

Persatuan Warisan Pulau Pinang

Penang Heritage Trust

Registered Address:

Penang State Museum, Lebuhraya Farquhar, 11200 Penang, Malaysia

Annual Report 2007



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Annual General Meeting 2007

Sunday, 21st October 2007 at 3.00 pm

Venue: 26, Church Street,
10200 Penang

Agenda

1. To consider and approve:
 - a) The Minutes of the PHT Annual General Meeting – 10th September 2006
 - b) The PHT Annual Report 1st September 2006 – 31st August 2007
 - c) The PHT Financial Report ending 31 December 2006
2. Election of Office Bearers (2007-2009)
3. Other Matters

President's Message 2007

Good news, BUT!

Suffolk House

The Suffolk House restoration is finally completed after 40yr campaign and had a soft launch by HSBC CEO Dato' Zarir Cama in June this year. Kudos must be given to PHT for its perseverance, HSBC under the stewardship of Dato' Zarir and the public for their generosity during the last phase of the restoration. State Government's support and cooperation has been invaluable so far but it must pursue the final objective to ensure its sustainability through a proper management plan. But where is management plan?

UNESCO World Heritage Site

The joint submission of George Town and Malacca for UNESCO World Heritage Site listing (the status of which has been the stuff of rumours for some time), has finally been accepted, making it possible for the UNESCO assessor, Prof David Lung to make an official site evaluation in August this year. Much of the preparation and planning for this visit was done by the government in collaboration with the PHT and Mr Laurence Loh, the latter being an evaluator for UNESCO himself.

The Years of PHT Effort

The PHT has put in at least 10 years of effort to move this submission forward, being helped along the way by various supporters such as Mr Didier Repellin, the Conservator General of Lyon in France, Prof Malcolm Grant, the conservationist from University of Cambridge, Mr Lim Hooi Siang who left a teaching post in University of Brunei to set up the first heritage department in Penang and especially Dr Richard Englehardt of the Cultural Department of UNESCO's office in Bangkok, who was a constant source of encouragement.

Role of Council Members

Our thanks to all Council members for their contributions to this evaluation visit, in particular Mrs Loh-Lim who painstakingly went through the details of the visit down to even the menu of the official dinner. Despite our inputs for this event (and well before it), we seem to have had very little acknowledgement from the government especially in the printed material by the Ministry of Culture and Heritage. But for us, our most important objective in getting the listing will be the obligations put on the government to put in the necessary policies and regulations (including incentives) to make Conservation work in George Town. Hopefully we are now on the last lap.

Better public transport

CEPAT, the coalition of NGO's formed 2 years ago to address the city's traffic problems by demanding for better public transport finally got their wish for 'government subsidised' public transport services in the form of RapidPenang, launched in August this year. There continues to be many hiccups in the service but we are now confident that it is a move in the right direction. As a member of the State Public Transport Consultative Forum we hope to monitor and advise the committee under YB Dato' Dr Teng to ensure more 'rapid' improvement in the system.

Government Links

Relations with the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage (KEKWA) and the Ministry of Tourism need to be improved. Hopefully, the follow-up to the UNESCO submission will ensure greater cooperation between us and KEKWA. As for the Ministry of Tourism, the UNESCO tourism guide course in April was launched under the sponsorship of the Ministry and the help of YB Teng Chang Yeow. We hope this will become an annual event to prepare for greater demand for heritage tourism after we are listed as a World Heritage Site.

Battle for Better Planning Policies

Dubious planning policy decisions by the Government continue to plague us, threatening the fragile urban fabric of the city and the natural environment of the Island. Unsustainable mega projects are being approved and built at behest of influential private developers, from the 'City Square' at the Escoy site, the 'Paragon' at St Joseph's Novotiate site and now, the 'mother' of all mega projects, the 'Penang Global City Centre' is being proposed for the 260 acre Penang Turf Club site with the apparent blessing of the political leadership. Opposition to this last project is now being organized by a coalition of NGO's which PHT will play a prominent role.

As members can see from this report, it has been a very full year. My thanks to the Council and all members for their contributions and support. Finally, my thanks to the manager Magdeline and assistant Sheau Fung for keeping the 'administrative machinery' in the office moving without which many of our activities would come to a halt.

***Dr Choong Sim Poey
President, Penang Heritage Trust***

Penang Heritage Trust
Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2006
Sunday, 10th September 2006 at 3.00 pm
26, Church Street, 10200 Penang

Members Present

Ahmad Chik

Ann Cutter
Ang Poay Khuan
Chia Yong Tai

Choong Sim Poey

Chris Webb

Clement Liang

Ditte Andreasen
Douglas Fox
Douglas Howard

Jack Ong

Jack Ong Hock Soon
Joanna Consuela Aeria
Kee Phaik Cheen

Khaw Yiat Lin

Laurence Loh
Lee Yong Seng, James
Leslie A.K.James

Lim Gaik Siang

Lim Khoon Seok
Lim Siew Kang
Lim Siew Kok

Loh-Lim Lin Lee

Marcia Howard
Marie-Louise Oh
Nik Sim

P.A. Laine

Peter Foo

Pow Lin James

Richard Jones

Stewart Wilson

Tan Chong Guan

Teh Ewe Hoon

Timothy Tye

Woo Yee Saik
Yap Ching Chau
Yeoh Kok Meng, Eric
Yvonne Teh

Staff-in-Attendance

Magdeline Ng
Ho Sheau Fung

Observers

Mrs Goon Phooi Kheng (spouse)
Ms S. Wilson (spouse)

Absent with Apologies: **Tunku Dato' Dr Ismail Jewa (Vice-President)**

(Names of PHT Council members for term 2005-2007 are in bold)

Chairman's Welcome Address

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 pm by the President, Dr Choong Sim Poey. He welcomed all to this non-election year AGM and in the new premises of PHT.

In his President's message, Dr Choong highlighted that Suffolk House is reaching its final phase of restoration and out-fitting. The fundraising is on-going now. It is envisaged that the building will be used as an art gallery to house the early historic paintings of Penang. The President is hoping that the strong effort and commitment put in by PHT

and other like-minded groups would enable PHT to have a say and be able to participate in the management of the building.

He further said that the George Town's bid for UNESCO World Heritage Site listing is an objective that the Trust has been pursuing for a long time (since 1991). PHT was initially involved with the preparation of the dossier but the dossier needs final analysis and was held back. The procedures at this stage would involve the Federal Authority. Dr Choong referred members to a paper written by Dr Richard Engelhardt, the cultural advisor of the UNESCO Asia Pacific region. The paper gave an overview of community involvement in heritage conservation, economics and politics, world heritage and whether Penang can become a world heritage site, with a conclusion that Penang with our unique living cultural assets and our cultural heritage should be preserved.

PHT is very concerned with the planning philosophy of the local authority due to the enormous ramifications of the Gurney Drive and Tanjung Bungah developments. Dr Choong mentioned the planning procedure practiced by the local authority also pertains to the density of the plot developed.

To round up, he thanked all for their support and the support from his Council and the staff.

1. a) **Confirmation of the Minutes of the AGM 2005**

Dr Choong went through the minutes with members.

The World Monuments Fund grant for PHT's new premises has been drawn-on. Full approval has been given for the restoration. The remaining balance amount will be released to PHT very soon. Dr Choong acknowledged his thanks to Mrs Loh-Lim for her work and liaison with the WMF.

Mr Leslie A.K. James (O-26517) brought-up the matter on whether there was any follow-up on the Catholic Cemetery and the E&O Hotel proposal for the restoration of the Protestant Cemetery. In response, Ms Ann Cutter (O-26465) said that the Bishop has repaired the wall. A meeting will be organized by the Concerned Catholic group to see to the funding and the upkeep of the cemetery. Mr Ahmad Chik commented that as much as PHT would like to support, PHT cannot take a leading role in this, and the Concerned Catholic group should play a more active role. Mr Leslie James informed that the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia (BACSA) is willing to give financial assistance to both the cemeteries. Mrs Loh-Lim, the prime mover for the Protestant Cemetery's project, said that she has not been able to keep the Cemetery upgrading project going due to shortage of funds. With the initial grant of STP300, followed by another STP500 which were received from England, and coupled with some funding from the Tourism Action Council, she had managed to complete 80% of the upgrading work. Mrs Loh-Lim appealed for another STP500 in order to complete the remainder work at the Protestant Cemetery. In response to Mr James' second query, Dr Choong replied that the E & O celebration did not get off the ground last year so the proposal for the restoration of the Protestant Cemetery fell through.

The Minutes of the AGM held on 28th August 2005 was approved and adopted on the proposal of Mr Douglas Fox (O-26273) and seconded by Mr Eric Yeoh Kok Meng (O-26371).

b) Presentation of the Annual Report 2005/2006

Mr Jack Ong, the Honorary Secretary, went through the Annual Report and highlighted the following:

i) Membership

Due to technical oversight, over the years, we have not segregated Founder members from Life members in our membership database. Mr Jack Ong said that the Founder members would be reinstated to the correct classification in the next report, that is to show three categories: Founder, Life and Ordinary memberships. The last annual report saw a higher number of members due to lapsed members included in the membership record. A more accurate number is shown this year. Junior membership will also be revived to encourage children and students aged below 18 to join the PHT. It is hoped that members can encourage their children to join.

ii) PHT Premises

Mr Jack Ong thanked all sponsors from the government and various corporate bodies for the success of the Fundraising Gala Dinner held the previous year. This enabled us to buy the property and to restore it with the World Monuments Fund grant.

iii) PHT Museum Shop

Dr Choong explained that PHT started off the Museum Shop at the Railway Coach with the permission of the Penang State Museum. It will be taken back by the Museum Board in October 2006. Dr Choong acknowledged his thanks to Mr Peter Foo (O-26095) for acting as an agent for PHT for the promotion of PHT and recruitment of members in the Museum Shop.

iv) Donors

Among the steadfast donors, Mr Jack Ong highlighted Prof Chong Peng Khuan, a member, who has donated a 'Dell' laptop for PHT use. He is grateful to members who have supported us in cash and kind, and services rendered to the Trust.

v) Project & Programmes

Trail Brochure. The 'Muslim Historical Sites' is in progress and the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage will sponsor the printing and production cost, as well as the 9 display signs on site.

Workshop. At the invitation of Mr Jack Ong, Mr Clement Liang reported that Chiangmai, Phuket, Cambodia and Japan took part in the 'Diversity & Dynamism in Urban Conservation' workshop. There were a lot of sharing and roundtable discussions. Besides taking an active role in the workshop, he also acted as the translator for the Japanese delegates. Dr Choong in addition, mentioned that Nara Machizukuri Center is a very senior NGO and is one of the prime movers for heritage conservation. Nara had supported seminars and talks on conservation in this region.

Heritage Education. PHT, together with Badan Warisan and Arts-ED, have completed the UNESCO workshop. Mr Jack Ong further said that Phase 2 of myBalikpulau project will commence soon to complement the Phase 1 project. PHT staff, Sheau Fung has been working with Arts-ED and Badan Warisan on this and working with the children as part of heritage education programme. The discovery walk for school students in the Penang Global Ethic Project launched by TYT the Penang Governor has been temporarily shelved due to pressure from certain religious groups.

Living Heritage Treasures of Penang Awards. This year's Awardees were derived primarily from the area of traditional trades. Mr Jack Ong expressed PHT's sincerest thanks to HSBC for the continuous funding.

Suffolk House. Mr Jack Ong announced that although we have reached the total of RM1.5M pledged for the Suffolk House fundraising campaign, he urged those who have pledged to follow up with payments. Ms Loh-Lim said that new areas like foyer, balcony and colonnade have been opened up for sponsorship due to good response, and a special fund will be set up for the remainder of the "Save Suffolk House" funds, to be used for the running of the Suffolk House.

vi) Urban Blight & Heritage Alert

Penangwatch. The response to the Penang Watch website has not been encouraging and the website had encountered several technical errors but it has soon been rectified. Mr Douglas Fox pointed out that the webpage should be www.penangwatch.net instead of www.penangwatch.com. It was noted by all.

Public Forum. There was a public forum held two weeks earlier (27th August 2006) on "Greater Transparency in City Planning: Focus on the Present and Future developments at Gurney Drive and Tanjung Bungah". All comments and feedback were noted. A series of Resolutions has been adopted at the forum which will be submitted to the Local authority.

Public Transport. Mrs Marie-Louise Oh (O-26497) shared her taxi ride experience with the members. Dr Choong revealed that since the local authority is so immune to the complaints, the coalition is considering challenging the State in court for an efficient public transportation system.

vii) Heritage Tours & Specialist Heritage Tour Guide Course

Mr Jack Ong briefed that heritage tours have generated important revenue for PHT and hoped for the support from members to promote such heritage walks.

He said that the Specialist Heritage Tour Guide Course is underway and this is based on the UNESCO programme to train tour guides for World Heritage Sites. Ms Loh-Lim explained that UNESCO is concerned the way world heritage sites are being guided and hence has worked out a programme to be conducted. PHT has been running heritage tour guide courses but it was not certified by the Tourism Board. We have now managed to convince the Ministry of Tourism about such specialist course based on the assumption that George Town is listed as a World Heritage Site.

PHT would combine the UNESCO programme into our syllabus and the certificate will be endorsed by Ministry of Tourism and UNESCO. The first course will

probably be held first quarter of 2007 and UNESCO will send a team of experts to work with PHT. The course will be a 7 full-day programme, including a day for assessment of participants. Funding will be applied from the Tourism Ministry to lessen the burden on participants.

Mr Jack Ong further said that PHT will be the only recognized body in Malaysia who can issue such heritage tourist guide badge and that this could become a major income generating programme for PHT.

viii) Site Visits

Mr Jack Ong reported that we are into the 7th year of the programme, and it was noted that very few sites have been re-visited. The objective of doing site visits is not only to appreciate buildings but also to appreciate our culture and living heritage, and he appealed to members to recommend possible areas of places and people/trades that we can visit.

ix) Publishing & Publicity

Newsletter and Press Statements. On behalf of PHT, Mr Jack Ong expressed his thanks to Mr Leslie James for taking on the role as Guest Editor of PHT's newsletter. As good relationship is maintained with the press, PHT regularly has front page coverage for issues concerning heritage and conservation in this region.

PHT Website. Mr Jack Ong also thanked Council Member Mr Timothy Tye for revamping the website. A new section has been included together with old ones, and it is very much a dynamic website now.

Volunteers. Mr Jack Ong expressed thanks to our volunteers, particularly Miss Ch'ng Saw See and Miss Helen Foong for their help in setting up the Resource Library. Contribution from members is very much appreciated.

x) General Comments

Mr Ahmad Chik, as Restoration Sub-Committee Chairman of PHT's new premise, acknowledged Mr Laurence Loh, our project consultant and Dato' Yap Ching Chau, our engineering advisor for their help. Special thanks also go to Mrs Loh-Lim who sourced for the fixtures and fittings.

Mr Leslie James commented that the Chinese shophouse at No. 2 Bishop Street has been beautifully restored by UMNO. Discussions were on whether owners who have restored their buildings be recognized with mementos, like plaques, and to follow with a letter of appreciation. The plaque can be like the UK heritage blue tag and can serve as an identification symbol for Tourism. Mrs Loh-Lim mentioned this idea was first mooted by the Council members some time back but we have not been able to progress. It was noted by all.

Dato' Kee Phaik Cheen (L-26020) informed members that she is the Chairperson of PEMPENA, which is the marketing arm of the Tourism Ministry, and that PEMPENA is working on programmes that would complement the work of PHT.

She is planning to use the newly restored shophouses at the courtyard of Khoo Kongsi as an "Arts Village" to bring in the traditional traders, artisans and living craftsmen. She hopes PHT could work with PEMPENA closely for the setting up and the monitoring of the Arts Village and a certain portion of the income revenue will go to PHT. This was noted.

As there were no further remarks, the annual report was adopted on the proposal of Dato' Kee Phaik Cheen and seconded by Mr Woo Yee Saik (O-26086).

c) Presentation of Honorary Treasurer's Report

Ms Lim Gaik Siang, the Honorary Treasurer presented the Report. With the newly purchased PHT building, we now have a higher value of assets. She highlighted the income and expenses and clarified the details thereon. We have a high project income due to the closing of the Penang Story International Conference account, the total amounting to RM814,045 with miscellaneous income of RM53,232.

The main expenses were also derived from project expenditure with the highest from the Penang Story International Conference. Other miscellaneous expenditure were explained. The newsletter expenditure had been reduced greatly due to the work by the new Guest Editor, Mr Leslie James, with a smaller honorarium paid than previously. Ms Lim referred members to page 28 of the Treasurer's Report and mentioned that it is all self-explanatory.

Dr Choong Sim Poey explained that in the past, we always had deficit in our financial statements but we were better off in 2005 with a surplus due to the fundraising dinner and WMF restoration project, and that we will still continue to look for funds to keep PHT going.

Mrs Loh-Lim appealed to members to support PHT by paying up annual subscriptions, and informed that without fundraising and projects, it is impossible for us to meet up with our administration costs. In response, Dato' Kee mentioned the government will give consideration to NGOs for the waiving of the assessment and quit rent charges, and she advised PHT to apply for it.

As there were no further questions, the treasurer's report was adopted after a proposal by Mr Ahmad Chik (L-26009), seconded by Mr Leslie AK James (O-26517).

2. Other Matters

Teochew Association (Hanjiang Ancestral Temple) – UNESCO Award. Mr Laurence Loh (L-26079) informed all present that the Teochew Association has recently won the Merit award given in the "2006 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation". The Teochew Association was the only submission from South East Asia.

He congratulated Ms Lim Gaik Siang, who is also the conservation consultant and advisor for the restoration of the Teochew Association. In return, and on behalf of the Teochew Board, Ms Lim thanked PHT for their support to the Teochew Association's restoration from the day it was first mooted in 2002.

As there were no other matters, the meeting adjourned at 4.40 pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Members were treated to a special performance by Cikgu Baharoodin who played the role of Bibik Hitam before tea. Cikgu is a Living Heritage Treasures of Penang 2005 awardee.

Persatuan Warisan Pulau Pinang
LAPURAN TAHUNAN 2006/2007
September 2006 – Ogos 2007

Penang Heritage Trust
ANNUAL REPORT 2006/2007
September 2006 – August 2007

PHT Council Members (Term 2005/2007)

1. Dr Choong Sim Poey, President
Medical practitioner, ex State Assemblyman and ex-Municipal Councillor, Chairman of several local non-government organisations.
2. Tunku Dato' Dr Ismail bin Tunku Mohammad Jewa, Vice President
Retired Dean and Professor of Educational Administration, USM.
Chairman, P.I.E. Industrial Bhd, President, State of Penang Family Planning Association.
3. Dato' Nazir Ariff, Immediate Past President
Managing Director, Chairman of numerous philanthropic and charitable organisations.
4. Mr Jack Ong, Honorary Secretary
6th generation Peranakan, proponent of local Penang culture and practices, specifically its living heritage. Heads the Penang and Johor operations and communications of a global professional body.
5. Ms Lim Gaik Siang, Honorary Treasurer
Advisor to the Conservation Committee of Penang Teochew Association, Chairman of the North Malaya Teo-Aun Association. A technical consultant and Mandarin resource person for PHT.
6. En Ahmad Chik
Retired engineer, social activist in Malaysian Nature Society, Friends of Penang Hill and Friends of Botanic Gardens. Head of several PHT projects.
7. Mrs Loh-Lim Lin Lee
Conservator, lecturer, social psychologist, restoration consultant, historic researcher, author of dilapidation studies of historic buildings, heads several PHT projects such as Heritage Education Programme & Site Visits Co-ordinator, speaker and guide on historic conservation areas.
8. Dr Tan Chong Guan
Medical Practitioner, collector and expert on local art and history of artists and their artworks.
9. Mr Khaw Yiat Lin
Retired from Citibank. Vice-President of Penang Tourist Guide Association, avid collector of art, head of heritage trails.
10. Mr Clement Liang
Quality Program Senior Manager of an MNC. Presented the paper on pre-war Japanese community in Penang, Penang Story colloquium speaker and fluent in several foreign languages, active conservationist.
11. Mr Timothy Tye
Founder of AsiaExplorers, an organisation for travel enthusiasts. A person with a particular penchant for heritage destinations, to visit, photograph and document them.

Advisors & Ex-Officio

1. Mr Laurence Loh, Heritage Technical Advisor to the Trust
2. Prof Wazir Jahan, Muslim Heritage Advisor to the Trust
3. Mr Woo Yee Saik, Public Relations, Human Resources, Development and Training
Ex-Officio of the Trust
4. Cikgu Bahroodin, Cultural Advisor to the Trust
5. Mr Gan Teik Chee, Legal Advisor to the Trust
6. Mr Tan Kuan Aw, Advisor to the Trust in the area of Access for Disabled People
7. Mr Leslie A.K. James, Guest Editor of the PHT Newsletter

PHT Annual Report

1 September 2006 – 31 August 2007

1. Council Meetings

Besides informal meetings for strategy and projects, PHT has held 5 Council meetings since the last AGM. Attendance was recorded as follows:

Dr Choong Sim Poey	5/5
Tunku Dato' Ismail	3/5
Mr Jack Ong	4/5
Ms Lim Gaik Siang	3/5
En Ahmad Chik	4/5
Dr Tan Chong Guan	2/5
Mrs Loh-Lim Lin Lee	4/5
Mr Khaw Yiat Lin	3/5
Mr Clement Liang	5/5
Mr Timothy Tye	3/5

2. Membership

Founder Members	17
Life Members	68
Ordinary Members	239
Junior Members	3
Total	327

Note :

Members whose subscriptions have lapsed - 430

The Council appeals to members to support our objective to recruit more members and to renew their subscriptions on time.

3. PHT Premises – 26 Church Street

The PHT premises at 26, Church Street has been in use now for almost a year and a half. It has proven to be a focal point not only for our members and those with an interest in conservation and our historic city but also

- for those seeking much-needed information on restoration and conservation guidelines
- for tourists and visitors wanting heritage walks and tours and informed guidance to the inner city
- for those wishing a place to hold workshops and talks and seminars and exhibitions
- for those wanting to get ideas for conserving their shop-houses and finding good contractors and suppliers
- for local and foreign students doing research and internship

- for meeting long-lost friends and acquaintances
- for a lovely little haven of rest and quietude in open courtyards within a historic ambience

We are seeking an assessment rebate from the MPPP as part of their 'promised incentives' for good conservation and we intend to seek help from the State for a small grant to help us to run the office.

4. Donations and PHT Funds

We would like to acknowledge the following funders during this reporting period:

- World Monuments Fund
- Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Corporation
- Penang Tourism Action Council
- Ministry of Tourism, Malaysia

We would like to express our great gratitude to Dato' Zarir Cama of HSBC for his exceptional contributions initiated through the HSBC to support heritage and culture in the State of Penang. Through his commitment, the restoration of Suffolk House and Francis Light's Cemetery had been successfully completed. Through him, we are able to obtain HSBC's sponsorship for promotion of intangible cultural heritage (Living Heritage Treasures of Penang Awards) and Arts in Heritage Education (street performances).

5. PHT Projects & Programmes

UNESCO Cultural Heritage Specialist Guide Training & Certification Programme 23 – 28 April 2007

This is a project organized by the Penang Heritage Trust in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism Malaysia, UNESCO-ICCROM Asian Academy for Heritage Management (AAHM) with the Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) for the Tentative List site of George Town, Penang, Malaysia.

The project is to recognize the importance of cultural heritage tourism and the need to prepare guides for dealing with influx of tourists to this tentative World Heritage Site.

The objectives are to upgrade guide capacity by providing in-depth knowledge and insight to validate Penang's outstanding cultural significance, its rich social history behind its multicultural community and built heritage; to promote a sense of ownership on the part of the host community; to improve the richness and quality of experience for the visitors; and to improve sustainability through improved code of conduct of tourists.

The syllabus was drawn up within the framework and guidelines for the training and certification of Cultural Heritage Guides at UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and the certification granted is compatible with the regional standards established by the Institute for Tourism Studies.

The project was carried out from 23rd April to 28th April 2007, a 6-day training programme opened for licensed and non-licensed guides with an intention to extend a 5-day programme (already approved by the Ministry of Tourism Malaysia) for non-licensed participants who have successfully completed part one and who wish to obtain a

Restricted license for the proposed UNESCO World Heritage site of George Town, Penang.

Subsequent to the Penang course, similar courses have been conducted by UNESCO and the Institute of Tourism of Macau in May in Macau and in June in Hoi An, Vietnam. Other courses are planned for the region

Living Heritage Treasures of Penang Awards

The judging for 2007 Awards took place on 13th June 2007 at the Penang Heritage Trust office.

Out of the 15 nominees, 6 finalists were selected for consideration, they were:

1. Dato' Yim Yoo Loon (97 years old) - Calligrapher/Writer
2. N.B.Samarasena (83 years old) - Master Goldsmith
3. Wan Dee Aroonratna (83 years old) - Menora Dancer & Shaman
4. Lee Ah Hock (68 years old) - Lantern Maker
5. Yeap Siew Kay (60 years old) - Artisan Carver
6. Tan Kow Kiah (63 years old) - Artisan craftsman

The Awardees for 2007 went to:

1. **Mr Wan Dee Aroonratna** (Penang's most renowned Menora dancer and teacher/Cultural Expert in Thai-Penang connections, rituals and customs/Spiritual Shaman/Thai Wayang Kulit)
2. **Mr Lee Ah Hock** (Penang's last traditional lantern maker. Artisan Lanterns, usually in pairs, are crafted of rattan and waxed paper and skilfully painted for use at the entrance of buildings)

The 2007 presentation of Awards was conducted on 30th August 2007 at PHT premises. The Chief Minister, Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, presented the awards. The function was also graced with the presence of Professor David Lung, the appointed UNESCO Evaluator for Malacca & George Town for World Heritage Listing. He was duly impressed with the work done by PHT on protecting our Intangible Cultural Assets.

An exhibition was held at the same time on the work of all the awardees.

PHT would like to once again thank all our judges for their invaluable services and to HSBC for their continued support of this very worthwhile programme. We now have our full quota of 8 awardees and we look forward to 2008 when we will add one more Living Heritage Treasure to the list.

We have also produced a very attractive brochure highlighting the Awardees.

Visit of Professor David Lung, UNESCO Evaluator for Melaka and George Town August, 24th to 31st 2007

Although we feel that the evaluation went well and Professor Lung was suitably impressed, it is premature to comment on the outcome of Professor Lung's visit to Malacca and Penang. He will write his report, and more information as recommended by Prof Lung, will be sent by the Ministry of Heritage to UNESCO. A panel of experts /'desk-

readers' will then go through the dossier and the additional material, as well as Professor Lung's report. Additional material or clarifications may be sought. The final outcome will only be known in July 2008, to be announced in Canada.

Setting up of Clan Jetties' Pictorial and Interpretation Centre at Chew Jetty, Penang

The Clan Jetties of Penang represent a facet of Penang's rich historic & cultural heritage not found elsewhere in the world. It has been chosen and is well-deserving for inclusion in the core area of the nominated UNESCO World Heritage Site for George Town. For years, the Clan Jetties were left neglected and seen fit only to be demolished for other development projects. As recent as last year, we have lost both the Koay Jetty & Peng Aun Jetty and their close-knit communities.

New urban development in a historic city need not be symbolized by high density concrete jungles. Instead we should heed the latest trend towards a more human oriented and cultural-sensitive development for the community in-situ.

It is with this intention that PHT sees it timely that the communities living in the 7 Clan Jetties, together with the authorities and other interested parties, work together to improve the living conditions of the Jetties while retaining the traditional lifestyle of the residents. The setting up of the Jetties' pictorial and interpretation centre will create awareness to the Jetty residents in order that they see themselves as the custodians and interpreters of their own communal site.

PHT worked extensively with the Clan Jetties residents, scholars, photographers, graphic designers, volunteers and the state authorities to design a series of large scale illustrative posters on the history and pictures of the jetties. The project was completed in time for the Evaluator from UNESCO, who visited the Clan Jetties on 30th August, 2007 and our Chief Minister who looked impressed with the posters was seen doing the explanation to the visitors based on the posters!

The Clan Jetties project exemplifies the strong will and concerted efforts by grass-root communities, NGOs and the authorities to preserve an important heritage site in Penang.

PHT Art Exhibition

PHT organised the "Living Heritage for Our Future" Art Exhibition, held on 20th -30th May 2007.

The theme "Living Heritage for Our Future" provides a blank canvas for artists to explore on the various themes that relate to experiencing the richness of our traditions and customs. It promotes the idea that continuity and development of our heritage is dependant on the constant practice and use of all its rudiments in our daily lives.

Conversely, it also infers to the numerous elements within our society which have been termed "Living Heritage" (eg, the traditional trades and crafts), and the roles they will play in our community in time to come.

Such an openly interpretive theme is deliberate, encouraging the artists to express their exposition on the character of our heritage for the future generations.

The exhibition was open to all Malaysians, with works in various mediums (oil, acrylic, batik, watercolour, etc).

The exhibition was widely covered by the media. Over 50 artists of very high standard responded and submitted their works. 48 paintings were finally selected for the exhibition, held at the Galeri Seni Mutiara at Armenian Street.

The exhibition was officially declared open by Dato' Tang Hon Yin. The turn out at the Opening on 20 May 2007 was good, with approximately 100 people in attendance. A beautifully printed catalogue containing all the paintings was published to record the Exhibition, and is available (for free distribution) from PHT.

Suffolk House Restoration

Phase 3 of the Suffolk House restoration required RM2 million. PHT was instrumental in initiating one of the most successful fund raisers of the year. A scheme whereby columns, rooms and spaces in Suffolk House were made available for sponsorship by the general public, resulted in more than RM2.6 million being raised, from all over Malaysia. HSBC with the help of Dato' Zarir Cama was crucial in the successful donation drive. Suffolk House is now resplendent in its former glory. PHT has been involved for 21 years in the tireless efforts to preserve this most important building. A book has been published and the public is awaiting its opening. The State is set to undertake an MOU with Badan Warisan Malaysia whereby BWM manages Suffolk House as a heritage site with compatible activities and uses. A Committee comprising of representation from HSBC Bank, PHT and other 'respected donors' will continue to serve in an advisory capacity for overall management strategies, and will also act as a guardian over remaining funds collected in the fund raising drive earlier in the year. These funds will be used from time to time as seen fit for the continued well-being of Suffolk House.

Muslim Historical Sites

Sponsored by Penang Tourism Action Council, PHT has completed this new brochure highlighting the contribution of the Muslim community to the cultural and physical development of Penang and the whole country generally. This publication complements our other heritage trails brochures and has given a more complete picture of our city's historic evolution.

MyBalikPulau Part 2 (Nov 2006 - Sep 2007)

In November/December 2005, ARTS-ED, Badan Warisan Malaysia and Penang Heritage Trust (PHT) co-organized the MyBalikPulau 2005 project. Fifteen children aged 11-12 years old from schools in Balik Pulau District were involved in this cultural mapping project which produced outcomes on four topics - myPOSTCARD, mySELF, myFAMILY and myTOWN. The research and photographic works of the children on their community's heritage were on public exhibition throughout January and February 2006 in the town of Balik Pulau.

Phase 2 of myBALIKpulau is a follow-up project with the young residents of Balik Pulau. This project recruited a mixed-age group of primary and secondary school children who worked on the previous research in order to produce a heritage walking trail in the town

area and a bicycle trail in rural area of Balik Pulau. The project also invited some local people to act as the support resource group.

A small group of secondary students were trained to conduct a 2-hour walking trail in Balik Pulau. ARTS-ED is now working on the final version of the Balik Pulau map and a Balik Pulau heritage magazine.

School Walks (Heritage Education Programme)

Date	School	Number of Pax
12 Sept 06	Senior Students from University of South Australia + USM Itinerary: 9.00am- PHT, Street of Harmony 4.30pm- Talk by Dr. Gwyn Jenkins at PHT	50
23 Sept 06 (Sat)	SMJK Heng Ee Itinerary: 9.00am- Cheong Fatt Tze 10.00am- 12.00pm Street of Harmony (from Museum, end at Khoo Kongsu)	40 (2 teachers)
12 Oct 06	SMJK Chung Ling Butterworth Itinerary: 9.00am- Town Hall, Street of Harmony	About 120 students + teachers
12 Oct 06	Dalat School Religious Walk 12.00pm start	12 pax
19 Oct 06 (Thursday)	Sekolah Sacred Heart , Balik Pulau Itinerary: 9.00am- PHT Video presentation- What is Heritage? Street of Harmony, end at Lebuah Aceh	30 pax
23 Oct 06 (Monday)	Xin Kang, Taiping	38 Primary Students , 6 teachers
1 Nov 06 (Wed)	Sek Men JK Heng Ee 8.30am-11.30am Itinerary: Pinang Peranakan & Little India Walk	40 Students + 3 teachers (form 3)
2 Nov 06	Dalat School Religious Walk 12.00pm start	12 Pax
3 Nov 06 (Friday)	Phor Tay High School Itinerary: Historical Enclave Walk 8.30-12.20pm	30 Students & 1 teacher
10 Nov 06 (Friday)	Phor Tay High School Itinerary: Historical Enclave Walk 8.30-12.20pm	31 Students & 1 teacher
15 Nov 06 (Wed)	Phor Tay High School Itinerary: Historical Enclave Walk 8.30-12.20pm	29 Students & 1 teacher
16 Nov 06 (Thursday)	Phor Tay High School Itinerary: Historical Enclave Walk 8.30-12.20pm	38 Students & 1 teacher

Talks (Sep- Oct 2006)

16 Sep
Venue: PHT
Power Point presentation & Talk "What is Heritage?"
17-20 Penang Free School students

19 Oct
Venue: PHT
Power Point presentation & Talk "What is Heritage?"
35-40 SMJK Sacred Heart, Balik Pulau students

30 Oct
Venue: Phor Tay High School
Power Point presentation & Talk "What is Heritage?"
200 Phoy Tay High School students

Musical Drama Workshop "Ronggeng Merdeka" (March- June 2007)

A joint project by PHT and ARTS-ED. 21 children underwent training in music-making with everyday objects, body parts, and musical instruments of the gamelan, wayang kulit and bangsawan conducted by ethnomusicologist Prof. Tan Sooi Beng of Universiti Sains Malaysia and other well-known artists from Penang.

These children created a musical piece about Penang before, during and after the Japanese Occupation. The piece is based on sounds collected during fieldwork in the inner city and interviews with different types of people such as traders, performers and old women who lived through the war. The four-month workshop culminated with a series of mobile street performances in different parts of Penang in June 2007.

Penang Heritage Idols Video Documentation & Web Part 2

A research project (4 Sept 2004- Oct 2005) involved young people in a digital video and web production. The project was aimed at raising awareness of the meaning and significance of intangible cultural assets or 'living heritage' of George Town among Penang Youth. Three heritage idols : Dato' Chuah Thean Teng, Mohd Haji Salleh and Mr. Sim Buck Teik were documented. Exhibition was held in USM Gallery.

The 2nd series of documentation is aimed to produce video documentation for the PHT/HSBC Living Heritage Treasures of Penang 2005-2007 Awardees.

'Rakan Warisan' Training Workshop

This workshop was aimed at training young facilitators for the joint ARTS-ED and PHT Heritage Education Programme. It was carried out in December 2006. 12 secondary school students aged 14-19 went through a 3-day training session facilitated by Janet Pillai, Yoke Pin, Joanne Khaw, Natashah Khanum, Ho Sheau Fung and Michelle Yip in December 2006. They explored the historical sites, early settlements and migrant history of the inner city of George Town. The trained young facilitators will be conducting heritage discovery walks for school students.

6. Urban Blight & Heritage Issues

Anglican Church of England/Francis Light Cemetery

In 1993-94, the PHT undertook the first restoration of the 18th century cemetery with the help of SOCFIN, Count de Ribe, the MPPP and the State Tourism Board. The graves were cleaned and re-inlaid, perimeter walls were repaired, documentation of the cemetery was conducted and a map showing important graves was erected at the entrance.

In March 2007, PHT once again, with the help of HSBC Bank and BACSA, repaired and repainted the walls, repaired and reconstructed the gates, cleaned tombs and installed an entrance sign in engraved granite. MPPP contributed in a very important way by laying cabling and installing posts and flood lights so that the cemetery will be lit at night.

We also wish to acknowledge with thanks, the co-operation of the neighbouring "32" Restaurant at the Mansion, who has undertaken to lock the main gate at night, and on weekends, as well as to open it on mornings that the MPPP workers are on holiday.

Roman Catholic Cemetery

In response to a submission by PHT on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee of Descendants and friends of the Old Roman Catholic Cemetery, BACSA (British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia) approved a grant of STP2500 for the restoration work at the Old Roman Catholic Cemetery. In approving this grant, BACSA noted the reliability of PHT as a partner. Following a recent meeting (Loh-Lim Lin Lee, Ann Cutter, L.A.K. James) with the contractor, work is expected to be undertaken during October.

Historic Street Names Plaques

As part of the bid for UNESCO World Heritage Listing, funds are being sought for the installation of historic plaques which will denote traditional and local names of our inner city streets. PHT is responsible for all research, documentation, consultation with inner city residents, historians, translations into 4 languages, as well as location and supervision of installation works. So far we have completed the text and research for 90 streets and have completed translations in 2 languages. We expect the plaques to be ready and in place by the year's end.

Former St. Joseph Novitiate Site

Hidden behind construction hoardings, the fate of St Joseph's Novitiate and its beautiful 1925 raised chapel remains beyond view, consigned to being part of the newly minted "Gurney Paragon" so-called mixed development project of Hunza Properties Berhad.

Although scaled down from the original concept of four huge tower blocks, the project comprises two gigantic towers, each of 43 storeys and together containing 220 condo units, facing Gurney Drive and dwarfing the elegant St Joseph's Novitiate between them à la Hardwick House at the foot of Northam Tower.

Speaking to the media in advance of a local property fair, Hunza executive chairman Dato' Khor Teng Tong described the Gurney Paragon units as surrounding "a heritage

structure and a festival square”, the former a reference to St Joseph’s Noviate, which he said Hunza had invested about RM10 million “to rehabilitate and refurbish as a colonial style café and art gallery.”

According to Khor, the 60,000 sq.ft. festival square is to be next to a three-storey podium of shops. A scale model of the project shows this enormous shopping complex as filling the hitherto green space between St Joseph’s Novitiate and Kelawai Road to the south.

Meanwhile, a short distance away on Kelawai Road, Gurney Plaza is hastening to complete its nine-storey shopping annexe for opening in 2008 – no shortage of commercial space in this area!

PHT and Sustainable Transport

Citizens for Public Transport (CEPAT) have continued to be active over the last 12 months in promoting sustainable and accessible public transport for Penang. This coalition of 25 NGO’s formed in 2005 is spear-headed by the PHT, CAP, SAM, Aliran and SILA and some individual members. Dr Choong and Mr Ahmad Chik represent the PHT in the working committee. We have held 4 meetings with Dr Teng, Chairman of the Local Government, since our last PHT AGM.

With the announcement of Rapid Penang, the State Public Transport Consultative Forum (PTFC) was formed and first met in April 2007 where 6 representatives from Cepat were included to discuss issues with Rapid Penang and the Govt. The formation of Rapid Penang backed by the Ministry of Finance marks a major step forward in getting the Government to accept public transport as an essential public service rather than as a profitable private business; this set up also made PT less dependant on CVLB’s role in monitoring and enforcement. Many problems have been raised especially on punctuality since its operations started in August, but we shall continue to monitor the situation to help ensure its success. Many of its problems are related to illegal parking of private vehicles during peak hours. A meeting was held soon after to discuss enforcement issues in relation to public transport with the agencies responsible (13/08/07) but there has been little improvement so far.

Barrier-Free Environment and Access Officer in Council. We have also been actively pursuing the implementation of a barrier free environment for the disabled through SILA and other disability based NGO’s. A seminar on this topic was opened by YB Dr Teng in July this year with participants from KL and Spore. Dr Teng has supported our request that there should be an Access Officer in the MPPP to ensure that the facilities for pedestrians, the elderly are recognised, maintained and upgraded. An official request has been sent to the MPPP.

Feasibility Study of the Electric Trams in George Town

Supported by the Penang Tourism Action Council, PHT together with a group of like-minded NGOs, who are interested to re-establish an electric tram service, have commissioned Mr Ric Francis, a transport consultant from Perth to conduct a feasibility study of the Electric Trams in the city of George Town.

As envisaged, the tram service will only be in the inner city and will complement the bus service that is already been provided by RapidPenang and the future monorail project. It

will be a quiet and pollution-free service very suitable for the narrow streets of the City. In addition it will also be a tourist attraction.

An outline specification of the system including the costing will be made available by the Consultant within a few weeks for further discussion with officials and investors.

7. Diary of Events

Continuing from the previous year's Annual Report, this is a chronological list of event highlights which the PHT and its Council Members organised, co-organised, supported or promoted in one way or another.

Sun, 10 Sep 2006
PHT AGM

Tue, 12 Sep 2006
Visit by Senior Planning students from University of South Australia led by Professor Steve Hamnett. Heritage walks were conducted by Khaw Yiat Lin and Cumalle Ang. Talk was given by Dr Gwynn Jenkins on "Fragmented Streetscapes of Penang" to 40 students.

Thu-Sat, 5-14 Oct 2006
Loh-Lim - Luang Prabang, Laos - UNESCO GMS (Greater Mekong Sub-Region) Training the Trainers Workshop for Heritage Guides.

Sat, 14 Oct 2006
Informative Talk by Dr Anita Hibler 'Diplomats by Default' – a story of American merchants, diplomats, and missionaries in Southeast Asia prior to and during the US Civil War.

Thu, 19 Oct 2006
Dr Choong and Jack Ong – Press Conference held at Gurney Park Function Hall on proposed Hunza development at former Uplands School site.

Fri, 27 Oct 2006
PHT 10th Council Meeting

Tue, 7 Nov 2006
Talk by Ric Francis on 'Trams, Trolleys & Penang – Past, Present and Future'.

Mon-Tue, 6-7 Nov 2006
Loh-Lim and Laurence Loh attended Sarawak Museums Conference as speakers.

Mon, 13 Nov 2006
Talk by Khoo Salma Nasution and Pranee Sakulpipatana on the 'Penang-Phuket Historical Connections and the Heritage of Phuket Baba' followed by a dress demonstration on traditional nyonya attire by Michael Cheah.

Nov-Dec 2006
Phase 2 of myBALIKpulau project.

Sun, 3 Dec 2006
Movie Screening – "Hired Killer" by Julian Cheah, a local production featuring heritage areas and landmarks.

Mon, 11 Dec 2006
Press Conference to call for nominations for 2007 Living Heritage Treasures of Penang Awards.

Fri, 22 Dec 2006
PHT 11th Council Meeting

Thu-Sat, 28 – 30 Dec 2006
Heritage Junior Guide Course organized by PHT and Arts-Ed.

Fri, 29 Dec 2006
Prize giving ceremony of the Penang Teochew Association's Han Jiang Ancestral Temple on being awarded a Merit Award in the 2006 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation.

Sun, 31 Dec 2006
Press Conference to commemorate the sesquicentenary (the 150th Anniversary) of George Town becoming a Municipality and Golden Jubilee (50th Anniversary) of George Town being granted City status by the Queen Elizabeth II.

Tue, 16 Jan 2007
Suffolk House Meeting

Fri, 26 Jan 2007
PHT 12th Council Meeting

Tue, 30 Jan 2007
Suffolk House Meeting

Tue, 13 Feb 2007
Press Conference 'Living Heritage for Our Future' Arts Exhibition

Tue, 27 Feb 2007
Press Conference Cultural Heritage Specialist Guide Course

Fri, 2 Mar 2007
Fundraising Dinner organized by 'Friends of Cikgu Baha' with support from Culture, Arts and Heritage Minister and PHT.

Fri-Sun, 23-25 Mar 2007
A project management workshop was conducted by Mr Woo Yee Saik, and Ms Elizabeth Cardosa from Badan Warisan Malaysia for ARTS-ED and PHT staff.

Fri, 30 Mar 2007
Suffolk House thank-you dinner to the donors and supporters, hosted by HSBC, attended by 200 guests.

Mon-Sat, 23rd – 28th Apr 2007
PHT organized the 1st UNESCO-PHT-Ministry of Tourism Cultural Heritage Specialist Guide Course with the aim to train licensed and non-licensed guides to act as cultural heritage guides for the tentative list site of George Town.

Wed 25th Apr 2007

Meeting discussion with Mr Bobby Tan, Finance and Administration Manager of Tourism Action Council on the feasibility study of George Town's Tram System.

Sun-Thu, 20th May – 31st May 2007

PHT's 'Living Heritage for Our Future' Art Exhibition held at Galeri Seni Mutuara at Armenian Street attracted more than 50 entries.

Mon-Sat, 4th Jun – 16th Jun 2007

'Ronggeng Merdeka' kick-start with 7 street performances featuring stories of Penang residents from 1930s up to Merdeka.

Tue, 5th Jun 2007

A meeting 'City of George Town' chaired by Dato' Anwar Fazal, attended by Ahmad Chik, Lim Gaik Siang, Brian Everett and staff to discuss possible events and public forum to raise public awareness on this issue.

Wed, 13th Jun 2007

Judging for the Living Heritage Treasures of Penang Awards 2007 was held at PHT.

Sun, 24th Jun 2007

'Pesta Rakyat Malaysia' organized by NGOs. A series of talks and exhibitions was held at Dewan Sri Pinang. PHT took part in the exhibition and Ahmad Chik was a guest speaker.

Tue, 26th Jun 2007

PHT was invited to attend the 'World Heritage Listing dossier' meeting with State & MPPP. Loh-Lim, Lim Gaik Siang, Ahmad Chik and Jack Ong attended.

Thu, 19th Jun 2007

'World Heritage Listing dossier' Meeting called by State & MPPP attended by Jack Ong, Loh-Lim, Lim Gaik Siang and Dr Choong Sim Poey.

Thu, 19th Jul 2007

'World Heritage Listing dossier' Meeting organised by the State attended by Jack Ong, Loh-Lim, Lim Gaik Siang and Ahmad Chik.

Fri, 27th Jul 2007

'World Heritage Listing dossier' Meeting organised by the State attended by Jack Ong, Loh-Lim, Lim Gaik Siang and Dr Choong Sim Poey.

Fri, 10th Aug 2007

'World Heritage Listing dossier' Meeting organised by the State attended by Loh-Lim, Lim Gaik Siang and Ahmad Chik.

Sat, 11th Aug 2007

Public Lecture by Mr Ric Francis on 'Re-introducing the Tramways in Penang'

Fri, 17th Aug 2007

'World Heritage Listing dossier' Meeting organised by the State attended by Jack Ong, Loh-Lim, Lim Gaik Siang and Dr Choong Sim Poey.

Fri, 24th Aug 2007

'World Heritage Listing dossier' Meeting organised by the State attended by Jack Ong, Loh-Lim, Lim Gaik Siang and Dr Choong Sim Poey.

Thu, 30th Aug 2007

Living Heritage Treasures of Penang Awards Presentation by the Penang Chief Minister, and visit by Prof David Lung, the UNESCO Evaluator.

8. Heritage Trails & Tours

The trails and tour business has not been delivering revenue as much as from the last reporting period. Despite this, the school walks have been very encouraging, and our efforts at raising awareness on history, culture and heritage of Penang to the school going children and young people have proved to be effective, and this area deserves to be strengthened further.

Marketing strategy is being planned to improve our heritage trail business. We are confident that the heritage trails will become very popular once George Town is listed as World Heritage site!

9. PHT Site Visits

The site visits on the last Sunday of each month continue to receive excellent response from members.

29th October 2006

Suffolk House

Suffolk House is a colonnaded, Anglo-Indian house built on the estate land of Francis Light. At the time of the site visit, this 'Great House' was reaching its final stage of restoration.

28th January 2007

Lunas Kedah Site Visit

The Rubber Smokehouse of Lunas was restored as part of Digi's Amazing Malaysians 2006 'Rubber Story' programme. We also paid a visit to 'Soon' Mansion, built in 1928, by Soon Ah Lee, one of the three founders of Lunas, the other two being Loh Boon Ghee and Lim Lean Teng.

25th March 2007

Jade Emperor's Pavilion

Thni Kong Tnua, or Jade Emperor's Pavilion, is a branch of the Goddess of Mercy Temple on Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling. The original structure was sited here over 200 years ago while the present temple building, having just undergone a full restoration, was built in 1905. The temple is particularly busy on the eve of the Ninth Day of the Chinese New Year, also known as the Hokkien New Year.

29th April 2007

OCBC Buildings on Beach Street

They comprise 3 buildings in a row, Kongsoon House, built in 1914; next to it is a late 19th century building remodeled in 1938 in the art-deco style; and the third, the oldest commercial structure on the Beach Street, was erected in 1886.

1st July 2007

Taiping Heritage Tour

A tour of the heritage town of Taiping brought a group of heritage enthusiasts to visit the sights significant to the history of Malaya, and Taiping in particular. Tour began at

the New Club, and continued to the ruins of the Perak Resident's home. Members visited the Taiping Lake Gardens, had a stopover for lunch, and thereafter visited the Taiping Clock Tower (today the Taiping Visitors' Information Centre), Taiping Market, All Saints Church, and ended the tour with a visit to the charcoal kilns in Matang.

29th July 2007

Penang Hill re-visited

On this revisit to Penang Hill, participants to the site visit were treated to tea at David Brown's Cottage, a period-style restaurant named after the original owner of Strawberry Hill, hillock overlooking the hill railway station.

10. Publishing & Publicity

PHT Newsletter

Since the last AGM, 3 newsletters and 11 PHT Circulars have been produced. The third issue of 'Kota Kita' magazine is still desperately awaiting funding for publication and distribution.

- PHT newsletter issue No. 88, July – September 2006 (16 pages)
- PHT newsletter issue No. 89, January 2007 (28 pages)
- PHT newsletter issue No. 90, April 2007 (24 pages)

Circulars :

- Site visit & Public Talk - Suffolk House & Diplomats by Default
- Public Talk – Trams, Trolleys & Penang – Past, Present & Future
- Public Talk – Heritage of Phuket Baba
- Site visit – Lunas, Kedah
- Circular – Visit by ACA
- Site visit – Jade Emperor's Pavilion
- Public Movie – The Hired Killer
- Site visit – OCBC Building & Kongsoon House
- Site visit – Taiping Heritage Tour
- Site visit – Penang Hill Re-visited
- Public Lecture - Re-introducing the Tramways in Penang

Press Statements & Newspaper Write-ups

Issues on the development of former St. Joseph Novitiate site, street signs, public transportation, inappropriate street lighting in heritage Leith Street etc were raised and featured in English, Chinese and Malay newspapers.

Recent issues on billboards, colour scheme and signage at Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling, inner city jogging track were proposed and appealed to YDP MPPP.

Website (www.pht.org.my)

This past year, the Penang Heritage Trust website continues to be an important tool for the dissemination of information about PHT-related events. It played a significant role in the Suffolk House restoration effort, particularly in updating the members and the general public on the donation drive. The website was also instrumental in informing the public about the heritage specialist guide course conducted by Unesco. The latest

addition to the website includes the PHT Store, listing a catalogue of merchandise available at Penang Heritage Trust.

11. Human Resources

Staff

The Council would like to commend both Magdeline Ng and Ho Sheau Fung for continuing the good work in running the office and PHT projects and programmes.

Volunteers

We would like to express our thanks to Ann Cutter and Joanna Aeria, for their regular help, especially during the UNESCO Cultural Heritage Specialist Guide Training Course. Daniel Lee and Varsha Misra, our interns, for their help in the sorting out of the newsclippings, library work and site visits' write up etc; Tan Yeow Wooi, for his 'Disappearing George Town' photo contribution to PHT's newsletters, Kim Wong, Joann Khaw, Ooi Bok Kim, Ch'ng Saw See, Helen Foong, Renee Saw and other volunteers, who always try to find time in helping us. Last but not least, Woo Yee Saik for conducting staff management training course for PHT's and Arts-Ed staff.

12. Networking & Collaboration

The PHT works closely with other organisations to further broaden the heritage movement. Among the local groups we have been working with this year are:

- Arts-Ed
- AsiaExplorers
- Badan Warisan Malaysia
- Consumer Association of Penang (CAP)
- Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion
- Lestari Heritage Network
- Malaysian Nature Society (MNS)
- Penang Teochew Association
- Penang Watch
- Pinang Peranakan Museum
- Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM)
- Socio Economic Research Institute (SERI)
- Tan Yeow Wooi Culture & Heritage Research Studio
- Universiti Sains Malaysia

13. Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge all our funders, members, volunteers and supporters. We apologize if anyone or anything has been left out or inaccurately stated.

Penang Heritage Trust Treasurer's Report for the Year 2006

Penang Heritage Trust was financially sound for the year ended 31st December 2006.

As compared to the previous financial year, in year 2006, there was no major closure of project accounts and fundraising dinner to generate a substantial revenue, hence our surplus was only approx RM15,400. The income derived mainly from the following:

- Project Income (RM159,146)
- Merchandize & Heritage Trail (RM41,560),
- Donations (RM54,375); and
- Membership and subscription (RM15,560)

World Monuments Fund's 2nd and final payment of USD31,995 and USD7,995 respectively have been received, the account will be closed in 2007 financial year after all payments have been verified and made.

Besides main expenses like staff salaries, EPF, projects, trails and tours, the expenses on upkeep of office, water and electricity have increased since we moved to our new premises. This is mainly due to the required deposits for water and electricity for our own premises.

Please take note the Suffolk House account held in trust by HSBC and PHT amounting to RM2.7 million, a sum of RM1,455,914 has been transferred into HSBC account that served as a bridging loan for Phase 3 Works at Suffolk House this year, the remainder shall be retained in the account to be used to support the continued well-being of Suffolk House as a heritage asset. This account is operated by two signatories, one from Penang Heritage Trust and one from HSBC Bank Berhad.

Our principal Fixed Deposits as at 31st December 2006 was RM201,300 (with interest), so far, after full payment of the restoration and purchase of PHT premises, we have not withdrawn any part of the FD for use, hopefully this amount will remain as the foundation fund for PHT. With the ongoing projects in 2007 and in future, we believe PHT will remain strong on its path in terms of growth and finance

*Ms Lim Gaik Siang
Hon. Treasurer*