



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Pankaj Mishra joins panel of judges for the 2008 Man Asian Literary Prize**

(Hong Kong – 7 January 2008) — The Administrative Committee of the Man Asian Literary Prize announced today that acclaimed Indian writer Pankaj Mishra will join the Rt Hon Adrienne Clarkson (Chair of the panel of judges), and Prof Nicholas Jose, both of whom served as judges for the inaugural Prize in 2007, on the panel judging the second Man Asian Literary Prize to be awarded in November 2008.

Mishra is author, most recently, of *An End to Suffering: The Buddha in the World* and *Temptations of the West: How to be Modern in India, Pakistan and Beyond*, both *New York Times* Notable Books, as well as a novel, *The Romantics*. Mishra's literary and political essays and other work have appeared in the *New York Times*, the *New York Review of Books*, *The Guardian*, the *New Statesman*, the *London Review of Books*, *Times Literary Supplement*, *Financial Times*, *Washington Post*, *Boston Globe*, *Time*, *The Independent*, *Granta*, *The New Yorker*, and *Harper's*. In 2007-08, he is the Visiting Fellow at the Department of English, University College, London.

Mishra's association with the Man Hong Kong International Literary Festival dates back to 2004; he also served on the Prize's Advisory Committee in its inaugural year.

Born in Hong Kong in 1939, Madame Adrienne Clarkson, Chair of the Prize panel of judges for 2007 and 2008, went to Canada as a refugee during the Second World War in 1942. A leading figure in Canada's cultural life, Madame Clarkson had a rich and distinguished career in broadcasting, journalism, the arts and the public service. During her career Madame Clarkson received numerous prestigious awards both in Canada and abroad in recognition of her outstanding contribution in professional and charitable endeavours. Madame Clarkson was Governor General of Canada from 1999 to 2005. Her memoirs were published in 2006 under the title *Heart Matters*. Madame Clarkson was a judge of the 2006 Scotiabank Giller Prize.

From 1986 to 1990, Nicholas Jose worked in Shanghai and Beijing where he was Cultural Counsellor at the Australian Embassy from 1987-1990. From 2002 to 2005, he was President of Sydney PEN and currently holds the Chair of Creative Writing at the University of Adelaide. His books include *Original Face*, *Black Sheep: Journey to Borrooloola*, *The Red Thread*, *The Custodians*, *The Rose Crossing*, *Avenue of Eternal Peace*, *Paper Nautilus*, *Rowena's Field*, *The Possession of Amber*, *Feathers or Lead* and *Chinese Whispers*, *Cultural Essays*. His work has appeared in *HEAT*, *London Review of Books*, *Times Literary Supplement*, *Far Eastern Economic Review*,

*Daedalus*, *PEN International*, *Meanjin*, *Australian Book Review*, *The Age* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*. He co-translated *The Finish Line* by Sang Ye and *The Ape Herd* by Mang Ke.

Additional and updated information is available at [www.manasianliteraryprize.org](http://www.manasianliteraryprize.org)

### **Notes to Editors**

The first Man Asian Literary Prize was awarded in November 2007. This major new literary prize aims to recognise the best of new Asian literature and to bring it to the attention of the world literary community. A distinguished panel of judges selects a single work of fiction to be awarded the prize each year. Works submitted for consideration must not yet have been published in English, although they may have been published in other languages. The prize is jointly administered by representatives of the Man Hong Kong International Literary Festival, the University of Hong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and is sponsored by Man Group plc, a leading global financial services firm based in London.

Man Group also supports a variety of other programmes as well as charities aimed at furthering literature and literacy, including the Man Hong Kong International Literary Festival, a 10-day event that attracts authors from around the world and thousands of attendees. Separately, Man Group also sponsors the annual Man Booker Prize and the biennial Man Booker International Prize. Both these prizes are awarded and administered by the Booker Prize Foundation.

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