



# PHT *newsletter*

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**PHT**

## EDITORIAL

*A New Year and our resolution remains to get publication of the Newsletter back to a quarterly cycle! Please bear with us.*

*The emphasis of heritage activities involving the PHT so far in 2006 has been on what might be termed intangibles, the strengthening of heritage awareness through the role of education and building on Penang's unique and historic character as a multi-cultural and multi-religious community. Our reports on the Penang Global Ethic Project and the UNESCO South East Asian teacher training workshop illustrate this. In the same vein was the launch of Penang Watch, an internet complaint channel, which we hope will not just give vent to the frustrations of those tired of the everyday failings of local services but more importantly will prod the relevant authorities to expedite remedies and solutions.*

*We take this opportunity to celebrate the publication of several books that also serve to expand heritage awareness-- one an excellent survey of the history of Penang's municipal transport and another recounting the story of a European minority community that helped put Penang on the map as a vibrant commercial centre. The former is a salutary reminder that a good public transport system is not beyond the realm of the possible; Penang for its day not so long ago was well served by modern trams, trolleys and buses that ran on time. As we go to print, we await with bated breath the implementation of the public transport changes proposed for 1<sup>st</sup> April.*



*In conclusion, as the UNESCO decision on World Heritage listing for Penang and Malacca approaches, we would be remiss if we failed to register again our continuing concern about the future of many of Penang's priceless, prominent heritage landmarks. A few of these are the Runnymede Hotel with the bungalow of Stamford Raffles; the Shih Chung Branch School, once known as the "Chinese Residency"; St. Joseph's Novitiate and St. Xavier's Branch School, on the soon to be vacated site of Uplands School; Homestead, already shorn of its ancillary buildings and surrounded by construction hoardings; as well as the historic but*

*neglected commercial agency houses on Weld Quay that greet travellers and visitors arriving at the Ferry Terminal, Swettenham Pier or the spanking new Church Street Pier marina. Development plans for some of these sites, e.g., Runnymede, Homestead and St. Joseph's Novitiate, bring to mind the architectural blunder of Northam Tower and Hardwicke, a heritage building retained like a decorative trinket for an oversize cake. Have developers and urban planners learned nothing about aesthetics and the principles of heritage conservation from such mistakes? Are they unaware of the outstanding built heritage that makes Penang such an attractive destination for so many overseas travellers and visitors?*



*courtesy Uplands School website*

*Guest Editor*

**APOLOGY** – February Site Visit to Convent Light Street – Some members were not aware due to the rejection by the post office of the mail-out of the announcement because of the new postal rates. Hence we were unable to inform them.

## *Teochew Puppet Show*



After several days of unpredictable weather, we had a lovely Sunday afternoon this 27 November, when members of the Penang Heritage Trust congregated at the Goh Teik Kong, the Temple of the Nine Fairy Immortals in Tanjung Tokong for their November Site Visit. The visit coincided with the birthday of the temple's patron deities, and hence, the temple put forth a Teow Chew Puppet Show. The purpose of this PHT site visit was therefore not only to view the temple, but also to appreciate the endangered trade of Teow Chew puppetry. Incidentally, this particular troupe of puppetry performers has been nominated by members of the Penang Heritage Trust as recipient of the Living Heritage Award.

By three o'clock that lovely Sunday afternoon, most of the members of PHT have gathered to watch the puppet show. The story goes something like this: Once upon a time, there was a disgruntled general who rebelled against his emperor to establish his own kingdom in one corner of the empire. The emperor, furious by this act of betrayal, sent forth a spy into this kingdom to liquidate or at least overthrow him. However, upon arriving at the kingdom, the spy fell in love with the general's daughter. In the ensuing confrontation, the spy killed the general, and his lover, devastated by the murder, killed him.

This tragedy is one of about forty different stories performed by the troupe. The stories are derived from written stories of age old Chinese legends. The troupe usually chooses a story according to the needs of the temple that invite them.

According to the matriach of the troupe, she learned the art of puppetry from a puppet master when she was 13 years old. She came from a long line of stage performers: her 80-year-old mother has just retired from being a Chinese opera performer. She has been performing the Teow Chew Puppet Opera throughout the nation, and is carrying this art down to her daughter, who now undertakes the manoeuvring of the marionettes.

The marionettes come from Swatow, in Guangdong Province. They were made of wood and painted over in enamel, and are purportedly older than the matriach herself. Since there are no ready craftsmen to repair the marionettes, the

## Site Visit Report November 2005



troupe had to undertake maintenance work themselves, repainting and mending their costumes. Her daughter showed us a newly made marionette and compared it with the ones made during her mother's time. Modern marionettes lack the workmanship of the older ones.

According to the puppeteers, the Teow Chew Puppet Opera is the precursor of the Teow Chew Stage Opera, hence opera performers usually accord much reverence to puppeteers. The difference between Teow Chew and Hokkien Puppet Opera is that the Teow Chews use wooden costumed marionettes whereas the Hokkien employ hand puppets.

There are many superstitions associated with this particular line of trade. It is taboo, for example to consume beef, crabs, and types of seafood on the stage, or even to bring them there. Only male performers are allowed to plant joss sticks onto the stage incense burners. Also, it is considered offensive to sit on the boxes that keep the puppets.

The Teow Chew Puppet Opera is becoming an endangered trade, not due to lack of demand (for the demand *is* there - the troupe is so heavily booked that they often had to turn down invitations), but because not many young people are keen to embrace this particular artform. Puppet opera is a taxing career path that requires a high degree of discipline, not to mention a lengthy apprenticeship. The performers have no opportunity of stopping to visit the restroom, for example, or to rest or even to have meals.

The art is being continued by the matriach's daughter and daughter-in-law, and assisted by her husband and other members of the family. They have even roped in the youngest member of the family, the granddaughter, to contribute to the performances. According to the matriach, it is difficult to train a new crop of performers as the young generation is not keen to watch - let alone perform - the puppet plays. Moreover, outsiders do not have commitment to undertake the rigorous training required. Even language problems - so few are fluent in Teow Chew nowadays - are undermining the future of this artform.

Members of PHT mentioned that the entire troupe should be recognised as a Living Heritage of Penang, and that the recognition should be extended to cover all members of the troupe, and not limited solely to the matriach. The members hope that the troupe could receive government support, and that the troupe could have a permanent stage to perform their art, as a showcase of touristic value.

By Timothy Tye



*Photos by Timothy Tye & The Star Metro*  
 Top left: This food offering will ensure that the male gift-bearer gains merit ... in the form of a good spouse; right: Members of PHT. Bottom left: The matriach of the puppeteer troupe handling percussions. Middle & right: Close up of the puppet.

## Galeri Seni Mutiara



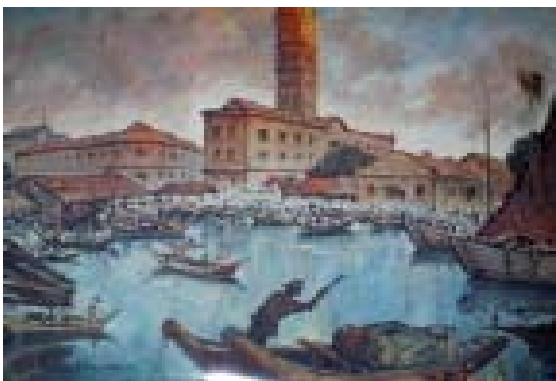
On Sunday afternoon 17<sup>th</sup> December 2005, some two dozen PHT members and friends attended a *vernissage* of the inaugural art exhibition of Galeri Seni Mutiara at No. 118 Armenian Street in the heart of George Town's heritage enclave. (The gallery was officially declared open the following week by Y.B. Dato' Haji Yahaya bin Abdul Hamid, Speaker of the Penang State Legislative Assembly.) Patron and moving spirit behind Galeri Seni Mutiara is local art collector and PHT Council member Dr. Tan Chong Guan who bought the old shophouse at No. 118, Armenian Street and restored it at his expense for adaptive re-use to

house Galeri Seni Mutiara. The curator of the gallery is Koay Soo Kau, a well known Penang artist and art teacher.

After the official opening, Dr. Tan gave an informative briefing on the project to restore the mid-19th century shophouse as well as a talk on the lives and works of several famous pioneer artists of Penang, some of whose paintings were featured in the gallery's inaugural exhibition. These artists included Yong Mun Sen (1896-1962), Kuo Ju Ping (1908-1962), Khaw Sia (1913-1984), Tay Hooi Keat (1910-1989), Lee Cheng Yong (1913-1974), Ho Khay Beng, and Chua Thean Teng (born 1914). Dr. Tan's remarks on these artists were enlivened by the presence in the PHT group of Yong Mun Sen's grand-daughter Kok Pow Lin, Khaw Sia's son, Khaw Yiat Lin, and Kuo Ju Ping' niece who added personal recollections of their famous artist forbears.



*Yong Mun Sen - Happy Family 1946 Oil on board 47 x 51 cm*



*A painting by Khaw Sia*

The exhibition provided a valuable historical context in which to view the works of a number of contemporary Penang artists in conjunction with the works of these Penang "old masters". This inaugural exhibition of Galeri Seni Mutiara was open from 17<sup>th</sup> December 2005 to 14<sup>th</sup> January 2006.

*By Leslie A.K. James*

## Site Visit Report February 2006



A large group of PHT members participated in the site visit to Convent Light Street on Sunday afternoon, 26 February. The visit was arranged through the assistance of PHT member and Convent Old Girls Association member Joan Shori. The school was ably represented by several senior girls who acted as guides for the visit. The PHT group also included a number of alumnae of the school who shared their reminiscences of life at the school as boarders or day students.

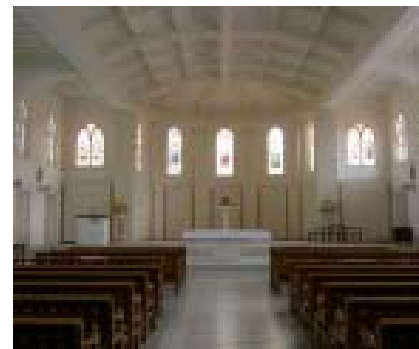
Convent Light Street, founded in 1852 by the French Sisters of the Holy Infant Jesus and since 1859 occupying land on George Town's north shore at the end of Light Street, is Malaysia's oldest girls' school. The school comprises one of the most beautiful and historically important collections of buildings in Malaysia. Not only significant for its role in the development of education in the country, particularly girls' education, Convent Light Street also includes on its site the historic Government House, acquired by the Convent in 1859. This was the former official residence of Francis Light and seat of the early government of Penang in its days as the fourth Presidency of the East India Company. Much work and research needs to be done to restore this Anglo-Indian house although it evidently remains very much in its original condition. PHT members were disappointed that they were not permitted to view the interior of Government House, reportedly because of work being undertaken to repair the roof.

PHT members were much impressed by the school's Historical & Heritage Trail established in August 2005 and marked by brass plaques describing important buildings on the school campus. Of particular note is the "C" Block classroom where American sailors from the USS *Grenadier* were held captive by the Japanese during the Second World War. Mementoes of their imprisonment are maintained in the classroom as a museum. The adjoining "English Garden" with its magnificent breadfruit tree and magnolias recalls an era of serenity in contrast to the stories of torture and mistreatment represented by the "C" Block classroom.

Other points of interest included the Convent's former chapel with its beautiful stained glass windows, the two wells – Light's Well and the

public well – reputedly dug on the orders of Francis Light, the Orphanage and the Baby House, the latter two buildings recalling the Convent's former role in welfare work in Penang's early days. Again there was some disappointment among PHT members, especially some of the "old girls", that the dormitories and former nuns' quarters were not opened up for viewing on this occasion. Nevertheless, this site visit was regarded by all participants as very successful, with special tribute being paid to the school's Historical & Heritage Trail with its handsome and well written plaques and accompanying brochure, a model for this kind of project. Participants were also impressed by the interest, knowledge and enthusiasm of the student guides.

by Leslie A.K. James



## The City as an Open Classroom: Diversity & Dynamism in Urban Conservation 8-10 January 2006

Over 30 participants thronged over to Hotel City Bayview for 2 full days of presentations and workshop entitled "The City as an Open Classroom: Diversity & Dynamism in Urban Conservation."

This is an Asian Heritage Cities Triangle project initiated by the Nara Machizukuri Center (NMC), sponsored by the Japan Foundation and supported by Institute for Cultural Enterprise, coordinated by Khoo Salma from Lestari Heritage Network, Dr Irene Leung from Institute for Cultural Enterprise and PHT. This workshop brought delegates from Japan, Thailand, Cambodia, and Malaysia together to exchange practices, strategies and tools used to curb challenges facing urbanization.

Introductions of each organisation were done in the morning of day 1, followed by presentation on Nara by NMC, Dr Gwynn Jenkins presented on 'Fragmented Streetscapes' of Penang. The group then took a walk to the historic street of George Town guided by Joann Khaw. Afternoon saw the group welcomed by Penang Teochew Association committee, and Miss Lim Gaik Siang, advisor to the conservation committee of Penang Teochew Association, gave



a briefing on 'Best Practices in Preservation'. Using Koay Jetty as a topic of discussion, Clement Liang, PHT Council member, led the group to an open discussion of heritage crisis in the urban city. After an afternoon tea of local delicacies hosted by Teochew Association, next was the presentation by Dr Beng Khemro, Deputy Director General at the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction in Phnom Penh. Dr. Beng described the process of identifying historical and cultural building as well as drafting of laws and regulations to protect such buildings in cities such as Phnom Penh and Battambang.

On Day 2 in the morning, the group went for heritage trails guided by Anak-Anak Kota young facilitators. Anak-Anak Kota (Children of the City) is an innovative project that

trains young people to learn about arts and heritage away from the textbook approach. The group was very impressed by the young facilitators' creativity and their expression on awareness and heritage conservation. The group convened at PHT to hear a presentation by Janet Pillai on her most recent community mapping project in Balik Pulau. During the afternoon, the group heard presentations from Dr Duongchan Apavatjirut Charoenmuang on the threat of urban development and commercialization of culture and spirit in Chiang Mai. Then Pranee Sak, an expert on Thai and Nonya culture talked about how descendants of Thailand's Baba Nonya carry on their local festivals



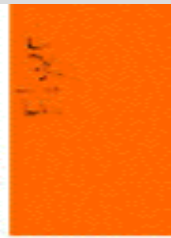
and cultural practices in Phuket. The last two hours of the workshop were devoted to roundtable discussions on sharing strategies on urban conservation.

A welcome dinner was waiting for them on Day 2, hosted by Penang Heritage Trust. The dinner was quite a boisterous event where carousing filled the air during the happy hours. The workshop ended with another dinner hosted by Nara Machizukuri Centre on the third day. Emails/name cards were exchanged, one by one, the participants and organisers bid farewell to a successful and intellectually challenging workshop.

*By Magdeline Ng*



## Projects November 2005- March 2006



'Seeing with Young Eyes' enjoyed the sponsorship of the Nordic World Heritage Foundation, the Japan Foundation, UPEN Malaysia and Tanjong PLC. The opening session was chaired by Loh-Lim Lin Lee who, with Laurence Loh, entertained delegates

In mid-January, George Town was the site for UNESCO's third sub-regional South East Asian teacher training workshop on using the creative arts to support heritage learning. In partnership with the Office of UNESCO's Regional Advisor for Culture in Asia and the Pacific, the Penang Heritage Trust hosted heritage and education professionals from the region in progressing UNESCO's World Heritage Education Project.

The workshop was the third in a series - the first having been held in Sukhothai in Thailand (February 2000), and the second in the Philippines' World Heritage town of Vigan (December 2001) – and all built on and evaluated the goals set and met during the previous years. The series of workshops has enjoyed the consistent participation of representatives from been Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and, of course, Malaysia. Participants include lecturers in culture, architecture and fine arts; teachers of fine arts, history, geography, living skills, mathematics, morals, English; education directors and curriculum developers; cultural heritage managers, programme coordinators and heritage experts; writers and researchers.

'Seeing With Young Eyes' aimed to promote Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Education for All (EFA), and World Heritage Education (WHE). Underpinning these aims, the creative arts provide tools for enabling contact with heritage environments and cultural memory. The week-long workshop examined ways in which heritage learning, experienced especially through creative engagement with historic and cultural environments, can contribute to UNESCO's overarching vision for global World Heritage awareness.

The cooperative work which led to the workshop underscores the importance of partnerships in work for sustainable development. The workshop was the result of the collaborative effort and support of:

- UNESCO's Office of the Regional Advisor for Culture in Asia and the Pacific
- Arts-Ed
- Badan Warisan Malaysia
- Penang Heritage Trust

at the workshop's closing dinner at Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion. In between, the workshop programme combined stimulating field work and artist-led creative workshops with challenging group exercises and was expertly facilitated throughout by Elizabeth Cardosa (Executive Director, Badan Warisan Malaysia), Helena Aman Hashim (Lecturer, University of Malaya), Lim Ee Lin (Heritage Centre Manager, Badan Warisan Malaysia) and Loh-Lim Lin Lee. Led by Janet Pillai, the programme engaged participants in practical demonstrations of cultural mapping through Arts-Ed's 'My Balik Pulau' project and Anak Anak Kota's methodologies and curriculum. The hands-on nature of activities aimed to help participants develop pedagogic tools for introducing heritage education in school curricula and facilitating young people's engagement in heritage environments through arts projects.

Demonstrating the results of such engagement, five young facilitators led architectural, traditional trades and foods walkabouts, offering insights into research work conducted by young people as part of Arts-Ed's Anak Anak Kota project. Active participants throughout the workshop, Chen Yoke Pin, Ho Sheau Fung, Hor Wei Vern, Natasha Khanum and Nur Muna Bt Mazlan

represented the concrete rewards of ESD, being young people whose commitment to heritage and learning through creative engagement with the environment will contribute to the development of heritage awareness in the next generation.





**UNESCO’s role in ESD and the workshop’s aims**

*An account of Dr Richard Engelhardt’s (UNESCO Regional Advisor for Culture in Asia and the Pacific) introduction and UNESCO’s World Heritage Education Project*

Dr Engelhardt prefaced his workshop introduction by announcing that UNESCO is establishing two chairs in Universiti Sains Malaysia – one in Education for Sustainable Development and another in Culture and Peace initiatives. Outlining UNESCO’s three aims for the workshop (to promote ESD, EFA and WHE), Dr Engelhardt characterised the programme as being future-oriented and outward-looking. Building on preceding workshops in the series, ‘Seeing with Young Eyes’ aimed to develop ideas on using the creative arts to introduce heritage awareness, based on sustainable development principles, to children’s formal and informal learning in South East Asia.

Sustainable development principles (discussed later in this article), are informed by the need to conserve collective and individual memory. The creative arts can be mobilized to conserve and express memory, reflections enabled by it, and ultimately progress ESD, EFA and WHE. Heritage encodes our memories of the past, and the role of education is to learn how to decode the information, understandings and perspectives inherent in cultural memory. The creative arts have built complex human heritage, and arts are a tool for investigating and reflecting on the world’s cultural heritage sites. The arts enable a wide compass of contact with heritage environments and resources at a deep level, forging links with the accumulated wisdom that defines cultural memory. Young people learn about heritage, their own and that of others, by doing. Participation in the artistic creations of cultures offers an effective educational approach, fostering intercultural dialogue and involving learners and teachers/ facilitators in a top-down, bottom-up participatory model<sup>1</sup>.

UNESCO’s World Heritage vision embraces a commitment to achieving sustainable development, overcoming environmental abuse and rehabilitating social disease (or disease) through heritage education, especially through creative means and, in the workshop’s case, especially for the young. Dr Engelhardt posited some guiding questions for the workshop:

- How can we apply the vocabulary of arts and media to heritage themes and issues?
- How do use the arts to promote creative thinking, problem-solving, awareness of sensitivity to heritage sites?
- How can we encourage teachers to participate in conservation and awareness programmes aimed at safeguarding heritage sites?
- How do we give teachers the tools to do this?
- And how do we give children the opportunity to engage personally with and learn about heritage sites and issues?

**What is Education for Sustainable Development?**

*Dr Chan Lean Heng, of the School of Social Sciences, USM, introduces Education for Sustainable Development*

‘Sustainability’ describes viable practices that can be continued in the long term in ways that do not harm but equally benefit, not just people, but the planet and all living things. Such practices should be applied to decisions which affect all community levels, from the school compound, to the neighbourhood and village to the national economy. ‘Sustainable development’ is ‘development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’<sup>1</sup>. Sustainable development is not just about conservation. It depends on learning behaviours and acquiring knowledge that enable problem solving and the exploration of viable

<sup>1</sup> Dr Engelhardt referred to UNESCO’s World Heritage Resource Kit for Teachers

<sup>2</sup> The Report of the Brundtland Commission (formally the World Commission on Environment and Development), *Our Common Future* (1987), Oxford University Press



## Projects November 2005– March 2006

alternatives to enhance quality of life. Such a paradigm shift in thinking needs to recognize the needs of all and the needs of natural, cultural and fiscal environments. Sustainability provides the guiding framework for this shift in thinking and adoption of behaviours which support our now and future needs. Culture is the underlying foundation for sustainable development, defining as it does individual and community attitudes, behaviours and actions. The three pillars for which culture acts as a stylobate are economy, environment and society. Decision-making and action in all three areas is interrelated, meaning that sustainable development depends on cooperative and cross-disciplinary approaches to economic, environmental and social issues. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) prepares the global community for this collaborative working.

The United Nations General Assembly endorsed ESD in 1987, but sustainable development has been practiced by indigenous farming communities all over the world for centuries. The UN declared 2005-2014 a decade ESD, committing the international body to helping local communities and governments throughout the world integrate ESD into daily life. UN objectives attached to this decade of ESD include:

- enhancing the role of education and learning to achieve sustainable development;
- facilitating links between communities and networks of knowledge around the world;
- providing space and opportunities for representing and promoting the transition to sustainable development.

Education for Sustainable Development aims to enable people to develop knowledge, values, skills and behaviours to participate in decision-making about the way things are done, collectively and individually. The preposition is significant: ESD is education *for*, not *about*, sustainable development. ESD describes a process as well as a product. It is holistic in approach, interdisciplinary, value-driven, vision-building, participatory, locally relevant and culturally appropriate. It promotes critical-thinking, problem-solving and reflection skills to achieve creative alternative approaches. It depends on partnership working and on effective communications and exchange of ideas within those collaborations – multi-loguing. ESD is characterised by interconnectedness, interdependence and interrelationships that cut across specialisations, social arenas and project roles. Key concepts which drive ESD are:

- citizenship and stewardship and awareness of collective and individual civil rights and responsibilities;
- cultural diversity, bio-diversity and inter-cultural respect;
- quality of life, equity and justice, peace and international cooperation.

So ESD operates within a broad framework, encompassing the corporate, community and individual perspective on economic, social and environmental decisions and actions. Heritage education works within this broad frame to contribute to the aims of sustainable development, and the 'seeing with young eyes' offers lessons for ESD through an exploration of heritage. The workshop aims to demonstrate working with young people outside the curriculum, active participation and partnership, relevant and appropriate use of local resources, arts education, cultural and community mapping as methods in ESD. It will explore ways of integrating concepts of sustainability into creative activities. It will examine ways of enabling students to uncover and reflection their assumptions, values and world views. It will share and develop ideas on facilitating student's introspection to discover how their relationships with their environments inform their senses of identity and their comprehension of sustainability.

### Using the creative arts to engage with culture: field work, heritage trails, music, story telling and woodcarving

Future-oriented, outward-looking and based on sustainable development principles, the techniques for using the creative arts to build heritage awareness in young people, shared by participants and presenters, contributed to UNESCO's aspirations for heritage learning to become part of children's formal and informal learning in South East Asia. Demonstrating the precept that young people learn by doing, the week's activities were participatory, characterised by the top-down, bottom-up participatory model referred to in UNESCO's 'World Heritage Resource Kit for Teachers'. They involved participants in multiple learning environments, field trips, walking tours, project work and cultural mapping as an interpretative tool.



## Projects November 2005- March 2006

Following in the footsteps of the fifteen 11- and 12-year-olds who participated in Arts-Ed's 'My Balik Pulau' project, delegates engaged in their own cultural mapping exercise of the town. The field work enabled delegates to see the process in action, one which used cultural mapping as a tool to enable children to relook at their familiar surroundings. The methodology embraced documentary and oral research, honed observational skills and challenged preconceptions. Illuminating the boundaries fixed by prior knowledge, 'My Balik Pulau' demonstrates the value in setting assumptions aside, seeing through new eyes,



appreciating that there is always more to learn and other interpretations to respect. Working in teams, delegates' revelatory experience mirrored that of their young predecessors. The project reveals the value of using multiple information resources and information-acquisition techniques, the power of team work, the salience of immediate experience, the potential for perceiving fascination in apparent ordinariness, the stimulation of learning by doing and the paths to self-awareness which creative learning can offer. From a pedagogical point of view, 'My Balik Pulau' demonstrated multiple incentives to stimulate children's interest in participating. Learning in an authentic environment, and

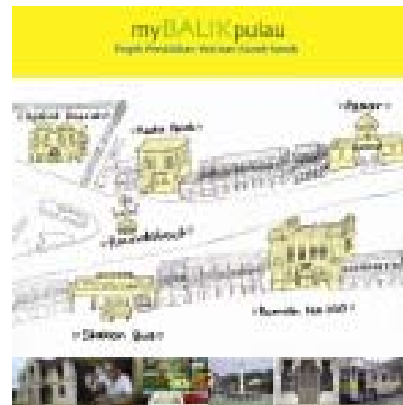
outside the classroom, self-directed learning and the rewards of discovery, being entrusted with responsibility for their own conduct and work are among the attractions of alternative learning, exemplified by 'My Balik Pulau'.

Day 4 of the workshop engaged delegates in artist-led workshops which demonstrated ways of engaging children and heritage through the creative media of storytelling, woodcarving and music. Each group experienced the reward of rapid knowledge acquisition and collaborative work. Under the guidance of AAK artists, each team examined the life of Lebuah Cina's environs, gathered data and used this to develop creative interpretations of that slice of urban life.

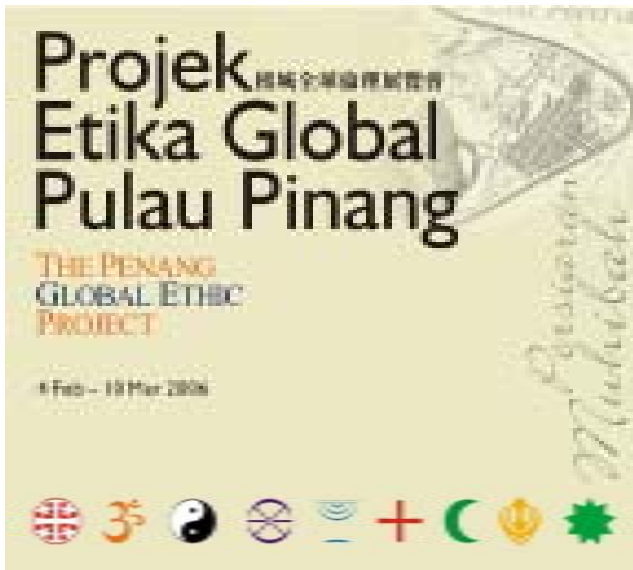
Heritage walks which highlighted the research work of Anak Anak Kota's young participants examined endangered trades, traditional foods and architectural restoration issues. The Teochew Association graciously hosted a welcome dinner for delegates, giving the group the opportunity, not only to view and learn about the temple's superb RM1.5 million restoration from conservation consultant, Miss Lim Gaik Siang, but to enjoy performances of traditional opera and puppetry, and a sumptuous meal.

Cheah Kongs, the restored shophouse at 81 Lebuah Cina and the Tropical Spice Garden were among other sites which offered fascinating backdrops to the week's programme. By examining ways of giving teachers the tools to engage children with their own heritage and that of others, the workshop injected new energy into learning's mission to promote 'seeing with young eyes'.

*By Clare Watson*



*Projects November 2005- March 2006*



The purpose of the Penang Global Ethic Project was to promote the principles of “World Religions – Universal Peace – Global Ethic” by identifying them with Penang’s traditions of religious tolerance and diversity. The project opened on 4<sup>th</sup> February

2006 with a series of events celebrating this spirit of diversity. The official launch by TYT Governor of Penang was on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2006 and the project closed on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2006. The project was co-organised by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAF) and the Malaysian Interfaith Network (MIN) and coordinated by Khoo Salma from Lestari Heritage Network.

Penang Heritage Trust, as one of the event organizers, was responsible for an English component of the exhibition at the Town Hall on the Esplanade; PHT also organised the virtual tour of the “World Religion Walk, Penang” for adults and, together with Arts-Ed, the “Discovery Trails” for young people and school students.

“Street of Harmony” - Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling (formerly Pitt Street) with its diverse places of worship, traditions and communities representing the world’s major religions, was introduced as the main site for the walk. PHT conducted 14 religion walks 248 adult participants and 13 school walks for 410 student participants. The “Discovery Trails” were specially designed for students with hands-on activities such as information hunts, group work, interactive learning of skills for students aged 11-15. Students were taken to the street by our young facilitators who were trained under Janet Pillai of Arts-Ed. As the discovery trails received overwhelming response from schools, PHT is negotiating with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation for further funding to continue this educational project and also seeking endorsement from the State Education Department as part of an extra-curriculum activity for schools.



*By Magdeline Ng  
Poster: Lestari Heritage Network*



(See <http://www.globlethicpenang.net> for more information.)

Media Coverage of Heritage Issues

1920 News

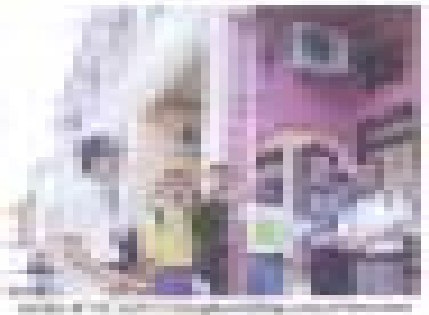
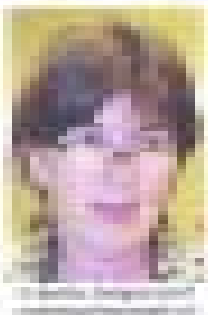
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# Saving cultural landscapes

Cultural landscapes are a vital part of our heritage, and it is essential that we take steps to protect them. The Penang Heritage Trust is working to raise awareness of the importance of these landscapes and to ensure that they are preserved for future generations.

The Trust is currently working on a project to identify and map cultural landscapes in Penang. This will involve conducting fieldwork and consulting with local communities and experts. The information gathered will be used to develop a plan of action to protect these landscapes.

The Trust is also working to raise awareness of the importance of cultural landscapes through its website, social media, and public events. We hope that this will encourage more people to get involved in protecting our heritage.



30 Opinion

## A casino won't draw tourists

The proposed casino in Penang is unlikely to attract the number of tourists that its promoters claim. This is because Penang is already a popular tourist destination, and the casino will not be the main reason for people to visit.

Instead, the casino will likely attract a small number of tourists who are interested in gambling. This is not a sustainable tourism strategy, and it could have negative impacts on the local economy and environment.

The Penang Heritage Trust is opposed to the casino because it is a threat to our cultural heritage. We believe that Penang should focus on promoting its rich history and culture as its main attraction.

HATI

## Ministry has no say in museum board positions

The Ministry of Education has no say in the appointment of members to the board of the National Museum. This is because the board is an independent body, and its members are appointed by the Prime Minister.

The Ministry of Education is responsible for the management of the museum, but it does not have a say in the board's composition. This is an important principle of good governance, and it ensures that the board can act in the best interests of the museum.

The Penang Heritage Trust is pleased that the Ministry of Education has no say in the board's composition. This will ensure that the board is independent and can make decisions that are in the best interests of the museum.



The National Museum is an important institution in Malaysia, and it is essential that it is managed in a transparent and accountable manner. The board of the museum is responsible for this, and it is important that its members are appointed on the basis of merit.

The Penang Heritage Trust is committed to supporting the National Museum and to ensuring that it is managed in a way that is consistent with our values. We will continue to work with the board and the Ministry of Education to improve the museum's operations.

# Snell for buildings ends School campus



The building at the top of the page is the old school building of the school which was built in 1910 and is now a museum.

# NATIONAL Museum board replaced

The board of trustees of the National Museum has been replaced by the government. The new board will be headed by the Minister of Education, and will include representatives from various government departments and the public. The board will be responsible for the management and development of the museum's collections and facilities.



The new board will be responsible for the management and development of the museum's collections and facilities. It will also be responsible for the museum's financial affairs and for ensuring that the museum is open to the public. The board will meet regularly to discuss the museum's affairs and to make decisions on its behalf.

# Nation 29

# Boost from Heritage Bill

Chances of Malacca and George Town being listed are good

The chances of Malacca and George Town being listed as World Heritage Sites are good, according to a report by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The report states that the two cities have a rich cultural heritage and are well-preserved. It also notes that the two cities are both located in Malaysia, which is a member state of UNESCO.



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## Inner City Trails



- Little India Experience & Pinang Peranakan Mansion
- \*
- Heritage Trail & Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion
- \*
- Street of Harmony & Historical Enclave

## Media Coverage of Heritage Issues

### Wawasan College to enrol students by Sept

**PENANG:** The Gazetan-sponsored Wawasan Open University College will start enrolling students by September.

It is Malaysia's first private but non-profit open distance learning institution for working adults who did not have the opportunity to pursue tertiary education.

The university college's vice-chancellor Dato' Prof Emeritus Gajaja Dhanrajai said the university would provide opportunities for some nine million working adults who have had less than 10 years of schooling.

"Housewives who wish to improve themselves are also welcome,"

he added.

About 1,000 students are expected to enrol initially, he said.

The university college will initially have three facilities - Science and Technology, Business and Administration and Foundation Studies - offering 11 degree programmes.

The 11,800 square metre university college will be based at Homestead, a heritage building designed in 1919 and donated by the Yap Chee Joo Quatrable Trust and the Yap Chee Joo Endowment Trust.

A proposed 12-storey extension of Homestead will serve as the campus premises in April next year,



## Rep hopes Penang Hill get more facilities

### Rep hopes Penang Hill get more facilities

**Penang:** Deputy MP Gajaja Dhanrajai said the newly proposed Penang Hill Cable Car Project should be given priority in the upcoming state budget.

He said, during a recent visit to Penang Hill, he found that the existing facilities were not sufficient to cater for the increasing number of tourists visiting the hill.

He added that the proposed cable car project would provide a more convenient mode of transport for tourists and locals alike.

He also said that the proposed cable car project would provide a more scenic view of the island from the hill.

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### Heritage campaigners are 'Amazing Malaysians'

**Penang:** A group of heritage campaigners are being hailed as 'Amazing Malaysians' for their dedication to preserving the island's rich cultural and historical heritage.

The group, led by Dato' Gajaja Dhanrajai, has been instrumental in raising awareness and securing funding for various heritage projects.

They have successfully campaigned for the restoration of several historic buildings and the establishment of a heritage museum.

The campaigners have also been instrumental in the formation of the Penang Heritage Trust, which has since become a leading organization in the field.

Their efforts have not only preserved the island's heritage but have also inspired a new generation of Malaysians to take an interest in their own history.

### Penang ideal for movies



**Penang:** The island's diverse architecture, scenic views, and rich cultural heritage make it an ideal location for filming movies and television series.

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# Penang's angsanas bidding for record

## ANGSANAS

Penang's angsanas are bidding for a record number of bids for the 2006 Commonwealth Games. The state government is expected to receive more than 100 bids from all over the world.

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Heritage walkabout

## Heritage walkabout

A group of people participated in a heritage walkabout, carrying traditional items. The walkabout was held in Penang and was a success.

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Heritage walkabout

## Restoration of 26 Church Street - New PHT Office

Members will be please to know that work on our new home is on schedule and progressing well and the Trust should be able to move in by the middle of this year. This is not to say that there had been no problems. As expected the unexpected happened, not once, but three times.

After closer examination, the structural engineer, Dato' Yap, advised that the first floor, originally designed for light domestic use, will have to be strengthened, if it is to be used for conferences and seminars. This meant that we had to put in additional 17 joists at a cost of about RM 11 000.



Like all houses of this vintage, ours has an air well and a small sunken courtyard of granite blocks immediately below, which, as usually the case, had been cemented over. In almost every house that we know of, it was a simple matter of removing the cement floor to reveal the blocks in their original position; it being too expensive and difficult to remove them before laying a new cement floor on top. Except in our case, that is. After excavating we found that most of the blocks were missing. Getting new blocks would be prohibitively expensive, but fortunately, after serious scrounging by Laurence and Lin Lee we were able to get some second-hand blocks cheaply. The restored courtyard will look as good as the original.

In brief then we are happy to report that, as of April 1<sup>st</sup> 2006:

- the restoration has passed the 70% completion stage
- major works involving timbers and roofing are 95% achieved
- Timber flooring & joists are 100% achieved
- Fenestration is more than 60% completed
- Excavation is 100% completed
- Sourcing of granite slabs and installation is more than 60% completed
- Sourcing of salvaged materials and repair is 100% completed
- Electrical installations 60% completed
- Sanitary installations – plans submitted, awaiting approval
- Painting works 10% completed

We have also sourced some lovely period furniture for the office and we look forward to physical completion sometime in May 2006. Furnishings and fit-out should take a month.

Members are welcomed to visit the new office even now, but please inform us before hand. Also please remember that it is a building site and there is always the risk of injury.

by Ahmad Chik  
Chairman, Restoration Committee  
Photos courtesy LLA





# THE HINDU

## Archaeological Survey of India renovates St. Mary's Church *The oldest Anglican church outside England sports a new look*

### *Special Correspondent*

**CHENNAI:** One of the city's oldest surviving heritage structures has just had a new look plastered on to it, literally.

The St. Mary's Church inside the Fort St. George premises, circa 1680 and the oldest Anglican church outside England, now wears a spruced up look, thanks to rigorous conservation work undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India (Chennai Circle).

Gone is the garish blue colour on the nave — a latter-day addition that had earned much ridicule from conservationists — and a clutch cracks that were making the structure structurally weak due to rainwater seepage.

After renovation and restoration efforts running into Rs. 16 lakh, the ASI formally handed over the premises to the Church Committee on Friday, and prayers began immediately. The conservation exercise had started in September last year, ahead of the 325th year of consecration of the church.

The Protestant church is the oldest place of worship built by the English in India and also the oldest British building of its kind in the country.

“The expertise for the conservation came from the ASI's engineering wing which, after a rigorous diagnosis, identified the structural weak points and worked on them. The entire exercise threw up a lot of interesting lessons on conservation of ancient monuments, all of which will be documented for future use,” T. Sathyamurthy, Superintending Archaeologist, ASI, said. The Church committee, represented by Ebenezer Emanuel, expressed its gratitude to the ASI, for conservation and continued maintenance of the strategically located church.

The main structural weakness was a lateral crack that ran along the vaulted roof near the altar and another crack along the nave, both of which caused profuse leakage. Sourcing locally available material, the ASI team replastered the entire interior with purelime mortar in three layers, completely

eschewing the use of cement. The lime mortar was mixed with jaggery and gannut water and the final coat was mixed with eggshells. The cracks were grouted and the blue colour on the nave changed to the original bone white.

The exquisite architectural marvel, with its stained glass windows, vaulted roof and a reproduction of Raphael's Last Supper over the altar, was built completely out of public subscription by Streynsham Master, the Governor of Fort St. George from 1677-1681. The roof was designed to withstand enemy gunfire from the sea and land.

The church played an important part in the chequered history of the East India Company and still houses the remains of various soldiers and generals who had died during service.

The church draws visitors from all over the world, many of whom trace their lineage from the church records that contains details of baptisms, weddings and burials from 1680 to 1819.

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### **‘St Mary's Church, Fort St George, Madras’. Drawn and engraved by J.W. Gantz, Vepery, 1841.**

Coloured aquatint with etching by J.W. Gantz of St Mary's Church in Fort St George at Madras, dated 1841.



## *Discoveries from afar – a visitor's perspective*

*By Marcus Langdon*

*As a young Australian traveller on the back-packer trail in the mid seventies I was struck by the wonderful ambience of George Town; its cluttered buildings evocative of living history supporting a cacophony of unfamiliar sights, sounds and smells. Little did I understand its origins—it was purely a sensory experience.*

*Thirty years on, a search for an ancestor (George Porter; headmaster of the Free School 1822-1826; Parish Clerk 1822-1830; Superintendent of the Botanical Garden 1822-1824; Merchant and Auctioneer 1826-1834) has led to exhaustive research of reference books, early newspapers and the Straits Settlement Records to discover more about this era. This has provided me with a great appreciation and insight into Penang's first half-century and the rich historical tapestry which we see today—a truly unique enclave in South East Asia. Few visitors would understand this heritage.*

*They would however notice the invading army of towering apartment blocks closing in on the most valuable real estate and the once pristine beach havens choked off by traffic snarls and all but crushed by over-utilisation. Penang's greatest remaining tourism asset is, therefore, its built heritage. There is now a greater than ever tourism potential in preserving this heritage as tracing one's family history rapidly becomes one of the world's most popular hobbies. One should also not underestimate the significance of providing visitors with detailed information on structures not so tangible today, such as the intriguing Aqueduct.*

*Once restoration is completed the iconic Suffolk House will provide a key focal point from where an exploration of Penang's history can begin—its rise to glory and subsequent fall from grace almost mirroring that of Penang's fortunes in the early 1800's. Much of this history is little known and the following findings from my research are included by way of example:*

*The Fort, though improved upon over the decades, is significantly as constructed by Francis Light in 1794 prior to his death in October that year and was never completely rebuilt as often suggested.*



## Discoveries from afar...

- *Old Government House in the grounds of the Convent Light Street remains one of Penang's most significant buildings—having been constructed by Light in the 1780's as his official residence—though enlarged over the years.*
- *The plans for St George's Church were commissioned by Governor William Petrie from Bengal and in fact Reverend Robert Sparke Hutchings had little to do with it. Lieutenant (later Captain) Robert Smith of the Madrasah Engineers was primarily responsible for its location and final design.*
- *There were two Aqueducts: one to the North Beach as shown in Captain Smith's painting, and a second one begun in 1826 utilising cast iron pipes and generally following Macalister Road to the Fort via Beach Street*

*The magnificent efforts of those involved in restoring Penang's numerous significant buildings is to be highly commended, and if allowed to blossom will surely prove invaluable in attracting tourism. Although the sensory experience will still be a primary attraction for visitors, we should endeavour to enrich their visit with the vibrant and tangible history I missed out on all those years ago.*

*[Marcus Langdon is a private researcher based in Queensland, Australia, specialising in Colonial Penang to 1840]*

## Proposed Inner City Improvements

In February, the PHT wrote to the President of MPPP proposing a number of inner city improvements in George Town. These proposals were put forward following an informal evaluation conducted jointly by the PHT and the MPPP President and his senior officials on 16<sup>th</sup> February. They included the creation of an **Inner City Walking Trail** using the existing canal which runs from Lebu Muntiri to Jalan Kimberley. In the course of the informal evaluation, there was consensus that this can be done quite easily. All that is required is for the obstructions to be cleared, the canal cleaned and repaired, landscaped and provided with safety rails on both sides. If this is done, not only would the MPPP have created an attractive walking and jogging route but it would also improve the accessibility for pedestrians to go from one part of the city to another with ease and safety. Moreover, the residents of this part of George Town have very few facilities for exercise or recreation and anything that would help improve the quality of their lives would be appreciated.

Noting the work to upgrade the area of **Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling**, the PHT further proposed that obstructions be removed from ramps and paths dedicated for wheelchair use in order to ensure safe and convenient access for the handicapped.

The PHT also asked the MPPP to address several issues affecting pedestrian accessibility on **Lebu Chulia**, including obstruction of pavements by permanent constructions such as brick walls, iron grills and trading goods. As the main obstruction, however, is caused by indiscriminately parked motor cycles, the PHT request the MPPP to provide more proper on-street motor cycle parks (which can be done by converting every 5<sup>th</sup> car park into a cycle park), and reinforce the message by fining cyclists who park their bikes on the five-foot way or even seizing their machines.

*by Leslie A.K. James*



Penang Watch has the twin objectives of encouraging the Majlis Perbandaran Pulau Pinang to improve its performance by providing it with both positive and negative feedback; and empowering the citizens of Penang by enabling them to articulate their views of the local government through the electronic media.

This website, an initiative of Dato Anwar Fazal and Ahmad Chik and operated by Ong Boon Keong, was launched on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, under the PHT with the support of several other NGOs. You can check the website at [site:penangwatch.net](http://site:penangwatch.net).

PHT president Dr. S.P. Choong has brought the website to the attention of MPs, State Assemblymen and MPPP Council Members, expressing the hope that they will make use of this facility to keep track of the problems under their portfolio or people's opinions in their constituency with a view to making their jobs easier and their constituents happier.

### **OUR AIM:**

Our aim is to support the Federal and State Governments in their stated aims of making the MPPP (and all local authorities) an accountable, transparent and efficient administration with the ultimate objective of making George Town a healthy city as defined by the Healthy City Initiative.

### **How we operate :**

The traditional method of lodging a complaint - by letter, telephone or personally - is effective only if the complaint gets to right person in authority and he/she acts on it. Usually the letter is misplaced or the right person is not at his desk to answer the telephone.

Penang Watch offers a unique and effective service to see to the settlement of complaints:

1. We help to forward complaints to the right person(s) – we have full lists of all persons in charge in the Council and the entire government with their phones, fax and email addresses whenever possible.
2. Remind the person in charge till the complaints are acted upon! You need to update us to let us know if your complaint has not been acted upon in a reasonable time frame, e.g., 1-2 weeks to responds to a letter. Please keep us inform if the problem is solved so we can keep track of the time to solve each problem. If you can locate and forward your complaint to the right person by yourself (e.g., referring to our directory of persons-in-charge in the Council) you can copy your complaint to us and keep us informed.
3. Build up a profile of complaints sent to every department/officials in the Council - so we can use the “name and shame” approach to get government officials to act. This is done by publicizing their complaints pile-up in this web site; publishing them in regular press conferences;
4. When a complaint is settled, the before and after photos will be added to our ‘applause’ section to reflect our effectiveness!

## Heritage & Public Transport

In light of the announcement on 31<sup>st</sup> March of major transportation infrastructure projects for Penang under the Ninth Malaysia Plan, it is timely to recall that the various issues relating to the proposed Penang Outer Ring Road (PORR) Gurney Drive extension raised by the PHT in a letter to the Chief Minister on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2004 (see below) remain to be addressed.



### “PHT & CEPAT”

Looking at the press recently, most of us would have noticed that public transport, long an issue of simmering discontent among Penangites, has suddenly become a high profile issue. And it seems to have been instigated by a feisty but little known coalition of NGO's calling themselves CEPAT.

Some members may not be quite clear as to what relationship CEPAT has with PHT. Here is the inside story.

CEPAT started as a small working group called STEP (Sustainable Transport Environment Penang) which came out of a series of people's consultations on the development goals for Penang in 1997-99. This admirable effort was supported by international organisations, such as CIDA, UNDP and UN ESCAP, to establish good governance and sustainable development goals in developing countries. This was called the Sustainable Penang Initiative. Among the prime movers were Dato Anwar Fazal and Khoo Salma (then Honorary Secretary of the PHT). It produced the Penang People's Report in 1999 which listed the status of various components of development such as culture, environment and health. STEP became

the working group for transportation as this was considered a major issue affecting health, urban environment and quality of life in Penang.

As the PHT is very concerned about the urban environment in the inner city, especially with regard to traffic jams, it was decided that STEP would form part of our platform to save the inner city. Ahmad Chik, Khoo Salma and I moved this group forward as a vehicle for change, organising several workshops on sustainable transport for policy makers and NGOs trying to move them away from private car dependency to public transport and bicycles. We were recognised as a people's representative at government meetings involving transport policies headed by YB Dr Teng Hock Nan under his portfolio of 'traffic management'. These meetings varied from large committees involving all stakeholders, including CVLB, road traffic department, MPPP and even bus operators to small working groups with engineers and traffic planners analyzing data and formulating solutions.

Our participation gave us an insight into the workings of policy makers at state and federal levels. These meetings went on regularly from 1999 till 2004, during which time the situation gradually became clear. The most important revelation was that the professionals in the bureaucracy actually knew what the problems and solutions were but the policy makers, namely the Ministry of Entrepreneur & Cooperative Development and the Commercial Vehicle Licensing Board (CVLB) were motivated by political objectives which placed public interest last. In order to accommodate incompetent licence holders, the Board was ignoring almost every clause in the CVLB Act which governs its role in regulating

public transport, everything from vehicle maintenance to schedules, routes and fares.

According to Dr Teng, in spite of repeated appeals, the chairman of the Board refused to accept any significant policy changes at Federal level despite being given overwhelming evidence of the failure of existing policies. Both the CM and Dr Teng have admitted as much in their public statements since then.

Thus it was that after another dialogue STEP and CAP had with Dr Teng in late 2004 we decided enough was enough. Once again, all Dr Teng could tell us was that the new Minister of Entrepreneur & Cooperative Development, Dato Khaled Nordin, had made the same promises as his predecessors about making radical changes to improve public transport within a month; of course, nothing came to pass. We decided then to expand our NGO base and take the issue to the people.

On 8th December 2005 we had small public protest in front of the State Assembly. On 2nd February 2006 we declared our intention to sue the CVLB for failure to carry out its statutory obligations in regulating the bus system. On 26th February, we launched the 'Ghost Bus Stops' campaign by plastering notices on 24 bus stops where buses were supposed to run but had ceased to do so. On 3rd March, we attended the press conference given by the CVLB to award the new licences to the same old bus companies. We asked the Board chairman why failed bus operators were being given contracts instead of new ones based on an open tender system. The Board couldn't answer. Nevertheless, the Board promised us that all would be well by 1st April 2006. The rest, as they say, is history!

\*CEPAT comprises 25 NGOs in addition to many individuals. The NGOs include ALIRAN, Consumers' Association Penang, Environmental Protection Society Malaysia, Malaysian Nature Society (Penang Branch), PHT, Penang Office of Human Development, Persatuan Ulama Malaysia (Cawangan Pulau Penang), Sahabat Alam Malaysia, Senior Citizens Association, Suara Rakyat Malaysia (Penang), and Sustainable Independent Living and Access (SILA, a coalition of associations for the disabled). The Secretariat is under Encik Nizam Mahsar, 9 Solok Mas, 11600 Penang.

**Post-script**

*Our coalition has already come to the conclusion that getting our present government to implement sustainable transport policies is a long term struggle, as it is in many parts of the world. Thus, we will continue to create public awareness and lobby the government to put in place transport policies that create greater accessibility for everyone at the minimum environmental costs.*

*by Dr Choong Sim Poey*

## SUFFOLK HOUSE PROGRESS REPORT, MARCH 2006

We are very excited to report that Suffolk House is nearing completion – anticipated middle of 2006. Phase Three, which is the 'Fit-out' phase for use as a permanent art gallery for the 'Early Paintings of Penang' as well as for public events, requires an additional RM1.5 million.

Penang Heritage Trust will be involved, together with HSBC and the State Government, in the very innovative fund-raising planned.

The public will be invited to sponsor Rooms (Gallery Rooms, Libraries, Sitting Rooms, Exhibition Halls) as well as Columns (78 in all ranging from RM5,000 to RM18,180)

Sponsors' names will be recorded both in Suffolk House itself as well as in a special book to be produced. A 'Friends of Suffolk House' will be formed in the launch. The fund-raising brochures will be available soon.

The State is also looking at how a Management Board may be set up comprising State, corporate and NGO bodies, to ensure the smooth running and management of the building.

The PHT will organize a site visit to Suffolk House very soon. We last visited in 2001 when Phase One, involving the central jack roof, was being undertaken. It is breathtaking in its grandeur and truly unsurpassed in its architectural and historical significance.

*by Loh-Lim*



*Heritage Alert- No.15 Brown Road**No.15 Brown Road*

The 1<sup>st</sup> example in Penang of MPPP first denying the right to demolish and then allowing a dismantling and re-construction. The building has been moved from the center of the land and re-built at one tight corner, thus losing its curtilage and allowing new bungalows to be built around it. While it is one possible solution, it is quite clearly a most detrimental and non-preferred one.

One very unexpected but welcomed result : No.15 now looks magnificent & with vastly superior design components & detailing compared to nearby houses. Certainly food for thought .....

Below are some of the comments sent to MPPP in the bid to save No.15 Brown Road:



Khoo Salma said , "I just spoke to Dr. Jon Lim, architectural historian who recently retired from National University Singapore, and he has provided the following info :

*The playschool on Brown Road was designed by Frank Brewer, a Scotsman who came to Malaya in 1921 and is considered the greatest architect of his period practising in Penang and Singapore. He initially worked for Stark & McNeill and then went into private practice, working until the 1960s. His Cathay Cinema Building and the houses in District Ten Singapore are architecturally renowned – President Ong Teng Cheong lived in one of the Brewer houses until he died. The playschool shows arts & crafts influence as Brewer came from the Arts & Crafts school*



*Penang was so rich and diverse in its architectural styles representing poetic amalgams global influences when I arrived 10 years ago, but we have lost so much. It is to the architects of these buildings that I own a debt of gratitude for their influences on my designs and detailing. To lose such a rare masterpiece is like throwing away a valuable painting, or smashing up a Ming vase, just because its old. (Gwyn Jenkins)*

*The only other prominent tropical Arts & Crafts building in Penang is the Loke Mansion on Gurney Drive. Another at No 5 Brook Road, lived in for many years by the famed Fred Weatherly and his family, has been demolished & replaced by tennis courts. The conservation of No.15 Brown Road is essential due to its scarcity, and as an example of the spread of global ideas and the brilliant way in which local adaptation was carried out (Loh-Lim)*

15 Brown Road is thought to have been built by Frank Brewer who worked originally for Swan and Maclaren in Singapore and later set up his own practice. Dalvey Road, Singapore, you can still see one of his houses. He was clearly influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement which originated in the UK but had grown as a strong tropical design style in South Africa, where a contemporary of Brewer had worked prior to his arrival in Singapore. Hence the influential spread of global ideas.

The philosophy of the Arts and Crafts movement was to return to and progress from the artisan arts and crafts of indigenous cultures -which were dying due to mass production and world marketing, following the industrial revolution (supporting traditional trades) Hence the clear Indo-Malay influences in this house - the first floor being of wall to wall timber shutters, the lower floor of masonry with the columns expressed - a hint back to the stilts perhaps. Even the hip roof, cut back to expose a gable end can clearly be seen in indigenous Malay house forms.

Although many of the materials reflect the modern world of its time - early reinforced concrete perhaps and the newly imported Marseilles tiles for the roof- the concept is still very much Tropical Arts and Crafts architecture, unique to this region and due to the demolition of similar houses in Penang - unique to Penang.

Brewer's father's firm Brewer Smith and Brewer existed in 1988 when the Singapore House book was written - I will check to see if it is still registered with the RIBA.

(Gwyn Jenkins)

*Text & photos by Loh-Lim*

## *PHT SITE VISITS – A REVIEW*

We have been doing this for 6½ years! It is our most popular member-activity and our greatest source of new members. We attempt at every visit, to arrange for host participation or expert input. We also attempt to gain access for members to sites that are not normally open to the public.

Some interesting statistics : By the end of this month we would have visited a total of 62 sites, all except for one, in the State of Penang. We have only done repeats 3 times – Convent Light Street, Penang Hill and Suffolk House (because it was too fragile to take us all at one go) we do realise that new members may wish to visit some of the earlier sites again but unfortunately it is not always possible.

We present this list below in order to jog memories of old members and to keep new members informed. This should also help us in planning for future visits.

<b>2000</b>	<b>SITE</b>	<b>GUIDE / HOST</b>
FEB	Makam Sheik Omar (Ayer Itam)	Salma / Zakiah
MARCH	Homestead of Yeap Chor Ee	Laurence Loh /Dato Steven Yeap
APRIL	Crag Hotel / Penang Hill	Ahmad Chik
MAY	Chung Keng Kwee Temple	Owen Chung
JUNE	Sungai Bakap Kee Estate	Dato Kee Phaik Cheen
JULY	Convent Light Street /Government House	Dilys Yap, Loh-Lim, Nuns
AUGUST	AGM Runnymede Hotel	PHT Council /P.G.Lim
SEPTEMBER	Loh Lean San quartet, Burmah Road /Chung Wah School Union / Jewish cemetery	Lohs / Goh Mai Loon
OCTOBER	120 Armenian Street	Himanshu Bhatt
NOVEMBER	Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion	Salma Loh-Lim

<b>2001</b>	<b>SITE</b>	<b>GUIDE / HOST</b>
JANUARY	The Kongsii Enclave –Khoo,Cheah, Tan & surrounding area	Laurence Loh /Cheah & Tan Kongsii Committees /Tan Lye Hoe
FEBRUARY	Nattakutai Temple/ Waterfall hilltop temple	Dr Narayanan / Dr Ramanathan
MARCH	Francis Light Cemetery / E & O	Teresa Capol /E&O duty manager
APRIL	Sikh Gurdwara Temple	Kuldip Singh & Committee
MAY	Penang Buddhist Association,Anson Rd	Master Chan
JUNE	Balik Pulau Convent /100 Main Road / D.O.'s residences	Josephine Choo, Balik Pulau District Officer
JULY	Fort Cornwallis	Najmuddin, Dr Ghafar
SEPTEMBER	GM Leong Yin Kean Mansion (32)	Council, Loh-Lim
SEPTEMBER	Suffolk House (1)	Laurence Loh, Ahmad Chik, Loh-Lim
OCTOBER	Suffolk House (2)	Laurence Loh, Ahmad Chik, Loh-Lim
NOVEMBER	King Street Clan Houses	Goh Mai Loon

<b>2002</b>	<b>SITE</b>	<b>GUIDE / HOST</b>
JANUARY	Botanical Gardens /PBA reservoir	Curator Lim Boon Tiong / Ahmad Chik
MARCH	Beach St / Lum Choon / Cheng Hoe Seah	Salma/Dr Tan Chong Guan Tan Yeow Wooi/Tan Lye Hoe
APRIL	Boon San Tong Khoo Kongsii-Victoria Street	Khoo Khay Hock/Lim Gaik Siang
MAY	Teow Chew Ass /Nagore Shrine/ Bomba Chulia Street	Teow Chew Assoc.Committee/ Gaik Siang Salma
JUNE	Western Rd Cemetery	Dr Justin Corfield
JUNE	Mariophile /Fr Charles Reutens collection	Lionel & Raymond
JULY	Kampong Masjid Melayu	Che'gu Baharuddin / community
AUGUST	Batu Feringghi Aqueduct/Guillemard Reservoir	Dato Lee Yow Ching
SEPTEMBER/AGM	Armenian St restoration projects	Yap Chin Chau/Salma/Dr Tan
OCTOBER	Kek Lok Si –private rooms, sutras	Rev Zheng Ming/Goh Mai Loon
NOVEMBER	Penang War Museum Batu Maung	Site entrepreneur / Harold Speldewinde of War Veterans Assoc.



*PHT Monthly Site Visit*

2003	SITE	GUIDE /HOST
JANUARY	Seri Mutiara the Residency	Laurence Loh /Loh-Lim
FEBRUARY	Penang Hill Bel Retiro Crag Hotel	Ahmad Chik /Robert Raymer / Mrs Daniels of Uplands School
MARCH	Gurney Drive / Uplands School	Teresa Capol / Alexis Kerr of Uplands
APRIL	The Clan Jetties	YB Lee Hack Teik / jetty leaders
MAY	Kedah House	Tengku Ismail Jewa/Dr Jon Lim
JUNE	The Masonic Lodge	Dato Dr P.Vannaisingham/Dr Daljit Singh
JULY	Tua Peh Kong Temple, Tg Tokong	Temple Committee
AUGUST	Kapitan Kling Mosque	Mosque Committee
SEPTEMBER	Chinese Cultural Carnival	Teresa Capol / Joanne Khaw
OCTOBER	AGM E & O (World Heritage Listing)	Laurence Loh
NOVEMBER	Kampong Seronok/Hari Raya Open House	Kampong Rep Asman b.Din
DECEMBER	Tropical Spice Gardens	David Wilkinson/Freddie

2004	SITE	GUIDE /HOST
JANUARY	Soya Sauce 'Si Fu'	The Si Fu Mr Leong
FEBRUARY	Koay Jetty	Koay Theng Hai
MARCH	Yahong Art Gallery	Chua Thean Teng & sons
APRIL	Chung Keng Kooi House	Owen Chung / Peter Soon
MAY	Bukit Sidim Rubber Estate	Manager N Subramaniam
JUNE	Ashrakanah, Chulia Street	Salma
JULY	Catholic Cemetery, Pg Rd	Descendants
AUGUST	Argus Lane / Cathedral	Resident, Anne Cutter
NOVEMBER	Bujang Valley, Merbok	Museum representative
	Loke Mansion, Gurney Drive	Rebecca Wilkinson

2005	SITE	GUIDE /HOST
JANUARY	Penang Turf Club	General Manager Robin Rizal Tan
MAY	Teochew Association	Lim Gaik Siang
JUNE	The Town Hall	Rep from HY Consultants
JULY	Hong Seng Urban Village	Village headman, Mr Lee/Mr Sarabana
AUGUST	AGM / ABN-AMRO	Council / Loh-Lim on PHT Educ.Prog
SEPTEMBER	Elsiedale Bungalow	Loh-Lim
OCTOBER	Penang Prisons	Director, Tuan Idris b.Haji Ismail
NOVEMBER	Teochew Puppet Opera	3 generations of family performers

2006	SITE	GUIDE /HOST
JANUARY	Galeri Seri Mutiara	Dr. Tan/ Koay Soo Kau (curator)
FEBRUARY	Convent Light Street Re-visited	CLS Prefects/ Joan Shori/ Loh-Lim

**APRIL 2006**

Hock Teik Cheng Temple &  
Edelweiss Café, Armenian Street



*Loh-Lim April 2006*

# Heritage Heboh

## Arts in Heritage Education Program

### The Organisation – Arts-ED

Arts-ED is a project of the Penang Educational Consultative Council (PECC) and Universiti Sains Malaysia. Arts-ED has 2 official working partners- The State Education Department and Penang Heritage Trust. The Arts-ED committee is headed by a chairperson and has 10 members who are representatives from arts and heritage organisations.

### The Program - Anak-Anak Kota – Georgetown

Anak-Anak Kota ( Children of the City) is a Heritage Education Program begun in 2000 Arts ED. It uses creative arts initiatives to raise awareness of the meaning and significance of heritage (architecture, trades, crafts, customs food etc) among children living in the historical enclave of inner city George Town, Penang.

These young people explore their cultural and historical identities through creative arts programs conducted in the city/town. Through visual arts, music, dance and drama, they examine inherited architecture, ecology, human settlement, trade, craftsmanship, language, custom, foods and the environment and learn how their identities are rooted in this inherited environment.

### The Project for 2006:

For 2006 Anak-Anak Kota would like to take its programs in a big way to schools and to see children participating in its heritage programs as part of their official co-curricular activity. The 2006 program will offer 3 creative initiatives for young people – Dance, Music and Design based on the theme of heritage. The program will provide participants with an emersion period of 4 months whereby they will research the living and built heritage of innercity Georgetown and incorporate it as content, into a learnt art form. This initiative will culminate in small performances at a heritage festival which will be held in the heritage precinct of innercity Georgetown, for the general public.



### Heritage Street Festival

The festival will showcase the creative works by young people and possibly accompanied by professional performances by adult companies on the theme of heritage.

The one-day festival will be held at several locations (creating a 'trail along specific streets in Georgetown). Young participants from the workshop will lead the audience along the performance trail.

Preceding the performances there could be a Children's Heritage Fair. The fair could showcase several traditional crafts, performing and culinary arts, where traditional traders demonstrate/teach children.

### Participants

The program targets children aged 10-16 from diverse ethnic communities and income groups living within the city as well as young people from schools that fall within the locality. 90 participants will be recruited (30 for each art program). After the initial creative arts classes 30 participants will be involved in the final festival and the rest with the managing of the festival.

*by Janet Pillai  
Photo Courtesy ARTS-ED*

## New Books

### *More Than Merchants:*

**A History of the German-speaking Community in Penang, 1880s – 1940s** by Khoo Salma Nasution



Launched on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2006 at the Eastern & Oriental Hotel in George Town in the presence of His Excellency Tun Dato' Seri Utama (Dr.) Haji Abdul Rahman Haji Abbas and the Ambassadors of Switzerland and the Federal Republic of Germany. The book launch was accompanied the opening

of an exhibition of paintings by Swiss artist Hans Sturzenegger (1875-1943) on display at the Eastern & Oriental Hotel (28 March – 18 April, 2006).

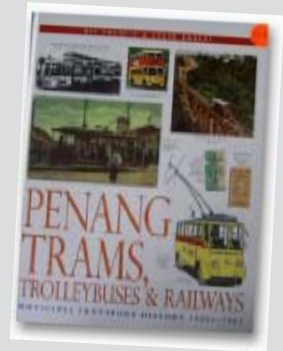
Penang historian Khoo Salma Nasution's revealing and fascinating study traces the multifaceted contributions to Penang's development by the small but industrious German community from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century until the Second World War. Illustrated by a wealth of old photographs and contemporary illustrations and supported by the meticulous research that has become the author's trademark, **More Than Merchants** is a valuable addition to the historiography of Penang's growth as a multicultural seaport. The book concludes with a chapter outlining Penang's little known role as a German submarine base during the Japanese Occupation.

### *Penang Trams, Trolleybuses & Railways:*

**Municipal Transport History 1880s – 1963**

by Ric Francis & Colin Ganley

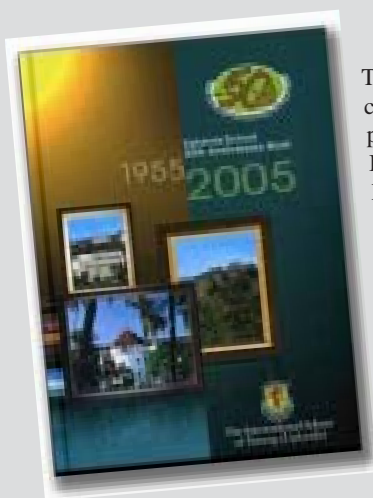
Launched on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2006 at the newly restored Town Hall on the Esplanade, George Town, in the presence of Australian author and researcher Ric Francis.



This beautifully presented book documents the development of public transport in Penang with over 100 old photographs, maps and illustrations, giving an overview of the various forms of public transport used in George Town. Penang was one of the first urban centres in South East Asia to operate steam trams, horse-drawn trams, electric trams and trolleybuses. From 1906 when the Municipal Commission took over the tram service and started electric trams in George Town, the local population enjoyed excellent public transport. A relic of George Town's old tramways was preserved when recent road works uncovered a section of tram rails at the corner of Penang Road and Chulia Street.

### *Uplands School 50th Anniversary Book*

Edited by Leslie A.K. James



This limited edition commemorative book published by the International School of Penang (UPLANDS) is available to staff, alumni and families of Uplands students.

A copy is held in the PHT library.

### *Malacca: Voices from the Street*

by Lim Huck Chin and Fernando Jorge

Launched on Thursday 30 March, 2006 at Badan Warisan Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur in the presence of Guest of Honour, Ms Tan Siok Choo.

**Malacca: Voices from the Street** is the culmination of a collaborative effort between Portuguese architect Fernando Jorge and Malaysian architect Lim Huck Chin. Between 1999 and 2005, the authors documented Malacca's heritage architecture and communities through photographs and over 100 interviews. Research was also carried out in Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, The Hague, London and Lisbon. At the core of the project, however, was an interest in Malacca's stories from the "man-in-the-street", from marginalized historical communities and from the city's sometimes unrecognized but precious built fabric. That interest has motivated the project.

Just as first contact between Lisbon and Malacca 500 years ago enlightened Europe and the Orient, "Malacca: Voices from the Street" offers a new perspective on the city's social and cultural history. Within its pages are over 200 colour photographs and a compelling account of Malacca's past and present.

## Membership & Merchandise for Sale

### Membership Renewal!

**IF YOUR PHT SUBSCRIPTION HAS NOT BEEN PAID, WE CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO SEND YOU THE NEWSLETTER OR SITE VISIT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The PHT has one of the lowest NGO subscriptions -RM3 a month - but we DO depend on them to keep going. So, if you enjoy the site visits & the newsletter, if you appreciate the projects that have been carried out, if you share in the vision for George Town and if you believe that PHT is doing a good job, but that a lot more needs to be done... THEN DON'T FORGET to pay up your subscriptions

Admission : RM50

Annual subs: RM36

Overseas postal surcharge [Please NOTE]

RM14 annually for Asia, Australia, N.Z. [RM36 + RM14]

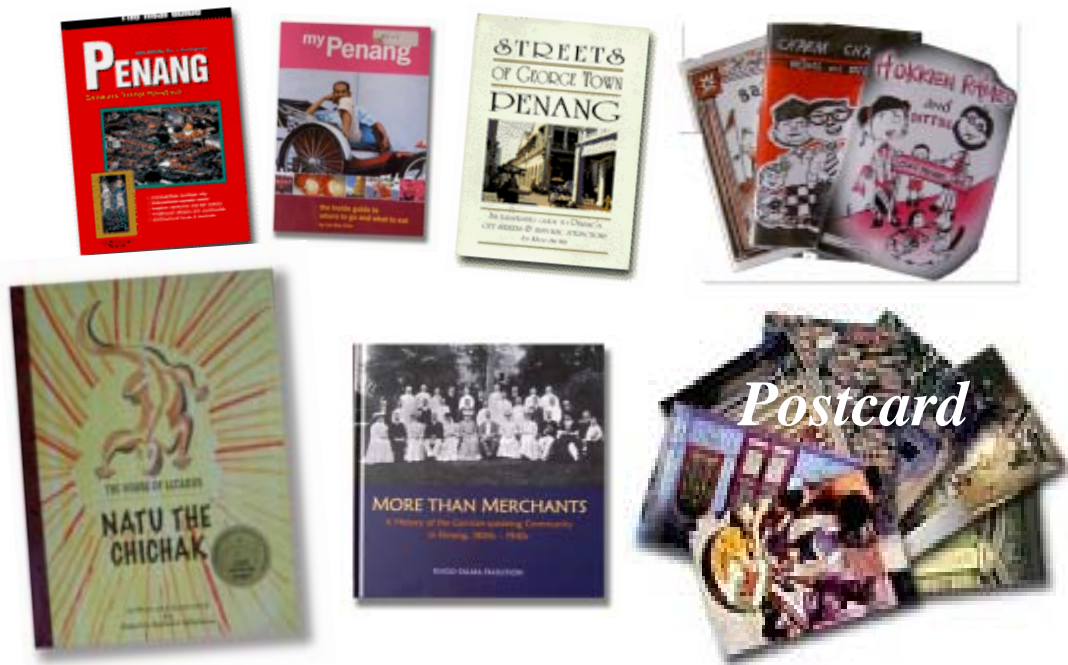
RM 24 annually for rest of the world [RM24 + RM36]

**Enquiries : [phtrust@streamyx.com](mailto:phtrust@streamyx.com)**

Tel: +604-2642631 (Magdeline/ Sheau Fung)

Just send your cheque to : **The Penang Heritage Trust, 26A Stewart Lane 10200 Penang**

*Please be informed that the URL for Penang Story has been changed from [www.penangstory.net](http://www.penangstory.net) to [www.penangstory.net.my](http://www.penangstory.net.my)*



Newsletter Guest Editor~Leslie A.K. James | Design & Layout ~ Sheau Fung  
*Unless specifically stated, the views and opinions expressed in the articles are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of PHT*

