

**WELCOMING SPEECH FOR
VIDEO DOCUMENTATION PROJECT LAUNCHING CEREMONY:
THE ARTISANS AND PRACTITIONERS OF GEORGE TOWN
BY
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MAJESTIC THEATRE, GEORGE TOWN**

(VIP salutations)
Members of the Press
Ladies and Gentlemen

A very good morning to all our distinguished guests. Thank you for attending this launching ceremony of the Video Documentation Project on The Artisans and Practitioners of George Town on this lovely Sunday morning.

This Video Documentation Project was initiated by my predecessor, Ms Lim Chooi Ping back in 2015 to document and archive the intangible cultural heritage of George Town. For the past three years, George Town World Heritage Incorporated and Image Farm Productions, together with the selfless support from our artisans, craftsmen and communities, have successfully produced 29 high quality documentary videos featuring 30 artisans and practitioners of 15 trades at a total cost of RM795,000.

When Ms Tang Siang Ching from Image Farm showed me the raw footages back in 2016, it struck me on how much we should do, yet how little we have done, in safeguarding and documenting the processes and productions of the artisans and craftsmen's knowledge and skills. Since then, our team has been even more determined to engage a more ambitious, innovative and comprehensive effort to safeguard our communities, artisans and traders.

During the process, it is very sad that some of the artisans and craftsmen we interviewed have left us. The mahjong maker Mr Lim Soo Koon passed away in 2016 and watch repairer Mr Cheah Hon Khim in 2017. Heritage safeguarding is a race against time, and I urge for the support and collective action from more people in doing more for the communities.

With new technologies such as smartphones becoming more common in our daily lives, video documentation is a process that everyone can engage in. We urge you to take the first step to safeguard our shared cultural heritage starting from today by doing something simple such as documenting the stories in your house, or in your neighbourhood and communities.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to our partner in this project, Image Farm Productions, as well as Panasonic and Majestic Theatre for their kind generosity and assistance. I would like to again offer my thanks to all our honoured guests, in particular Yang Amat

Berhormat Tuan Lim Guan Eng, Chief Minister of Penang for his continuous support and commitment on safeguarding cultural heritage of George Town and Penang.

My utmost respect to all our unsung heroes and heroines, the heritage artisans and practitioners of George Town, and their supportive families and friends here. Thank you for your perseverance all these years. You have inspired me and my team to continue our efforts, and we hope you will enjoy this video documentation project launching ceremony and screening.

Thank you.