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For Immediate release

## The 2011 Galle Literary Festival

Firmly established on the world literary calendar, the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Galle Literary Festival will take place 26<sup>th</sup> January to 30<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

From small beginnings the Festival has become a favourite of participants and audiences alike; named the best literary festival in the world, it has continued to gain accolades:

“A paradise for book lovers”  
Alexander McCall Smith

“Magical”  
Vikram Seth

2011 will see award winning writers, historians poets and biographers from Nigeria, the Ukraine, Malaysia, Australia, India, Pakistan, Canada, England, the United States, South Africa, Turkey and Sri Lanka converging upon the world heritage city of Galle to participate in four days of solo and panel discussions, workshops, concerts and events in more laid back surroundings; Al fresco lunchtime concert picnics, gourmet lunches and dinners and late night revues and readings.

Nobel, Booker, Orange, Whitbread, Commonwealth and Gratiaen Prize winners will rub shoulders with young, talented, upcoming, and as yet unknown writers, and mingle with an audience keen to ponder over and question their works.

This year’s writers will include Orhan Pamuk, Kiran Desai, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Mohsin Hamid, Jung Chang, Andrey Kurkov, Damon Galgut, William Fiennes, Charles Allen, Pankaj Mishra, Tash Aw, Jill Dawson, Pauline Melville and Sri Lankan local and diasporic writers Karen Roberts, Randy Boyagoda, Liyanage Amarakeerthi, Prashani Rambukwella, Roshi Fernando, Ranjini Obeyesekere and many more.

Poets will include Daljit Nagra, Roger McGough, Omar Musa, Vivimarie VanderPoorten and Tishani Doshi.

Jancis Robinson, England’s leading authority on wine, will headline a strong gourmet participation, which will also include Malaysian celebrity chef Tripat Narayanan and fine wine from Sandalford in western Australia.

The 2011 festival will introduce a new spotlight: This year's special spotlight will be given to Malaysia, with Malaysian writers, poets and chefs providing a glimpse into the country's multi ethnic society. Join Tash Aw, Tan Twan Eng, Omar Musa, Preeti Samarasan and others as they talk about their country and their work. Join the BBC World Forum discussion, which will be broadcast to over 40 million listeners. Sit back, and relax while listening to one of our laid back "Poets at Teatime."

Our children's programme will see children's writers Shamini Flint and Prashani Rambukwella leading workshops in writing, mask making and other activities.

Our outreach programme for children in the southern province continues to grow. We have been conducting creative writing workshops throughout the year. At the festival, there will once again be a completely free day for local schools, where foreign and Sri Lankan writers will help young people improve their English skills and learn about literature.

For the first time, we have appointed a Festival Curator. The noted Sri Lankan writer, Shyam Selvadurai, will be responsible for the festival programme.

We are grateful to Sri Lankan Airlines our Festival Carrier and to all our sponsors who continue to support the Galle Literary Festival, for their generosity and commitment.

Further information on Writers Biographies, Festival Highlights, Festival and Writers photographs can be obtained from [info@galleliteraryfestival.com](mailto:info@galleliteraryfestival.com)

[www.galleliteraryfestival.com](http://www.galleliteraryfestival.com)

A full programme and final participants list will be available in early December.