

Notice Board

Kuala Lumpur: Corporate Capital, Cultural Cornucopia

We would like to congratulate our Council Member, Dr Chandran Jeshurun on the successful launch of his book by the Prime Minister last month. The book "presents a select survey of what can be proudly called the finest achievements in Malaysian architectural expertise, the majority as it happens, are now located in the City of Kuala Lumpur".

Copies are available in our Gift Shop. RRP RM385. Members will receive a special rate.

Membership Renewal

Members will be receiving subscription renewal notices from April – we look forward to your continued support, thank you.

Petronas Towers wins Aga Khan Award.

In November last year the Petronas Towers were awarded the prestigious Aga Khan Award for Architecture 2004. This award was established by the Aga Khan in 1977 to recognise architectural excellence in the Islamic world in the areas of: contemporary design, social housing, restoration, area conservation and landscape design.

378 projects were considered for the prize, and Petronas Towers were among seven award recipients for what is the world's largest architectural award. The towers were designed by Cesar Pelli an American based architectural firm, who in 1991 won an international competition to build the Twin Towers. The jury citation had granted the award as Petronas towers used advanced technology and a new direction in skyscraper design which reflected national aspirations and has become an "icon of contemporary Malaysian society".

Other Malaysian architectural projects that have received this award previously are the Tanjong Jara Beach Hotel in Kuala Terengganu (1983), Menara Mesiniaga (1995) and the Salinger Residence in Kajang (1998).

Penang Heritage Trust – Arts in Heritage Charity Evening, Sunday 13 March 2005

PHT are having an evening celebrating all things from Penang. Highlights include; "Collections from Penang families", "Nyonya Paraphernalia Undiscovered", "History of Penang shoes from traditional bead slippers to Jimmy Choo's", an art exhibition of early views of the city, plus numerous additional events. Music will be provided by the Penang Symphony Orchestra and of course there will be a gourmet selection of classic Penang cuisine.

Venue is "Homestead", Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah, Penang. For further details and reservations contact PHT at 04 264 2631 or email: phtrust@streamyx.com

Badan Warisan Malaysia

Council Members

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Ar Laurence Loh, *Deputy President*
Christopher Boyd, *Honorary Treasurer*
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Datin Valerie Albakri
Datin Waveney Jenkins
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Secretariat

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Lim Ee Lin,
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Opening hours

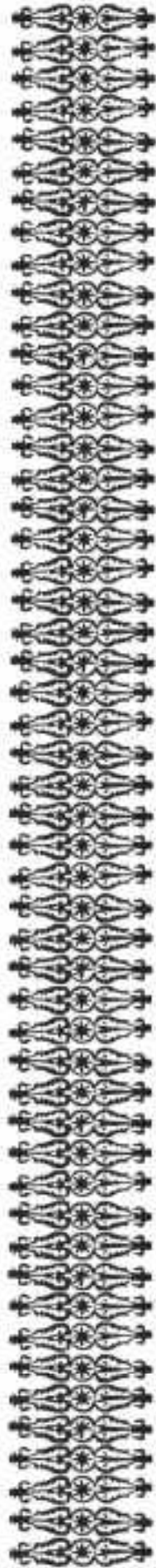
Office
Mondays to Saturdays 9am to 6pm
Exhibition Centre
Mondays to Saturdays 10am to 5.30pm
Resource Centre
Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 4pm
Daily Rumah Penghulu tours
11am & 3pm daily except on Sundays and public holidays. Other times by prior appointment

No 8 Heeren Street Heritage Centre

8 Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock, 75200 Melaka
Tel: 06 281 1507
E-mail: 8heeren@badanwarisan.org.my

John Marcian Cavalho,
Manager

Open Tuesdays to Saturdays 11 am to 4 pm



Forthcoming Visits

**KTMB Headquarters and KL Railway Station,
Jalan Sultan Hishamuddin
9.30 am. Saturday 12 March 2005**

Join us for a visit to two of the many notable buildings in Kuala Lumpur. Sited opposite one another, they complement each other in design and location.

The visit will commence at 9.30 a.m. sharp. Please meet in front of the KTMB HQ building. Parking is available in a lot about 200 meters before reaching the HQ building or at the KL Railway Station.

Members Only. RM10 per person

* To commemorate the 120 years of the Malayan Railways Network, Badan Warisan Malaysia has initiated a photographic and ceramic exhibition project. Led by Eric Peris, the group includes photographers Chan Kin Wah, Soraya Yusof, Syed Zainal Rashid, Arthur Teng, Bob Teoh and potter Alex Tan.

We expect to open the exhibition in June 2005.

**Bentong
Sunday 10 April 2005**

Badan Warisan first visited Bentong in September last year. This relaxed day trip was very popular as it was an opportunity to explore a small town which developed because of the demand for tin. The Bentong area became known for the wealth of its tin deposits, and the town expanded in the late 1800's, when it became the principal settlement of tin miners working Loke Yew's concession. By 1911 Bentong District had become one of the three main tin producing areas in Pahang.

Although Bentong is the State's second largest town, it has a very personable atmosphere as seen by the variety of small traditional family businesses that are still operating. When we arrive at Bentong we will explore the town, the surprising variety of buildings and of course the shops. Then we will make our way to the Sungai Perting Dam. After this we will visit the Planter's bungalow of Ted Miles to meet the diarist and letter writer and have a leisurely late lunch at the house.

Our thanks to Datin Amar Elizabeth Moggie and Puan Sri Susan Jalaluddin for researching and planning this trip.

Members Only, limited to minimum of 15 and a maximum of 25 participants. RM40 per person.

Carpooling is encouraged. The journey from KL to Bentong takes just over one hour. Details of the rendezvous point at Bentong and notes will be given closer to the date.



Dear Members and Friends of heritage,

Towers!!

Clock towers, leaning towers, memorial towers, twin towers, revolving towers – the list continues – so why not one more – an observation tower in Malacca?

In December the Malacca State Government put forward a proposal to erect a new tower. The Malacca Chief Minister YB Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam described the inspiration behind the scheme in an interview with the Sunday New Straits Times, 6th February 2005:

“The proposal came up when I went to Sentosa island in Singapore some time back. The operator of the tower on the island expressed interest to set up a similar project in Malacca for tourist’s to get a bird’s eye view of the scenery here. However, the project can only be viable if the tower is built in a place where there are many tourists.”

It is predicted that the tower will have approximately half a million visitors annually, while reports indicate that the project will cost anything between RM15 to RM22 million.

Three sites were suggested for the location of the tower, all were within the core conservation zone in the vicinity of St. Paul’s Hill. This has made the proposal highly controversial as any such siting will threaten Malacca’s twin bid with Penang for UNESCO World Heritage status. As a consequence the Museums and Antiquities Department along with many individuals and NGOs expressed their concern. Likewise the local press has published numerous letters for and against the project, the majority being anti the scheme.

On 27th January it was announced by the Malacca State Government that the 110 metre high tower is to be built on a tennis court in Jalan Merdeka. Although this is just outside the central heritage zone, it is still within the buffer zone and therefore will have a serious impact on the acceptance for Heritage Listing.

The following day Badan Warisan Malaysia issued this statement:

The President of Badan Warisan Malaysia wrote to YAB Dato' Seri Mohd Ali Rustam, Chief Minister Malacca, in December 2004, objecting to the proposed tower in relation to its location, i.e. within the Core Area of the Proposed World Heritage Site. We had qualified our objection with the rider that it should also not be placed within the Buffer Zone identified within the World Heritage Listing Dossier.

In the light of the latest decision by the Chief Minister, our stand remains as stated. The present chosen location, i.e. within the Buffer Zone, could, in no uncertain terms, jeopardise Malacca and Penang's joint-bid for UNESCO World Heritage

Listing. The Malaysian Cabinet was responsible for endorsing the submission of these sites as having outstanding universal value. The bid is therefore one of national interest. We understand that in the Dossier document which will be submitted to UNESCO in Paris soon, this inappropriate, and out-of-proportion structure, has not been identified as a project within the Buffer Zone.

Alas, the concerns about threatening the bid to gain World Heritage Listing, that would give international recognition to the unique history of Malacca, has fallen on deaf ears. So has the inappropriateness, and utter lack of sensitivity of the scheme, which in reality means that a 21st Century, 30 storey structure will be conspicuously dominant over centuries’ old two and three storey buildings! Then there is the question of chasing the tourist dollar: raising the very serious issue of how to manage heritage so that it retains its value for both the members of the local community and visitors.

Alongside all these concerns is the worry that there is a lack of comprehension of the intrinsic value of the significance of Malacca that draws visitors worldwide, and that this could be compromised with a tourist gimmick that has the potential of becoming a white elephant.

Foot Notes:

1. The Dossiers from the Straits Settlements of Melaka and Penang for nomination as a Cultural Heritage site were received by the World Heritage Committee on 28th January 2005. This was the day after the announcement that the tower project was to go ahead, and when the State Executive Council was meeting officials of the building company to finalise details!

2. Galle, Sri Lanka. 15th February 2005

Galle Cricket Stadium will no longer have international status, because reconstruction necessary after the devastation caused by the December tsunami is severely restricted. The Stadium is located within a 100 metre buffer zone of the World Heritage Site of Galle Fort. There are many parallels between Galle and Malacca. The historic fort of Galle was also built by the Portuguese (1505), and many of the additional later structures were added by Dutch and British occupiers. This World Heritage Site is fiercely protected by the Sri Lankan Government. Consequently, no neighbouring structures are allowed to dwarf the historic site, and so threaten its Heritage Listing. Even a five storied grand stand was considered unacceptable!

Diana Cooper

** N.B. To ensure that you have the latest information of our activities, please go to our web site or call/visit the Secretariat. Announcements will be e-mailed to members.*

News

The Heritage Act

The long awaited Heritage Act seems to have reached an impasse.

With the establishment in April 2004 of the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage, there was the announcement of a more comprehensive Heritage Act, encompassing environment, built heritage as well "intangible" heritage of language, art and music. From press reports, we understand that under this Act, an Enforcement Unit would be established by the Museum and Antiquities Department, with the authority to take action against violators of the Act.

The first draft of the Act was expected by April this year, so it was good news to read that it had been completed a couple of months ahead of time. Unfortunately, the Minister Dr. Rais is dissatisfied with the first draft and has called for further revisions. So will the Act be ready to be tabled in Parliament in April?

Our President, Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji, has been invited to be the Chairman of the pro tem Majlis Warisan Malaysia (Heritage Council of Malaysia). He has accepted and is looking forward to its first meeting.

Official Launch of 8 Heeren Street – 21 March 2005

We are delighted to announce that our Model Restoration Project will be officially launched on Monday 21 March 2005. Further details will be announced on our website.

At 8 Heeren Street, you can learn more about how you can help to protect Malacca's architectural heritage.

What will I find at 8 Heeren Street?

- A permanent exhibition explaining the restoration process and with a short history of the early shophouse
- A resource and advisory centre for the public – you can arrange to meet persons knowledgeable in architectural conservation if you seek advice on your heritage property
- A base for heritage tours
- A venue of exhibitions, workshops, seminars and corporate events
- A gift shop with a small range of books and postcards

We welcome group visits (limited numbers and with prior arrangement). A member of staff will be on hand to answer any questions and to help with enquiries.

Letter

Thanks for the cards...from PERKATA Sarawak

To all Badan Warisan members who responded to the appeal for old greeting cards...thank you all so much. I have received several big boxes through the kind assistance of Datin Elizabeth Moggie, and they have been wonderful.

Just to remind you all, these cards are for the PERKATA Sarawak which is the association for the Intellectually Disabled Children in Sarawak. As part of its fund-raising PERKATA has a gallery that sell all sorts of items from cards to t-shirts and beyond. Those of you who visited Sarawak earlier in the year 2004 were able to buy a selection of these items during an evening function.

Recycled cards have become quite a big item in our range. We now sell all sorts of recycled cards ranging from Christmas and all the other festivals to birthday, thank you and such. Even wedding cards!

Pictures from the old cards are affixed to new plain cards and the results are very attractive and sell extremely well! Hence the need for used cards...

A special plea for birthday and general sorts of cards (thank you or just pretty no-occasion cards) because the demand for these is constant throughout the year and we can always use more.

Such cards can be left at Badan Warisan headquarters, and Datin Elizabeth has most kindly offered to make sure they get to me.

Judith Satem Kuching.

N.B. The Secretariat received a good number of items after Christmas and will continue to receive cards for PERKATA throughout the year so we thank members and friends in advance for your continued contribution.



Appeal

Rumah Penghulu Abu Seman

We are making an effort to update and add to the display in the Rumah Penghulu Abu Seman.

Of immediate need is a television as our set is on its last legs. We are also converting the VHS video to VCD and will need a VCD player shortly.

Members interested in donating or sponsoring items, can get list of requirements from Intan Syaheeda Abu Bakar at the secretariat or e-mail: intan@badanwarisan.org.my