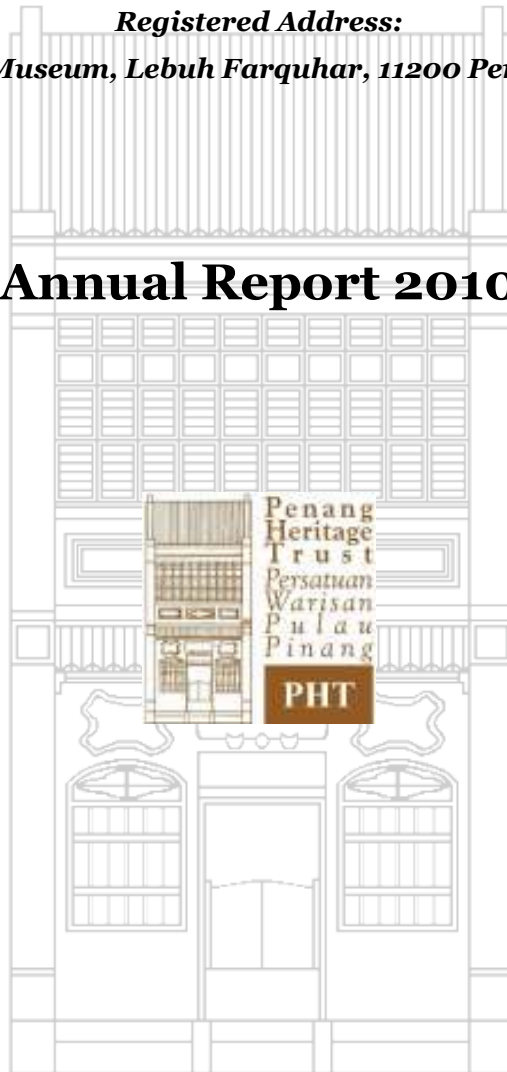


**Persatuan Warisan Pulau Pinang
Penang Heritage Trust**

Registered Address:

Penang State Museum, Lebuhr Farquhar, 11200 Penang, Malaysia

Annual Report 2010



26, Church Street, 10200 Penang, Malaysia

Tel: 604-264 2631 Fax: 604-262 8421

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Website: <http://www.pht.org.my>

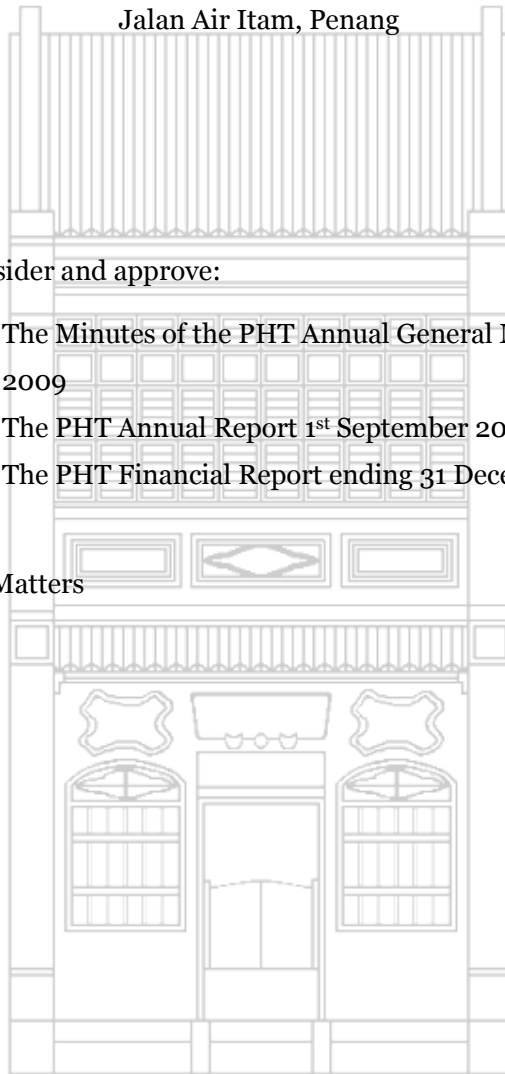
Annual General Meeting 2010

Sunday, 28th November 2010 at 3.30 pm

Venue: Suffolk House
Jalan Air Itam, Penang

Agenda

1. To consider and approve:
 - a) The Minutes of the PHT Annual General Meeting – 4 October 2009
 - b) The PHT Annual Report 1st September 2009– 31st August 2010
 - c) The PHT Financial Report ending 31 December 2009
2. Other Matters



President's Message 2010

During the past year Penang's heritage has been at the forefront of news and debates over the future development of the state's cultural landscapes. While a great deal has been achieved to advance the cause of sustainable conservation and to mark Penang's importance as a globally-recognised heritage site it is equally true to say that there have been setbacks and unresolved problems. As a result, the very meaning of heritage is coming under increasing scrutiny.

There have been a number of unadulterated successes. The World Heritage Inc was established; a baseline George Town Land Use and Population Survey was completed and a special area plan begun; and, an abundance of restoration and documentation projects were stimulated by Think City grants. On the cultural front, the George Town Festival was fabulously celebrated for a whole month, showcasing the abundance of local creative talent. More recently, Penang Story – the long-term effort to document and interpret Penang's rich history – was re-launched. And Sun Yat Sen's famous 1910 Penang Conference was marked with an international gathering of the Sun descendants, international Sun Yat Sen and Soong Ching Ling Memorials and scholars. Remarkably enough, Penang Heritage Trust participated, to a greater or lesser degree, in all these initiatives.

Unfortunately, it is equally true that there were some less positive developments during the course of the year. Penang Botanic Gardens and Penang Hill Railway, two potential extensions to the George Town World Heritage Site, were culturally diminished, instead of improved, by federal funding, while the swift farming lobby tried to legitimise its unacceptable practices. The Trust fought hard campaigns on all three issues, with different results.

We were also acutely disturbed by other events. A conspicuous number of properties have been spruced up but illegal works and careless renovations continue to chip away at the historic fabric. Outside of the World Heritage Site, pressure is mounting *against* heritage – several beautiful bungalows, the city's green belt as well as the cultural landscape of Balik Pulau, have been unduly sacrificed due to the absence of a local plan. The house at 20 Pykett Avenue was illegally demolished while, within the World

Heritage Site itself, the monumental Shih Chung Branch School is allowed to crumble. The lack of effective action by the authorities in both cases is sending out a dangerous message that heritage can be destroyed with impunity.

With the World Heritage Site, the pace of change is picking up though, it has to be said, the consequences are decidedly ambiguous. Heritage properties are traded briskly; the price of a townhouse has escalated to over RM1 million to the delight of property owners and real estate agents, but to the dismay of tenants. Gentrification that displaces rather than enhances community cannot be sustainable, and we can no longer afford to ignore the concerns of tenant security, housing affordability and urban inclusivity.

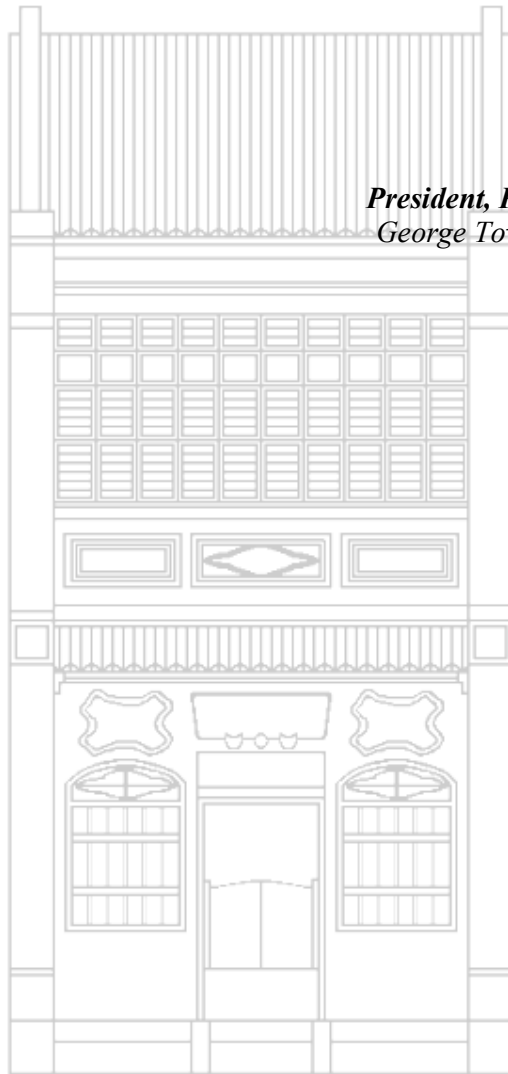
If ‘conservation is the management of change’ then we should strive to regulate development instead of surrendering our city to reckless greed and short-term gain. Surely it is in the enlightened self-interest of the private sector and government to keep the environment clean and green, and to preserve cultural heritage as part of the ‘Penang brand’. Instead of blaming each other, federal, state and local governments should work closely together to further heritage conservation, to improve public transport and to make the city more liveable.

For our part, the Trust will continue to defend heritage as integral to the public interest, clarify conservation issues and positions, instil public awareness and mobilise the community. As demand for the Trust’s services grow, we will be driven by an increasing number of daily heritage alerts, events, offers and *ad hoc* requests – at the risk of overworking our staff and burning out our volunteers. But ultimately, we need to adopt saner strategies. The focus should be on expanding our capabilities, building a team of skill-based volunteers and developing sustainable funding streams. This means that we need more members to move beyond interest and appreciation to actual involvement in helping to run and fund the Trust.

All eyes are now on heritage. Our new website will help us reach an international audience including the far-flung Penang diaspora. In the coming year, unprecedented opportunities will open up for the Trust. We need all hands on board to strengthen the

organisation. Only then can we meet the challenge of playing our part in managing transformation, in a state where change is moving inexorably forward.

Khoo Salma Nasution
President, Penang Heritage Trust
George Town, 23 November 2010



Penang Heritage Trust
Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2009
Sunday, 4th October 2009 at 10.00 am
Penang Heritage Trust, 26, Church Street, 10200 Penang

Members Present

Ahmad Chik	Koay Joe Sim
Annelies Allain	Khor Teng How
Ann Cutter	Lee Yong Seng
Arthur Chin	Leslie A.K. James
Ching-Yin Ong	Lim Chin Chye
Ch'ng Cheng Ee	Lim Gaik Siang
Choong Sim Poey	Lim Kim Suan
Clement Liang	Loh-Lim Lin Lee
Douglas Fox	Marie-Louise Ho
Eric Yeoh Kok Ming	May de Vries
Fidel Ho Fai Fong	Matt Benson
Jack Ong	Ng Bock Tye
Janette Khaw	Oh Eng Sim
Joanna Aeria	Ong Siew Guat
Joann Khaw	Phan Gaik Cher
Joe Sidek	Roy de Vries
Julie Ng	Rebecca Wilkinson
Kok Pow Lin	Tan Khar Hoay
Khoo Salma	Timothy Tye
	Tong C.K. Ho
<u>Staff in Attendance</u>	Woo Yee Saik
Magdeline Ng	

(Names of PHT Council members for term 2007-2009 are in bold)

President's Welcome Address

The President, Dr Choong Sim Poey, welcomed all members present and called the meeting to order at 10.10 am. Apologies were read out: Dato' Sharom Ahmat, Mrs Marlene Fox, Mr Geoffrey Adams and Mr David Buffin.

Dr Choong said that last year has been very busy and fruitful for PHT, foremost being the 1st year of George Town's listing as UNESCO World Heritage Site. Despite the listing, he pointed out that there are still much to be done, and PHT will continue to work with the local council, State and Federal Governments to resolve matters.

Dr Choong announced that after consultation with his Council Members, he has decided to step down as the President. He thanked the PHT Council and members for their support, and he expressed his belief that the new Council members will take on their responsibilities seriously and continue to work as a team.

1. a) **Confirmation of the Minutes of the AGM 2008**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 21st September 2008 were unanimously approved and adopted on the proposal of Mr Leslie James (O-26517) and seconded by Mr Eric Yeoh Kok Meng (O-26371).

b) **Presentation of the Annual Report 2009**

Mr Jack Ong, Honorary Secretary, presented the Annual Report.

i) World Heritage Site

The George Town World Heritage celebration is a State level celebration, PHT took an active role in the celebration, amongst which are the organisation of the arts competition and heritage walks. At the launch ceremony of the celebrations, the Heritage Passport by Council Member, Mr Timothy Tye, was also launched. He informed that the Chief Minister has also declared 7th of July a State public holiday from next year onwards. Jack further informed that Puan Maimunah is officially the acting CEO of the World Heritage Office, but further expressed concern that there are still crucial issues related to funding and staffing where the State has not been given any allocation by the Federal government.

ii) Membership

Mr Jack Ong reminded members to renew their membership and said that the lapsed members shown in the report is a huge figure. He urged members to support PHT which is a non-profit organisation. Jack announced the availability of a 3-year package for membership renewal, where those paying 3 years in advance (current year onwards) are required to pay RM160 only, instead of RM180.

iii) Projects & Programmes

PAPA

The major grant received from PHT for this year was particularly for the PAPA project. As a natural progression of LHTA, this programme provides a variety of assistance to the artisans, amongst which is rental of premise. One of the Khoo Kongsi's shophouses has been rented for this purpose. Other supports include honorarium paid to the artisans, material costs and apprentices' living allowances.

With regards to the artisans, Project Convenor, Ms Loh-Lim Lin Lee further informed that till to date, we have yet to successfully find an apprentice for the Indian goldsmith due to certain problems. So far, all artisans are willing to teach except one, the Lantern maker. We are also looking into product development where the Manik group is doing well with some products being sold. There are also rattan products by the apprentices of Sim Buck Teik. Miss Ching-Yi Ong (O-26734) suggested engaging artisans from overseas. In response, Ms Loh-Lim said that at this stage, the grant is for the support of local artisans only and that PHT is not ready yet to extend the programme further.

Cultural Heritage Specialist Guide Training

Ms Loh-Lim informed that this programme which is conducted throughout Asia is accredited by UNESCO. PHT was entrusted by UNESCO and Ministry of Tourism (MOTour) in 2007 to run the training course even before George Town has obtained its inscription. Subsequently, further workshops were conducted in Macao and

Borobudur to develop the training module and curriculum for World Heritage Site of Melaka and George Town. Ms Loh-Lim informed that according to MOTour, the training is restricted to licensed guides who are certified.

Penang Traditional Performing Arts Festival (TPA)

Mr Jack Ong informed that due to various reasons, we have not completed the feasibility study, which is sponsored by Khazanah with a small grant. The feasibility study is not anticipated to be completed by 2010. In addition to the feasibility study, we are also actively seeking funding from corporations for the Festival itself.

Historic Street Name Plaques

Ms Loh-Lim mentioned this project was reported at the last AGM but was only completed after the AGM. She clarified that this project was not given a grant, instead, an invoice was billed to PTAC for our work that included research, supervision, translation etc. Ho C.K. Tong (O-26029) asked if there have been any vandalism on the plaques. We were glad to report that none has been vandalised to date.

Living Heritage Treasures of Penang Awards

Ms Loh-Lim informed that our sponsor for this project, HSBC, will discontinue their grant after a 6-year sponsorship. This will end in year 2010. To date, no new sponsor has been identified and she appealed to members to help on this.

Suffolk House

Dr Choong voiced his disappointment that over the last 2-years, Suffolk House was not probably managed. It is hoped that the use of Suffolk House, under the management of Badan Warisan Malaysia, will be a great success. PHT will continue to lobby our concern and in safeguarding the House. Dr Choong felt that the prime-mover of Suffolk House fundraising, Dato' Zed Cama, should be informed of the progress.

Heritage Education/Heritage Trails Interpretation Workshop

Mr Jack Ong informed that 12 guides have been trained to conduct special heritage walk for school students to handle the increase in demand after the listing. The cultural mapping aimed to map out the cultural assets available in George Town is expected to be completed by end of 2009.

The initial intention to facilitate a cultural heritage trail workshop was to further improve the content of the existing trails and to create new trails, Mr Woo Yee Saik (O-26086), the facilitator, explained that after the brainstorming session, it was decided that it would be more appropriate to hold heritage interpretation workshops to focus on the interpretation rather than on the trails themselves. The response from participants has been very positive with good feedback. It was noted that the stakeholders wanted to go further by consolidating the interpretation with concepts. Ms Loh-Lim elaborated by saying that the reason why this was held was due to certain sites were inappropriately interpreted. Stakeholders were approached to further enhance the sites and make them more appealing.

iv) Urban Blight & Heritage Issues

Penang Hill Funicular Railway

Mr Jack Ong reported that PHT's views and stand were strongly put across but the manner in which the issue was resolved was very much to our disappointment. In addition, Dr Choong and En Ahmad Chik voiced their frustration concerning the hill railway project that despite our efforts, the Federal chose to ignore our strong notes to them. En Ahmad revealed that the costs have gone up to RM64 million from the initial RM57 million (against our proposal of RM30 million for alternative non destructive upgrade). Mr Leslie James lamented that Penang will be losing a precious gem and that it is hard to believe the Government can give up a historic 100-year old railway for a new system. He stressed that the funicular railway ought to be documented before it is lost forever. Mrs Marie-Louise Oh (O-26497) commented that there is feedback that the old railway is not very user-friendly for elderly. This is partly due to the overloading of the carrying capacity and the regular breakdowns due to poor maintenance.

The Public Works Department is expected to commence work on 26th October, and the railway track will be closed for 6 months for the reconstruction.

CEPAT

Dr Choong and En Ahmad Chik are on board the State Transport Council under YB Chow Kon Yeow. Dr Choong felt some improvements have been made to the pedestrian walkways and cycling lanes. Ahmad revealed that a pilot project to de-congest Pulau Tikus area is going to be implemented soon. Motorists who park illegally will have their vehicles clamped. Loh-Lim enquired on why Pulau Tikus was chosen and not the core area of the heritage city. Ahmad replied that a lot of persuasion has to be done to the City Council to start this project, and hence a smaller area like Pulau Tikus was chosen to educate the public. He said that the Board is aware of the sensitivity of the issue, and that further consultation will be conducted with the stakeholders of the area.

Ho CK Tong expressed that smaller RAPID Penang busses should be used in the inner city instead of big buses as they create huge amount of vibration to the buildings. There is also a lack of timetable shown at the bus stands.

Kampung Buah Pala

Dr Choong commented on Kampong Buah Pala that in principal, the State Government has the legal obligation but it is morally incorrect to support the eviction order. As a side issue, Mr Leslie James requested to know the status of the disputed 4 high-rise buildings in the inner city. Dr Choong said that 3 of the four have worked out a compromise with the State government.

Heritage Trails & Tours

Mr Jack Ong invited Mr Timothy Tye to brief members on the PHT tours. Timothy said that we have carried out quite a lot of site visits and local tours during the reporting period. To choose the new sites for visit is a challenging task, and despite much efforts have been made to work on the trip, response has not been good at times. As most sites in George Town and Penang have been covered, Timothy called for suggestions for new sites and invited members to feedback on areas for improvement.

As there were no further remarks, the annual report was adopted on the proposal of En Ahmad Chik and seconded by Mr Woo Yee Saik.

c) Presentation of Honorary Treasurer’s Report

Ms Lim Gaik Siang, the Honorary Treasurer presented her report. She informed members of the fundraising event at Suffolk House held this year, and thanked Mr Woo Yee Saik for tying up the event with Pearly Chua for the play, “Emily of Emerald Hill”. The proceeds from Fundraising will only be reflected in the next financial year.

The expenses have increased due to many ongoing projects. An amount of RM20,000 was spent as the 1st allocation for the publication of the Penang Story which has been long overdue. She informed that PHT spent on average the overhead expenses of approximately RM12,000 per month. Pn Khoo Salma (L-26056) explained that a subsidy of RM10,000 had been given to Singapore University Press for the 1st edition of Penang Story book, and that the remainder will be used for the 2nd edition.

As there were no further comments, the Treasurer’s report was adopted with Mr Ahmad Chik as proposer and Mr Woo Yee Saik as seconder.

Messrs UHY Diong were also proposed to be re-appointed as auditors for the coming year. The motion was approved with the proposal by Ms Lim Gaik Siang and seconded by Ms Ann Cutter (O-26465).

2. Election of Office Bearers (2009-2011)

Dr Choong explained that the election will be for Council Members. When the Council has been formed, the Council members will then elect the EXCO members amongst themselves. Out of the 10 council members, 4 should be life/founder members. Dr Choong informed that Dato’ Sharom Ahmat had given his consent to be nominated.

The following were nominated:

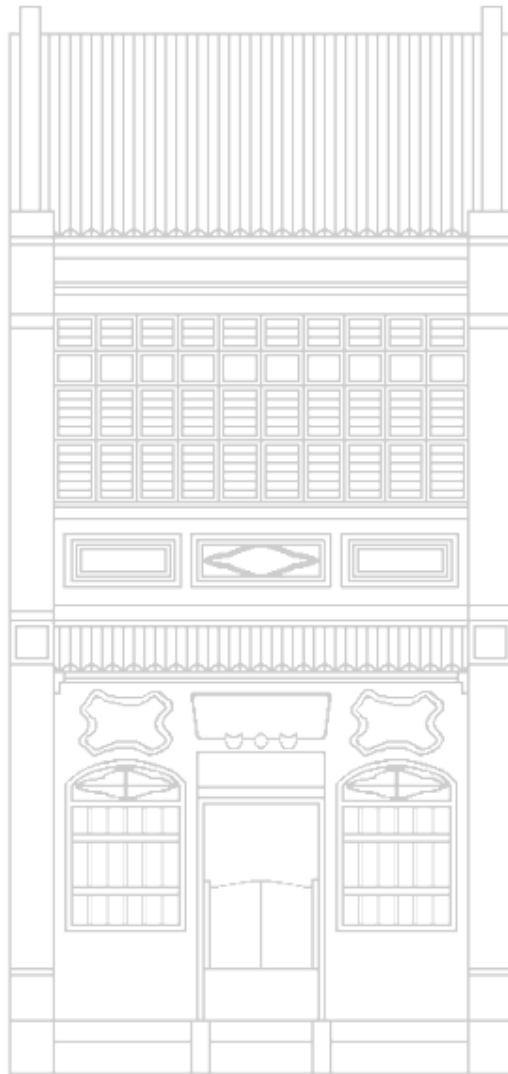
Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
1. Rebecca Wilkinson (Life)	Khoo Salma	Lim Gaik Siang
2. Dato’ Sharom Ahmat	Choong Sim Poey	Loh-Lim Lin Lee
3. Jack Ong	Lim Gaik Siang	Clement Liang
4. Lim Gaik Siang	Timothy Tye	Eric Yeoh
5. Joe Sidek	Ahmad Chik	Marie-Louise Oh
6. Loh-Lim Lin Lee (Life)	Woo Yee Saik	Lim Gaik Siang
7. Khoo Salma Nasution (Life)	Joann Khaw	Choong Sim Poey
8. Clement Liang	Khoo Salma	Tong C K Ho
9. Ahmad Chik (Life)	Lim Gaik Siang	Loh-Lim Lin Lee
10. Timothy Tye	Julie Ng	Clement Liang

Pow Lin James (O-26518) proposed nominations be closed and Mr Arthur Chin (O-26729) seconded the proposal.

3. **Other Matters**

Mr Leslie James moved to record PHT members' grateful thanks to Dr Choong Sim Poey for his work as PHT President, and for his dedication towards heritage and conservation advocacy. This was unanimously approved by all members present.

As there were no other matters, the meeting adjourned at 11.50 am with a vote of thanks to all.



Persatuan Warisan Pulau Pinang

LAPURAN TAHUNAN 2009/2010

September 2009 – Ogos 2010

Penang Heritage Trust

ANNUAL REPORT 2009/2010

September 2009 – August 2010

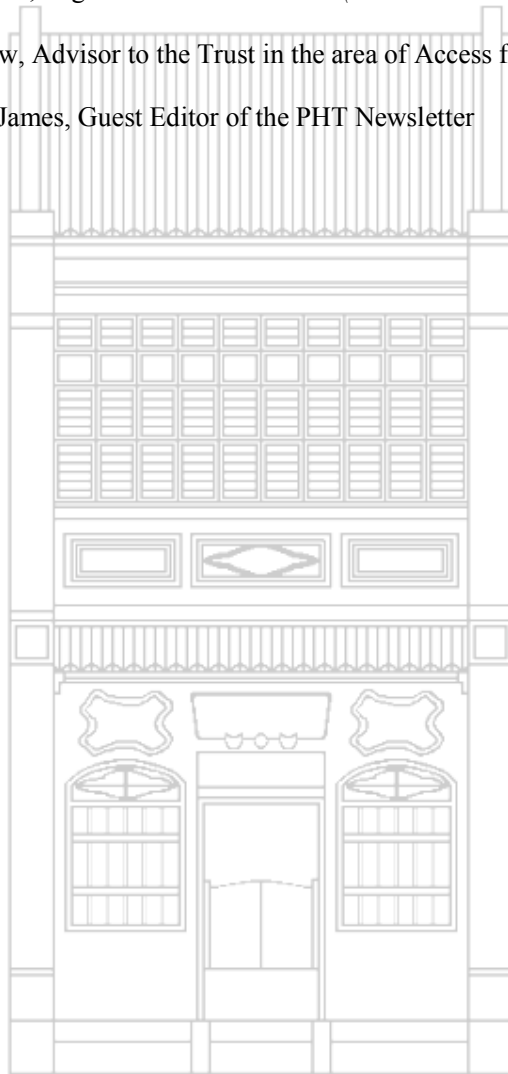


PHT Council Members (Term 2010/2011)

1. Khoo Salma Nasution, President
Local historian, author and publisher, Penang Story, Areca Books, Lestari Heritage Network, Little Penang Street Market, Penang Sun Yat Sen Base, Phuket-Penang Peranakan Networks.
2. Dato' Dr Sharom Ahmat, Vice-President
Director SERI, Former Deputy Vice-Chancellor USM, Academic Advisor University Brunei, Former CEO Wawasan Education Foundation, Director St. Nicholas Home for the Blind.
3. Dr. Choong Sim Poey, Immediate Past President
Medical practitioner, ex State Assemblyman and ex-Municipal Councillor, Chairman of several local non-government organisations.
4. Mr Clement Liang, Honorary Secretary
Active in local cultural and nature conservation groups. Former Vice President Malaysian-German Society, researcher on the historical minorities especially Japanese community, fluent in several foreign languages.
5. Ms Lim Gaik Siang, Honorary Treasurer
Vice president for Asia Pacific of a USA fortune 500 company. Committee member of George Town World Heritage Incorporated. Advisor to the Conservation Committee of Penang Teochew Association and former Chairman of the North Malaya Teo-Aun Association. A technical consultant, researcher for Chinese history and Mandarin resource person for PHT. Speaker for WHS, Chinese culture, Chinese heritage and history.
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. Ms Loh-Lim Lin Lee
Conservator, lecturer, social psychologist, restoration consultant, historic researcher, author of dilapidation studies of historic buildings, heads several PHT projects, speaker and guide on historic conservation areas.
1. Mr Jack Ong
6th generation Peranakan, proponent of local Penang cultures and practices, specifically its living heritage. Heads the Penang and Johor operations and communications of a global professional institute.
2. 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.
3. Joe Sidek
Impresario, Cultural Advocate and a socially involved Industrialist.
4. Rebecca Wilkinson
Artist and designer now residing with her family in their restored merchants house on China Street, George Town. The house was originally saved because of direct action by members of PHT in the 90's.

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. Mr Gan Teik Chee, Legal Advisor to the Trust (*Deceased 2010*)
5. Mr Tan Kuan Aw, Advisor to the Trust in the area of Access for Disabled People
6. Mr Leslie A.K. James, Guest Editor of the PHT Newsletter



PHT Annual Report

1 September 2009– 31 August 2010

1. Council Meetings

Besides informal meetings for projects, PHT held 8 Council meetings since the last AGM. Attendance was recorded as follows:

Ms. Khoo Salma Nasution	8/8
Dato' Sharom Ahmat	3/8
Mr Clement Liang	6/8
Ms Lim Gaik Siang	7/8
En Ahmad Chik	5/7
Ms Loh-Lim Lin Lee	6/8
Mr Jack Ong	6/8
Mr Timothy Tye	6/8
Mr. Joe Sidek	4/8
Ms. Rebecca Wilkinson	7/8

2. Membership

Founder Members	17
Life Members	85
Ordinary Members	252
Junior Members	0
Total	354 (as compare to 325 last year)

Note :

PHT Council members have been working hard on the membership drive and appeal to members to support our objectives to get more members and to renew their subscriptions on time.

3. Donations and PHT Funds

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

- Penang State Government – LHTA RM10,000
- Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Corporation – LHTA RM18,000, PAPA RM18,000
- Creative Quest S/B (Harry & Rosna Cockrell) – PAPA RM100,000
- ThinkCity Sdn Bhd- Feasibility of Traditional Performing Arts Festival RM50,000 and Penang Sun Yat Sen Trail RM100,000

4. PHT Projects & programmes (September 2009- August 2010)

PENANG INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, 8 & 9 OCTOBER, 2009

‘The Economics of Revitalization’ – the theme of the Penang International Conference on Sustainable Cultural Development, which was held on October 8 & 9, 2009 was meant to commemorate the 1st anniversary of George Town’s listing as a UNESCO Heritage Site.

The Penang International Conference on Sustainable Cultural Development is specially designed to help the city of George Town to learn from international speakers and to engage local stakeholders, to formulate acceptable approaches and broaden the movement to revitalise the George Town World Heritage Site.

The International Conference showcased George Town’s cultural development potential and conservation efforts as well as addressed the World Heritage Committee’s recommendations for the establishment of a comprehensive conservation plan that takes into consideration the reduction of motorized traffic, control on tourism pressures, and establishment of indicators pertaining to sustainable cultural development.

The International Conference featured four sessions of highly appealing topics related to heritage and sustainable cultural development. These included (i) optimising returns from cultural tourism; (ii) value adding to property and business in the World Heritage Site and its surrounding; (iii) developing relationships with community organisations and (iv) effective enabling and enforcements: the role of government.

GEORGE TOWN CITY DAY CELEBRATION, 1 JAN 2010

For the last 2 years, PHT had been working closely with MPPP to co-organise the George Town City Day Celebration to commemorate George Town being the first city in Malaysia by decree of the Queen Elizabeth II in 1957.

In 1954, it was determined that a petition to Queen Elizabeth II was required. One of our PHT founding members, Cunyngham-Brown began drafting the petition, the move was formally supported by the Finance & General Purpose Committee of the Municipal Council in January 1956. The petition “To the Queen’s Most Excellent Majesty in Council” drafted by Cunyngham-Brown outlined the history of municipal government in George Town and set out the arguments in favour of city status. With a population of over 210,000 George Town stood first in numerical size among all the town of the Federation of Malaya. George Town’s port and entrepot trade were highlighted as were its achievements in health, education, road construction, public transport, public sanitation, water supply and electric power generation. The petition also stressed George Town’s multi-religious heritage

January 1st this year, PHT conducted free heritage walks in 2 languages for more than 100 Penangites to raise heritage awareness. The walks were well received.

PUBLIC TALKS & BOOK LAUNCH

George Town is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the trust feels that there is a need to strengthen and deepen the knowledge and understanding of various stakeholders to protect the site. Therefore, several talks and book launch were organised for the public which include the following:

- Conserving Heritage Sites in Sydney by Bruce Pettman, 17 January at PHT and 18 January at World Heritage Incorporated office
- The Straits Settlements & Malayan Volunteer Forces by Rosemary Fell, 27 January
- Heritage in Britain – Role of the National Trust and its Volunteers, 24th January
- Book Launch “Penang under the East India Company”
- Tea Talk by John Robertson, 3 April 2010 at E & O Hotel

Besides hosting the public talks, we also co-organised with World Heritage Incorporated to produce several capacity building workshops conducted by experts from AusHeritage for MPPP officers, specific groups and stakeholders:

- Cultural Mapping Workshop, 26 June 2010
- Museum Curation and Management Workshop, 28 June 2010 at PHT.
Conducted by Heather Mansell.

STUDY TRIP TO NARA MACHIZUKURI CENTRE, 6- 10 MAY 2010

To commemorate the 1300th anniversary of Nara as the first Japan ancient capital established in 710, Nara Machizukuri Centre has organised a 3-day International Exchange Forum in Nara, Japan and invited PHT's participation with Japan Foundation sponsorship. The Forum was attended by PHT president, Khoo Salma Nasution, Hon. Secretary Clement Liang who also acted as the Japanese interpreter and staff Ho Sheau Fung. The exchange was intended to share experience between Nara Machizukuri Centre and Penang Heritage Trust on urban conservation from the viewpoints of citizen's participation in the UNESCO world heritage sites.

Penang Heritage Trust was invited to present power point presentations that elaborated the subject of “**Multi-cultural world heritage in Asia supported by citizen's activities –Penang Malaysia**”.

On Day 1, the team was brought to study the conservation of ‘*Machiya*’ or the traditional shophouses in Kyoto. Many vacant & dilapidated ‘*Machiya*’ are given a new lease of life by the local government agencies in collaboration with the NGOs to provide incentives and technical restoration advice to house owners and impose strict conservation regulations enforcement and supervision. The revitalisation of inner city community, artists and small business operators renting the affordable vacant ‘*Machiya*’ as their residence cum workplace created a new and interesting neighbourhood in the historic area. Later in the day, a visit to a traditional factory

in Kyoto that produces the intricate silk Kimono “*Obi*” belts was arranged. The belts are made by young craftsmen under the guidance of the masters utilising traditional weaving skill and modern technologies. Being one of the earliest sites listed as UNESCO World Heritage site in Japan, Kyoto has put a lot of efforts to address the issues of townscape and the surrounding vista in recent years. Besides the height limits imposed on the new buildings, billboards, blending of architecture and colour of wall paints etc are under monitoring. We saw all the McDonalds’ restaurants in town using the subdued dark brown instead of bright red colour on their signboards & learnt that it was done voluntarily.

Imai-cho, less than an hour’s drive from Nara is one of the best examples of old town conservation project in Japan and our next destination. Built as a merchant town during the Edo period, the townscape remains almost intact today and a number of the traditional houses in that area are gazetted as National Treasures or local Prefectural Treasures. Some of the vacant houses are adopted and maintained by the NGOs and sensitively restored and turned into elegant guesthouses to sustain their conservation activities.

The International forum was held on day 3. Salma gave her keynote and presentation, followed by Clement Liang and Sheau Fung on the Penang’s heritage conservation activities, achievements and the issues encountered. The talks generated great interests among the participants and the forum ended with an interesting analysis by Prof. Muneta from Kyoto Pref. University on the conservation movements in Penang & Nara. Judging from the number of ‘*kampais*’ during the dinner afterwards and the next day press coverage, the visit has certainly served to strengthen the traditional ties between PHT and Nara Machizukuri Centre and drawing more attention from the Japanese on Penang.

GEORGE TOWN UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE CELEBRATION, JULY 2010

GEORGE TOWN FESTIVAL 2010

The month-long inaugural GEORGE TOWN FESTIVAL 2010 was held in conjunction with the 2nd anniversary of George Town as a UNESCO World Heritage Site on July 7th.

The festival featured over 80 programmes to promote arts and heritage in Penang with the concerted effort from the Penang State Government, Municipal Council of Penang Island, George Town World Heritage Incorporated, Penang Global Tourism, Penang Heritage Trust and the various communities of Penang.

Scheduled to be an annual event, the George Town Festival 2010 presented a feast of theatre, music, dance, film, art, opera, food, fashion, photography, and inspirational talks. The festival had an approximate reach-out audience of 200,000 people (**festival programmes only*).

There were 50 events held at 27 venues within the city for the month long festival with the 7th July Celebrations having 75 programmes performed by over 400 performers

Highlights

- **Street Celebrations** on 7th July: *Streets Come Alive – Unforgettable George Town*
- **Beijing Opera** performance by internationally acclaimed Beijing opera performer, Ghaffar Pourazar & Chie Morimura
- **Public Art Installations** by New York based Malaysian artist, Leon Lim (*Public Art: The Last Chairs*) and Penang based artist Fuan Wong (*Dream Ficus*)
- **Movie screening** of movies shot in Penang including *The Blue Mansion* and *Red Kebaya* with appearances by directors Glen Goei and cast
- **Theatre production**, *Emily of Emerald Hill*, directed by Malaysia's foremost film director Saw Teong Hin (known for his acclaimed local film – *Puteri Gunung Ledang*) starring Neo Swee Lin, Pearly Chua, and Leow Puay Tin
- **Dance performances**, including *Vision of Forever*, a classical Indian dance by Ramli Ibrahim and Sutra Dance Company
- **Street opera** performances by Japanese soprano, Ranko Kurano
- **George Town Ball** featuring Patrizio Buanne, an internationally acclaimed singer from Italy.
- **Exhibitions & Talks**, including *Historical Minorities of Penang* slides presentation by Clement Liang, *Governors of Penang*, *Peranakan Penang Photo* and *Penang Heritage Houses* by Halim Berbar
- **Showcase** of Malay Culture & Arts at the Jawi Peranakan Museum

PROGRAMMES IN-COLLABORATION WITH THE PENANG HERITAGE TRUST

1. INSPIRATIONAL TALKS:

“FORT CORNWALLIS & THE DEFENCE OF EARLY GEORGE TOWN” by **Marcus Langdon**, 17th July 2010 (Saturday)

Venue: MPPP Town Hall, Jalan Esplanade, Penang

Price: Admission by donation @ RM80/ RM60 for PHT members

Historical talk by Australian-based private researcher, Marcus Langdon about the early history of Penang during the occupation of the East India Company in 1786 – 1857. Based on his extensive research, Langdon

shared his knowledge and discovery regarding the history of the island, particularly the enticing story about Fort Cornwallis's past which significantly contributed to the transition of the present George Town. The talk was complimented with a guided historical tour cum "question & answer" session with Marcus Langdon. Approximately 60 persons attended the talks (inclusive of the complementary tickets given).

2. MOVIE SCREENING

THE BLUE MANSION & RED KEBAYA, 30 & 31 July 2010 (Friday & Saturday) at WOU, Penang

In collaborative effort between GTF Secretariat 2010 and PHT, the movie screening had featured two film productions shot in George Town, Penang. The private screening of the *The Blue Mansion* packaged with special appearance and "question & answer" session with the Director Glen Goei and cast. An approximate total of 756 people had attended the movie screening.

3. 7TH JULY STREET CELEBRATIONS

CEMETERY TOUR, 7 & 10 July 2010 (Wednesday & Friday) at Protestant Cemetery, Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah.

PHT conducted the cemetery tours during the 7th July Street Celebration to celebrate the very important cultural assets in the World Heritage Site. Several guides were trained by our very experienced council member, Loh-Lim Lin Lee to conduct this specialised tour. We would also like to record our appreciation to Ms. Sharon Cheah and council member Rebecca Wilkinson to put up a cemetery exhibition at 29 China Street. Sharon has kindly donated the proceed of the postcard to PHT as cemetery fund.

4. 7TH JULY STREET CELEBRATIONS

SHOPHOUSE TOUR, 7 July

The tour is a collaboration project with Arts-Ed, & Penang Tourist Guides Association acted as the secretariat for Tan Yeow Wooi Culture & Heritage Research Studio.

Licensed guides were trained by Tan Yeow Wooi to conduct the tours. The tours were conducted in Chinese and or English language within George Town World Heritage Zone. The selected private residential (shophouses) were open for public who attended the tour.

- Book Launch "Sara Saga & Hail! Penang"
- Tea Talk "Early Defence of George Town" by Marcus Langdon
- Movie Screening "The Red Kebaya" & "Blue Mansion"
- 7th July Celebration: George Town Shophouse Trail & Cemetery Tour

PENANG APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME FOR ARTISANS (SEPTEMBER 2009- AUGUST 2010)

PAPA apprenticeship has been running for a year and 7 months now, starting from March 2009. Currently, there are five of the traditional trades progressing actively with continuous apprenticeship.

In 2009, the main focus of the project was in recruitment and promoting the programme; this process will be on-going; subsequently, with more pioneer apprentices completing their apprenticeship, PAPA will look into the possibility of further developing products and workshops:

- Paid workshop (Short term): these workshops will be ran by apprentices who have completed their apprenticeship. It is a feasible channel of generating income and disseminating skills at the same time. This type of short term workshop is only suitable for selective trades such as Nyonya beaded work, rattan weaving and *Mengkuang* weaving.
- Product Development: apprentices who have acquired sufficient skills are encouraged to develop their own designs and products. However, PAPA is still at an early developmental stage for product development. Currently, products by the apprentices are at display at the PAPA workshop. They are mainly products of Nyonya beaded work, rattan weaving and *mengkuang* weaving.

ON-GOING APPRENTICESHIP

- I. Nyonya Bead Works
- II. Rattan Weaving
- III. Traditional Signboard/Wood Carving
- IV. Traditional Chinese Paper Effigywork
- V. Handmaking of shoes

ARTISANS LOOKING FOR APPRENTICES

- Mengkuang weaving
- Songkok Making
- Traditional Chinese Goldsmith
- Traditional Indian Goldsmith

APPRENTICES LOOKING FOR ARTISANS

- Nyonya Sulam embroidery work

The PAPA House – 66 Acheen Street

The PAPA workshop is currently used mainly for running lessons. It is used by artisans who do not own any shops or businesses. It is also used for running paid workshops since November 2009. Currently, Nyonya bead works lessons operate daily at the workshop. *Mengkuang* weaving lessons were operating daily from Jan 2009 to July 2009. (this trade is currently on hold until we find new apprentices) We are currently discussing with a new *sulam* embroidery artisan to start new

apprenticeships. *Sulam* embroidery apprentices who do not own a sewing machine at home can use the machine at the workshop.

Current Progress:

In year 2009, PAPA focused on setting up. The main tasks consisted of recruitment and publicity:

- Looking for potential artisans
- Looking for potential apprentices
- Promoting the apprenticeship
- Setting up PAPA workshop

In year 2010, we focused on further establishing the apprenticeship network. Main tasks include:

- Continuous recruitment of apprentices
- Continuous publicity, e.g. : participating in Little Penang Street Market
- Working out with both artisan and apprentices a general course outline, a more structural syllabus for the apprenticeship
- Improving lesson outline with each artisans as most artisans are not professional trainers
- Constant observation and communication with artisan and apprentices to understand the constraints and good practice for each trades

1. Next Step for PAPA

PAPA will look into documentation of the trades that are currently under active apprenticeship. PHT has submitted an application for funding from Think City in September 2010; however the fund is still subject to approval.

PAPA also intends to look into new trades that have potential for short term workshops. Manik beaded shoe workshops have been running continuously since November 2009 and have achieved one of the intentions of PAPA in disseminating the skill. However, a good teacher (artisan or apprentice) is necessary for such workshops to be run successfully.

2. Product Development :

Although innovation is encouraged and some apprentices have developed their own products, PAPA is not ready to move into any large scale product development as, there are limitations in resources for marketing, producing and designing of products.

3. Conclusion :

As the programme is dealing with people from different walks of life, PAPA is constantly revising and adjusting its approach as it progresses. At this juncture, running short term workshops prove to be an effective way of disseminating skills. Thus far, PAPA has made modest achievements and is still striving towards its objectives in:

- Transmission of skills
- Promoting Traditional Craft
- Raise public awareness
- Documentation

Volunteers in the form of ideas and help are always welcomed by the project team.

LIVING HERITAGE TREASURES AWARD 2010

The Awards were initiated in 2005 in a move to protect skills and techniques and the people possessing them. The skills these ‘masters’ carry with them need to be acknowledged, documented, preserved, promoted and transmitted. And because these individuals are often old and often lost somewhere in the contemporary technology rush, they are usually experiencing scarcity, vulnerability and loss of significance. Promotion and dissemination will create greater public awareness and greater appreciation of tradition & skills, of crafts & of the individuals who have persisted, maintained, promoted & developed the cultural heritage of Penang.

The Awards have been publicised widely in the local and national press where the public have been invited to nominate candidates based on particular criteria laid out. Over the last 5 years, approximately 50 nominations have been received, representing a wide range of skills & expertise coming from the fields of visual arts, traditional crafts, culinary skills, martial arts, literature and performing arts. So far, 11 dedicated artisans have been awarded:

- Dato Chuah Thean Teng (Master of Batik Art /Innovator) *deceased 2008*
- Dato’ Lim Bian Yam (Chef extraordinaire/Floral Designer & Instructor)
- Mohd Bahroodin Ahmad (Performing arts/cultural expert, educator & promoter) *deceased 2008*
- Kok Ah Wah (Last Handmade Signboard Carver)
- Yeap Seong Kee (Kebaya Designer) *deceased 2007*
- Ooi Sew Kim (Hokkien Puppet Troupe Owner)
- Noo Wan@Wan Dee Aroonratana (Thai Menora Performer / Cultural Expert / Shaman)
- Lee Khek Hock (Last Traditional Lantern Maker)
- Toh Ai Hwa (Last Teochew Puppet Troupe Owner)
- Mr. N.B. Samarasena (One of the few remaining jewellery craftsmen from Sri Lanka left in Penang)
- Mr. Sim Buck Teik (traditional rattan weaver)

PHT is thankful to HSBC’s committed financial support for the last 5 years for this particular project. However, the Penang Heritage Trust has to source for other sponsors after 2010 for this very worthy programme. In order to protect our vulnerable intangible cultural heritage, we need assistance and financial support from various sectors to move forward. We hope that members will also be able to help to seek and source financial support for the LHTA project. Sustainability of our cultural heritage is the ultimate aim of the project.

REGIONAL COMMUNITY ARCHITECTS MEETING WITH ACHR, CHIANG MAI 12-15 JUNE 2010

Introduction

The concept of community architecture is not entirely new in Malaysia, however, the network is not as established as compared to many Asia country in this region. This is one of the reasons the Malaysia representatives are joining, for the first time, the Community Architects meeting organized by Asia Coalition for Housing Rights

Our interest lies mainly in the sustainability of living heritage and community in Georgetown. We are taking this opportunity to learn from the experience of others, to understand the role of ACHR and the kind of support we can get from them. The representatives from Malaysia consist of four members:

- Ooi Bok Kim (Architect, Penang)
- Goh Ai Tee (Architect, UM)
- Veronica Liew (Think City)
- Ng Hooi Seam (PHT)

With George Town now under the status of world heritage site, tendency towards gentrification has raised concerns among conservationist. The web of intangible heritage that shapes part of George Town will eventually be lost if these changes are not address at early stage. With this in mind, the Malaysia team intends to identify potential site where a pilot project can be established, with the help from ACHR for a start.

Objective of this meeting

- To share experience and learn from each other among community architects and community builders in Asia
- To encourage and find ways to support new groups of community architects or the beginning countries
- To develop national and regional network among professionals (including academic institution, practitioners, community builders and others)
- To identify the kinds of support needed by each country
- To plan for the action plan and support for national and regional process
- To exhibit the community architects movement and working experiences in Asia

The Framework of the Meeting

In the Community Architect meeting held by ACHR, the overall framework is to provide a platform for all community architects from various countries in Asia to share their experience in their approach to community projects. The meeting spread over four days with each day packed with experience-sharing sessions, field trips and workshops. (See attached programme schedule) In the experience-sharing sessions, each country is given opportunity to share their experience in community projects of different nature. The sessions are divided based on the following category:

- Community Upgrading
- Disaster Recovery
- Heritage for the people

With no current project at hand, the Malaysia team has decided to present a case study on the possible restoration of Perangin Canal under the category of Heritage for the people. The situation in Penang has received much attention from the members of ACHR and they are prepared to extend their help in both technical and funding support. Further discussion will be carried out to determine the type of support necessary.

PHT WEBSITE

In 2006, the PHT website was revamped by our council member, Timothy Tye. The website had since managed and monitored by Tim who had dedicated his time and skill to fill the website with very useful information to our overseas members and visitors.

As George Town is now the UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Trust feels that there is an urgent need for our website to have additional functions that will allow PHT to interact more effectively with its members and the general public. The Trust is in the midst of revamping its website.

We would like to thank our volunteers, Mark Vossen and Reese Lee who had put in their time and effort to work on the content of the new website. Last but not least, we would also like to thank Timothy who had been working tirelessly on the website and his continue contribution to upgrade the new website.

6. Urban Blight & Heritage Issues

THREATS OUTSIDE WHS

TRACK RECORD OF HERITAGE DESTRUCTION NO 7 & 9 BROOK ROAD

Laurence Loh, 11 Brook Road, Penang, 29th June 2010

Since Independence, almost every heritage building in this country has been demolished and destroyed for the sake of financial profit through real estate development. It is a damning track record to boast of. There appears to be only one operative equation – that of huge profits. Actions taken 20 to 30 years ago are forgivable although nonetheless painful. However, in the light of today's experience, knowledge and aspirations, it should not always be a foregone conclusion that when it comes to a choice between heritage conservation and real estate development, which is always viewed as a economic driver, development is favoured, especially when it generates income for the Local Authority. Given that has Penang has led in the creation of a World Heritage Site, the powers that be should act to protect our common legacies for future generations and rule in favour of protecting our non-renewable cultural assets.

The irony of the present context is that unwittingly No. 11 Brook Road has been identified as a Category 2 heritage building, whilst permission has been granted to demolish Nos. 7 and 9, of exactly the same age and architecture. Where is the parity in this decision, even if it is not a gazetted decision?

The Local Authority should reserve its judgement on the demolition of any site that is thought to have heritage value until it has exhausted all avenues to ensure its survival and not rule in favour of demolition at the first instance when the proposition is presented to it for consideration. Penang should learn from its past disasters.

INNER CITY SWIFTLET BREEDING OPERATION

Opinion and comments by Rebecca Duckett- Wilkinson

On September 2nd, the Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Bin Mohd. Yassin announced that the National Council for Local Government has decided that swiftlet farming would be prohibited in the Penang and Malacca heritage enclaves. This statement has been welcomed by the Penang Heritage Trust who has been lobbying with various other NGO's to remove swiftlet farming out of urban areas and particularly, out of the UNESCO World heritage sites.

More importantly, this statement by the Deputy Prime Minister and the decision by the National Council of Local Governments has sent a clear message that Government, both Federal and Local, are supporting the preservation and revitalization processes in these precious multi- cultural heritage enclaves. This is a real step forward for everyone who views 'Heritage' as a positive catalyst for business and growth in the UNESCO zones.

However, despite statements made and decisions taken, nothing can move forward unless there is implementation. The DPM and Penang State Government has said that there will be a 'grace period' for swiftlet farms to move out to agricultural areas. The term 'grace period' is misleading. The State Government, on 24th September 2010, in a meeting on the issue of swiftlet farms in George Town, chaired by YB Chow Kon Yeow, has confirmed that the 3 year period is actually an evacuation implementation period at the end of which, all swiftlet farms have to be closed and gone from George Town.

ASNI (The Association of Swiftlet Nests Industry) president Carole Loh was also present at the meeting, as was PHT, represented by Janet Pillai, Sheau Fung and myself. Despite the clear statement by our DPM, ASNI continues to object to the decisions made by State and continues to question the reasons behind why swiftlet farming should be removed.

ASNI made it clear that although they have members signed up to ASNI, they claim to have no clue as to how many swiftlet farms these members are operating in George Town. Ms Loh also commented that although ASNI may provide advice, their members are not compelled to adhere to any of it. YB Chow, Mr Oon Lai Kuan, with Mr Yew Tung Seang, made very clear statements on the issue of the evacuation implementation plan. Puan Maimunah

bt Mohd Sharif of World Heritage Incorporated was also very impressive and has to be commended on her very clear explanations and answers made to various questions by ASNI. It has to be noted that Puan Maimunah and these gentlemen formed a very united front for the removal of swiftlet farming.

The meeting resulted in the clarification that swiftlet farming would be removed from George Town in 3 years. In the meantime it was agreed that a working committee would be set up. Representatives from State, MPPP, WHI, PHT and ASNI will sit to thrash out the implementation plan. This includes working on the ground and identifying the actual swiftlet farms in the Heritage zones. Thinkcity will also be requested to participate as they may be involved in limited restoration and rehabilitation stages of the buildings after evacuation. YB Chow plans to begin the implementation plan at the beginning of next year.

Personally, I left this meeting feeling like a young pup meeting a friendly stranger. Shivering with excitement at the thought of getting a back rub and a long term home but holding back slightly, muscles taut and ready to dodge at the possibility that actually, the stranger wants to kick me. A mixed bag of feeling great that the State has made a clear decision but a sense of frustration too that this decision is still nothing until action is taken to complete this important move. This meeting though, gave me something I have really wanted to see for a long time. The State and MPPP, the people in charge making positive statements that say they are in charge. It was very heartening.

The hard work of implementation, however, begins now. With the strong support of the very few residents of George Town who actually came forward to put their names on paper, PHT will continue to lobby to ensure that the plan to remove swiftlet farms out of George Town will be successful.

The Implementation Plan

Implementation must begin as soon as possible for various reasons.

Each breeding pair of swiftlets will produce 3 broods a year, with 2 hatchlings at each period. The first breeding period begins in August/ September, the second in January/ February and the third in May/ June. The potential for population increase is phenomenal and with the recent completion of the latest cycle of breeding, the swiftlet population made an exponential leap and in the last 3 weeks swarms of birds have been very visible over any stand of trees or grassy verges. The trees at 32, Jln Sultan Ahmad Shah, near the new wing of the E&O, and the Protestant cemetery, have been particularly popular feeding areas. The swiftlet hatchlings flight cycles have possibly co-ordinated with hatchings of parasitic wasps which reproduce in figs. The right cycle has also resulted in the increased volume around town of the taped swiftlet calls as farms try to tempt the gullible youngsters to abandon their familial nesting homes.

One thing that will make the process easier is the removal of the swiftlet species, *Aerodramus fuciphagus* and *Aerodramus maximus*, from Perhilitans 'protected' list. Swiftlet farmers and producers generally, have lobbied to get these 2 species off the 'protected' list in order to avoid special licenses which

otherwise limit the transportation and treatment of these birds and the nests, as well as what were, compulsory licenses to farm these birds. It is ironic that by successfully lobbying for this (Perhilitan representatives have verbally confirmed that these 2 species will come off the 'protected' list in the next couple of months) swiftlet farmers have made it easier for government to implement the removal of swiftlet farms from the heritage zones. In effect the birds can be treated as any other common bird pest and no action can be taken when there is damage to the birds themselves. State can treat these birds as pests just like crows or pigeons and act to remove them.

The implementation plan will not be easy. One cannot just close the farms and shut the birds out at once. The swiftlets have an in built homing instinct that compels them to return to the farm in which they were hatched. Physically shutting the birds out does not get rid of the birds themselves. In order to be successful the implementation plan will require the closure of swiftlet farms in stages. This will allow the evicted swiftlets to re-group in different farms- some may move into urban farms close by, others will make the move to the rural farms as they disperse. The first step should be to prohibit the use of taped swiftlet calls in all the urban farm premises.

Implementation should begin after a hatching and young swiftlets have own. At this juncture there will be less chicks in the farms to remove. Farmers can harvest the latest nests and then the farms should be opened after the morning flight out to the feeding areas. Netting should take place immediately before the swiftlets return in the evening. This stops the birds from re entering the farm.

In order to expedite this process the premises have to be fumigated and then cleaned.

The nets have to remain for the dual purpose of airing the premises as well as keeping the birds out over an extended period of time. Thereafter, there is the process of physical restoration to the building.

Note: When we closed the illegal swiftlet farm above our own premise it took about 2 months for us to figure out and complete the process above. Once we had netted the windows, then replaced the broken windows, the birds stopped trying to get in after about a month. Swiftlet farms in the neighbourhood reportedly saw a slight increase in birds and deliberately turned up the volume of their speakers in order to lure the birds evicted from our property. The use of light voile sari material curtains on our refurbished apartments makes sure swiftlets are not tempted to fly back in to the apartments! This is a simple solution and now windows can be left open during the day.

One of the key issues which has to be sorted out is, which urban swiftlet farms close first? How will the sequence of closures be structured?

ASNI in 2005, knew that urban swiftlet farms were given until end 2008 to clear from George Town, as imposed by the last State Government. By right they should have made preparations with their members for this way back then. The moratorium(which should have frozen any proliferation of urban swiftlet farms in George Town but proved ineffective because it was not enforced,

swiftlet farms were left unmonitored) by the current State Government gave them an extra year to the end of 2009, then more time again, until the guidelines(1GP) had been set.

ASNI as responsible advisers to their members, should be well prepared for the implementation of this evacuation. It should be assumed that the swiftlet farmer members had been given the advice to make alternative arrangements in rural areas to attract the evicted swiftlets. Advice otherwise would result in the urban swift farmers 'missing the boat' when the swiftlets are evicted from their urban farms.

Many new swiftlet farmers have already invested in customized rural farms, ready to receive the spill off from the well anticipated eviction of urban farms. It is the rural swiftlet farmer who has prepared ahead, placed themselves in appropriate areas, that can take advantage of the Federal Governments push to support the bird nest industry.

The State should not view the plan to remove swiftlet farms as a single feature. When questioned at the same meeting by ASNI president Carole Loh on how State was going to deal with other issues of non-compliance within the UNESCO heritage site, Mr Yew (Building department MPPP) clearly stated that the process would be ongoing but a transformation could not take place overnight. Just like the removal of swiftlet farms from George Town other issues would be tackled to ensure steady and effective results. Mr Yew, I hope, has laid the plans for a concerted effort by all to create a whole heritage restoration and revitalization plan that will see George Town transform itself in 3 years. This would be a great target for the State Government alongside MPPP, to set a precedent in heritage development and revitalization, to lead the way in heritage management in the region. This is not an unachievable goal.

Alongside the removal of swiftlet farms, the State can also implement basic local improvements such as implementation of compulsory grease traps with licensing approval of restaurants and hawker centres, the unblocking of the congested 5 foot ways to improve the quality of life for those who have to move about the city on foot, the implementation of recycling bins all around the city, the enforcement of laws that require traders and businesses to adhere to the rules of their licensing agreements such as appropriate sound levels and proper operation times, and the alleviation of traffic congestion. Enforcement is the key word here. Laws and rules are worth nothing without enforcement and it is just this thing called 'Action' that can make the difference between failure and success.

The UNESCO world heritage site that is George Town is something Malaysians should all be proud of and not take for granted. We travel the world and visit other UNESCO World heritage sites around the world and come home raving 'WOW!' and then take for granted this 'remarkable', 'exceptional', and 'unique cultural townscape without parallel anywhere in East and Southeast Asia'. 3 years of doing nothing glides by in a flash but 3 years of dedicated action by all can result in a George Town that sets a precedent for heritage development for years to come. This is a legacy that leaders in the State

Government and MPPP can proudly leave for future generations. I truly hope they take this opportunity and make it their own.

BOTANIC GARDEN (LOH-LIM LIN LEE)

The Sorry Saga of the Arches at the Botanic Gardens

A Story of Mismanagement and Failure to Consult

In early March 2010, the people of Penang were stunned to see two monstrous arches marring the beauty of the Botanic Gardens. Immediately, a public campaign was launched to persuade the authorities to remove the arches. More horrifying than the arches themselves, however, was the discovery that they were merely symbolic of a series of failures and mismanagement at the Gardens:

- a) A non-botanist director of the Gardens had been appointed in December 2007.
- b) The director refused to consult the Gardens Management Committee or Scientific Committee.
- c) Four Federally funded projects (with apparent State agreement) had totally deviated from their original aims:
 - i) a bambusetum (costing RM 1 million), with little bamboo to be seen;
 - ii) an eco-stream walk (costing RM 1 million) resembling a glorified drain complete with concrete ‘*pondoks*’ and with no planting of any sort;
 - iii) an entrance water-mall (costing RM 2.5 million) with the infamous arches, some fountains destined to stop working after a few months, lots of concrete, car and bus parks and a massive unprotected storm drain (large trees had been uprooted although the original plan had supposedly “car-free” and “green”);
 - iv) a visitor centre (costing RM 2.5 million) being built under previously unstable slopes.
- d) A Stimulus Grant of RM 750,000 under 9th Malaysia Plan to be used at the discretion of the director led to:
 - i) total devastation of the famed and much-loved Formal Gardens;
 - ii) destruction of a beautiful rolling valley below the reservoir with the crowded construction of three unsightly buildings - a second surau, a store and a fertilizer shed;
 - iii) the destruction of precious historic ferns in the Fern House with the ill-advised opening of the roofs leaving no protection from the sun;
 - iv) the senseless construction of numerous concrete ‘*pondoks*’ all over the Gardens;
 - v) the awarding of contracts to pollution-spewing petrol driven trams, instead of opting for electric trams;
 - vi) the installation of large Hume pipes all over the Gardens to constrain trees and plants from growing;

- vii) a decision to ‘light up the Gardens with huge flood lights at night’ (stopped after NGO protests re destruction of rest, mating and breeding patterns of insects and other animals);
- viii) plans to install a so-called “Malay Garden”.

By April 2010 in response to great dissatisfaction expressed at a public Q & A session with the Ministry of Tourism and the consultants, the Ministry of Tourism Secretary General, Dato Dr. Ong Hong Peng, convened several meetings with the stakeholders, the NGO’s and the consultants. Several proposals for “beautifying” the arches were rejected by the NGOs as ‘throwing in good money after bad’.

The Leaning Arch of Penang

In May, fate took a turn when one arch started to tilt. The authorities denied the tilt, saying it was a ‘perceptual illusion’ or at worst a plastering defect! Volunteer engineers proved with the use of a theodolite that the arch *was* tilting. Again the authorities issued denials refusing to accept liability and stating if it might be tilting it was “perfectly safe”.. Meanwhile, no safety fence was erected at the leaning arch or the building site.

In June, the Ministry conducted an online survey to gauge public opinion. For 11 days, opposition to the arches stood at over 93 per cent, then suddenly within 36 hours a massive online attack on a very insecure site led to the ‘Ayes’ gaining almost 50 per cent. The public were affronted at this blatant manipulation and came back in full force against the arches, forcing the Ministry to suspend the survey with opposition to the arches standing at almost 70 per cent. The Ministry then decided to engage USM to conduct an on-site user survey which resulted in 71 per cent of respondents being against the arches. This finally provided the rationale for the Ministry to agree to the demolition of the arches.

In the meantime the tilting arch continued tilting. The authorities continued to deny any danger and still resisted erecting any public protection. In desperation the NGOs installed a plumb line on 17th June demonstrating that the tilt had increased to 38 cm off the vertical, an increase of 25 cm since April. The authorities then quickly erected narrow hoarding around the arch, not to protect the public, just wide enough to prevent further access by non-authorized persons.

Finally, on 27th June, the Minister with the backing of Cabinet announced the demolition of the arches but it was not until the night of 9th August, at 8.45 pm, that demolition of the tilting arch began. The press and the public gathered and were shocked when ten minutes later the entire arch unexpectedly collapsed crashing onto the narrow hoarding. Fortunately no one was harmed. This revealing incident raised many questions, as the base of the arch clearly showed little sign of structural reinforcement.

Future of the Gardens

- a) After much bargaining, the entrance is to incorporate large ponds with water plants and giant lilies.
- b) The State Government has appointed Tengku Dato Idaura, past President of the Friends of Botanic Gardens, as Director on a two-year contract.
- c) USM has agreed to assist with the bambusetum and the eco-stream walk. .
- d) The Ministry has agreed to re-examine the slopes behind the new Visitor Centre.
- e) The Formal Gardens are to be re-instated. .
- f) The Herb Garden is being tended to.
- g) The Fern House is being tended to.
- h) New signage is being installed.

Lessons Learned

Looking ahead, what are the lessons learned and what can be done for the future of the Penang Botanic Gardens?

- a) The authorities must always consult the public and seek feedback.
- b) The Gardens must be taken out of the tourism portfolio and put under agriculture, environment or local government.
- c) Graduate staff must be increased and trained in botanic gardens management
- d) An experienced botanist must be employed.
- e) The key recommendations of the PBG Master Plan Working Group for the future well-being of the Gardens should be adopted. These recommendations address a new physical master plan, traffic issues, a biodiversity centre, a natural arboretum, the need for scientific, educational and management expertise, the re-positioning of the Gardens as a centre for environmental and botanic research and the setting up of a Trust Fund and a Board of Trustees for the Gardens.

7. Diary of Events

PHT has been closely involved with the federal, state and local governments on issues related to sustainable development, sustainable living/transports, heritage revitalization, socio-economic-cultural data, urban blight, etc. and have attended numerous meetings with the federal and state governments as well as the local Municipal Council throughout the reporting period.

Listed below are a handful of highlights which the PHT and its Council Members organised, co-organised, supported or promoted in one way or another.

4 October 2009
PHT Annual General Meeting

20 October 2009
The Penang Bar and the PHT organised the Official Veiling of a Plaque marking the James Richardson Logan Memorial by YA Dato' John Louis O'Hara, High Court Judge, Penang.

1st Jan 09
52nd George Town City Day Celebration

17 Jan 10
Co-organised public talk by Bruce Pettman to State government policy makers and MPPP officers on Conserving Heritage Sites in Sydney.

25 Jan 10
Roundtable meeting with World Heritage Incorporated and various stakeholders on Building Development at WHS

6 Feb 10
Book Launch “Penang Under The East India Company” by Andrew Barber at 29 China Street.

8 Feb 10
Roundtable meeting with World Heritage Incorporated and various stakeholders on MPPP Licensing Issues at WHS

22 Feb 10
Roundtable meeting with World Heritage Incorporated and various stakeholders on MPPP Enforcement Issues at WHS

3 March 10
Site inspection to Penang Hill Craig Hotel by Ahmad Chik and related Government agencies

8 March 10
Roundtable meeting with World Heritage Incorporated and various stakeholders on Utilities Issues at WHS

22 March 10
Roundtable meeting with World Heritage Incorporated and various stakeholders on landscaping and amenities Issues at WHS

24 March 10
Visit by Mayor of Songkhla and 40 members of Songkhla Heritage Society

1 April 10
Local government consultative meeting chaired by YB Chow Kon Yeow

3 April 10
PHT fund raising tea talk by Dr. John Robertson “Witness To History: How the French lost the Mousquet on the 1914 Battle of Penang” at Eastern & Oriental Hotel

22 April 10
Public Video Screening –Funiculi Funicula by Rob and Yuehong Dickinson at PHT

6- 9 May 10
Exchange visit to Nara, Japan

21 June 10
Meeting on World Heritage Site Swiftlet Issue chaired by YB Chow Kon Yeow

- 26 June 10
Cultural Mapping workshop by Aus Heritage consultant Ken
- 28 June 10
Museum Curation and management workshop by Heather Mansell.
- 1 July 10
Guides training on shophouse tour by Tan Yeow Wooi for George Town Celebration.
- 3 July 10
Exchange and dialogue with Taiwan Municipal Officers
- 7 July 10
Shophouse Trail co-organised with Tan Yeow Wooi, Penang Tourist Guide Association and ARTS-ED.
- 7 July 10
Guide training for cemetery tour by Loh-Lim Lin Lee.
- 10 July 10
Cemetery tour to celebration UNESCO World Heritage Site celebration
- 24 July 10
Talk by Clement Liang to Japan researchers
- 29 July 10
Talk by Clement Liang to Korean Students participating in Young Leaders Program.
- 29-30 July 10
PHT fund raising- Movie Screening “The Blue Mansion & The Red Kebaya” at Wawasan Open University.
- 9 Aug 10
Penang Local government Consultative Forum (PLGFCF) chaired by YB Chow Kon Yeow at Caring society Complex.
- 16 Aug 10
Swiflet Breeding Guidelines Meeting called by Technical Committee

8. Heritage Trails/Tours & Site Visits

The site visits have been rescheduled from the last Sunday to the first Sunday of the month. Below is the list of the heritage sites we have visited from December 2009- October 2010:

- 6 Dec 2009
Jawi Peranakan Mansion, Jalan Hutton
- 10 January 2010
Balik Pulau Historical Walk

7 February 2010
Penang Hill

4 April 2010
Wisma Kastam, Gat Lebu China

5 June 2010
Swettenham Pier, Weld Quay

1 August 2010
Wadda Gurdwara Sahib, 87 Jalan Gurdwara

19 September 2010
The Church of The Immaculate Conception, Pulau Tikus

3 October 2010
General Hospital, Jalan Residensi

We regret that we were not able to plan and organise Heritage Tours this year for our members. However, the Heritage Tours to Songkhla, Thailand, Ipoh and Singapore are being planned.

9. Publishing & Publicity

PHT Newsletter

Since the last AGM, 2 newsletters and 9 PHT Circulars have been produced.

- PHT newsletter issue No. 96, December 2009 (28 pages)
- PHT newsletter issue No. 97, March 2010 (24 pages)

Circulars :

- Talk: Tea Talk by Dr. John Robertson
- Site visit: Jawi Peranakan Mansion, Jalan Hutton
- Site visit: Balik Pulau Historical Walk
- Site visit: Penang Hill
- Site visit: Wisma Kastam, Gat Lebu China
- Site visit: Swettenham Pier, Weld Quay
- Site visit: Wadda Gurdwara Sahib, 87 Jalan Gurdwara
- Site visit: The Church of The Immaculate Conception, Pulau Tikus
- Site visit: General Hospital, Jalan Residensi

Human Resources

Staff

We wish to record our appreciation to Ms. Magdeline Leong who had been with the Trust for the last 8 years for her excellent services. The council members would also like to thank Fidel Ho Fai Fong for her tireless effort on PAPA project and Ms. Janet

Saw for her professional administration. The office is now managed by Ms Ho Sheau Fung, new staff Lau Pei Ling and a part-time project co-ordinator for PAPA project, Ms Ng Hooi Seam.

Volunteers

PHT would like to record our thanks to the volunteers, particularly Mark Vossen and Reese Lee, Sharon Cheah, our intern Alex Ong Thai Chun, Joann Khaw, Ling Tan and Leslie A.K James for his editorial support.

We would also like to thank Andrew Barber, Dr. John Robertson, Bruce Pettman, Rosemary Fell, Heather Mansell, Rob and Yuehong Dickinson for their wonderful talks and invaluable knowledge.

10. 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:

- a. Arts-Ed
- b. Academy of Socio-Economic Research and Analysis (ASERA)
- c. Alliance Française
- d. AsiaExplorers
- e. Badan Warisan Malaysia (BWM)
- f. Eastern & Oriental Hotel
- g. Friends of Penang Hill
- h. Friends of Penang Botanic Gardens Society
- i. Gallery 29 China Street
- j. Khazanah Nasional Berhad
- k. Lestari Heritage Network
- l. Malaysian Nature Society (MNS)
- m. Penang Tourist Guides Association
- n. Penang Teochew Association
- o. Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM)
- p. Socio Economic Research Institute (SERI)
- q. Tan Yeow Wooi Culture & Heritage Research Studio
- r. ThinkCity Sdn Bhd
- s. Wawasan OpenUniversity
- t. World Heritage Incorporated

11. Acknowledgements

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

Penang Heritage Trust Treasurer's Report for the Year 2009

We had a busy year in 2009 where a number of projects are still carrying on to year 2010.

For the financial year ended 31 December 2009, our total income has increased from RM 191,597 in 2008 to RM248,323, but the total expenses have also increased from RM 187,098 in 2008 to RM273,540 in 2009.

The increase of income mainly contributed from the following areas:

- Admission fees from RM 8,168 in 2008 to RM 10,298 in 2009.
- Local heritage tour income from RM 16,996 in 2008 to RM 31,341, riding on the effect of George Town's new WHS inscription.
- Merchandise income from RM 17,967 in 2008 to RM 24,567 in 2009.
- Other sources of income have increased from RM 29,369 in 2008 to RM 155,507 in 2009

Other income derived mainly from the following:

- Cultural Heritage Brainstorming workshop - RM 13,030
- Heritage Art Competition – RM 10,010
- Heritage Passport- RM 19,925
- Heritage tours (Taiping and Melaka)- RM 15,243,80
- Penang International Conference on Sustainable Development- RM 41,937.81
- PHT fundraiser 'Emily of the Emerald Hill' at Suffolk house- RM 36,300
- Other minor projects

Besides the main expense items like staff salaries, EPF, projects, trails and tours, our project expenditure has increased from RM 38,668 in 2008 to RM 93,577 in 2009, due to the additional projects we are handling.

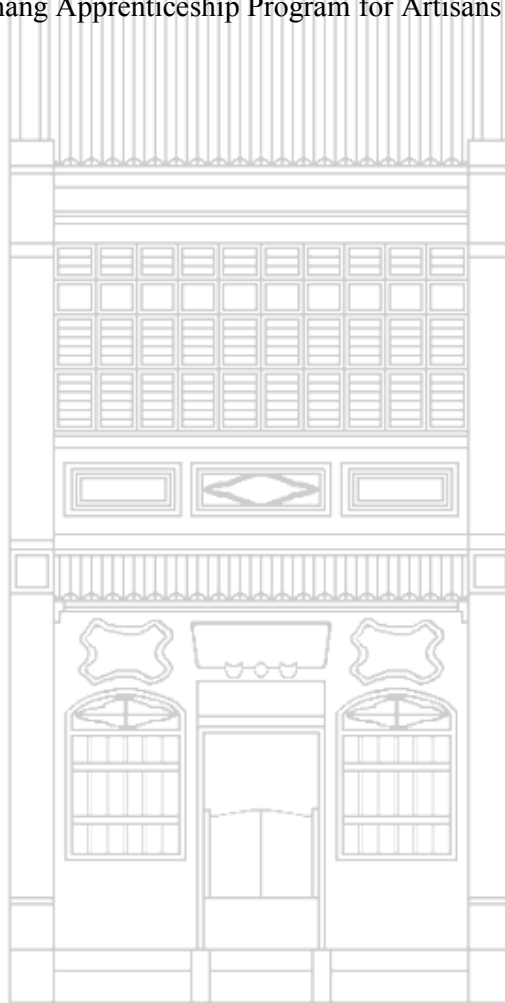
There is a deficit of RM 25,217 in 2009 due to a number of on-going projects which will only be reflected as revenue in year 2010, after the projects are in full completion. Here are the major ongoing projects:

- Cultural Heritage specialist Guide (RM 47,739.10)
- Living Heritage Award (RM 10,000)
- PAPA (RM 167,941.66)
- PHT-Suffolk House (RM 15,590.22) - reserved for Suffolk House maintenance

For the financial year ended 31st December 2009, the Suffolk House account held in trust by HSBC and PHT has reduced from RM749,311 to RM 7,590. This is because we had transferred most of the fund to Badan Warisan Malaysia to be used for fit-out in Suffolk House, after BWM has been awarded the tender to manage Suffolk House by the Penang State Government.

Meanwhile, our principal fixed deposits as at 31st December 2009 have increased from RM 147,899 in 2008 to RM 383,305 in 2009.

Finally, we would like to thank our sponsors, Creative Quest Sdn Bhd, Yayasan Haji Zainuddin, Tanjung Public Limited Company and HSBC for their supports, particularly on the Penang Apprenticeship Program for Artisans (PAPA).



Lim Gaik Siang
Hon. Treasurer PHT