



BADAN WARISAN MALAYSIA

**Annual Report 2002 / 2003
for financial year ended 30 June 2003**



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(in alphabetical order)

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REPORTS

Creating Public Awareness

Public awareness of heritage and conservation has been gathering momentum. We have been seen a greater involvement of the public in heritage issues, and also of corporate support for heritage matters.

In 2002-2003 we were well represented in the media as the voice of conservation, speaking and writing on issues of architectural and cultural heritage including the proposed demolition and redevelopment of the 200 year old Islamic enclave at Acheen Street in Penang, the illegal demolition in December 2002 of two shophouses in the heart of Malacca's conservation area and as promoting the need for a national heritage legislation.

However, while there is a greater public awareness of the values of our built and cultural heritage, we remain concerned that in many cases, the custodians of our heritage assets only see the value of heritage as a commodity, and its worth, only in terms of tourism. Cultural tourism may appear to provide a base for sustainable economic development, but consideration must be made of what changes this has brought about, and whether it has indeed sustained and conserved the spirit of the culture itself.

Our redesigned website www.badanwarisan.org.my has been very well received and we will seek new ways and new partners to promote heritage issues on a more consistent basis in the next year at local, national and international levels.

In August 2002, we hosted the Inaugural Regional Meeting & Workshop of National Heritage Trust Organisations which brought together over 50 representatives from 27 organisations representing 12 countries in the region. This meeting was organised by Badan Warisan Malaysia in conjunction with UNESCO in Bangkok and the Australian Council of National Trusts with strong support from the Penang Heritage Trust. It was generously sponsored by the Japan Foundation Asia Centre and through this network of regional organisations, we will seek to better promote and increase our efforts to conserve and enhance the protection of our heritage.

Influencing Policy

As reported by the President, the Heritage Bill was tabled in Parliament on 6 November 2003 and we are anticipating that it will be gazetted as an amendment to the Town & Country Planning Act at the next session of Parliament in early 2004. This new legislation will complement the Antiquities Act 168 which promotes the protection of ancient monuments and sites.

We believe that while it may take some time before the new heritage regime is properly established, the Heritage Bill, under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, will bring positive changes to national heritage protection. It will provide opportunities for community engagement with their built heritage, and once promulgated, will establish a new framework for the identification, protection and care of nationally and locally significant places. A very important consequence is that it will require the Federal, State and Local governments, for the first time, to publicly identify and care for these heritage places.

Land use in Malaysia is governed both by a Federal system and a State system but within the Constitution, the Federal level has afforded scant powers over the built heritage, unless it was for buildings and sites which it owned. It is the States which have the constitutional powers to protect, or otherwise, heritage places. Some states, like Penang and Malacca, have enacted certain heritage protection regimes, but there remains a dire need to construct a mechanism to provide statutory power to actually protect places listed as

heritage places as well as to build up best practice models at all levels and in all communities.

In circumstances where those in authority are convicted of the value of heritage protection, there has been a moral suasion over heritage matters, but their capacity to protect places has been limited.

We believe that IF the full scope of the Heritage Bill is enforced, this will provide a catalyst for ensuring political and administrative support to improve the protection and conservation of heritage buildings and sites. It will also provide for very public and transparent procedures and the mechanisms contained in the law will ensure that the communities are well informed and resourced to participate in this process.

Legislation Sub-Committee

Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr) Ahmad Sarji bin Abdul Hamid (Chair), Laurence Loh, Henry Barlow Christopher Boyd, Datuk Ismail Adam, Ambiga Sreenevasan, Dennis Xavier and Elizabeth Cardosa.

Promoting Education

The future of our heritage is in the hands of the next generation, now young. They will decide what, if anything, will be preserved of the present, and which, if any, of the structures now "saved" will be repaired and renewed. Heritage education is therefore an important foundation for heritage awareness.

At Badan Warisan, we believe that our heritage is at risk unless it is understood by young and old alike as an important public asset, and that it is able to relate to an individual's private, everyday world. Historic settings must have the same kind of impact on an individual in the normal course of his or her daily existence, as does environmental issues like clean air and water. Otherwise it will be relegated to the periphery, belonging to the marginal areas of recreation, a superficial form of tourism, a mild curiosity or at best, an exclusive enclave. In our education programmes, we endeavour to make heritage more accessible to larger numbers of young people through encouraging learning and new ways to engage in these environments in a more personal way.

We do this not only through the information available in our Resource Centre, but also through promoting a positive experience to visitors to our Heritage Centre. We hosted visits, lectures and workshops for students from primary schools and institutions of higher learning, on subjects ranging from Malay cultural practice and learning traditional games, to learning about our heritage architecture. We are grateful to Tanjung Plc and Shell Malaysia who have provided modest support for our education workshops for young people.

Our education facilitators have also had the opportunity to undergo training in research methodology developed for arts in heritage education developed by ARTS-ED Penang. This has provided us with better skills and we intend to continue with our trainer training programme over the forthcoming year.

In June 2003, we were invited by Malay College Old Boys Association (MCOBA) to conduct a heritage workshop for the members of the ABAD (Archives, Book and Documentation) Club in preparation for the School's centenary celebrations in 2005. The ensuing workshop guided by our Heritage Centre Manager with one member of staff and 2 volunteers, led the students through a series of games and multi media presentation, introducing the students to understanding the importance of heritage preservation. MCOBA hope to inculcate heritage awareness into these young people through a series of similar workshops in this next year.

Being A Technical Resource

Badan Warisan Malaysia has invested energy, time and funds to establish its credibility and profile and as a direct result, we have increasingly been consulted by government agencies, local authorities as well as private individuals and organisations on a variety of conservation issues, many of which have required technical knowledge and practical experience. The anticipated Heritage Bill has also raised related issues not least the need to develop uniform guidelines and procedures for an integrated approach to conservation practice.

A Technical Sub-Committee has been set up to build our capacity for demonstrating a lead role in effective and positive delivery on technical matters related to heritage conservation.

Over the past year, we have therefore provided comments on a whole range of matters for example on the Kuala Lumpur Draft Structure Plan 2020 and other draft guidelines currently in preparation by various departments at Federal as well as State levels. We have also commented on proposals for redevelopment of significant places and sites such as the Kwan Imm Ting and Masjid India in Klang, Holy Rosary Church in Brickfields, the archaeological excavations of the Santaigo Bastion, Malacca Fort and the development activity along the Malacca River.

The restoration project at No 8 Heeren Street has also been completed and we are now looking to open it as a fully functioning heritage centre. Financial support for the restoration has generously been provided by the U.S. Ambassador's Cultural Preservation Fund and Ford Motor Company. Their support has also helped the research and development of two heritage trails for the historic of Malacca (which are in the process of being published) and a permanent exhibition at this Centre. We are now developing a monthly programme of activities which will include educational workshops and talks for 2004. This project would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of the Project Team and the full support of the Trustees of the Cheng Hoon Teng Inc..

Technical Sub-Committee

Ar. Laurence Loh(Chair), Christopher Boyd, Datuk Ismail Adam, Datuk Haji A Rahim Abdullah, Ishak Ariffin, Helena Aman Hashim, Lillian Tay and Elizabeth Cardosa.

No 8 Heeren Street Project Committee

Lim Huck Chin, K B Tiong, Tan Hoon Keong, Chan Kien Keong, Lee Eng Chow, Josephine Chua, Helena Aman Hashim, Ruby Loo, Lim Lee Hock and Elizabeth Cardosa.

Building a Strong Membership

A Membership Sub-Committee has recently been formed to look at ways of increasing membership. It will not only formulate policy and streamline the process for membership applications, but it is to arrange programmes for the members and look at ways of promoting Badan Warisan Malaysia, in order to encourage the growth of both Ordinary as well as Corporate Membership.

Over the past year, the Secretariat organised many activities for members and the general public. We were able to develop, co-ordinate and manage over 20 events including site visits and trips, talks and workshops. The 10 exhibitions that were organised this year have been both popular and successful and we had seen more than 2,500 visitors to our premises as a result. In addition, the weekend trips we arranged have been much appreciated and a group of "regular trip members" has emerged.

The launch in March 2003 of the publication *Landmarks of Selangor*, held in conjunction with the coronation of HRH Sultan Selangor, was a major event for us. The venue which

was the Concourse Area at KLCC was generously sponsored by Suria KLCC and it drew a very large audience. A great thank you must be extended to all our members who assisted during the exhibition; providing information and helping with the sales.

None of these programmes would have been possible without the interest and dedication of our members who have been so generous with their time and services.

Membership Sub-Committee

Datuk Hj A Rahim Abdullah(Chair), Puan Sri Susan Jalaluddin, Lillian Tay, Dr Chandran Jeshurun, Lim Ee Lin and Lee Chai Ching.

Achieving Financial Independence

This year we have made some progress towards developing a more stable financial position. Under the leadership of our President, and thanks to the untiring efforts of the Malam Warisan fundraising committee, the event grossed nearly one million ringgit, and has transformed our financial position.

We now have a relatively strong balance sheet and we hope to further improve this position in the next few years. We will continue to be prudent in our expenditure while seeking new initiatives as appropriate, to improve our financial position.

In this coming year, we will seek to consolidate our funding position further and we would welcome suggestions from members. We also welcome other forms of support and donations in-kind.

Malam Warisan Committee

Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr) Ahmad Sarji bin Abdul Hamid (Chair), Datin Amar Elizabeth Moggie (Vice-Chair), Christopher Boyd (Treasurer), Puan Sri Sagiyah Salikin, Tunku Maziah Mukhtar, Tunku Zahiah Sulong, Datuk Ismail Adam, Liz Tajuddin, Tuan Haji Mazlan Ali, Mark Gibson and Shamsu Yusof.

Dinner & Reception Sub-Committee

Puan Sri Sagiyah Salikin(Chair), Datin Norfiah Shukor, Datin Hani Abdul Halim, Datin Che Hasnah Bakar and Ruby Loo.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS JULY 2002 TO JUNE 2003

JULY 2002

- Malacca: People, Place and Time – a photo exhibition by Lim Huck Chin and Fernando Jorge
- Malacca: A Heritage in Conflict – talk by Lim Huck Chin

AUGUST 2002

- Regional Meeting and Workshop for National Trusts and like-minded organisations – organised with the cooperation of UNESCO and the Australian Council of National Trusts
- Over Time – an exhibition of photographs by the Silver Gelatin Group

SEPTEMBER 2002

- Malam Warisan – fundraising dinner
- Nature, Soul & Spirituality: an exhibition of paintings by Rosdan Abdul Manan
- Heritage Education workshop at St Francis Institution, Malacca
- Keynote address at 18th EAROPH World Planning Congress by Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr) Ahmad Sarji bin Abdul Hamid

OCTOBER 2002

- Let me speak – an exhibition of paintings and sketches by Mohd Hairi Yaakub
- Kuala Lumpur heritage trail – walk for the Securities Commission Malaysia organised in conjunction with the Emerging Markets Conference
- 19th Annual General Meeting
- Give me a watered lively garden – an exhibition of paintings by Cheryl Swain

NOVEMBER 2002

- Education workshops for L'ecole Francais Kuala Lumpur
- Site visit to Loke Mansion – facilitated by Lim Take Bane

DECEMBER 2002

- French Memories in Malaysia – a documentary exhibition of French involvement in Malaya organised by the Embassy of France in Malaysia and the Alliance Francaise
- UNESCO Roundtable Conference in Manila - Resource Speaker, Elizabeth Cardosa

JANUARY 2003

- Trip to Carey Island – organised in conjunction with Golden Hope Berhad and facilitated by Chen Voon Fee
- Talk by Professor Anthony Milner – organised by the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society
- Visit and talk by Professor Malcolm Grant on heritage legislation

FEBRUARY 2003

- Site visit to No 8 Heeren Street and St Peter's Church, Malacca – facilitated by Lim Huck Chin
- Malacca site visit - Traditional Architecture and Traditional Trades Heritage Walks – led by Lim Huck Chin, Fernando Jorge, Josephine Chua and Chris Johnston

MARCH 2003

- Economics of Heritage Development – a talk by Prof Jarek Puchla, International Cultural Centre
- Krakow, Poland, in association with the Embassy of Poland and the Malaysian Institute of Planners
- Launch of the Landmarks of Selangor by HRH Sultan of Selangor – an exhibition of watercolours by Chin Kon Yit from the publication
- Love of our Life – an exhibition of paintings by the Nadii Art Group, launched by YBhg Datuk Dr Adi Taha, Director-General Jabatan Muzium Negara

APRIL 2003

- Unturned Stones: a talk by Chen Voon Fee on the making of the publication Landmarks of Selangor
- Site visits to Victoria Institution and Convent Bukit Nanas

MAY 2003

- Jurema – an exhibition of lacquered artworks by Jurema Barker
- Bukit Nanas Heritage Trail walks researched and conducted by Diana Cooper
- Education workshops by Lim Ee Lin and Sheema Abdul Aziz for Garden International School

JUNE 2003

- Straight Takes: A group exhibition of black and white photographs on the cultural, natural and built heritage of Malaysia curated by Victor Chin, and organised with the cooperation of the National Art Gallery
- Pilot Education Workshop at Malay College Kuala Kangsar, organised by the Malay College Old Boys Association, in conjunction with the ABAD Club
- Official visit by Badan Warisan Malaysia Council members to Ipoh, Kuala Kangsar and Taiping, led by YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr) Ahmad Sarji bin Abdul Hamid
- Contemporary Photography in Malaysia - forum organised by Silver Gelatin