

## Fact Sheet

### What is #Word?

#Word is Malaysia's first and only celebration of words in all forms, under the new umbrella festival known as The Cooler Lumpur Festival. Curated by PopDigital, #Word is a collaborative venture between the British Council, MINI and Borders Malaysia.

#Word is committed to encouraging a reading culture, nurturing an appreciation of language and improving literacy skills in Malaysia. At #Word, the written and spoken art are widely accessible as it poses as a platform for creative Malaysian individuals and groups.

Set to take place from **21 - 23 June 2013**, #Word will host a series of lectures, panel discussions, creative writing workshops, readings, art exhibitions, children's activities and book markets to highlight a wide range of topics such as literature, journalism, film, poetry, art exhibition and social media.

#Word will also play host to the Edinburgh World Writers' Conference: Kuala Lumpur, the world's largest travelling conference on the state of literature which will feature local and international world class individuals from various creative disciplines. The festival will also feature:

- Award-winning author of teenage novels and professional speaker Nicola Morgan
- Recently named Best Young British Novelist Benjamin Markovits
- Professor of journalism Janet Steele
- Burmese surgeon, writer, and human rights activist Dr Ma Thida
- Poet, novelist and broadcast journalist from Quezon City Philippines Lourde de Veyra
- Vietnamese author and translator Di Li
- Award-winning author from Thailand, Wipas Srithong
- Prolific writer and activist Marina Mahathir
- Prominent Malaysian journalist and writer Rehman Rashid
- Writer, publisher and independent filmmaker Amir Muhammad
- Non-Malay writers who write in Malay Uthaya Shankar and Gina Yap
- Malaysian National Laureate A. Samad Said
- Malaysia's first woman English-language novelist Chuah Guat Eng

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

2012-2013 EDINBURGH WORLD  
WRITERS' CONFERENCE

Presented by the Edinburgh International Book Festival  
and the British Council



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## The Event

#Word will also feature the following:

### PANELS

- Chaired panel discussions with writers and experts who will share their ideas and thoughts on various issues. Expect lively and thought-provoking conversations on topics like “Should Literature Be Political”, “Censorship Today”, “Malaysian Noir”, “New Malay Literature” and “Challenges in Writing Copy”.

### MEET THE AUTHORS & READINGS

- Both international and local writers will read from selected works and share the inspiration behind their work

### FILM SCREENINGS

- Showcase selected films and organize interactive sessions to engage audience with the process of filmmaking

### WORKSHOPS

- Experts in their respective fields will offer invaluable guidance and practical tips on a variety of topics, including writing for teens, theatre writing, spoken word and poetry, creative writing and journalistic writing.

### BOOK LAUNCHES

- Several personalities will be having their book officially launched at the festival, with short readings as well as media interviews.

### ART EXHIBITION

- Going beyond the page, there will be a visual art exhibition at the festival.

### CHILDREN’S PROGRAMME

- A series of events will engage young festival visitors, including book swaps, children’s theatre, storytelling and even a tea party.

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THE COOLER LUMPUR  
FESTIVAL  
21<sup>ST</sup> - 23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2013



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