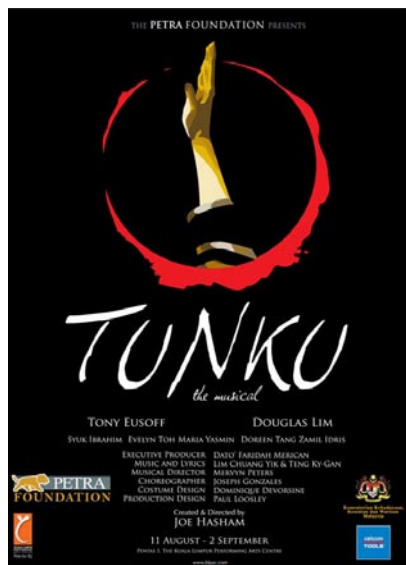


A bi-monthly newsletter of the Perak Heritage Society. For Members only.

## Greetings!



TUNKU The Musical.  
Information page 6.

You can take pride in the PHS “heritage wish tree” featured in the main section of *the Star*, 6th June and later, the *NST*, 25th June, even though your PHS was not given credit for it (tsk, tsk!). The ‘tree’ was the interactive element of our small but targeted (built) environment exhibition. As with Heritage, we have to learn more about our environment and care for it. Indeed, every single one of us must take the responsibility to re-cycle and re-use. See page 4 for more.

All Malaysia is geared up. The 50th anniversary of our Independence, *Merdeka* is creeping up on us. Come 31st August, we may look at the national flag, the *Jalur Gemilang*, with full emotions. We will also look anew at the Merdeka Stadium, which was built specially for the proclamation of Independence 50 years ago.

Merdeka Heritage Trust chairman, Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid told *the Star* that one reason for the restoration of the Merdeka Stadium is ‘to rekindle loyalty and patriotism in the heart of the younger generations’. The Stadium is set to become a new icon for Malaysia heritage. Efforts are made to restore it as close to the original as possible with the help of original drawings and old photographs. All additions and extensions will be removed; seating at the arena will be returned to its original capacity of 20,000 and the sprint tracks will be turf again. Most significantly, the podium where the Tunku proclaimed ‘**Merdeka**’ seven times will be re-built at the exact spot.

It is hard to think of our Independence without thinking about World War II and those whose lives have been profoundly affected by the hardship and personal losses. One extraordinary hero of the time is Sybil Kathigasu, whose memoir, *No Dram of Mercy*, tells us of her ordeal in the hands of the Japanese Secret Police, the Kempeitai. She may be left out of our school history text, but the spirit of her sacrifice and her humanity - an intangible heritage - remains vibrant.

That is why we decided to bring our members together in Papan to celebrate the 50th anniversary of *Merdeka* and to mark the end of WWII. For details, see next page.

The declaration of the fifty treasures of our National Heritage was all a show. In fact, there were three cultural shows held in conjunction with the announcement. The list of “treasures” is divided into three categories: building, object and performing art; the listing of these fifty treasures gives little comfort to heritage under threat. The Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage, now officially known as KeKKWa, has indicated there are some 800 “items” on its list, and each state has at least one. We await the next declaration. Read more on page 4.

Meanwhile, we have been advised by Badan Warisan that online application for heritage status is now on. See page 7. Make your nominations for national heritage. Perhaps, like the online and telephone poll for the new ‘seven wonders of the world’, your nominations can make a difference. You can only try, right?

**HAPPY MERDEKA DAY!** For a meaningful day, why don’t you pick one heritage site for a re-visit? Then, with a view to heritage and legacies, write to us your impression of the place and the changes you have noticed. The most interesting account received will be published in your Heritage News. You may get a suitable prize, too, like going on the next PHS heri.trail for free.

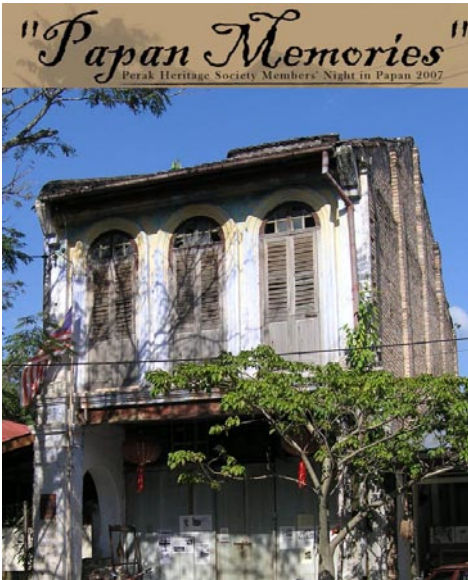
### PHS Committee

President : Law Siak Hong  
V-Pres. : Mohd Taib Mohamed  
Hon Sec : Lee Su Win  
Hon Treas : Lim Pui San  
Members : Charlie Choong  
                  Khaw Siok Choon  
                  Lim Bor Seng

### Editorial Committee

Lau Sook Mei  
Law Siak Hong  
Mohd Taib Mohamed  
Peter Vong  
Charlie Choong  
DTP : J Ad graphics

Views and opinions expressed by contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the Editorial Committee. Verification of facts and statistics are the responsibility of the respective writers.



**PHS Members' Night in Papan**

Come and feel the tranquility of the town at night. You'll see some atmospheric ruins in candlelight, dance performances and slide-shows. Buffet supper: local home-made specialities. Members, bring your friends and family for an extraordinary experience. Call Su Win for details and, reserve your place by booking and paying in advance. Admission by donation.

- Date            Saturday, 18 August
- Time            6.30 pm to 11 pm
- Venue          Sybil's Clinic Papan: No.74, Main Street , Old Papan.
- Rate            RM30 (members), RM35 (non-members),  
RM20 (under-18)
- Booking        Su Win: 012-288 6888 by 14 August

**Coming Heri.October!**

**PHS heri.trail:  
Surprising Chemor**

Come for some  
"best-kept" secrets.  
We'll enjoy Hari Raya tea  
in the kampong.  
Be warned, Chemor  
may not be the same again.  
Bookings now open!  
Sunday, 21 October  
8 am to 4 pm  
RM25 / RM40

**PHS heri.trail: New for the old Kampar**

With the UTAR campus in the new town of mixed development, Kampar is set to stop playing second fiddle in Kinta. But what will happen to the old town -- the heritage of its communities? We'll check out some of these sites.

- Date            Sunday, 9 September
- Time            8 am to 5 pm
- Meet           Ipoh Railway Station at 7.45 am. Car-pool and travel in convoy.
- Cost            Rm20 (members and children under-12),  
RM30 (non-members).
- Booking        Su Win: 012-288 6888 by 7 September

**PHS movie nite: MOVIE LOCATIONS & HERITAGE SITES**

Are you aware that most movie-makers choose, for location filming, places that are rich in heritage and Perak heritage sites have been a favourite? Your committee member, Charlie, was involved in building sets for the movies he wants to share with you. The movies will be shown in our meeting room.

**Programme:**

- 7 September      Fifty-Fifty (1989)
- 26 October        Indocine (1991), Oscar's Best Foreign Movie 1992
- 23 November     Beyond Rangoon

Admission by donation: RM10 per head, inclusive of light refreshments.  
Screening time: 8.15 pm

**Synopsis**

"Fifty/Fifty" is a comedy/action movie with the usual rebels trying to overthrow the dictator of a small island nation somewhere in South-East Asia . It is about two friends who are mercenaries, who find themselves working for opposing sides, but end up fighting for the same cause and the same girl. It stars Charlie Martin Smith, Peter Weller, Robert Hays and our Ramona Rahman and directed by Charlie Martin Smith. The movie was one of the first Hollywood movies to be made in Malaysia , and in Perak. It was filmed in 1989, shot mostly on location in Perak and Penang . (length of movie: 100 minutes)

**Email from Lynn ....**

*in response to HN4.2 & 4.3:*

Thanks for the newsletters, which are really very good and helpful. The level of precise information is high and the quality of the pictures excellent. They bring buildings and places to life. The Heri.News is a great source for local history.

It struck me that a great tool for the PHS would be a (or several) maps which located different ethnic/religious groups in different places, so that one could see how mixtures differed around Perak and then think a bit why those settlement patterns resulted. The religious institutions seemed to me to be a very easy way of getting at settlement.

**Email from Kong Lijie....**

*on her first PHS heri.trail.*

As a young adult, I am constantly forging ahead without actually stopping to reflect on the history of our nation or the legacies of our forefathers. I felt that visiting the past is a sheer waste of time. Then, I joined the heritage walk in Gopeng with my parents.

It was an eye-opener. Never have I seen or noticed these amazing architectural designs and details on buildings before. Buildings from different period were constructed and designed differently. The trip has taught me to think and reflect on how a place might have been in the past. What were in the mind of these pioneers when they created these sites? What about the families who inhabited these buildings, their past, lifestyle and traditions?

It was also good to embrace the history of my hometown and to see first hand the aged-old technique of preparing soy sauce in the traditional way. The trip has definitely instilled in me the values of preserving our heritage sites for the benefit of future generations. I couldn't think of a better way to end the day than by relaxing in the serenity of Adeline's rest house.

**Past Events****GOPENG ON SUNDAY**

On the old trunk road from Ipoh to Gopeng is Kampong Kepayang, a one-street town and "a microcosm of harmonious co-existence in Malaysia", noted Elizabeth Cardosa, the executive director of Badan Warisan Malaysia. We braved the five-foot-way of the derelict shop-houses to experience the threat of the constant rush of vehicles. The shop-houses have turned to their back lane for safe access.

After morning tea in Gopeng, our group of eleven was eager to start the walk. The market was bustling, the noodles stalls cramped with customers big and small. We admired the double-storey shop-houses with pictorial decorative stucco on the spandrel of the façade. The Chinese clan associations were real treats: at the Hainanese', the caretaker played a classic Chinese tune on the *er-hu* to send us off. The Tsen Lung Hakka Association impressed us by its unique architecture (in the Kinta Valley ) and its photo gallery.

Heri.trail-blazers were glad for the overcast sky as we walked the old street at the foot of the hillock, where government buildings overlooked the town. We admired the all-wood opera stage opposite the old temple, but lamented the extensions to the old temple and the inappropriate renewal of the epigraphy. We enjoyed the family-run traditional soy sauce factory, and caught a rare sight of an abandoned public toilet just outside the factory.

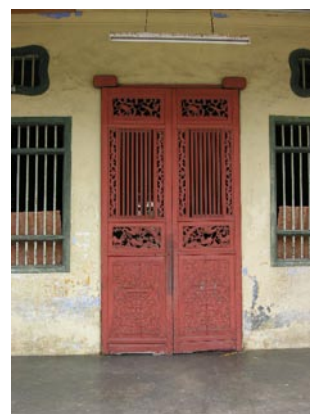
We lunched in Adeline's lodge, a country resort a short drive from Gopeng. It started to rain as we sampled local 'organic' durians for dessert. What a pity we could not go to the river to see the Raja Brooke butterflies. Perhaps, urbanites on the trail would return on their own to experience this wonder of nature?

**Photos of Gopeng**

*All photos this page: Avril McLeod*



At the Hakka Association.



Carved doors, High Street.



At the soy sauce factory.



Sculptured spandrel, Jalan Pasar.



*Throw them at us!*

**PHS WISH LIST**

FOR OUR OFFICE:

- Air-conditioners
- ~ 1.5hp window unit
- Office desk
- Book shelves
- Filing cabinets
- Laptop computer
- Scanner
- Printer
- LCD projector

**PHS SHONE AT THE IPOH GREEN CAMPAIGN**

It has been found that we are “gobbling up” the planet’s resources faster than they can be renewed. To save ourselves, we need to change our pattern of consumption. But what does it mean to “go green”? Simply, all of us must apply the principles of “3R’s: Reduce, Re-use and Re-cycle” for a sustainable environment.

PHS joined the environment-conscious in the Ipoh Parade Shopping Mall on World Environment Day, 5 June 2007. Tagged “Urban Conservation for Our Built Environment”, our exhibition was about applying the principles of 3R’s to heritage and urban conservation.

To engage visitors and shoppers, we created an interactive “wish tree”. On a paper “leaf”, visitors and shoppers could write their choice of heritage buildings for “re-cycling” and adaptive re-use, and tape it to the “tree” as a “wish”. This was fun and attracted the students who attended the re-cycling workshops. Shoppers took time to read the “leaves” and added their own.

There were some serious ideas. At the official opening, the Perak Urban and Local Government Committee chairman, YB Dato’ Chang Ko Youn wanted to re-use the FMS Bar and Restaurant as a museum. The Ipoh City Mayor, YBhg Dato’ Rafiai Hj Mokhtar had wished to turn the old Ipoh Post Office into an art gallery (as he told the press last December). An enlightened *heritager* wished to transform the Lam Looking Bazaar, razed in 2004, into a performance space.

We must thank the organizers: Perak State Government, Majlis Bandaraya Ipoh and Brunswick Industries Sdn Bhd for sponsoring our exhibition space. Credits go to Nick Coffill and Siak Hong, who designed and installed the exhibition; Nick is the heritage consultant who conceived the exhibition and the ‘wish tree’. Mohd Taib, who helped and attended the exhibition opening for PHS; and volunteers, Su Win, Mai, Houston and Barry who took turns minding the exhibits. For moral support from our *heri.friends*: Su-ming, Sook Mei and Chee Ming, thank you.

You will find the free hand-out on “the 3R’s” in this issue of your Heritage News.



Final touches to the show. Note the PHS wish tree. Photo : Mai Palmer.

**OUR NATIONAL HERITAGE**

By Law Siak Hong

The list of fifty treasures of our national heritage is a strange one.

Right from the start, the declaration of the fifty treasures of our national heritage suggests the involvement of a keen political will and an impossible scholarship.

Malaysia’s world natural heritage sites: the Kinabalu National Park and the Mulu National Park are listed under buildings. Under Objects are symbols of our sovereignty with heritage value beyond question or classification. Perhaps the most problematic of all is the intangible heritage. In this category, lesser known traditional cultural practices will be revived. Well and good, but at the expense of today’s popular culture, our living culture and heritage, is side-lined.

The Press had little to report. Yes, the full list appeared, but both the Malacca and Penang governments, of course, feel excluded. Penang State Tourism Development Committee chairman Teng Chag Yeow told *the Star*, “Neither the state government nor non-governmental organizations here were consulted prior to the finalization of the list.

**More photos of Gopeng**



Kampong Kepayang’s Masjid Ahmadiyah, 1905. Note the Chinese influence in the painted decoration. Photo : Mai Palmer.

We were not even aware of the criteria used for the list.” Interestingly, the Chief Minister of Malacca, Dato’ Seri Mohd Ali Rustam told the *Sin Chew Daily* that he wanted to see all Malacca heritage listed, as many as were submitted to the UNESCO in the town’s application for listing as world heritage site.

Then, days later, we were told by KeKKWa that some 800 more entries would follow. It was the first time we got a hint on the quantity, if not the merit, of the designated national heritage. In view of the negative response to the declaration, the Minister assured us all that each state would have at least one item declared as national heritage. You would think that each state should have many more while some states would have a common stake in the intangible heritage!

We cannot jump to conclusions. Despite the National Heritage Act, KeKKWa’s criteria for selection are still not apparent, except for the “indigenous” factor. In a multi-cultural society, elements of non-indigenous, mixed and adapted cultural heritage are everywhere to be seen. The Heritage List will have lots of them. Otherwise, the whole exercise would become a mockery of international dimension.

Heritage is about taking pride in our identity and our material culture. To ensure that heritage value is understood and enjoyed by all, we need to look at smaller bits attainable by all: iron gate and fencing, tissue dolly, *labu Sayong*, and *Tambun pomeloes*, for starters. Until and unless heritage is made accessible, there seems little hope for learning about the bigger picture and making decisions about what is heritage or not. That heritage is singularly the most important subject that is not a university course continues to bug me. Like dentistry and engineering, heritage must be a bread-winner for it to make an impact on our society at large. Banish the thought.

### **SAMPHENG: THE EVOLUTION OF BANGKOK’S CHINATOWN**

*Philip Golingai filed a story in the Star, 23 June, about Bangkok’s Teochew community in Sampheng. Law Siak Hong condensed it for you.*

*Sampheng: Bangkok’s Chinatown Inside Out*, is a study by Edward Van Roy, an economic anthropologist and a visiting fellow at Chulalongkorn University’s Institute of Asian Studies. Van Roy happens to be a 69-year old American married to a Thai with Chinese blood. The book offers the fascinating history of the Chinese Teochew community.

Bangkok was founded by the first king of the Chakri dynasty as the new Thai capital in 1782. That year, to resettle the Teochew community, Sampheng was established. It was a remote, under-developed down-river tract, a small area (2 sq km) by the Chao Phraya River. It was a place of exile. The settlers, Teochew merchant, ‘created a thriving settlement specializing in maritime trade between Siam and China’. Sampheng prospered and became the hub of Thailand’s present day commercial empire (owned by Thais of Chinese blood). While it is but a hollowed-out shell of its former self as Bangkok’s commercial hub, it remains the centre for Chinese embroidery and goldsmithing.

‘Sampheng is one the oldest, largest and most prosperous of overseas Chinese outposts... It is among the most successful in having adapted to the host culture while protecting and preserving its own ethnic integrity’, Van Roy is quoted. Sampheng is a distinctly Chinese place, where the mother tongue is Teochew. ‘Chinese food of the best quality and Chinese shrines are available’, notes Van Roy, who has been acquainted with this Chinatown since the 1970’s.

Like in all urban areas, planning may change picturesque Sampheng forever. An underground rail system in Sampheng with a station right in



Rusty old street name-plate,  
Kampong Kepayang.  
Photo : Charlie Choong.



Members admiring the photo  
gallery of the Tsen Lung Hakka  
Association.  
Photo : Charlie Choong.

### **Quotable Quote**

#### **On photojournalists**

‘The photojournalist as social historian has given us the most iconic of images that provide us our personal context as individuals who make up the peoples of Malaysia.’ -- *Perak Raja Muda, Raja Nazrin Shah, when he launched the ‘Photojournalism and Imaging of Modern Malaysia : Milestones in the Last 50 Years of Malaysia’ at Galeri Petronas, KL in April.*

#### **Loggers beware!**

The Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Abdullah Badawi encourages reforestation in logged areas for future logging. He emphasized that the federal government will take action against illegal logging and recalcitrant logging companies bent on destroying our natural grown forest -- *Sin Chew Daily, 4 JULY*



***A wish come true for KeKKWa -- here's history in song and dance!***

### **TUNKU The Musical**

Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (KLPac)

11 August - 2 September

Time: 8.30pm daily except 3pm on Sundays

(no shows on Mondays)

(Shows on 11, 15 & 19 Aug & 2 Sep are private shows)

A 50-year musical journey with 4 specific timelines:

Prologue - Merdeka Day

Act 1 - The 1965 separation

Act 2 - The 1969 riots

Epilogue - Malaysia 2007

Written by the duo who brought you the award-winning "Broken Bridges", Perak's Lim Chuang Yik and Teng Ky-Gan, **TUNKU The Musical** has all the colour, drama, excitement, anticipation, heartache, sorrow and uncertainty of that fateful Saturday morning, 31st August, 1957 and what transpired after. The musical will be expressed in song (20 original compositions), dance and historical footage. Music performed live by a 25-piece orchestra.

Executive Producer

DATO' FARIDAH MERICAN

Script, lyrics and music

LIM CHUANG YIK & TENG KY-GAN

Director

JOE HASHAM

Choreographer

JOSEPH GONZALES

Music Director

MERVYN PETERS

Leading performers

TONY EUSOFF, DOUGLAS LIM,

SYUK IBRAHIM, ZAMIL IDRIS,

MARIA YASMIN, DOREEN TANG

AND EVELYN TOH

Tickets: RM80, RM60 and RM40

(students, disabled & sr. citizens)

BOX OFFICE: (KLPac) 03-4047

9000 or (The Actors Studio @ BSC)

03-2094 9400

www.klpac.com



A display in the Museum.

Photo : Mohd. Taib Mohamed

The lovely village of Sungai Lembing. >

Photo : Mohd. Taib Mohamed

the middle of the district would bring in non-Chinese culture. Golangai observes that leading merchants in Chinatown support the proposal as they see tourism as the future of Sampheng. As for Van Roy, he regrets that Sampheng is losing its ancient (read heritage) flavour as it continues to modernise.

*Ed: Put Sampheng on your itinerary the next time you visit Bangkok before modernization harms its heritage qualities.*

## **ENCHANTING SUNGAI LEMBING**

By Mohd Taib Mohamed

Dubbed the El Dorado of the East, Sungai Lembing is 42km from Kuantan, the state capital of Pahang. Nestling in the hills, it is in a world of its own.

You can learn about Sungai Lembing's history at the Sungai Lembing Museum, which is managed by the Museums Department of the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage. The exhibits are informative. Here, you can see the door that leads to the world's largest, longest and deepest subterranean tin-mine, a mock-up of an officer's bedroom as well as an office with original period furniture and office equipment.

Tin-mining at Sungai Lembing is believed to have begun in pre-history. More recently, however, it was a Cambodian named Wan Muhammad, known locally as Tok Tangguk, who came to mine tin in 1868. As a tin-mining settlement, Sungai Lembing's days of glory sparked in 1906 when a British Company, Pahang Consolidated Company Ltd operated what soon became the world's largest lode mine for tin. It gained fame, internationally. Some 322km of underground tunnels, known as 'pangkang', were dug manually, with occasional use of explosive. The mining company was liquidated in 1986 and the settlement surrendered to the Pahang state the following year. The underground tunnels are sealed and out-of-bounds but a model of the tunnels can be seen in the museum. The super-structures of this industrial heritage such as the processing plant and workshops lay in stunning ruins, terraced like the mound of ancient temples.

Credits must go to the Kuantan Municipal Council for maintenance. The old town is lush and green. Original buildings have remained relatively intact and some are re-used. The officers' mess and the cinema are still standing. The clerks' club is now a kindergarten; the labourers' club, a restaurant. Quarters have become homes to former miners who have chosen to remain. Four old suspension bridges, for light traffic only, connect the villages to the town across the river, which gave the town its name. For posterity, the mining town should be given heritage status. Heritage tourism will keep the town and local services alive.



### A centennial gone wrong

The Perak Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry celebrated their centenary with a trade fair in Ipoh. *HN* observes a bad 'retro', and the sub-standard presentation was due largely to unprofessional planning. Sungai Siput's attempt to flavour its booth with history was shallow. Overall, the impression is of poor effort from most exhibitors.

### A Merdeka Story

R. Kalimuthoo, 82, who served our first Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman from 1957 to 1982, lives with a historic moment. He was the man who drove the Tunku to the Merdeka Stadium for the proclamation of Independence. Here's what he remembers: 'Among the things that the Tunku taught me was to lead a simple life and to be generous and kind, even when you only have a little'.

### Ancient cycads under threat

A popular ornamental plant with a striking trunk structure and palm-like leaves, cycads are primeval, an exceptional heritage plant. The 'Age of Cycads' was the Jurassic period, when they lived along-side the dinosaurs. Alarmingly, more than half the world's species of cycads are threatened. The main threats in Asia are habitat loss (through quarrying and deforestation) and removal of plants from the wild (collection) for trade. Look out for them on the slopes of the limestone hills in the Lenggong valley and the Kinta Valley.

### Batu Gajah: Lest We Forget

Since 1980, at God's Little Acre in Batu Gajah, the annual Remembrance Day has been held on the second Saturday in June to pay respect to foreign soldiers, local servicemen and civilians killed during the Emergency (1984-1960) and the Confrontation (1963-1965). The organizers want the event in the Perak tourism calendar but the Tourism Promotion Board has not responded to the matter. During the Emergency, civilian volunteers were trained to fight the communists. One of this Home Guard, Wan Abdul Rahim, who served in Kedah, has appealed to the authorities to recognize their sacrifices and give them survival money, as many of them are in need.

### Belum State Park gazetted

(Sun, 22 MAY): Together with a coalition of NGO's, PHS supported the Malaysian Nature Society's Belum-Temenggor campaign 2006. So it is good news that the Perak state government officially gazetted the Royal Belum as a state park on 5 May. The financial reward promised by the federal government under the 9th Malaysia Plan is meant to compensate for lost revenue (from logging). Worries remain as long as the state has not retracted its decisions to develop belts of commercial forestry along the East-West Highway and lay the proposed gas pipeline through Belum.

### "Heritage units" for Perak zones

(Star, Metro North, 29 JUN): Museums and handicraft centres in Perak fall under the purview of the state Culture, Arts and Heritage Department's director, Haji Mod Zaky Haji Din. Branch offices are being set up for three zones, in Tapah, Taiping and the headquarters, Ipoh. We wonder about the services and function of these offices, each with a staff of four. Are there employment opportunities for young school leavers in the local communities?

### Ipoh: Lorong Panglima revisited

(NST: 6 MAY) Just as some dilapidated houses are waiting to fall, Panglima Lane is drawing tourists from far and near. Why? It is the sole pedestrian-only street in Ipoh Old Town. You can hawk the lane, carefree, as you enjoy the century-old town-houses, and picture a time in the past when its residents (some say mistresses) lived amongst opium dens, gambling dens and mahjong clubs.

### Not strictly heritage...

What is the big deal about the new Wonders of the World and why limit the number to seven? This is not about world heritage but the might of 'popular' opinion. The new wonders were chosen by 100-million voters from around the world from a pre-selected 21 sites. Tour operators will take advantage of this. Sadly, the sites may be compromised by unsustainable mass tourism.

### Speak Out!

*Letter to the NST: 20 JUN from T.Y.S., Petaling Jaya.*

We must value our history and cultural. I would like to thank the prime minister for stating that Universiti Malaya will remain where it is and will not make way for a multi-billion ringgit commercial development. By allowing UM to stay where it is, we are saying that we value history and culture. It would be a sad day if everything that represents our history and heritage is destroyed just because a businessman thinks he can make billions out of the land on which our history stands. If this were to happen, then our playing fields, forest reserves and historical buildings would make way for development as the land is worth billions of ringgit. We must not let a few individuals destroy Malaysia's soul.

### National Heritage

'Badan Warisan Malaysia will continue to nominate buildings which we believe should be gazetted as National Heritage. We welcome members nominating any buildings you believe are of great cultural significance which should be included on the Heritage Register, especially those which are under threat of demolition, are rapidly deteriorating or in a grave state of dilapidation. We will be happy to work with you to nominate these buildings.' - *Elizabeth Cardoso, Executive Director, Buletin Badan Warisan Malaysia.*

## Preserving our Heritage for the Future

PHS, as we call ourselves, is a non profit-taking non governmental organization.

Our main aim is to promote heritage preservation and raise awareness of the natural and cultural heritage in our midst.

An elected committee runs a programme of activities for members and friends.

We network with individuals, groups and local communities for local knowledge.

We support information-gathering on 'hometown heritage'.

Heritage News (HN) is the vehicle for news, views and information to reach our readers.

Membership has its privileges; more information and application forms are available from our office.

Persatuan Warisan Perak, the Perak Heritage Society (Reg No:1254) was registered with the Registrar of Societies in August, 2003.

Office and  
Postal Address:  
85C, Jalan Sultan Abdul Jalil,  
30300 IPOH, Perak, Malaysia.  
(opposite the Syuen Hotel)

Telephone: Su Win  
012-288 6888  
Fax: 05-253 5507

E-mail:  
perakheritage36@gmail.com  
(new email address)

### **Kelantan: Museums in Gua Musang and return of *bunga emas***

Kelantan wants to exploit its rich history. To boost tourism for its districts, archaeological artifacts found in caves nearby will be housed in museums at Gua Musang. Also, as 'rightful owners', the state seeks the return of original *bunga emas* (tributes in gold, in the form of an ornamental plant) from Thailand. Prior to the 1909 Anglo-Siamese Treaty, the northern states of Kelantan, Terengganu and Kedah were obliged to deliver such tributes for friendship and alliance to the bordering kingdom of Siam, today's Thailand.

### **Langkawi designated UNESCO geo-park**

UNESCO listing means world recognition. On 1st June, the islands of Langkawi made history as the first national geo-park in South-East Asia, out of 52 geo-parks in the world. The decade-old concept of a UNESCO geo-park is to designate special areas for conservation, education in earth sciences and fostering local, sustainable ecology development.

### **Lunas town museum: Smelly old smoke-house re-used**

To Lunas, a rubber-town in Kedah, the conservation project was a practical grass-roots exercise in *muhibbah*. Restored and adapted as a museum, the old smoke-house has revived the town's past and given its community a newfound sense of pride. 80 school children created the exhibition on the history of the town for the museum, guided by "DIGI's Amazing Malaysian", Laurence Loh.

### **Machap Lama, Malacca: Mosque by non-Muslims**

The mosque was built in 1907 with 5,363 Straits Dollars donated by nearly one hundred non-Muslim Chinese and Indians from Malacca town, Kuala Pilah, Seremban, etc. In the Malacca style, the frescos are unmistakably Chinese and there is a stone plaque bearing names of the donors. This unique mosque deserves a Malaysia heritage status.

### **PAM to the fore**

Should a professional body like PAM, the Architects Institute of Malaysia, not be involved in the National Heritage Council? Conservation Committee chairman 2006-2007, Ar Mohd Zulhemlee An, stated in *the Sun* (9 APR): 'there are no clear guidelines to identify heritage buildings, it is 'up to personal opinion and interpretations... confusion over the definition of a heritage building' is partly to blame for the demolition of Bok House...' He offered to work with the ministry to come up with the guidelines.

### **Penang: Dilapidated buildings to be refurbished**

Would financial incentives package from the government encourage property owners and their custodians to list and conserve their heritage properties? With 5000 pre-war buildings in the inner-city, the Penang Island Municipal Council plans to bring in private sponsors to give a major facelift to the abandoned (and dilapidated) buildings (NST: 12 JUN) in return for rewards like free advertisement space. Well and good but what the buildings need are repairs and re-use.

### **Roving theatre tours the kampongs**

In June, with the support of the KekkWa, the Actors Studio toured Singaporean playwright, Alfian Sa'at's *Anak Bulan di Kampong Wa' Hassan*. It began in a kampong in Tanjong Malim, Perak. This one-man play is "about heritage, loss and modernization", telling stories of kampong life changed forever by and lost to urban development. It was staged outdoor in stripped-down settings, in six kampongs from Penang to Johor.

### **Taiping: Cable car to replace jeep ride up Bukit Larut?**

The State wants to privatize the Jeep service to Bukit Larut (Maxwell Hill) and build a cable car system to this hill resort despite objections from the people of Taiping to expanding the facilities on the hills. For sustainable eco-tourism, the number of visitors must match the holding capacity of its facilities. Building more facilities will degrade the environment and lose its natural appeal to tourists.