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Media-related deals will also be inked over S'pore Season in China

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IN BEIJING

THE arts calendar in Singapore just got busier.

Singaporeans can look forward to an exhibition of Chinese contemporary art next year.

The exhibits from Beijing's National Art Museum of China will be showcased at the Singapore Art Museum (SAM).

This event is one of several projects that will result from a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the two museums yesterday.

This was done during the opening of a Singapore Season exhibition at the Beijing museum of the works of home-grown artists Chen Wen Hsi, Wong Keen and Goh Beng Kwan.

Said the acting deputy director of SAM's curation and collection department, Mr Low Sze Wee: "The idea is to look for opportunities to jointly curate exhi-

bitions, organise public programmes and exchange staff and expertise."

He noted that the two museums are interested in each other's extensive collections of modern and contemporary Chinese art and South-east Asian art, "so there is great synergy here".

Seventeen media-related MOUs will also be inked over the course of the Singapore Season, a month-long showcase of Singapore arts and culture in Beijing and Shanghai organised by 14 Singapore government agencies.

More than 1,000 people attended the Singapore Chinese Orchestra's (SCO) performance at Beijing's Poly Theatre on Saturday.

And 200 guests attended the screening of Jack Neo's *I Not Stupid Too*, which kicked off the inaugural Singapore Film Festival in China at Beijing's Star City cinema.

Exhibitions of the works of Singapore designers as well as visual artist Vincent Leow have also begun, while the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and 11 home-grown writers will make their way to Beijing later this month.

Speaking to the Singapore media yesterday, Min-

ister for Information, Communications and the Arts Lee Boon Yang said he thought this year's Season had "got off to a good, warm start", calling the MOUs "a very important basis for continuing exchange and partnership".

He cited the MOU signed on Friday between Singapore's Media Development Authority and China's State Administration of Radio, Film and TV as a good catalyst that opened up enormous opportunities.

Urging Singapore media companies to look at what value they can impart to new partnerships, he said: "Media is a rapidly growing sector in China, both for consumption and production, so we have to find ways where we can become part of it."

Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs Wong Kan Seng, who attended the SCO concert, also officially launched a shopping mall in Beijing on Saturday.

The Xizhimen Mall is managed by Capitaland Retail Limited, the retail property business unit in which Capitaland owns a 30 per cent stake.

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BRAVO SCO, LIFE! PAGE L7

SHARING EXPERTISE

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MR LOW SZE WEE, acting deputy director of SAM's curation and collection department

MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

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DR LEE BOON YANG, Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts