

# Persatuan Warisan Pulau Pinang Penang Heritage Trust

Registered Address:  
26 Lebuhraya Gereja 10200, Pulau Pinang

## Annual Report 2013



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# Annual General Meeting 2013

3.30 p.m., Sunday, 17 November 2013

Venue: Ren-I-Tang, 82-A Lebu Penang (Penang Street)

## **Agenda**

1. To consider and approve:
  - The Minutes of the PHT Annual General Meeting – 18 November 2012
  - The PHT Annual Report 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012– 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013
  - The PHT Financial Report ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012
2. Election of Council Members (2014-2015)
3. Other Matters

## Penang Heritage Trust President's Message



Fifteen years ago, the Penang Heritage Trust initiated the process for George Town to be nominated to the UNESCO World Heritage list. At the time, we were the only established organisation concerned about Penang's heritage. George Town was facing the repeal of Rent Control. We put much effort into explaining why heritage is important to Penang's future. To draw attention to the situation, we registered George Town on the World Monuments Watch's List of 100 Endangered Sites (twice on the biennial list, 2000-2004).

After UNESCO listing in 2008, it seems that Penang's heritage is now largely recognized by the state, the private sector, the people of Penang and tourists who snap away at our food and buildings and circulate the images around the world. We have succeeded in making heritage a buzz word in Penang. There are now new organisations working on arts, culture and heritage. New major investment and young entrepreneurs are helping to revitalize George Town. So why can't we sit back and relax? Before I answer that question, let me paint the scenario.

Heritage has attracted tourists, but tourism can be a double-edged sword. Tourism may bring some benefits to the George Town World Heritage area. It can spur economic growth, give new lease of life to old buildings, provide jobs and encourage cultural entrepreneurship, cause the introduction of amenities that may improve the quality of life for local inhabitants. But for many local residents who do not make an income from tourism, the changes brought about by tourism can have an alienating effect. In his book on Venice, John Berendt explained the local Venetians' plight in *The City of Falling Angels* (2005):

Soon masks were a favourite tourist icon. But with the appearance of each new mask shop, there always seemed to be one fewer greengrocer, one fewer bakery, one fewer butcher's shop, to the consternation of Venetians, who found themselves having to walk twice as far to buy a tomato or a loaf of bread. Mask shops became a detested symbol of the city's capitulation to tourism at the expense of its liveability.

The people of Penang (including the tourism authorities) should be more concerned about the numbers of residents in the George Town World Heritage Site than the number of tourists visiting it. The census conducted by Geografia in 2010 showed that the George Town World Heritage Site has barely more than 10,000 inhabitants – possibly the lowest figure in 200 years.<sup>1</sup> The latest

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<sup>1</sup> The 2010 census of the George Town World Heritage area enumerated 10,500 inhabitants, 23,000 people working in the area, including 3,000 employers – which reflects a high ratio of people who are self-employed. 'George Town Land Use and Population Survey', 2010, prepared for Think City by Geografia. Altogether 7,413 surveys were carried out on as many establishments.

census taken in 2013 may show a further decline. When the city (commune) of Venice's population dropped below 60,000 in 2009, the local Venetians staged a mock funeral. Perhaps it is time to do the same here.

The phenomenon that George Town is going through right now is not unprecedented. In many World Heritage Sites around the world, the original owners tend to sell out at an early stage to tourist industry investors and property speculators.<sup>2</sup> People who come back annually are 'amazed' to see more new visitor accommodation, restaurants and souvenir shops have opened. At first they are pleasantly surprised at the revitalization, then gradually they realise that the old familiar places are gone forever. The late great Andre Alexander's study of historic cities in Asia warns of the potential impacts of tourism in the age of mobile global capital.

Stage	Features
Discovery	Visitor number increases, local economy improves slowly, service industry begins to form.
Take-off	Large increase in visitor numbers; local economy heats up, service industry sees large investments by major local and international players edging out small local players.
Maturity	Still slight increase in visitor number; tourism industry has edged out many parts of the local economy, costs begin to set in (environmental, social, infrastructure, rising local prices).
Decline	Visitor numbers decline but may remain stable on a much smaller level if there is no major disaster, economy, social structures and place are transformed, local culture replaced by sanitized "culture for visitors", traditional local jobs largely vanished, land prices too high for low-income communities. New competing destinations are discovered that are still "unspoilt".

'The Impact of Tourism' in 'ACHR Asian Heritage Project: Visit to Luang Prabang, Laos', mission report by André Alexander with input by Maurice Leonhardt. The study was entitled 'Understanding Asian Cities II: Heritage for the People'<sup>3</sup>.

A little gentrification is good, but too much is grotesque. Rising rents have driven the old inhabitants out of the historic centre of George Town. Property speculation, over-development, traffic congestion and local inflation are making Penang less liveable. The rate at which heritage

<sup>2</sup> Although the common perception is that our heritage properties are being bought up by Singaporeans and other foreigners, statistics show that most of the speculative transactions can be attributed to Malaysians (who may include proxies of non-Malaysians).

<sup>3</sup> André Alexander, co-founder and prime mover of the Tibet Heritage Fund, who died at the age of 47 on 21 January 2012.

buildings are being turned into hotels in the George Town World Heritage Site is alarming. Many of the conversions are drastic, inappropriate and irreversible, and only a few of them are done with proper approvals. One day we will wake up to find 50 souvenir shops, 500 hotels, but only 5,000 Penang residents left.

And now let me give three reasons why our fundamentals are not in place for long-term heritage preservation.

Firstly, *our education, safeguarding and conservation initiatives need to be further institutionalised and professionalised*. A development strategy which is only about property development and construction will ultimately destroy our environment and liveability. We can choose a more sustainable people-centred path, if only we had the imagination to do so. A number of good initiatives have been carried out. The PHT has collaborated with the state's George Town World Heritage Incorporated (GTWHI) to develop educational programmes for built heritage conservation, and GTWHI is now the main organisation focusing on this. The Penang Story Project which was initiated by PHT in 2001 and revived with the help of Think City in 2010 continues to explore Penang's social history. Last year and this year, PHT has been working on mapping our Intangible Cultural Heritage and hopefully this baseline data can be used to inform state policies in the future. But this sort of work needs to be carried on by cultural institutions, professional staff and proper long-term funding in order to move on to the next level of safeguarding.

Secondly, *we are putting promotion before protection*. It is true that PHT started to publicise heritage many years ago when heritage lacked recognition and protection. Now we have the recognition but not the protection – this is extremely dangerous. We have a State Heritage Enactment which has been passed but not implemented. Despite the international recognition for our heritage, there is little real protection and inadequate enforcement. While the Technical Review Panel has been set up to review applications affecting heritage buildings, there are still too many loopholes in the heritage protection net. Illegal works on heritage buildings are happening everyday with impunity. When the MPPP issues a stop work order, the contractor instead hurries up to finish (a lot can happen on a weekend or public holiday). Tourist busses shake the very foundations of the old buildings.<sup>4</sup> And PHT's Seven Most Important Endangered Sites are more endangered than ever.

Clearly, the authorities should prioritize protection over promotion. We hope that tourism authorities can collaborate more closely with heritage organisations to work out clear policies and incorporate precautions in their promotion, for example, by publishing a list of approved heritage-compliant hotels. The pace of change is also important. We should promote something only when

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<sup>4</sup> I can feel this at 120 Armenian Street when the busses swing past Kampung Kolam.

we are ready. Right now, the pace of change is outstripping our ability to monitor and protect. Sustainable tourism does not mean tourism that keeps on growing, but tourism that does not kill the goose that lays the golden egg.

Thirdly, in the George Town World Heritage Site, *the profits from cultural tourism are scarcely being channelled into conservation and community*. Instead of leaving everything to market forces, we should start to think about the liveability of the George Town World Heritage Site for its residents and find ways to stabilize the numbers – through urban regeneration and affordable housing. How will the families who have lived here for generations cope with new pressures? We have to appreciate that the local residents, small business, custodians and stakeholders are the ones looking after our heritage. They should be empowered through community development programmes (residents having a say in their neighbourhood), home-owner’s programmes (how to maintain their houses with correct skills and materials) and entrepreneurship programmes (how to improve their livelihoods or start new businesses). Some of these programmes should particularly target women.<sup>5</sup>

We also have to realise that there is a need to deal with the continuing dereliction of buildings and decaying infrastructure in the long run. What we really need is an urban rehabilitation agency, established as a public-private partnership, which can build up in-house knowledge and expertise and can do the job at high standards and optimal costs. We need funding for preventive conservation and progressive restoration. And to fund conservation and community, we need a revenue capture mechanism that captures a percentage of profits from tourism and channels it into programmes which sustains the non-renewable resource which tourism exploits.

PHT continues to play an important advocacy role. As a member of Penang Forum, we take positions on planning issues that affect Penang. We articulate issues which affect the communities who live and work in the George Town World Heritage Site. We are also greatly concerned for the natural and cultural heritage in the rest of the island and Province Wellesley. Our heritage monitoring shows that there is still a great deal of destruction of heritage in the name of conservation, rejuvenation and tourism development. Alas, those who are passionate about heritage cannot rest.

*Khoo Salma Nasution, 2013*

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<sup>5</sup> We cannot leave everything to market forces.

**Penang Heritage Trust**  
**Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2012**  
**Sunday, 18 November 2012, 3.30pm**  
**Zhong San Wooi Koon, King Street, 10200 Penang**

**Members Present:**

Eric Yeoh	Nathaniel Woon
<b>Mohd Razha Rashid</b>	Roy de Vries
John Taylor	Mary de Vries
Lorna Taylor	<b>Khoo Salma Nasution</b>
Janet Saw	<b>Liang Chow Ming</b>
<b>Dato' Anwal Fazal (Trustee)</b>	<b>Lim Gaik Siang</b>
Teh Ewe Hoon	Emily Yeoh
Ong Siew Guat	Khoo Kay Hean
Leslie A.K. James	Lee Yong Seng
Pow Lin James	Chow Chee Kit
Ann Cutter	Annelies Allain
Joanna Aeria	Lee Yow Ching
Boon Leua Aroonratana	Brian Walling
Ch'ng Saw See	Carolyn Walling
Tian Yee Ping	Manns Goh Chee Tow
Tong C. K. Ho	Andrew Yong
Gale Metcalf	Tan Khar Hoay
Ooi Teik Chye	Julie Ng
Mariam Lim	Wazir Karim
<b>Bendula Wismen</b>	Woo Yee Saik
Michael Cheah	Jay Sharma
Cumalle Ang Poay Khuan	Yeap Peng Hoe
Timothy Tye	Yeo Khee Chin
Eileen Tang	Yeap Kam Moey
David Low	Robert Yeap
Marie-Louise Oh	Joann Khaw Juat Seng
Chris Hartman	Mark Lay
Azza Basarudu	<b>Lyndy Ong Choon Imm</b>

## **President's Welcoming Message**

The president, Khoo Salma Nasution, welcomed all members present and called the meeting to order at 3.35. She also thanked Zhong San Wooi Koon for allowing PHT to use its newly restored premises to hold the Annual General Meeting.

She referred members to the Annual Report.

### **1. Confirmation of Minutes of the AGM 2011.**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2011 were approved and adopted on the proposal of Mr. Woo Yee Saik (O-26086) and seconded by Ms. Ch'ng Saw See (O-26337) after several corrections were raised by members.

### **2. Presentation of the Annual Report September 2011- August 2012**

Mr. Clement Liang, Honorary Secretary, presented the Annual Report.

#### **A. Emergency General Meeting**

PHT had its EGM at Hotel Penaga on 29 April 2012 to review its membership structure and to approve the financial report. The membership structure and the financial report were approved by members. The proposed changes were reconfirmed and accepted by members on the proposal of Annelies Allain and seconded by C.K. Tong Ho.

The proposed changes were as follow:-

#### **Item 10. Ordinary Membership in Constitution of PHT**

Item 10 of the Constitution reads as such:

##### **Ordinary Membership**

Ordinary Membership shall be open to individual persons whose membership has been accepted by the Council. Members shall pay such admission fee of not more than \$50/- to the Society and annual subscription of not more than \$36/- as the Council may decide from time to time

#### **Item 10. Resolution approved by members:**

##### **Ordinary Membership**

Ordinary membership shall be open to individual persons whose membership has been accepted by the Council. Ordinary Members shall pay an admission fee of not more than RM50.00 to the Society **and an annual subscription fee of not less than RM60.00**, and the Council may increase the **subscription fee by no more than 20% annually**.

#### **Item 13. Corporate Membership in Constitution of PHT**

Item 13 of the Constitution reads as such:

##### **Corporate Members**

- The Council, may at its discretion, accept corporations or partnerships as Corporate Members whose privileges and liabilities are hereinafter prescribed
- The acceptance of Corporate Members shall be entirely at the discretion of the Council which will be empowered to fix such limits in the number of such members as it thinks fit.
- Corporate Members shall be entitled to nominate one representative who is at least 21years of age, belonging to their organization who shall on his acceptance by the Council be entitled to enjoy full privileges of Ordinary Members;

- A Corporate Member whose nominee holds any office in the Council and who resigns from or for any reason whatsoever ceases to hold such office, shall not be entitled to nominate a replacement for the remaining term of the office;
- The admission fee payable in respect of Corporate Member shall not be less than Ringgit Five Thousand;
- Upon acceptance of Corporate Members the name of the person nominated to enjoy the privileges of membership shall be notified by the Corporation to the Honorary Secretary as soon as possible
- All nominees, whether original or substitute, of Corporate Members shall be subject to acceptance by the Council which shall be entitled in its absolute discretion to reject such nomination;
- All nominees of Corporate Members shall, at the request of the Council present themselves for introduction to the members of the Council on such date and at such time as the Council may appoint.
- Corporate Members and/or their nominees shall be subject to all the Rules and Regulations of the Society and the Corporation shall be liable for the payment of all levies and monies due on the accounts of their nominees with the Society;
- If any Corporate Member shall be wound up or dissolved it shall thereupon cease to be a member of the Society;
- Corporate Membership shall be valid for a period of 10 years

### **Item 13. Resolution approved by members**

☞ The PHT council proposed that Item 13 (Corporate Membership) be **abolished and removed from the PHT Constitution and it was approved by members of the Trust**

☞ This is based on the following considerations:

- The fees are not able to support the expenditure of the Penang Heritage Trust
- The duration of the Corporate Membership is not justified
- PHT needs corporate sponsorship for events/programmes, instead of corporate members
- PHT only has one member since 2011, despite the existence of this category for many years already

### **New Item: Student Membership. Resolution approved by members:**

#### **Student Members**

- Student Membership is open to all students aged 18 and above, as long as they can provide proof of their student status.
- Student Members are required to pay RM 30.00 as admission fee, and an annual subscription of RM30.00 that is revisable by the PHT Council by not more than 20% annually.
- Student Members will enjoy all similar privileges as described for Ordinary Membership, as mentioned in Item 16 of the PHT Constitution.
- Upon the termination of student status, the student member may continue as ordinary or life member upon payment of the applicable fee.

**B. Membership**

Ben reported the membership structure was approved by members during the EGM. It is agreed that some of the categories will be changed to suit the needs of the organization. Ben reported the proposed changes, the changes were accepted by all the members in the AGM with the proposal from Pow Lin James (O-26518) and seconded by Jay Sharma.

**C. Donation of funds.**

Clement reported that Think City Sdn Bhd has been funding most of the projects in 2012, most importantly our Penang Story Lectures. The German Embassy has also funded the German Heritage Trail which was launched by the Chief Minister of Penang in October 2012. Salma added that Art Trove has donated a painting to PHT, but the painting has not been sold.

**D. Projects & Programmes:**

i. Peter Watt's visioning workshop.

Salma highlighted that Peter Watt shared with us how the Heritage Houses Trust strengthens the organization. We had a full day workshop to streamline our activities. These are some recommendations made for the 4 areas:

Advocacy:

In reviewing our vision, PHT must have a core mission, our focus is advocacy, it also includes the raising of general public awareness.

Membership:

We would like to have program to rejuvenate our membership. Many organizations are also facing the threat of having aging membership. Ben Wismen and Rebecca Wilkinson volunteered to take charge to restructure our membership.

Ben explained that PHT is a membership based society, we have 398 members, we are relatively a small society, we hope to increase our members. We hope our members can help us to get more members. We target to enhance the revenue from subscription and also new demographic of members.

Financial stability:

Salma reported that major funding come from projects. PHT needs to look at other alternatives to raise fund.

Administration and Government:

Salma stressed that now that PHT has 4 staff, we need to strengthen the management and administration of the office and running of the organization.

ii. Citizen Chant Program:

Clement expressed that PHT acknowledged the concerned group has formed to strengthen the heritage alerts.

iii. Penang Forum:

PHT was represented in the Penang Forum.

The issue of density and development were presented in the forum.

- iv. PHT Talks  
Clement expressed his appreciation to all the invited speakers for presenting their insightful talks to our members and the public.
- v. Restoration of cemetery:  
PHT is involved in the early part of the cleaning stage and also in producing the Heritage Management Plan (HMP) for the cemetery. We will continue to work closely with GTWHI on the HMP.
- vi. Living Heritage Awards:  
Clement reported that we are still looking for sponsorship. We hope that we can find sponsor to continue the sponsorship to recognize our living treasures. We hope that members can help us to look for sponsorship.
- vii. PHT Internship program:  
Clement also reported that we had students from Japan in PHT for one month. They have created a Japanese language website for us.
- viii. Revitalizing Intangible Cultural Heritage Project:  
Gaik Siang reported that the project has 3 components. PHT is tasked to work on the inventory project. We have inventorized more than 5000 houses and also interviewed the house owners. We have recruited more than 100 young surveyors. The outcome of the inventory is to generate directories.  
  
We will also produce 20 electronic e-books of 20 cases of traditional trades, artisans and artists residing in town. The e-book will be in 3 languages. We hope that members can offer help for English editing. Timothy Tye, Ben and Clement offered their help for English editing and translation.
- ix. George Town Heritage Day  
Clement reported on 7 July, we had 4 main activities. The Royal Thai Consulate-General, Penang supported the event. We also have our heritage trails assisted by volunteers, Joann Khaw and Teresa Capol. Our Treasurer Gaik Siang also presented a talk and walked the trail with the participants.
- x. Smoke Free Campaign  
Ben reported that in September, we were approached by Ministry of Health. They wish to create a smoke free George Town, we feel that we can support to facilitate. In Penang, the Penang State Govt has gazetted 6 zones (public areas) as non-smoking areas.  
  
This is going to be a great challenge as George Town encompasses residential and commercial activities. We are developing the questionnaire with Penang Institute, USM Pusat Racun Negara and Penang Medical College.
- xi. German Heritage Trail  
The trail was proposed by German Embassy, PHT was tasked to produce a bilingual tourist brochure in English and German. The launch was very successful.

- xii. Penang Story Talk  
The Wu Lien-teh talk has inspired the formation of Wu Lien Teh Society headed by Dato 'Anwar Fazal.

#### **E. Urban Blight:**

##### Swiftlet:

Clement reported that not much action has been taken despite the instruction by the Federal Government.

Salma added that Rebecca has been championing the battle. We consider that the George Town World Heritage Site is for people and not for birds. We have yet to see comprehensive effort.

##### THE YTL Site:

The YTL site (to the east of the E & O Hotel) is the old JKR headquarters, it was also the site of the aqueduct. The YTL project was approved before Special Area Plan (SAP) was produced. PHT is represented in the technical review panel by Gaik Siang. Some council members are also on the GTWHI consultative members to co-organize some programs. Salma felt that it is also good to have members involved the government agencies.

Leslie voiced his concern that even though PHT is helping the monitoring, we are not getting feedback from the Government agency.

Gaik Siang reported that she has proposed to the chairman that all the members of Technical Review Panel should be well versed with the SAP in order to safeguard the World Heritage Site.

##### Traditional Village (Kampung Warisan)

Dr. Razha reported that we are very concerns about the future of the traditional villages. At this stage, there is a clear indication that these sites are under threat of disappearing. We are now working with different NGOs to find ways to save these heritage sites, both Tanjung Tokong and Batu Uban. This period is at the stage of damage control. NGOs are trying to ensure Batu Uban is retained and preserved. Same scenario also happened to Tanjong Tokong. It is a very important traditional village. There is a need to maintain and recognize Tanjong Tokong. However, the process is complicated by many factors. Although these sites are out of the World Heritage Site, it becomes an ongoing battle of PHT.

Besides Batu Uban, another aspect of the World Heritage Site that PHT is involved in, the Muslim Trail. PHT Muslim Heritage advisor, Prof. Wazir reported that she has prepared the documentation and structure of involvement between the State Government and Muslim Board to revitalize the Muslim historical sites, e.g: Acheen Street, Transfers Road and Arifin Road.

Prof. Wazir expressed that the issue is very complicated as it involved many stakeholders, MPPP, Muslim Board, etc.

As for Tanjong Tokong, Prof Wazir said the State Government has accepted the Tanjong Tokong dossier prepared 2 years ago. All the documentation has been accepted and will be published next month. We have approached Prof. Murad to work with us on the research. Prof. Wazir felt that many things are moving very slowly in Penang.

Salma added that Mark Lay and a few members also started the survey at Balik Pulau.

Leslie also brought our attention to the SP Setia's project at Burma Road. There will be an increase of high rise buildings.

The annual report was approved by the proposal of Pow Lin James (O-26518) and seconded by Ong Siew Guat (O-26457)

### **3. Treasurer/Auditor Report:**

Treasurer, Lim Gaik Siang reported that we still have incomplete projects and these projects will include a small amount of management fee. We didn't close these projects because we may use the money for further development of the projects in future. We will transfer the management fee once the project is closed.

Our total income has increased, compare to last year but the total of expenditure also increased compared to last years.

The treasurer's report was adopted after the proposal of Carolyn Walling (O-26812) and seconded Jay Sharma (O-26962).

### **4. Other Matters**

#### Membership and volunteers

Timothy Tye said that he is glad to see PHT is trying to get new members. We are always short of human resources. To have student members is an opportunity to get people who are culturally sensitive. He hoped that these new members will be involved to create new merchandise. He also thought we should try harder to get the Malay and Indian members.

Salma thanked Tim for his suggestion and she urged members to help to get members.

Pow Lin suggested PHT to offer young people one year membership to draw more people to join us.

Gaik Siang reported that most of the young surveyors who worked for the RICH project are paid. And most of them are overseas right now. They have learned something through the project and some of them started new heritage movement.

Salma said that many National Trusts have benefited from the wills of their members. She hoped that PHT members would consider PHT in their wills.

Salma thanked Joann Khaw for all her contributions to PHT. Although Joann has resigned as council member, her contribution to PHT was very much appreciated by council members and staff.

Salma hoped that members would help with the road show, site visits, developing new programmes and collaborating with institutions. Jay Sharma, Pow Lin James and Ong Siew Guat volunteered to help with the road show, Mark Lay and Joann Khaw volunteered to look into the site visits.

Mr. Michael Cheah also offered his assistance by giving a lecture on Baba Nyonya culture/ community. He proposed to publicize the event through PHT newsletter.

Penang Symposium 2013:

Salma announced that our old partner from Nara Machizukuri Centre is getting funding to co-organize a regional symposium in Penang, and we are offering seats for young participants for free. We need volunteers to help out and to offer sponsorship.

Endangered List:

Salma reported that the first year's nominations were from the council members and next year, we want to open it up for public. We hope that members will actively participate in this campaign.

**Persatuan Warisan Pulau Pinang**  
LAPORAN TAHUNAN 2012/2013  
Oktober 2012 – Oktober 2013

**Penang Heritage Trust**  
ANNUAL REPORT 2012/2013  
October 2012 – October 2013

## **PHT Council Members (Term 2012-2013)**

**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.

Author, social historian and heritage advocate. She runs a small publishing company Areca Books and is custodian of the Sun Yat Sen Penang Base at 120 Armenian Street.

**2. Razha Abdul Rashid, Vice-President**

Academician, Social Anthropologist with special interest in Orang Asli Ethnography (Semang/Negrito hunters and Gatherers). Director General of Academy of Socio-economic Research and Analysis (ASERA) and a Commissioned officer of the Royal Malaysian Naval Reserve Corps with special interest in Maritime heritage of the Nusantara.

**3. Choong Sim Poey, Immediate Past President**

Medical practitioner, ex State Assemblyman and ex-Municipal Councillor, Chairman of several local non-government organisations.

**4. Clement Liang, Honorary Secretary**

Active in several cultural and nature conservation NGOs. A researcher on the historical minorities and certified guide and educator on local heritage, history and tourism subjects. Speaks several foreign languages.

**5. Lim Gaik Siang, Honorary Treasurer**

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. Member of the MPPP Technical Review Panel.

**6. 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.

**7. 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.

**8. Bendula Wismen**

Research student focusing on Penang's natural heritage and environment. Other interest includes heritage, culture and sustainable development. Active in several local NGOs.

**9. Lyndy Ong Choon Imm**

Freelance registered tour guide with the Ministry of Tourism and market coordinator for Little Penang Street Market. Born in George Town.

**Advisors & Ex-Officio**

1. Dato' Anwar Fazal, Trustee
2. Mr Laurence Loh, Trustee and Heritage Technical Advisor
3. Prof Wazir Jahan, Muslim Heritage Advisor
4. Mr Woo Yee Saik, Public Relations, Human Resources, Development and Training  
Ex-Officio
5. Mr Tan Kuan Aw, Advisor on Access for Disabled People
6. Mr Leslie A.K. James, Guest Editor of the PHT Newsletter

## **PHT Annual Report 1 October 2012- 31 September 2013**

### **1) Council meeting**

Besides informal meetings for projects, PHT held 3 council meetings since the last AGM. Attendance was recorded as follows:-

Ms. Khoo Salma Nasution	3/3
Dato' Dr. Capt. Mohd Razha Rashid Razha	3/3
Mr. Clement Liang	3/3
Ms. Lim Gaik Siang	3/3
Ms. Loh-Lim Lin Lee	2/3
Ms. Rebecca Wilkinson	2/3
Mr. Ben Wismen	3/3
Ms. Lyndy Ong	2/3

### **2) Membership**

Founder Members:	17
Life Members:	115 (increase 7)
Ordinary Members:	247
Complimentary:	14
Student Members:	5
Junior Members:	10
Corporate Member:	1
Total:	409 (as compare to 398 last year)

### **3) Donations & Funds**

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

- (i) Think City Sdn Bhd:
  - a. RM27,539.68 for Penang and Indian Ocean Workshop: Yangon-Penang Interaction
  - b. RM30,600.00 for phase 2 & 3 PAPA Documentation Project
  - c. RM35,000.00 Penang Story Lectures
  - d. RM15,000.00 Penang Symposium
- (ii) Toyota Foundation: RM27,834.24 for Penang Symposium
- (iii) Nara Machizukuri Centre: RM2,200.00 for Penang Symposium
- (iv) Penang Global Tourism: RM3,000.00 for Penang Symposium
- (v) German Embassy, Kuala Lumpur: RM15,531.28 for balance of German Heritage Trail
- (vi) George Town World Heritage Incorporated: RM7,560.00 for Old Northam Road Protestant Cemetery Heritage Management Plan
- (vii) Royal Thai Embassy, Kuala Lumpur and Royal Thai Consulate-General, Penang for all expenses (accommodation, travel and conference package) on organizing the Khaw Sim Bee Symposium
- (viii) Seven Terraces Sdn Bhd: RM20,000.00 for PHT-Seven Terraces Living Heritage Treasures Award 2013.

- (ix) Lestari Heritage Network: RM188,164.49 for Revitalizing Intangible Cultural Heritage Project
- (x) Malaysian Health Promotion Board (MySihat): RM129,000.00 for Smoke Free Campaign
- (xi) HE Mr. Iyad A. Madani: RM9,375.00 for Penang and the Hajj Conference
- (xii) Lembaga Tabung Haji: RM10,000.00 for Penang and the Hajj Conference
- (xiii) Dato' Seri Nazir Ariff Bin Haji Mushir Ariff: RM5,000.00 for Penang and the Hajj Conference
- (xiv) Yayasan Pendidikan Islam: RM2,500.00 for Penang and the Hajj Conference
- (xv) E & O Hotel, 23 Love Lane Hotel, China Tiger, Ren-I-Tang and Penang Teochew Association for venue sponsorships and co-hosting some events.
- (xvi) Individuals/ guests donated to the Tea Talk by Nadia Wright in July

#### **4) PROJECTS**

##### **4.1 SMOKE FREE PROJECT, SEPTEMBER 2012- ONGOING**

The Penang-Bebas Asap Rokok (PENBAR) Campaign or Smoke Free Penang Campaign is an initiative initiated of the State Health Department, in collaboration with the Penang State Government, the Malaysian Health Promotion Board (MySihat) and several other agencies to transform Penang into a cigarette smoke-free city. The initiative was first initiated by the Penang State Government in 2009, when YB Phee Boon Poh first declared the Penang State Assembly Building, and several other locations including the Esplanade and Gurney Drive promenades as cigarette-free areas.

PHT worked closely with the research team from USM, Penang Medical College and Penang Institute and PHT was responsible fully in conducting the street survey from November 2012- February 2013. The survey was coordinated by Goh Wei Kiat and supervised by Ho Sheau Fung and Ben Wismen. The survey is targeted to general public, residents, users, owners/ senior management and clients of business, hotels, restaurants and coffee shops. There were a total of 3268 surveys conducted which included the interviews of 44 Government offices senior management and users, 1216 private offices and business premises, 302 eating places' owner, management and clients, 174 hotels and accommodations, 367 residential houses, 221 hawkers and consumers, 404 teachers, students and staff in education institutions, 331 open space users and 209 tourists.

The outcome of the survey is very positive. More than 70% of the respondents are in favour of turning the World Heritage Site as Smoke Free Zone.

The next phase of the campaign is to develop policy and plan for the implementation.

##### **4.2 PENANG STORY LECTURES & CONFERENCE, NOVEMBER 2012- OCT 2013**

- (i) **Penang and the Indian Ocean Workshop: 'From Malabar and Minangkabau to Malaya', October 2012 at Think City offic**

- a. Dr Jayakumar Devika, Centre for Development Studies, Kerala, presented “In the Land of Snake-Eaters, Eat the Middle Piece”: Malabar to Malaya through the Eyes of S K Pottekkatt’;
- b. Ahmad Murad Merican, University Teknologi Petronas, presented ‘Pulau Pinang and the Minangkabaus: Batu Urban and Batu Bara as Sites of the Alam Rantau’
- (ii) **Life in Malaya under Japanese Occupation, 1941-45**  
by Dr Paul Kratoska, Publishing Director, National University of Singapore Press, 9 November 2012, Wawasan Open University
- (iii) **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 December 2012, Northam Hotel All Suites
- (iv) **Penang and the Indian Ocean Workshop: ‘Penang-Yangon Interaction, 15 December 2012**      *Northam All Suites*
1. Ms. Moe Moe Lwin, Acting Director of Yangon Heritage Trust, ‘Yangon Urban Heritage Conservation: Efforts and Challenges’
  2. Datuk Khoo Keat Siew, ‘Revitalising Ties between the Khoo Kongsi (Penang) and the counterpart in Yangon’
  3. U Thaw Kaung, ‘The Pashu (Peranakan) Legacy in Coastal Myanmar’
  4. Dr Atsuko Naono, ‘Before Burmese and Malay Medicine: Imperial Medical Doctors and Native Medicine in Bay of Martaban and the Straits in the Early Nineteen
  5. Dr Su Lin Lewis, ‘Migration, Modernity, and the Origins of Civil Society in Colonial Penang and Rangoon’
  6. Dr Loh Wei Leng, ‘Maritime Links along the Andaman Sea Littoral: A Preliminary Sketch of Penang Chinese Enterprise from the late Nineteenth to the early Twentieth Century’
- (v) **Khaw Sim Bee Na Ranong and Shared History of Malaysia-Thailand Relations: From the Past to Future Cooperation” And “Thailand-Malaysia Business Networking Forum”,** Saturday and Sunday, 11 & 12 May 2013 at Eastern & Oriental Hotel, Lebuhraya Farquhar, Penang. The symposium consisted of the following:-
- **Launching of the Thai Heritage Trail** at Ranong Ground, Esplanade by Mr. Kittirat Na Ranong, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand
  - **Keynote lecture** by Mr. Kittirat Na Ranong, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand
  - **Workshop on ‘The Shared History of Malaysia & Thailand’** with 11 speakers
  - **Thailand-Malaysia Business Networking Forum**
  - **Family reunion dinner of the Khaw and Na-Ranong families in Penang and Thailand.**

The symposium is co-organised by Royal Thai Embassy, Kuala Lumpur, Royal Thai Consulate-General, Penang, Think City and the Khaw family members.

- (vi) **The Muslim Trade from Coromandal Coast in relation to Kedah and Penang** by Dr. J. Raja Mohamad. The lecture was coorganised with Masjid Kapitan Keling, Indian Muslim Community Malaysia and Think City Sdn Bhd. The lecture was conducted in two languages: *Tamil* and *English*. The dates and venues were as follows:
- *Tamil Lecture in Penang*, 9 June 2013 (Sunday), 8pm at MPPP Town Hall, Jalan Padang Kota Lama
  - *English Lecture in Penang*, 10 June 2013 (Monday), 10am at Think City, Level 14, KWSP Building, Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah
- (vii) **Raffles – Myths and Reality** by Dr. Nadia Wright, Sunday, 21 July at China Tiger, 25 & 29 China Street.
- (viii) **Armenians in Penang** by Dr. Nadia Wright at the E & O Hotel, Saturday, 20 July, 3.00pm
- (ix) **Penang Story Lecture & Conference: Conference on Penang and the Hajj**, 17 & 18 August (Saturday & Sunday), 9.00am-5.00pm at E & O Hotel. The conference was co-organised by Masjid Kapitan Keling, Indian Muslim Community Malaysia and Think City. The conference consisted of:-
- **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.
  - **Two days conference** with presentation of 21 speakers.
- (x) **Penang and the Indian Ocean Lecture: “For the Promotion of Tamil on this Island”: Penang Muslims and Tamil Vernacular Publics across the Bay of Bengal, 1880-1914** by Torsten Tschacher. The lecture was coorganised with Masjid Kapitan Keling, Indian Muslim Community Malaysia and Think City Sdn Bhd.
- a. Tamil Lecture: 23 August 2013 (Friday), 8pm-10pm at Dewan Makam Noordin, Kapitan Keling Mosque
  - b. English Lecture: 24 August 2013 (Saturday), 8pm – 10pm at Level 5, Wawasan Open University, Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah.
- (xi) **Why the filial prosper: ancestral worship as an ethical end and as a business principle** by David Faure, Professor of History, Chinese University, Hong Kong. Saturday, 7 September 2013, 10.00am – 1.00pm at Penang Teochew Association, Chulia Street. The lecture was supported by Penang Teochew Association.
- (xii) **Beyond filia piety: from soul salvation to intangible cultural heritage (Chinese Lecture)** by Dr. Chooi Chee-Cheong. Saturday, 7 September 2013, 2.00pm – 5.00pm at

Penang Teochew Association, Chulia Street. The lecture was supported by Penang Teochew Association.

- (xiii) **Tagore Memorial Lecture: Pan Asianism and Rabindranath Tagore's Ideal of a common Asian civilisation** by Dr. Ruby Maloni. Saturday, 21 September 2013, 8.00pm-10.00pm at Level 5, Wawasan Open University. The lecture was co-organised by Think City and India High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- (xiv) **Penang Story Lectures & Panel Discussion: Islamic Philanthropy and the Foundations of Ethical Enterprise** by Raj Brown (Emeritus Professor of Royal Holloway College, University London). Sunday 22 September 2013, 2pm – 6pm at E & O Hotel, Lebuhraya Farquhar, Penang, Malaysia

#### **4.3 Penang Symposium 'Urban Conservation Network in Asia and Its Future', 13- 15 January 2013**

The Asia and West-Pacific Network for Urban Conservation (AWPNUC) was established in 1991 and the participating citizens' organizations have continued their exchange of experience and know-how up to the present. In the last 20 years, the situation of urban conservation by citizens' organizations has advanced in many participating cities, and as a result, some cities have been listed as the UNESCO world heritage sites. On the other hand, although Asian cities enjoy rapid economic growth, urban heritage and historic communities in most of these cities are still in crisis. We need new strategies to keep up with Asian dynamism based on local knowledge and traditional approaches, to conserve all historic communities and help them to survive the powerful impacts of global economy.

The symposium was held for 3 days in January, participated by 81 participants from Japan, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia, Taiwan, Korea, China and various states of Malaysia. The symposium was aimed to promote the exchange of opinions about recent heritage activities in Asian cities and the promotion of citizens' networks in the future, from the viewpoint of global society, living communities including intangible cultural heritage, and the survival of local cultural identities.

One of the outcomes of the symposium is the formation of an electronic network, Asian Heritage Network (AHN). The members who are now part of this network and will be responsible to engage in the network's activities and also to facilitate better knowledge and resource sharing between the countries. With the formation of the network, the session ended with a simple signing ceremony of MoU between PHT and Indonesia Heritage Trust. The MoU signing ceremony indicates the start of a new alliance between Indonesia and Penang in developing better collaboration efforts and networking in promoting heritage conservation and protection between these two cities.

The symposium was organised by Nara Machizukuri Center, Japan. Penang co-organisers: Penang Heritage Trust and Lestari Heritage Network. With the support of George Town World Heritage Incorporated and the Penang State Government, 23 Love Lane, Eastern & Oriental Hotel and Penang Teochew Association. The symposium was made possible with funding from the Asian Neighbors Program by Toyota Foundation and Think City Sdn Bhd.

#### **4.4 Monthly Cemetery Tour**

Supported by Penang Global Tourism (PGT), PHT has been running the monthly cemetery tour for more than a year. The tour received very good responses throughout the year. It is an educational tour that PHT wishes to promote with the aim of enhancing the visitors' understanding and interpretation of this historical site. Appreciation goes to Loh-Lim Lin Lee, Clement Liang, Cumalle Ang, Yeap Peng Hoe and Joann Khaw for their dedicated guiding to the visitors.

#### **4.5 Heritage Management Plan for Old Northam Road Protestant Cemetery, May 2012-March 2013**

The recognition by UNESCO and the State of Penang that the Old Northam Road Protestant Cemetery (ONRPC) is an inherent and important part of the George Town World Heritage Site presents a great opportunity to not only protect, conserve and enhance the heritage values of the HMP site, but also to establish a benchmark in public awareness and understanding of the historical and cultural significance of the site itself

Under the direction of George Town World Heritage Incorporated (GTWHI) as a representative of the Penang State Government, the Penang Heritage Trust (PHT) has been tasked to research and prepare this Heritage Management Plan in order to review the opportunities and constraints of the site from which can be determined strategies for the site's future protection and management by current and future nominated bodies.

The general history of the ONRPC has been outlined and the significance of the site has been identified. The cultural relationship the cemetery has with the development of George Town, and indeed the island as a whole, has been considered. Visual records have been made and past conservation and restoration works noted. A thorough Archaeological Study has been undertaken and should be consulted in conjunction with this HMP.

The study team is comprised of the following persons:

- Khoo Salma Nasution, President of the Penang Heritage Trust
- Dr. Gwynn Jenkins, FRGS, Consultant in Architectural Heritage & Cultural Anthropology.
- Marcus Langdon, Historical advisor on early Penang and the development of George Town.
- Leslie James, BACSA Penang representative, member of the Penang Heritage Trust.
- Clement Liang, Honorary Secretary of the Penang Heritage Trust.
- Ben Wismen, environmental researcher and council member of the Penang Heritage Trust.

- Ho Sheau Fung, Manager and Goh Wei Kiat, Project Officer of Penang Heritage Trust.

The HMP team wishes to take this opportunity to acknowledge the tireless commitment of PHT's valued council member Loh-Lim Lin Lee who, often alone, has fought for funding and volunteer help to keep the cemetery from total decay and destruction. Without her efforts the cemetery most certainly would not have been in the condition it is in today.

#### **4.6 Festival Mapping Project, July 2013**

The GTWHS Festival Mapping Project is aimed to collect and amass baseline data about festivals and celebrations of faith and culture of the Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca, focusing on the George Town World Heritage Site.

This project focused on a domain which is categorised by the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) as “social practices, rituals and festive events”. The scope of this project is delimited to focus on cultural-religious festivals and associated rituals. This will be the first comprehensive festival inventory to map and document the traditional cultural-religious festivals which are celebrated in the public realm.

Through this study, the baseline festival inventory will be compiled which can be used to select future case studies in which cultural significance, tourism impacts and sustainability can be studied in more depth. This baseline festival inventory will consist of the following components:

- a) Festival directory
- b) Festival inventory
- c) Festival map
- d) Festival calendar

Cultural surveyors or “mappers” are sent out into the field to scan 95 streets in G<sup>T</sup>-WHS for cultural and religious organisations, institutions and “sacred sites” such as:

- a) Houses of public worship (temple, church, mosque)
- b) Clan-based, ethnic and cultural associations, trade and occupational guilds
- c) Major shrines (roadside, junctions, under trees, etc) – non-institutional “sacred sites”

The survey is still ongoing and is coordinated by Tong Wing Cheong with the supervision of project consultants, Lim Gaik Siang and Khoo Salma.

#### **4.7 George Town World Heritage Celebrations, 6-8 July 2013**

##### Guided Tour: Splendid Trades In Yesteryears, 6 July 2013

In 2012, with the help of the Penang Heritage Trust, George Town World Heritage Incorporated commissioned a project to systematically document the intangible heritage of George Town, Penang.

This ever first special guided tour is designed by Ms. Lim Gaik Siang, the project consultant of the above project, led by experienced tour guide to explore tip of the iceberg of a thousand of traditional trades in George Town World heritage site, introducing traditional printing press, traditional sundry shop, largest religious bookshop in the north Malaysia, gold flower supplier, natural pigment supplier, anchor maker and etc. The responds of the trail were overwhelming.

#### Private Home Visit: The House of Koh Lay Huan, 7 July 2013

With the support from Rebecca Wilkinson and her family members, the China Tiger tour was one of the most celebrated events for PHT on 7 July. China Tiger is located on China Street in the heart of George Town in the middle of Penang's Little India. China Street, the original residential street for many of the Chinese pioneer merchants, was one of the first streets marked out by Francis Light when Penang was established as an East India Company port settlement in 1786. Before the more ostentatious Mansions of the late 1800's & 1920's were the Grand Residential Homes of the Chinese merchants on China Street. No 25 was certainly one of these.

The Wilkinson Family bought No 25 in 2006 before the George Town UNESCO listing & took 2 years to restore this residence into a well loved family home. Since then they have become not just attached to the house, but to its past owners. There are many similarities, coincidences & also connections that tie all these parties together.

#### **4.8 Pulau Tikus Revitalisation Plan: Spatial Planning Framework, September 2013**

The project is commissioned by YB Yap Soo Hoey, state assembly woman for Pulau Tikus. The agreement will be between YB Yap and Penang Heritage Trust and we will make an additional agreement with Matt Benson/ Geografia to bring him in as a planning consultant.

We consider this project will be beneficial to PHT as:

- a) it is an important exercise towards informed policy and decision-making for Pulau Tikus
- b) PHT should be involved and should be seen to involved in it.
- c) it would be the first such exercise for PHT and we, and what our staff can learn from this will assist us in our advocacy role.

The two staff Sheau Fung and Abel Benjamin Lim, will be involved, with council members going to 2-3 meetings (pro bono) to provide inputs. Our role is mainly to take the lead in organising community workshops and focus group discussions, and support data collation. A full copy of the proposal is available at the PHT office.

Pulau Tikus faces a range of issues including traffic, changing demographics and increased competition for many local businesses. Our suggestion is that a staged project is required as follows:

- Stage One - Spatial Framework: Engages the local community, identifies and quantifies the key issues and provides a strategic spatial planning framework, vision, identity and value proposition for the area.
- Stage Two - Master Planning: Preparation of detailed master plans for select activity hubs/nodes and the linkages between them.
- Stage Three - Place Management: Focuses on the rollout of major projects and initiatives including ongoing community involvement.
- We also appreciate that the community requires early wins – cost effective interventions that deliver tangible results. These along with future planning initiatives will be identified in Stage One

#### **4.9 The Penang Heritage Trust - 7 Terraces Living Heritage Treasures of Penang Awards, 7 July 2013**

The Living Heritage Treasure Awards is a scheme initiated by the Penang Heritage Trust in late 2004 to recognise local Penangites distinguished for their skills in the arts or crafts. This scheme was made possible by the generosity of HSBC Malaysia (from 2005-2011) and State Government for the last year. We feel very grateful that the award will now continue for the next 7 years with the support from Seven Terraces.

The 2013 cheque presentation ceremony for The Living Heritage Treasures Awards was at the PAPA workshop located at 66 Lebuah Aceh. The cheques were presented by Chief Minister of Penang, YAB Lim Guan Eng, witnessed by over 40 PHT members, friends and family members of the award winners.

It was a truly warm occasion for us and the award winners to attend this very meaningful gathering on 7 July, World Heritage Day.

#### **4.10 Penang Apprenticeship for Artisans (PAPA)**

In 2013, PAPA continues its vision and mission for skill learning and promoting awareness for traditional local crafts. Besides the committed artisans, wood carving master, *manik* shoe beader master and rattan weaving master, this year, we are glad to have Mdm. Kim, the well-known *Noyanya Kebaya* maker, to join PAPA.

Since year 2012, we have focused more on self-paid workshops. Potential students can have the option of joining the weekend class or the regular sessions. There are 3 types of workshops:-

- i. Short Term Workshops (3 lessons) :-  
Beaded Shoe Face & Rattan Weaving
- ii. Middle Term Workshop (10-12 lessons) :-  
*Nyonya Kebaya* Embroidery
- iii. Long Term Workshop (6 month – 3 year or More) :  
Signboard/wood craving

PAPA also participated in most of the celebrations and festivals to promote the programs offered by the master artisans. PAPA was invited by Creativison to participate in the “Mid Autumn Festorama Ke-2 Di Pulau Pinang 2013” held on 15<sup>th</sup> September at Beach Street. Our wood crafts, rattan weaving products and beaded shoe were showcased in the event.

We are also very honoured that our master wood craver Mr. Yeap was invited to collaborate with the New Zealand Maori Arts and Crafts Institute headmaster, Mr James Rickard, in the 2013 George Town Festival. They produced two pieces of wood carving products, one was presented to the Chief Minister of Penang and the second one was showcased at one of the Secret Gardens at Light Street.

#### **4.11 PHT Internship Program**

Two students from Ritsumeikan University of Kyoto attended their 3-week internship programme with PHT in February, 2013 under the supervision of Clement Liang

Sayaka Ikeoka and Akane Murashige, both in their second year were selected based on their interest in carrying out research and documentation of the traditional trades in Penang.

Their arrival coincided with the Chinese New Year festive period and provided a timely opportunity to observe and take part in the celebration with some local families. During their stay here, they have interviewed several craftsmen and learnt how some local product e.g. bead shoes, signboards were made. Continued the work from the predecessors, all their documentations in Japanese are uploaded onto the Japanese website of PHT <http://pht-jp.blogspot.com> .

This website has become a major source of information on Penang for the Japanese and it records the history of Penang, including the rarely known local Japanese society during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the World War II and the present day Japanese expats community. Besides the places of attraction, an entire chapter is dedicated to the food culture of Penang which proves popular in web-searching. Penang has become a focus of attention in Japan in recent years especially after the inscription of George Town in the UNESCO WHS. TV documentaries and articles on Penang are constantly appearing in Japan and PHT’s name has been mentioned in many of the occasions.

#### **4.12 Revitalizing Intangible Cultural Heritage (RICH) Project**

As reported by the Project Consultant, Lim Gaik Siang, in the last AGM, the project has 3 components. PHT is tasked to work on the streets survey to inventorize the intangible cultural heritage assets in the World Heritage Site. Since July 2011, we have inventorized more than 5000 houses and had interviewed the house owners, traders, craftsmen and artists in the World Heritage Site. The project recruited more than 100 young surveyors and generated a great interest and awareness among the young surveyors of the importance of preserving the cultural heritage assets.

One of the rewarding results was to successfully document a lot of the 'hidden treasures' in George Town. The result of this documentation was further developed and was produced in the form of electronic e-books. The e-books documented 20 selected traditional trades, artisans and artists resided in town for GTWHI. The e-book is in 3 languages and can be obtained from GTHWI website. Special thanks to our members, Timothy Tye, Irene Teoh, Ben Wismen and Clement Liang for offering their help to edit and translate the content of the 3-language e-books.

#### **4.13 Siamese Heritage Trail**

A week after the General Elections, PHT organized a highly publicized event that drew a large numbers of VVIPs from Thailand to Penang. The occasion was to commemorate the centenary of the death of Khaw Sim Bee in Penang, better known as Phraya Ratsadanupradit in Thailand where he was appointed governor to several provinces in southern Thailand in early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The event was part of the Penang Story and co-hosted with the Royal Thai Embassy in KL, Royal Thai Consulate-General in Penang and Thinkcity. Prominent scholars, diplomats and Khaw Na Ranong family members were invited to share their knowledge on the shared history of both Malaysia and Thailand via the Khaw's connection.

More than 100 officials from Thailand, including governors, deputy governors, mayors, former and current cabinet ministers, embassy staff and crew from a Thai national TV station attended the full house function held at E&O Hotel on 11 May, 2013. The main speaker of the event was the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Thailand, Mr. Kittirat Na Ranong, who is a direct descendant of Khaw Sim Kong, the elder brother of Khaw Sim Bee. A business dialogue between the trade representatives of both nations was held in the afternoon to rekindle the historical trade ties between southern Thailand and northern Malaysia.

To coincide with this memorable event, PHT led by Clement Liang and Vasana Salifa has designed the Siamese Heritage Trail in Penang and invited Mr. Kittirat Na Ranong to officiate it at Ranong Ground, Esplanade in the early Saturday morning. The solemn

occasion also drew the members of Na Ranong family from Thailand, Malaysia and other countries, who all took the opportunity to hold their big family reunion in Penang.

## 5.0 Heritage Alert

- **Kuan Yin Temple**
- **Penang's Most Important Endangered Heritage Sites**
- **Bukit Gambir Land Clearing**

The clearing of land at the top of Bukit Gambir took many by surprise, especially those travelling towards the Island on the Penang Bridge. Even more surprising was that the clearing took place when the State Government was placed under the caretaker government, and the politicians were busy campaigning for the 13<sup>th</sup> General Election. When the public did take notice, it was too late. The peak was denuded and the public finally got to know that the land clearing was illegal, and was intended for the development of exclusive, high-end properties. It was further revealed by MPPP that the land is owned by a dormant RM 2 company.

PHT was taken aback with the blatant disregard for laws governing the natural resources and cultural landscapes of Penang, and made public a statement, addressed to Dato' Hajjah Patahiyah, President of the Penang Island Municipal Council, to urge for strong, stern response regarding the development (the letter can be viewed at [anilnetto.com/environmentclimate-change/bukit-relau-pht-urges-mppp-to-take-stern-action/](http://anilnetto.com/environmentclimate-change/bukit-relau-pht-urges-mppp-to-take-stern-action/))

In PHT's response, we raised the concern of the lawsuit filed against the developer, and the law used. The developer was charged under Section 70A of the Street Drainage and Building Act 1974 that carries a jail term of not more than five years and a fine of not less than RM50,000.00 or both. It was further revealed that the developer was charged only RM30,000.00 by the court as penalty. PHT stated its dissatisfaction on the punitive fine, and the contradictory precedent set by the State to rezone hill land to facilitate the development of luxury developments.

Subsequently on 30<sup>th</sup> August, PHT facilitated a press conference, led by MPPP councillor Dr Lim Mah Hui, to address the paltry fine, and urged for a stronger bite from the law. In the press conference, a joint statement was also released to urge MPPP to take the developer to task under Section 19(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act, with a maximum fine of RM 500,000.00. The press conference was further supported by various civil leaders, non-governmental organizations and residents association.

## **6.0 PHT Calendar of Events :**

3<sup>rd</sup> October, 12 noon at Whiteaways Arcade.

Launching of German Heritage Trail by Chief Minister of Penang YAB Lim Guan Eng and Ambassador of German Embassy, Kuala Lumpur.

4 October, Yayasan Islam Pulau Pinang invites PHT to meeting to discuss the future of Syed Alatas Mansion.

7 October, 3.30pm

PHT Site Visit - House of Yeap Chor Ee

8 October, 2.00pm-5.00pm at Dewan Serbaguna Kuil Sri Aruloli Thirumurugan, Bukit Bendera

3<sup>rd</sup> Stakeholder Workshop for Penang Hill SAP.

11 October, 9.00am-9.00pm at Penang Institute

Smoke Free Campaign (PENBAR), Workshop for finalizing questionnaire

14 October, 11.00am at Medical College

Meeting on forming Dr. Wu Lien-Teh Society

16 October, 4.00pm at GTWHI

Meeting on Protestant Cemetery (Lin Lee)

19 October, 9.30am, KOMTAR

Smoke Free Campaign (PENBAR), publicity meeting

21 October 2012, Think City Office

Penang and the Indian Ocean Workshop: 'From Malabar and Minangkabau to Malaya

28 October 2012 (Sunday), 2.00pm at Protestant Cemetery.

Monthly Cemetery Tour

29 October 2012 (Monday), 2.30, Bilik Mutiara, Level 52 KOMTAR

Meeting: Islamic Museum Development

9 November 2012, 8.00pm at Wawasan Open University

Penang Story Lecture: Life in Malaya under Japanese Occupation, 1941-45 by Dr Paul Kratoska

18 November 2012 (Sunday), 3.30pm at Zhong San Association

PHT AGM

19 November 2012, 9.30am, Bilik Perdana, Level 4 KOMTAR

Meeting on Kam family's grave exhumation chaired by YB Chow Kon Yeow

1 December 2012, Annual Seminar, Federation of All Japan Heritage NGOs

Presentation on PHT and George Town at Fukuoka, Japan by Clement Liang

3 December 2012, 2.30pm at Bilik Perdana, Level 4 KOMTAR  
Meeting on Kam family's grave exhumation chaired by YB Chow Kon Yeow

15 December, 9.00am-5.00pm at Northam Suite Hotel  
Penang and the Indian Ocean Workshop: 'Penang-Yangon Interaction

16 December, 5.00pm at Northam Suite Hotel  
Penang and the Indian Ocean: 'Penang and Asia's Migrant History' by Dr Sunil Amrith.

13- 15 January 2013, 9.00am-6.00pm, George Town  
Penang Symposium 'Urban Conservation Network in Asia and Its Future'

15 January 2013, 3.00pm at Penang Teochew Association  
Signing of MOU with National Indonesia Heritage Trust

16 February 2013, 3.30pm  
Site Visit – Private Home Visit: 31 Jalan Chow Thye

18 & 19 February 2013, 9.00am, Traders Hotel  
Placemaking Training Workshop by Think City

20 February 2013, 4.00pm at BIDS (Sia Boey Market)  
Placemaking Demonstrative Project by Think City

25 February 2013, 11:00am – 12:00am, PHT  
Visit of Director of Hongkong Tourism Department

1 March 2013, 9.00am-1.00pm, KOMTAR  
Smoke Free Monitoring Sub-Committee meeting

6 March 2013, 09:30am – 11:00am, Think City  
Penang Story Booster Grant meeting

10 March 2013, 3.30pm  
Site Visit – The Dr. Wu Lien-Teh Trail

15 March 2013, 09:15am–12:15pm, KOMTAR  
Smoke Free Campaign Meeting

18 March 2013, 09:00am – 5:00pm, PDC  
KOMTAR Phase 5 Development Meeting

21 March 2013, 12pm-5.00pm, PHT  
ONRPC Heritage Management Plan Meeting

27 March 2013, 12pm-3.00pm, ONRPC  
Site visit to the Old Northam Road Protestant Cemetery

28 March 2013, 10:00am –12:00pm, PHT  
Penang Story Seberang Prai Meeting

2 April, 9.00am-11.00am at MPPP Heritage Department  
Chowrasta Market Upgrading meeting

3 April 2013, 12.00pm-5.00pm, PHT  
Protestant Cemetery HMP meeting.

7 April 2013

Site Visit – Exhibition: Penang’s Popular music of the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s

18 & 21 April 2013

International Day for Monuments and Sites – Private Home Visit: House of Koh Lay Huan

19 April 2013, 3.00pm at GTWHI

Protestant Cemetery Restoration Meeting

2 May 2013, 9.00am-12.00noon

Visit by Thailand Research Team

3 May 2013, 9.30am at Bilik A.V, Perbandaran Pembangunan Pulau Pinang  
KOMTAR phase 5 Presentation by PDC

11 & 12 May 2013 at Eastern & Oriental Hotel.

Penang Story Symposium: Khaw Sim Bee Na Ranong and Shared History of Malaysia-  
Thailand Relations: From the Past to Future Cooperation” And “Thailand-Malaysia Business  
Networking Forum”

11 May, 8.30am at Esplanade

Launching of the Thai Heritage Trail at Ranong Ground, Esplanade by Mr. Kittirat Na  
Ranong, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand

9 June, 8.00pm at MPPP Town Hall

Penang Story Lecture: The Muslim Trade from Coromandal Coast in relation to Kedah and  
Penang by Dr. J. Raja Mohamad.

10 June, 10.00am at Think City Office

Penang Story Lecture: The Muslim Trade from Coromandal Coast in relation to Kedah and  
Penang by Dr. J. Raja Mohamad.

29 June, 9.30am at PHT

Visit, talk and sharing with NUS students.

6 July 2013, 8.30am-12.00pm

Guided Tour: Splendid Trades in Yesteryears.

7 July 2013, 11.00am & 3.00pm

Private Home Visit: The House of Koh Lay Huan.

7 July 2013, 12.00pm, 66 Lebuh Aceh

PHT-Seven Terraces Living Heritage Treasures Award 2013 cheque presentation by Chief  
Minister of Penang, YAB Lim Guan Eng.

20 July, 3.00pm at E & O Hotel

PHT Tea Talk & Penang Story Lecture: Armenians in Penang by Nadia Wright

21 July 2013, 3.00pm at China Tiger, 25 & 29 China Street.

PHT Tea Talk & Penang Story Lecture: Raffles – Myths and Reality by Dr. Nadia Wright.

25 July, 2.30pm-5.00pm at GTWHI

Kuan Yin Temple Restoration & Renovation meeting

17 & 18 August (Saturday & Sunday), 9.00am-5.00pm at E & O Hotel.

Penang Story Lecture & Conference: Penang and The Hajj

23 August 2013 (Friday), 8.00pm-10.00pm at Dewan Makam Noordin, Kapitan Keling Mosque.

Penang and the Indian Ocean Lecture: “For the Promotion of Tamil on this Island”: Penang Muslims and Tamil Vernacular Publics across the Bay of Bengal, 1880-1914 by Torsten Tschacher.

24 August 2013 (Saturday), 8.00pm – 10.00pm at Level 5, Wawasan Open University

Penang and the Indian Ocean Lecture: “For the Promotion of Tamil on this Island”: Penang Muslims and Tamil Vernacular Publics across the Bay of Bengal, 1880-1914 by Torsten Tschacher.

7 September 2013, 10.00am – 1.00pm at Penang Teochew Association

Why the filial prosper: ancestral worship as an ethical end and as a business principle by David

7 September 2013, 2.00pm – 5.00pm at Penang Teochew Association

Beyond Filial Piety: From Soul Salvation to Intangible Cultural Heritage (Chinese Lecture) by Dr. Chooi Chee-Cheong

12 September, 2.00pm-5.00pm, Bilik Delima, KOMTAR

Pulau Tikus Revitalisation Plan: Workshop

13 September, 9.00am-12noon.

WHS recci for Smoke Free Zone at the World Heritage Site

Saturday, 21 September 2013, 8.00pm-10.00pm at Level 5, Wawasan Open University.

Tagore Memorial Lecture: Pan Asianism and Rabindranath Tagore’s Ideal of a common Asian civilisation by Dr. Ruby Maloni.

Sunday 22 September 2013, 2.00pm – 6.00pm at E & O Hotel

Penang Story Lectures & Panel Discussion: Islamic Philanthropy and the Foundations of Ethical Enterprise by Raj Brown (Emeritus Professor of Royal Holloway College, University London).

28 September, 9.30am-11.30am, PHT

Focus Group Session on Sustainable Transport at Penang Heritage Trust

9-11 October 2013, Flamingo Hotel, Penang  
Strategic Planning Workshop for Penang Smoke Free Campaign

20 October 2013, 5.00pm at Penang Club  
James Logan Memorial Lecture 2013

## **7.0 PHT Circular & Publishing**

### Website & Facebook

Over the last 12 months, PHT has been trying to improve on our electronic out-reach and making use of the powerful social media tools to promote our events. We have revamped our website ([www.pht.org.my](http://www.pht.org.my)) with the help of a very committed volunteer, Yvonne Russell, and we are maintaining our facebook discussion group and facebook page regularly.

The facebook group discussion was setup in year 2011, we have now 870 friends in the group discussion. The group encouraged a lot of discussions about the latest alerts, it also provides a platform for its group members to share old photographs and exchanging ideas. PHT also has FB Page, the FB Page is open to all. Based on the demographic report, most of the users who visited the FB page are aged between 23-35 years old. We have 56.7% female users raking about the page, compared to 43.3% male users taking about the PHT FB Page.

### PHT Newsletter:

Since the last AGM, 2 newsletters and several circulars were produced. Members are welcome to download a copy of the newsletter from the website.

- PHT newsletter issue No.102, November 2012
- PHT newsletter issue No. 103, May 2013

### PHT Circular (electronic and hardcopy)

October 2012

- Site Visit - House of Yeap Chor Ee

November 2012

- Penang Story Lectures – Life in Malaya under Japanese Occupation, 1941-45

December 2012

- Penang Story Lectures – Penang and Asia's Migrant History

January 2013

- Penang Symposium – The Urban Conservation Network in Asia and Its Future: Heritage, Cultural Identities and Asian Dynamism

February 2013

- Site Visit – Private Home Visit: 31 Jalan Chow Thye

March 2013

- Site Visit – The Dr. Wu Lien-Teh Trail

April 2013

- Site Visit – Exhibition: Penang's Popular music of the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s
- International Day for Monuments and Sites – Private Home Visit: House of Koh Lay Huan

May 2013

- Penang Story Symposium – The Khaw and Na-Ranong family of Penang and Thailand and Thailand-Malaysia Business Networking Forum at E&O Hotel

June 2013

- Penang Story Lecture – The Muslim Trade from Coromandal Coast in relation to Kedah and Penang (English & Tamil Lecture)

July 2013

- George Town World Heritage Site Celebration- Splendid Trades In Yesteryears
- George Town World Heritage Site Celebration- Private Home Visit to the House of Koh Lay Huan
- Talk and Afternoon Tea – Armenians in Penang by Dr Nadia Wright at E&O Hotel
- Talk and Afternoon Tea – Raffles Myth and Reality by Dr Nadia Wright at Sun Yat Sen Museum

August 2013

- Penang Story Conference – Penang and The Hajj at E&O Hotel
- Penang Story Lecture – “For the Promotion of Tamil on this Island”: Penang Muslims and Tamil Vernacular Publics across the Bay of Bengal, 1880-1914 (English & Tamil Lecture)

September 2013

- Penang Story Lecture (I) – Why the filial prosper: the evolution of the Lineage Institution in China by Prof. David Faure at Penang Teochew Association
- Penang Story Lecture (II) – Beyond filial piety: from soul salvation to intangible cultural heritage (Chinese Lecture) by Dr Chi-Cheung Choi at Penang Teochew Association
- Penang Story Lecture and Panel Discussion – Islamic Philanthropy and the Foundations of Ethical Enterprise by Raj Brown at E&O Hotel
- Penang Story Lecture – Pan Asianism and Rabindranath Tagore's Ideal Of A Common Asian Civilisation by Ruby Maloni at Wawasan Open University
- Focus Group Session on Sustainable Transport at Penang Heritage Trust

## **8.0 Human Resources**

### Staff

It was a very busy year for PHT. A few staff were hired to coordinate projects, provide research assistance and admin support. They were Goh Wei Kiat, Ooi Yee Huei, Leong Ee Vonne, Abel Benjamin Lim and Tong Wing Cheong.

Goh Wei Kiat was with PHT for 8 months. He coordinated the RICH project under the supervision of the Project Consultant, Lim Gaik Siang. He also coordinated the survey of the Smoke Free Campaign. Being a very dedicated staff, Wei Kiat also provided his support on heritage alerts monitoring and office support regularly. He is also part of the research team for the ONRPC Heritage Management Plan.

Ooi Yee Huei was with PHT for 11 months. She provided excellent and meticulous admin support to the RICH project and the Smoke Free Campaign. She also supported the coordination of the Penang Symposium and the Penang Story Lectures.

Leong Ee Vonne was only with PHT for 3 months. She was excellent in co-organising the Penang and the Hajj Conference with the supervision of the conference convenor, Abdur-Razzaq Lubis. The PHT website and facebook reached a lot of improvements as the result of her passionate inputs.

Abel Benjamin Lim came into PHT in August and landed with very dedicated support for the Penang and the Hajj conference. He was with PHT for 2 months (August and September). He also assisted in the running of PHT office and provided admin support to the Pulau Tikus Revitalising Plan.

Tong Wing Cheong is now the assistant project coordinator of the Baseline Festival Inventory Project. His knowledge of cultural festival and ritual ceremonies is a treasure to the project. Over the last 12 months, he assisted and contributed his knowledge to the RICH project and the Festival Mapping Project. He also supports the running of the office.

The office is managed by Ms. Ho Sheau Fung, Ms. Vanessa Lir as the admin officer and a part-time coordinator for PAPA project, Ms. May Yeap Kam Moey.

### Volunteers

PHT would like to record our thanks to our very committed volunteers, Abdur-Razzaq Lubis for organising the Penang and the Hajj Conference, Yvonne Russell for revamping and updating our website from time to time, Paul Gerarts and Irene Teoh for their time and effort of helping the trust whenever we needed. Leslie A. K. James for his editorial support, Mark Lay for all his assistance, Javious for his video documentation on several occasions,

Siti Waltraud for her research support on the German Heritage Trail, Vasana for her tireless assistance on the Siamese Heritage Trail, Yeap Peng Hoe, Joann Khaw and Cumalle Ang for their guiding input and volunteers from Intel that had joined the 'gotong royong' at our office.

## **9.0 Networking & collaboration**

PHT worked closed with other organisation to further broaden the heritage movement. Among the local and international groups we have been working with this year are:-

- a) Arts-Ed
- b) Academy of Socio-Economic research and Analysis (ASERA)
- c) Asia Explorers
- d) Badan Warisan Malaysia (BWM)
- e) Citizen Chant Group
- f) Friends of Penang Botanic Gardens Society
- g) Friends of George Town Heritage
- h) George Town World Heritage Incorporated (GTWHI)
- i) German Embassy in Kuala Lumpur and German Honorary Consul, Penang
- j) India High Commission, Kuala Lumpur
- k) Intel Corporations
- l) Khazanah Nasional Berhad
- m) Lestari Heritage Network
- n) LLA Sdn Bhd
- o) Nara Machizukuri Center, Japan
- p) Penang Forum
- q) Penang Global Tourism
- r) Penang Institute
- s) Penang Teochew Association
- t) Pykett Avenue residents
- u) Ritsumeikan University, Japan
- v) Royal Thai Embassy, Kuala Lumpur
- w) Royal Thai Consulate-General, Penang
- x) Tan Yeow Wooi Culture and Heritage Research Studio
- y) Think City Sdn. Bhd.

## **10 Acknowledgements**

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