

**SPEECH FOR
SIGNING OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN
GEORGE TOWN WORLD HERITAGE INCORPORATED AND
PENANG GOLDSMITH ASSOCIATION (PENANG TA KAM HONG)
BY
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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
THURSDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2018 | 1:00 PM
41 LEBUH MUNTRI, 10450 GEORGE TOWN, PENANG**

(VIP SALUTATIONS)
Members of the Media
Ladies and Gentlemen

A very good afternoon to everyone. Thank you for being here with us this afternoon to witness the signing of an agreement for a conservation project between George Town World Heritage Incorporated, who is representing the Penang State Government, and the Penang Goldsmith Association (also known as Penang Ta Kam Hong).

As you may already know, there are 82 Category 1 heritage buildings within the George Town UNESCO World Heritage Site, and Penang Ta Kam Hong is a Category 1 building. The history of this elegant heritage building dates back to 1904 and the building has been here for more than a century.

Just like the human body, aged buildings also need special attention and care. I believe that everyone here understands that

cultural heritage is not restricted to buildings and architecture. Penang Ta Kam Hong, which houses the Wu Chin Temple, is one of the earliest occupational guilds established in George Town. It carries the history of goldsmith businesses, the stories of goldsmiths across generations, and holds a collection of artefacts that are still being preserved, and serving as the evidence of cultural heritage. Both artefacts and knowledge are the irreplaceable cultural capacity of the city that remain precious and require collective efforts for safeguarding.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Penang State Government has been relentlessly promoting the governance of sustainable development in recent years. GTWHI promotes the concept of a holistic conservation in cultural heritage safeguarding efforts. This means a conservation strategy that is not only for the building, but also the artefacts and the associated intangible values.

For the conservation project of Penang Ta Kam Hong, the Penang State Government will fund the execution of the conservation works, which includes an investigation of the building structure, development of measured drawings, and

technical instructions on the inventory of artefacts. These efforts will be conducted under the supervision of GTWHI.

We all know that safeguarding cultural heritage takes time and through multiple resources. With that, the Penang State Government is wholly committed to safeguarding our cultural heritage as we understand that there are values and knowledge to be passed down to the next generations. Therefore, I salute and respect the efforts contributed by the local communities and our elders. You have my promise that the Penang State Government will continue promoting and conducting heritage conservation works through GTWHI.

The cultural heritage of a city belongs to the people and its communities, so let's work hand in hand to ensure that our cultural heritage is safeguarded and preserved.

Before I end my speech, I would like to express my appreciation to Penang Ta Kam Hong for their efforts and care towards their building premises. I hope this project will be properly conducted so that it becomes a model example for sustainable conservation of cultural heritage.

Thank you.