“Melaka & George Town – Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca”

Presented by:
Maimunah Mohd. Sharif
( George Town World Heritage Office)
Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca
Melaka & George Town

State Party : Malaysia

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Category : Cultural

Criteria : II, III & IV
Content:

- Location and boundary of George Town WHS
- Historical background of Melaka and Penang
- Justification and Outstanding Universal Value of the site
- Issues related to George Town World Heritage site
- Enabling laws
- Challenges and opportunities
Location and boundary

Unesco World Heritage site of George Town

Core Zone

Buffer Zone
Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca
Melaka & George Town

Historical background of Melaka and George Town
Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca

- Malacca & Pulo Pinang was featured in Admiral Cheng Ho’s navigation chart to Southeast Asia. The chart was a joint effort by the naval crew in the years 1425-1430.
Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca

- Straits of Malacca was part of the “Maritime Silk Road” which connects trading between east and west.
History of Melaka can be traced back to 7th century, which was part of the Srivijaya Kingdom.

Parameswara founded Sultanate of Malacca in 1402.
Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca

- 1406, Admiral Cheng Ho visited Parameswara on this 1st trip to South East Asia.
- Between 1406 till 1430, Admiral Cheng Ho visited Malacca 6 times.
Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca

- During the glorious days of the Sultanate of Malacca, Malacca was the international port of South East Asia.
- At one time, 84 languages were spoken in Malacca.
Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca

- 1511 - 1641, colonized by Portuguese.

Old Portugese Map - “Indiae Orientalis”

Map of Malacca in 1630, during the Portugese time. From "Livro das Plantas das Fortalezas, Cidades e Povoates do Estado da India Oriental" 1600s.
Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca

- 1641 - 1826, colonized by the Dutch.

Drawn by Francis Valentijn in 1726
Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca

- 1826 - 1957, colonized by the British

A coloured lithograph of the Malacca waterfront published in 1810. Foreground is part of the fort "A Famosa" before its destruction.

A French water colour painting of the Malacca river in 1830. At the background is the old Portuguese church and nearby is the flag pole of the British East India Company at the top of St Paul's Hill (Bukit Bendera)
Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca

- George Town continued the flourish of Malacca.

From WHL dossier
There were Malay from Aceh, Bugis and Chinese resided in George Town before 1786.

By Ensign Caldwell - fishing boats between Pulo Pinang and Pulo Rimau in 1778
Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca

- Francis Light (on behalf of East India Company) leased Pulo Pinang from Sultan of Kedah in 1786.
- He and his troop landed at Esplanade.
Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca

East India Company erected Fort Cornwallis and started to build George Town at the northeastern promontory of Penang island.
Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca

- George Town was bounded by Beach St, Light St, Pitt St and Chulia St.
Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca

- East India Company implemented free port and free trade policy in Georgetown. This attracted people from all over the world the trade here.
Attracted Minangkabau from west Sumatra, Acenese from north Sumatra, Boyanese from Bawean Island, Javanese from Jawa and Bugis from Sulawesi.
Attracted Cantonese, Teochew, Hainanese and Hakka from Canton province of China, Hokkien and Hockchew from Hokkien province, and other Chinese from other parts of China.
Tamils, Parsis, Bengalis from India and also Burmese.

Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca

Historical background – George Town
Also others like Japanese, Armenians and Europeans.
Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca
Melaka & George Town

Justification for World Heritage Listing
Criteria for World Heritage Listing (Culture)

i. to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;

ii. to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;

iii. to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
Criteria for World Heritage Listing (Culture)

iv. to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;

v. to be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;

vi. to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.

UNESCO
Melaka & George Town fulfill the following criteria in Operation Guidelines 2005:

ii. to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;

iii. to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;

iv. to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;
Justification for Melaka & George Town

ii. to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;

- These two cities represent exceptional examples of multi-cultural trading towns in East and Southeast Asia, forged from the mercantile and civilization exchanges of Malay, Chinese, Indian and European cultures.
George Town is the melting pot of culture. It blends in culture from Arabs & Indian Muslims; culture from Hokkien, Teochew, Cantonese, Hakka, Hainanese Chinese; culture from north and south Indians; subsequently created its own Baba Nyonya culture.
Cultural fabric – Malay culture

Outstanding Universal Value

BORIA

BANGSAWAN

BERSUNAT
Cultural fabric – Chinese culture

Chinese New Year celebration
Cultural fabric – Chinese culture

Chingay
Cultural fabric – Chinese culture

Outstanding Universal Value
Cultural fabric – Indian culture

Outstanding Universal Value

Thaipusam
Cultural fabric – Baba Nyonya culture

Outstanding Universal Value.
Traditional Trades

Outstanding Universal Value
ii. to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;

- are the few historic cities in the world that experienced a succession of a colourful past from the Malay Sultanate, the Chinese, the Portuguese, the Dutch, the British and the post-colonial period, with each of this period managing to inscribe its print on the scroll of its evolution. However, in terms of its urban form, none of this age succeeded in erasing the imprint of its predecessors.
Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca

- George Town was bounded by Beach St, Light St, Pitt St and Chulia St.

1798 - Popham Map

Historical background – George Town
Uniqueness of heritage in George Town

- Such Urban fabric still remains intact, ex:
  1. Fort Cornwallis
2. Water front – Beach St (Weld Quay)
3. Light Street
Uniqueness of heritage in George Town

4. King Street
Due to the multi-cultural fabric of George Town, there are different architectural designs both from the east and the west. It is named as "living architectural museum" by architectural scholars.
Justification for Melaka & George Town

iii. To bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;

- These two cities are living testimony to the multi-cultural heritage and tradition of Asia, where the greatest religions, and cultures met. The coexistence of distinct faiths - both tangible and intangible - in particular the different religious buildings, is a testament to the religious pluralism of Asia.

- There are 37 different religious buildings such as mosques, Chinese temples, Indian temples etc. in the core and buffer zone.

- Example: Street of Harmony
Epicentre of multi-cultural historic area of George Town.

- Teochew Temple - Han Jiang Ancestral Temple
- Chinese Kuan Yin Temple
- St. George’s Church
- Indian Muslim Kapitan Kling Mosque
- Arab Muslim Acheen Street Mosque
- Indian Sri Mariamman Temple
- Cantonese Temples
- Hokkien Five Big Clans
- Cantonese Temples
iv. to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;

- These two cities reflect the coming together of cultural elements from elsewhere in the Malay Archipelago and from India and China with those of Europe to create a unique architecture, culture and townscape without parallel anywhere in the East and South East Asia. In particular a range and exceptional architecture of shophouses and townhouses.

- There are 2344 heritage buildings in the core zone and 2321 in the buffer zone.
Architectural fabric – religious buildings

- Christian church - St. George’s church built in 1818.
- Earliest Anglican church in South East Asia

 Courtesy of Khoo Salma
Architectural fabric – religious buildings

- Catholic Church – Church of Assumption founded in 1787 and moved to current site in 1860.
- Founded by Eurasians from South Thailand and Kedah.
Architectural fabric – religious buildings

- Mosque - Kapitan Kling Mosque, founded by Indian Muslims in 1801.
- Renovated by famous German architect, Henry Alfred Neubronner in 1910.

From dossier

Courtesy of Khoo Salma
Mosque – Acheen St Mosque founded by the Arabs in 1808.
Architectural fabric – religious buildings

- Chinese temple: Cantonese Style
Architectural fabric – religious buildings

- Chinese temple: Teochew Style
Architectural fabric – religious buildings

- Chinese temple: Hokkien Style
Architectural fabric – religious buildings

- Indian temple
Architectural fabric – public buildings

Outstanding Universal Value
Architectural fabric – educational buildings

Outstanding Universal Value
Architectural fabric – stilt houses on the sea

Clan jetties

Courtesy of Khoo Salma

Outstanding Universal Value

From Dossier
Architectural fabric – shop houses

Façade
- Provides information on when the house was built

Five-foot-way
- Implemented by Stamford Raffles in Singapore in 1822.
- Provides shelter from sun and rain.
- Connecting shop houses.

Shop
- 6 ~ 7 m

Residential
- 30 ~ 60 m

Narrow and long, very often called as “bamboo house”

Air-well
- ventilation
- lighting

Spatial concept

Outstanding Universal Value
Architectural fabric – shop houses

Outstanding Universal Value

EARLY SHOPHOUSE STYLE 1800-1850’s
EARLY TRANSITIONAL STYLE 1840-1900’s
EARLY STRAITS STYLE 1890-1920’s
LATE STRAITS STYLE 1920-1940’s
NEO-CLASSICAL STYLE 19th - early 20th century
ART DECO STYLE 1930 – 1950’s
EARLY MODERN STYLE Post War
LATE MODERN STYLE Late 1960’s
Architectural fabric – shop houses

Gable ends

Fan lights

Air vents

Outstanding Universal Value

PowerPoint by Lim Gaik Siang, 2009
### Area and number of buildings in the site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Core Zone</th>
<th>Buffer Zone</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area (hectares)</td>
<td>109.38 (42.16%)</td>
<td>150.04 (57.84%)</td>
<td>259.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of buildings</td>
<td>2,344</td>
<td>2,321</td>
<td>4,665</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Issues related to George Town World Heritage Site
HERITAGE AT STAKE: UNESCO STATUS OR HIGH RISE DILEMMA FOR PENANG

By ANDREA FILMER

GEORGE TOWN: The state government has found itself in a catch 22 situation – jeopardise George Town’s Unesco World Heritage Site status or run the risk of being sued for hundreds of millions by developers.

The crisis centres on the building of four high-rise hotels in the heritage core and buffer zones which violate the guidelines approved by the World Heritage Committee (WHC).
Illegal renovation

Issues related to the site
Impact of Tourism

STAR, Tuesday August 12, 2008

CHEW JETTY RESIDENT STARTS HOMESTAY SCHEME
By NG SU-ANN

GEORGE TOWN: Riding on the city’s successful listing as a Unesco World Heritage Site, a Weld Quay clan jetty resident here has initiated a homestay programme for tourists to experience life on the famous waterfront settlement. Guests can opt for boat rides, barbecue parties and even home-cooked Chinese dinner on the stilt house at Chew Jetty that was built more than 100 years ago.

Saturday December 20, 2008

UNESCO LISTING A BOOST FOR PENANG TOURISM

THE number of foreign visitors to Penang has increased since July following the listing of George Town as a World Heritage Site.

State Tourism, Development, Culture, Arts and Heritage Committee chairman Danny Law Heng Kiang said there were now more tourists from China thronging the heritage zone.

“We also find there are more Finns visiting the island as tickets from Finland to Penang are fully booked.”

But he said the increase of local tourists was not significant.

“We will continue to promote the heritage sites and their cultures to woo tourists,” he said.
FIRE SWEEPS NINE SHOPHOUSES IN PENANG

GEORGE TOWN: Two large business signboards hampered efforts by firemen to put out a fire that destroyed the top floors of nine shophouses along Jalan Gurdwara here. The fire was believed to have started at the back of a premises housing a tailor shop, a communication appliances shop and a CD shop.

FIRE DESTROYS SEVEN SHOPS AT PENANG HERITAGE SITE

PENANG: Seven shops situated at the World Heritage Site in Lebuh Armenian were destroyed in a fire early Thursday, causing damage estimated at RM600,000.

Penang Fire and Rescue Department deputy director Mohd Razam Taja Rahim said the department was alerted about the fire at 3.14am and the first fire engine arrived at the scene six minutes later. "By the time we arrived at the scene, four shops were already engulfed in flame and the fire had also spread to adjacent shops.

"Several explosions were heard as inflammable materials from one of the shops caught fire," he said, adding that the occupants escaped unhurt.
Illegal demolition & dilapidated buildings

HERITAGE BUILDINGS DEMOLISHED DESPITE UNESCO LISTING
By BERNARD SEE

GEORGE TOWN: More pre-war houses in the inner city are being demolished or renovated without following heritage guidelines after George Town has been recognised as a Unesco world heritage site.

Penang Heritage Alert co-ordinator Tan Yeow Woi said he came across 12 such premises in King Street, Beach Street, Victoria Street, Kimberley Street and Jalan Dr Lim Chwee Leong in the last month.

"Owners seem to be taking advantage of the grace period to do whatever they want with their buildings before the new heritage building guidelines are strictly enforced.

"The Penang Municipal Council should seriously look into this matter before more such buildings are pre-war buildings, adding that the state government was serious about conserving the heritage buildings."
UNESCO REP: CONSERVATION OF CULTURES IMPORTANT

By JEREMY TAN

A HERITAGE area will not be complete without the local people and its rich cultures, according to Unesco regional advisor for the Asia-Pasific, Dr Richard Engelhardt.

Addressing a public forum entitled How To Manage a World Heritage Site organised by Khazanah Penang at the Caring Society Complex recently, Engelhardt said that preserving these cultures was equally important because without doing so, the heritage buildings would lose their significance.

“Although the tangible is nice, it is the intangible which brings life to the area,” Engelhardt said. He cited the example of a heritage site in China where the local indigenous population was moved out and outsiders were then hired to dress up and act as locals, a prime example of bad management.

“Good management ensures the continuity of ceremonies, and cultures of the people living there.”
Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca
Melaka & George Town

Actions taken by government, NGO and private sector
Actions taken by the government and NGO

1. Heritage Portfolio under YAB CM / CMI
2. Setting up of George Town World Heritage Office
3. Technical Review Panel
4. Heritage Department, MPPP
5. Heritage Advisory Panel
6. Awareness Programs
7. Heritage Impact Assessment
8. Integrated Conservation Management Plan
9. Special Area Plan
10. Marking George Town competition
11. State Heritage Enactment
2. World heritage office

2. George Town World Heritage Office
Located at
116 & 118, Lebuh Acheh, 10200 George Town, Penang, Malaysia
Actions taken by the government and NGO

Official opening of George Town World Heritage Office
30 April 2009
Actions taken by the government and NGO

Working committee
2. World Heritage Office

Responsibility chart

Actions taken by the government and NGO

UNESCO's Cultural Heritage Management and Tourism: Models and Case Studies
Actions taken by the government and NGO

**Planner**
- Advisory
- Development Control
- Development Planning
- Policy Implementation
- Landscape Management
- Inspection

**Engineer**
- Advisory
- Drawing Section
- Road & Maintenance
- Traffic & Public Amenities
- Geo-technical
- Mechanical
- Liaison with Engineering & Maintenance Department MPPP
- Inspection

**Architect**
- Technical Assessment
- Building Plan Assessment
- Liaison with Maintenance & Enforcement Department MPPP

**General Administration**
- Liaison with other technical departments in MPPP
- Liaison with the World Heritage Office

**Jabatan Warisan MPPP**
Is the Secretariat for the Technical Review Panel

**Guidelines**
- Create guidelines based on World Heritage policies
- List functions, ToRs, etc
6. Awareness program

Actions taken by the government and NGO

Celebration of World Heritage Listing

Power Point by Lim Gaik Siang 2009
6. Awareness program

Actions taken by the government and NGO

Celebration of World Heritage Listing
6. Awareness program

Actions taken by the government and NGO

Brochures on heritage
Actions taken by the government and NGO

Workshop and training
Enabling Laws
Enabling Laws

1. National Heritage Act 2005 (Act 645)

   - Structure Plan
   - Local Plan
   - Special Area Plan


5. Street, Building & Drainage Act 1974

6. Other non-statutory plans (zoning plan)

7. Local Government Act 1976
Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca

Melaka & George Town

Challenges / Opportunity
Challenges / Opportunities

• To promote WHS as the growth centre for Penang State - economic development, tourism, property development.

• To work together with the community / stakeholders.

• To retain and enhance the WHS
  - Activities / programmes
  - Effective Enabling Law
Topics discussed in this conference

1. Optimising returns from cultural tourism.

2. Value adding to property and business in the World Heritage Site and its surroundings.

3. Developing all-win relationship with community organisations.

4. Effective enabling and enforcement: The role of government.
“Melaka & George Town – Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca”

Thank you