

Penang Story Symposium:



Khaw Sim Bee Na Ranong and Shared History of Malaysia-Thailand Relations **FROM THE PAST TO FUTURE COOPERATION** & **THAILAND-MALAYSIA BUSINESS DIALOGUE & NETWORKING FORUM**

In conjunction with the visit by **H.E. Mr. Kittiratt Na-Ranong**
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Thailand



Date: 11 May 2013 (Saturday)
Time: 9.00 am - 5.30 pm
Venue: Eastern & Oriental Hotel, Penang

To commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Phraya Ratsadanupradit Mahison Phakdi or Khaw Sim Bee Na Ranong, former Governor of Trang and Menthon Phuket, one of the most remarkable personalities in the history of Penang as well as Malaysia and Thailand relations, H.E. Kittiratt Na-Ranong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Thailand, descendent of Khaw Sim Bee, has kindly accept the invitation to be the Keynote Speaker at the symposium entitled "Khaw Sim Bee Na Ranong and Shared History of Malaysia-Thailand Relations" co-organised by Penang Heritage Trust (PHT), Royal Thai Embassy, Kuala Lumpur, and the Royal Thai Consulate-General, Penang, on Saturday, 11 May 2013 at the Eastern & Oriental Hotel, Penang. The symposium will cover the shared history of Thailand and Malaysia and the Siamese Heritage Trails from the time of King Chulalongkorn who made his first Royal Visit abroad to Malaysia and Penang, the history of Phraya Ratsadanupradit Mahison Phakdi (Khaw Sim Bee),

who substantially contributed to the development of political and economic relations between Thailand and Malaysia.

Based on the historical ties and business legacy of Khaw Sim Bee in Penang and Thailand and his distinctive contribution to the economic and development cooperation with Phuket, Trang, Ranong and other southern provinces of Thailand, for instance in the areas of trade, investment, tourism, mining and rubber industries, as well as banking, financial, logistics and transportation infrastructure, Deputy Prime Minister Kittiratt will also offer his remarks on "Thailand's Current Economic Policy and Direction" in the Thailand-Malaysia Business Networking Forum, which will also be co-organised by the Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute, on the same day at 2.00pm where the Thai and Malaysian business leaders will discuss ways and means to enhance Thailand and Malaysia economic and development cooperation.

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Penang Story Symposium: Khaw Sim Bee na Ranong and Shared History of Malaysia-Thailand Relations: From the Past to Future Cooperation

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Thailand-Malaysia Business Dialogue & Networking Forum

In conjunction with the visit by H.E. Mr. Kittiratt Na-Ranong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Thailand

Saturday, May 11-12, 2013, 09.00am – 17:30pm

Eastern & Oriental Hotel, Penang

Event Sponsors



THE PROCEEDINGS

Saturday, May 11, 2013

Launching of the Siamese Heritage Trail at Ranong Ground, Esplanade (8:30am)

It was a symbolic day for Malaysians and Thais when the Siamese Heritage Trail was unveiled at the former Ranong Ground where the Dewan Sri Pinang currently stands. The Ranong Ground was donated to the people of Penang by the Khaw/ na Ranong family in the late 19th century for recreational purposes. Thai Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Kittiratt Na-Ranong, a descendant of Khaw/na Ranong family officially unveiled the House of Ranong signboard and launched the Siamese heritage trail which were designed by Penang Heritage Trust and sponsored by the Royal Thai Consulate-General. Thai Consul-General Mrs. Srirat Vathsatogkit began her speech and mentioned that it was an auspicious event to celebrate the common heritage and historical ties shared between Penang and Thailand and at the same

time to commemorate the death centenary of the Penang-Thai prominent families' ancestor, Khaw Sim Bee na Ranong who passed away in Penang in 1913. She said Penang had become one of the most popular destinations for Thais whether for educational, business or recreational purposes.

Penang Municipal Council President Dato' Patahiyah Ismail said she was pleased that the start of the heritage trail was established at the Ranong Ground and it would serve not only as a record of footprints left behind by Siamese in Penang but it also represents the shared history of Thailand and Malaysia. She stressed that Penang took pride in its cultural diversity and the Thai culture in Penang is an integral part of the local rich culture.

Together with the Khaw/na Ranong family members, H.E. Mr. Krit Kraichitti, Ambassador of Thailand to Malaysia asked all the attendees to observe a minute of silence to remember the contributions of the forefathers. Coincidentally a nearby ship gave a lengthy blast on its horn to mark this solemn occasion.

Welcoming remarks (9:30am at E&O Hotel):

By **Ms. Khoo Salma Nasution**, President of Penang Heritage Trust

Ms. Khoo began by welcoming everyone to the Penang Story Symposium on behalf of Penang Heritage Trust. She explained that Penang Heritage Trust had begun 25 years ago with the aim of inspiring people on the heritage of Penang. She emphasized that there should be more talk and trade between the neighbours of Thailand and Malaysia through family and friends. She thanked all the partners and sponsors especially Ms. Grace Khaw and H.E. Mr. Krit Kraichitti, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to Malaysia.

Introductory remarks:

By **H.E. Mr. Krit Kraichitti**, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to Malaysia

His Excellency said that he was delighted when he learned three months ago via Penang Heritage Trust that it planned to host this symposium on the life and times of Khaw Sim Bee, to commemorate the centenary of his death. He considers the Khaws to have been the greatest business family in Southern Thailand and Malaysia, connecting the two countries. The Khaw Sim Bee family was also instrumental and important in welcoming royal visits from Thailand to Malaysia. He thanked the organizers for the launch of the Thai Heritage Trail on Ranong Ground that he had attended earlier that morning.

Keynote speech:

By **H.E. Mr. Kittiratt Na-Ranong**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Kingdom of Thailand

His Excellency began by stating that it was a great honour to be present and that he was delighted to be representing both the Thai Government and the family of Khaw na Ranong. He thanked the organizers for the launch earlier that day of the Thai Heritage Trail in honour of the centenary of the death of his ancestor Khaw Sim Bee. It was notable that Khaw Sim Bee's generation was the first to use the middle name to represent the generation (in his case 3rd generation). His Excellency himself is 5th generation

and had welcomed the opportunity on this trip to meet the 6th and 7th generation Khaws in Penang. He said that the work of Khaw Sim Bee is well remembered in Thailand as he helped to build the sea ports, highways and rail system in Southern Thailand. He closed by stating that we should all work together for the prosperity of the people and hoped that the meeting would close the gap, changing cold ties to warm ties. He then invited two relatives of Khaw Sim Bee to introduce themselves – Mr. Abinant na Ranong and Ms. Grace Khaw na Ranong.

Session 1: The Shared History of Malaysia and Thailand

1. **Mr. Isorn Pocmontri**, *“A Shared History of Thailand-Malaysia Relations: a Thai Perception”*
Mr. Isorn explained that the four northern States of Malaysia (Perlis, Kedah, Kelantan and Terengganu) belonged to Thailand (Siam) until 1909. There were many royal visits to Penang during this time. King Chulalongkorn himself visited several times and four other Kings also made similar visits. The most significant was the State Visit in 1962 – the first such visit after Malaysia was formed. The Malaysian Agongs also visited Thailand seven times, the first visit being in 1964. The administration of the four northern States was under Siam up to 1909 and from 1943-44. Administration was returned amicably to Britain in 1945. During 1943-44, the heads of Malaya coordinated with Bangkok and there was mutual recognition of sovereignty and a non-interference in internal affairs. During the Thai revolution from 1932-42, Penang became a safe haven for Siamese in exile. There was private sector interaction between Penang and Southern Thailand in the areas of tin, rubber and oil palm production, plus education. There was cooperation against communism as regional security was important - also cooperation on the Cambodian issues. In the promotion of a regional framework cooperation, ASA (Association of Southeast Asia) was formed in 1961 - a precursor to the later creation of ASEAN. Also significant in this period of cooperation was the Pacific Settlement on land boundaries, plus the setting up of the Joint Development Area for the overlapping claims in the Gulf of Thailand. Mr. Isorn closed by saying that future cooperation between Malaysia and Thailand looks favourable.
2. **Ms. Khoo Salma Nasution**, *“Penang’s link to a Siamese Past”*
Ms. Khoo talked about Penang’s link to the Siamese past especially in its relationship with Phuket. Penang and Bangkok signed a “friendship city” relationship agreement last year and hopes Phuket will follow suit. Links between Penang & Phuket are many and varied. Before founding Penang, Captain Francis Light was based in Phuket. His son William Light, of British-Thai parentage, went on to found Adelaide. There are also religious links between Phuket & Penang as three separate Catholic groups fled Phuket for Penang, founding Penang-based Catholic institutions such as the Church of Immaculate Conception. Another link between Phuket & Penang relates to the building of Kongsis in Penang by the clans – for instance Tan Gaik Tham and his son Tan Lean Kee, made a fortune from tin in Phuket and brought the money to Penang to set up the Tan Kongsis. There are also festivals in common – the two main ones being the Vegetarian Festival, which was started in Phuket, and Nine Emperor Gods Festival. A major accomplishment for Phuket was the introduction of the first offshore tin dredge in 1903 –

Malaysia got its first dredge only in 1913. Tin smelting grew strongly in Penang led by the five big clans as they wanted to compete against the Western powers – though they were not successful in this. The Sino-Thais owned many properties in Penang especially along Northam Road (now Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah) – Hardwick House is the only one remaining standing.

3. **Mr. Khaw Teik Gim**, *“A Tale of the Khaw or na Ranong Family in Two States over Three Generations”*

Mr. Khaw explained that the Khaw family originated from China and that Khaw Sim Bee’s father Khaw Soo Cheang was born in 1786 (according to records from China) or 1797 (according to Thai records) and died in 1882. Khaw Soo Cheang arrived in Penang in 1810 (China records) or 1822 (Thailand records). He had five Thai wives and six sons – Khaw Sim Bee was his 6th son. Khaw Soo Cheang was Governor of Ranong and when he retired he was succeeded by his second son Khaw Sin Kong, but passed the family leadership to his sixth son Khaw Sim Bee. Khaw Sim Bee was named Governor of Kraburi in 1885.

Session 2: The Shared History of Malaysia and Thailand

Moderator: **Mr. Clement Liang**

Panel of Speakers: **Yang Teramat Mulia Tunku Sofiah Jawa**

Mr. Sanchai Tandavanitj

Datin Patricia Lim Pui Huen

Ms. Lim Kwee Phaik

Prof. Tengku Sepora Tengku Mahadi

Dr. Wong Yee Tuan

Mr. Colin Robert Mackay

1. **Yang Teramat Mulia Tunku Sofiah Jawa**, *“Calm after the Storm: 150 years of peace between Thailand and Malaysia”*

YTM Tunku’s (from the Kedah Royal family) paternal mother and grandmother were Thais. She explained that there are very few places in the world where Buddhists and Muslims co-exist in peace. These two groups of people blended and complemented each other in Kedah under Thai rule and residents have enjoyed over 150 years of peace between Thailand and Malaysia. Penang has played an active role in fostering this peace along with the British. She considers that the peace began in 1864, the year her grandfather was born. Her great grandfather ruled from 1854-1879 in Kedah. In 1869, Siam signed a border treaty and King Chulalongkorn visited four times. She closed by saying there is a continuing need for heritage cooperation between Malaysia and Thailand.

2. **Mr. Sanchai Tandavanitj**, *“Vision and Skill of Khaw Sim Bee, Phraya Rassada Nupradit”*

Mr. Sanchai explained that Khaw Sim Bee was one of the six sons of Khaw Soo Cheang. Ranong House (site of Dewan Sri Penang) was used as a Royal residence and the Khaw family played host to many Thais visiting Penang. Chakrabong House was also used for this purpose in Penang, as was Asdang House and Hardwick House. Hardwick House is the only one of these buildings still standing, but Mr. Sanchai did show several photographs of the other houses. Khaw Sim Bee tried to modernise Phuket using the experience he had learnt in Penang. He established the banks, police

force and City Hall in Phuket and was declared the “Father of Thai Rubber” by the Thai Government. He also introduced modern medical facilities to Phuket under the auspices of Dr. Beck. After seeing an x-ray machine in Penang, he ordered one for Phuket which was operated by generator as Phuket had no electricity. It was the first x-ray machine in Siam.

3. **Datin Patricia Lim Pui Huen**, *“Through the Eyes of the King: The Travels of King Chulalongkorn in Malaya”*

Datin Patricia initially went further back in history to discuss King Mongkut who ruled from 1851-68. He was considered to have great wisdom and chose to learn English late in life. King Chulalongkorn was also one of the great Kings. He loved travelling and made three trips to Singapore and Java. He considered Penang visits important in the relationship with Kedah. His travels are now seen as important factors in the reforms he used to transform Thailand as he learned these methods while travelling. In 1896 he also made a trip to Europe. After her speech, Datin Patricia presented copies of her new book *“Through the Eyes of the King: The Travels of King Chulalongkorn in Malaya”* to H.E. Mr. Kittiratt Na-Ranong and H.E. Mr. Krit Kraichitti.

4. **Ms. Lim Kwee Phaik**, *“Highlights on Khaw Sim Bee and Life at Chakrabongse House”*

Khaw Sim Bee was Ms. Lim’s great grandfather. She lived in Chakrabongse House in Penang which was demolished in 1962 – an apartment block now stands on the land. She said that her great grandfather was considered to be a grassroots leader who helped the people, talked to them and asked them if his reforms were helping them. Khaw Sim Bee had a photographic memory and learned to speak English while working on trading steamships. He had a quick brain and mastered nine languages and dialects. His Thai was perfect and he spoke it with no accent. During the housewarming for Chakrabongse House, King Chulalongkorn was officially invited. Khaw Sim Bee also died in the same house. The rooms were big, ceilings high, and floors made of marble with furniture brought in from China and Thailand. There was a separate summer house for guests.

5. **Prof. Tengku Sepora Tengku Mahadi**, *“Ku Din Ku Meh’s Administration of Satun: with lessons for Penang and Siam”*

Prof. Tengku began her speech by explaining it would be less about Khaw Sim Bee and more about Ku Din Ku Meh. Tengku’s maternal grandmother and her paternal great grandfather were Thais. Ku Din was responsible for the administration of Satun which was part of Kedah then. Satun means “Spirit of the Sea”. Satun was ceded to Siam in 1909 as part of the Bangkok Treaty. Ku Din (1849-1932) was the head of the prison in Kedah and was then sent to be the administrator of Satun. He was promoted to Provincial Governor, a post he held from 1900-14. He made the most outstanding contribution to the development of Satun. He helped increase its wealth via international trade – mainly birds’ nests & pepper, which he traded to Penang. Ships constantly plied the Satun – Penang route carrying these goods. He established a strong administrative system and a good education system. He also began the issuance of land titles. His work contributed to peace in the area and the strength of Islam. Ku Din helped Khaw Sim Bee to set in place a compromising court policy to avoid clashes with the Muslim culture in Satun. In the education sector, Khaw Sim Bee gave Ku Din the idea to start a Thai Malay school.

6. **Dr. Wong Yee Tuan**, *“The Khaw family network and the rise of the Khaw group”*

Dr Wong said that the Khaw Group was one of the earliest conglomerates in Penang. It operated a hybrid Western style of doing business. It operated six distinct businesses (1) insurance, (2) opium

farms, (3) shipping, (4) trading, (5) tin smelting and (6) tin dredging. In 1870, the family enterprise of Koe Guan Co. was established in Penang. It was only when Khaw Sim Bee took over from his brother that business really started to boom. When he saw Western companies expanding into tin mining & plantations after being successful in shipping & trading, he had to figure out how to compete. He created the Eastern Shipping Co to meet British competition face to face. He imported tin dredging & smelting equipment and began the Eastern Smelting Co in 1907. The insurance branch, Khean Guan Insurance, always did very well and had many overseas branches as far afield as Siberia. The Khaw family network was important though the kongsi, marriage and the Kian Teik Tong (secret societies) in Moulmein, Burma and Penang.

7. **Mr. Colin Robert Mackay**, *“British Penang’s enforcement of economic liberalism in South Western Siam. 1786-1913.”*

Mr. Mackay began by stating that he considered the Scottish influence in the development of the region to be as important as that of the Hokkien. When the British arrived in 1786, they met an under-developed, under-populated jungle area with little security. There were ongoing wars between Burma and Siam and between local rulers. Mr. Mackay believes that the Siamese government law in which all land belonged to the King was a disincentive to entrepreneurship and hampered trade as it gave the Siamese King a monopoly. Smuggling and corruption were rife. In 1786 when the British moved into Penang they developed a new economy modeled by Scotsmen David Hume and Adam Smith. These men from Edinburgh believed in free trade and their new liberal ideas were in stark contrast to the current local methods. Salang (Phuket) was a deserted wasteland in 1810 after constant attacks from Burma drove out the local people. From 1825, Phuket was re-populated, investments were made, trade rose and the region became more developed. Unfortunately, piracy was rampant and the people did not want to live near the coast. The British Royal Navy and the Dutch Royal Navy took on this problem. In 1851, King Mongkut ascended to the throne and he saw that the liberal methods being used in Penang for trade were working and in 1855 Siam opened up its markets with miraculous results. The King employed British advisers and engineers to help with the development.

Sunday, May 12, 2013

Touring the Siamese Heritage Trail in Penang (from City Hall at 9am)

A group of 70 people including the former Foreign Minister of Thailand, Dr. Tej Bunnag participated the tour of Siamese Heritage Trail led by Clement Liang, the honorary secretary of Penang Heritage Trust. Started in front of City Hall, Clement iterated the founding story of Penang and the reason why Khaw/na Ranong family donated the Ranong Ground to the people of Penang then was to counter the restrictive access to Esplanade for Europeans only. From there, the convoy in seven vans went to Pulau Tikus area where the Siamese have a strong presence. Wat Chaiyamangkalarang, founded in 1845 was the focus of the visit and some Khaw/na Ranong family members took the opportunity to pray to their ancestors who were interred there. The journey continued and passed by the nearby Siamese village and the neat rows of townhouses along Bangkok Lane, described as the most elegant street of Penang which never fails to inspire awe from visitors.

The final stop was Wat Pinbang Onn at Greenlane, an important historical site which has been overlooked for years. The temple with a large tract of land granted in 1794, is rightfully the oldest Siamese temple in Penang. The temple witnessed two important funeral rites in the history of Thailand: the cremation of Prince Svasti Sophon, the former Minister of Law and father-in-law of King Rama VII in 1935 and the burial of Phraya Manopakorn Nititada, the first Prime Minister of Thailand in 1948. Both were in exile to Penang after the coup d'état in Bangkok in 1933 and took their last breath on this island.

Prince Damrong Rajanubhap and his letters sent from Cinnamon Hall at Kelawai Road, Khaw Sim Bee and the majestic Chakrabongse House, group photos of King Chulalongkorn and his entourage in front of Ranong House, King Vajiravudh at Asdang House and many old images of the Siamese and royal visits in Penang. These will always be cherished and remembered as the shared history of Malaysia and Thailand.

Tourist brochures describing the various sites of Siamese Heritage Trail in Penang are available in English and Thai from Penang Heritage Trust office.

Session 1: The Shared History of Malaysia and Thailand (9am at E&O Hotel)

1. Talk by Mr. Khaw Teik Gim

Mr Khaw started off the second day discussions by talking about Khaw Soo Cheang's two lesser known sons – *Khaw Sim Cheng* (first son) and *Khaw Sim Chua* (third son).

There is little known about *Khaw Sim Cheng* and no photographs have ever been found. He disappeared while travelling in the Gulf of Siam in 1862. At the time of his disappearance he was the Assistant Governor of Muang Ranong. The location of his remains is not definitively known. *Khaw Sim Chua* became Assistant Governor of Ranong in 1877. He was the beneficiary of the E&O Hotel in Penang (originally two hotels; the Eastern opened in 1884 and the Oriental opened in 1885). He had no sons, just one daughter Khaw Sok Jok. Since only sons could inherit, he adopted the 5th son of his brother Khaw Sim Kong. This 5th son and Khaw Sim Bee were assassinated in the Trang outrage, February 25, 1913. Khaw Sim Chua died in 1885 and his place of burial is also not definitively known.

There is a Khaw family tomb in Ranong, the stone shows the death to be in 1884 with the name of either "Sin Chern" or "Sim Chea". Though this is widely thought to be the tomb of Khaw Sim Cheng, the speaker Mr. Khaw believes it to be the tomb of Khaw Sim Chua.

There was much discussion at the meeting, opened by Mr. Tan Kim Hong, on this tomb and it was generally felt from the inscription on the headstone, that it contains the remains of Khaw Sim Cheng – though the audience agreed that the tomb could in fact be empty.

2. Speech by H.E. Mr. Krit Kraichitti

His Excellency thanked Penang Heritage Trust for the first day's sessions. He talked a little about the death of Khaw Sim Bee who had worked closely with his grandfather (Chief Justice) in Phuket. Khaw Sim Bee died three weeks after the shooting at the Trang outrage. By then he had been moved to the Chakrabong House in Penang and it is in this house that he died. His Excellency's grandfather, as Chief Justice in Phuket, was the judge in the trial of the man

accused of shooting Khaw Sim Bee. The accused claimed he did not intend to kill but was found guilty.

His Excellency expressed his hope that there would be another version of this weekend's discussions but held in Phuket and would be more the Siam Version of Khaw Sim Bee's life.

3. **Panel Discussion:**

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Loh Wei Leng

Speakers: Datin Patricia Lim Pui Huen

Dr. Wong Yee Tuan

Mr. Colin Robert Mackay

- (a) Datin Patricia expanded more on her subject of yesterday's talk – *"The Travels of King Chulalongkorn to Malaya"* and explained the links with the Khaw family in both Penang and Ranong. King Chulalongkorn made four visits to Penang, the first in 1871 when he was just 18 years of age. He loved to travel and used what he learned on his trips to bring Siam into the modern world. He is known for abolishing slavery and the requirement to prostrate before the King. On the King's fourth trip in 1907, Khaw Sim Bee hosted a lunch at Chakrabong House and acted as an interpreter (he spoke excellent Malay) between the King and the Sultan of Kedah. The members of the Khaw family were successful businessmen with political acumen. They were also smart in their marriages, linking themselves with prominent Thai families. The family members gained the trust of the King and were seen to be loyal to him. They helped develop the Thai economy and were instrumental in consolidating control over the outlying regions.
- (b) Talk by Dr. Wong Yee Tuan expanding on his overview yesterday of *"The Khaw Family Network and the Rise of the Khaw Group"*. Despite the fact that the Khaw Group was short lived, its essence as a conglomerate lay in the web of family networks. Khaw Sim Bee's father, Soo Cheang, came from Amoy to Bengkulu (Bencoolen) in 1816 and settled down as a trader. In Penang he was in partnership with Bian Hong Company and traded with Southern Thailand. He only created his own company, Koe Guan Co., in 1870. Beginning in the 1880s, the Group struggled to compete with Western businesses but it wasn't until 1907, that the Group started to consolidate with other local companies. Most of the business partners were linked by blood, marriage or Kian Teik Tong (secret societies). To highlight this, Dr. Wong displayed a chart of the directors of the Group's six main businesses ((1) insurance, (2) opium farms, (3) shipping, (4) trading, (5) tin smelting and (6) tin dredging). (This chart induced much discussion on the relationships between the directors but it was agreed this was a vast subject that would have to be left until another time.) The Khaw Group began to disintegrate after a few years and the subsequent death of Khaw Sim Bee, paved the way for its collapse. Dr. Wong feels that there were too many directors in the Group causing huge internal conflicts.
- (c) Talk by Mr. Colin Robert Mackay – *"British Enforcement of Economic Liberalism in South West Siam, 1786-1913"*. In the 1600s there was little trade in South West Siam due to the Burmese wars, no investment and rampant piracy. By the mid 1800s, stability began to emerge as the British Royal Navy, aided by the Dutch, stamped out piracy and people

became more confident and started living near the coast. Phuket was much sought after by the Chinese as it had tin reserves. Though Mr. Mackay considered the Khaws to be astute businessmen, he feels they were in the right place at the right time when it comes to the economic expansion in Phuket. He also considers that the Khaws would not have achieved so much without the help of the British (mainly Scottish) and the fact that Phuket continued to boom after Khaw Sim Bee's death supports this.

4. Wrap-up speech by **H.E. Mr. Krit Kraichitti**

His Excellency had just had a private meeting with the Governor of Penang and had advised him that he wants to revive relations between Siam & Malaysia and hopes that Phuket can be a sister city to Penang. He reiterated that he wants to see another symposium on Khaw Sim Bee held in Phuket and hopes that Penang Heritage Trust would participate in the project and that Mr. Sanchai Tandavanitj would lead the preparation of the symposium. He would like to see the setting up of a Phuket Heritage Trust and for the organisation to create the "Phuket Story".

In closing he presented a token of appreciation to Ms. Salma Khoo. Ms. Khoo presented a book to His Excellency.

There was a photo session before His Excellency took his leave.

5. Talk by **Mr. Khaw Teik Gim**: "The Rise & Fall of the Khaw Group"

Mr. Khaw's talk focused more on the fall of the Khaw Group rather than its rise, which had been well covered over the weekend. He is still doing research on this and feels his presentation is still a work in progress. The fall of the Khaw Group happened from 1905-22. At this time, the Khaws were well entrenched in Penang, Singapore and Bangkok in both the business and social communities. The global economy was booming and the New York Stock Exchange peaked in 1905. Then in 1906 a natural disaster struck which had global implications – the San Francisco earthquake and fire. Share prices fell which triggered the financial crash of 1907. All this had an impact on the Straits Settlements and British Malaya. Tin prices dropped and there was no support from Britain as it was also struggling at home. Mr. Khaw discussed each of the businesses in which the Khaw Group was involved at this time and put forward a strong case to show that the British manipulated the situation to force the Khaw Group to collapse. After Khaw Sim Bee's death, there was no single family member who was a really strong leader. The family then turned to rubber and investments and began selling off its properties.

In closing, Ms. Salma Khoo presented books to each of the speakers present, thanked all for participating and ended the successful and enlightening event.