

ICOMOS ISC on Shared Built Heritage

2014 Study Tour and Symposia in South-East Asia

joint report by

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The ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Shared Built Heritage (SBH) organised a Study Tour, Symposia and series of Round Table meetings in South East Asia between 13 and 24 April 2014. Historic cities visited were UNESCO World Heritage “Melaka Straights” jointly inscription of George Town and Melaka in Malaysia, and Bandung in the Java highlands of Indonesia.

In addition to representatives from each host country, delegates came from Australia, Germany, China, Japan, Poland and Canada. The joint members of ISCs SBH and CIVVIH who participated were Claus-Peter Echter, Siegfried Enders and Sue Jackson-Stepowski.

The South East Asia cities’ visits were organised in cooperation with ICOMOS Malaysia, State of Malaka, State of Penang, City of George Town, ICOMOS Indonesia and the City of Bandung, as assisted by several ‘not-for-profit’ associations.

As always we had special access to sites normally inaccessible to the general public - viewings inside premises undergoing restoration (discussion on the how, why, materials and problems), inner workings of religious places, skilled craftsmen’s workshops, and adaptive re-used buildings to many and varied new uses. We experienced local foods, tea ceremonies, elegant dinners and participated in local activities. Particular attention this time focused upon integrating arts, site interpretation and cultural programmes as part of historic precincts sustainability and how to engage younger generation and use start-up small businesses. Walking around the historic precincts with our local colleagues provided wonder insights that normally a casual person would be oblivious.

The symposia and meetings sought to reflect on the treatment and conservation of Shared Built Heritage in these historic cities and for Shared Built Heritage generally in Asia, Australia, and the Pacific region. The management of heritage precincts in the face of globalised development pressures became the principal theme of the symposia and meetings. A key question was “How is it possible to keep heritage precincts alive?” The challenge is to engender local pride, to encourage the next generation to take the lead, to incorporate new “start-up entrepreneurism”, and how to raise skill levels for maintenance and repairs. Another key issue was to keep the historic cities and precincts liveable for the local people and not become dead places due to over concentration of, or over-reliance upon, tourism to drive local economies.

Presentations were given by joint ISC SBH & CIVVIH members on

* Siegfried Enders *‘The Role of ICOMOS ISC SBH’ and on a case study: Swakopmund, Namibia’*,

* Sue Jackson-Stepowski spoke about the case study *‘Broken Hill. The ‘hill’ that refused to break: cultural tourism – renaissance of a mining town’*, and

* Claus-Peter Echter provided an update on *‘World Cultural Properties and Preventive Monitoring. Preventive Monitoring, a task of ICOMOS in the consulting engagement for the World Heritage Committee’*.

During the symposia the audience listened to presentations related to several types of shared built heritage, urban conservation and programmes underway in Melaka, Penang, Bandung and Wuhan, plus in other continents: in Lunenburg Canada and in Europe in Torun, Warsaw and Gdansk. The host cities expressed the need for advisory participation in planning and asked the group of ICOMOS experts to provide advice about the state of conservation and management of World Heritage Sites, historic precincts and buildings.

The Study Tour in the three cities concluded with discussions: in Melaka with the Heritage Commissioner and Malaysia representative on the World Heritage Committee, Professor Emeritus Datin Paduka Zuraina Majid; in George Town with the Chief Minister of Penang State, Mr Lim Guan Eng; and in Bandung with the City Mayor, Mr Ridwan Kamil, and city officials formulating historic precincts’ guidelines - we express our gratitude for their meeting with us.

The Study Tour was made possible by everyone involved. We acknowledge their energetic participation, and thank the various sponsors, organisations and NGOs whose co-operation and inputs culminated in making the Study Tour so positive and successful.



ISC SBH Secretary John Ward (Canada) on Lunenburg World Heritage village as an example of Shared Built Heritage



Banding presentations held in the Mayor's traditional Meeting House (sjs) and included historic precincts such as the Gedung State Conservation Area



Claus-Peter Echter and Sue Jackson-Stepowski with the President of the newly formed ICOMOS Malaysia, Dato Ar Haji Hajeedar Abdul Majid, at the meeting with Bandung City Mayor, Mr Ridwan Kamil held in the City's Traditional Meeting House (photo: John Ward ICOMOS Canada)



SBH delegation with the Mayor of Bandung, Mr Ridwan Kamil, and City planning officials and NGO representatives in the City's Traditional Meeting House (photo: Sue Jackson-Stepowski)



With Bandung City Mayor,
Mr Ridwan Kamil
in the City's traditional
West Java Meeting House

(photo: Sue Jackson-Stepowski)



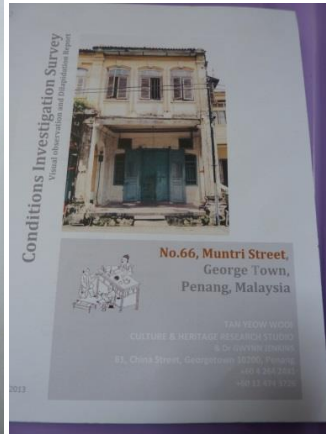
Round Table Meeting chaired by
Malaysia representative on the World
Heritage Committee, Professor
Emeritus Datin Paduka Zuraina Majid
(photo: Sue Jackson-Stepowski)



Inspecting shop house adaption in Melaka WH precinct
(photo: Sue Jackson-Stepowski)



Retaining traditional skills in George Town WH precinct
(photo: Sue Jackson-Stepowski)



George Town WH shop house adaptive reuse project - explaining the techniques and materials conservation approach (sjs)



SBH delegates prior to meeting with the Chief Minister of Penang State, Mr Lim Guan Eng, at the restored plantation "Suffolk House".

(photo: ICOMOS Malaysia colleague)

NOTE Suffolk House restoration was assisted by Australia ICOMOS members and Aus Heritage



SBH delegates with NGOs and Agencies' representatives at the George Town symposia, Penang State, Malaysia

(photo: Jack Ong of the George Town World Heritage Authority)



In the George Town World Heritage precinct SBH inspected the *The Blue Mansion* (Cheong Fat Tze Mansion) adapted to a boutique hotel (photos: Sue Jackson-Stepowski)



Bandung intangible and cultural activities – our visit coincided with *West Java Day* – Isb members earning how to do West Java traditional attire. (photos: Sue Jackson-Stepowski)



Bandung CBD historic precinct tour of its Art Deco buildings – this is *The Savoy Hotel* (photo: Sue Jackson-Stepowski)



Bandung in the gardens of the West Java Provincial Offices : Mrs and Mr KB Tong (ICOMOS Malaysia), with our marvelous University of West Java tour guide (sjs)