rich in deep-rooted culture, values, tradition, and a land brimming with a wealth of natural resources, its abundant gold shining under the tropical Philippine sun.

Live Drawing: Art that Speaks

CJ Reynaldo

Live drawing.

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.

Philippine Comics at the Fair: A Tale of Many Pages

Kat Olan, Bambi Eloriaga-Amago, Mike Alcazaren, CJ Reynaldo, Ardie Aquino, & Paolo Herras

This unleashes the raw energy of Philippine komiks; 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.

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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 & Robin Sebolino

This talk explores the potential of novel-writing as a form of ethnographic practice, using Corazo's 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*.

10:00 - 11:00

VENUE:
Manlilikha Space

Accordion Book: Little Houses Based on a Book I Illustrated

Danielle Florendo

Join illustrator Dani Florendo in a hands-on session where audiences craft their own accordion books. Inspired by her illustrated stories, this playful activity brings art to life and promises a fun, creative experience.

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

Hagod in Motion: 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.

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

Book Launch of *Seams of Sedition: Sartorial Symbols in Jose Rizal's Noli me Tangere*

Stephanie Coe

A book launching and discussion.

13:00 - 14:00

VENUE:
Manlilikha Space

A Lifescribing Story Circle

Kimi Lu, Joan Gallares, Jo Uygongco, Techie Calibuso, & Liezl Razon

This program introduces Lifescribing, the practice of writing and keeping life stories as legacy for future generations. We will do this through an intimate story circle that combines author readings with audience participation. Instead of a panel or lecture, the session creates a space for exchange, connection, and memory-keeping. Visitors will leave not only with an encounter with Filipino authors but also with a lived experience of reflecting on their own legacies.

14:00 - 15:00

VENUE:
Pilipinas Space

Onib and Me: Between the Canvas and the Soul

Bettina Rodriguez-Olmedo

A book launching and discussion.

14:00 - 15:00

VENUE:
Manlilikha Space

Filipino Komiks: Live Drawing

Manix Abrera

Live drawing.

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.

17:00 - 18:00

VENUE:
Pilipinas Space

The Great Philippine Jungle Energy Cafe

Angelo R. Lacuesta

A discussion.



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

Schedule as of 10 October 2025.

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

19 October 2025, Sunday

09:00 - 10:00

International Healthcare Professionals - Here to Stay

Benjamin Nabert

VENUE:

Pilipinas Space

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 - 12:00

Illuboxing

VENUE:

Manlilikha Space

A playful interactive session featuring the Illubox, a magical drawing slot machine. Watch as audience prompts slip into the box and reappear minutes later as original artworks by talented illustrators.

11:00 - 12:00

Merlinda Bobis *In The Name of The Trees* Book Launch

Anvil Publishing, Inc.

VENUE:

Pilipinas Space

Join us for the launch of the novel *In the Name of the Trees* by multi-awarded Filipina-Australian writer Merlinda Bobis on October 19, 2025, 11 AM to 12 noon at the Philippine Stand, Hall 5.1 A95 and B95. Watch her video performance on this evocative exploration of ecology and heritage, where trees become witnesses and participants in generational memory and trauma. Between the Philippines and Australia is the enduring impact of colonisation and war on women's bodies and spirits—but they are 'hardwood women' and they survive!

12:00 - 13:00

Tikbalang in Frankfurt with Ian Sta. Maria

VENUE:

Manlilikha Space

Live drawing.

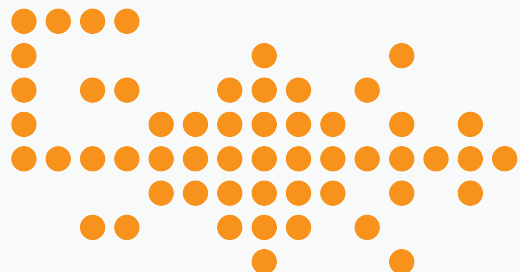
14:00 - 15:00

Isang Awit, Isang Mundo (One Song, One World): The Unitive Power of Song in Karaoke

VENUE:

Pilipinas Space

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.



ASIA STAGE

Hall 5.1 A75, Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main

Note: Schedule as of 10 October 2025. All programs will be in English.



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

15 October 2025, Wednesday

10:00 - 11:00

The Journey of Rex Education and the Philippine Book Publishing Industry

Event type:

Conversation

Theme:

Textbook

Production

Academic

Atty. Dominador Buhain, James Taylor (moderator)

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

Children's Books in Asia: Supply and Demand

Event type:

Panel Discussion

Theme:

Children's

Literature

Supply Chain

Mary Ann Ordinario, Russell Molina, Ulises Benitez, Lih Kang, Zhang Mingzhou, & Gladys Doronila (moderator)

With 20% of Asia's 4.8 billion people being aged below 15 years old, this 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 young Asians reading now?

14:00 - 15:00

Writing and Book Design for Young Adults and Graphic Novels

Event type:

Panel Discussion

Theme:

Book Design

Children's

Literature

Comics and

Graphic Novels

Bambi Eloriaga-Amago, Ardie Aquino, Felicia Low-Jimenez, Maren Amini, & Luis Gatmaitan (moderator)

Is the Western definition of "young adult" literature still relevant in Asia? Explore how YA books and graphic novels are evolving in tone, themes, and design to reflect the realities of today's youth.

15:00 - 16:00

Translation Programs: Do They Work?

Event type:

Panel Discussion

Theme:

Translation

Danton Remoto, Emilia Caldera Soriano, Sabine Mueller, Lina Chebaro, & Maria Christina 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

How Revolutionary is Academic Publishing in Asia?

Event type:

Panel Discussion

Theme:

Industry

Development

Academic

Galileo Zafra, Rica Bolipata Santos, Wei-Han Chen, Michael Duckworth, & Ned Parfan (moderator)

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

Book Awards for More Visibility

Event type:

Panel Discussion

Theme:

Literary Awards

Dean Francis Alfar, Edmund Wee, Dr. Hung Manh Nguyen, Anne Bergman-Tahon, & John Jack Wigley (moderator)

Book awards shape reputations and draw attention to outstanding literature. But to what extent are they supportive of emerging literature?



ASIA STAGE

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FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2025

16 October 2025, Thursday

10:00 - 11:00

Event type:

Panel Discussion

Theme:

Industry
Development

Strengthening Support for Asian Publishing: A Dialogue with IPA

Atty. Dominador Buhain, Jose Borghino, Shake Faisal
Trasvin Jittidecharak, & Claudia Kaiser (moderator)

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, Theerapat Choroensuk,
Catrina Liu, Aruna Johnson, Soonyoung Lee, & 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 Publishing Landscape?

Robin Sebolino, Ronald Amorado, Senthil Nathan, &
Niel Kenneth Jamandre (moderator)

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, Nadim Sadek, Peter Schoppert
Kristine Kress, & Emerson Cuyo

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 Dascil, Representative Rufus Rodriguez, Jessica
Sänger, & Atty. Nicolas Pichay (moderator)

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 delves into untold stories behind Asia's copyright battles and why the fight is far from over.

16:00 - 17:00

Event type:

Presentation

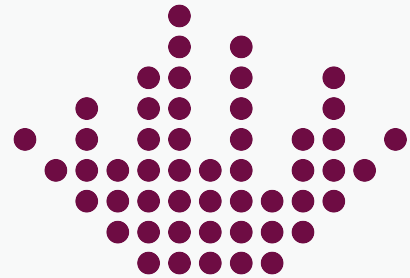
Theme:

Children's
Literature
Industry
Development

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

Frances Ong, Vu Thi Quynh Lien, Felicia Low-Jimenez, Agnes
Vidita, Shake Faisal, & Sartika Dian (moderator)

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 30.9 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.



ASIA STAGE

Hall 5.1 A75, Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main

Note: Schedule as of 10 October 2025. All programs will be in English.



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FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2025

17 October 2025, Friday

11:00 - 12:00

Textbooks in Asia: For Learning or for Governing?

Paolo Sibala, Atty. Dominador Buhain, Peh Shing Woei,
& Toots Policarpio (moderator)

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

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.

12:00 - 13:00

Publishing Services in Asia

Jorge Abiva Garcia, Atty. Dominador Buhain, Subrahmanian
Seshadri, Peter Rogers, & Miriam dela Cruz (moderator)

Event type:
Panel Discussion
Theme:
Industry
Development
Publishing
Services

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.

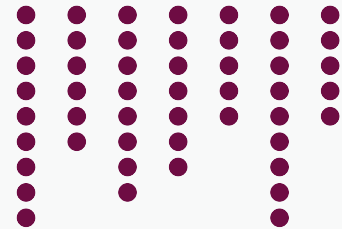
13:00 - 14:00

Books to Cross-Media

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

Event type:
Panel
Discussion
Theme:
Cross-Media

Creatives are embracing audio, mobile, and digital to reach new audiences. While making leaps through 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

How to Create New Readers: Reading Promotions in Asia

Gigo Alampay, Alex Madrigal Eduque, Evelyn Ghoszalli,
Minh Pham, & Dina Ocampo (moderator)

Event type:
Panel
Discussion
Theme:
Literacy and
Readership

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

Censorship in Asia

Patricia Evangelista, Miguel Syjuco, Iris Su,
Samir Patil, & Roby Alampay (moderator)

Event type:
Panel
Discussion
Theme:
Censorship

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

Asian Books for Asian Readers

Kata Garcia, Camille Abaya, Jakkrit Yompayorm,
Bayan Kabylash, & Danda Buhain (moderator)

Event type:
Panel
Discussion
Theme:
Industry
Development
Supply Chain

From broken supply chains to global competition, the odds are stacked against Asian books in Asian markets. Learn more about what factors hinder demand, and how Asian publishing industries can turn patriotism and pride into global opportunity.

17:00 - 18:00

Grassroots Publishing in Asia

Yasmin Arquiza, Ronald Verzo, Ang Jin Yong,
Patience Chuang, & Jane Arguelles (moderator)

Event type:
Panel
Discussion
Theme:
Indie Publishing

Indie publishing champions build their readerships through grit, community, and pride. This session is a deep dive into publishing from the margins and their forward march to shape and reshape its future.

ASIA STAGE

Hall 5.1 A75, Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main

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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,
& Alexandra Ramos-Padilla (moderator)

Once a bookstore staple, cookbooks 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, Hidaya H. Amin,
Nastaran Makaremi, & 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, Demi Miao,
& 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, Ryan Cuatrona, Intan F. Anggraini,
& Kristian Cordero (moderator)

Korean and Japanese "healing fiction" began to captivate the world during the pandemic. Learn more about the rise of slow and comforting 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, Kevin Chen, Utain Boonorana,
& Gelo Lopez (moderator)

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. This panel examines how LGBTQ+ writers in Asia defy market 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, & Leonor Reyes (moderator)

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.

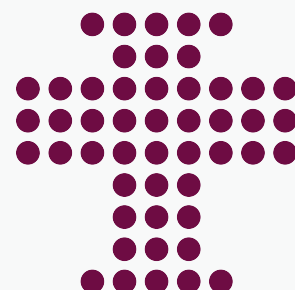
17:00 - 18:00

Event type:
Entertainment
Theme:
Illustration

The Filipino-German Illustrator Battle

Aldy Aguirre, Ace Enriquez, Pascal Nöldner, Timo Grubing,
Elvira Bernhardt, Raimund Frey, & Birgit Fricke (moderator)

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



ASIA STAGE

Hall 5.1 A75, Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main

Note: Schedule as of 10 October 2025. All programs will be in English.



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FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2025

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, Arief Hakim, &
Cecilia Manguerra Brainard (moderator)

From prayer books to personal revelations, faith-based literature resonates deeply with Asian readers. This panel will delve into how religious publishers maintain universality 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, Budjette Tan, Katniss Hsiao,
& 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, & Monika Li

Asian paranormal fiction blurs myth and modernity, and reality and folklore. In this panel, creatives talk about what goes into reimagining ancient spirits and mythical creatures while keeping old beliefs and legends alive.

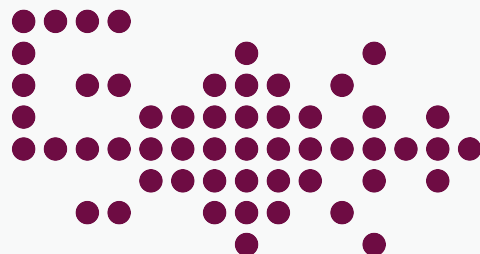
14:00 - 15:00

Event type:
Performance
Theme:
Romance
Poetry

Readings in Romance and Poetry

Ambassador Nathaniel Imperial, Tara Frejas,
Gene Alcantara, Maria Rilké 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 10 October 2025.



14 October
17:00-18:30

Event type:
Opening
Ceremony

Frankfurter Buchmesse Opening

Congress Centre Messe Frankfurt
Senator Loren Legarda, Rosie Sula, The
Philippine Madrigal Singers, Merlie
Alunan, Marjorie Evasco, & Mookie
Katigbak-Lacuesta

15 October
14:00-15:00

Event type:
Conversation

Where Truth Is Damned - Patricia Evangelista and Zoe Beck in Conversation

PEN Berlin, Hall 3.1, H34
Patricia Evangelista, Zoe Beck,
& Ulrich Gutmair (moderator)

15 October
17:00-18:00

Event type:
Reception

Comics Happy Hour: Drink & Draw with Illustrators from the Philippines and the Basque Country

Hall 6.1, A62
Arteena Lefty & Ian Sta. Maria
(Philippines), Asier Iturralde & Higina
Garay (Basque Country, Spain), & Aria
Chelabian (moderator)

16 October
11:00-12:00

Event type:
Discussion

Allan N. Derain Aswanglaut / Das Meer des Aswang with translator Annette Hug

Azubistro, Halle 1.2, F27

16 October
14:30-15:00

Event type:
Reading

Jessica Zafra, *Age of Umbrage* / *Ein ziemlich böses Mädchen*

Leseinsel der unabhängigen
Verlage, Halle 3.1, C105

Jessica Zafra, Rainer Nitsche
(moderator), & Niko Froba (translator)

Join us for a captivating reading with
renowned author Jessica Zafra as
she delves into the world of
Guadalupe and how she comes to life
to navigate the turbulent times as a
teenager in 1990s Manila. Don't miss
this chance to explore a unique
perspective on a pivotal period in
Philippine history.

16 October
17:00-18:00

Event type:
Discussion

A Sea of Languages

Zentrum Wort, Halle 4.1, F21

Jessica Zafra, Annette Hug, & Patricia
Klobusiczky (moderator)

17 October
10:00-10:50

Event type:
Discussion

Language is a Human Right

FBM Centre Stage, Hall 4.1, B68

Introduction by UN Undersecretary for
Global Communications Melissa Fleming,
Frankfurt Fair President Juergen Boos,
moderated by Shila Behjat, with poet
Jegana Dschabbarowa, and authors
Nedim Tuerfent, Ma Thida, & Patricia
Evangelista

17 October
14:00-15:00

Event type:
Reading,
Book Signing

Reading and Signing of *How to Stand Up to a Dictator*

Hall 4.1, B77

Nobel Laureate for Peace Maria Ressa

17 October
15:00-16:00

Event type:
Conversation

Security Policy and Human Rights – Scope for Action in Times of War and Crisis

FBM Centre Stage, Hall 4.1, B68

Nobel Laureate for Peace Maria Ressa &
Former NATO Secretary General Jens
Stoltenberg, with Sebastian Puschner
(moderator)

Today in the world, autocratic
systems restrict freedom of opinion
and of the press, while digital
manipulation and targeted
disinformation further destabilize
societies—and do not stop at the
borders of democratic states.

How does one act as the head of the
world's most powerful military
alliance in this field of tension—and
how as a journalist fighting for
freedom of expression? These
questions will be addressed in a
conversation with *der Freitag* editor
Sebastian Puschner, Nobel Peace
Prize laureate Maria Ressa, who as a
journalist and activist stands up
against state repression,
disinformation campaigns, and digital
violence, and former NATO
Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg,
author of the book *On My Watch*, in
which he reflects on his time at
NATO.

17 October
16:00-17:30

Event type:
Reception

Phoenix/Central Books Reception

Messe Frankfurt, Hall 5.1, A100

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 10 October 2025.

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FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2025

**18 October
10:30-11:20**

Event type:
Conversation

Translation as Resistance – Making Marginalized Voices Visible

OFF Bühne Schweiz,
Hall 3.1, F122

Annette Hug, Lydia Dimitrov,
& Sandra Hetzl

**18 October
11:00-11:50**

Event type:
Discussion

ARTE-Talk with Guest Author Maria Ressa: “How to Stand up to a Dictator - The Fight for Our Future”

Forum O, A1

Freedom of speech and independent
journalism are the sharpest weapons
in the defense of democracies.

In her book, Maria Ressa describes
how democracies are hollowed out
by autocrats and dictators—through
social media. Facebook and Google,
driven by profit, tolerate propaganda
and fake news. Ressa uncovers a
global network of disinformation that
spans the world: from Duterte’s war
on drugs to the storming of the
Capitol in Washington, from Brexit to
cyber warfare conducted by Russia
and China. Maria Ressa’s
investigation is disturbing—yet
urgently necessary.

**18 October
11:00-11:50**

Event type:
Discussion

Cultural Work and Artistic Creation in an Authoritarian Environment

Centre Stage, Halle 4.1, B68

Katrina Tuvera, Sergei Lebedev, Johannes
Ebert, & Vivian Perkovic (moderator)

**18 October
12:30-13:20**

Event type:
Conversation

Allan N. Derrain *Das Meer der Aswang* (Unionsverlag), translated from Filipino (Tagalog) by Annette Hug

OFF Bühne Schweiz, Halle 3.1, F122

Allan N. Derrain, Annette Hug,
& Lenny Kaye Bugayong (moderator)

**18 October
12:40-13:00**

Event type:
Conversation

Patricia Evangelista on her book *Some People Need Killing - Eine Geschichte der Morde in meinem Land*

FAZ GmbH, Hall 3.1, E70

Patricia Evangelista
& Andreas Platthaus (moderator)

**18 October
14:00**

Event type:
Discussion

How Do You Write About Politics?

Leseinsel der unabhängigen Verlage,
Hall 3.1, C105

Jose Dalisay, Katrina Tuvera, Patricia
Evangelista, & Annette Hug (moderator)

Books, especially novels, are the
opposite of a news-ticker. They act
as repository of memory and the
intimate process of remembering.
José Dalisay and Katrina Tavera dive
into the years of the Marcos
dictatorship (1972-1986).
Confronting them with Patricia
Evangelista’s chronicles of Rodrigo
Duterte’s murder campaign (2016-
2022) called “war on drugs,” we are
compelled to ask questions
resonating way beyond the
Philippines: What is the “rule of law”
made of? How does it crumble?
What is the importance and what are
the difficulties of remembering
historical crimes?

**18 October
15:00-17:00**

Event type:
Author Meet-
and-Greet,
Discussion

Patricia Evangelista on her book *Some People Need Killing - Eine Geschichte der Morde in meinem Land*

CulturBooks, Hall 3.1, D54

15:00 - 15:30 | Meet-and-Greet
Patricia Evangelista & Zoë Beck

16:00 - 17:00 | Conversation
Patricia Evangelista
& Carsten Stormer (moderator)

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

Event type:
Conversation

Who Governs Big Tech? Power, Platforms, and Democracy

Centre Stage, Hall 4.1. B6-8

Maria Ressa & Marietje Schaake

Nobel Laureate for Peace Maria
Ressa and Marietje Schaake,
Committee Chair for EU AI Code of
Practice (and Author of *The Tech
Coup: How to Save Democracy from
Silicon Valley*), discuss how robust
EU regulation of technology is and
will be.



PHILIPPINES IN FRANKFURT

As Guest of Honour, the Philippines takes its place across Germany, with readings, films, talks, music, and exhibits that let everyday spaces pulse with Filipino life.

Note: Schedule as of 10 October 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 12, 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 Tuvera

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 Zetzsch
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

Reading and Discussion: Patricia Evangelista's

Some People Need Killing

Renowned Filipino journalist Patricia Evangelista presents *Some People Need Killing*, a meticulously researched report on Duterte's "war on drugs." In conversation with her translator, author and publisher Zoë Beck, she discusses her work, how to report on state-sponsored terror, and what this means for society.

15 October | 17:30 - 21:00

VielSeitig & Büchergilde, Am Salzhaus 1, 60311 Frankfurt am Main

17 October | 20:00 - 21:00

Historical Museum / Sonnemann Hall, Saalhof 1, 60311 Frankfurt am Main

15 & 17 October

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
Museum, Weltkulturen Stadtbibliothek 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, Staufensstraße 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 Comicladden 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

18 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.

PHILIPPINES IN FRANKFURT

As Guest of Honour, the Philippines takes its place across Germany, with readings, films, talks, music, and exhibits that let everyday spaces pulse with Filipino life.

Note: Schedule as of 10 October 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*innenhaus Mousonturm*
Waldschmidtstrasse 4, 60316 Frankfurt am
Main | www.mousonturm.de

Sincerely Yours, the Philippines is an allusion to the motto "Love the Philippines," used by the Philippines' Department of Tourism. Elsa 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

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

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 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 and 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

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

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, Nick Deocampo, and Lino Brocka

Deutsches Filminstitut Filmmuseum (DFF)
Schaumainkai 41, 60596 Frankfurt am Main
www.dff.film

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

10 October | 20:15

Perfumed Nightmare | Artist Talk: Kidlat Tahimik

11 October | 18:00

Oliver & Revolutions Happen Like a Refrain in a Song | Artist Talk: Nick Deocampo

11 October | 20:30

Who Invented the Yo-Yo? Who Invented the Moon Buggy? | Artist Talk: Kidlat Tahimik

12 October | 17:00

Balikbayan #1 Memories of Overdevelopment Redux VI | Artist Talk: Kidlat Tahimik

14 October | 18:00

Manila in the Claws of Light | Screening

15 October | 18:00

Turumba | Artist Talk: Kidlat Tahimik

16 October | 18:00

Memories of Overdevelopment | Artist Talk: Kidlat Tahimik

16 October | 20:15

Let This Film Serve as a Manifesto for a New Cinema & Private Wars | Artist Talk: Nick Deocampo

18 October | 17:30

Dekada '70 | Screening and Panel Talk with Annette Hug & Beverly W. Siy

19 October | 17:00

Why Is Yellow at the Middle of the Rainbow? | Artist Talk: Kidlat Tahimik

21 October | 20:30

Perfumed Nightmare | Screening

24 October | 20:30

Manila in the Claws of Light | Screening

29 October | 17:00

Why Is Yellow at the Middle of the Rainbow? | Screening

30 October | 18:00

The Girl Insiang | Screening

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

Event type:
Conversation
Theme:
Diaspora
Language:
English-Deutsch
Admission:
By-invite

Philippines: A Reading and Conversation at Union International Club-Frankfurt

Jose "Butch" Dalisay
Am Leonhardsbrunn 12,
60487 Frankfurt am Main

An evening of live readings and cultural exchange, followed by conversations that move between the personal and the political. Join acclaimed author Jose "Butch" Dalisay as he explores the craft of writing, the role of literature in a changing society, and the ways Philippine narratives resonate far beyond its shores.

**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
20:00**

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

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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
19th Century
Language:
English
Admission:
Free

The Philippines in the 19th Century
Stephanie Coe & Annette Hug
Simon-Bolívar-Saal, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Potsdamer Str. 33, 10785 Berlin

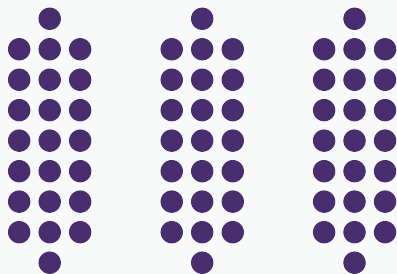
The Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut in Berlin will host an evening of book presentations highlighting recent works on Philippine history and literature of the 19th century.

**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 Gacoscó
*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

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**
*Völkermuseum der J. & E. von
Portheim-Stiftung für Wissenschaft und
Kunst (vPST), Hauptstraße 235,
69117 Heidelberg | 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
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 10 October 2025.



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

Träume & Alpträume - Eindrücke aus 150 Jahren Philippinischer Literatur Vortrag von 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: *The Age of Umbrage*
by Jessica Zafra
Hotel Alte Schule
Goetheplatz 1, 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

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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 10 October 2025.

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

PRESS CONFERENCES

**04 September
11:00 - 14:00**

Admission:
By Invitation

**Press Conference at the
National Library of the Philippines**
1000 Kalaw Ave, Ermita, Manila,
1000 Metro Manila

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**

Admission:
By Invitation

**Guest of Honour Send-Off at the
Manila International Book Fair**
SMX Convention Center Manila

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**

Admission:
By Invitation

**Jeepney Journey - Philippinische Kultur
meets Frankfurt**
Goetheplatz, Steinweg 10, 60313 Frankfurt
am Main

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**

Admission:
By Invitation

FBM Opening Press Conference
Frankfurt Studio, Hall 4.0
Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main

**14 October
12:30 - 13:30**

Admission:
By Invitation

**Press Preview of the Philippines
Guest of Honour Pavilion 2025**
Guest of Honour Pavilion, Forum 1,
Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main

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
17:00 - 18:30**

Admission:
By Invitation

Opening of Frankfurter Buchmesse 2025
Congress Center Messe Frankfurt (CMF)

Speakers: Loren Legarda, Honourable Senator of the Republic of the Philippines; Karin Schmidt-Friderichs, President of Börsenverein (the German Publishers and Booksellers Association); Juergen Boos, Director Frankfurter Buchmesse; Mike Josef, Mayor of the City of Frankfurt am Main; Representative of the State of Hessen; Dr. Wolfram Weimer, Minister of State for Culture and the Media

Poets Marjorie Evasco, Mookie Katigbak-Lacuesta, & Merlie Alunan will appear as literary speakers for the Guest of Honour.

**14 October
19:00 - 20:00**

Admission:
By Invitation

**Opening of the Guest of Honour Pavilion
2025 Philippines**

*Guest of Honour Pavilion, Forum 1,
Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main*

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**

Admission:
Open to All

Philippine Stand Opening Ceremony
*Philippine Stand, Hall 5.1 A95 and B95,
Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main*

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**

Admission:
By Invitation

Handover Ceremony
*Guest of Honour Pavilion, Forum 1,
Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main*

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**

Admission:
Open to All

Asia Stage Reception
*Asia Stage, Hall 5.1 A75,
Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main*

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

**16 October
17:00**

Admission:
Open to All

Philippine Stand Reception
*Philippine Stand, Hall 5.1 A95 and B95,
Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main*

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 - 17:30**

Admission:
By Invitation

Phoenix/Central Books Reception
*Stand A100 Hall 5.1
Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main*

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.