

**SPEECH FOR
PRESS CONFERENCE ON TEXTILE CONSERVATION COMMUNITY TRAINING
(A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT BY GEORGE TOWN WORLD HERITAGE
INCORPORATED, HONG KONG STREET TOW BOH KEONG TEMPLE AND
ARTLAB AUSTRALIA)**

**BY
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TUESDAY, 22 JANUARY 2019 | 2:30 PM
HONG KONG STREET TOW BOH KEONG TEMPLE, GEORGE TOWN**

(VIP Salutations)
Members of Media
Ladies and Gentleman

Good afternoon and thank you for attending the press conference for Textile Conservation Community Training for the local community, an initiative which is **the only one of its kind** in the country. The training is a collaborative project by George Town World Heritage Incorporated (GTWHI), Hong Kong Street Tow Boh Keong Temple and ArtLab Australia.

This project is facilitated by GTWHI, bringing local and international resources together to conduct textile conservation and at the same time enhance the capacity of the local community in managing textile artefacts. This way, it shortens the time to repair and conserve the textile artefact as well as provides the chance for local volunteers to learn the conservation skills and techniques from international experts, which creates a win-win situation.

ArtLab Australia is a conservation centre which is located in Adelaide, South Australia. During an official visit to Australia with YB Tuan Lim Guan Eng in 2016, I had gotten to know about ArtLab for the first time. With their professionalism and extensive experience, it will definitely be an ideal collaboration for George Town World Heritage Incorporated on the education of object conservation. We are indeed delighted to know that ArtLab has responded favourably to our invitation and are willing to share their knowledge on object conservation with Penangites. On 11 December 2017, GTWHI also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ArtLab and this project is the outcome of the cooperation from the memorandum.

The conductor of this workshop is Ms Kristin Phillips, the Principal Textiles Conservator from ArtLab Australia. She has at least 30 years of experience in textile conservation, and is responsible for preserving and conserving the artefacts at the art galleries and museums of South Australia, including the Art Gallery of South Australia, South Australian Museum, State Library of South Australia and more. She also provides conservation



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services for overseas clients and is involved in conservation programmes and trainings in countries such as Indonesia, India, East Timor and Malaysia.

Ms Kristin Phillips has worked on numerous textile conservation projects, including a conservation project at Indira Gandhi Memorial Museum for the clothes worn by Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi when they were assassinated, and the Eureka Flag which was designed during the Eureka Rebellion in 1854. She was also involved in several conservation projects on Chinese banners, such as treatment for the custom-made Beechworth Chinese Banner dating back to 1873 at Burke Museum, Australia.

There will be 11 local participants who will be involved in the voluntary work to learn textile conservation techniques from Ms Kristin Phillips. Coming from various backgrounds, the volunteers include cultural practitioners, the media, students from art institutions, archaeology postgraduate students, representatives from the temple and also staff from GTWHI. I hope they benefit from this workshop, and will play a role in the local development of textile conservation and preservation, as well as raise public awareness.

Lastly, I would like to thank the State Government of Penang, Hong Kong Street Tow Boh Keong Temple, ArtLab Australia, Ms Kristin Phillips and the participants for their effort and contribution, allowing GTWHI to be able to conduct this project successfully.

Thank you.