

**WELCOMING REMARKS FOR
GEORGE TOWN UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE 10TH ANNIVERSARY
EXHIBITION
'GEORGE TOWN: BEAUTIFUL AND IRREGULAR EXHIBITION' OPENING
CEREMONY
BY
DR ANG MING CHEE
GENERAL MANAGER OF GEORGE TOWN WORLD HERITAGE INCORPORATED
THURSDAY, 14 JUNE 2018 | 10:00AM
BANGUNAN UAB, GAT LEBUH CHINA, 10300 GEORGE TOWN, PENANG**

(VIP SALUTATIONS)

Members of the Press

Ladies and Gentlemen

A very good morning to all of you. Welcome and thank you for attending the Opening Ceremony of the George Town UNESCO World Heritage Site 10th Anniversary Exhibition titled 'George Town: Beautiful and Irregular'.

My respected friends and communities,

“What is George Town, and how has it developed over the past 10 years?”

I think it is time for us to know our town a bit better, so we can celebrate the honour of a decade as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This exhibition aims to look at our past, to understand ourselves, and plan for our future. The exhibition showcases the rich built and living cultural heritage of George Town through interactive and creative means.

The title “Beautiful and Irregular” was inspired by a letter written by Augustus Prinsep to his wife when he saw Penang for the first time in 1829 from the deck of the ship that was taking him to Australia, and I quote,

“After a voyage of about 13 days we came in sight of Penang, or, as it is otherwise called, Prince of Wales’s Island; and the captain intending to dispose of part of his cargo here, we stood for the inner passage, the port and town lying on that side. It was about 8 o’clock in the morning; the island presented a most **beautiful and irregular** outline, enveloped in those delicate tints of grey, which, as the sun arose through a humid atmosphere, changed to a beautiful pink.”

Ladies, Gentlemen and Friends,

Since its inception, George Town has been a dynamic cosmopolitan town, where not only goods were exchanged, but also ideas, traditions, flavours, and sounds. People from around the globe and all walks of life have gathered in George Town to form a community of movers and shakers.

This exhibition showcases the past, present, and future of George Town through the lens of culture and heritage. Several cultures developed in early George Town: port culture, food culture, youth culture, and print culture, they continue to be a part of George Town today as much as they were yesterday, and will carry us into tomorrow. The World Heritage Site inscription on 7 July 2008 has highlighted these cultures and the George Town's communities. As members of these communities, we have striven to conserve and safeguard George Town and celebrate its irregularities.

Please allow me to take this opportunity to thank the Penang State Government for their unwavering commitment in safeguarding George Town's cultural heritage. Thank you YAB CM Chow Kon Yeow for your support on GTWHI's efforts as the site manager for George Town UNESCO World Heritage Site.

I also wish to extend my appreciation for the strong collaboration with our partners - Khazanah Nasional Berhad for sponsoring the venue, sharing of content and in-kind sponsorship from the Penang State Museum, LUMA, Centre for Global Archaeological Research of Universiti Sains Malaysia, Image Farm Productions, Studio Good Think and also Think City towards this exhibition.

I would also like to congratulate and extend my gratitude to my team who is behind this exhibition: Charlotte Looram, Ng Xin Yi and Sim Jun Hui for curating, planning, researching and developing this exhibition since October last year. We are very lucky to receive the professional support from Averyn and Lai for realising our concepts with mind-blowing executions.

I also thank the gallery sitters, translators, proofreaders, copywriters, content contributors, and especially the communities for sharing with us their knowledge, time and experiences.

Lastly, can I ask all of you who are here to take a lot of pictures, and share them on your social media and help us to invite and encourage visitors to this exhibition.

Admission is free and the exhibition is open from 11am till 7pm daily except Mondays. We look forward to welcoming you here and join us in the mission to continue safeguarding our heritage in this very beautiful and irregular George Town. Thank you.