

# Persatuan Warisan Pulau Pinang Penang Heritage Trust

Registered Address:  
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## Annual Report 2014



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# Annual General Meeting 2014

3.30 p.m., Sunday, 9 November 2014

Venue: Penang Heritage Trust, 26 Church St, 10200 George Town, Penang

## Agenda

1. To consider and approve:
  - The Minutes of the PHT Annual General Meeting – 17 November 2013
  - The PHT Annual Report 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013– 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014
  - The PHT Financial Report ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013
2. Other Matters

## Penang Heritage Trust President's Message



Everyone I have met and talked to recently seems to agree that Penang is still a nice place to live but it is being horribly “over-developed”. “Pressure” from the “need” to develop condos on our hills and coastlines has taken its toll on our natural environment. Every day we read about the importance of maintaining ecological balance and preventing man-made disasters, but for some reason we keep whipping this beast called “runaway development”, telling it to “run faster”. Posterity will not be amused.

Penang is certainly changing too fast for the Penang Heritage Trust to keep still. This year we have had several heritage alerts. We acted in a timely manner to the threat to one of the last great mansions on Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah (Northam Road). The “Save Soonstead” petition garnered close to 3,000 votes in two weeks, and the owners have responded positively to overwhelming public sentiment – for the moment. We were not so timely with 218 Macalister which was “demolished in order that it could be restored”, echoes of that old doctor’s joke “the operation was successful but the patient died”. The State Conservation Bill was passed in 2011 and now a state-level committee led by Exco member YB Jagdeep Singh Deo is finally drafting the regulations – better late than never. We look forward to the implementation of heritage protection and hope that it will prevent people, especially property owners, from wrecking their heritage or leaving it in a state of criminal neglect. We are also reassured by Exco member YB Chow Kon Yeow’s reported announcement that “the state does not have double standards” for heritage properties within and beyond the World Heritage Site – which we take to be a policy statement.

Of the Seven Most Important Endangered Heritage Sites listed by the Penang Heritage Trust two years ago, one is a traditional settlement, two belong to government, two more (including the famous Runnymede) used to belong to government but were inexplicably privatised, and another two are privately owned. The campaign to save these sites needs to be revived. All of them arguably deserve to be protected under the State Heritage Enactment; so the sooner the enactment is operational the better. Needless to say, governments – whether municipal, state or federal – should set the example by restoring their properties immediately. They certainly do not need a heritage act or enactment to tell them to do the right thing.

Kampung Siam in Pulau Tikus, a place of great historical and cultural significance, is threatened with eviction and demolition. How is it possible that land granted and held in trust could be alienated for commercial development? The survival of Tanjung Tokong and Batu Uban also hangs in the balance. Rural Balik Pulau and its paddy fields are also being whittled away. This reminds us that Malaysia’s indigenous human settlements – the kampung, the urban village, a cluster of houses in a traditional setting – are not likely to be gazetted under our current national heritage act, in that there is no specific clause referring to ‘traditional settlements’ or ‘cultural landscapes’. They can still be protected by state or municipal zoning, if only there is strong public and political will. It is also important to identify some traditional settlements in Seberang Perai before they become endangered.

Ironically, under the National Heritage Act, a colonial building or Chinese shophouse has a better chance of being protected than a centuries-old Malay kampung. This not only has something to do with land values, but also with how we perceive heritage. In the case of traditional settlements, what is valuable is not the timber, the individual houses, the pathways or scenery. The whole is more than a sum of its parts. Community, identity of place, local knowledge, settlement and setting are inseparable. Their loss will be felt like “a hole in the soul” of Penang.

“Heritage” has become a catch-word but still very few people know how to look after it. Around 25 years ago only a handful of architects were interested in working with heritage buildings, and today, there are still only a handful. The number of traditional artisans who know how to “change a beam” has declined. It is getting more difficult to find a neighbourhood odd-jobber to maintain our old buildings. Our Chief Minister YB Lim Guan Eng has particularly expressed his commitment to support our intangible cultural heritage. Many artisans continue to practice their traditional trades at subsistence levels, but may have to give up their place of work when rents are raised. They represent not just their respective occupations, but possess knowledge and skill sets. We regret the passing away of two well-known practitioners – Mr Lee Ah Hock, the lantern-maker, and Auntie Kim, the *sulam kebaya* maker – in recent months. Their crafts have contributed much joy and beauty to the lives of Penang people; they should not be forgotten.

Everyone is individually responsible for preserving and handing down his or her heritage – whether their own family histories, language, rituals or food traditions, whether heritage properties or treasured heirlooms. The motivation to do so comes usually from an understanding of why their heritage is important. The Penang Heritage Trust has been running the Penang Story series since 2001–2002 and again from 2010 to encourage people from diverse backgrounds but with a connection to Penang’s past to link to their own ‘Penang Story’ in a meaningful way.

The preservation of our bio-cultural heritage and familiar significant places provides us with a sense of identity, belonging and continuity, so important to our psychological health and well-being. They serve as anchors for our personal and collective social memories, and common visions of the future. However, as we have said, the world does not stand still. Heritage and local knowledge should not just be preserved but have to be passed on from one generation to the next. A measure of institutional memory and a common voice can be a great help in the larger process. That’s what the Penang Heritage Trust is here for.

***Khoo Salma Nasution, 2014***

# Penang Heritage Trust

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2013

17th November, 2014 Sunday, 3.30PM at Ren-I-Tang Hotel

82-A Lebuhraya, Penang, Malaysia

### Members Present:

**Khoo Salma Nasution**

**Clement Liang Chow Ming**

**Lim Gaik Siang**

**Bendula Wismen**

**Loh-Lim Lin Lee**

**Rebecca Wilkinson**

**Lyndy Ong**

**Dato' Mohd Razha Rashid**

**Laurence Loh (Trustee)**

Eric Yeoh Kok Ming

Annelies Allain

Chow Chee Kit

Hymeir Kem

Denise Khoo

Lee Yong Seng

May De Vries

Roy De Vries

Teh Ewe Hoon

Ong Siew Guat

Julie Ng

Pow Lin Kok

Leslie A.K. James

**Prof. Wazir Jahan Karim (Advisor)**

Marie-Louise Oh

Ch'ng Saw See

Mark Lay

Joann Khaw Juat Seng

Tong C.K. Ho

Carolyn Walling

Gale A. Metcalf

David Yeo Khee Chin

Agnes James

Chin Saik Yoon

Yeap Kam Moey

Alexandra Ong Soay Kee

Eu Yeok Siew

Low Teng Lei

Boon Leua Aroonratana

Khoo Kay Hean

Yeh Diing Shin

Dato' Khor Teng How

Sophia Murris

Mariam Lim

**Dato' Anwar Fazal (Trustee)**

Datin Mahmuda Bibi

Lim Gim Seng

Khaw Teik Gim

**Dr Choong Sim Poey**

Trevor Sibert

Matthew Benson

*Remco Vermeulen (Observer)*

*Angela Tritto (Observer)*

### President's Welcoming Message

Salma welcomed all the members who attended the meeting and expressed the importance of the membership to PHT to sustain its activities. A note of thanks to several honoured guests including PHT's trustees, Dato' Anwar, Laurence Loh, newsletter editor Leslie James, Dato' Koh Teng How and Remco Vermeulen from Indonesia National Heritage Trust.

She thanked Ren-I-Tang for providing the use of Ren-I-Tang as the venue of this year's AGM for PHT. It used to be the oldest Chinese Medical Hall (1796) in Southeast Asia. The team in Re-I-Tang came forward to restore the old building and managed to retain the medical hall in the third building.

In her address, Salma also mentioned that the booming tourism in George Town could be a double-edge sword, bringing good revenue but at the same time undesirable threats to its living heritage and undermining its cultural significance which PHT has been trying hard to monitor and safeguard. At this juncture, PHT is facing new set of issues after the UNESCO WHS inscription of George Town and as the main NGO championing heritage conservation in this nation, PHT will need to adjust its role with changing time and scenario.

After her message, she invited PHT Hon. Secretary, Clement Liang to present the 2013 annual report.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes of the AGM 2012.**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2012 were approved and adopted on the proposal of Annelies Allain (L-26001) and seconded by Pow Lin James (O-26518).

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

Clement reported that we had carried out a lot of activities since last AGM.

The 8 council members with PHT immediate past president, Dr. Chong Sim Peoy were serving the organization.

**Membership**

Clement reported that PHT currently had the following number of members. The goal is to achieve targeted 1000 membership number soon.

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)

### **Donation of funds**

PHT also wish to thank the funders especially Think City which had provided the much needed sponsorship for numerous projects. He continued and mentioned that the Trust had worked closely with several embassies, namely the German Embassy in Kuala Lumpur and German Honorary Consul in Penang, Royal Thai Consulate-General in Penang and Thai Embassy in Kuala Lumpur. PHT had also been working closing with GTWHI and grateful for the support from them. Also thanked to Seven Terraces, Lestari Heritage Network, Mysihat and individuals like H.E. Iyad Madani, former president of PHT Dato' Seri Nazir, China Tiger, Ren-I-Tang, Penang Teochew Association. Special mention to Dr. Nadia Wright for giving two presentations to help in our fundraising events.

Clement continued to report on the following activities:

**i. Smoke Free Project**

Ben briefed the members on a survey conducted by PHT on more than 3000 respondents in GT World Heritage Site. We are in the midst of developing and helping to implement the policy. The campaign has been coordinated by YB Phee Boon Poh.

**ii. Penang Story Project:**

Clement expressed that Think City has been a great supporter of this project. We had several programmes this year, which included Penang and Indian Ocean and Yangon Interaction workshop. The project has reached out to many stakeholders, we have 6 governors and 4 mayors from Thailand during the Khaw Sim Bee's Symposium, and Armenians from Kuala Lumpur and Singapore who came to attend the talk by Dr. Nadia Wright on Armenians in Penang. We also promoted special topic on Muslim Trades by Dr. Raja and many more. Special mentioned to Abdur-Razzaq Lubis, who helped to organise the Penang and the Hajj Conference. We also have several speakers from Germany, Hong Kong, India (Annual Tagore lecture), UK and etc.

**iii. Penang Symposium "Urban Conservation Network in Asia and Its Future", 13-15 January 2013**

Clement reported that this event is sponsored by Toyota Foundation and co-hosted with Nara-Machizukuri Center. Through this event, the participating countries have founded Asia Heritage Network, it is a shared platform for these heritage organisations to come together and continue the regional networking.

**iv. The Monthly Cemetery Tour** is supported by Penang Global Tourism. We thanked many people and guides who came forward and conducted the cemetery tour.

**v. This year, with the help of many experts, PHT had produced the Heritage Management Plan for the Old Northam Road Cemetery.** The project is financially supported by GTWHI.

- vi. **Festival Baseline Study Project.**  
Gaik Siang reported that last year the study covered 5500 houses in the Revitalization Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory project. This year a baseline study will be conducted on festivals held in WHS. She continued reported that there are 480 festivals held in the WHS and conducted in 95 streets and the Clan Jetties. For these two projects, we have recruited 50 young people to be surveyors and for data entry.
- vii. **George Town Annual Heritage Celebrations.** The result of the RICH inventory project was used to design a trail that covered some of the traditional trades in town. The trail was conducted in conjunction with the annual Heritage Celebration of George Town. The council also thanked Rebecca Wilkinson for offering China Tiger as an in-house tour venue during the July Celebration.
- viii. **Pulau Tikus Planning Survey.** Ben Wismen reported that two months back, we were approached to work with a consultant to conduct the study. It was initiated by YB Yap Soo Huey who wanted to get input from stakeholders and their feedback to commence a proper planning for Pulau Tikus. PHT encouraged members to participate in the survey.
- ix. **Living Heritage Treasure Awards of Penang.** Lin Lee reported that previously HSBC was sponsoring the project. Chris Ong of Seven Terraces has come forward to continue supporting this project for another 7 years. The awardees were promised a life time allowance of RM2000 per annum. Health is the main issue for the aged awardees and sponsorship for their medical assistance is sought.
- x. **PAPA.** Lin Lee reported that PAPA has worked out more flexible education classes to cater for different interest groups with shorter durations.
- xi. **Internship.** Clement reported that since 2 years back, Japanese students have been doing a month long internship with PHT with supervision from Clement. A few universities also expressed interest to participate in the internship program with PHT.
- xii. **Siamese Heritage Trail** Since last year, PHT got funding from Royal Thai Consulate-General to document the Siamese heritage and history of the Thai personalities and their residence. PHT viewed this joint project important to document the history of minority in Penang.
- xiii. **Heritage Alerts.** Goddess of Mercy Temple (Kong Hock Keong) at Pitt St is a Category I building but unfortunately PHT and members of the public have witnessed a number of serious violations not in-line with heritage conservation guidelines during the temple's



restoration project including illegal construction and extension. The issues had been alerted to the authority. We also highlighted in our newsletter the 7 most endangered sites in Penang, including the Judge's Residence, Runnymede, Shih Chung School and the house of Khaw Boo Aun at Seberang Prai. More and more built heritage of Penang is destroyed and the authorities are not showing any concern to it. The illegal hill clearing at Bukit Gambir and the swiftlet operations in George Town were also mentioned as the bad examples where environment destruction would have adverse effects on human living.

- xiv. Website.** PHT has a more lively website now with the revamping job by Yvonne Russell. Clement also reported that we have now more than 1000 members joining our Facebook group.
- xv. Staff and Volunteers.** Clement recorded PHT's appreciation to the staff and volunteers; Abdur-Razzaq- Lubis, Yvonne Rusell, Paul Gerarts, Irene Teoh, Mark Lay, Leslie James, Javious Ng, Siti Waltraud, Vasana, Yeap Peng Hoe, Joann Khaw, Cumelle Ang and volunteers from Intel. Clement added that a number of staff had joined us this year. Salma mentioned that PHT has to work with budget constraints in hiring staff. Most of PHT's fund came from projects but the staff were underpaid and over worked. She took the opportunity to specially thank to Vanessa Lim, Abel Lim and Sheau Fung and expressed her true appreciation to Sheau Fung who has worked for PHT for the last 9 years. She announced that Sheau Fung will be leaving PHT by end of the year and thanked her for all the hard work and dedication.

The annual report was approved through the proposal of Ong Siew Guat (O-26457) and seconded by Khaw Teik Gim (O-26937).

### **3. Treasurer / Auditor's Report**

Treasurer, Lim Gaik Siang reported that PHT had a busy year with many projects running concurrently. For the financial year ended 31 December 2012, our total income has increased from RM 182,355 in 2011 to RM 226,383 in 2012, but the total expenditure has also increased from 179,013 in 2011 to RM 220,120 in 2012. There is a surplus of RM 6,263.00 in 2012 compared to RM 3,342.00 in 2011. The surplus is due to we closed some of the projects in 2012 and transferred profit from the project into our main account. Other income source came from the heritage tours, fundraising events at Loke Villa, dinner at China Tiger, Penang Story Lectures, Public Talk and Heritage Forum, etc.

Gaik Siang reported that 53% of the net income came from projects, which are run by council members voluntarily and concluded that PHT is very much a project-based organization.

She also thanked all the funders and donors for all their great support.

The treasurer's report was adopted with the proposal of Prof. Wazir Jahan Karim (O-26033) and seconded by Leslie A.K. James (O-26517).

#### 4. **ELECTION of office bearers**

Salma expressed her appreciation to Lyndy Ong, Joann Khaw and Haji Hassan for serving as PHT council members in 2011-13 but resigned later due to various reasons. Clement then invited Leslie to assist in the nomination of the new council members for the term 2014/ 2015. The following members were nominated:-

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
1	Agnes James	Lim Gaik Siang	Prof. Wazir Jahan Karim
2	Fatimah Hassan	Khoo Salma Nasution	Clement Liang
3	Trevor Sibert	Bendula Wismen	Denise Khoo
4	Clement Liang Chow Ming	Timothy Tye	Choong Sim Poey
5	Rebecca Wilkinson	Loh-Lim Lin Lee	Bendula Wismen
6	Lim Gaik Siang	Khoo Salma Nasution	Pow Lin James
7	Khoo Salma Nasution	Lim Gaik Siang	Dato' Anwar Fazal
8	Loh-Lim Lin Lee	Rebecca Wilkinson	Clement Liang
9	Dato' Mohd Razha Rashid	Lim Gaik Siang	Khoo Salma Nasution
10	Bendula Wismen	Dr. Choong Sim Poey	Dato' Anwar Fazal

Dato' Khor Teng How (L-26060) proposed nomination be closed and seconded by Khaw Teik Gim (O-26937). With 10 names nominated, all the nominees were duly elected into the new council.

#### 5. **Other matters arising**

Salma invited all members to support a talk by Leslie James and Michael Rawlinson at the Lone Pine Hotel on 30 November, 3.30pm. She also urged members to participate in the online survey on future planning of Pulau Tikus.

The AGM ended at 5:30 pm and members adjourned for a tea break.

Khoo Salma Nasution

President

Clement Liang Chow Ming

Honorary Secretary

## **Persatuan Warisan Pulau Pinang**

LAPORAN TAHUNAN 2013/2014

Oktober 2013 – September 2014

## **Penang Heritage Trust**

ANNUAL REPORT 2013/2014

October 2013 – September 2014

## **PHT Council Members (Term 2013-2015)**

### **1. Khoo Salma Nasution, President**



Author, social historian and heritage advocate. She runs a small publishing company Areca Books and is the custodian of the Sun Yat Sen Museum at 120 Armenian Street. She is also involved with Lestari Heritage Network, Little Penang Street Market, and Phuket-Penang Peranakan Networks.

‘We should do everything we can to keep our heritage intact, alive and relevant for present and future generations’

### **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.

‘Heritage is the Soul of our History’

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



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

### **4. Clement Liang, Honorary Secretary**



Active in regional conservation groups and a researcher on the historical minorities. He collaborated in the production of local WWII and heritage documentaries and a number of brochures introducing the German, Japanese and Siamese heritage sites, Dr. Wu Lien-Teh’s history and the Clan Jetties of Penang. He also conducts training, talks and tours on topics related to the local history and heritage in several languages.

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



Holding a top management post with an USA public listed engineering company. At her free time, involves in heritage advocacy and currently is setting in the Consultative Panel of George Town World Heritage Incorporated and Technical review Panel of MPPP, also 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 interpretation of George Town heritage site in Chinese history, architecture, culture, folk beliefs, traditional trades, artisans and other intangible heritage.

#### **6. Loh-Lim Lin Lee, Council Member**



Conservator, lecturer, social psychologist, restoration consultant, historic researcher. ICOMOS member, UNESCO consultant for Mt Lushan World Heritage Site. Works on Condition Investigation Surveys and Heritage Impact Assessments of historic buildings, heads several PHT projects, speaker and guide on historic conservation areas.

#### **7. Rebecca Wilkinson, Council Member**



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.

‘I recommend living in the World Heritage Site of George Town but we need to work together to ensure that the quality of life within the zone improves in order to make it a sustainable living space for all stakeholders, as well as a place where precious tangible & intangible heritage survives for the benefit of our future generations.’

#### **8. Bendula Wismen, Council Member**



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

#### 9. Agnes James, Council Member



Agnes Maritha James was Senior Grant Programme Manager of Think City. Before joining Think City, she was Director of Corporate Communications at Wawasan Open University. She was also Special Assistant and Manager of International Affairs to the former Penang Chief Minister. Agnes obtained her B.A. in Journalism from the University of Texas at Austin and spent thirteen years as a journalist in the print media. In 2004, she set up an HIV/AIDS organisation which developed a pioneering prison programme funded by the Ford Foundation and endorsed by the Ministry of Home Affairs. She has also served as secretary of the Women's Centre for Change (WCC).

#### 10. Fatimah Hassan, Council Member



Fatimah Hassan worked for ten years with the Socio-Economic and Environmental Research Institute (now known as the Penang Institute) on research and projects in fields such as information technology, social, economic and environmental issues and education. Currently, she is attached to the Penang Education Council managing and coordinating various education programmes, including community-based creative learning programmes.

#### 11. Trevor Sibert, Council Member



Living in historic Malacca for five years spurred Penang boy Trevor Sibert's interest in history, heritage and culture. He joined PHT in his early 20s. Of Eurasian descent, Trevor is very interested in architecture and furniture restoration and is an antique collector. He believes, "We are only borrowing Penang from future generations." He is also the editor of the PHT newsletters.

#### Advisors

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
5. Mr Tan Kuan Aw, Advisor on Access for Disabled People
6. Mr Leslie A.K. James, Co-Editor of the PHT Newsletters.

# PHT Annual Report

## 1st October 2013- 31st October 2014

### 1) Council meeting

Besides informal meetings for projects, PHT held 8 council meetings since the last AGM.

Attendance was recorded as follows:-

Ms. Khoo Salma Nasution	8/8
Dato' Dr. Capt. Mohd Razha Rashid Razha	8/8
Mr. Clement Liang	8/8
Ms. Lim Gaik Siang	5/8
Ms. Loh-Lim Lin Lee	4/8
Ms. Rebecca Wilkinson	2/8
Mr. Ben Wismen	6/8
Ms. Agnes James	4/8
Ms. Fatimah bt. Hassan	7/8
Mr. Trevor Sibert	6/8

### 2) Membership

Founder Members:	17	
Life Members:	103	(excluding founder & corporate)
Ordinary Members:	227	
Student Members:	10	
Junior Members:	10	
Corporate Member:	1	
Total:	371	(as compare to 409 last year)

### 3) PROJECTS

#### 3.1 PENANG STORY LECTURES & OTHER TALKS, OCTOBER 2013- SEPTEMBER 2014

- (i) **Remembering Malayans on the Death Railway and the INA** by Prof. David John Boggett, Jeyaraj C. Rajarao, Himanshu Bhatt. Saturday 19 October 2013, 9am to 2pm at Hindu Mahajana Sangam, Gandhiji Ashram, Jalan Kebun Bunga, Penang
- (ii) **Dr Albert Stanley McKern (1885-1945)– a Penang Doctor in Myth and Reality** by Leslie James and Michael Rwalinson. Saturday, 30 November 2013, 3pm to 5 pm at Lone Pine Hotel, Batu Ferringhi, Penang
- (iii) **Moors and Muslims: Sri Lanka-Tamilnadu Muslim connections** by Prof. Dennis McGilveray. Thursday 6 March 2014, 8 to 10pm at PHT office, Church St, Penang
- (iv) **Dr. Wu Lien-Teh and China's First Medical Research Institute: The North Manchurian Plague Prevention Service, 1912-1931** by David Luesink, co-organised by PHT and Dr. Wu Lien-Teh Society. Sunday, 1 June 2014, 3pm to 5pm at PHT office, Church St, Penang
- (v) **From Penang to Adelaide: Surveyor-General William Light** by Kelly Henderson. Saturday 14 June 2014, 3pm to 4:30 pm at The Royale Bintang, 1 & 2 Weld Quay, Penang
- (vi) **Save The Bukit Brown Cemetery** by Raymond Goh and the Brownies from Singapore, Saturday, 5 July 2014, 3.00pm to 4.30pm at PHT office, Church St, Penang

- (vii) **Penang Story Lecture: Hamengkubuwono II, The Diary of the Javanese Prince Exiled in Penang, 1810-1814** by Sri Margana and Adrian Perkasa. Sunday, 20 July 2014, 3pm to 4:30pm at The Royale Bintang, 1 & 2 Weld Quay, Penang
- (viii) **KOMTAR and the Buckminster Fuller Connection** by Datuk Seri Lim Chong Keat. Saturday, 23 August 2014, 1:30pm to 4:30pm at KOMTAR Auditorium A, Penang

### 3.2 Monthly Cemetery Tour

Supported by Penang Global Tourism (PGT), PHT has been running the monthly cemetery Tour for more than two years. 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 Clement Liang and Leslie James for their dedicated guiding to the visitors.

### 3.3 George Town World Heritage Celebrations, 6-8 July 2014

George Town World Heritage Day Talk & Tour, July 6 - Folk Belief in George Town World Heritage Site Following a year long research and inventory effort by PHT, after scanning 5505 addresses, 92 streets and 7 clan jetties for religious institutions, followed by interviews, its project consultant Lim Gaik Siang presented a 60-minute long presentation on the trail, followed by a 2-hour guided tour by professional guides. Various clan houses, associations, and religious institutions and stories behind these buildings, institutions, rituals and customs were unveiled.

### 3.4 The Penang Heritage Trust - 7 Terraces Living Heritage Treasures of Penang Awards

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 2012. The award is extended for another 7 years with the support from Seven Terraces.

PHT is very sad to note the passing of LHTA Awardee 2007 Mr Lee Khok Hock, the last known traditional lantern maker in Penang. He has been ill for a while following a stroke. As Mr Lee worked alone, with only his wife as a helper, and as we were unable to persuade him to take on apprentices, the artisan skill is truly lost. It is a case such as this that spur us on to work harder to identify, to acknowledge, to fully document and to pursue apprenticeship programmes for our threatened intangible cultural heritage.

### 3.5 Penang Apprenticeship for Artisans (PAPA)

PAPA is also pleased to note that it has been planning the launch of 'Building Capacity in Penang Culinary Skills'. With the fame of Penang food spreading both nationally as well as globally, PAPA is actively engaged in starting cooking classes with a focus on Penang food for members and others, with the help of well-known Penang chefs as well as working with the State Government on building capacity for the preparation of local street food.

### 3.6 PHT Internship Programme

A student from **Ritsumeikan University of Kyoto**, two students from Macao **Instituto de Formação Turística** (Institute of Tourism Studies), two students from **SEGI College Penang** and three students from **various universities in Hong Kong** attended their internship programmes with PHT in 2014 under the supervision of the Honorary Secretary Clement Liang.



Chihiro Takagi, a third year student from Ritsumeikan University came in February, 2014 and spent a month in PHT to document her observation on the traditional trades of Penang.

Eddie Tong and Sarita Chan from Macao, a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2007, attended a six-month internship from February to July 2014. During their stay here, they have learnt how the heritage tours in George Town were conducted and created a blog site in Chinese to promote PHT:

<http://phtchinese.wix.com/penangheritagetrust>

Piyawan Mekphol and Zafadzly Abdul Manaf from the School of Hospitality and Tourism, SEGI College Penang started the industrial training for 12 weeks from May 2014 to August 2014. They assisted PHT in the manning of the office and answering visitors' queries.

Initiated by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, PHT was invited to be one of the host organisations to join the ASEAN Internship Scheme and to offer university students from Hong Kong an opportunity to widen their international perspectives and enhance bilateral relations between Hong Kong and ASEAN. Carrie Wu (University of HK), Charmaine Lo (HK Baptist University), Iyan Wan (Lingnan University) came to PHT in July 2014. They helped to re-catalogue the book collections of our library. They had fond memories of Penang, often described as a potpourri of multi-cultural communities and a gourmet paradise.

### **3.7 Overseas Symposium**

**Phuket-Penang History Symposium** and Thai-Malaysian Business Networking Dialogue, 18th September, 2014. Organised by Phuket Provincial Government, Royal Thai Embassy, Kuala Lumpur and Royal Thai Consulate-General, Penang at the Metropole Hotel, Phuket.

After the successful hosting of the Penang Story Symposium on "Khaw and Na Ranong Family of Penang and Thailand" on 11th May 2013, PHT was invited to help organise a history symposium in Phuket in conjunction with the signing of MOU as Friendship Cities between Phuket and Penang. Khoo Salma and Clement Liang were invited as speakers at the symposium to talk on the shared history of these two islands. From the story of Captain Francis Light who frequented Phuket since 1772, the Eurasian community who moved en masse to Pulau Tikus in Penang, the Chinese Peranakan families migration, Khaw Sim Bee as the governor of Monthon Phuket, the Nine-Emperor-Gods Festival and the colonial shop houses, the similarities of both islands are evident even nowadays. PHT is proud to be the catalyst to revive the memories of shared history between the two nations that resulted in the formal bonding of sister cities relationship between Phuket and Penang.

## **4. Heritage Alert**

- **Penang's 7 Most Important Endangered Heritage Sites**
- **Soonstead**
- **Siamese Village Pulau Tikus**

**4.1** Since 2013, PHT kept highlighting the deplorable state of the following 7 prominent buildings and endangered heritage sites in Penang in an effort to draw the public and authorities' attention.

1. Governor's Bungalow, Sepoy Lines
2. Khaw Loh Hup & Khaw Boo Aun's townhouse, Bukit Tambun
3. Chung Thye Phin Villa – Relau
4. Udini House, Gelugor
5. Shih Chung School – Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah
6. Tanjung Tokong Malay Village
7. Runnymede, Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah

PHT would like to reassert its calls for a comprehensive review of heritage guidelines regarding Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah, which still facing threats from other proposed developments. We ask MPPP to review its policy and guidelines and renew its commitment to conserve the special character of Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah. We also ask for a scrutiny of the inventory, in case other precious heritage buildings like Soonstead have been left out or somehow gone missing from the inventory.

**4.2 Soonstead:** The importance of ‘Soonstead’ to Penang’s history and heritage is indisputable. Designed by the notable Scottish architect James Stark of the prominent firm Stark and McNeill, ‘Soonstead’ is one of the most significant houses along the Northam Road, once known as ‘Millionaire’s Row’. The house helped popularise the ‘castle mansion’ style with George Town high society and deserves a firm place in Malaysia’s architectural history. The proposed 11 storey development of the site would irreversibly compromise the heritage value of this important building, overshadowing the mansion’s heritage and completely destroying the building’s link to the sea. PHT started an online petition campaign at: <https://www.change.org/p/majlis-perbandaran-pulau-pinang-mppp-save-soonstead> and has successfully gathered close to 4,000 signatures. PHT thanks YB Chow Kon Yeow, the Penang EXCO for Local Governments for decisively handling this issue after listening to the voices of the petitioners. PHT also appreciates the developer’s cooperation and their willingness to modify their original plan.

**4.3 Siamese Village, Pulau Tikus :** All the Siamese residents, including those who have lived up to six generations on the only surviving historical Siamese village in Penang were served eviction letters including PHT’s living heritage awardee Wan Dee Aroonratana, the Thai Menora performer and outstanding cultural expert on the local Siamese customs. The land was bequeathed in perpetual ownership of the joint communities of the Siamese and Burmese by East India Company on behalf of Queen Victoria in 1845. It included a prohibition “to grant, bargain, sell, assign, transfer, convey or otherwise alienate the said piece of ground or any part of parcel thereof...” PHT sees this as another serious blow to Penang’s historical enclaves which are diminishing in an alarming rate and it will attempt to save the village together with the residents and authorities.

## **5. PHT Site Visits:**

### **5.1 Kelawai Road Catholic Cemetery**

Date: Sunday, 12 January 2014, 3.30pm (approx. 40 participants)

PHT invited members and guests to visit to the Kelawai Road Catholic Cemetery. The cemetery has significant heritage value not only to the Church of the Immaculate Conception Pulau Tikus but also for the pioneering evangelization efforts of the Catholic Church in general. On the spot which is marked by the cenotaph was the first Tent-Church of the Immaculate Conception. The graves were around the Tent-Church. The guest speaker was Datuk Dr. Anthony E. Sibert.

The speaker gave an introduction on the origins of the cemetery, the current management of the cemetery and the future of this cemetery in a commercially developing part of Penang. Based on the response from the audience, there is a strong interest in Christian Cemeteries, Eurasian heritage and the early Catholic community in Penang. It is also recommended to hold more talks like this and for other old cemeteries in Penang.

### **5.2 Bertam Estate, Kepala Batas**

Date: Sunday, 16th February, 2014 at 2pm (54 participants)

PHT organized a visit to Bertam House, which was built around 1913. The estate started in 1883 by the British company originally named Straits Settlement (Bertam) Rubber Company Limited. and covered 16,000 acres at its peak in the early 20th century. On 18th June, 1979, the company changed its name to Bertam Consolidated Rubber Company Limited. Present in our visit were two officers from the Seberang Perai Municipal Council who were compiling an inventory of heritage sites and buildings in Seberang Perai. We thank Mr. & Mrs. Ding Toy Huah and Mr. David Wilkinson of Bertam Consolidated for their hosting and hospitality.

### **5.3 Loke Villa, Gurney Drive**

Date: Sunday, 2nd March at 3:30pm (approx.. 120 participants)

Loke Villa, after facing years of exhausting mammoth construction next door, was opened again for visits by PHT members and friends. Built in 1924, the building still stands majestically albeit over-shadowed by its towering neighbour and unending noise from the shopping mall. Thanks to Rebecca Wilkinson, her family and the owner who take loving care of the building for years and offer opportunity to others to admire this rare beauty of Penang.

Rebecca gladly welcomed all those that attended at the front entrance of the house. She shared the history of the house and who was involved in building it and when. She also spoke about the building materials that were sourced from around the world to build this house and the physical condition of the house over the years and also with the development surrounding Loke Villa.

## **6.0 PHT Circular & Publishing**

### **Website & Facebook**

Our website ([www.pht.org.my](http://www.pht.org.my)) has gone through more systematic revamping and we are maintaining our facebook discussion group and facebook page regularly.

The facebook group discussion was setup in year 2011 and we have now more than 3000 friends in the group discussion. The group initiated a lot of discussions, in particular the urban blight and current issues on the heritage conservation, it also provides a platform for its group members to share photographs and exchanging ideas.

### **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.104, March 2014
- PHT newsletter issue No. 105, July 2014

## **7.0 Donations:**

The STAR Publications donated RM 36,500 to the Penang Heritage Trust being the proceeds from the sales of Datuk Seri Wong Chun Wai's book 'Penang's History, My Story'. On behalf of Penang Heritage Trust, Khoo Salma was in The STAR Petaling Jaya office to receive the cheque from Datuk Seri Wong Chun Wai on 24 October 2014.

## **8.0 Human Resources**

Ms. Ho Sheau Fung, after 9 years with PHT, has decided to pursue her passion in performing arts and left in December 2014. Ms Ho Sheau Fung has been an incredibly versatile, capable and dedicated staff of PHT and we wish all the best in her future career. Our administrative staff Ms. Vanessa Lim has also decided to move on to another field in April 2014 after serving more than 3 years with PHT. Ms. Mary Tan-Hooper joined us from beginning of June till Oct 10, 2014 as a director while Mr. Tan Yan Qian, our new admin officer came in the office since late June, 2014.

After serving as editor of the Newsletter for nine years, from October 2005 to March 2014 (Newsletter Nos. 85 through 104), Leslie James considered it important that responsibility for this publication should be in the hands of a local person and Trevor Sibert fits the bill. Leslie commented that working on the Newsletter has been a privilege and a pleasure, allowing him to play a part in raising awareness of the very special history and cultures that constitute Penang's unique heritage. Making a difference was his objective. He expressed immense satisfaction to work with a dedicated team as those who are, or have been, council members of PHT during his time as editor. Leslie is kind enough to remain available to assist PHT in any way that he could. PHT deeply appreciates his nine years of service as editor of the PHT newsletter, not to mention the frequent emergency editing and proofreading for other PHT correspondence.

PHT is in debt to all their presence and great contributions and wishes to thank them for their tireless efforts to keep up the busy schedules of the office and make things work.

A note of thanks to the internship students and our part-time coordinator for PAPA project, Ms. May Yeap who helped to man the office with the honorary secretary Clement Liang when manpower was short.

### **9.0 Volunteers**

PHT would like to record our thanks to our committed volunteers, Leslie A. K. James for his editorial support, Mark Lay for all his assistance, Javious for his video documentation on several occasions, 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. We also thank to all our former staff who very often came to assist in many ways voluntarily and in true, selfless community spirit.

### **10.0 Networking & collaboration**

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

- 1) Arts-Ed
- 2) Academy of Socio-Economic research and Analysis (ASERA)
- 3) Badan Warisan Malaysia (BWM)
- 4) Citizen Chant Group
- 5) Dr. Wu Lien-Teh Society
- 6) E&O Hotel
- 7) Friends of George Town Heritage
- 8) George Town World Heritage Incorporated (GTWHI)
- 9) German Embassy, Kuala Lumpur
- 10) German Honorary Consulate-General, Penang
- 11) Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office
- 12) India High Commission, Kuala Lumpur
- 13) Intel Corporations
- 14) Khazanah Nasional Berhad
- 15) Lestari Heritage Network
- 16) LLA Sdn Bhd
- 17) Nara Machizukuri Center, Japan
- 18) Penang Forum
- 19) Penang Global Tourism
- 20) Penang Institute
- 21) Penang Teochew Association
- 22) Penang Tourist Guides Association
- 23) Pulau Tikus Constituency – YB Yap Soo Huey
- 24) Ren-I-Tang
- 25) Ritsumeikan University, Japan
- 26) Royale Bintang Hotel
- 27) Royal Thai Embassy, Kuala Lumpur
- 28) Royal Thai Consulate-General, Penang
- 29) Seven Terraces
- 30) Tan Yeow Wooi Culture and Heritage Research Studio
- 31) The Star Publications
- 32) Think City Sdn. Bhd.

### **11.0 Acknowledgements**

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