

PHT *newsletter*

PENANG HERITAGE TRUST • PERSATUAN WARISAN PULAU PINANG

No.19 Kelawei Road, 10250 Penang, Malaysia • Tel/Fax: 04 - 226 1358

Number 33

November 1996

The AWPNUC Symposium in Yogyakarta

— Gwyn Jenkins reports

AWPNUC symposiums have come a long way from the first symposium held in George Town in 1992. Not that the George Town event was a ramshackle affair, far from it. But the incredible effort put into the fifth symposium held this year in Yogyakarta could only express a vibrant belief in the value of the Asia and West Pacific Network for Urban Conservation.

Organised by the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Gadjah Mada University, sponsored by the Japanese Foundation, the symposium was well supported by the freshly formed Indonesian Heritage societies and Phd students studying overseas and returning to research their projects in Yogyakarta. The enthusiasm of these and other groups as well as the many individuals from all over the world who attended the event indicated that conservation in Indonesia had reached an international stage.

"Better Living Environment and the Existence of Historic Areas" stood out in styrofoam letters as the speakers presented their papers. Perhaps the use of "with" in place of "and" would have been a more poignant message. The majority of papers presented showed that there was a need for positive political footwork. The PHT paper was the only one to address fully the main issue to be discussed — *Legal and Institutional Framework for Conservation Areas*. Others presented interesting case studies but little was mentioned of legal matters. From the response of delegates and fellow participants it became clear that perhaps the PHT was a long way ahead of other member countries in promoting heritage conservation in the city and having struggled to reach this far is held in high regard for its efforts. Hence the

confidence in the PHT as the new home for the AWPNUC secretariat.

The symposium organisers did not simply present a day of thought provoking papers or guide us on interesting tours of the more famous sites of Yogyakarta: they expected and got all of us to work. The final two days of our time in Yogya were spent in the heritage area of Kotagede. The area is a maze of narrow lanes and seemingly secret passages that twist and turn in confusing configurations. Behind the solid walls lie building patterns and structures particular to

Invitation

The Chairman and Council Members
Penang Heritage Trust
invite you and friends to

the Official Opening of

PHT Antiques & Collectibles Fair '96

by

Y B Dato' Kee Phaik Cheen
Penang State Executive Councillor
Tourism, Arts, Culture,
and Women's Development

on Friday 29 November
at 11.00 am
at Dewan Sri Pinang
(Ground Floor)

the part of Java called the *joglo*. As is often the case with old cities, Kotagede is undergoing transformation and development pressure. In response to this AWPNUC participants, whose members come from many different professions and back-grounds, studied the research presented

by the university, met with the communities of three specific areas and, working through interpreters, filled in some of the gaps of the research, putting forward proposals for discussion from an international perspective.

The communities living from the traditional craft of silver smithing were feeling the pressures of the socio-economic changes of their country. The pace of life seemingly too slow and facilities too limited meant that the young were drifting off. Those old and unsupported sold off the main wooden structures of their houses the *pendopo* in order simply to live. These structures once removed were reerected in different locations — thus breaking up the physical patterns of the area. Recognising the need to reverse these trends, they saw controlled tourism as one possible solution. Though a little tired because of the many lectures they had received given by the university, the government, and the NGOs, they demonstrated a willingness to supply labour and finance themselves but felt they needed concrete help to begin the conservation process.

AWPNUC's role was clearly seen as one of encouragement and networking support for communities such as these. By the end of the 4 days, rounded off with traditional voices (including that of Alex Koenig of course) the feeling amongst the participants must have been mutual. All seemed impressed by the effort put in by the organisers, enlightened by the collection of papers presented, enchanted by the sincerity of the communities and indebted to one another for the opportunity to understand the real value of conservation.

Gwyn Jenkins

PHT Office

New Address
19 Kelawei Road
10250 Penang

Tel/Fax
04 - 226 1358

Opening Hours
11.00am - 4.00pm
Monday - Friday

PHT members are welcome
to drop in for a cup of coffee
and help with some work.

Thank You

SOCFIN
group of companies
for donating RM10,000
to the PHT this year

US\$15,000.00 greetings from Asia-Pacific 2000

Greetings from Asia-Pacific 2000!

We are very pleased to inform you that the proposal sent by AWPNUC for the publication of a source book on urban conservation has been approved. However, due to this being the final months of our project cycle, we will only be able to provide partial funding totaling US\$15,000.00.

The idea of this source book is an excellent one, one we fully support. We are confident that the publication will strengthen the cross-fertilization that needs to take place amongst actors in the urban sector in order to address the city-level issues in holistic ways.

We trust that it will also give AWPNUC the opportunity to consolidate its network through working collaboratively with our other members over the one year period. Do regard our team as part of this network of collaboration. We wish the new AWPNUC secretariat every success in the future.

You should be hearing from UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) Kuala Lumpur regarding the signing of the agreement within the next two weeks.

Susanna George
Coordinator-Communications Services
7 November '96

Penang Heritage Inner-City Tour

Jointly organised by
Berbudi Travels, Dreams Network,
and Penang Heritage Trust

A daily guided tour of Armenian-Acheen
Street enclave, Little India, places of worship,
associations, monuments, shophouses, etc

For further information contact:
Berbudi Travels, Tel: 04 - 228 6815

CHRISTMAS ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES FAIR

in Aid of PENANG HERITAGE TRUST



20th December 1996

Time : 12.00noon - 10.00p.m.

21st December 1996

Time : 10.00a.m. - 3.00p.m.

**Rasa Sayang Resorts
at Bintang Room**

Admission Free

- Furniture • Jewellery • Silverware • Glassware • Chinaware
- Nyonya Porcelain • Textiles • Tapestries • Batiks • Embroidery
- Beaded Slippers • Watches • Clocks • Pens • Coins • Belts
- Lanterns • Lamps • Fans • Candlesticks • Trays • Bowls
- Baskets • Boxes • Trunks • Panels • Mirrors
- Figurines • Paintings • Photographs • Carvings • Etc...



PHT

Antiques and Collectibles Fair

A Pesta Pulau Pinang Event

An exhibition and sale of antiques and collectibles
organized by the **PHT Antique Collectors Club**
in aid of the **Penang Heritage Trust**



29th & 30th November 1996
Time : 11.00am - 8.00pm

1st December 1996
Time : 10.00am - 6.00pm

Dewan Sri Pinang
(Esplanade/Padang Kota Lama)

- Furniture • Jewellery • Silverware • Glassware • Chinaware
- Nyonya Porcelain • Textiles • Tapestries • Batiks • Embroidery
- Beaded Slippers • Watches • Clocks • Pens • Coins • Belts
- Lanterns • Lamps • Fans • Candlesticks • Trays • Bowls
- Baskets • Boxes • Trunks • Panels • Mirrors
- Figurines • Paintings • Photographs • Carvings • Numerous

Way out of Georgetown 'freeze'

PENANG, Wed. — Allowing "transfer of development rights" is being considered as part of the State Government's incentive plan to ensure the development of Georgetown's historic inner city area without losing its heritage.

Commenting on the newly issued freeze order on highrise in the inner city, Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said the "development rights transfer" would give the affected property owners the right to build highrise at their property elsewhere, where there is no building height limitation.

The Penang Island Municipal Council recently imposed a freeze on new buildings taller than five-storeys in the inner city. The move received mixed reaction from local developers, chamber of commerce, heritage group and travel agencies.

However, Koh said, if the affected owners did not have another property to develop elsewhere, they could sell the 'unused portion' of the allotted highrise right to another who has property to develop outside the inner city.

He also said the highrise freeze would be temporary.

"It is to enable the State Planning Committee, the State Heritage Conservation Committee and the Penang Island Municipal Council to look at how best to promote heritage buildings for tourism purposes and to maintain Penang's cultural heritage.

"The freeze gives us some time to formulate long-term strategies while conserving heritage in the (inner city) area.

"Be assured that we are not preserving the area for its historical values alone. We also want to increase its tourism-economic potential in the long run."

Koh added a series of dialogues with interested organisations like the local housing developers' and architect associations would be held in the next two to three months, before the incentive plan and promotional strategies are finalised.

He was speaking to reporters at the historic Syed Alatas Mansion before today's meeting of the State Heritage Conservation Committee.

The highrise freeze only affects a small inner city area between Jalan Penang and Pengkalen Weld,



PRESERVING FOR HISTORY ... (From left) Koh visiting historic Lebuh Acheen Mosque currently being conserved in Georgetown inner city, accompanied by Dr Teng and Abdul Ghafar.

which was most congested because of its narrow roads, he said.

This heritage area constituted the treasure of Penang, which attracted many Western, Japanese and Asian tourists according to the feedback received, he added.

With the right incentives, it could be made more attractive with shops, restaurants, craft centres and oth-

er tourism attractions without changing its skyline nor drastically affecting the property owners and tenants, he said.

This has been done successfully in many historic enclaves in Singapore, Great Britain, Australia, Kyoto in Japan and Paris, Koh said, adding that Penang was looking at how these places have done it before formulating its own

incentives and promotional strategies.

Koh also visited the historic Lebuh Acheen Mosque today, currently being conserved in the Georgetown inner city. He was accompanied by Penang Island Municipal Council president Dr Teng Hock Nan and Dr Abdul Ghafar Ahmad, a building conservationist from Universiti Sains Malaysia.

Move to preserve inner city heritage

By CHOONG KWEE KIM

PENANG: New guidelines will be introduced next year for development of buildings within five square km in the inner city of George Town.

Guidelines formulating committee chairman Datuk Kee Phaik Cheen said the proposed guidelines would be submitted on Monday to the state government for approval.

Kee said under the proposed *New Guidelines For Heritage Development of Inner City of George Town*, the five square km area would be divided into six zones of development as a "historical enclave".

She said the development or renovation of buildings and "streetscape" would be synchronised to reflect the character of that particular neighbourhood. "The guidelines include incentives for developers or land owners to help the state realise its vision of developing George

Town into an internationally recognised historical city," said Kee, adding that private renovations by home owners must also comply with the guidelines.

Kee, who is also State Tourism, Culture, Arts and Women's Development Committee chairman, was speaking to reporters after opening the Fourth Asian Women's Friendship and Exchange Symposium at Bayview Beach Resort.

The ad-hoc committee for the new guidelines formed six weeks ago under the direction of Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon comprises representatives from the Penang Heritage Trust, Penang Municipal Council and the steering committee on heritage conservation.

Under the proposal, Zone One comprising the triangle in the vicinity of Macallum Street Chaut would have its heritage residential buildings preserved.

"Small factories would move elsewhere and the zone would be

made presentable with a cleaner image like a tourism product," she said.

Zone Two comprising Chulia Street, Muntri Street and Love Lane would adopt the identity of a commercial trade and small hotels enclave.

Zone Three which included the vicinity of Acheh Street and Armenian Street would become a historical enclave of mosques, temples and kongsi buildings.

Zone Four within the vicinity of Bishop Street and Beach Street which would have a strict building height control would be designated as the financial district.

Zone Five at Campbell Street would be developed in line with the identity as a traditional commercial area.

Zone Six would be the development of the Weld Quay waterfront which would become the "main facade to the historical enclave of the inner city of George Town," said Kee.

SIX ZONES UNDER THE PROPOSED GEORGETOWN INNER CITY HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

