A unique programme by Penang Heritage Trust to explore shared histories and celebrate cultural diversity

PENANG STORY INITIATIVE 2010 – 2012

Working with Think City, Penang Heritage Trust organised the following lectures, as part of the Penang Story Lectures, from 2010 to 2012 to revisit the various historical position of Penang in the regional and global context:

‘Inaugural Penang Story Lecture: Sino-Western Penang Responses’
by Prof Wong Gung-wu, Chairman of the East Asian Institute, University Professor, National University of Singapore
20 Nov 2010, Bayview George Town Hotel

‘New Discoveries in the Bujang Valley’
by Assoc Prof Dr Mokhtar Saidin, Centre for Global Archaeological Research, University Science of Malaysia
18 Dec 2010, Wawasan Open University

Penang and the Indian Ocean:
Tagore Lecture, ‘Rabindranath Tagore and the Cosmopolitan Vision’
by Dr Saranindranth Tagore, Associate Professor and Deputy Head of Philosophy Department, National University of Singapore
14 May 2011, Wawasan Open University

‘Globalisation and Penang’
by Dr Juma Kwame Sundram, Assistant Secretary General for Economic Development in the United Nations’ Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
28 Jul 2011, Wawasan Open University

Penang and the Indian Ocean Conference:
‘Trade between India and South-east Asia in the Early Modern Period’
by Prof Om Prakash, Editorial Fellow, Project of History of Indian Science, Philosophy and Culture, Centre for Studies in Civilizations
16 May 2012, E&O Hotel

‘Plague Fighter Dr Wu Lien-teh, A Penang Hero who modernized medicine in China’
by Ms Ong Lay Hong, Managing Director, Singapore Media Academy, MediaCorp Enterprise
19 May 2012, Wawasan Open University

Penang and the Indian Ocean: Tagore Lecture, ‘Building Bridges across the Bay of Bengal: Tagore and His Contemporaries’
by Prof Sugata Bose, Gardiner Professor of History at Harvard University
28 Aug 2012, Wawasan Open University

‘Life in Malaya under Japanese Occupation, 1941-45’
by Dr Paul Kratoska, Publishing Director, National University of Singapore Press
9 Nov 2012, Wawasan Open University

Penang and the Indian Ocean: ‘Penang and Asia’s Migrant History’
by Dr Sunil Amrith, Reader in Modern Asian History, Birkbeck College, University of London
16 Dec 2012, Northam Hotel All Suites

EXPLORING SHARED HISTORIES IN THE INDONESIA-MALAYSIA-THAILAND GROWTH TRIANGLE

Khaw Sim Bee Na Ranong and Shared History of Malaysia-Thailand Relations: From the Past to Future Cooperation
Sat & Sun, 11-12 May 2013

Muslim Trade from the Coromandel Coast in Relation to Kedah and Penang
Sunday, 9 Jun 2013

Penang and the Hajj
Sat & Sun, 17-18 Aug 2013

Armenians in Penang
Jul 2013 (Dates to be announced)

The Heritage of Philanthropy: Waqf and Kongsi in Penang
Sep 2013 (Dates to be announced)
The Penang Story is an open platform for people who are interested in Penang to contribute towards “deepening” the story of Penang. The mission is to bring together people, place and knowledge to celebrate cultural diversity, to strengthen a sense of belonging, to enhance Penang’s place-identity and to nurture Malaysia’s creative economy. The story of this regional port reaches across borders to individuals and communities with historical links to Penang.

2001: The Penang Story initiative was spearheaded by Penang Heritage Trust with a grant from The Japan Foundation, and jointly organized by Star Publications with the support of various stakeholders.

2002: The Penang Story Conference brought together 60 local and international scholars, encouraged networking between old and new scholars, and helped strengthen the city’s justification for World Heritage listing.

2008: The Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca, comprising George Town and Melaka, were jointly listed as a World Heritage Site for its Outstanding Universal Values – historical diversity, multicultural communities and built heritage.

2010 to present: The Penang Story Lectures, jointly organised by Penang Heritage Trust and Think City, promotes Penang’s role in regional and global history.