

**WELCOMING REMARKS FOR  
GEORGE TOWN UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE 10TH ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION AND GEORGE TOWN HERITAGE CELEBRATIONS 2018  
BY  
DR ANG MING CHEE  
GENERAL MANAGER OF GEORGE TOWN WORLD HERITAGE  
INCORPORATED  
SATURDAY, 7 JULY 2018 | 5:30PM  
PENANG YOUTH CENTRE BASKETBALL COURT, LEBUH ACHEH,  
GEORGE TOWN, PENANG**

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(VIP SALUTATIONS)

Respectable Members of the Community  
Members of the Press  
Ladies and Gentlemen

*Bandar George Town bandar bersejarah,  
Nilai unggul sejagat dipelihara,  
Tapak warisan tempat mencurah,  
Serlahkan potensi generasi muda.*

Good evening and a warm welcome to everyone at this very special, meaningful, and important event held to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of George Town's listing as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the opening ceremony of George Town Heritage Celebrations 2018.

The pantun that I've just recited praises George Town as a heritage city with its outstanding universal values being safeguarded. There is also much potential for the future generations to explore and give back to the George Town World Heritage Site. It fits the theme for this year's Celebrations, which is 'POTENTIAL - Of the Past, In the Present, For the Future', acknowledging our past, appreciating what we have now and exploring our potential in moving forward.

As rightfully showcased in the ongoing 10th Anniversary Exhibition titled 'George Town: Beautiful and Irregular' held at the UAB Building in Gat Lebu China, we remain a dynamic cosmopolitan town since it was founded 232 years ago. Generations before us have exchanged goods, ideas, traditions, flavours, and sounds, and along the way, learnt to understand and respect our diversity and celebrate our similarities. Unique George Town cultures such as port culture, food culture, youth culture, and print culture - and now the world heritage culture - have been developed and flourished.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

These past experiences enrich our identity as people of George Town and Penangites. We are proud to inherit these traditions, living expressions, monuments, and objects, and we also faced ups and downs in conserving and safeguarding these cultural heritage. The inscription of George Town as a UNESCO World Heritage Site on 7 July 2008, in particular, has been the important game changer that enabled us, the custodian of George Town's heritage, to mobilise

resources and secure opportunities in conserving, protecting and safeguarding our cultural heritage.

I hereby wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Chief Minister of Penang YAB Tuan Chow Kon Yeow, the State Government of Penang and the Board of Directors of George Town World Heritage Incorporated for their continued strong support for us to work as the site manager with the local communities.

I am also indebted to Dato' Zuraina Majid and her team who have fought hard to secure the UNESCO inscription for George Town. Thanks to Jabatan Warisan Negara, led by Heritage Commissioner Dato' Dr Zainah Ibrahim, for being the most supportive state party over the past 10 years in helping us to develop the management plan for George Town.

A special dedication goes to YB Tuan Lim Guan Eng, who was the chairman of George Town World Heritage Incorporated from 2009 to 2018, for envisioning an independent and efficient site manager office as the sustainable approach for world heritage management. It is also due to the contributions from our first General Manager Dato' Maimunah Mohd Sharif, my predecessor Pn Lim Chooi Ping and our team in George Town World Heritage Incorporated that all these hard work, events, programmes and workshops are made possible.

We are lucky to have long-term working partners, in particular the Penang Island City Council, Penang Global Tourism, Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO and all our local communities and sponsors for always being so generous and supportive in offering your support and for taking up the ownership to make this city better and more cultural friendly.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank each and every one of you, including those who are not able to attend this event today, from the bottom of my heart for guiding, helping and coaching us to be one of the most active and best performing site managers in the world. We really hope the programme line-up for this year's Celebrations, which includes community workshops featuring crafts, food and games, dances, music, performances, site excursions, exhibition and more, meets the expectations of celebration-goers.

Last but not least, I seek a round of applause for the very committed, hardworking and talented team of 400 staff and volunteers in the turquoise T-shirts and also the communities. They have made the Celebrations possible after nine months of planning, careful curation and programme development. Together, we will continue to do our best for the George Town World Heritage Site, rain or shine, and we seek your continuous guidance and support.

I will end my speech by inviting you to watch a pre-recorded video featuring several individuals who wish to extend their congratulatory remarks to George Town. Enjoy yourselves, have fun and thank you very much.