

Penang Heritage Trust

Preserving our Heritage for Future Generations

PERSATUAN WARISAN PULAU PINANG

Laporan Tahunan 2015/2016

Oktober 2015 – Mei 2016

PENANG HERITAGE TRUST

Annual Report 2015/2016

October 2015- May 2016



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1.0 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is a short term for this year's council since last AGM was just in Nov, last year. This is because we are trying to keep up to the Registry of Societies requirement to have the AGM by June each year.

We have a few new council members who joined in this term and we are having a younger team. I hope that the younger team has more energy to run more activities. Even though in merely seven months since I have been the president, it has been quite a thrilling journey.

During Chinese New Year period, the historic building of annex of Runnymede has been pulled down with demolition order and old approval by MPPP in 1999. According to MBPP's record, this building is not listed as heritage building in their building inventory. This shows there is a loophole in the planning approval and we urge MBPP to review all previously approved projects which involved heritage buildings and also review the interpretation of current Town and Country Planning Act, 1976.

Another major issue that popped out was the transport master plan and how it will affect heritage in larger perspective.

It was good news when the Penang State Government launched the RM100 million "Sia Boey Reborn" project to restore the Prangin Canal and the shop houses in that precinct and transform it into the Penang Heritage Arts District. The Prangin Canal will be upgraded into a pristine water feature and a 2-acre public park.

In the midst of restoring the canal with a bypass system, the contractor discovered some archaeological findings such as original sluice and lock of the old canal. USM archaeology team has been doing some recording of the remains. This made us more excited about the historical value of the site.

However, in March 2016, the Penang State Government announced a RM40 billion Penang Transport Masterplan (PTMP), and had contradicted the initial plan of restoring Prangin Canal. This plan involves the construction of one elevated LRT line and two elevated monorail lines all converging in a multi-storey Transport Hub on the same site of Sia Boey Reborn. The idea of the Penang Heritage Arts District and park were abandoned to make way for the Transport Hub on the very same site.

Since the transport master plan was initiated by the NGO's to the newly elected government in 2009 to overcome the massive traffic jam problem, we are not against the PTMP.

The state government spent RM 3.2 million to appoint Halcrow consultant to provide a transport plan to cover a period of twenty years (2010-2030), where they proposed

comprehensive plan to move people by using trams, BRT and other system. The Halcrow Transport Master Plan was completed in December 2012 and officially adopted by the Penang State Government in March 2013 as the blueprint for implementation.

Unfortunately, the Project Delivery Partner (PDP) who tendered for the project, SRS had deviated from the original proposal and instead proposed for elevated LRT from Bayan Lepas to Prangin transport hub and elevated monorial lines from Prangin to Ayer Itam and Tanjung Tokong. We are very worried that broader setting of UNESCO World Heritage Site will be jeopardised. At the same time, the elevated structures for LRT and monorails will tarnish the historical setting of the broader George Town, affecting the regular cultural activities such as processions. Not to mention, implementation of the plan will also mean that more than 3000 trees, including some beloved heritage trees along Kelawai Road and Burmah Road will be sacrificed.

This is not an easy battle and we are still in the process of convincing the government and the PDP to look for alternatives which suite George Town, ie having the transport system at grade (on the ground) in the city and elevated on Jalan Tun Dr Lim Cheong Ewe (Jelutong Expressway) or in new townships. We hope to preserve the charm of George Town while providing a better public transport system.

Apart from the above, another teething problem is about eviction of tenants in the heritage buildings and it is getting worst with some foreign developers buy the house in rows, either in George Town World Heritage Site or outside the site, especially at the Seven Precinct (from Magazine Road to Nanking Street) . Many traditional trades have been closed down or moved out from the world heritage site due the eviction. We hope that the relevant authority should take some action to prevent this from happening.

Penang Heritage Trust was founded 1986, thus we are going to celebrate our 30th anniversary on Aug 21 this year and a series a programs leading to it. Please watch out for our announcement and hope that all members can celebrate with us together.

Thank you

Lim Gaik Siang,
President

2.0 PENANG HERITAGE TRUST'S NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Council Members of Penang Heritage Trust are elected once every two years to oversee and manage the operations and affairs of the society. In the 29th Annual General Meeting held on 15th November 2015, 10 members of the society were elected to the council and will serve for two years. The new Council and its Executive Committee is as such:

President: Ms Lim Gaik Siang
Immediate Past President: Dr Choong Sim Poey
Vice President: Khoo Salma Nasution
Honorary Secretary: Ben Wismen
Honorary Treasurer: Dr Ruth Foo Lee Hoon
Council Members:

Loh-Lim Lin Lee
Clement Liang
Trevor Sibert
Fatimah Hassan
Himanshu Bhatt
Dr Goh Hsiao Mei

Trustees: Dato' (Dr) Anwar Fazal
Laurence Loh
Dr Choong Sim Poey

Advisors: Mr Woo Yee Saik
Mr Tan Kuan Aw

Auditor: Yeang & Co (No. AF 1062) Chartered Accountants

The new council members would like to thank the previous council members, its executive committee, trustees and advisors for their services and dedication in the previous term.

The new council has met for three times with the following details:

1st PHT Council Meeting (2015-2017) – 20th November 2015

2nd PHT Council Meeting (2015-2017) – 29th January 2016

3rd PHT Council Meeting (2015-2017) – 22nd April 2016

A special meeting was also held to discuss the society's upcoming 30th anniversary celebration on 2nd May 2016. This meeting was attended by eight council members.

3.0 MEMBERSHIP

Penang Heritage Trust is a membership-based organisation run largely based on the membership subscriptions and support. There are five membership categories and four are open for subscriptions. Except for Founding and Life membership, all other membership commences from the 1st of January and ends on 31st of December of the particular year.

Penang Heritage Trust's membership as of 31st May 2016 is as follows:

Membership Category	No. of Members
Founding Members	14
Life Members	112
Ordinary Members	172
Student Members	9
Junior Members	3
Total Members	310

Penang Heritage Trust received 15 new subscriptions in the first five months of 2016. The breakdown of the subscription is as follows:

Membership Category	January 2016	February 2016	March 2016	April 2016	May 2016
Ordinary	5	0	3	1	0
Student	2	0	0	1	1
Life	0	0	0	2	0
Total	7	0	3	4	1

4.0 PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

Penang Heritage Trust actively carries out its programmes and projects central to its cause of conserving and preserving both tangible and intangible heritage in Penang.

4.1 PENANG APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME FOR ARTISANS (PAPA)

PAPA is a programme developed from Penang Heritage Trust, under its convenor Loh-Lim Lin Lee, to promote awareness and sustainability for the endangered traditional local skills in Penang.

With its workshop located in 66 Acheen Street, its coordinator May Yeap will invite artisans to conduct workshops for a certain duration that is suitable to transfer skills and knowledge to wanting apprentice. They are also on the lookout for artisan masters that are keen to showcase their skills and craftsmanship and willing to train apprenticeship to ensure survival of the particular skill.

In January 2016, the society had organised a free public talk to promote, build awareness and explore new avenues to expand the programme. Hosted by Loh-Lim and assisted by Lim Gaik Siang, the public talk was attended by 27 people and 19 participants had express interest to participate in various artisan workshops available.

In April 2016, PAPA carried out its first workshop on rattan weaving. Mr Sim Chew Poh, the son of PHT's Living Heritage Treasure Awards recipient Mr Sim Buck Teik, facilitated the workshop and transferred his knowledge and skills to the participants.

In April 2016, PHT collaborated with The Star Pitt Street to organise the first Artisan Market in George Town. Curated by Chan Oga of The Star Pitt Street, several of PAPA's artisans were invited to showcase their craft and also skills to visitors to the market. Visitors to the market were invited to participate and learn the skills, or have conversations about the skills and trades showcased there. The Artisan Market is now scheduled to happen once every two months, with the next one in June 2016.

4.2 PENANG AND SEBERANG PERAI STORY LECTURES

Listed are the Penang Story Lectures and Seberang Perai Story Lectures carried out from October 2015 to May 2016.

- i. Cosmopolitan Backwaters. Penang and Rural Performing Arts in the Twentieth Century by Lawrence Ross. Held on the 7th November 2015 in The Star Pitt Street
- ii. Batu Uban in Penang: Past, Place and Presence by Prof. Dato Ahmad Murad Merican. Held on 15th November 2015 in The Star Pitt Street

- iii. Public Libraries in Penang- Past, Present & Future by Dato' Anwar Fazal and Marcus Langdon. Held on 23rd November 2015 in Penang Public Library Corporation, Seberang Jaya

4.3 SITE VISITS

Site visits continue to be a feature of Penang Heritage Trust as we offer visits to places that are unique in Penang, with insightful information and exposition given to the audience. Four site visits were held from October 2015 to May 2016.

1. Site visit to Ranee Dhoby and Sri Ramar Temple, Dhoby Ghaut.
The site visit took place on 4th October 2015. Visitors were shown how traditional laundry services, also known as dhoby, were carried out in the Dato Keramat Road area as they used Air Itam River as their water supply. The dhobies were once popular services on the island until their roles were replaced with modern day laundrettes. The visitors were also shown the Sri Ramar Temple, one of the few temples found within the Dhoby Ghaut area.
2. Site visit to Cheah Kongi, Armenian Street Ghaut
The site visit took place on 16th January 2016. It was facilitated by Lim Gaik Siang and 33 people attended the visit. Gaik Siang offered fascinating stories to the recently restored Cheah Kongsi, including a tour to their new interpretative centre to showcase the lineage of Cheahs in Penang.
3. Site visit to Penang Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Light Street
The site visit took place on 5th March 2016. Facilitated by Lim Gaik Siang, the visit was attended by 52 people including members of the press. Gaik Siang presented on the restoration and refurbishment of the building, and the processes undertaken to preserve the heritage aspects and significance of the building.
4. Site visit to Kampung Siam, Pulau Tikus
The site visit took place on 10th April 2016, and was probably the last site visit to the village before it is demolished for redevelopment. The site visit was facilitated by Trevor Sibert and Clement Liang, with Boon Leau Aroonratana present to speak on the plight of the villagers. Visitors were then treated to a Menora dance performance before taking a walk to visit the village. 50 people turned up for the site visit, including members of the press. An on-site donation campaign was held and collected RM 1193. The donation was presented to Boon Leau Aroonratana to support efforts to document and preserve the intangible cultural heritage associated with the village.

4.4 PHT PUBLIC TALKS

Penang Heritage Trust continues to play its role as heritage advocacy group by organising talks to promote awareness and disseminate information on heritage-related issues. Over the past few months, the Society had organised the following free public talks to spread the awareness and promote our cause.

4.4.1 PAPA Public Talk and Recruitment

The PAPA Public Talk and Recruitment was held on 31st January 2016 with the intention to promote the PAPA programme, as well as to exchange ideas and thoughts to further disseminate and activate the outreach of PAPA. Delivered by PAPA Convenor Loh-Lim Lin Lee and assisted by Lim Gaik Siang, the talk was delivered in both English and Mandarin to an audience of 27 people. From the talk, 19 participants had express interest to participate in the workshops held under the PAPA banner. Other skills and crafts were also proposed and will be considered for implementation.

4.4.2 Penang Hill Railway

The Penang Hill Railway talk was held on 9th April 2016 and delivered by renowned transport engineer and author Ric Francis. The talk was held in association with the release of his recent book ‘Penang Hill Funicular Railway: Remembering an Engineering Feat 1923-2010’. The talk featured images and stories behind one of Penang’s achievement in transport history, the Penang Hill funicular railway.

4.4.3 Prangin Canal- The Promised People’s Park?

The Prangin Canal talk was held on 24th April 2016 following the recent archaeological discoveries and proposed location of the transport hub in the Prangin Canal area, hence affecting the broader setting of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Facilitated by Lim Gaik Siang, Khoo Salma and Shaiful Idzwan of CGAR-USM , the talk shed some light on the recent archaeological discoveries of canal locks and porcelain found in the area, the development of a small river to a canal and subsequent neglect, and finally the future for the Canal and its surrounding area. The talk also exposed the audience to the recent SRS-Penang Transport Master Plan, and its possible impacts on the streetscape of Penang and George Town specifically.

4.5 MONTHLY TOURS

4.4.1 Northam Road Cemetery Tour

The monthly free tour to Northam Road Cemetery is conducted with the collaboration with Penang Global Tourism. Led by Clement Liang, visitors will register and leave from the Little Penang Street Market in Upper Penang Road to visit the cemetery. There, Clement will share

stories and history of some of the personalities buried there, and their contribution in developing early Penang.

5.0 HERITAGE ALERTS

5.1 Runnymede Demolition

The demolition of Runnymede took all of by surprise as it happened on the second day of Chinese New Year (9th February 2016). It was almost as if history was repeating itself as Asdang House (located along Northam Road as with Runnymede) was demolished during Christmas 1993.

Protests against the demolition of Runnymede proved futile as the permission was granted by the State Government based on a technicality in the law. The State Government also issued a public claim that the old Runnymede hotel did not have any historic significance as the original structure was razed by a fire and the modern day structure has no historical bearings.

Historian Marcus Langdon, researcher Leslie James and PHT Vice President Khoo Salma had issued statements on the demolition and the significance of the hotel to the history of Penang.

“When contacted, Penang Heritage Trust (PHT) president Khoo Salma Nasution said PHT had asked for a review of all existing developments in Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah. “There should have been a review by the MBPP and the people should have been made aware of the situation,” she said.

Khoo added that now that the state has a conservation policy, it should review all existing approvals.

“See what else has been approved and make it transparent. This is why we are always asking for some transparency in planning. At least let the people comment and see what can be done.

“If we cannot prevent it, at least we can document it,” she said.”

- ‘Runnymede Hotel will be Restored’, The Star 12 February 2016

“Penang Heritage Trust vice-president Khoo Salma said the recent demolition of the buildings on the Runnymede Hotel site showed that there is a need to safeguard these buildings with proper identification, documentation and subsequently, the implementation of the Penang Heritage Enactment.

“Now when something is demolished, people will jump and then soon they forget about it until the next building gets demolished,” she said.

She said having a complete inventory of the heritage buildings in the state is the first step towards safeguarding these buildings.”

- ‘After Runnymede, Watchdog Fears More Heritage Buildings will Suffer Same Fate’. Malay Mail Online 20 February 2016

5.2 Kampung Siam, Pulau Tikus

Residents of Kampung Siam in Pulau Tikus were first delivered an eviction notice in 2014, as new owners of the land were preparing to redevelop the village and its land into a 5-storey boutique hotel. The 50-odd villagers there, including PHT's LHTA recipient Wan Dee Aroonratana, were shocked that they were asked to evict from the land in which they had been staying for several generations, and had brought the issue to court, challenging the eviction notice issued by the developer.

Their appeal was dismissed by the Sessions Court in April 2014 and by the High Court in February 2016. With that, the villagers and shop owners have no choice but to evict by the date set by the developer. Although the State Government promised to look for solutions and to negotiate for a better compensation, the Society is saddened that Penang is losing another traditional village for the sake of development. The Society had stood by the Siamese community since we found out about their plight, and had assisted in various ways to prevent the eviction. However, there is nothing much the Society can do anymore but to document the heritage and culture that exist in the village before it is reduced to rubble.

“Expressing disappointment that the 200-year-old Kampung Siam will soon be demolished to make way for development, PHT president Lim Gaik Siang said the next step forward is to protect other traditional settlements and cultural landscapes in the state.

“As we are losing more traditional villages in the name of development, we propose for a thorough inventory of traditional settlements and cultural landscapes of Penang and Seberang Perai to be conducted, and these assets should be evaluated and gazetted as heritage preservation areas,” she said in a statement.

As for the fate of Kampung Siam, Lim said the legacy and heritage of the traditional village should be preserved by way of documentation.

“We may not be able to preserve the buildings of Kampung Siam, but all efforts to capture and document its history, people, culture and way of life should be conducted thoroughly,” she said.

She said the eviction of the villagers and businesses will affect the Pulau Tikus community as a whole, not only the Siamese community.”

- Heritage Watchdog Calls for an Inventory of Traditional Villages', Malay Mail Online 10 March 2016

Penang Heritage Trust had also organised a site visit to Kampung Siam in April to draw attention to the village, and to take a piece of memory of the village before it is replaced with modern development. Visitors were also treated to a Menora dance, possibly the last ever to be held in Kampung Siam.

6.0 CIRCULARS AND PUBLICATIONS

6.1 NEWSLETTER

The latest issue of newsletter is available to members of Penang Heritage Trust from June 2016. Among the topics highlighted in Issue 109 is the Penang Transport Master Plan, Runnymede's demolition, origins of Cannon Street, the Dawoodi Bohra Islamic Cemetery, Sia Boey Art District etc. The full issue can be downloaded from our website, and physical copies are sent via mail to all members of the society.

We wish to thank Trevor Sibert and Himanshu Bhatt for editing and producing the newsletter, and to all the contributors who had submitted their articles for the benefit of the society.

6.2 LETTER

Vice President Khoo Salma Nasution issued the following letter in conjunction with World Heritage Day in April 2016. The letter was carried by several press including Malay Mail Online.

The Penang Judge's Residence on World Heritage Day

As we approach World Heritage Day, we should reflect on the state of heritage in Malaysia today. UNESCO recommends that April 18 be observed as the "International Day for Monuments and Sites" by all its member states, including Malaysia.

According to the National Heritage Department's statistics, 50 buildings and monuments in the country have been gazetted as national heritage, along with 12 archaeological sites and 7 natural sites. In addition, a list from the year 2013 identifies a further 176 buildings and monuments which have yet to be gazetted under the National Heritage Act of 2005. Malaysia is proud to have several UNESCO World Heritage Sites – two natural, one cultural and one archaeological – namely Gunung Mulu National Park in Sarawak and Kinabalu Park in Sabah, the Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca, and the Lenggong Valley Archaeological Site.

The Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca, listed as a World Heritage Site in 2008, comprises Melaka and George Town. Although there is always room for improvement in the management of these heritage areas, what is currently alarming is the utter lack of protection for heritage buildings and monuments outside the World Heritage Site.

In Penang, the oldest buildings of the Runnymede Hotel, identified by the Penang Heritage Trust as one of Penang's Seven Most Important Endangered Sites since 2012, were demolished over the Chinese New Year holidays earlier this year. Although planning permission had been given for this site in 1999, the Runnymede's association with the historic personality Sir Stamford Raffles, Eu Tong Sen, and the famous hotel and military establishment surely warranted further investigation over its cultural significance, as a matter of public interest.

FLAWED INVENTORIES

In the aftermath of the Soonstead petition in 2015 and the loss of Runnymede in 2016, a number of other issues were revealed. Firstly that the inventory of Jalan

Sultan Ahmad Shah which was put together as a pilot exercise around 1989, has not been checked or updated. Secondly, the Conservation Guidelines for the same area which were painstakingly negotiated by Penang Heritage Trust and SPEAD representatives (surveyors, planners, engineers, architects and developers), already accepted by Council, have been quietly relaxed or set aside some years ago. Thirdly, critical heritage buildings such as the outstanding Soonstead mansion were missing from the working inventory of Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah. The same can be assumed for several other ad hoc inventories from the 1990s for priority areas such as Macalister Road.

As for the rest of Penang state, a comprehensive inventory may never have been undertaken or, if it has, such an inventory has never been exhibited and the extent of its coverage is not publicly known. Again, major heritage sites – even entire streets – may be missing. In short, there is little or no protection for buildings outside the World Heritage Site, except for the clause in the Town and Country Planning Act which requires property owners and developers to apply to Council for permission to demolish. The MBPP can thus protect a building by withholding permission for demolition but if there is no adequate inventory, the decision-makers might not realize that an important heritage building or ensemble is at stake.

The Penang State Heritage Enactment passed in 2011 has yet to be implemented, with a gazetted register of the heritage items of state significance which warrant a higher level of protection and proactive measures. It might be possible to protect traditional heritage settlements such as Kampong Siam, Tanjong Tokong, Batu Uban and Balik Pulau through zoning, but a gazetted Local Plan for Penang Island is still wanting. Meanwhile we can anticipate that many more heritage areas will be destroyed or compromised through the pressures of rapid development and the hurried implementation of the State Transport Plan.

The inventorization of our buildings and monuments is only the first step towards protection. A heritage policy needs to be adopted by all relevant authorities, at federal, state and local levels. I wonder if other cities and states in Malaysia have comprehensive inventories? Somehow I doubt it. So many heritage sites and places are being lost without the relevant authorities being even aware that they exist in the first place.

THE PENANG JUDGE'S RESIDENCE

As we ponder on the state of heritage protection in Malaysia, let us take one important building as an example. It stands outside the George Town World Heritage Site. This is the former Judge's Residence along Sepoy Lines in Penang, yet another of Penang Heritage Trust's Seven Most Important Endangered Sites, now in a severe state of neglect and dilapidation.

Designed by a military engineer, this bungalow first served as the quarters and mess house of the Commanding Officer of the European troops in Penang dating from around the time when the Royal Artillery and European troops moved from Fort Cornwallis to Sepoy Lines in 1881. The tropical bungalow has a semi-rounded porte cochere and deep verandahs. A castellated tower on each of the four corners of the bungalow bolsters its military appearance and makes it architecturally distinctive. The architectural historian Dr Jon Lim has described it as a "castellated mansion" which served as a prototype and inspiration for Penang's famous and fanciful eclectic mansions such as "Woodville" and "Soonstead".

The significance of this castellated mansion is not only architectural. After the withdrawal of European troops from Penang around 1897, the bungalow was converted into a town residence for the Straits Settlements Governor. This conversion

would have entailed physical improvements such as the addition of fine fittings, lavish furnishings and a splendid garden. The Governor of the Straits Settlements was then based in Singapore, and his position encompassed that of the High Commissioner for the Federated Malay States.

In the early 20th century, this ‘Governor’s Bungalow’ was the official abode of various Straits Settlements Governors such as Sir John Anderson (served as Governor, 1904–1911), Sir Arthur Young (1911–1920), and Sir Laurence Guillemard (1920–27). Each incoming Governor, usually accompanied by his wife, would normally spend a few days at this residence during his compulsory tour of duty of Penang. (This ‘Governor’s Bungalow’ is not to be confused with the ‘Residency’ of the colonial Resident Councillor on the opposite side of the Polo Ground, subsequently occupied by the post-Merdeka Governor of Penang.) Just before or after the Japanese Occupation, the bungalow became the Judge’s Residence and some of Penang’s most notable judges stayed here until the late twentieth century. Therefore, the building has historical, architectural, engineering and social significance and should be listed on the National Heritage Register.

This former Governor’s Bungalow and Judge’s Residence and its ancillary buildings are currently in a severely dilapidated state. It is absolutely disgraceful that one side of the bungalow has been allowed to collapse. Year after year, the building has continued to deteriorate especially during the rainy season. It is urgent to safeguard the building and undertake emergency stabilization works while commissioning a heritage management plan, with a view to its restoration, preservation, maintenance and use.

Who is responsible? The property is owned by the government and apparently administered by the Penang State Secretary. We have been told that the property has fallen into a limbo in the process of an incomplete land swap between state and federal government, but this could not be confirmed. Should bureaucratic impasse and sheer apathy cause such an important public building to fall to ruin? The federal-state blame game has to stop when it comes to protecting our environment and cultural heritage.

On World Heritage Day, it would be timely for the Minister of Tourism and Culture as well as the Penang Chief Minister to jointly look into the case of the Penang Judge’s Residence and cooperate on its protection. My point is this: if such an important heritage building which belongs to the government cannot be saved, what hope is there for the hundreds of nationally significant buildings and the thousands of state and locally significant buildings in Malaysia?

The Penang Judge’s Residence was listed as Penang Heritage Trust’s Seven Most Important Endangered Sites. The inventory was developed by PHT as means to put pressure to protect and restore the sites. Following the demolition of Runnymede, it is crucial now for PHT and members of the public to put pressure to the State Government to protect the sites before it is erased completely.

7.0 INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

7.1 Asia Heritage Network 2016

Penang Heritage Trust was invited to participate in the second Asia Heritage Network Symposium in Karangasem, Bali in January 2016. Co-organised by Nara Machizukuri Centre and Badan Pelestarian Pusaka Indonesia (BPPI), the three day symposium was organised as a follow up to the first symposium in Penang in 2014, and to further strengthen the collaboration and network amongst the participating institutions. PHT was represented by Lim Gaik Siang, Ben Wismen, Clement Liang and Dr Goh Hsiao Mei. Gaik Siang represented PHT and presented an update on the activities carried out by PHT for the past two years. At the end of the symposium, a declaration entitled the Karangasem Declaration was developed and adopted.

KARANGASEM DECLARATION: “SUPPORTING HISTORIC URBAN CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES IN EMERGING COUNTRIES IN ASIA”

The Karangasem Symposium has been fruitful in exchanging ideas and experiences from developed and developing countries. The delegates from 13 countries share the view that heritage is very important basis for world peace and harmony. Heritage should be managed through goodwill, understanding and respect, with the commitment to the safeguarding of cross culture diversity and hybridity, including the position of minorities..

Heritage could promote peace and harmony if there is social and economic justice without discrimination. Respecting the principles agreed in Penang Symposium 2013, we need to strengthen our network to be able to support heritage conservation activities in Asia region. Delegates from 13 countries have reached a basic agreement as follows:

1. We should respect every cultural identity of each cultural group in view of the fluidity of culture and the richness of our shared history and heritage. The peoples of the Asian countries are closely related geographically and culturally. These factors have the powerful potential to create a harmonious Asian community.
2. We should see heritage as a tool to prepare for a better future. Heritage can strengthen our identities and take people even deeper to their roots, in natural and spiritual meaning. Our rural and urban heritage are both important. Hence, conservation should be comprehensive and multidimensional, covering also the tangible, intangible, as well as natural heritage.
3. We should acknowledge new and emerging threats towards urban and rural heritage conservation activities especially the effects of climate change, terrorism, social and natural disasters. Mitigation methods and measures should be discussed and developed.
4. We should make the network stronger. To be sustainable, heritage organizations should think as professional bodies or social entrepreneurs. Through this network, we will endeavor to help, inspire and learn from each other in the way we handle and solve our

respective cultural and heritage issues. We also need to align and complement our respective programs and agendas.

5. We should join hands to maintain and conserve our heritage by carefully, thoughtfully and innovatively managing change. The challenges include developing awareness and promoting heritage conservation to the public. Special attention should be paid to the education of children from a young age to foster a better and deeper understanding of each other's culture as well as closer inter-cultural relations.

6. We welcome multi-cultural and international collaborations. Even though each urban and rural area has particular background and activities, many of them have the similar issues. These may include fundraising, economic development, community participation, support of public administration, social justice, tourism management, adaptation of modern technology to the promotion of heritage, and so forth. We can learn from experiences of the other groups beyond national borders.

8.0 HUMAN RESOURCES

8.1 Staff & Office Administration

Ms Ch'ng Tze Wun is currently the administrative executive running the PHT office and its operations. Ms Ch'ng is a graduate from USM and has been with the organisation since February 2015.

Ms Pamela Shaminee is our intern turned part-time staff currently assisting Ms Ch'ng in running the daily operations in the office.

The PHT office is now open from Mondays to Fridays, from 9am to 5pm, with the exception of lunch hour of 1pm to 2pm.

Members are welcomed to visit the office to purchase merchandising, ask questions or pay their subscriptions during the opening hours.

Members who intend to use the PHT library must present their membership card before gaining access to the library. Books and documents from the library are available to all members, but no materials from the collection should leave the office premise. Should the member desire to have a page or pages from a book copied, arrangements should be made with the office staff and a fee is imposed.

8.2 Internship

Students from Ritsumeikan University, Segi College Penang University of Hong Kong, Chinese University of HK, Lingnan University, Universiti Sains Malaysia, University College London and National Taiwan University are scheduled and attached with PHT in 2016.

Theerheshini Manogaran from the School of Hospitality and Tourism SEGI College Penang spent almost 4 months from 4 January to 24 April in PHT assisting in the operation and administration of office.

Kawamoto, Oi and Fujimoto from Ritsumeikan University came for a month in February to study the impact of tourism on world heritage site.

The students from universities in Hong Kong will be in PHT from June to August period to study the intangible heritage and students from USM will assist in the survey of Kampung Siam.

9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Penang Heritage Trust would like to thank the following for their continuous support, network and collaboration for the previous year.

1. Arts-Ed
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