

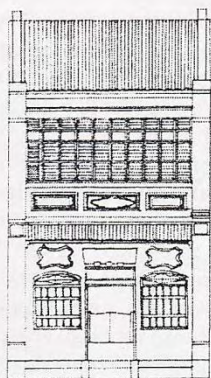
PHT *newsletter*

PENANG HERITAGE TRUST * PERSATUAN WARISAN PULAU PINANG

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Holiday Bumper Issue November 1999 - January 2000



OUR OFFICE

Volunteers

We would like to thank our volunteers who have contributed their time to help PHT in their seminars, talks, receptions and tours.

PHT would like to welcome new volunteers : Mirjam, Marika, Mary who are coming once a week to help Priscilla in the mornings.

PHT would like to thank ADUN Pengkalan Kota YB Mr Teng Chang Yeow for the contribution of Office Equipment and Furniture. The PHT office is located in his constituency.



Membership Cards & Site visits

The PHT wishes to announce that as of Year 2000, we shall be issuing laminated annual membership cards to all Life members and those who have paid their subscriptions for the calendar year.

Current promotional rates for new members are **RM50**, instead of RM86 (entrance fee RM50 + annual subs RM36).

Overseas members: Due to fluctuating postal rates and the increase of postal rates last year, we are requesting overseas members to add

a RM 14 postal surcharge. Please pay RM50(subs. RM36 + postal surcharge RM14) annually.

New membership schedule

To regularise our membership payments, we are now making annual memberships subscriptions of RM 36 effective from 1st January of each year. This means that subscriptions have to be renewed by 1st January each year.

Please call at PHT office to renew your membership as soon as possible!

Producing a valid card will entitle you to take part in the full range of activities being planned for the year. Besides the talks, slide shows and heritage tours that we have from time to time, we are also introducing guided monthly visits to heritage places, for members only.

EXCLUSIVE GUIDED HERITAGE SITE VISITS

This year we are launching a new programme for our Penang Heritage Members. We are organising a **free monthly visit to a particular heritage home or site that is NOT normally accessible to the public.** All site visits will be at 3.30pm on the last Sunday of each month. The visits will be guided by family or trust representatives, local historians, and/or 'insiders' guides.

Some of the sites proposed (*DATES / SITES to be confirmed*)

*** Sunday 27 February 2000 at 3.30 pm: Sheikh Omar Basheer's House and Mausoleum** in Ayer Itam 1881, the house of a famous religious teacher and Naqshabandiyah Sufi, his son Sheikh Zachariah J.P. and mufti of Penang, and grandson the late Dato' Fathil Basheer (with home-made delicacies and famous Penang acar by Ms. Zakiah Basheer & a talk by Khoo Salma Nasution & Dilys Yap).

***Sunday 26 March 2000 at 3.30 pm: Homestead**, Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah, built by Lim Mah Chye and later acquired by Yeap Chor Ee, the palladian mansion designed by Stark & MacNeil in 1919, still stands as one of Penang's best maintained historic buildings.

*** Sunday 30 April 2000 at 3.30 pm: Crag Hotel, Penang Hill**, refreshments *a la IndoChine* / Catherine Deneuve, talk on the history of Crag Hotel.

***The Governor's bungalow, Bel Retiro in Penang Hill** with Earl Grey & cucumber sandwiches either there or at a restored pre-war English Garden cottage down the road, short talk on Penang Hill by Ahmad Chik.

***Sunday 28 May 2000 at 3.30 pm: The Sungai Bakap Kee Estate**, a historic complex of 6 residential homes and an ancestral hall (cold drinks and Sg Bakap delicacies, talk by Dato' Kee Phaik Cheen)

*** Sunday 25 June 2000 at 3.30 pm: Chung Keng Kwee Temple**, Church Street. Headquarters of the Hakka Hai Sans in the Larut Tin Wars, site of bloody massacre of Ghee Hin leaders (talk by Goh Mei Loon / entertainment by Ghee Hins spirits/ refreshments if you stay on after dusk

*** Sunday 23 July 2000 at 3.30 pm: Convent Light Street with Government House**, site where Raffles worked as an officer & visited by Lord Minto, short talk by Dilys Yap

***Sunday 27 August 2000 at 3.30 pm: Runnymede Hotel**, Northam Road, refreshments, talk by Khoo Salma Nasution on Raffles and his house as well as history of the hotel (to be confirmed)

***Sunday 24 September 2000 at 3.30 pm: The Straits Eclectic Loh Lean San quartet**, Burmah Road

(opposite Rex, one of the best maintained examples, refreshments, short talk by daughter, June Loh)

** Sunday 29 October 2000 at 3.30 pm: The Loke Villa, Gurney Drive next to Uplands, refreshments at Gurney Drive (to be confirmed)*

** Sunday 26 November 2000 at 3.30 pm : 120 Armenian Street, headquarters of Sun Yet Sun's Tung Meng Hooi (refreshments and talk by Khoo Salma Nasution)*

** The Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion on Hakka Millionaire's Row, Leith Street (guided restoration and historical tour by Loh-Lim, Chinese tea and Nonya kueh)*

The site visits will ONLY be available to PHT valid card holders and spouses and children under the age of 18 years. Please don't bring children under the age of 12 unless you can be completely responsible for them. Friends and relatives have to join the Trust to come on the visit.



Rent Control Service Centre

The Rent Control Service Centre operated at 156A Jalan Mesjid Kapitan Kling from end December 1999 to end January 2000. From 1 March 2000, those with enquiries about Rent Control Repeal can contact :

Consumers' Association of Penang (CAP),
Complaints Section
228 Jalan Macalister 10400
Penang.
Tel : 229-3511

Property Watch

PHT is also working with CAP on a 'Property Watch', to compile info and monitor the following:

- heritage properties for sale
- heritage properties to rent
- how long these properties have

been vacant

- sites which have been left derelict and which should be rehabilitated (fire sites, drug addict haunts, mosquito breeding grounds etc.)

- illegal conversions to commercial or warehousing use

- illegal building renovations

- illegal demolitions

If you have any information on any of the above, please contact PHT.



X Files: Heritage Lost

What happens to the sites after demolition of heritage buildings? Our X-files show almost all the demolished sites in George Town are curiously plagued by some problems or other. The College -General and seminary on Jalan Kelawei which was unceremoniously bull-dozed in the mid 80s was in a state of abandonment for more than 10 years before work started on Gurney Park, another one-stop, all-in-one mega development that seems to be de rigueur of boleh-land of the 90s. Of course work stopped again due to the 97 economic crisis. Sources say that investors from outside have come in to revive the project.

Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah, previously Jalan Northam, has created some historic precedents of sort. Remember Northam Court which tilted and had to be pulled down halfway under construction? The Municipal Council then spent thousands of rate-payers' money to evacuate the residents nearby. Another heritage mansion was illegally demolished one fine Christmas Day in 1987 but the site remains vacant after two cycles of economic recession. More recently building work has stopped on the illegally demolished Metropole Hotel site. Hardwicke house which was apparently saved from being bulldozed (thanks to Council's guidelines) is now a heartache to look at as a colossal development practically hovers over. Building work has also stalled due to the e-crisis.

To-day's generation will grow up not having experienced the old world charm of the E&O Hotel. It must hold the country's book of records

for the longest hotel development project for it has gone through three cycles of economic recession. Nextdoor, the former Youth Hostel and JKR offices which were earmarked for another ritzy hotel project seem destined to remain a blank spot on the townscape for some time.

This sorry tale of urban "deconstruction" sounds like a Greek tragedy. The situation does not get any better as more and more of George Town's elegant old buildings are bulldozed while the new "ugly-ecture" are praised as the pantheons of progress. There are indeed lessons to be learned from all these for those who care to do so, from the government to the wage earner who faithfully saves his hard earned money in the banks which so eagerly financed all these speculative projects. Let us tarry not while Rome (read George Town) burns.

- 'Heritage Watch'



Anna & The King

To all members & friends

As Chairman of the Penang Heritage Trust, I hope you allow me to publicly thank our patrons who supported our fundraising premiere of "Anna and the King" on 14 December 1999 at Megapavillion at Bukit Jambul Complex.

We would like to assure the public that all funds raised will go towards our conservation and education projects to support our rich multicultural heritage in Penang.

However, we are aware that the film premiere event itself exposed some serious organisational problems that caused great inconvenience to our patrons. We apologise for this inconvenience to them and we ask for your indulgence in supporting this charity event.

We hope that you share our pride in the fact that Penang's heritage places were beautifully promoted and many of the Penang community were involved in the making of this extraordinary film.

- Dr Choong Sim Poey,
President, PHT

Anna and the King **Premiere - by Goh Mai Loon**

Special thanks to Dato' Kee Phaik Cheen for arranging the Charity Premiere. PHT received the 2nd world premiere of 'Anna and the King' as fund raising campaign.

PHT would like to thank 20th Century Fox and Mega Pavilion for granting us the premiere rights on December 14, 1999. Sheraton Hotel partially sponsored our delicious cocktail that night, (PHT paid RM5 per pax for cocktails chargeable at RM 15 per pax). We would also like to acknowledge Mr. Teoh Seng Lee of Vintage Wine for sponsoring 4 crates of wine. In total PHT received more than RM32,000 from this premiere and PPESEWA received RM7,086.

Sheraton Hotel also sponsored the stay for the special guests of this premiere. Special thanks to Mano Maniam of 'Kopitiam', who acted as Monshee; Keith Chin who played Prince Chulalongkorn and Kee Thuan Chye who acted as the 2nd Judge. All of them came by their own transport to appear in the premiere and met the viewers.

We would like to thank our volunteers Joanne Khaw, Marika, Mirjam for helping out with marketing and the smooth handling of souvenir books during the premiere.

The "Souvenir Album 'Anna and the King' in Penang" was successfully released together with our premiere, special thanks to PHT Honorary Secretary Khoo Salma Nasution, PHT members Teoh Poh Cheng, Ooi Bok Kim, Tan Sok Kiang, friends of PHT Teoh Yee Seong and Teoh Ling Ling for volunteering the time and great effort to produce this book.

We are delighted to acknowledge Mr. Rupert Chetwynd, and his son Aaron for helping to get Luciana's letter to us for publication.

Thanks to Mr. Tony Ch'ng who contributed the scouting maps and materials of the production crew. We would also like to thank the following

organizations and people for contributing their fine photos for this book: Guang Ming Daily and its photographers in Penang: Ong Tit Seng, Chew Tat Ban, Tan Kok Leong, and Yeap Cheong Wah. Guang Ming Daily and its photographer in Ipoh: Liow Chien Ying Sin. Chew Jit Poh and its photographer: Ch'ng Joo Pyin Kwong Wah Yit Poh. Star Publications and its photographer: Leong Hong Nyeon. Penang Heritage Centre: Encik Azahar Hanafiah, PHT volunteer Teoh Ling Ling, Mr. Kee Thuan Chye for exclusive photos inside the Town Hall, Grace Chew who acted as one of the concubines of King Mongkut, who contributed the behind the scene photos of Chow Yun-Fat and Jodie Foster as well as the Perak photos. Harriet Saw contributed her collection of Cheph Chaang's photos including exclusive photos in the Perak and Langkawi scenes. Ms. Cheph Chaang was in charge of the casting of the children in this movie. Sheraton Hotel Public Relation Manager, Mr. Adrian Seet, PHT Honorable Secretary Salma Khoo Nasution for the Armenian Street photos and her husband Lubis for the Raja Bilah Mansion photo and PHT council member Goh Mai Loon for the Langkawi Summer Palace photo.

Letter from ***Rupert Chetwynd***

(husband of Luciana Arrighi, production designer of Anna and the King)

Many, many sincere congratulations on your excellent Souvenir album, Souvenir brochure for PHT. I have seen many such glossy presentations in my time, but none to compare with yours. The logic, the argument, the progression, the charm are all there. Wonderful pictures, superb presentation and colour printing. You should be very proud and it was ready on time.....



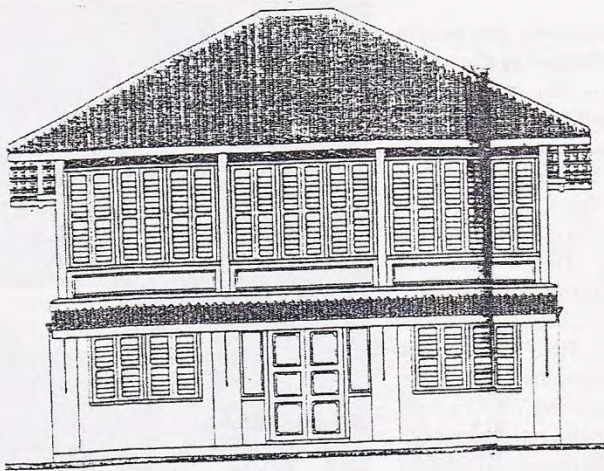
We are selling this 32 pages full colour of 144 pictures book with details of each location heritage sites and exclusive pictures of Chow Yun-Fat, Jodie Foster and Bai Ling for only US\$10/=-, including postage and handling charges for US, Canada and Europe purchase. The rates for other countries will be different. Please write to PHT to consult or e-mail:

Goh Mai Loon at
<mailto:mailoon@yahoo.com>

For Malaysian states other than Penang, the sales of the book is RM20/=- plus RM5/=- for postage handling charges.

Alert!

Illegal sales of Souvenir Album found on the web. We discovered the illegal sales of PHT's Souvenir Album 'Anna and the King' to the web site at Ebay.com. We have launched an official complaint to the web host about this illegal sales. The bidding price was US\$19.99, excluding the postage handling charges. The person has sold this book under different titles. PHT has not authorised this person to sell our book, and the money made is not coming to PHT.



Revitalization of 67 Acheen Street

Through the UNESCO-LEAP programme 'Community Participation in Waqf Revitalisation' (Hidupkan Wakaf & Syura), PHT has conducted a series of workshops and roundtables to gather community inputs. As a result of the recent workshops with the Acheen Street community, we have formed a youth group, Kelab Belia Warisan, and identified 67 Acheen Street for a small-scale rehabilitation project to demonstrate physical upgrading as a means of heritage revitalization and community development.

Location of Project

Acheen Street is a part of the pilot urban rehabilitation area identified by the MPPP in 1989. The historic area consisting of the recently restored Acheen Street Mosque and surrounding houses, mostly on waqf land, is the most significant area in Penang with regard to the historical relationship between Penang and Sumatra. In the vicinity is the restored Syed Alatas Mansion (now the Heritage Centre, Penang) and the famous historic attraction, the Khoo Kongsi clanhouse.

Acheen Street Mosque & Community

From a workshop with the community, the following problems and challenges were identified:

Problems: Cleanliness, lack of amenities, traffic safety, few qariah members, inadequate housing, poor condition of heritage buildings, administration of waqf, lack of eco-

nomic activities

Challenges: Increase heritage awareness, improve urban environment quality, increase number of qariah, provide new housing and rehabilitate existing housing, realise great tourism potential, Islamic education, revitalize with small-scale economic activities, youth activities, improve social cohesion

History of 67 Acheen Street

This was the home of Sheikh Zakaria Basheer, (1855-1926). Sheikh Zakaria was a prominent Mufti of Penang in 1888 and a Justice of the Peace. He was the son of Shaikh Omar Basheer Al-Khalidi, Imam of Acheen Street Mosque till his death in 1881. Shaikh Omar was a Shaikh of the Naqshabandiah Sufi Order and his son Shaikh Zakaria continued the tradition.

In 1917, Sheikh Zakaria permitted the house to be used for the Madrasatul Al-Qur'an, which had been founded a year before by the Arab leaders of the community, on another site on Acheen Street. The Madrasatul Al-Qur'an was the predecessor of Penang's most famous Islamic school, the Almashoor.

A later tenant was Haji Omar Meulaboh from the west coast of Aceh who imported paculi leaves from Aceh, dried and packed them in the mosque compound for export to France and Egypt, as an ingredient for perfumes.

The house then passed down to the

Almashoor family, whose name is synonymous with the famous Sekolah Al-Mashoor.

Architecture

A rare example of an Arab "compound house," in the urban village of the Acheen Street Mosque, probably dating from the mid-19th century. It fits the description found in Low's dissertation of 1836:

"A substantial bungalow, from 60-70 feet long by 34-40 broad - the under story of brick and mortar, the upper constructed with the best kinds of wood, with a tiled roof, and the whole interior and exterior of the upper story painted - might be built perhaps for some twelve hundred Spanish dollars."

James Low. *The British Settlement of Penang. First printed 1836. (Oxford in Asia Historical Reprints, Oxford University Press, Singapore 1972).*

Status

The building is currently owned by the Almashoor family. The land, in the compound of the Acheen Street Mosque, is part of the Tengku Syed Hussain Aided Waqf. The house has multiple tenants (about 13 families), both Malay and Indian Muslim families, mainly low-income or low-medium income.

Project

As an example of economic revitalization, to encourage the front ground floor portion to be turned into a heritage shop and/or café for visitors to the mosque. With the UNESCO-LEAP budget and PHT expertise, we have undertaken minor repairs of the façade and repainted the house exterior. The colour scheme is based on scrapings which revealed the earlier colours of the house. Mrs. Loh-Lim helped to get 'community service rates' from the contractor, carpenters, masons and painters, while Alan Flux helped us formulate the colour scheme.

Khoo Salma Nasution & Abdur-Razzaq Lubis, UNESCO-LEAP Site Managers

Revitalization of Wakaf in the Inner City of George Town

Report by Prof. Wazir Karim

Women's & Human Resource Studies Unit, School of Social Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia.

Report of the Roundtable on the Revitalisation of Wakaf in the Inner City of Georgetown, held at the School of Social Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia on the 13th of November 1999.

Introduction

The Penang Heritage Trust, through its participation in UNESCO Leap has been active in mobilising support for the conservation of Wakaf buildings and a Muslim lifestyle in the inner city of Georgetown. Bearing in mind that Muslims of Malay, Indonesian, Arab and Indian origins had laid the foundations of Islamic culture in this city more than 200 years ago, it is imperative that remaining structures and lifestyle continue to express the Muslim heritage that had enriched the socio-cultural history of Penang. This can only be achieved if the Muslim community itself continues to contribute to the cultural vibrancy of Georgetown, not only by occupying premises which are wakaf or privately owned but by promoting a sense of community participation, collective responsibility and popular governance.

Organisation

The Roundtable was coordinated by the Prof. Wazir Karim, Convenor of the Women and Human Resource Studies Unit of the School of Social Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia with the cooperation and assistance of the site manager of UNESCO Leap and the secretary of Penang Heritage Trust.

Objectives

1. Initiate interest among academicians undergraduates and graduates in the revitalization of the wakaf in the inner city of Georgetown.
2. Establish greater cooperation and networking between Penang

Heritage Trust and the academic community in issues of conservation and heritage.

3. Develop an integrated data base on Muslim heritage in Penang by exploring the varied interests and areas of specialisation of scholars in the Social Sciences, Arts, Humanities, Housing, Planning and Architecture.

4. Involve the academic community in participatory action research on Muslim Heritage and conservation.

Participation

The Roundtable drew interest from five academicians in the Social Sciences and Housing, Building and Architecture, four graduate students, twenty-four undergraduates from the Social Sciences, representatives from the Sumatra Heritage Centre of Penang, the Association of Syariah Lawyers, Penang and the Penang Heritage Trust.

Highlights of the Roundtable.

* Discussion of categories of wakaf and principles of sustainable development vis-à-vis wakaf conservation.

* Profiles of lives of Muslims in the inner-city of Georgetown, focusing on ethnic, cultural and linguistic-diversity and the mosques as centres of community participation, collective responsibility and popular governance.

* Role of the Muslim Council of Penang (Majlis Agama Islam Pulau Pinang) in the development of wakaf and conflicting roles with the local mosque committees, trustees and caretakers.

* Problems of Islamic literacy and dissemination of knowledge to Muslims and non-Muslims, concerning the functions of the wakaf.

* Women's role of Muslim Culture and Heritage

Results and Proposals

1. Need to develop greater legal literacy on the wakaf and role of the Muslim Community in its revitalization.

2. Promote research projects among graduates and undergraduates on Muslim heritage and conservation in Georgetown.

3. Enrich the lives of Muslim women in the inner city by developing a sense of collective responsibility, participatory, decision-making through direct involvement in issues of conservation and heritage.

4. Publish and disseminate literature on Islamic principles of sustainable development and conservation to Muslim and non-Muslims residents of Georgetown. Students and members of Islamic associations.

Follow-up

1. Workshop on "Memories – Lifestyles and the Women of Georgetown"

2. Students Field Projects – 25 projects integrated with the second year undergraduate Anthropology course in "Local and Global Cultures"

3. Research Project on Straits Muslims – Social History and Heritage

4. Two Masters Thesis on three Muslim Communities in George Town.



Heritage Youth Club

Report by Khoo Salma Nasution

At a youth workshop targeted at the Acheen Street youth, called Bengkel Belia, Warisan & Wakaf on 4 December 1999, the youths proposed the setting up of a Kelab Belia Warisan. Starting from over 30 youths at that workshop, the club has rapidly expanded to almost 100 youths. The majority of the members are Malay and Muslim youths living in the city - around the Acheen Street Mosque, at the police stations and fire station quarters.

We were amazed at the enthusiastic reaction we received in response to the setting up of the Heritage Youth Club. Obviously, there was a pressing need for an organisation like this, considering that there was previously no place to meet for these inner city youth, no outreach and guidance programmes and no "umbrella" to shelter them. We were also delighted that the youths on their own accord chose the name Kelab Belia Warisan - they wanted heritage to provide the overall focus and direction while the activities organised would reflect their wide range of interests.

Since then, we have organised a series of talks and meetings:

December 1999: Dr. Yee Thiam Sun, consultant to UN-ESCAP on youth programmes, gave a talk on youth organisations. He said that the Kelab Belia Warisan is the first heritage youth club in the country, and the first inner-city youth organisation to be set up in a long while.

Herbert Ho of the Rotary Club, whose father founded the Acheen Street Youth Centre, met us at the premises. PHT Council Member Prof. Wazir Karim and her husband Dr. Mohd. Razha Rashid (both from the Anthropology Department at USM) and cultural trainer Cikgu Bahroodin was present. We consulted with the Rotary Club about access to the facilities and requested that a sepak takraw court be put in. We also asked Dr. Razha's advice on

setting up a silat group and the suggestion was to learn *silat pulut*. Cikgu Bahroodin offered to teach them Boria and Bangsawan.

The youth approached PHT Immediate Past President Dato' Nazir Ariff, who agreed to be the patron of the Heritage Youth Club and gave us a personal donation to start the youth club fund. Dato' Nazir is well known for his generosity and fundraising efforts in aid of children's organisations and youth organisations. Thank you Dato' Nazir from all of us.

31 December 1999. The youths themselves, under the leadership of their president Roslin bt. Haniffa, organised a young entrepreneurship activity. They set up a booth at the Padang Kota on the eve of the Millenium to sell roses, drinks and food.

January 2000: The youth formed a contingent to meet YB Jahara Hamid, State Executive Councillor of Youth, Sports, Information and National Unity. She promised her support.

Dr. Gij's Koester, lecturer in Sastera Melayu and comparative literature at USM gave a talk on "Introduction to Malay literature". He will be leaving USM this year.

PHT Council Members Lim Huck Chin and Laurence Loh (both are Badan Warisan Malaysia members), talked to the youth about heritage and football. We also showed them heritage videos.

29 January 2000. The youths themselves organised the Majlis Hari Raya Kelab Belia Warisan and it was attended by over 100 youths. Our apologies for the late start to YB Jahara Hamid who graced our function. She gave the youths excellent advice about maintaining our cultural traditions and way of life. However, as the evening progress, all the effort of their organisation started to look good.

The youths had put together a fabulous fashion show of traditional costumes, a Hari Raya star-making competition, and a display of congkak, a traditional Malay game. Among the distinguished guests were Dato' Saleena Yahaya (Disted College), Dato' Anwar Fazal (UNDP and SERI) Abdul Rahman Paul Barter (STEP resource person), Prof. Wazir and Dr. Razha. Cikgu Bahroodin was the judge of the Hari Raya star-making competition. He explained that traditional Hari Raya stars should have five points, are made with bamboo and 'lantern paper' (kertas tanglung), that the frame of the star should be semi-concealed and so forth.

We are pleased that the Heritage Youth Club has received a lot of support and encouragement so far, from the press, from Badan Warisan Malaysia and a lecturer from University of Malaya.

We are proud to say that the committee of the Kelab Belia Warisan is made up entirely of young leaders. The President Roslin and her husband Jaimin bin Kin have been the anchors. While Roslin is in her 20s, most of the committee members and ordinary members are in their teens. They have been organising meetings 2-3 times a week, and have shown tremendous initiative and resourcefulness.

Cikgu Bahroodin, Abdur-Razzaq Lubis and I are effectively their advisors, and we have tried to be present at all their important functions. However, we have left as much as possible of the organisation and work to them. We are now trying to put them in touch with resource persons whom they can call on to give talks and provide training.



Letters to the Heritage Youth Club

I write in response to an article entitled *Youths to form heritage club* in the 25 December 1999 issue of *The Star*.

The Badan Warisan Malaysia congratulates the Penang Heritage Trust (PHT) on its efforts to promote awareness of heritage conservation amongst the youth of Malaysia. In my various speeches at Badan Warisan Malaysia, I have always advocated for the formation of heritage societies in schools, so that when students enter the adult world they will be more inclined towards joining societies such as the one that you have promoted.

The Badan's *Education Programme : Pilot Project 2000* aims to introduce the subject of architectural heritage in the co-curricular activities of secondary schools. As you may be aware, the pilot will be introduced in Kuala Lumpur next year and we have initiated discussions with Ms Loh Lim Lee of PHT regarding collaboration in Penang.

We wish the PHT and the heritage youth club every success in 2000.

- **Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr) Ahmad Sarji bin Abdul Hamid - President, Badan Warisan**

Dear Friends,

To all Friends, Colleagues and Acquaintances involved in Heritage Issues, I wish you a 'Happy Y2K,' and to my Muslim friends 'Selamat Hari Raya', and for my Chinese friends, 'Gong Xi Fa Cai', in the coming month.

With all due respect to those that have been involved in work to develop and nurture our heritage, I am speaking from the point of view of an educationist and someone who will always support efforts in cultivating traditional values via education through understanding and loving our heritage.

Dealing with the youth, in our case, Post-STPM/A-Levels/Matriculation students, we at the Department of Architecture, University Malaya,

introduce heritage issues to our students from the very beginning. In the History of Asian Architecture subject in the first year, and later, at the end of the first year, the students have to measure heritage buildings and subsequently, in the third year, do a history report. Many of my colleagues in our department, including Prof Ezrin Arbi, Yahaya Ahmad and Puan Seri Nila Inangda, are themselves, advocates for heritage issues, either in research or consultancy work. We have to add that we have consistently received awards [Mubin Shepard Award] for the last 2 years from Badan Warisan Malaysia, for some of the students work.

The reason why I have indicated our heritage agenda above, is to explain that, we can easily not emphasise on heritage issues in our courses and concentrate on purely technological concerns. A lot more people out there would be happier if we did. We could easily just be advocates of purely economic agenda in our educational motives. We can easily just be a tool for unsustainable and profit oriented development. But we are not. We are in the business of education and nurturing 'guardians', and when we see something like a Heritage Youth Club being formed, we are all for it.

We are pro-heritage and pro-traditional values. We respect technology as a way to solve problems, but humanity and human values that is found in tradition, and especially eastern traditions, need to be defended and guarded.

My encounters with the youth comes from the youth themselves. I have seen a Chinese Buddhist youth deciding to do a history report on 'Mosques in Trengganu', and Muslim youths unflinchingly and lovingly, compose from a Hindu temple and a Chinese temple, for their analytical composition exercise.

During our classes, examples shown to the students, come from Cathedrals or Churches, Mosques, Temples and Synagogues, and not only building types from just one ethnic or religious background.

At UM, personally, I am happy to be working with a quota of youths that represents the true quota of our nation. I see in them the willingness to learn and the dedication to acquiring 'all' knowledge, and I would not dare stop them from developing themselves through appreciating any Malaysian Heritage. Often, due to their specific background, they will start with wanting to know the temples, church or mosques that represent their beliefs. But later on, in the final year, they would have known, how to design any of the religious buildings, or at least have a comprehensive knowledge on what goes on in these various complexes.

'Syabas' to all those involved in starting the Heritage Youth Club. And the opening of the club to all youths. If the motive and intention to join this club is purely for the love of their heritage and education, I should think that, it would only be a positive thing, and should not go wrong. Please show and guide the youth to love their heritage.

Naziaty Mohd Yaacob, Dept of Architecture, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, 50603.



Emanon's New Office

The coolest web designers in Penang, who designed the PHT website, have moved to new premises in a heritage building.

***55 Beach Street
10300 Georgetown, Penang
Tel : (04) 2644 733
Fax : (04) 2644 732
Email : <sean@e.com.my>
Website: www.e.com.my***

1999 Duncan Sandys PATA Foundation Award

Report from Loh-Lim Lin Lee

The 4 scholars from PATA member countries chosen this year to be exposed to conservation and its relationship to tourism in the U.K., were Mandip Singh Soin, M.D. of Ibex Expeditions, Wiwien Tribuwani from the Centre of Research in Tourism in Bandung, Stuart Lennox of the Tasmanian Tourism Board and Loh-Lim from Laurence Loh Akitek/ Penang Heritage Trust.

The programme began in London with the **Conservation Foundation** (currently involved in a wonderfully meaningful Millenium programme to plant saplings from cuttings of 1000 year-old Yew trees in English churches) and in Faversham, Kent with Arthur Percival & the **Fleur de Lisle Heritage Centre**. An introduction to how government, local authorities and local amenity groups work together to protect the built and natural heritage in the U.K was given. The **Civic Trust** founded by Duncan Sandys, demonstrated how careful conservation policies can improve local living standards as well as encourage valuable revenue.

This was followed by a 1-week programme in Scotland, from the lowlands to Inverness in the highlands. The **National Trust of Scotland** arranged visits to Trust sites and introduced the planning behind some of Scotland's most popular tourist destinations & how the Trust copes with visitor numbers in sensitive locations. One of the most fascinating areas was The Little Houses Scheme, a NTS scheme of conversion of cultural heritage properties into units for semi-social housing and the example of Culross, a success in community integration with a popular tourist destination.

Historic Scotland, the Government arm of conservation in Scotland and the

equivalent of English Heritage, in England, explained their heritage policies and how listing and scheduling of buildings has focussed attention & funding for the built heritage. Officials of **Historic Scotland** & participants spent time on site at **Kilmartin Glen Museum**, **Stirling Castle** (site of 'Braveheart') and **Edinburgh Castle** discussing management policies and the encouragement of sustainable use of Scotland's heritage.

Scottish Natural Heritage, introduced parks such as Lochmore Meadows, and policies with the emphasis on excellent interpretation centres for the public and sustainability of resources.

A week was devoted to **York City**, based at the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies, University of York, with Charles Cockburn. The City of York for over 2000 years has been important in attracting both invaders & visitors & it has well preserved Roman, Celtic and Viking remains. Today, although 4 million visitors per year are handled (in a city with only 175,000 residents) and a high quality of conservation has been achieved, many questions of sustainability and residents' problems plus a growing Disneyland image are facing city planners and conservationists.

Public support is in the forefront

of all major planning considerations, the inner city is completely pedestrianised, public transport is being constantly upgraded, local bodies are aiming to reverse the trend of low residential content in the city and to change the mass tourist perception and pressure. Local York residents are entitled to free entry to all tourist attractions and museums at certain periods of the year and to many other benefits not available to tourists.

An opportunity to see the workings of the 'Living Over The Shops' initiative with its elements of social housing, was particularly relevant to the context of Georgetown.

The 3-week study period ended in London with meetings with **PATA Foundation**, **Green Globe**, the **British Tourist Authority** & **English Heritage** (it should be noted that a large proportion of current conservation projects in the U.K. are being funded by the multi-million pound national lottery).

Applicants for the award from PHT are strongly encouraged for the following year (Sept to Oct 2000) You have to be over 25, at least 5 years working experience in the field of either conservation or tourism planning. Educational background matters & current position & responsibilities in relation to conservation.

Persons in the area of marketing or promotions are not encouraged to apply. Malaysia has had 3 recipients since the inception of the scholarship 10 years ago, the other 2 are Tengku Dato Idaura & a senior Muzium Negara official.

It was a hard working trip, reports had to be written, we were on the go for 3 weeks including Sundays but it was well-worth every moment and the learning was invaluable.

Loh-Lim Nov.99



Making more powerful presentations

KL based PHT member, Jasmine Low recently attended a Leadership Workshop for Volunteers, organised by the Institute of Policy Research (IKD) with cooperation of Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS).

Whilst some of you may breeze through a presentation, there are many who fear the very thought of presenting let alone speaking to an audience. I had a similar experience recently at a major presentation to a very important client. A week prior to the meeting, I thought I was prepared. I had worked on a powerpoint presentation and printed out a list of pointers to guide me through the meeting. I was confident and physically prepared for the meeting - until the morning of the presentation. I had never felt more lost for words. Worst of all, I was least expecting such a huge turnout. Twelve representatives were invited. Instead, facing me, were forty executives!

A week later, I received a phone call from Khoo Salma, Secretary of PHT, asking me if I could attend a Leadership Workshop on behalf of PHT. She could not have called at a better time, I thought. Our session leader, A.M. Jaafar or Jef, was a seasoned presenter. Having served as the past President of the Institute of Public Relations, Malaysia, Jef shared a few helpful pointers when preparing for a meetings/presentation.

Jef strongly recommended gathering an audience profile prior to any meeting or presentation as this can add to your mental preparation and give you an idea of the audience. However, never underestimate your audience. Do a little homework and find out if you can have a list of names of those attending. You will be much better prepared, simply by knowing their names, profession and the organisations they represent.

The next session of the Workshop focused on Why Meetings/

Presentations Fail. Despite my initial reaction that it was not constructive to discuss the negative aspects of meetings, I discovered it was a novel method of sharing and gaining feedback from others. We (workshop attendees) all knew what could turn a meeting sour, we just had to learn to remember and avoid repeating mistakes. Here's the list of don'ts:

Why Meetings/Presentations Fail

Planning ahead

1. No agenda
2. Unprepared

Material

3. No reference - prepare notes or a computer presentation if you can. This can act as a guide while you present.
4. No printed material for meeting attendees - prepare preprint copies of the material presented so attendees can take it away to discuss with their colleagues later. Otherwise, send them each a copy.

Taking a lead

5. No control of meeting - take the lead, take control
6. Too many things to discuss - set certain objectives and ask if you really need to present a certain point.
7. Straying - create a "bin" list which identifies things which can be discussed later.
8. No Implementation - need list of action to be taken.
9. No follow up following implementation - need to designate tasks

Time Issues

10. Timeful - don't take too much of other peoples' time, be watchful
11. Pre-qualifying over the phone - is it the right person you're seeing
12. Non Systematic - follow agenda otherwise you'll find the meeting losing focus
13. Emotional - try exude professionalism by positioning yourself as an industry expert
14. Conclusions & Decisions - try to

pinpoint what they agree and what they do not.

15. Too serious - add a little humour
16. Failed to set a goal before meeting - visualise your content & process of the meeting, important to be mentally prepared and to anticipate questions, objections, and disagreement.

Question time

17. Allow a time slot for questions.
18. Non interactivity from audience can be an embarrassing moment. Ensure that you'll have a list of frequently asked questions to share with your audience.
19. Always prepare for the meeting beforehand and have points printed out. This way, if you are called away and unable to attend, your colleague will have the print out ready to present.
20. Good luck!

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Jasmine Low of Mobius Media, a media representation company represents AsianGeographic.org (The Journal of our Environment) & TravelIndustryNews.com.



Penang Heritage Trust Museum Shop

in the compound of the State Museum, Farquhar Street

managed by Mr. Peter Foo

open 11-5pm, 6 days a week,
closed on Fridays.

Heritage information, books, old photographs, T-shirts, antiques, related to Penang.

Postcards, journal *Past & Present* and calendar published by the Penang Museum.

Handphone: 012 498 9617

Bangsawan 'Sam Pek Eng Tai'

~ Butterfly Lovers ~

Organisers:

State Chinese Penang
Association (SCPA)

Persatuan Artis
Bangsawan Pulau Pinang
(PERAWAN)

Penang Heritage Trust
(PHT)

Performance: 2 nights
during YTL Arts Festival
(late June 2000)

1 night during Baba
Convention (December
2000)

This event will create another milestone in reviving Bangsawan as a permanent feature of the Penang performing arts scene. We want to revive the tradition of Bangsawan as a multicultural theatre that can be adapted to present stories of various cultural origins.

In particular, the production of 'Butterfly Lovers' will help to promote the involvement of the Straits Chinese community in Bangsawan, as actors and patrons, as well as in production design

Bangsawan is Penang's own Malay theatre & opera that developed in the late 19th century. Malaysia's legendary actor P. Ramlee grew up on Penang Bangsawan and later brought many Bangsawan elements to the silver screen. Bangsawan was very popular in Penang up to the 1930s, but has lost out to the movies and television.

Bangsawan was a truly multicultural theatre, participated by performers from all cultural backgrounds, Malays, Sumatrans, Straits Chinese, Indian Muslims and others. The lingua franca was Malay, with a liberal use of other languages especially in the comedies. The main patrons used to be Baba Taukehs.

In the last few decades, veteran artists like Mak Minah (over 90 years old) have been trying to revive



Bangsawan theatre. In August 1999, the Bangsawan play entitled 'Puteri Sa'adong' was produced and performed in August as part of the Penang State-sponsored YTL '99. The play was scripted and directed by Mohd. Bahroodin b. Ahmad, better known as Cikgu Baha, who also trained the Bangsawan troupe. Well-known asli songs were rendered between Acts, with a special appearance by Mak Minah herself.

Sam Pek Eng Tai

The 'Butterfly Lovers' is the 'Romeo & Juliet' of Chinese classical literature. A daughter from a wealthy family is disguised as a boy in order to enter college. There she falls in love with a brilliant scholar, who is unaware that his best friend is really a girl. Due to the differences in their background - the boy is from a humble family - the two lovers meet with a tragic end. The boy falls ill and dies, the girl joins him in death, and the two emerge from the grave reincarnated as butterflies.

Sam Pek Eng Tai was also a story popularly related by the Straits Chinese, both in Baba Malay and Baba Hokkien. The Penang Straits Chinese have a long literary tradition,

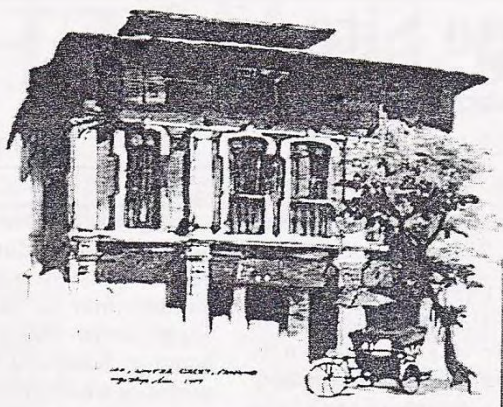
and the most famous Baba translator of Chinese classics, Chan Kim Boon alias Batu Gantung, hails from Penang. In addition to being patrons of Bangsawan, the Straits Chinese of Penang used to stage ambitious theatrical productions such as 'Lady Precious Stream', acclaimed for its acting, high production standards and magnificent costumes.

With the flowering of Baba theatre in Malaysia and Singapore, this is the chance for the Straits Chinese of Penang to pool together their talents and show commitment to Bangsawan as Penang's unique multicultural theatrical form. This original production

of Sam Pek Eng Tai under the expert direction of Cikgu Baharoodin will be a milestone for Straits Chinese culture and also for contemporary Bangsawan.

The actors will mainly consist of Persatuan Bangsawan and SCPA members but will also be open to others. The main language will be Malay, with Baba inflexion. The drama will be accompanied by dance, song and music with mixed Chinese and Malay instrumentation. The State Chinese Penang Association can arrange for courses on Bangsawan and dance to be conducted at its premises. The courses will offer the Straits Chinese seniors and juniors a new form of expression and cultural development. On the night of the opera, the theatre hall will be decorated with butterfly lanterns, the Penang Babas and Nyonyas will be dressed up in their finest attire, and this artistic achievement will be celebrated with all Malaysians.

Khoo Salma Nasution,
Penang Heritage Trust
Mohd. Bahroodin bin Ahmad,
Persatuan Artis Bangsawan Pulau
Pinang (PERAWAN)



No. 100 Cintra Street

The First One-stop Heritage Bazaar for Penang's Cultural Past

We would like to congratulate Jimmy Lim and his team for bringing a derelict building back to life and setting up a lively new heritage attraction for Penang, and we hope that PHT members will support these heritage business. (Later, we will announce the businesss that will give PHT card-carrying members a 10% discount!)

GROUND FLOOR (total 8 shops at the present moment)

- Beans & Buns

Owner: Poh Sok Kwan - provides finger food & beverage, mainly serves assorted coffee, cakes, pastries, sandwiches.

- Apricot Corner

Owner: Anna Tan - provides local food and beverage assorted Chinese tea (hot & cold) sweet desserts (e.g. gandum, bee ko moi), Nyonya kuih, otak-otak, dumplings, curry puffs, nasi lemak, chai kuey.

- TCP Hobbies & Collectibles

Owner: Victor Tan - specialises in trading of antiques & collectibles, bric a brac, first day covers, books, wide collection of post-cards, antique clock collection

- Mu Zi Yi

Owner: Hock Theam - specialises in : assorted antiques & collectibles

- Pentique Gallery

Owner: Soo Yow Hoay - specialises in trading of assorted antique furniture & collectibles

- Picton Philatelic

Owner : Lok Ean Ewe - specialises in

used stamps, antique stamps, old coins

FIRST FLOOR (total 13 shops)

- Kabie Classic

Owner: Ng Chai Tiam (master calligrapher) - specialises in calligraphy specialise in stone carvings, fortune telling corner

- Militia Collection

Owner: Laurence Tan - specialises in : antiques and collectibles old army gears and has a shop in Central Market KL.

- J & L florist and gifts

Owner: Lynn Chin - specialises in Interior fittings, lanscape fittings antique furniture & fittings

- Leo Unique Collections

Owner: G.P. Tan - specialises in collectibles, novelty gifts - brassware, porcelainware and etc

- Warisan Baba

Owner: Raymond Kwok - specialises in Baba & Nyonya collections & antiques, provides traditional Baba & Nyonya wedding preparations, * also tends to the mini pocket cultural exhibition (on the top) tours

- Peter Low antiques and collectibles

Owner: Low Leong Hai - goods range of various collectibles

- Yesteryears

Owner: David Yeo - specialises in restoration of antique, furniture, ceramics etc. and provides courses in restoration

- Hwa Yin Arts

Owner: Koe Yin Cheong - specialises in Chinese rice paper cuttings, Chinese stitch work, Chinese kites, cloth made bags, 100 Cintra St T-shirts, souvenirs & gifts

- Penang in Watercolour

Owner : Ngo Thye Aun - specialises in

History

Original use. The property was granted in 1801 as part of an alienation south of Kampong Malabar. The building was built around 1881 as the residence of a **wealthy Thai widow Mdm. Myroon Koon Nye Sone**, who was the daughter of **Phya. Bichit Sone Kuan of Church Street Penang**. It changed hands many times. Immediately, prior to it becoming a Hotel owned by the present owners, it was the communal home of the 'black and white' servants from China, called '**Tung-koong**' servants or "Mah Ceh's". It was sold to the present owners by a **Mr Chor Bah Say**, a notable landowner of the period, in 1949 for a sum of twenty thousand dollars.

It had been used as a **Hotel from 1936**. In 1976 it was extensively renovated and converted to an air-conditioned "modern" supermarket but was destroyed by fire in 1986 when the tenant moved out. Except for the load bearing part of the structure, nothing of the timber components were left. The Local Authority with due diligence, immediately after the fire, issued instructions that whatever structure that was left had to be demolished.

Watercolour paintings, *sells watercolour paintings of Penang cultural and heritage scenes, a father and son team (web page : www.geocities.com/thyeaun)

- Crystal & Gem Stones shop

Owner : Soo Weng Khuan - specialises in various gem stones.

Mini Pocket Cultural Exhibition

The Exhibition provides a glimpse of the coming together if the different cultures, expertise and traditions of Penang.

Displaying a complete array of period furniture, porcelainwares, intricate embroidery, bead-works, costumes and exquisite jewellery, the exhibition presents the life-style of the Babas & Nyonyas within the interior of a turn-of-the century residence.

Heritage Site Visit

February 2000

Join us on **Sunday 27 February 2000 at 3.30 pm** for a site visit to:

Sheikh Omar Basheer's House and Mausoleum 1881

at 170 Kampung Melayu, Ayer Itam, the house of a famous religious teacher and Naqshabandiyah Sufi, his son Sheikh Zachariah J.P. and mufti of Penang, and grandson the late Dato' Fathil Basheer (with home-made delicacies and famous Penang acar by Ms. Zakiah Basheer & a talk by Khoo Salma Nasution & Dilys Yap).

Sheikh Omar Basheer was a Hadhrami Arab who became the Imam of the Acheen Street Mosque. After the famous Penang Riots of 1867, the Malays of Penang were made to swear to Sheikh Omar that

they did not belong to either the Red Flag or the White Flag society.

Sheikh Omar was also a Sufi teacher of the Naqshabandiyah tarekat. He was also known as Sheikh Omar Al-Khalady, signifying that he was a disciple of one Khalid Al-Nakshabandi, a Meccan leader of the tarekat. Locally, the tarekat was known as 'sulok' or spiritual retreat or seclusion. Sheikh Omar Basheer practiced suluk at a house in Bayan Lepas.

Then he became a religious teacher at the Ayer Itam Mosque in 1870 and the mosque was known to many people living in the area as Misjid Sulok.

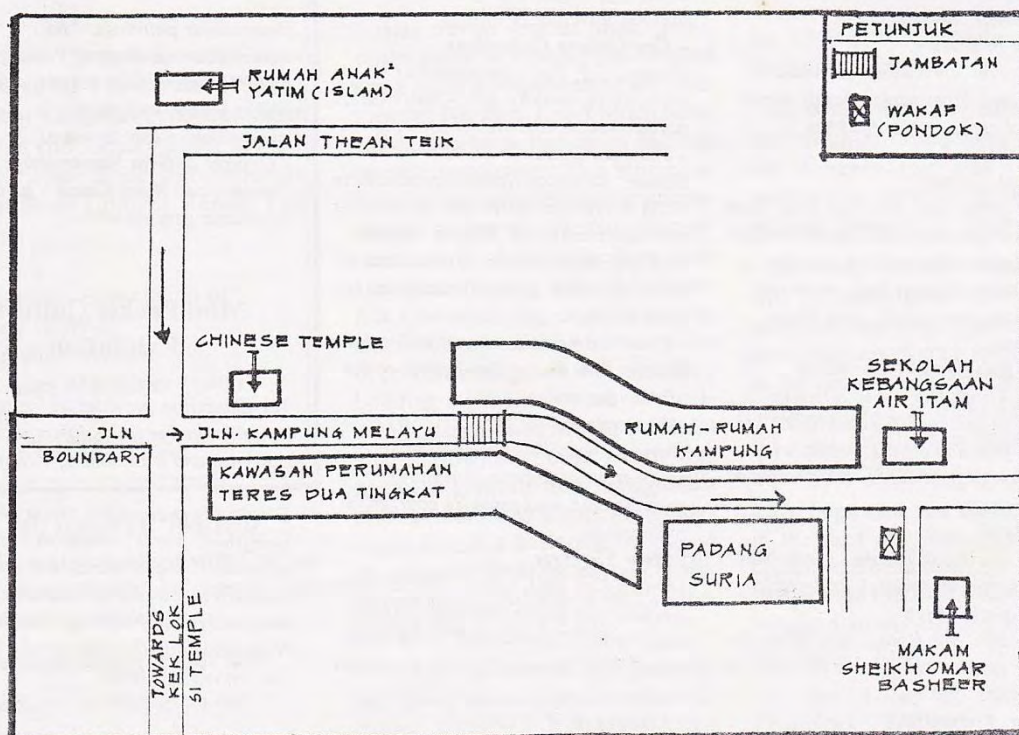
Towards the end of his life he was invited by the people of Demak in Java to become their Kathi. He spent time in Java but returned soon after the death of his wife and two sons.

When Sheikh Omar died in 1881, his son Sheikh Zachariah had a domed mausoleum constructed by builders from India. The tomb of Sheikh Omar, which is next to his house in Kampung Melayu, is regarded as a Kramat by the people of the area. Sheikh Zachariah was a Justice of the Peace and the Mufti of Penang. He was also buried in the mausoleum.

Sheikh Zachariah's son the late Dato' Haji Fathil Basheer, donated many artefacts from the family collection to the Penang Museum, including a collection of Malay weapons, and the jawi diary of Sheikh Omar Basheer.

Zakiah, daughter of Haji Fathil will welcome us at her house, where she continues the family tradition of making acar (relish or chutney).

As we have to prepare tea, we need you to confirm your participation by calling the Penang Heritage Trust. We have a quota of 40 visitors, on a first come, first serve basis.



Bazaar plan for century-old house

PENANG: Plans are afoot to convert part of a century-old house in Acheen Street into a cultural bazaar in line with plans to promote the Islamic heritage enclave masterplan.

The double-storey house at 67, Acheen Street was once used as a hostel in the 1960s for Mecca-bound pilgrims prior to them sailing off from the island.

It is currently occupied by 10 families, who are renting the premises from owner Syed Omar Al-Mashoor.

Resident Abdul Aziz Wahab, 54, said the restoration effort, which started yesterday, was sponsored under the Penang Heritage Trust's Unesco Leap project.

"Two vacant rooms can be converted into a shop selling handicrafts as only 10 of the 12 rooms in the house are occupied by tenants.

"The house, which is also rich in history and architecture, has the potential to be an ideal tourist attraction," he said yesterday.

The facelift was expected to be completed within a week, said the mosque caretaker, who has lived



HISTORICAL BUILDING ... Abdul Aziz giving an account of the century-old house (background) which is undergoing renovation works.

there for over 20 years.

Abdul Aziz said the house was once home to Sheikh Zakaria Basheer, who was Penang's first mufti and Justice of Peace.

"It used to be a hub of activity in the 1960s when droves of pilgrims from all over the country came

and stayed here for a few days while waiting to embark the ships.

"Nearby houses were also used as immigration check points to stamp passports," he added.

The house is among 16 houses strategically situated on the compound of the 200-year-old Acheen

Street Mosque — the oldest mosque on the island, which has survived largely in its original form.

The mosque, which is nearly two-century-old, was founded by Tengku Syed Hussain Al-Aidid, an Acehese pepper merchant of Arab descent.

Youths to form heritage club

Move to boost heritage conservation awareness

By NG SU-ANN

PENANG: About 60 youths plan to form the country's first heritage youth club to promote greater awareness of heritage conservation.

Activities will include fund-raising projects to refurbish heritage buildings, tree-planting programmes within the inner city and heritage trails.

The idea was mooted by participants of a recent Penang Heritage Trust (PHT) workshop on Wakaf Vision and Heritage.

The group's spokesman, Roslin Mohd Hanifah, said the people must think of the future of old buildings which should not be left to become ruins.

"The club will help inculcate a love for old buildings among youths by directly involving them in heritage conserva-

tion," she said in an interview. She said the club, which would be open to youths above 13 years old, could tap their potential and talents while steering them away from social ills.

Roslin appealed for sponsors to fund their activities, which would include boria, bangsawan, silat, information technology, English Language workshops as well as sports.

"We will also try to generate some income via fund-raising projects such as selling kuth, stationery and handicraft," she said.

PHT secretary Khoo Saima Nasution said heritage could be a vehicle to motivate youths by exploring their creative abilities such as in performing arts.

Those keen to join the club can e-mail areEwind@usa.net.



EXPERT ADVICE ... Khoo Saima (far right) with some of the youths who are writing down their club's objectives.