

PRESS RELEASE
WRITING TALENT RECOGNISED

On Tuesday evening, 24 November, at the Helena May, Central, Hong Kong, local publishers Proverse Hong Kong held their seventh annual international Proverse Prize Award and book launch, attended by a mixed, packed group of well-wishers, book-lovers, and literary enthusiasts.

Two Hong Kong residents, school-teacher Celia Claase and HR manager Philip Chatting each received prizes – book publication and a cash prize – as Winners of the 2014 Proverse Prize.

Announced as Finalists in the 2015 Proverse Prize competition were Lawrence Gray, founding president of the Hong Kong Writers' Circle and Gustav Preller, who flew in from his home in South Africa to attend the event. All entrants were congratulated for their submissions, considerable achievements in themselves.

It was reported that previous winners already published by Proverse Hong Kong have been well noticed, and one – Peter Gregoire's *Article 109* – became a Hong Kong best-seller. It is presently being translated into Japanese.

Two new honorary advisors to the Proverse Prize were announced, Peter Sidorko, University of Hong Kong Librarian and translator Margaret Clarke in Oxford, UK. They join Bahamian poet Marion Bethel; UK linguist & lexicographer David Crystal; Swedish linguist Björn Jernudd; Singapore poet Edwin Thumbo and Czech novelist & poet Olga Walló.

Founded by long-term residents, husband and wife Gillian and Verner Bickley, the Proverse Prize is offered for an unpublished single-author book-length work of fiction, non-fiction, or poetry. Unusually for a literary prize, entry is open to all, eighteen years and over, with no distinction of nationality, citizenship, or residence.

Although entries for the Prize should be submitted in English, translations into English are warmly encouraged.

In her response to a question from the floor, South African Celia Claase said she would not have written her book if she had not come to Hong Kong, with her family, to live and work.

Repeating what he said Tuesday morning on Phil Whelan's Radio Three programme, "Morning Brew", Philip Chatting emphasised the discipline required to complete a full-length book.

Philip Chattings's book, *The Snow Bridge and Other Stories* and Celia Claase's *The Layers Between* (a collection of "fantasophical" essays and poems) are distributed by the Chinese University of Hong Kong Press (Shatin). Already available online, they can be ordered from Hong Kong bookstores.

Those wishing to enter the competition in 2016 should check the website proversepublishing.com or join the Proverse E-Newsletter list by emailing info@proversepublishing.com.

Proverse Hong Kong
26 November 2015