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GEORGE TOWN UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE 10TH ANNIVERSARY - CELEBRATING A DECADE'S JOURNEY OF SAFEGUARDING CULTURAL HERITAGE

GEORGE TOWN: The diverse and rich multicultural heritage of George Town took centre stage at the Street Festival of George Town Heritage Celebrations 2018, marking the 10th anniversary of George Town's listing as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Themed 'POTENTIAL - Of the Past, In the Present, For the Future', the Celebrations organised by George Town World Heritage Incorporated explored George Town's potential in moving forward based on its past narratives and current experiences. POTENTIAL also contains the word "ten", representing the 10th anniversary of George Town as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since its inscription on 7 July 2008.

The Street Festival, held on Saturday, 7 July 2018 from 6pm to 11pm, featured 25 community workshops in which the local communities showcased their culture and traditions through food, games, crafts and language. The workshops comprised four sections - Auspicious Celebrations, Handmade Crafts, Daily Delights and Leisure Activities.

The communities which participated in the Street Festival were: Badan Warisan Masjid Melayu Lebuah Aceh Pulau Pinang, Malaysian Pakistani League Penang, Nattukottai Nagarathar Heritage Society, North Malaysia Malayali Samajam, Penang Hainan Association, Penang Siamese Association, Penang Teochew Association, Masjid Kapitan Keling Qaryah Committee and Indian Muslim Community Organisation Malaysia, Gujarati Samaj Penang, Kwangtung and Tengchow Association, Malaysian-Japanese Society, State Chinese (Penang) Association, Penang Hindu Association, Warisan Balik Pulau, Liga Muslim Pulau Pinang, Penang Eurasian Association, Penang Hakka Association, Sikh Naujawan Sabha Malaysia (Penang Branch), Penang Hokkien Association, Malaysian-German Society and Telugu Association of Malaysia, Penang Branch.

Traditional performing arts and folk dances were also performed at the event's Main Stage in Armenian Park and Dance Floor at Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling, with celebration-goers joining in and showing off their dance skills.

George Town World Heritage Incorporated general manager Dr Ang Ming Chee said George Town has remained 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.

"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," she said, adding that the UNESCO World Heritage Site inscription on 7 July 2008 was a game changer in conserving, protecting and safeguarding George Town's cultural heritage.



**GEORGE
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MELAKA & GEORGE TOWN
Historic Cities of
the Straits of Malacca

A launching ceremony was also held to unveil the 10th Anniversary Commemorative Plaque installed at the Armenian Park, celebrating 10 years of progress since the UNESCO World Heritage Site inscription for Melaka and George Town: Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca.

The Celebrations also include site excursions to eight places of worship - St. George's Church, Church of the Assumption, Kapitan Keling Mosque, Kramat Dato Koyah, Nattukottai Chettiar Temple, Police Gurdwara Sahib Penang, Acheen Street Malay Mosque and Thai Pak Koong Temple.

George Town Heritage Celebrations 2018 was organised with the endorsement of the Penang Government, and in cooperation with the Penang Island City Council, Penang Global Tourism and Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO.

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