

**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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PENANG TOURISM DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE, CULTURE AND ARTS  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
TUESDAY, 22 JANUARY 2019 | 2:30 PM  
HONG KONG STREET TOW BOH KEONG TEMPLE, GEORGE TOWN**

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(VIP SALUTATIONS)  
Members of the Media  
Ladies and Gentleman

A very good afternoon to everyone. George Town World Heritage Incorporated (GTWHI) is a state government agency that was established in 2010 to manage the George Town UNESCO World Heritage Site. GTWHI, in the past few years, has been promoting and educating the public on object conservation.

The Paper Conservation Studio of GTWHI and the Heritage Conservation Department of the City Council of Penang Island have also collaborated to restore and conserve building plans from the British colonial period, and at least 883 sets of building plans have been conserved. Since 2016, the Paper Conservation Studio has also been organising paper conservation workshops every year for the public to learn basic conservation skills.

Through the collaboration between ArtLab Australia and Hong Kong Street's Tow Boh Keong Temple, GTWHI is able to organise the first textile conservation community training in the country, which can be considered as a milestone for GTWHI in the promotion of object conservation education.

The State Government of Penang is glad to see GTWHI establishing a partnership with international experts, providing a chance for the local community to learn basic textile conservation skills. It is rare to find textile conservators locally, and there are many precious textile collections by the local community that require conservation. Therefore, this project aims to enhance the local community's understanding in textile conservation, helping them to be actively engaged in the conservation process.

The objectives of this training are to promote the sharing of knowledge, skills and techniques on textile conservation, enhance the local community's skills and capacity in managing textile artefacts, prolong the life of textile artefacts through better conservation management and raise public awareness on the importance of textile conservation.



**GEORGE TOWN**  
WORLD HERITAGE  
INCORPORATED

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

This project, which is sponsored by the State Government of Penang at the cost of RM130,000, will be implemented from 15 January till August 2019. Through this project, the State Government of Penang hopes the relationship and cooperation with our sister city of Adelaide, Australia could be further strengthened. This training also places Penang as a leading player in textile conservation in the effort to develop local talents in the field of conservation.

Our gratitude and appreciation go to ArtLab Australia for sending Ms Kristin Phillips, their Principal Textiles Conservator to Penang to share her knowledge with our volunteers, and to Hong Kong Street's Tow Boh Keong Temple for kindly providing their 119-year-old Eight Immortals and Nine Emperor Gods cloth banner as an important textile artefact which will be conserved in this training programme.

Lastly we also specially thank Dato' Seri Choot Ewe Seng, the advisor of Hong Kong Street's Tow Boh Keong Temple and their committee members for their full support in this project. I wish this project every success and we look forward to the completion of the banner restoration by August this year!