



from to  **CONNECTION
LABORATION**
Meeting Point 2022
Art and Social Action in Asia

October, 2022
20th -29th

Program & Schedule

ABOUT MEETING POINT

Meeting Point is a place where people working with arts and society in Asia can find each other. Through a series of online and in-person programs, Meeting Point offers spaces to discover new friends, exchange ideas and experiences and leave with fresh inspiration to take your work forward. The content and format of the sessions has been developed by artists and other practitioners, who have been working together over several months on the journey towards this Meeting Point.

The theme for our exchanges this year is “**From Connection to Collaboration**”. As the community of socially-engaged arts practitioners around Asia is growing, why does it matter that we connect? Are we equipped to connect and to collaborate effectively? If we want to work collaboratively, what are the foundations that need to be put in place and what kinds of attitudes do we need to nurture, what kind of structures do we need to unlearn? What are the forces driving us to collaborate?

Over ten days, 85+ art and culture practitioners and 29 organisations and collectives from 16+ countries will come together and discuss these questions, share useful tools and resources, and more.

The program includes a range of online virtual events, including talks, trainings and workshops, as well as a series of in-person local events ('Local Gatherings') being organised by MCH's network of Fellows around the region. There are also two artistic projects which you are invited to participate in: digital installation *Echoes from the Stars*, and the interactive *COVID Time Capsule*. Please join us!



HOW TO REGISTER

Please visit

www.mekongculturalhub.org/meeting-point-2022

for further detail on the program and to register for the online events.

All online events will be hosted on zoom.

Please note you need to register for each individual event that you would like to attend. Once you sign up you will automatically receive the zoom link. It will also be sent to your email, and you have the option to add the event to your calendar.

You can register any time before the event finishes - so please don't worry if you don't manage to confirm your participation until the last minute.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at:

meetingpoint@mekongculturalhub.org

20 Oct

- Grand Opening**
Online
- 1pm ● **Welcome Remarks**
(30mins)
- 1:30pm ● **Echoes from the Stars**
(45mins)
Screening of My Mother's Tongue and launch of Echoes from the Stars participatory installation
- 2:30pm ● **Lost in Translation**
(90mins)
Roundtable discussion on the complexity of translation, interpretation and understanding in different facets of connecting and collaborating at the intersection of arts and society
- 4:10pm ● **Lost in Translation**
(50mins)
Audience responses, reflections and Q&A
- 5pm ● **Closing** (5mins)

21 Oct

- Virtual Room1**
- 2pm ● **Immersive Nongkrong x Dapur Communion/Reunion** (90mins)
Four Fellows share experiences of a radically transformative journey to three cities of Indonesia
- 4pm ● **Creative Approaches to Engage Community** (90mins)
Impacts, challenges and transformations after experimenting with creative approaches to socially engaged arts

Virtual Room2

- Evaluating Socially Engaged Art Practice in South Asia** (90mins)
Impact evaluation through an artistic lens! Khoj proposes a theory of engagement rather than a theory of change. [PARTNER PROGRAM]



22 Oct

- Virtual Room1**
- 2pm ● **Immersive Nongkrong x Dapur Communion/Reunion** (90mins)
Four Fellows share experiences of a radically transformative journey to three cities of Indonesia
- 4pm ● **GEDUP!** (90mins)
Five Fellows' experiences of self-reflection, reading, writing, dialogue and travel over the past six months. #PotentiallyAwkward #HopefullyInspiring

Virtual Room2

- COVID Time Capsule** (90mins)
Experiences of the personal and public impact of COVID-19 preserved for future generations in a virtual time capsule
- In Art We Trust! Art intervention in the community** (75mins)
Two case studies of how artists, art spaces and residencies in Taiwan intervene with the community. [PARTNER PROGRAM]

Local Gatherings on 22nd

- Literature Festival - connecting different generations**
Cambodia, on-land only
- The ti(d)e of alluvium / Kết dòng phù sa**
Vietnam, online workshop

* Please refer to website for event times

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23
Oct

Local Gatherings on 23rd

PURWARUPA: Navigate Your Art Collaboration

Indonesia, on-land only

Embracing Diversity and Inclusion: A Story of Migrant Workers Pursuing Dreams

Taiwan, on-land only

The ti(d)e of alluvium / Kết dòng phù sa

Vietnam, online workshop

* Please refer to website for event times

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24
Oct

Local Gatherings on 24th

PURWARUPA: Navigate Your Art Collaboration

Indonesia, on-land only

* Please refer to website for event times



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26
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Virtual Programs

12pm ●

The Pluralism Toolbox (90mins)

Helvetas introduces a toolbox for practitioners working on social cohesion, with examples and experiences from Myanmar [PARTNER PROGRAM]

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27
Oct

Virtual Programs

2pm ●

You Are Not Alone - General Safety Training for Artists in Asia (90mins)

General safety training for Artists in Asia, based on ARC's safety guide [PARTNER PROGRAM]

Local Gatherings on 27th

PURWARUPA: Navigate Your Art Collaboration

Indonesia, on-land

Setting the scene: Contextualising Southeast Asian art community

United Kingdom, on-land and online

Now What?

India, on-land and online

* Please refer to website for event times

28
Oct

Virtual Room1

2pm ● **GEDUP!** (90mins)
Five Fellows' experiences of self-reflection, reading, writing, dialogue and travel over the past six months.
#PotentiallyAwkward
#HopefullyInspiring

Virtual Room2

Explore Echoes from the Stars
Explore constellations of places, relationships and themes that have been transformed into a starmap. Listen to messages and stories from contributors.

Local Gatherings on 28th

PURWARUPA: Navigate Your Art Collaboration

Indonesia, on-land only

Arts Management to Listen and Respond to Oppressed Voices: A Perspective on Anti-Opressive Work (AOP)

Japan, on-land and online

Decorating Clay Collaboration

Laos, on-land only

Setting the scene: Contextualising Southeast Asian art community

United Kingdom, on-land and online

Congyang Connex

Indonesia, on-land and online

Trà đá & bánh tráng / Ice tea & rice paper

Vietnam, on-land only

* Please refer to website for event times

4pm ●

Oh, When Did I Take This Photo?

(60mins)
Have you ever randomly found a photo that you forgot in your cell phone? Bring it to our session! We would love to chat about it.
[PARTNER PROGRAM]

29
Oct

Virtual Room1

2pm ● **Creative Approaches to Engage Community** (90mins)
Impacts, challenges and transformations after experimenting with creative approaches to socially engaged arts

Virtual Room2

From Connection to Collaboration: How Fair Can It Be? (90mins)
Introduction to *Not a toolkit!* A set of practical and interactive resources to support people wanting to engage fairly in intercultural collaboration
[PARTNER PROGRAM]

Local Gatherings on 29th

The Nomadic Collective – Meeting in a New Time and Space

Australia and China, On-land and online

Collaboration: Fair-Unfair

India, On-land and online

Setting the scene: Contextualising Southeast Asian art community

United Kingdom, on-land and online

The ti(d)e of alluvium / Kết dòng phù sa

Vietnam, on-land only

Trà đá & bánh tráng / Ice tea & rice paper

Vietnam, on-land only

Siningsiyasat: A Solidarity Exercise

Philippines, on-land and online

Congyang Connex

Indonesia, on-land and online

* Please refer to website for event times

4pm ● **Lessons on community arts in Asia** (90mins)

COVID Time Capsule (90mins)

Experiences of the personal and public impact of COVID-19 preserved for future generations in a virtual time capsule

Participants from MCH's Professional Exchange program discuss on the ground lessons learned about project design, workshop facilitation and ethics.

5pm ● **Closing** (30mins)

Thank you and free space for all participants



Lost in Translation

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We kick off the 2022 Meeting Point by starting to unpack our theme. We are all familiar with the challenges of language in cross-cultural cooperation and collaboration. But is this the only obstacle getting in our way? Opening with a short film and the launch of digital installation Echoes from the Stars, we then proceed to a dynamic panel discussion and extended conversation between all participants.

Featuring: Jean-Baptiste Phou, Lawrence Zi-qiao Yang, Dorn Bouttasing, Dian Ika Gesuri, Wen-Hao Huang, En-Mang Chan
 Co-presented by MCH and Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation
 Languages: English, Mandarin



Echoes from the Stars

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Echoes from the Stars is a participatory digital installation, inspired by audience responses to art-film *My Mother's Tongue*, about communication issues between a mother and a son. During Meeting Point you can watch the film, create and share your own contributions to the installation, and explore the resulting art work.

Featuring: Jean-Baptiste Phou, Theerawat Klangjareonchai; with images by Sao Sreymao and design by Jean-Sien Kin
Languages: French, English, Khmer, Burmese, Laos, Thai, Vietnamese, Mandarin
 Translation support by: Nwet Kaykhine, Chanmaly Panyaphone, Narumol Thammapruxsa,



Immersive Nongkrong x Dapur Communion/Reunion

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In July 2022, dwelling in community engagements with crafters, artists, visionaries, and cfour Fellows went on a radically transformative journey to three cities of Indonesia. Join this session to engage with their experiences cultural bearers; encountering bold insights and renewing courage.

Featuring: Marco Kusamawijaya, Anitha Silvia, Joanne Mun, Razcel Jan Salvarita, Zun Ei Phyu





Evaluating Socially Engaged Art Practice in South Asia

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Let's build a case for impact evaluation through an artistic lens! Khoj, a leading arts NGO from India, has been developing alternative frameworks for evaluation, based on a theory of engagement rather than a theory of change.

[PARTNER PROGRAM]

Featuring: Manjiri Dube, Khoj International Artists' Association

KHŌJ



Creative Approaches to Engage Community

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Three Fellows from Myanmar, Thailand and Cambodia have been experimenting with creative approaches in engaging local communities. They talk about impact, challenges and how this learning journey, guided by Curator Janet Pillai, has transformed their understanding of Socially-Engaged Arts.

Featuring: Janet Pillai, Foo Wei Meng, Khin Thethar Latt (Nora), Sinath Sous, Thanupon Yindee (Golf)



COVID Time Capsule

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Come and discover objects and stories that artists have placed in the Covid Time Capsule! The organisers will share how they came to create the time capsule. We also want to hear your memories and stories associated with COVID-19.

Featuring: Anmol Vellani, Arief Hamizan, Jeffrey Tan, Narumol Thammapruxsa (Kop), Yuching Lin (Regina)



GEDUP!

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Five fellows have been **G**athering & **G**rowing through **E**xercises & **E**xperiments to **D**isrupt **U**sual **P**atterns and **D**evelop **U**ntapped **P**otentials. Join them as they share experiences of self-reflection, reading, writing, dialogue and travel over the past six months. Plus a book launch! #PotentiallyAwkward #HopefullyInspiring

Featuring: Jennifer Teo, Sarah Tang, Mohd Jayzuan, Gayatri Nadya, Raslene, Tanawat Asawaitthipond, Yuching Lin (Regina)



In Art We Trust! Art Intervention In the Community

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Calling All Art lovers! In this talk, we will discover art interventions in Taiwan, and hear from artists, art spaces and residencies about how have been intervening with the community. Are artists using the content and symbols of various cultures correctly? [PARTNER PROGRAM]

Featuring: Ya Ping Chan, P, Chen Wei-Chien, Chen Kuan Chang



The Pluralism Toolbox

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Swiss development organisation, Helvetas, has put together a 'pluralism toolbox'. Hear from local artists and civil society organisations in Myanmar who have used the tools in their work to promote social cohesion, and explore how it could work in your context. [PARTNER PROGRAM]

Featuring: Regula Gattiker, Senior Advisor Conflict Transformation, Helvetas



You Are Not Alone - General Safety Training for Artists in Asia

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This General Safety Training from Artists at Risk Connection (ARC) will provide an overview of the threats artists face in Asia, sharing real cases and practical advice on how to prepare for, and deal with such threats. [PARTNER PROGRAM]

Featuring: Manojna Yeluri, Asia Representative, Artists at Risk Connection



Oh, When Did I Take This Photo?

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Join Space for Flows to discover and share random photos on your smartphone! This workshop feeds into an ongoing project aiming to counter the macro narrative of high politics that so often dominates and defines what this era is about. [PARTNER PROGRAM]

Featuring: Khin Thethar Lett (Nora), Raslene, Yuching Lin (Regina)





From Connection to Collaboration: How Fair Can it Be?

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Join this interactive session to discover *Not a toolkit!* Fair collaboration in cultural relations: a reflAction, which includes a glossary, games, checklists and other resources designed to support practitioners engaging in intercultural collaborations.
[PARTNER PROGRAM]

Featuring: Sudebi Thakurata, D.epicentre

Lessons on community arts in Asia

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Are there best practices when engaging communities in art projects in Asia? Participants from MCH's Professional Exchange program discuss on the ground lessons learned about project design, workshop facilitation and ethics. Please join the conversation and share your own experiences!


Featuring: Sunitha Janamohanan, Joanne Mun, Chen-wei Lin, Samnang Heng, Van Thi Ngoc Ai, Sinta Wibowo, Tan Vatey, Dorn Bouttasing, Narumol Thammapruxsa, Pei Chih Lan, Yuying Kung, Tran Nguyen, Sundara Viravong, Khin Thethar Latt

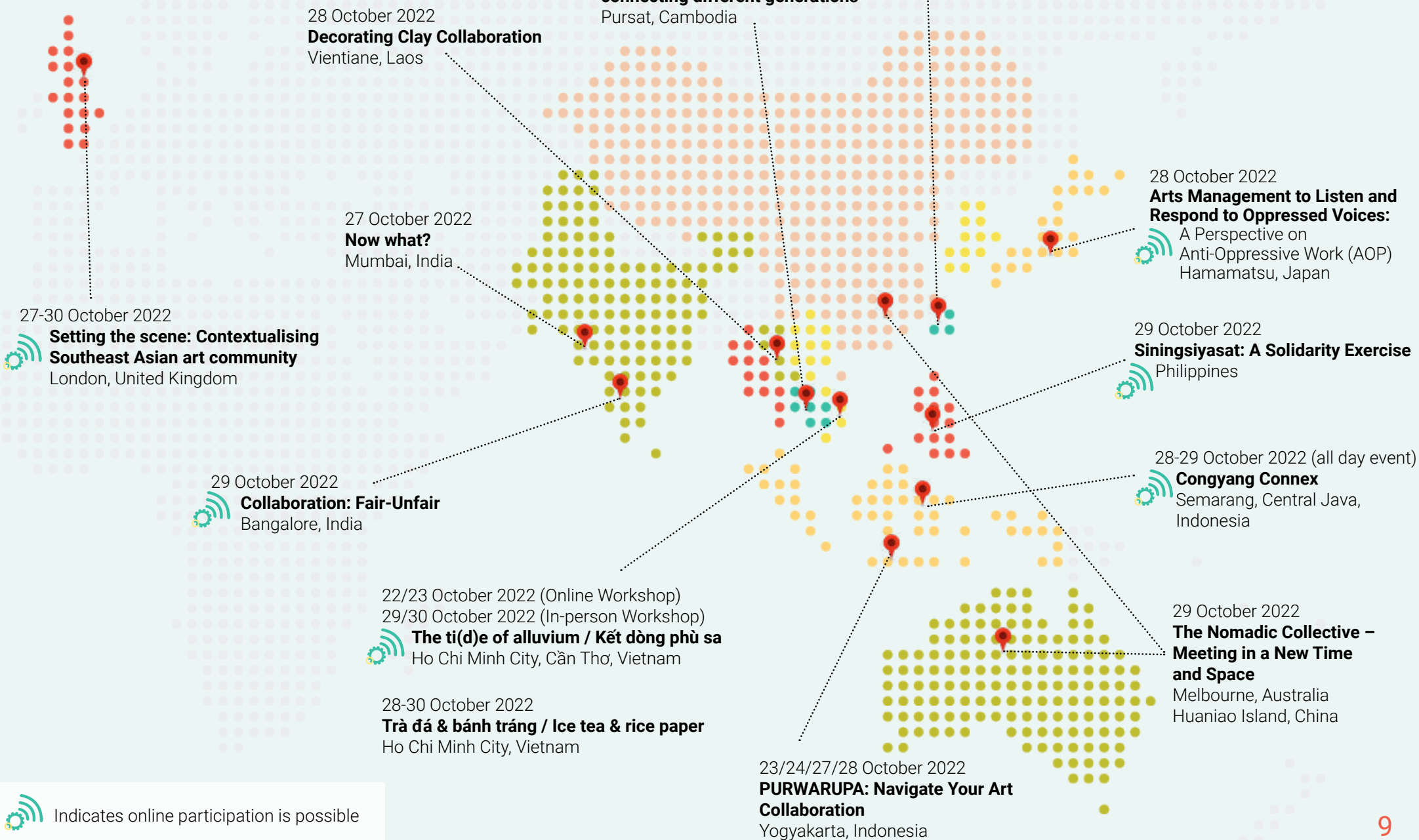


LOCAL GATHERINGS

Interpreting our theme of 'From Connection to Collaboration' in ways relevant to their local context, a network of MCH Fellows are curating and delivering live programs as part of this meeting point. From October 20th - 29th, 14 organising teams from 15+ cities, are gathering people to discuss topics as diverse as the environmental crisis in the Mekong Delta, solidarity for SEA diaspora artists, connecting generations through literature and drinking Ice Tea.

The event hosts were selected through an open call and each has received a small grant from MCH to enable their event coordination. The hosts have been connecting monthly online to connect their networks and exchange perspectives.

Please check out the map on the next page for a full list of the gatherings and their locations. Look out for the  symbol which indicates that it is also possible to join the event online.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



LOCAL GATHERING ORGANIZERS

Australia and China: Wilson Yeung, Sherry Liu, Su Ye (Suye); Cambodia: Say Tola, Khut Sokhoeun, and En Sormanak; India, Bangalore: Sudebi Thakurata and Probal Banerjee; India, Mumbai: Chetna Mehrotra and Roshan Karkera; Indonesia, Jakarta: Gayatri Nadya and Michael Adhy Chandra; Indonesia, Yogyakarta: Ayos, Barto, Rifandi, and Akhmad; Japan: Akemi Minamida, Prof. Shin Nakagawa, Ritsuko Saito, Yusuke Kazama, Soko Takemaru, and Mayumi Okura; South Korea: Jimin Lee; Laos: Catherine O'Brien, Souphalak Phongsavath (Luck); Philippines: Katrina Santiago; Taiwan: Felicia Wijaya, Tzeng Yi-En; United Kingdom: Nguyễn Thùy Dương, Rianti Gautama; Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City, Cần Thơ: Chi Mai, Xuan Ha, Lanh, Nhat Vo; Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City: Nguyễn Hải Yến (Red), Nguyễn Đức Hùng (Quê)

ORGANIZING TEAM

MCH Team: Jennifer Lee, Út Quyên, Frances Rudgard; Project Production Manager: Iris Hung; Website: Nguyễn Trần Quang; Design: Socheata Choeun