

For Immediate Release

Prestigious panel of judges for 2009 Man Asian Literary Prize

Hong Kong, 13 February 2009 – A panel of acclaimed international and Asian writers will judge the 2009 Man Asian Literary Prize. It comprises Indian writer and thinker Pankaj Mishra, Irish novelist Colm Toibin, and Chinese American author Gish Jen.

Announcing the panel today, a director of the Man Asian Literary Prize, Professor Christopher Hutton, said Mishra had been a judge of the prize in 2008 and the addition of Toibin and Jen confirmed the international breadth and reputation of the panel.

In addition, former prize judges the Rt. Hon Adrienne Clarkson and Nicholas Jose, as well as Peter Gordon, the inaugural chairman and former executive director of the Man Asian Literary Prize have joined the prize's advisory council.

Professor Hutton said: "The Man Asian Literary Prize benefits tremendously from the time and expertise of its renowned judges, and also from the support and wise counsel of its distinguished advisers. The varied international backgrounds and depth and breadth of experience of this panel reinforce the Man Asian Literary Prize as a world-class award for world-class Asian literature."

The 2009 Man Asian Literary Prize opened for submissions on 19 January 2009 and will close on 31 March 2009. The winner will be announced in November 2009. Entries may be submitted online via the prize website www.manasianliteraryprize.org.

In 2008 the Rt Hon Adrienne Clarkson, former Governor General of Canada chaired the judging panel which also included Pankaj Mishra and Nicholas Jose.

The first Man Asian Literary Prize was awarded in 2007 to Jiang Rong for his novel "Wolf Totem", which was published by Penguin Books in March 2008. The 2008 Man Asian Literary Prize was awarded to Miguel Syjuco for his novel "Ilustrado".

For further information about the Man Asian Literary Prize and press enquiries please contact:

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Additional information is available on the website:

www.manasianliteraryprize.org

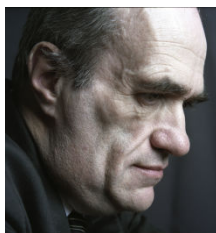
Judges Biographies



The acclaimed Indian writer and thinker **Pankaj Mishra** is the author of New York Time's Notable books *Temptations of the West: How to be Modern in India, Pakistan and Beyond* and *An End to Suffering: The Buddha in the World*, and a novel, *The Romantics*. Mishra's writing has appeared in New York Times, the New York Review of Books, The Guardian, Granta and the New Statesman, among other American, British, and Indian publications.



Gish Jen has published in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Time Asia*, and *The New York Times*, as well as in *The Best American Short Stories of the Century*, edited by John Updike. The recipient of a Lannan Award in Literature and of the Mildred and Harold Strauss Living Award from The American Academy of Arts and Letters, she has published three novels -- *Typical American* (Houghton Mifflin), *Mona in the Promised Land* (Knopf) and *The Love Wife* (Knopf), as well as a collection of stories, *Who's Irish?* (Knopf). She also received grants from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, and the National Endowment for the Arts, and has been featured in a Bill Moyers' program on PBS, as well as in a PBS American Masters program on the American novel.



Colm Toibin is the author of five novels, including 'The Master', which was short-listed for the Man Booker Prize in 2004 and won the Los Angeles Times Novel of the Year, the International Dublin IMPAC Prize, and the Priz de Meilleur Libre in France. He has been a visiting professor at Stanford University, the University of Texas at Austin and Princeton University, where he now teaches. He is a member of the Irish Arts Council and a regular contributor to the London Review of Books and the New York Review of Books.

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.

Man Group plc is the sponsor of the Man Asian Literary Prize, in cooperation with Asian Literary Prize Ltd. 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. 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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