

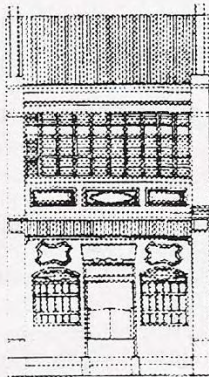
PHT *newsletter*

PENANG HERITAGE TRUST * PERSATUAN WARISAN PULAU PINANG

26A Stewart Lane, 10200 Penang, Malaysia * Tel/Fax: 264 2631 E-mail: phtrust@po.jaring.my

Number 61

April 1999



OUR OFFICE

Thank You!

The PHT would like to thank Mary Quah Sook Ching for sprucing up the PHT office and Puan Zakiah Dato' Fadhil Basheer for sorting out our old newsletters. Thank you ladies!

We now have two young men volunteering in the office every week - Alvin Looi who is compiling the library and Dyll who is giving a helping hand. We are still looking for volunteers to do some fund-raising and sell our books, T-shirts and bags etc. Please come and help.

Souvenirs of Angsana wood - A part of Old Penang

We are trying to develop PHT souvenirs from Angsana wood collected from Penang's old trees. If you have any ideas or would like to get involved, please contact us.

Furnishings, Finishings, etc.....

Thanks to Martine de St. Hilaire for donating a lovely living room set to the Penang Heritage Trust office. Just ideal for our coffee mornings and afternoon meetings.

The PHT would still be happy to receive any donation of cutlery, crockery, cushion covers, etc from the members. We have some heritage videos and would appreciate a donated television and video player. We also need a ladder.

The Economics of Heritage

UNESCO Conference/Workshop on the Adaptive Re-Use of Historic Properties in Asia & the Pacific; Penang & Malacca, 9-16 May 1999

This is going to be the most important and most relevant conference on heritage conservation that's ever been held in Malaysia. Please try to attend. This conference will be a real boost for Penang's heritage movement, and also for our efforts to get on UNESCO's World Heritage List, so please support it.

The course fees are RM 250 for Penang and Malacca, or RM 150 for the Penang section only ((City Bayview Hotel, 10-12 May 1999). This covers conference materials, lunches, snacks, hosted dinners and overland transport Pg-Malacca. It does not include accommodation. International participants are paying US \$200. The course fees are already heavily subsidized for Malaysians, considering that you will be getting 20-30 international speakers, including some of the world's top experts on urban conservation.

The latest update appears on the Website <http://www.unescobkk.org/culture/leap.htm>

*Contact Shahril Cheah,
Email pdcart@po.jaring.my*

Volunteers needed during the UNESCO Conference: PHT is setting up a booth and exhibition at the conference venue. We need volunteers to take care of the booth in the mornings and to help out with the site visits in the afternoon.

The site visits will be led by Laurence Loh, Loh-Lim Lin Lee and Khoo Salma Nasution. We also need people to help us with the community projects. If you are interested, please contact us.

Save Inner City George Town Signature Campaign

Dear members,

We are asking you to get signatures for the above petition. Remember that we are facing a very critical time in the history of Penang.

Threats: Massive development pressure, imminent repeal of Rent Control, dislocation of inner city tenants, a dead city without community, more illegal warehousing, more crime and drugs, total destruction.

Opportunities: nomination to World Heritage, growth of our cultural industry, tourism increase, education or resource for our children and youth, legacy for future generations.

The petition has been signed by at least two school groups - the Penang Chinese Girls' Private High School and the Sekolah Menengah Sungai Dua during their field trips to Lebuah Acheh and Lebuah Armenian recently. Teachers and parents, please get your school-going children to sign!

University students, please place this petition in the university. Shopkeepers and restaurant owners, please get your customers to sign! Penangites living in KL, Singapore and abroad, please get other Penang alumni to sign!

If the people of Penang do not care enough for their heritage to show their support, then all is lost. Don't expect Penang's heritage buildings to still be around the next time you look.....



New cafes in the inner city

PHT would like to support all those local entrepreneurs who are participating in the tourism industry and revitalizing our inner city heritage at the same time.

Green Rhythm, an organic vegetar-

ian food restaurant run by Penang Organic Farm is moving from the Pusat Warisan at 128 Lebuhr Armenian to a former coffee shop at Lebuhr Cintra.

PHT members Rami and Fendy have opened a new cafe called "Bamboo Village Hut Cafe". With bamboo, kerosene lamps and a few antiques, these young entrepreneurs have transformed a turn-of-the-century shophouse into a small cafe with great ambience. A mixture of western and eastern cuisine is offered, together with a wide selection of coffees and teas, fresh fruit juice and lassi. In the evening, you can get a set of delicious tandoori chicken and a nan hot from the tandoori oven for RM6.50. Halal and no alcohol served.

Contact : Rami & Fendy
483 Lebuhr Chulia (near Jalan Penang) 10200 Penang
Tel: (604) 264 3173

email : villagehut@hotmail.com

planning and community development.

Contact: Nanyang Folk Culture
50 Marican Road, 10400 Penang
Tel 04-2287991, 2297992
Fax 04-2281993

Recent Events

Nanyang Folk Culture Forum 2

Arising from the proposed development of Khoo Kongsi's heritage buildings into a tourism product and the decantation of the Cannon Square residents affected by the said development, Nanyang Folk Culture organised a forum entitled 'The Proper Way Towards Development of Heritage Resources'.

The chairpersons of the forum were Choo Chee Keong, better known as Sa-Chi and Soo Lee Choo. The panelists were Y.B. Dr. Toh Kin Woon, who is heading the State Rent Control Committee, lawyer Khaw Veon Szu, planner Lim Hooi Siang, architect Laurence Loh, writer Khoo Salma, Khoo Kongsi trustee Khoo Kay Hock and Khoo Kongsi tenant Goh Hun Meng. It was also attended by architects Ooi Bok Kim and Tan Yeow Woon and the Chinese press.

We were all seated on the floor around a low table, Japanese style, exchanging views at '50 Humanist Space' on Sunday morning, 18 April. The discussion was very fruitful, in terms of generating ideas towards sensitive solutions to issues of heritage, housing, participation in

Inputs from Adelaide

'People Friendly Architecture: What Penang Has and What It Could Lose (see through a stranger's eyes)' was the title of a stimulating discussion led by Rick Atkinson from University of South Australia (who earlier sent the three Australian students Ben, Kishan and Kym to help PHT!)

This event was co-organised at short notice by Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM) and the PHT. Rick Atkinson was here last year to talk about 'Architecture for People' and this time we caught him again on his annual tour of Malaysia with Syed Zainol Abidin Idid from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), who is also a descendent of the founder of the Acheen Street Mosque in Penang. Ms. Boey from PAM kindly hosted the talk and discussions which were held at the Pusat Warisan on Friday evening, 16 April 1999.

Letters

The PHT would like to congratulate the MPPP for putting up several new street signs. This is extremely encouraging and will go towards making our city a friendlier and easier place for residents and visitors to get their way around.

It is not our intention to diminish the Council's efforts, but in the spirit of being constructive we would like to offer several comments and suggestions.

Attached to this letter are several photographs of old street signs which can still be seen in our city.

The signs in photos 1a & 1b were made of enamel, and those in photos 2a & 2b were from engraved cast aluminium.

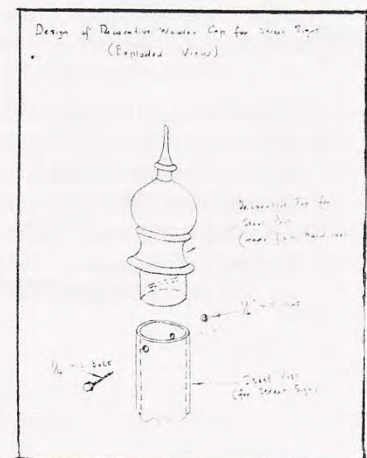
You will agree with us that even though these signs are 30 or more years old they are still legible and attractive. We particularly like the signs made from aluminium and would ask the Council to consider using signs of similar construction in future. No doubt that the cost will be slightly higher, but this will be more than made up by the greater durability and attractiveness.

We agree that it is better and more attractive to mount the signs on a single pillar as is being done now. Again can we make a small suggestion that will greatly improve the appearance of these signs. Please refer to photo 2a & 2b.

You will notice that these old signs were mounted on pillars that have decorative tops that give them an elegant classical look. This was done by merely inserting a wooden decorative piece into the top ends. See photo 3.

A drawing is enclosed to show how this can be done very simply and cheaply.

Thank you. -AHMAD CHIK



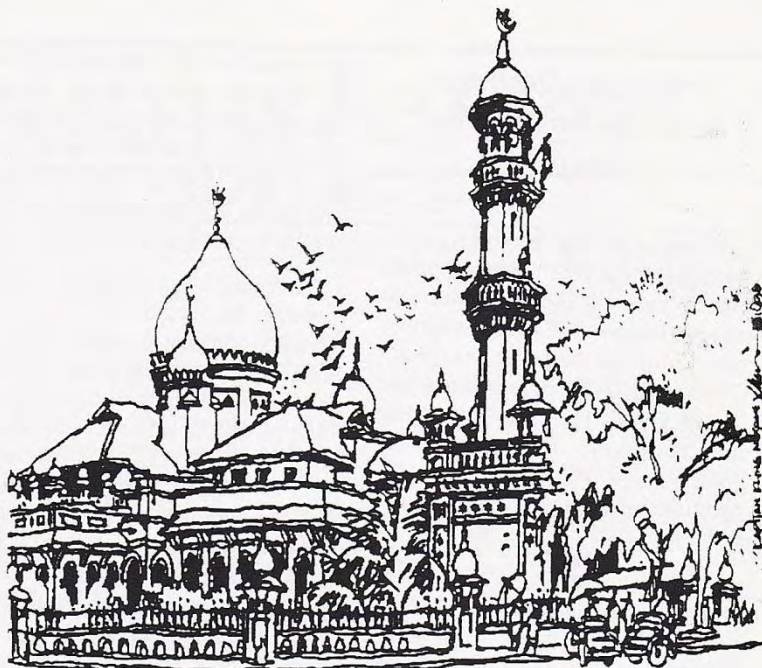
Community Participation in Waqf Revitalization

During the visit of Dr. Richard A. Engelhardt, UNESCO Regional Advisor for Culture in Asia & the Pacific, to Penang last year, he met with the Kapitan Kling Mosque Qariah Committee and Youth section. The discussion focussed on how to conserve and revitalize the Muslim heritage in inner city George Town in the face of the Repeal of Rent Control and the challenge of Penang's bid for World Heritage. Arising from those concerns, a proposal was put in to UNESCO.

We are therefore proud to announce that a US\$5,000 grant was award by the UNESCO LEAP Programme on Integrated Community Development & Cultural Heritage Site Preservation in Asia and the Pacific through Local Effort (LEAP) for the project. The project will be conducted jointly by the Kapitan Kling Mosque Qariah Committee and the Penang Heritage Trust.

As Mohideen Abdul Kader, former chairman of the Kapitan Kling Mosque committee, remarked during the launching of the PHT office in November 1998, "The community of the Kapitan Kling Mosque and other waqf communities in Penang wish to be consulted in any conservation or development plan affecting the mosques, the surroundings of the mosques, the waqf properties, the places where we live and work, in the city of George Town and in the state of Penang – whether it be the Campbell Street-Buckingham Street pedestrianisation project or the George Town Inner City Historic Enclave conservation plan. Popular participation means recognizing that communities are stake-holders in sustainable development and giving them a say and a role in shaping the future of Penang."

The importance of popular participation was also emphasised at the 2ND International Seminar On European Architecture Outside Europe organised by the Malacca Museums Corporation and the Historic City of Malacca, Malaysia, held in November 1998 and participated by key policy-makers and planners in



Kapitan Kling Mosque - Penang

courtesy of Khoo Cheang Jin

Malaysian government. It follows that conservation efforts in Malaysia should begin to address the need for popular participation and community development.

The following resolution of the Malacca seminar were pronounced by Syed Zainol Abidin Iddid: "That public participation is essential for any successful conservation work, to have a joint collaboration between the authorities implementing the project or planning the project and to involve the participation of the communities." Those present also resolved that that "tourism cannot be the main source of income in the conservation area. **The community has the right to live and work in the normal way hence it is suggested the way of life of the communities concerned is the prime factor to consider within any conservation scheme.**"

With such recent inputs influencing its formulation, the current project is called "Community Participation in Waqf Revitalization" or *Hidupkan Waqf dan Syura* (roughly translated as 'Revive Muslim Endowments through a process of Consultation') Although the project has been some months in planning, most of the events will now take place in April and May.

The Kapitan Kling Mosque Qariah Committee will organise the community dialogues while the Penang Heritage Trust and its partners will provide expertise on heritage matters and community development planning. The project coordinators are Khoo Salma Nasution and Abdur-Razzaq Lubis, in consultation with the Qariah Committee and various sub-committees. All resource persons are involved on a voluntary basis. Three academics who are providing technical support in the project are:

Naziaty Mohd. Yaacob, a founder of Pusat Kajian ABLE, a resource centre on access issues, and a lecturer in architecture and built environment at University of Malaya.

Peter Zabielskis, Fulbright Scholar, Dept. of Anthropology, New York University.

Gwyn Jenkins, interior architecture and Ph.D. candidate in anthropology with the University of Hull, U.K.

Events which the general public should watch out for are 'Warisan Kita di Tanjung' (Our Muslim Heritage in George Town) and Waqf Revitalization in the Historic City of Fes, Morocco. The brochure announcing the series of events is enclosed with this newsletter.



Artists for Heritage: Art Exhibition & Banner Painting

Penang's heritage has been an inspiration for artists beginning with pioneer painters like Yong Mun Sen and Abdullah Ariff, and contemporary veteran painters like Tan Choon Ghee as well as younger painters like Victor Chin. This movement has spawned dozens of young contemporary artists who specialize in the paintings of heritage buildings and street scenes of old Penang.

Showing their support for heritage, an art college and an artist's group are coorganising two events with the Penang Heritage Trust in conjunction with the UNESCO Conference/Workshop.

The first is an art exhibition organised by the new Intec College at Lebuhr Leith. Called 'Artists for Heritage: New Views of Old Penang'.

the exhibition will invite entries from all Malaysian artists, in all media, for art works featuring old Penang. The art opening will be held at 5.00 pm - 9 May 1999 and the exhibition will be up for the duration of the UNESCO conference.

The second event is a banner painting with the theme 'Our City, Our Homes', coorganised with Art Rock Studio (AROS). The event will be held in the compound of Goh Hock Tong at Chulia Street on the afternoon of 10 May 1999 and is open from 4 - 7 pm to everyone. Artists and community will be painting a banner to show their concern for the future of the heritage city and inner city community who will be affected by Rent Control Repeal.

Thanks to the artist Khoo Cheang Jin and PHT volunteer Goh Mai Loon, for helping us to get these events going. To find out more, please call Priscilla, 604-2642631. Please show your support at both events!

Penang Heritage Trust Website!

<http://www.e.com.my/pht/>

The new Penang Heritage Trust website will be launched in early May at the UNESCO conference. It is sponsored by Emanon Sdn. Bhd., a company that specialises in webpage design, by courtesy of its director Sean Lim. The designer of the PHT webpage is Wilfred Chew, a Penangite and professional graphic designer who has worked in Australia and Singapore. He recently returned to his hometown.

Please give us your comments and inputs and help us continue building the website.

Contact: Emanon Sdn Bhd.
Official Jaring Service Outlet
office: (04) 3567 200 (direct line)
office: (04) 3566 966 (hunting line)
fax: (04) 3565 955
Email Sean Lim
hsung@bigfoot.com

New PHT Canvas Tote Bag for Sale

Following the launching of our T-Shirt as part of our 'I Love Old Penang' Campaign, we have now manufactured environmentally-friendly tote bags for sale.

Both the bags and T-Shirt feature a lovely ink drawing of the PHT office by watercolour artist Khoo Cheang Jin drawn specially for PHT.

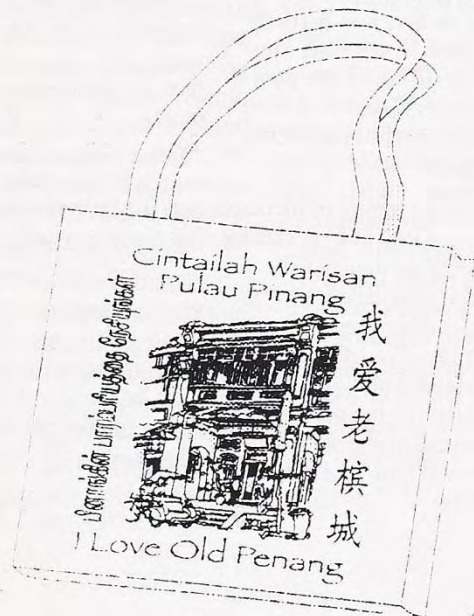
Heavy-Duty Canvas Tote Bags

RM 15

T-shirts (bleached and unbleached)

Size M and L = RM18

Size XL and XXL = RM20



Manik slippers

NEW Bead Workshop

Michael Cheah, a specialist in nyonya & baba heritage, is organising another beaded slippers course at the PHT's office, by popular demand.

The courses will now start on:

Wednesday 4 May
at 9.30 am - 12 noon
or

Saturday 8 May 99
at 3.00pm - 5.30 pm

Fees: RM100 for 4 sessions held weekly.

Part of the proceeds goes to support PHT. Materials are not included, but Michael will be selling them at practically cost price. Nyonya kuch and Chinese tea will be provided. Those interested, please contact Priscilla at Tel : 264 2631

藝文短訊

英特学院下月9日主办

艺术家眼中老槟城

本着爱国心把握
如此难逢的良
机，同心协力将
位於西马一隅的
槟城推介到国际

联合国科学兼文化组每年例常推介一项非常有意义的活动让全世界有关机构参与，而今年度的主题为：「亚洲、太平洋历史财产的「再见」」。古色古香的槟城十分荣幸的被选为举办此次国际研讨会的地点，同时亦商借槟城英特国际艺术设计学院的展览厅作为配合该盛会而推出的一个艺术特展——题名为「艺术家眼中的老槟城」。

拥有风格独特，也是属於庞大古老建筑的英特学院联同槟城古迹信托机构是这次的主办者之一；英特学院诚邀全国各族画家踊跃参与这次的国际盛会，期盼各位画家以精湛的手法，将散布於槟城的历史性建筑物重新赋予新面貌、新气象，估计届时该联合国会议将有三百名人士前来参与其盛。其中近半数是属国际性质的代表，希望我国的画家们

舞台上，让更多的世人认识和欣赏迷人的槟城。该院荣幸邀请到槟州市长丁福南医生于5月9日五时半前来为这次盛大的特展主持开幕仪式。

今次由槟城古迹信托机构主催，英特国际设计学院主办的艺术特展「艺术家眼中的老槟城」，展出的日期是5月9日到5月16日，时间是中午12.00至8.00PM，地点在英特学院的展览厅。该院欲将此次的画展收入拨出30%捐予「槟城古迹基金会」，以响应该机构的「我爱老槟城」活动。

详情请洽：MR DAVID YAP

英特国际艺术设计学院院长
或

MS PRISCILLA CHARLES - CHEE

「槟城古迹信托机构」执行秘书

星島新聞

1999年3月30日(農曆己卯年二月十三日)星期二

Kwong Wah
30 March 1999

來由。

課堂教學生活化

據她指出，此種教學法可以將枯燥的課堂教學法改變得更有現實生活化。此外也可以讓學生們多了解本地歷史，引導他們做古跡考查。

除了邱公司龍山堂之外，今早他們將帶學生們前往參觀萊特船長在1786年登陸檳城的地點：特在檳城的古跡；萊特、太平天國軍士、THOMAS LEONOWENS（國王與我原著者之夫）；檳城最早的學校、廟宇、回教堂、教堂、宗祠；孫中山在檳城的古跡；義興及海山堂的遺跡；張弼士別墅。

以下為他們在邱公司前所宣讀的保護古跡宣言：

「我們熱愛古老的檳城，請保存檳城的古蹟於我們的後代子孫。把檳城從無情貪婪投機的發展狂瀾中拯救出來，我們不要更多高入雲霄的鋼骨水泥聳立在喬治市。保留一個充滿文化活力的喬治市，塑造她成為一個更舒適、更行人友善的都會。創造更多機會予傳統商家與當地企業，改善年老與年少，富裕者與赤貧者的生活素質，提倡一個愛心社會并保護歷史性的社區。我們需要一個可以讓我們借古鑑今，并讓我們展望更美好的地方。」#

檳華獨中生古跡之旅

簽保護古跡宣言

(檳城廿九日訊) 檳華獨中學生為了把枯燥課堂教學改變為現實生活化的教學法，特於今日在歷史教師及檳城古跡基金會榮譽秘書邱思妮的帶領之下，參觀了檳城市區內的一些古跡，并簽下保護古跡的宣言。

據帶團教師之一的吳美潤表示，今早參與檳城古跡之旅的檳華獨中學生共有60余名，他們是在4名老師的帶領之下到喬治市區內各處古跡參觀，了解它們的歷史



司，由吳美潤老師在旁翻譯。
檳城古蹟基金會秘書邱思妮為學生們介紹邱



PENANG CHINESE
GIRLS' PRIVATE
HIGH SCHOOL

歷史教學生活化

舉辦檳城古蹟之旅 檳華獨中首開先河

（檳城31日訊）檳華獨中首開先河，將枯燥的歷史教學轉換為現實生活化的教學，讀萬卷書不如行萬里路，64名檳華獨中生踏出學堂，走進古蹟城堡！

參與這項由檳華獨中舉辦的“檳城古蹟之旅”是來自該校的初中二、初中三、高中一、

報導◎周文娟

攝影◎周文娟/攝影組

高中二及高中三的華文歷史科學生，其中，也有來自印尼、台灣及香港的學生。

“檳城古蹟之旅”旨在引導學生做古蹟的考查，希望透過對本地古蹟的認識進而對歷史產生興趣，把真實的歷史帶進課本裡，並以擁有這些先賢的古蹟為榮，珍惜本土文化的價值。

說實在，身在福中的檳城人，應該好好珍惜及保護本地歷史古蹟，使之增加保值，並追溯歷史以啟發後人或加以發揚。

價值日漸提高

尤其在目前這個日新月異的社會裡，歷史見證物的古蹟價值更日漸提高，就連好萊塢國際電影都已看中檳城的古蹟文化，如最近的《安娜與國王》一片，該製作公司除了古蹟集中區的打銅仔區景景拍戲，也看中古色古香的龍山堂邱公司，據知該片女主角茱迪科士打更在那兒拍片時給予本地古蹟佳評。

此外，每逢國際高官顯要造訪我國時，往往都不會錯過一睹本地古蹟風采的機會，而身為檳城人是否更應該重視它們的存在呢？

因此，相信上述課程的設立相當合時宜，這批學生分組，該校的3位歷史老師吳美潤、譚惠英、林宛瑩及聯課活動主任廖靜儀老師負責帶領，並由檳城古蹟基金會秘書及“STREET OF GEORGETOWN”一書作者邱思妮為學生們介紹古蹟焦點。

有關學生們同時也簽名響應“我愛老檳城運動”的號召，在林宛瑩老師的帶領下，宣讀“拯救我們的古城—喬治市”的宣言。

今早參觀重點是在萊特船長在1786年登陸地點、萊特在檳城的遺蹟、萊特、太平天國軍士、湯姆斯里奧諾文（《國王與我》原著安娜之夫）墳場、檳城最早的學校、廟宇、回教堂、教堂及宗祠、孫中山先生在檳城的古蹟、義興及海山黨的古蹟及張弼士故居。

Penang Malay heritage museum

Newspapers Times

Monday 15 March 1993
By Shukor Rahman

THE proposed Penang Malay Heritage Museum may be housed in Jalan Hatim's Sekolah Kebangsaan Sri Tanjung - the state's oldest Malay school.

Penang Malay Association president Datuk Mohamad Yusoff Latif said the site has historical significance to local Malays, as it was here the community gathered, just after World War II, to choose its leaders.

Yusoff, who proposed the museum in early January, said he had contacted the relevant authorities, and was confident the request would be approved.

He said the museum would not only be an additional tourist attraction, but would also help preserve for future generations the history of pioneer Malays.

Yusoff believed a substantial number of artefacts, works of Malay scholars, records and documents relating to local history, and arts such as the *boris* and *bangsawan*, would find a place in the museum.

He appealed to individuals and organisations in possession of such artefacts,

records and documents to help build the proposed museum.

"The younger generation should realise that Malays were already living on the island when Captain Francis Light established a settlement here in 1786," he said.

Early writings by colonists such as lawyer and publisher J.R. Logan, Norman Macalister - a lieutenant in the Bengal Artillery - and J.D. Vaughan, who wrote a history of the Malays in Penang and Province Wellesley (now Seberang Prai), clearly confirmed this, he said.

Logan and Vaughan mentioned an early coastal trader called Ragam, who traded between Lingga and Kedah, and the riverine areas, long before Light's time. According to their accounts, Ragam called Penang "Pulau Ke Satu".

They also credited Ragam for naming several bays, rivers and capes on the island, such as Bayan Lepas, Pulau Kendi, Gertak Sanggul, Pulau Betong and Tanjung Puchat Muka (Muka Head).

Kedah historian Ismail Salleh said historical

accounts showed that Datuk Setia was the representative of the Sultan of Kedah in Penang long before Light's arrival.

"There must have been a sizeable population for the Sultan to appoint a representative. A religious teacher, Datuk Keramat, and his followers, were already living on the island, and there were Muslim graves in what is now known as the Jalan Perak Muslim Cemetery. Datuk Keramat's mausoleum is also there," he said.

Ismail said Nakhoda Intan and his followers had settled in Batu Uban, and had built a mosque there, before Light arrived in Penang. Early Arab traders also made Batu Uban their destination.

Malay historical accounts, he said, also mentioned a Muslim religious leader known as Tok Nador Kajang Kain from India, who sought permission from the Sultan of Kedah to settle in Penang, more than 70 years before Light's arrival.

"According to accounts, Tok Nador landed at Muka Head and could have settled at Teluk Bahang. Today, older Malays still refer to

the early days as 'zaman Tok Nador' (Tok Nador's era)," he explained.

Teluk Bahang resident Shahabuddin Abdul Rashid said there were some old Muslim graves at Muka Head which should be studied.

"These graves are quite mysterious, as Muka Head has always been uninhabited. Could these be the graves of early settlers?" he said.

Penang Heritage Trust secretary Khoo Salma Nasution, in welcoming the move to establish the museum, hoped it would include the cultural influences and contributions of the Indian Muslims, Jawi Peranakan, Arabs, Achinese, Bugis, Minangkabau and Javanese.

"If minor differences are set aside, these groups together make up a rich cultural society," she said.

Penang Heritage Centre manager Azahar Hanafiah said such a museum would help make more people understand and appreciate heritage.

Such a museum, he said, should complement the State Museum and the Universiti Sains Malaysia Museum.

"Quality museums are always an asset, and the more there are, the better for the state. Cities such as London, Paris, Amsterdam and Copenhagen have a variety of museums, which have proven to be superb attractions," he said.

Old-timer Yusoff Ghouse said old Malay settlements were usually near the sea or rivers, and there must have been early settlers in Sungai Pinang, Kampung Makam and Kampung Dodol.

"One should remember that, in the 18th century, the Pinang river was deep and navigable right up to Kebun Lama and the Suffolk House area," he said.

Early accounts, he said, showed that *tongkang* (barges) and *sampan* could travel upriver to call at Kampung Makam.

Boats arriving at Pengkalan Baru (Weld Quay), he said, could bring in padi and other produce from Ujong Pasir right up to Titil Papan (the Penang Road-Prangin Road junction).

Yusoff said the proposed museum should also highlight the fact that many places and streets used to

Heritage Trust declares full support

PENANG, Fri. — The Penang Heritage Trust in an open letter today declared its "unequivocal support" for Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon's leadership of the State Government.

"We are making this public declaration as we believe one reason for the present Gerakan controversy is the State Government's progressive development guidelines on the conservation zones of Georgetown,"

PHT chairman Datuk Nazir Ariff said.

"The PHT commends Koh's integrity and vision in arriving at the present policies on the 'old city'.

"The policy not only gave consideration to the old city's unique history and living culture but also to the welfare of the thousands of people who live and earn their livelihood there," Nazir said.

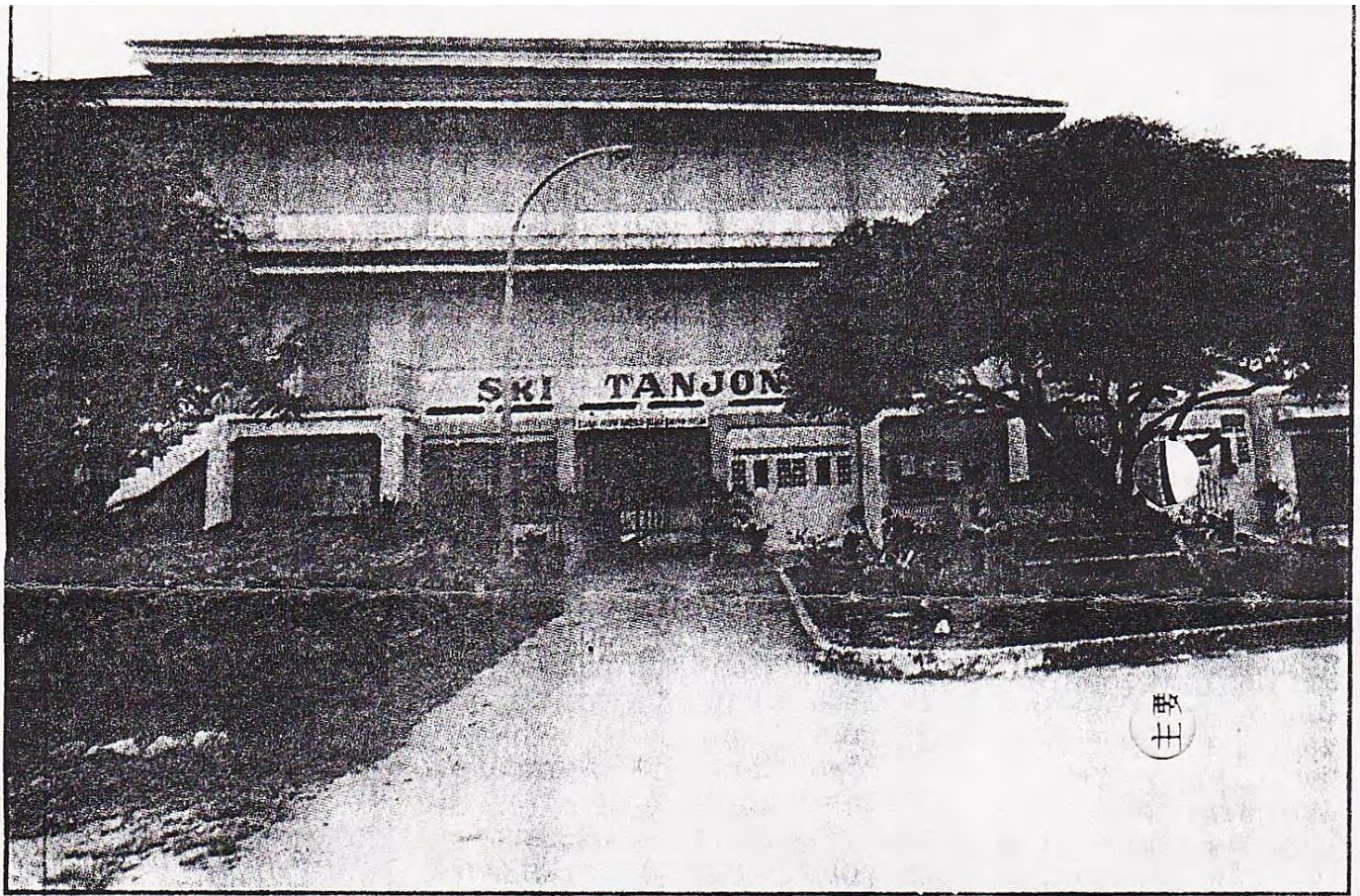
He said in comparison,

alternative policies recently proposed by the Penang Chinese Chamber of Commerce only reflected the concerns of a few opportunistic developers.

"Their only objective is to make quick profits without any concern for the long-term interests of either owners or tenants. "We should also note how the decisions of the former Penang Island Municipal Council president resulted

in a legacy of high-rise buildings, scarring many beautiful areas of Georgetown and creating serious traffic problems.

"As an NGO, we have no right to interfere with the internal problems of a political party but as the criticism affects a public policy that concerns the PHT, it is necessary to expose the hidden agenda of those now opposing his political leadership," Nazir added.



SRI TANJUNG ... The state's oldest Malay school may become a museum

have old Malay names not known to the present generation.

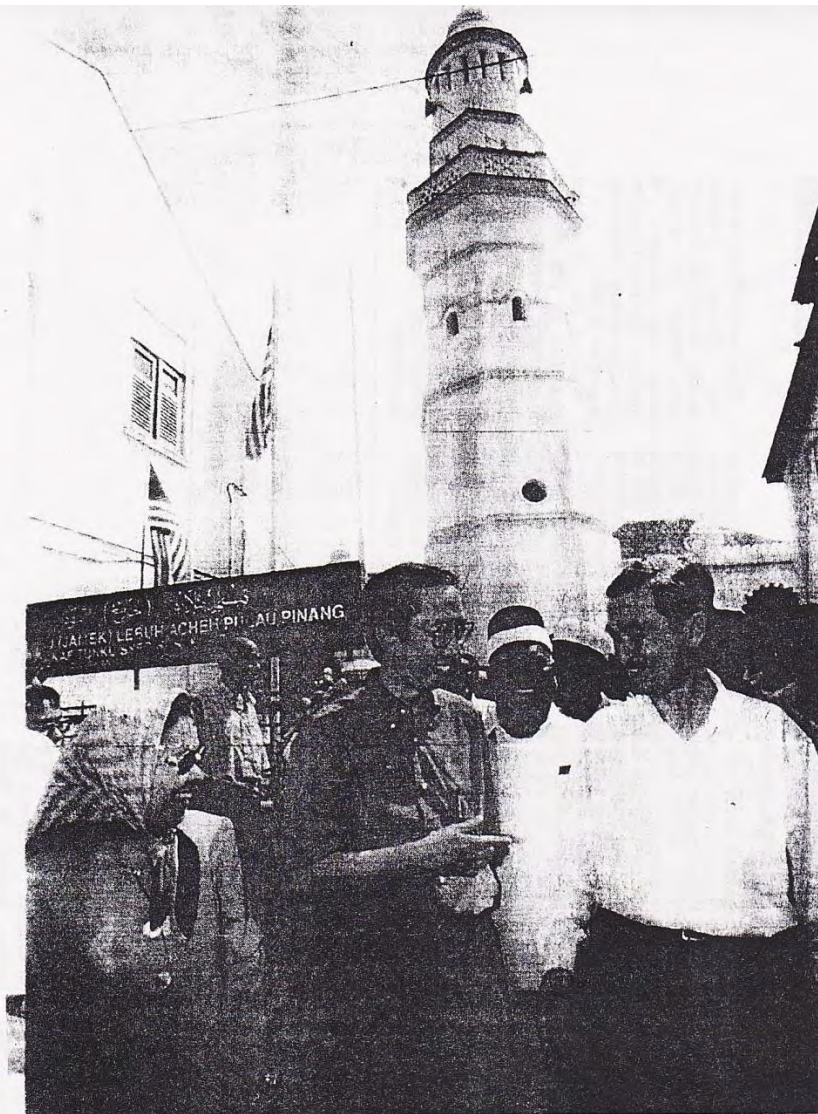
Among the old names he listed were Padang Garam (Lebuh Kimberley), Kampung Teloi (Jalan Irrawaddy, Jalan Tavoy and Jalan Chow Thye), Astrakan (Lebuh Chulia), Kilang Ais (Jalan York), Simpang Lelong (Jalan

Masjid Kapitan Keling), Tongkang Pecah (Jalan Kota Giam, Jelutong), Gedung Rumpit (Lebuh Queen), Jalan Makau (Lebuh Campbell) and Kebun Limau (Jalan Siam).

Veteran antique dealer Mohamad Mastan Abdul Rahman said the museum should portray the lifestyle and struggle of the early

days, for the benefit of future generations.

"Instead of numerous documents and photographs, the museum should adopt the modern concept of being 'alive and interesting', with music, sound, visuals, and other special effects," he suggested.



PRESERVING PENANG'S PAST ... Abdullah with Koh and Tengku Idaura (with scarf) leaving the Lebuh Acheh Mosque.

DPM: Understand value of heritage conservation

PENANG, Sun. — Heritage conservation detractors need only look to buildings and sites inscribed on the world-acclaimed World Heritage List to realise the commercial potential found in their preservation, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

Stressing that the restoration of historical buildings and sites would not turn them into "museums" devoid of commercial activity, Abdullah said such efforts would instead boost tourism revenues and preserve the historical and aesthetic values of these sites.

Giving the Federal Government's support for Penang's efforts in getting Georgetown's heritage enclave included on the World Heritage List, he said critics hindering the State's heritage development efforts should understand the economic gains

brought about by heritage conservation.

"It is well-known that the commercial value of old buildings in countries which have undergone heritage conservation efforts have escalated many times over.

"These buildings have not only been restored to their former splendour, but end up attracting foreign and local visitors," he said after touring Hotel 1926, Penang's first heritage hotel which opens next month.

Accompanying him were Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, his deputy Datuk Mohd Shariff Omar and Penang Heritage Centre chairman Tengku Datuk Idaura Tengku Askandar.

Hotel 1926, aptly named according to the year it was originally built, has been given a new lease of life by the State Government which refurbished it for RM7.5 million to preserve

its heritage value.

Earlier, Abdullah visited the Penang Heritage Centre, Lebuh Acheh mosque and the Khoo Kongsi.

Although Malaysia ratified the Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage drafted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation on Nov 21, 1988, it did not until last year make an attempt to consider nominating several sites in the country for inclusion on the world heritage map.

World Heritage properties are sites with exceptional natural and/or cultural values.

The World Heritage List includes over 500 sites worldwide such as the Pyramids of Egypt, the Grand Canyon of the United States, the Taj Mahal of India, Westminster Abbey in England and the Great Wall of China.

State urged to step up efforts to seek world heritage listing

By
Marina Emmanuel

PENANG, Sun. — Penang stands to lose the historical, economic and cultural benefits derived by other heritage-rich cities in the world if it continues to delay nominating Georgetown's historic inner city for World Heritage listing. Urging the State Government to speed up preparations to nominate the inner city, Penang Heritage Trust honorary secretary Khoo Salma Nasution said Penang could serve as a model of sustainable development of traditional settlements in Southeast Asia.

"The State has a basis for a very strong culture industry which can be exploited as another source of income to the State's coffers during this time of economic problems."

"Instead of placing all our eggs in one basket and being dependant solely on the manufacturing sector which contributes to more than 50 per cent of the State's gross domestic product, we must consider other economic sectors which will boost the State's revenue in the 21st century," she told the *New Straits Times*.

Khoo said the Penang Executive Council must submit an expression of interest for Georgetown's listing to the Federal Government soon if it was serious about "saving the historical and cultural value of Penang for Malaysians and the rest of the world".

"It is important to state that efforts to seek heritage listing would in no way

freeze development in the Inner City," Khoo said.

The State Exco decided last May to nominate the Historic Enclave of Georgetown as a World Heritage Site.

The total area of the enclave, spanning 178.52 hectares, is divided into seven zones comprising the Beach Front Historic Buffer Zones and six other conservation zones in inner Georgetown.

This move is in response to the call of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation to submit sites of world interest for listing on the world-acclaimed World Heritage List.

World Heritage properties are sites with exceptional natural and/or cultural values.

Penang's pre-war premises — estimated around 10,000 — form the region's largest pool of pre-war buildings and serve as an intact historical centre, owing to its impressive collection of 19th century Anglo-Indian buildings.

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Unesco's regional advisor for culture in Asia and the Pacific region, Richard A. Engelhardt, during a visit to Penang last year, described Malaysia as a "blank spot on the world heritage map in Asia" for inadequate heritage conservation efforts in comparison with other countries in the region.

Khoo said efforts at getting Penang counted among the world heritage sites would also complement the Ministry of Health's "Healthy Cities for Healthy Living" campaign launched in 1997.

Inner city 'has room only for one Komtar'

STAR, Tuesday
30 March 1990

PENANG: Penang Chinese Chamber of Commerce president Tan Sri Tan Kok Ping has come under fire for his stand against comprehensive heritage conservation of inner-city George Town.

Malaysian International Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Datuk Jorgen Bornhoft said serious investors appreciated that there was "only room for one Komtar" in the inner city.

"(On the other hand), a carefully thought out heritage development strategy for the whole area will bring commercial success to all owners.

"At the same time, it means developing an outstanding tourist attraction which will benefit everyone in Penang," he said in a letter published in the latest issue of the Penang Heritage Trust newsletter.

At a dialogue on the state's draft heritage conservation guidelines held late last year, Tan had described the guidelines as the dream of a few "at the expense of most people's interests."

While not opposed to the preservation of specific buildings or streets, he argued against the proposal to gazette 173ha of the inner city en bloc. The full text of his speech was carried in a previous issue of the newsletter.

Bornhoft, who noted that George Town should have little difficulty getting listed as a World Heritage site, said this would represent a further commercial advantage.

"George Town's historic inner city should be a very significant income producer," he said.

Bornhoft also stressed the need to preserve the overall character of the city, noting that heritage buildings must not be isolated in the midst of unsympathetic modern development.