

Penang Story Lecture & Conference:
PENANG AND THE HAJJ

Organised by Penang Heritage Trust, Think City Sdn Bhd
And in collaboration with other partners

17 & 18 August (Saturday & Sunday) 2013, E & O Hotel, Penang



The Penang Story
Penang in global history

CONFERENCE ON PENANG AND THE HAJJ
Date: 17 & 18 August (Saturday & Sunday) 2013
Venue: E & O Hotel, Lebuh Farquhar

From as early as the 18th century, Penang was a port of embarkation for aspiring pilgrims travelling by ship to the 'holy lands'. The activity was centred at the port, Acheen Street and adjoining areas. This era ended in the 1970s with the establishment of the Tabung Haji (Pilgrims Fund) corporation and popularity of air travel. Thousands of pilgrims from Sumatra, northern Malaysia and southern Thailand went through Penang to realize the fifth pillar of Islam. Their reminiscences and collective memories deserve to be celebrated, consolidated and documented for posterity. Prof. Eric Tagliacozzo has accepted our invitation to give the keynote during 'Penang Story Lecture'.

The Penang Story Lecture (open to the public and limited to 160 persons) will be held in conjunction with a two-day conference (about 100 persons).

PENANG STORY LECTURE (keynote):
The Material World of the Hajj in Colonial-Era Southeast Asia
by Eric Tagliacozzo, Professor of History, Cornell University
18 August (Sunday), 3.30pm at E & O Hotel

Abstract

The economic connections of the pre-colonial Hajj were very important; they brought Southeast Asia into a wider orbit of contacts across the historical Indian Ocean. Scholars have asked, as a result of this, how vital the economy of the Hajj may have been in creating an "Indian Ocean world", with major thinkers both championing and dismissing this notion. We know from a number of period observers in the 17th and 18th centuries that the number and dimensions of ships engaged in the Hajj were substantial, and that the Mughal Empire, Ottoman, Yemen, and Southeast Asia all become intertwined in the routes of such craft sailing across the ocean's rim. In my lecture I will examine these far-flung connections, while also concentrating on Southeast Asia and its trans-oceanic economies more locally. I will do this by looking at the careers of eminent Hajjis such as Shaykh Yusuf of Makassar, as well as through classical texts from the region such as the Tuhfat al-Nafis. I argue that the Dutch were crucial as facilitators of the pilgrimage, and I sketch out some of the circumstances of the Javanese Hajj from the 17th to the early 19th centuries. I will also focus on the British Case, where the Malay Peninsula and Penang became important as well in sending these travellers overseas, in increasingly larger numbers as the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries wore on. I highlight the means by which pilgrims from Southeast Asia were able to perform their Hajj, and the very real – and sometimes very difficult – material circumstances of their passage. This was a world in the making, one that connected the paths of quite ancient travellers to the voyages of pilgrims from our own time.

The Speaker: Eric Tagliacozzo

Eric Tagliacozzo is Professor of History at Cornell University. His first book, *Secret Trades, Porous Borders: Smuggling and States along a Southeast Asian Frontier* (Yale, 2005) won the Harry Benda Prize from the Association of Asian Studies. His second monograph, *The Longest Journey: Southeast Asians and the Pilgrimage to Mecca* (Oxford, 2013) has just been published. Tagliacozzo is also the editor or co-editor of four other books, and serves as the Director of the Comparative Muslim Societies Program at Cornell, as well as Director of the Modern Indonesia Project and editor of the journal *INDONESIA*.

Programme:

- ◆ PENANG STORY LECTURE, Keynote Lecture: The Material World of the Hajj in Colonial-Era Southeast Asia by Eric Tagliacozzo, 18 August (Sunday), 3.30pm-5.00pm at E & O Hotel.
- ◆ Conference on PENANG AND THE HAJJ, 17 August (Saturday), 9.00am-5.00pm and 18 August (Sunday), 9.00am-3.30pm at E & O Hotel.

The conference will deliberate over some of these issues:

- The Penang Port as a port of embarkation for the Hajj, businesses of Penang Sheikh hajis/pilgrim brokers, the service industry at the port cluster, ships and shipping (conveyance of pilgrims).
- Religious, social and cultural change stimulated by Hajj returnees, such as Islamic renewal and reform in the formal religious education and literacy in the madrasa, pan-Islamic ideas, anti-imperialism and anti-colonialism ideologies, with implication to Penang and the region.
- Colonial regulations on hajj travel, including the medical practices of hajj doctors in Penang and the quarantine station at Pulau Jerejak off Penang Island, in addition to the functions of the pilgrim officers in monitoring the pilgrimage movement.
- Travel preparations for the pilgrimage such as religious classes, currency exchange, packing the peti sahara, clothing.
- The production of Hajj literature by the Penang Malay press and the narratives of pilgrims sharing their experience.
- Socio-economic dimensions of hajj travel, such as saving schemes, exploitation of indentured labour, and the setting up of the monopolistic Tabung Haji (Pilgrims Fund) as an economic scheme in the context of national development.

REGISTRATION FORM

CONFERENCE ON PENANG AND THE HAJJ

Date: 17 & 18 August (Saturday & Sunday) 2013

Venue: E & O Hotel, Lebuh Farquhar

Name of Participant: _____

Present Occupation: _____

Designation & Organisation/ Institution or Department/ University:

Address: _____

Tel (office): _____ House: _____

Handphone: _____ Fax: _____

Email Address: _____

Vegetarian/ Halal food required (please circle): YES/ NO

Registration Fee (kindly tick ./ on your selected workshop package):

REGISTRATION FEE for NON-PHT MEMBERS

- PACKAGE A.** RM150 Includes invitation to the heritage trail, printed materials of the Penang Story Lecture, one day workshop with teas and buffet lunch at E & O Hotel.
- PACKAGE B.** RM250 Includes invitation to the heritage trail, printed materials of the Penang Story Lecture & two-day workshop with teas and buffet lunches at E & O Hotel.

REGISTRATION FEE for PHT MEMBERS

- PACKAGE A.** RM100 Includes invitation to the heritage trail, printed materials of the Penang Story Lecture, one day workshop with teas and buffet lunch at E & O Hotel.
- PACKAGE B.** RM200 Includes invitation to the heritage trail, printed materials of the Penang Story Lecture & two-day workshop with teas and buffet lunches at E & O Hotel.

(Accommodation is not included. Kindly email us for assistance.)

The conference will mainly be conducted in English with papers in Bahasa Malaysia and Bahasa Indonesia.

Payment & cheque should be made payable to: **Penang Heritage Trust**
Account Number: 3107359332 (Public Bank Berhad)
Kindly send us your bank-in-slip or cheque to Penang Heritage Trust
26 Church Street, 10200 Penang
Fax: +604 262 8421 or Email: info@pht.org.my
Open to 100 participants on first come, first serve basis.
Please register by 9 August 2013. Late or on the spot registration will not be entertained



Penang Heritage Trust
Preserving our heritage for future generations
26 Lebuh Gereja, George Town, UNESCO World Heritage Site
Tel: +604-264 2631 | Fax: +604-262 8421
Email: info@pht.org.my | Website: www.pht.org.my

For Office Use
Payment: O/R No.:

CO-ORGANISERS:- **thinkCITY**