

Book predicts correctly local political reality

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Like the box office hit *Lion King*, Malaysian author, singer and composer, Steve Oh believes his novel *Tiger King of the Golden Jungle* soon to be made a musical, will be a hit because the storyline touches on Malaysian political reality evolving today.

It depicts the struggle between good and evil and the tension between good and bad governance.

Currently, staying in Perth and frequently visiting Malaysia, Oh has been working on his 'Tiger Creative' projects and recently launched his novel in Kuala Lumpur.

His novel delves into the plight of the animals when an American tycoon uses newfound technology to mine for gold, thus ruining much of the 'Golden Jungle' which he relates to the environment today.

"It took me about five years to write this novel to which I have also composed a musical score, but it took twelve years to see the book published and launched," he said.

There are striking resemblances of real political events happening in Malaysia and globally, which the book predicted.

For example, the Anwar-Mahathir spat, the stepping down of the tentative leader the Sun Bear is amazingly similar to Pak Lah's political demise.

Others, include the virus problem affecting the world as in the attack of the viruses in the story, the record-breaking rise of gold, the theme of terror, and more recently, the root of the global financial crisis - greed, another strong theme in the novel.

The animals, are not like humans who exhibit greed.

'Punish the poachers'

"I've been to many book launches as a journalist and correspondent for *Times* and other international publications but this is the launch that beats them all," said Kim Gooi a veteran free-lance journalist.

Held at the UCSI University in Cheras recently, more than 300 guests danced to the songs of the Beatles and other sixties favourites, belted out by Steve Oh and his former Penang band friends including guitar virtuoso Akashah, and were treated to a menu of hawker favourites and satay.

The Minister for Natural Resources and the Environment, Datuk Douglas Uggah Embas entertained the audience with a speech interspersed with humour.

In a light-hearted manner he joked about the author's 'tiger-skin pants' which he, for a moment, thought it was real tiger skin.

The President of the Malaysian Nature Society, Tan Sri Dr Salleh Nor spoke passionately about the need to protect the country's bio-diversity and threat from poaching.

The author Steve Oh then spoke on the need to launch an assault on poaching and promised to announce a strategy after discussions with all relevant parties.

The fanfare was enhanced with the presence of Malaysian songbird Elaine Kang (right) who sang the song *Love the Rainforest* composed by Steve Oh.