

For Immediate Release

**CULINARY EXPERT TO LIGHT UP YOUR TASTE BUDS WITH FLAVORFUL MUNCHIES
FEATURING UNIQUE INDONESIAN SPICES**

(Hong Kong, May 24, 2017) **William W. Wongso**, Indonesia's most famous culinary expert, will showcase his cooking skills at a special Asia Society Culinary Culture Series event on May 31, 2017.

Titled "Flavors of the 17,000 Islands," the program will make your taste buds dance with a selection of unique Indonesian spices, ceremonial specialties, plus specially designed canapés and drinks created by Wongso in collaboration with **Drawing Room Concepts**. Additionally, a spice-inspired art installation by artist **Lie Fhung** will be on display.

"The world's most diverse culinary traditions spread among the 17,000 islands, and Indonesia's regional cooking are based on rich local wisdom, such as ancient beliefs and agricultural culture," comments Wongso on creating special tasting portions for the event.

The specially designed canapés include: Indonesian-style cevichè (marinated fresh fish), infused with different spices; *Nainura* from Batak (North Sumatra region), made with toasted shredded coconut; the tasty *Gohu* from the Moluccas, made with lime, lemon and crushed nuts; and *Lawa* from South Sulawesi region with its roasted coriander flavor.

Wongso will also prepare *Kunyit Asam*, an Indonesian special drink made of turmeric and tamarind, which is well known for its tonic effects.

Aside from food tasting, the program also features a multisensory conversation about the richness of Indonesian cuisine between Wongso and **Daisy Tam**, Assistant Professor of Humanities and Creative Writing at Hong Kong Baptist University.

"Asia is renowned for its diverse cultures and appetizing cuisines. As such, it is no wonder that the region provides a wealth of opportunities for those who are interested to understand the dynamics between food and culture," says **S. Alice Mong**, Executive Director of Asia Society Hong Kong Center. "We are privileged to have Mr. Wongso sharing his culinary expertise with our members and supporters. I have always believed to understand a culture you have to begin with its food."

"Food is one of the best ways to explore Indonesia's dynamic culture. Our abundant resources have made Indonesian food one of the most vibrant cuisines in the world, where traditional flavors fuse with influences from India, China, Middle East and parts of Europe. We are proud to present Indonesia's rich flavors to our Hong Kong friends," says **Kestity Pringgoharjono**, President of Preserve Indonesia, who collaborates with ASHK in this event.

Tri Tharyat, Consul General of the Republic Indonesia to Hong Kong, says: "It is a rare and unique opportunity for all of us to enjoy the authentic, mouthwatering tropical cuisines prepared by one of Indonesia's best chefs. I am also pleased that this activity is a true

reflection of the recently signed MOU between Indonesia and Hong Kong on cultural cooperation, witnessed by our two leaders.”

The event would not have been made possible without the generous support from Indonesia’s Ministry of Education and Culture as part of its Cultural Diplomacy program, the Indonesian Consulate General in Hong Kong, Potato Head/Kaum and Grace Vineyard.

The program will take place at Asia Society Hong Kong Center, and begin with a drinks reception at 6:30 pm, followed by a conversation and tasting at 7:00 pm. Tickets, priced at HK\$200 for Asia Society members and HK\$350 for non-members, are available online at ticketing.asiasociety.org.hk.

Wongso is host of his own very popular TV series, *Cooking Adventures with William Wongso*. His persistent hunger for knowledge and skills has taken him to the great culinary schools around the world, and his latest book, *Flavors of Indonesia: William Wongso’s Culinary Wonders* (2016) is shortlisted for a Gourmand World Cookbook Award to be announced in May 2017.

-End-

Connect with Asia Society Hong Kong Center on social media

Facebook: [@Asiasocietyhongkong](https://www.facebook.com/Asiasocietyhongkong) / Twitter: [@AsiaSocietyHK](https://twitter.com/AsiaSocietyHK) / Instagram: [@AsiaSocietyHK](https://www.instagram.com/AsiaSocietyHK)

About Preserve Indonesia

Focusing on arts and culture since 2006, Preserve Indonesia is a cultural initiative leveraging innovation in creating and participating in unique activities and programs. Preserve Indonesia collaborates with leading local and international figures and organizations for projects in design, food, film, music and performance. See www.preserveindonesia.org.

About Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Asia Society Hong Kong Center is a leading non-governmental organization and intellectual hub that fosters cross-cultural understanding and promotes dialogue and better understanding of Asia. The Center provides insight, generates ideas, and promotes collaboration to address present challenges and create a brighter shared future across the fields of arts and culture, business and policy, and education.

About Asia Society

Founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller III in New York, and with a worldwide network of 12 centers, Asia Society is a key educational institution dedicated to promoting mutual understanding and strengthening partnerships among peoples, leaders, and institutions of Asia and the United States in a global context.

Media Contacts

Ms. May Tam, External Affairs Department, Asia Society Hong Kong Center
Tel: +852 2103 9559
Email: mediahk@asiasociety.org / mtam@asiasociety.org

Ms. Kestity Pringgoharjono, President, Preserve Indonesia
Tel: +852 9249 5738
Email: Kestity@preserveindonesia.org