



PHT newsletter

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SUPPORT CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

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**PENANG
HERITAGE
TRUST**

**Persatuan
Warisan
Pulau
Pinang**

PHT

EDITORIAL

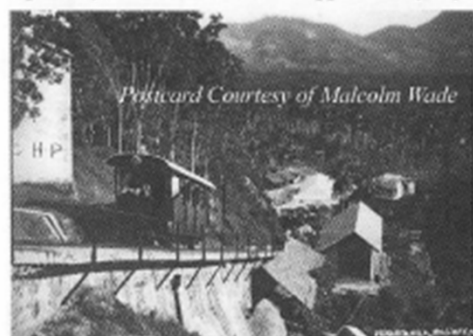
PENANG BOLEH! Kudos to the Penang Teochew Association for their prize-winning effort in conserving both tangible and intangible heritage of their Han Jiang Ancestral Temple in Chulia Street! We rejoice with the members of the Association and the citizens of Penang in the news that this beautifully restored temple has been awarded a Merit Award in the 2006 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation. The Han Jiang Ancestral temple is thus the second site in Penang to win recognition from UNESCO for heritage conservation according to international standards, the first being the Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion which won the UNESCO Award for Excellence in 2000. In the same year, Badan Warisan Malaysia was also awarded the Honourable Mention Award for the restoration of Rumah Penghulu. In 2002, the restoration of the oldest Chinese temple in Malaysia & Singapore, the Cheng Hoon Teng Temple in Malacca, was also awarded a Merit Award. On the Han Jiang Ancestral Hall, it is noteworthy that the project's conservation of both tangible and intangible heritage is also the first Chinese community-driven project in Penang, Malaysia to be recognized with such an accolade. Congratulations are due to Penang Teochew Association current chairman Ooi Soo Hing, deputy chairman Lim Kooi Chiew, adviser H'ng Bok San and Association past chairman and Conservation Committee chairman Khor Teng How for their inspired leadership and vision in pursuing this project. The Penang Heritage Trust is proud of the part played by PHT council member Lim Gaik Siang, honorary conservation consultant for the restoration and adviser to the Conservation Committee.



We hope that the example set by the Penang Teochew Association will be emulated by the custodians of other heritage sites in Penang. Development does not just mean constructing bigger and higher buildings. It means careful stewardship and conservation of cultural assets that contribute to the identity and sense of distinctiveness of the wider community. We hope too that the award will encourage the Federal authorities to expedite submission of the dossier to UNESCO for the World Heritage Site listing of George Town (and Malacca).

Growing public concern about the effects of unbridled "development" along Penang's north coast from Gurney Drive to Tanjung Tokong, Tanjung Bungah and beyond was the focus of a forum organized by PHT and the Tanjung Bungah Residents Association on 27th August. Interventions by those in attendance displayed frustration and even anger at the lack of transparency and consultation in approving changes to land use and in granting planning permission. While the presence of several MPPP council members at the forum was noted and welcomed, there was dismay at the narrow legalistic definition (adherence to plot ratios, etc.) of their mandate they appeared to have adopted. Hope was expressed that Council would use the latitude provided by the Town and Country Planning Act 1976 to hold developers to account in the wider interests of the community.

Meanwhile, the fate of the St. Joseph's Novitiate property on Gurney Drive remains uncertain. While the developers have reportedly submitted a revised application for planning permission, a twelve-foot high construction hoarding erected around



Photograph Courtesy of Malcolm Wade

this important heritage site effectively hides their actions from public view and scrutiny. We hope that Council's consideration of this and other planning applications will be more transparent and responsive to public concerns.

Finally, the recent announcement of plans to "upgrade" the historic Penang Hill Railway begs the question why replacing this wonderful tourist attraction at a cost of 42 million ringgit is necessary or desirable when the people of Penang are crying out for a decent public transit system. Why not spend the money on buying a fleet of modern buses?

—Guest Editor

Public Forum on Planning & Development



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19th September 2006

OPEN LETTER TO YAB TAN SRI KOH TSU KOON, THE CHIEF MINISTER OF PENANG, YB DATO' ABU BAKAR, PRESIDENT MPPP AND YB TENG CHANG YEOW, CHAIRMAN OF TOURISM COUNCIL

Dear Chief Minister,

On behalf of the Penang Heritage Trust, I would like to draw your attention to the forum on planning and development held on 27th August 2006 in the Wisma Masyarakat Penang. There were over 150 persons in attendance including not only people from the immediate vicinity of the development projects but also others who share a concern about the future of the City.

This Forum was organised by the Penang Heritage Trust and the Tanjung Bungah Residents Association in response to concerns over policy directions taken by the planning authorities over massive development projects taking place in Tanjung Bungah and current plans announced for the St. Joseph's Novitiate property (until recently the site of Uplands School).

The Tanjung Bungah site includes the 4 massive high rise towers next to Copthorne Hotel, the extensive beach reclamation project in front of Tanjung Club and steep hill cutting behind Hillside estate. The developers of the St. Joseph's Novitiate property have publicised a proposed plan involving very high density mixed development that will more than quadruple the existing traffic volume in the vicinity.

We were pleased that some Ahli Majlis attended the session to answer queries on planning policies and procedures. However, we were concerned that approvals were given based on permissible guidelines rather than on their judgement on the quality and impact of development.

There was general agreement on my opening statement that planning is not about rules alone but about directing development to ensure approved development projects are future assets to the city, improving the urban environment and quality of life. This aspect seems to have been given scant attention compared with rules about our densities, heights and plot ratios.

We submit the proceedings of the Forum and the resolutions made for your perusal. We would like an appointment soon to discuss these issues with you.

Dr Choong Sim Poey
President

Public Forum on Planning & Development

Monday 28 August 2006

N18 Nation

THE STAR

Forum: Allow access to plans

PENANG: The public should be given access to proposals for all major development projects within three months of the submission of plans to the local authority.

This was among the resolutions adopted by participants of a forum held here yesterday to discuss greater transparency in city planning with focus on current and future development at Gurney Drive and

Tanjong Bungah.

Another resolution called for public hearings on all applications to convert the use of large parcels of land originally zoned as institutional, educational or recreational.

Organised by the Penang Heritage Trust (PHT) and the Tanjong Bungah Residents Association (TBRA), the forum at the Carling Society Complex was attended by about 40 people, including five Penang municipal councillors.

Among the hot topics discussed was the proposed high-rise development on the former International School of Penang (Uplands) in Gurney Drive and the many high-rise buildings sprouting up on hills and shorelines of Tanjong Bungah.

The participants said the building of two 43-storey service apartment towers and a 37-storey business tower as well as other lower commercial buildings on the 4.1ha former Uplands School would affect residents along the entire Gurney Drive and Kelawai Road.

There were also complaints from the participants that the public was not notified of major development projects in their areas.

PHT president Dr Choong Sim Poey said the resolutions would be submitted to the state government, adding that PHT would request for a dialogue with the state government and the council on the matter.

Municipal councillor Teh Leong Meng said Penang was the only state to invite landowners within a 20m radius from the development site to a public hearing for feedback before building plans were approved.

"Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1976, only neighbouring landowners are required to be informed," Teh said.

"If a road separates the development site from another building, only the road owner needs to be informed," Teh said.

He said the council had no right to stop profit-oriented developers from submitting planning proposals that were within density requirements.

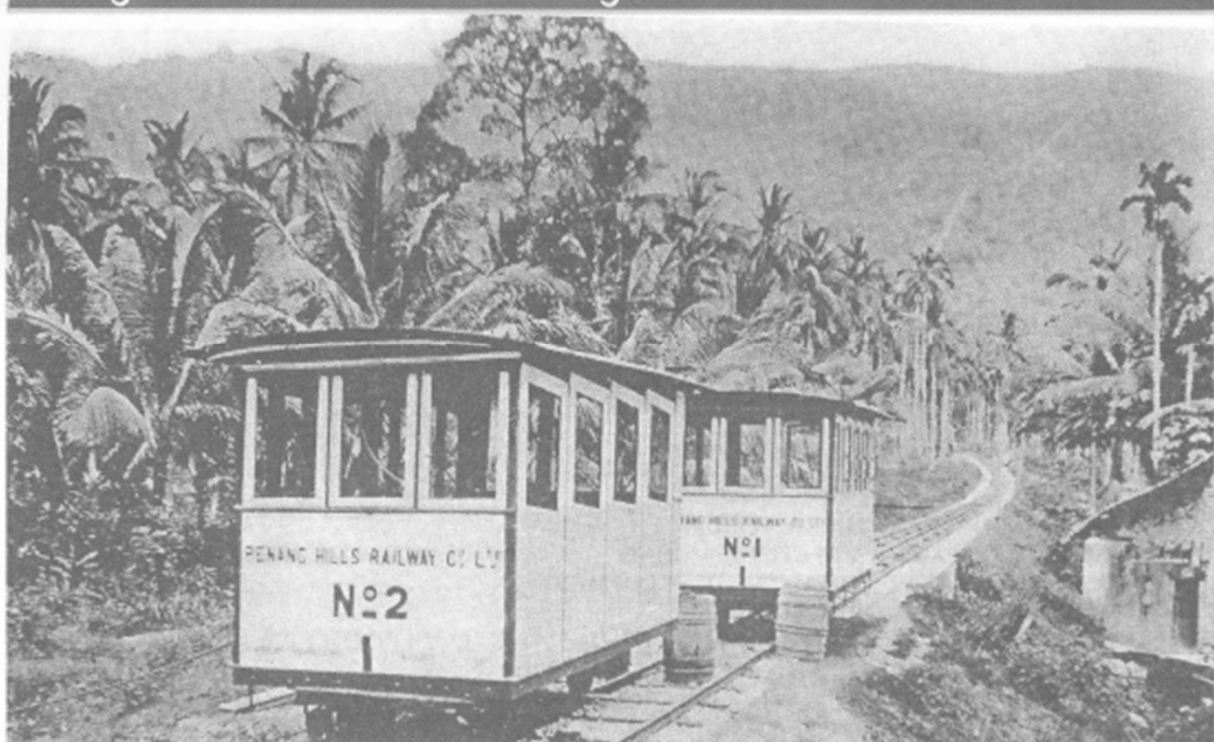
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT PUBLIC FORUM ON GREATER TRANSPARENCY IN CITY PLANNING WITH FOCUS ON CURRENT AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AT GURNEY DRIVE AND TANJUNG BUNGAH, 27TH AUGUST 2006

1. Accountability in planning requires that all major development projects that have impacts beyond their immediate vicinity be subject to public scrutiny and comment within 3 months
 - 1.1. including public access to any planning proposal made before approval.
 - 1.2. setting up an independent planning and design review panel to oversee the development of the state.
2. MPPP and the state government must recognize their previous failings in approving developments which have had serious negative impacts on the surrounding areas, destroying established neighbourhood precincts.
3. The Government has to set its planning guidelines for development in heritage sensitive precincts to the highest international standards if it wants George Town to be recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.
4. Present planning guidelines assumes the lack of an efficient public transport system in the state; the provision of this essential service must be incorporated within the process of physical planning, example road-widening and car parking facilities
5. There should be moratorium on all high-rise development until a local plan has been approved for these areas.
6. There should be public hearings on all applications for conversion of large parcels of land originally zoned institutional or educational or recreational.
7. Expedite the establishment of local plans for Penang.



Panelists: Meenakshi Rahman, Dato' Dr. Leong Yueh Kwong, Dato' Dr. Chin Fook Weng, Dr. Choong Sim Poey & Dr. Amir Fawzi Bahaudin

Penang's Historic Funicular Railway



Postcard Courtesy of Malcolm Wade, Penang Trams, Trolleybuses & Railways

Among the many attractions of the "Pearl of the Orient", the Penang Hill Railway is almost unique in Asia and certainly the only one of its kind in South East Asia. This delightful funicular railway uses a simple principle to carry passengers and freight up very steep inclines. A funicular connects two railcars with a cable on a pulley, pulling one car uphill balanced by the second car descending. Funicular railways became popular in European Alpine resorts in the late 19th century. The Peak Tram in operation on Victoria Peak on Hong Kong island since 1888 uses the same technology. The word "funicular" derives from the Latin *funiculus* (thin rope), diminutive of *funis* (rope).

Penang Hill, really a series of separate hills on a ridge overlooking George Town, was the first hill station to be established not only in Malaysia but dating from the late 18th century possibly the first in all the territories of the English East India Company, even before the more famous hill stations of India such as Simla, Darjeeling and Ootacamund (Ooty). Before the Penang Hill Railway was built, access to the bungalows on Penang Hill was on foot, on horseback, by pony or by *dooly* (sedan chair) carried by coolies.

The first attempt at constructing a railway on Penang Hill began in 1897 with the formation of the Penang Hills Railway Co. Ltd. and was not completed until 1906. Powered by a water turbine in a winding house at the bottom of the hill, the venture turned into a fiasco when it literally failed to get off the ground during the inauguration ceremony. A faulty design left the cars immobile on the rails and the project was abandoned.

After the First World War plans for a hill railway were resurrected by the government of the Straits Settlements (the former British colony comprising Singapore, Penang and Malacca). Construction of the Penang Hill Railway along the lines of electrically powered funicular railways used in Switzerland was begun in 1920 under the direction of Arnold R. Johnson, Senior District Engineer of the Federated Malay States Railways. It cost \$1,500,000 (Straits dollars) to build. Work was completed and trains started operations on 21st October 1923. The official opening by Sir Lawrence Guillemard, Governor of the Straits Settlements, took place on New Year's Day, 1924.

In its day the building of the Hill Railway was a major construction and engineering feat. The tracks go almost straight up and down the hill through cuttings, over viaducts and through a tunnel. The total length of the line is almost two kilometers rising to an elevation of 2,381 feet (725 metres) above sea level. The tunnel at a gradient of 1 in 2.04 is 258 feet (78 metres) long. Trains run every half hour and the journey from Lower Station in Ayer Itam to Upper Station takes approximately 30 minutes.

Penang's Historic Funicular Railway

The original wooden railcars operated a two-class passenger service with the lower end of each railcar reserved for first-class passengers who had the advantage of the best views. These cars were replaced by new models imported from Switzerland in 1979. One of the old cars is on display at Strawberry Hill near Upper Station while two others may be seen at Muzium Negara in Kuala Lumpur and at the Penang State Museum in George Town. The whereabouts of the fourth car remains a mystery.

According to a history of Penang published by the city council of George Town in 1966, the Penang Hill Railway was found to be in tolerable working order at the end of the Japanese occupation in 1945. Although Penang suffered along with the rest of Malaya during the occupation, "the one thing the Japanese really approved of and cherished" was the Hill Railway and they even replaced the upper section of the cable in 1942. The authors of the city council history speculated that the Penang Hill Railway may have reminded them of the funiculars to be found in Japan.

Built in two independent sections with two railcars on each section, the Penang Hill Railway is really two separate funicular railways linked by a common station - Middle Station - where passengers transfer between trains to continue their journey up or down the Hill. There are other stations and halts where the trains may stop on request. As these stops are asymmetrically placed, stopping at one can result in the corresponding car stopping "in the middle of nowhere" much to the surprise and even alarm of first-time passengers. With quaint names like Claremont (named after a nearby bungalow), Moniot Road (recalling a Frenchman who surveyed one of the first tracks on Penang Hill), Viaduct, Lower Tunnel and Upper Tunnel, the little stations and halts add to the charm of the funicular railway journey that provides glimpses of handsome heritage bungalows from days gone by as well as spectacular views of George Town, Penang Harbour and the Bridge and, on haze-free days, the distant mountains of the mainland. The rewards at the top include further panoramic views, food-stalls and walks in the cool hill air. Plans by the local authorities to restore some of the historic state-owned bungalows on Penang Hill for the use and enjoyment of visitors are to be encouraged and applauded.

Leslie A.K. James, George Town, Penang

Published in The Expat magazine, Kuala Lumpur, Volume 92, May 2005

Friday 8 September 2006

N36 : Nation

THE STAR

RM42m upgrade for hill railway

PENANG: A total of RM42mil has been set aside for work to upgrade the Penang Hill funicular train system.

Work is scheduled to start by end of the year.

State Tourism Development and Environment Committee chairman Teng Chang Yeow said the amount was part of the RM100mil allocated under the 9th Malaysia Plan.

He said a comprehensive study was being carried out on the project which included technical assessment and the building of a multi-storey car park for more than 100 cars.

"The train is more than 30 years old while the system is more than 90 years old," he said after launching Travel Mart at Evergreen Laurel Hotel yesterday.

He said the upgraded system would shorten the journey up the hill by 10 to 12 minutes compared to the existing 30-minute trip.

"The project is expected to be completed by July next year," he said.

Teng said several new attractions would be introduced on Penang Hill.

Among them is the collection of wood samples from around the world at the RM2.5mil Wood Museum which will be built at the old Craig Hotel site by the middle of next year.

On the canopy walk which was



Teng: The Penang Hill funicular system is more than 90 years old

closed last September after it was found to be infested with termites, Teng said the state was still discussing a new walkway without having to cut down too many trees.

Teng said the state was targeting 10% or 2.01 million of the 20.1 million tourists expected to visit Malaysia next year.

He said Penang was now aiming for tourists from Cambodia and Vietnam.

The Travel Mart which started yesterday attracted 160 participants from seven states as well as Thailand.

Ku Din Ku Meh House & Little Penang Street Market



Every driver or pedestrian entering Penang Road from Farquhar Street will notice a tastefully restored double-storey mansion with a unique blend of architecture reflecting traditional Malay and colonial features. This is "Segara Ninda", the residence of the late Ku Din Ku Meh, which opened its doors to the PHT members' site visit on 30th July.

According to our hosts, Tengku Yahaya and his sisters USM lecturer Tengku Sepora and Tengku Hamidah, this century-old house was recently renovated to incorporate modern amenities while preserving its original architecture and features. The brick-laid building is now being used as a cozy lodging place as well as the meeting venue for the trustees and descendants of Ku Din Ku Meh

who gather here from various parts of Malaysia and Thailand. There is a mini museum next to the main hall which depicts the interesting life of Ku Din Ku Meh who originated from Kedah. According to the record, he was bestowed the title of *Phraya Purminard Pakdi* (or "The Devoted King") by the King of Siam in 1902 and appointed as the Raja of Setul (in today's Satun Province of Southern Thailand) due to his great administrative skills. At that time, Setul, Kayang and Phuket were provinces of Kedah under the domination of the Kingdom of Siam.

Well versed in Malay and Thai, Ku Din Ku Meh was a literary man who introduced many developments to Setul in administration and trade. He used his mansion in Penang as his office, trading in such exports

from Southern Siam as birds' nests, coconut and timber and using his own fleet of shipping vessels.

The briefing by the direct descendants of Ku Din Ku Meh gave us a valuable lesson on the long historical and economic ties between Penang and Thailand and the Island's significance as a regional entrepot. "Segara Ninda" is one of the few remaining examples of urban-Malay built heritage in Penang. Successfully restored and rejuvenated, it has been enhanced with solid wooden windows and shutters externally and with beautifully carved wooden ventilation panels and staircase inside. The original combination of marble and the traditional tile flooring in the main hall remains intact and well-maintained. Today, this heritage house still stands regal



as in its glorious days, exuding warmth and a touch of history and nostalgia while offering tranquility and comfort in the very heart of George Town.

From Ku Din Ku Meh, members crossed the street to join the crowds on Upper Penang Road at the "Little Penang Street Market". This was launched by Penang Bumiputra Tourism Committee chairman Muhammad Farid Saad in the morning and will be a monthly event held on the last Sunday of every month from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The aim is to revitalize traditional



Site Visit Report & Announcement

trades and ethnic crafts and to provide a regular market place and platform for Penang-based talents in arts, crafts, design and music.

There were stallholders demonstrating and selling miniature figures made of dough; traditional wayang kulit characters hand-made from cured goatskin; traditional medical and home remedies; handicraft produced by prisoners; children's hands-on painting and colouring; jewellery; antiques and collectibles; and traditional food such as acar, nasi ulam, chutneys and pies. While browsing among the stalls, visitors were entertained throughout the day by a line-up of talented local musicians and artistes.

The Little Penang Street Market is a project coordinated by the Penang-based non-profit Lestari Heritage Network with a grant from the Institute for Cultural Enterprise in New York.

by Clement Liang and Magdelaine Ng,
Images by Lestari Heritage Network



PHT SITE VISIT TO SUFFOLK HOUSE SUNDAY OCTOBER 29TH 2006 3.30 P.M.



Once again we are proud and privileged to be one of the few groups to be taken to the closed building site of Suffolk House just before the completion of its restoration.

Little needs to be said, the PHT has been involved for the last 20 years in the move to save Suffolk House. From the first tea party in the 80's organized by Dato Lim Chong Keat when PHT was first formed, to our input in 1993 when we put in our own money to stabilize the house and document it (including a dilapidation report conducted by SACON from Adelaide) to our efforts now to raise funds to finally complete the furnishings and fittings.

Suffolk House is the sole example of the Anglo-Indian Garden House in Penang, the earliest surviving 'Great House' of the region. Built in the estate of Captain Francis Light, it continues to fascinate all who have seen it or heard of it. Led by HSBC Bank, corporate leaders and the public have been overwhelming in their response to save the house.

Just before final completion and fit-out to house an art gallery for the Early Paintings of Penang and a functions venue, the PHT will be conducted through the house by consultant architect, Laurence Loh on Sunday 29th October 2006

IMPORTANT PLEASE NOTE:

Entry to Suffolk House is at your own risk.
Neither PHT/Consultants/Contractor or JKR will be responsible for any mishaps on site. Please wear comfortable shoes.
PHOTOGRAPHY IS NOT PERMITTED DURING THE SITE VISIT.

Direction: From Scotland Rd. before reaching State Mosque flyover, keep left and turn left to the small road and all the way inside. Park by the construction gate.

Events & Public Talks



August 19, 2006

Tourism & Multicultural Heritage: Tools for Participation, a public talk by Stephen Shaw, Director of the TRaC Research Centre and Senior Lecturer at the Cities Institute, London Metropolitan University



September 10, 2006

Penang Heritage Trust
Annual General Meeting

September 12, 2006

Visit by 40 Senior Planning students from University of South Australia led by Professor Steve Hamnett. Heritage walks were conducted by Khaw Yiat Lin and Cumalle Ang. A talk was given by Dr. Gwynn Jenkins on *Fragmented Streetscapes of Penang*.



August 24, 2006

Visit by US Embassy Cultural Attache, Dr Marjorie Harrison and Senior Cultural Affairs Specialist, Mr Chew Wing Fong.

Project Report

MyBALIKpulau- Phase 2

Balik Pulau Cultural Mapping and Interpretation Project



Arts in Heritage Education - 'Anak-anak Kota' (AAK)
AAK is a Heritage Education Programme (under the Penang Consultative Council chaired by YB Dato' Toh Kin Woon) conducted since 2000 in cooperation with the Penang Heritage Trust. It uses 'creative arts initiatives' to raise

awareness of the meaning and significance of heritage (architecture, trades, crafts, customs, food, etc) among children living in the historical enclave of inner-city George Town, and more recently in the rural district of Balik Pulau. See web site: www.arts-ed-penang.org

MyBALIKpulau

In November/December 2005, ARTS-ED, Badan Warisan Malaysia and Penang Heritage Trust (PHT) co-organized the MyBalikPulau 2005 project. Fifteen children aged 11-12 years from schools in Balik Pulau District were involved in this cultural mapping project which produced outcomes on four topics - myPOSTCARD, mySELF, myFAMILY and myTOWN. The research and photographic works of the children on their community's heritage were on public exhibition throughout January and February 2006 in the town of Balik Pulau.

The proposed phase 2 of myBALIKpulau is a follow-up project with the young residents of Balik Pulau. This project will require a mixed-age group of primary and secondary school children who will work on the previous research in order to produce a heritage walking trail in the town area and a bicycle trail in the rural area of Balik Pulau. We hope with this follow-up project to involve retired teachers and local residents from Balik Pulau to act as resource persons and researchers. The setting up of this adult support resource group is an experiment in building a sustainable initiative within the educational and cultural communities in Balik Pulau.



Prepared by Janet Pillai (Arts-Ed)/ Ho Sheau Fung (PHT)
Photos by BP young residents & SF

PHT members are invited to participate in this project. Please contact the office (04-2642631) for further details.

Goals:

To assist young people to **research and map history** (tangible and intangible) of their town and village (personages, trades and buildings) using the creative arts as a tool.

To encourage young people to **interpret their community's heritage** for a larger audience using the arts as a form of expression

To encourage an **understanding of cultural knowledge and diversity** in schools and local communities

Outcomes:

1. Inventory of shophouses and buildings on the Balik Pulau - Titi Teras main road.
2. To produce a heritage walking trail in the urban area and a bicycle trail in rural area
3. Young heritage guides to help tourists access and understand the historical and cultural heritage of their town.

Participants

Students who have participated in MyBalikPulau 2005 (Phase 1) project, with additional students (mixed group from primary and secondary schools) who are interested to be trained as young tour guides.

Work Space

Sacred Heart School, Balik Pulau
Balik Pulau Computer Center
Balik Pulau District Office

Time Line

Introduction/ Ice-breaking session -20 Nov
Inventory Phase- 30 Nov-2 Dec
Research Workshop Part 1- 4-8 Dec
Research Workshop Part 2 -11-15 Dec
Young tour guide training -18-20 Dec

Bok House to be gazetted as heritage site

The Sun, 30 August 2006

by Liew-Ani Phang
newsdesk@sundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR: The Culture, Arts and Heritage Ministry has refused claims that the ministry or City Hall had approved a development order for a project involving the Bok House on

collaboration with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the National Valuation Institute.

"There has been good response from the trustees as they have come for several discussions to find out what needs to be done if certain parts of the building are to be retained.

building's form and there can be no development at all, but if it is declared a heritage site, development can be carried out around the block that needs to be retained," Rosli said.

He said that except for a proposal in 1992 for the development of a hotel or serviced apartments made to the

Police

Counting the cost of converting the Coliseum

The Star, 6 August 2006

BY SOO EWE JIN



HARD TO LET GO: Coliseum owner Dr Chua Seong Siew is upset that the cinema will be acquired by the Government and turned into a National Heritage Centre.

KUALA LUMPUR: The cost of acquiring the Coliseum cinema and converting it into a heritage centre could turn out to be a very expensive exercise.

According to sources, the Government may have to pay between RM10mil and RM20mil to the owner, as the Coliseum is an ongoing and profitable business.

A lawyer familiar with heritage issues said the Government would not only have to pay for the physical property based on the current valuation but also compensate the owner for loss of income and profits.

The owner contributes to the government coffers by way of direct and indirect taxes.

For the local authority, meaning City Hall, there would also be loss of revenue from assessment rates and entertainment taxes.

Furthermore, this does not take into account the refurbishing costs

that would be incurred to make the cinema a heritage centre.

"The seats, for example, will have to be removed," he added.

The lawyer, who is also familiar with the Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman area, asked why a vacant building a short distance from the Coliseum was not being considered instead.

"It would certainly be cheaper to acquire that building," he said.

A cinema-goer and Indian film aficionado said there was the sentimental attachment to the Coliseum due to the fact that it was not only a historical site but also the largest Indian cinema hall in the country.

He explained that it would take four screenings in a cineplex to show the same movie to a Coliseum audience.

"It will definitely be more expensive to bring in good Indian movies since the returns will be greatly reduced," he added.

The Star, 23 August 2006



RESTORATION: Restoration work on the 101-year-old courthouse is in progress.

Court restoration work on schedule

BY FRISCELLA DELENBERG
friscella@the-star.com.my

PENANG: Restoration work on the 101-year-old courthouse in Light Street here is expected to be ready by April next year.

Work on its new three-storey annex building and seven-storey block across the road is also expected to be completed at the same time.

State Public Works Department (JKR) director Abdullah Abdul Rahman said everything was on schedule and the Federal Government project costing RM55mil was now 43% completed.

Once the Certificate of Fitness (CF) was obtained, the High Courts would move back, he said.

The courts moved out in October

2003.

The annex within the compound would house the lower courts handling criminal cases, he said.

The seven-storey block next to Dewan Sri Pinang would house a basement carpark, two floors of upper-level carpark and the lower courts handling civil cases, he said in an interview yesterday.

The High Courts and lower courts handling criminal cases are now at Northern Tower in Jalan Sultan Abdul Shah while the lower courts handling civil cases are at Wisma MUIS in Argyle Road.

Abdullah said Konsortium Fadi Construction Sdn Bhd won the main contractor for the new buildings while Najdeen Sdn Bhd was responsible for the

heritage conservation work on the existing building.

The original date of completion was February 2007.

However, five days after excavation work started on June 10 last year, the project had to be halted when workers unearthed some relics near a buried well at the old carpark.

Abdullah said the contractors were given 52 more days to complete the job. The new completion date is next April.

Najdeen director Darul Naim Naimdeen Kader said the original look of the building would be maintained as much as possible.

He said he had a team of 10 carrying out documentation work and 50 workers to do the job.

Plan to shift museum

The Star, 7 September 2006

PENANG: A proposal to relocate the Penang State Museum to the Penang Municipal Council building at the Esplanade here has been submitted to the state government.

Penang Museum Board chairman Datuk Daud Taha said the proposal was submitted to the state several months ago.

He said the state-owned council building was the most suitable location.

The council, which was now occupying the building could be relocated to Komtar, he added.

Daud said the museum now located on Lebuhr Farquhar was not suitable because of space constraints.

"We cannot even organise activities there because the building cannot hold a large crowd," he said.

"Parking space for the public is limited to 10 bays."

"It is also difficult for the museum management because the administrative office is located in Dewan Sri Pinang," he said.

He said that the museum had been in operation at the current site for 42 years.

The building in Lebuhr Farquhar is the original site of the Penang Free School before Hutchings School took over.

Daud said this after presenting a reproduced copy of William Daniell's masterpiece to Shangri-La's Rasa Sayang Resort & Spa in Batu



OLD CHARM: Daud, flanked by Shrestha (left) and Tang, looking at a replica of William Daniell's painting.

Feringghi yesterday. (See story on P26).

The painting will be the resort's signature image.

He also said that the historic Suffolk Home would be used as the museum's painting gallery.

On the right given to Shangri-La's

Rasa Sayang Resort & Spa to reproduce the William Daniell painting as its signature image, Daud said it was an honour to share the painting with a world-class resort.

"It is also our way of promoting the museum," he said.

Shangri-La's Rasa Sayang Resort

& Spa general manager Arvind K. Shrestha said the reproduced painting would be used for publicity and promotion purposes.

Also present were State Museum board members Datuk Waris Ali Abdul Carrim, Datuk Ayob Idris, Ch'ng Huck Theng, Mohd. Nasser Malim and Datuk Tang Hen Yin.

Lim: Spruce up George Town

Star 4 Sept. 2006



By CHRISTINA CHIN
ychin@the-star.com.my

PENANG: Some areas in George Town look like slums and need to be spruced up, Deputy Tourism Minister Datuk Donald Lim (pic) said.

He said the Penang Municipal Council should clean up these places and repair run-down buildings if the owners were unwilling to co-operate.

"If you look down at the city from

Komtar, you will see rusty zinc roofs and run-down butts that are quite an eyesore."

"With Visit Malaysia Year 2007 drawing near, we must all pull up our socks and work towards upgrading existing facilities and cleanliness levels."

"The council can instruct home owners to repair their old buildings, fix broken fences and even keep the gardens neat."

"If they refuse, the council should

do the work and bill them for it," he said after opening at the MCA Youth Chinese Folk Song and Dance Contest at Dewan Sri Pinang here yesterday.

He said even if only one shop, house or building were shabby, it could ruin the image of the entire area.

"Penang may be noted for its hawkers fare but the cleanliness of hawkers centres leaves a lot to be desired."

"I still see tissues and rubbish thrown all over the place. We must

do something about this."

"It is not just Penang that must take more active measures to upgrade its cleanliness but all other states as well."

"The tourism ministry has more than 300 state-level events planned and 50 major tourism programmes to carry out next year."

"That is why we really need the cooperation of all states to ensure that all tourism infrastructures are in place," he said.

The Star, 12 September 2006

Penang temple wins Unesco award

By CHOONG KWEE KIM
kchoong@the-star.com.my



CHOONG KWEE KIM Penang Temple Association chairman Datuk Khor Teng Heng (left) and association deputy chairman Datuk Lim Heng (right) pose with the award certificate.

PENANG: The RM1.5m restoration of the Penang Temple Association temple has won the Unesco Asia-Pacific Heritage Conservation Award 2006.

The association's Han Jiang Ancestral Temple restoration project that landed the Merit Award is among nine recipients of the Unesco heritage awards this year.

Projects that received honourable

mention awards are the Liu Ying Lung Study Hall in Hong Kong and two others in India - Aalidat Ketta in Kerala and Leh Old Town in Ladakh.

The Teochew association restoration project in Chulia Street is the second site in Penang to win Unesco acclaim.

The first was the RM7.5m restoration of Cheong Fat Tze mansion in Leith Street that won the inaugural Unesco award in 2000 under the excellent category.

Both restorations were done in accordance to international charters for heritage conservation, with complete documentation of the process and had also involved master artisans from China.

Penang Teochew Association conservation committee chairman Datuk Khor Teng Heng said the prize money behind the restoration was the Teochew community, who donated towards the fund and offered their expertise.

"This is also the first Chinese community-driven project in Malaysia that is recognised with such an accolade," he said yesterday.

Khor said the project included conservation of intangible heritage through a revival and promotion of Teochew culture, formation of a Teochew opera group, Teochew gastronomic competition, food fair and cultural events.

A 5kg dossier documenting the restoration process and CDs were submitted to Unesco in March and the results were released on Sept 1.

"We hope that this will contribute to George Town's bid as a Unesco World Heritage Site," Khor said.

Penang Draft Structure Plan & Readers' Column

Response to the Draft Structure Plan

Following the launch of the Draft Structure Plan (2005-2020) on 1 September 2006, the Penang Heritage Trust, in collaboration with like-minded NGOs (SERI, SAM, CAP, MNS, TBRA, SOS, JHRA etc) and individuals, has formed a joint committee to study the Plan. The objectives are to encourage individuals and groups to participate in an important planning process at a crucial stage, by commenting on the Plan; to mobilize individuals and groups to make individual or joint submissions on the Plan; and to assemble a team of interested persons and experts who can formulate coherent, well-considered and constructive comments on the Plan.

A letter has been sent to Jabatan Perancang Bandar dan Desa to request an extension of the closing date for submission of comments to 30 November 2006. A response has been received from JPBD allowing an extension to 14 October 2006.

The main concerns identified by the committee for comment are in the areas of:

- Penang Structure Plan (PSP) and Vision 2020. The plan should reflect all the features and characteristics of Penang as a developed state by 2020.
 - Sustainable Development and Penang Structure Plan
 - Overall Assessment of PSP
 - Purpose of Structure Plan (SP)
 - Previous Studies and Structure Plan
 - Broad Brush versus Micro Planning
 - Bottom up planning
 - Omissions: cultural mapping, Clan jetties, shortage of open spaces in the inner city, depopulation of the inner city, surplus of commercial properties in the inner city, squatters on state land (especially along Sungai Pinang), solid waste disposal and pig farming in Gertak Sanggul etc.
- Specific comments will be on public transport, housing, heritage area in the inner city, land reclamation, Turf Club land, areas of special attraction, solid waste disposal and recreational facilities.

The committee is fine-tuning its assessment and is working towards submission by the extended closing date. The full text of the completed assessment will be made available in the PHT office.

by Magdeline Ng



Readers' Column

Dear Friends of PHT,

Keep up the good work of saving Penang from the hammer and bulldozer.

Having lived in both K.L. and Penang over 40 years, I have seen both towns grow. However while I agree with expansion and updating of buildings, being a tourist now in Malaysia, I do not agree with expansion for the sake of heritage. It seems to me that these cities are becoming just like any Western cities, with high rises and huge shopping centres.

There are a great number of visitors to Malaysia that come to see the way that Asia lives, breathes and eats. Update the old buildings by all means possible, open them to the public with the glory of old furniture and fittings. The Cheong Fatt Tse building is a perfect example of what tourists come to see. Kampong houses that can be visited and rented by visitors with an extension of a bathroom. Old buildings turned into restaurants are much nicer than a hotel restaurant and have a building/family history behind them. There are so many beautiful buildings in Penang and K.L. that should be kept, otherwise Malaysians will lose their heritage to high rises lacking in the style of Asia.

High rises of more than two levels and developments that are not in keeping with the area are being fought against and won here on the Melbourne Mornington Peninsular to keep some heritage.

Dilys Yap
Victoria, Australia

Heritage Alert Dissapearing George Town

Researched & photos by Tan Yeow Wooi

Buckingham Street

"Baik Pulih ?" Restoration? Renovation?



155, 157, 159 Carnarvon Street

Before



After



Before



After

27 King Street

Koe Guan Office, Victoria Street

Photo courtesy of Khoo Salma

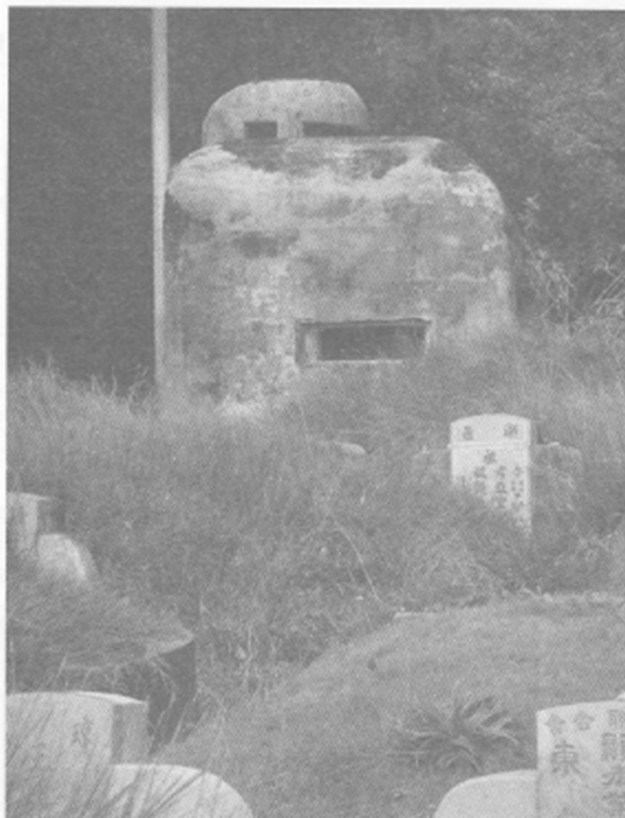


Before
Now you see!



After
Now you don't !

Heritage Sites



Pill box in Mount Erskine Cemetery



Pill box at Marina Bay Apartments, Pantai Molek



Pill box beside Mount Erskine

Penang's Forgotten Second World War Heritage Sites

While the development of the 1930s fortress at Batu Maung as a war museum has drawn attention to Penang's Second World War history, there are scattered about the Island a number of other wartime relics that deserve recognition and appropriate designation as historic sites. These include the various pill boxes and watch towers constructed by the British along the north coast, some of which are pictured in the accompanying photographs taken by PHT member James White.

Guest Editor



Military observation post on Pearl Hill



Bovine sentry with pill box in Mount Erskine Cemetery

Heritage Literature

Analysis of the Impact of the Repeal of the Rent Control Act

Writing in the scholarly *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* (Vol. LXXIX Part 1, 2006), **Mohammad Abdul Mohit** and **Mohd Bashir Sulaiman** conclude that the repeal of the Rent Control Act through rent deregulation has encouraged owners to carry out indiscriminate renovations which have endangered heritage conservation. Mohammad Abdul Mohit is Associate Professor of Urban and Regional Planning in the Faculty of Architecture and Environmental Design at the International Islamic University Malaysia and Mohd Bashir Sulaiman is a Planning Officer in the Town and Country Planning Department's project office in Kedah. He is also a graduate of the International Islamic University Malaysia. The findings of Mohammad Abdul Mohit and Mohd Bashir Sulaiman are based on a detailed study of the impact of the repeal of the Rent Control Act and the extent of renovation of shophouses in Noordin Street in George Town.

The two writers attribute the process of "conservation-unfriendly" shophouse renovation to the inability of the MPPP to implement strictly its conservation policies. They argue that there appear to be two policy alternatives to deal with this situation — either enforce the various planning, financial and tourism incentive measures of the MPPP or develop an adaptive conservation strategy for the conservation of historic shophouses. We could not agree more. Copies of the JMBRAS article are available in the PHT office. ~ Guest Editor

2006 Heritage Awards Programme



The Regional Advisor for Culture in Asia and the Pacific will present the UNESCO Heritage Awards to St. Andrew's Church, Hong Kong SAR, China on 12th November 2006, Liu Ying Lung Study Hall, Hong Kong SAR, China, on 5th Dec 2006, and Bund 18, Shanghai, China on 7th Dec 2006.

Nine projects out of thirty-six project entries have been awarded the 2006 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards Programme. They are Shigar Fort Palace, Pakistan, honoured with the Award of Excellence; Bund 18, China and the Uch Monument Complex, Pakistan, honoured with the Award of Distinction; St. Andrew's Church, China, Sir JJ School of Art, India, and Han Jiang Ancestral Temple, Malaysia, honoured with the Award of Merit; and Liu Ying Lung Study Hall, China, Arakkal Kettu, India, and Leh Old Town, India, honoured with the Award of Honourable Mention.

A total of six entries were received this year for the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards Jury Commendation for Innovation from four countries; however, no Commendations were awarded this year.

Further information about the Heritage Awards and this year's winning entries can be found from <http://www.unescobkk.org/>. The winners of 2006 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards will hold heritage award presentation ceremonies at their project sites scheduled later this year.

Images & text downloaded from www.unescobkk.org (i) Shigar Fort Palace (ii) Bund 18, China (iii) Uch Monument Complex, Pakistan (iv) Han Jiang Ancestral Temple, Malaysia (v) St. Andrew Church, China (vi) Sir JJ School of Art, India



Announcement~ Australia ICOMOS 2006 National Conference

AUSTRALIA ICOMOS NATIONAL CONFERENCE challenge and change IN PORTS, THEIR TOWNS AND CITIES

9-11 November 2006

Fremantle, Western Australia

registration form

www.promaco.com.au/2006/icomos

The Australia ICOMOS 2006 National Conference will be held in the historic port city of Fremantle, Western Australia. The conference will be relevant to a broad audience involved in the heritage industry. It will provide an excellent opportunity for delegates to meet and exchange ideas with other ICOMOS members and heritage and other professionals.

A complete registration form could be downloaded from <http://www.promaco.com.au/2006/icomos/>

Text & Image downloaded from <http://www.promaco.com.au/2006/icomos/>



PHT Facilities

PHT's Function Hall is available for rental to individuals and organizations.

The details are:

Rental of Space		
Size of Room	14' x 40'	(with air conditions and fans)
Furniture provided	50 rattan chairs 1 white board 1 oblong table	
Rates	RM50 per hour (minimum 2 hours)	
	RM200 for ½ day (4 hours) (9 am – 1 pm or 1 pm – 5 pm)	
	RM350 for full day (8 hours, 9 am – 5 pm)	
Office Equipment	RM150 for LCD projector/per event per day RM150 for Laptop/per event per day (On site only)	
Booking deadline	2 weeks prior to event / An advance deposit of 20% is required	
Contact Person	Magdeline/Sheau Fung Penang Heritage Trust Tel: 04-2642631 Fax: 04-2628421 E-mail: phtrust@streamyx.com	

PHT reserves the right to reject any event deemed inappropriate



Merchandise Sale



Newsletter Guest Editor—Leslie A.K. James

Unless specifically stated, the views and opinions expressed in the articles are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of PHT

