

Project Report for fiscal 2012

Urban Conservation Network  
in Asia and Its Future:

# Heritage, Cultural Identities and Asian Dynamism

October 2013

Nara Machizukuri Center Inc.

# Foreword

Nara Machizukuri Center Incorporated Association has supported urban conservation activities in Asia and has struggled to build up a network among NGOs. This year we had a new program “Urban Conservation Network in Asia and Its Future: Heritage, Cultural Identities and Asian Dynamism” with the support of The Asian Neighbours Program by The Toyota Foundation (Public Interest Incorporated Foundation). We have conducted a preliminary survey in Myanmar between 22th and 25th November 2012 and have organized an international conference for three days between 12th and 14th January 2013, thanks to the cooperative support of Penang Heritage Trust (PHT), an organization who we have had an exchange with since 1991, and Lestari Heritage Network.

For this conference, there were approximately 120 individual participants and 20 groups, from 9 countries and region: Malaysia, Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia, Korea, China, Taiwan and Japan. For detailed report of the conference, please refer to the relevant section of this report. Here, I wish to recite the speech that I made in the first day’s welcome party.

Our organization was established in 1979. And in 1991 we visited PHT for the first time. And then, we linked with international network for urban conservation movements in Asia, and learned from their experiences. This time, 20 years later, we need new strategies to keep up. We hope to meet again together all members of our friends in Asia. And so, we have to make a strong network throughout Asia. We hope to make the Penang Declaration to create a new movement for urban conservation on the final. I hope success in this symposium for future activities.

Professor Yoshifumi Muneta from Kyoto Prefectural University, who gave the keynote speech, said that, as a “New trends in 4 fields of Heritage Conservation”, an emphasis is put not only on the heritage site but also on the community who support the site and that the conservation activity initiated by citizen is becoming wide-spread. Participating NPOs and NGOs also spoke passionately about the situation of their heritage conservation and difficulties.

Because the activity of NGO is restricted by the government in some countries, we could not resolve the Penang Declaration, which was aimed to confirm the direction of the future heritage conservation in Asia. However, we all agreed on the philosophy of this Declaration and we decided to create a new network called Asia Heritage Network (AHN), and to work more closely with each other, including more information exchange via internet and other digital media.

What was most impressive to me throughout the conference was that the women in Asia were very powerful and that they were communicating with each other freely in English, beyond the national boundaries and with the recognition towards their diversity.

I would like to give my sincere thanks to The Toyota Foundation, PHT, Lestari Heritage Network and voluntary staff, Hotel Love Lane, everyone who has given us their support and all the participants, for making this conference a successful one.

This report intends to evaluate past activities of Asian network and consider the future as results of the Penang conference. I wish this program will contribute to map out a new strategy for urban conservation in Asia where has been dynamically changing.

October 2013

Masahiro Muro

Chairman, Nara Machizukuri Center Inc.

# Contents

1. PROJECT OUTLINE	• • • 1
2. INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF NARA MACHIZUKURI CENTER	
- 1. HISTORY OF EXCHANGE	• • • 3
- 2. VISITING YANGON, MYANMAR	• • • 5
3. OUTLINE OF INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM (PENANG, MALAYSIA)	
- 1. TIMETABLE	• • • 8
- 2. PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS	• • • 11
- 3. RAPPORTEUR NOTES FOR SYMPOSIUM	• • • 12
- 4. PHOTOS	• • • 26
4. REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM	
- 1. REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM - RESULTS	• • • 33
- 2. SHARED RECOGNITION FOR “PROTECTING THE TOWN” IN RAPIDLY-CHANGING ASIA	• • • 35
5. FUTURE PROSPECTUS	
- 1. FOR A NEW NETWORK OF HERITAGE CONSERVATION IN ASIA	• • • 39
- 2. CULTURAL HERITAGE, CULTURAL IDENTITY AND DYNAMISM IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION	• • • 43

# 1. PROJECT OUTLINE

## Project summary

In order to conserve urban heritage in Asian, which are the symbols of ethnicity, history and cultural identities of those cities and towns in Asia, Nara Machizukuri Center (NMC) has been involved in exchange programs with other non-profit organizations (NPOs) in Asia dedicated to urban conservation, initially supporting the historical heritage of Penang in 1991, then went on to form Asia and West Pacific Network for Urban Conservation (AWPNUC) with other NPOs. The network has expanded as groups from Chiang Mai, Thailand and Seoul, Korea have joined. After the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami in December 2004, NMC provided a support to the group trying to rehabilitate the heritage in Aceh in Indonesia, which was the most damaged area.

Despite a series of such effort, the urban heritage in Asia is facing the biggest challenge of survival due to the recent economic growth of Asian countries. Therefore, as well as assessing the foregoing activities, there is a need to look towards the future and construct a “new conservation strategy that can respond to the dynamism in Asia” . In countries that are expected to introduce the market economy, such as Myanmar, there is a need to establish a conservation system before the heritage is destroyed and, for that, the network also needs to reach out to those countries.

In this project, groups and organizations from different regions in Asia gather in Penang, which is the base of the urban conservation network in Asia, to exchange ideas and information, as well as creating a proposal from two new perspectives: “Conservation of historical communities including intangible cultural properties” and “succession of ethnic identities” . Also the project will provide a support to the conservation activities in new countries, including a special invitation for the newly established Yangon Heritage Trust in Myanmar to participate in the meeting. The project will try to fully utilize Facebook and other social network media to publicize the outcome of the project and to strengthen the network.

## Challenges in Asia

- Continuing destruction of urban heritage and communities

It is expected that, with China and India leading the growth, the economy in Asia will rapidly expand. And in the process of this growth and expansion, it is also expected that the urban heritage in Asia that has existed for a couple of thousand years will be destroyed rapidly. With the destruction of such heritage, the communities and intangible living heritage will be destroyed accordingly. It is a challenge to preserve and succeed such cultural and historical properties under the dynamism of Asia.

- Loss of ethnic and cultural identities in cities

The wave of urban development is quickly reaching even small cities around Asia and they are losing ethnic and cultural identities that have colored different cities and towns. It is a challenge to regain ethnic and cultural identities in each region and recreate unique urban space.



- Creating an autonomous economic foundation and employment with local resources

Against the spread of global economy, there is a need to create an autonomous economic foundation, utilizing local human resources, ideas, skills, climate and natural environment, history and culture. Likewise, there is also a need to create jobs through small business, community trades, barter market, hand-made products and traditional craftsmanship.

### **Expected social Impact**

- Strengthening the network of citizen-oriented urban conservation

Non-profit and non-governmental organizations led by citizens, who are well informed about their local communities, are working on urban conservation in many Asian cities and towns. The project will create a network of such movement, also involving groups from new countries such as Myanmar, in order to establish a kind of conservation movement that is centered on living people, communities and traditional spaces.

- Creation of ethnic and cultural identities utilizing urban heritage

In Asia, there are still battles and conflicts, which are often named the clash of civilization. By utilizing urban heritage and restoring ethnic identities in urban space, as well as creating cultural identities, we can reconstruct a relationship in which ethnic groups can respect the difference among them and co-exist in a single urban space. Penang, the city where this project is taking place, has an example of different ethnic groups, Chinese, Malay and Indians living in one heritage site and can demonstrate a model to the participants.

- Peaceful future of Asia created by the network of citizens

Between the states of Asia, for example between Japan and Korea or China, there are many issues such as difference in historical understanding and territorial disputes. However, we hope that a variety of citizens' network, including that of urban conservation, can contribute to the exchange and mutual understanding between citizens, and also to the reconciliation among states in conflict and to the peaceful future in Asia.

## **2. INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF NARA MACHIZUKURI CENTER**

### **2-1. HISTORY OF EXCHANGE**

#### **Period of Asian network formation**

*1991* Exchange with Penang Heritage Trust engaged in the conservation of urban heritage in George Town and Penang, Malaysia. Beginning of NMC's support project for urban heritage conservation in Asia.

*1991* Formed Asia and West-Pacific Network for Urban Conservation (AWPNUC) with other non-profit groups in Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Taiwan and Australia.

*1992* Invited members of Penang Heritage Trust to Nara and organized an international forum "Historic Cities in Asia and Town Planning" .

Conducted field research in Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and Taiwan.

*1993* Conducted field research on urban heritage in Vietnam, Korea and China. A pioneer research by a non-profit organization when there were very few academics who focused on the urban study of Asia. Attended AWPNUC international conference in Adelaide, Australia.

*1994* Attended AWPNUC international conference in Hanoi, Vietnam.

*1995* Held AWPNUC international conference in Nara "Grass-root International Symposium on Town Planning in Nara" with 200 participants from 20 countries.

*1996* Attended AWPNUC international conference in Indonesia.

*1997* Attended AWPNUC international conference in Taiwan.

*2001* NMC members visited Penang as part of "Field Trip in Penang" .

#### **Period of network expansion**

*2003* Started exchange program with Urban Development Institute Foundation (UDIF) working on conservation of historical heritage in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

*2004* Conducted field research on historical heritage of Chiang Mai. Proposed conservation - reuse plan of heritage and "Chiang Mai - style Town Planning Center" . 25th anniversary of activity in Naramachi and invited members of UDIF to anniversary related event "Nigi Naramachi 25" . Also organized an international symposium.

*2005* Organized Aceh dance performance and photo exhibition to support the restoration of Aceh in Indonesia hit by Indian Ocean tsunami. Started a support program for Aceh Heritage Community working on the restoration of historical heritage in Aceh. Working with members of Penang Heritage Trust, proposed a town planning plan of Waroros Market area to the urban planning department of Chiang Mai City. Also conducted survey on the spread of wooden architecture in the old town of Chiang Mai.

**2006** Organized Asian Heritage Cities Triangle project by Penang, Chiang Mai and Nara. Held a forum “Diversity and Dynamism in Urban Conservation” in Penang with groups from Cambodia and Phuket in Thailand also participating. Visited Aceh in Indonesia to exchange with members of Aceh Heritage Community and conducted research on the latest situation of disaster damage and restoration. Sent two members of NMC to Chiang Mai for the support of urban planning (heritage conservation) for two years as part of JICA Senior Volunteer program. Invited members of Aceh Heritage Community to Nara and held an international forum, visited the damaged area of Hanshin earthquake and shared some know-how regarding heritage conservation and town planning for disaster prevention.

**2007** Visited Aceh, Indonesia and conducted research on restoration from the earthquake and tsunami, organized a workshop session. Regional exchange forum between Nara and Chiang Mai “Possibility of Citizen-led Urban Conservation and Disaster-prevention in Local Communities” held in Chiang Mai.

**2008** Two members working as JICA Senior Volunteer in Chiang Mai returned and held a reporting session.

**2009** Conducted research of Hanzheng Street in Wuhan, China and attended an international symposium. Visited Korea and conducted research of heritage in Jeonju and Seoul. Held an exchange meeting with Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements (KRIHS). Started an exchange with Bookchon Cultural Forum who works on the heritage conservation in Bookchon district of Seoul.

**2010** Visited Seoul, Korea to research the heritage in Bookchon district. Successively welcomed visitors from Korea to Nara, including those from Suwon City, Goyang City and Gangbuk District in Seoul. As part of Commemorative Events of the 1300th Anniversary of Nara Heijo-kyo Capital, organized three events: An exhibition on the traditional living of Asia “Houses and life in historical cities of Asia and Nara” , inter-region exchange forum “Penang, Malaysia: An Asian World Heritage of multi-ethnicity supported by citizens” and “Bookchon district in Seoul, Korea □ Succession of Hanok Heritage and Traditional Culture” . Organized Japan-China international symposium “Unofficial City” .

**2011** Held Japan-China international conference on urban city in Amoy, China.

**2012** Conducted research of heritage in Bookchon district in Seoul and held an international forum “Sustainability of urban heritage □ Between Conservation and Development” . Conducted research on Namhansanseong near Seoul and met Namhansanseong Conservation and Tourism Foundation.

### **Building a new network based on what we experienced through past exchanges**

**2012** As preparatory research of this project, visited Yangon in Myanmar and studied the situation of urban heritage conservation and the activities of Yangon Heritage Trust, a conservation organization.

**2013** As part of exchange program for this project, organized an international symposium in Penang “Urban Conservation Network in Asia and Its Future: Heritage, Cultural Identities and Asian Dynamism” . As a result of this conference, a new network “Asia Heritage Network” is formed.

## 2-2. VISITING YANGON, MYANMAR

Before the international symposium in Penang, Malaysia, Masafumi FUJINO, the vice director, and Toru HASEGAWA, a board member, have visited Yangon in Myanmar for the period of Thursday 22nd and Sunday 25th November 2013. They saw the city's urban heritage, where the destruction of historical buildings by the rapid economic growth and investment is feared, and met with the newly -formed urban conservation organization “Yangon Heritage Trust” .

### Urban heritage of Yangon

Yangon, located in the centre of Myanmar, was the capital of Myanmar until the relocation of capital to Naypyidaw in 2006, and is the largest city in the country with population of 5 million people (as of 2011).

It is also the city with a 2,000-year of history, while the central area of the current city was formed during the British colonial period, with a port facing Yangon River, tax offices, civil offices, and trading companies built along the roads by the river and towards the station. In the large urban site, many buildings of public sector were constructed, one of which is the former supreme court of justice, a magnificent building of colonial architecture.



Former supreme court of justice

Due to the urban planning during the British occupation, the main streets go south-north in the central district of Yangon, which, with the wind from the Yangon River in the south, is comfortable for pedestrians. From the street No.1 on the left hand side to No. 64, there are many 3-floor and 4-floor buildings and shophouses stand next to one another. Each street has a unique character of its own in what the shops sell, from noble metals, electrical supplies, clothes, furniture and groceries, and who live there, such as the Indian district and Chinese district.



shophouses in the city

Many of the shophouses remain the features of the colonial architecture.

### Urban development

In the 1920s and 30s, the city centres of the British colonial period had expanded towards the north and many new buildings were built. In the 1960s, the expansion continued beyond the rivers on the east and west sides of the city.

Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) is the civil organization responsible for the civil engineering and construction in urban development, which started about 20 years ago.

However, the laws on urban planning and construction standard are not functioning efficiently, while the public transport and waterworks are far from being sufficient. JICA office in Myanmar has made the urban master plan and has just submitted it to YCDC in February this year.

In the private sector, many projects are underway, including the plans for 12 -floor and 20-30 floor buildings around Shwedagon Pagoda. Stories were often heard that there are powerful people with financial resources and connections to politicians involved in those projects.

There was also information in Myanmar Times in 2011 that five of government-owned buildings are going under maintenance works for conservation but we could not confirm such works.

### Yangon Heritage Trust (YHT)

We had a chance to meet Ms Moe Moe Lwin, the director of YHT. She is the head of Yangon Architect's Association and is active in many fields.

We introduced the activities of Nara Machizukuri Center (NMC) and handed the invitation to the Penang international symposium, to which she promised to attend.



from left to right: NMC HASEGAWA, Ms Moe Moe Lwin of YHT and NMC FUJINO

The founders started to work for the establishment of YHT from the beginning of 2012, and it was established in June the same year. The representative of the organization is a historian, grandchild of U Thant, the third Secretary-General of the United Nations between 1961 and 1971. Among the members, there are 10 board members, architect, entrepreneur and others, as well as advisory members.

In 2001, YCDC has listed 189 important historical buildings but neither the contents nor the numbers of the listings are sufficient. The law on the protection of cultural property is applied in Pagan but it is not functioning well and the law is not yet applied in Yangon.

YHT is working to discover and excavate the historical architectures, as well as making the list of them. About 150 more important historical architectures were discovered in the central district by YHT's research. And, in order to protect historical buildings and landscape, the law is considered to be necessary.

Many of the historical buildings are from the colonial period, while the Yangon City Hall is a well-known building constructed by a Myanmar architect. Also, the buildings of Shwedagon Pagoda are known as the traditional architectures.

YHT is in close relationship with the mayor of the city and hopes to propose a project using the historical architects. In order to convince people, they need a result.

Ms Moe Moe Lwin said: “There was a demonstration by the lawyers against the development plan of the former supreme court of justice. Although they are a small group of intellectuals, we feel encouraged that there are citizens who recognize the historical values and take the action. We hope to meet people from other countries in Penang in January and take something back for more fruitful activities at home.”

### **Future prospectus**

The crisis is nearing that the valuable historical properties of Yangon will disappear due to the rapid urban development.

In Japan, we are ready to conduct a survey for the protection of Bagan heritage, Mynamar's most well-known cultural property, and now we need to consider the strategy for the conservation of Yangon's historical landscape.

We have invited YHT to the Penang meeting and started exchanges among the private groups who all try to conserve the urban heritage of Asia. And, through our conversation with YHT, we hope to look further for the possibility of supporting the conservation and regeneration of Yangon's historical landscape, including the support between networks.

### 3. OUTLINE OF INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM (PENANG, MALAYSIA)

#### 3-1. TIMETABLE

##### DAY 1

Date : Saturday, 12 January 2013

Time : 8.00am (Meet at 23 Love Lane) - 5.00pm

Venue : Penang Teochew Association hall, 127 Chulia Street, Penang

- 8.00am Gather at 23 Love Lane, Penang
- 8:15am Heritage walk through George Town  
Visit Sun Yat Sen Museum at 120 Armenian Street  
Visit George Town World Heritage Incorporated office, Lebuah Aceh
- 10.30am Welcome to Penang Teochew Association, by Lim Gaik Siang (with video)
- 10.45am Introduction to the George Town World Heritage Site,  
by Ms Lim Chooi Ping, George Town World Heritage Incorporated
- 11.25am The Penang Story - Community mapping of cultural diversity through the  
presentation of historical narratives, by Khoo Salma Nasution, Penang Heritage  
Trust
- Visions of Penang - creating a knowledge bank for heritage research, by Dr.  
Gwynn Jenkins
- Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage, George Town, by Lim Gaik Siang,  
Penang Heritage Trust
- Lunch
- 2.00pm Living Heritage Treasures and Penang Artisans Apprenticeship Programme  
(PAPA), by Ho Sheau Fung, Penang Heritage Trust
- George Town World Heritage Celebrations, by Lim Chung Wei and Ho Sheau Fung
- Shophouse conservation and adaptive use in George Town, Penang, by Tan Yeow  
Wooi, Tan Yeow Wooi Culture Research Studio
- Universal Access to Heritage Sites and Properties, by Naziaty Mohd. Yaacob,  
Department of Architecture, Faculty of Built Environment, University Malaya

## DAY 2

Date : Sunday, 13 January 2013

Time : 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Venue : Eastern & Oriental Hotel (E & O Hotel)

- 9:00am Registration of participants
- 9:30am Welcome by Khoo Salma, President, Penang Heritage Trust
- 9:40am Moderator: Professor Dr. A. Ghafar Ahmad, University Science of Malaysia
- Keynote Address
- New Trends in four fields of the conservation of the World Cultural Heritage - considering Asian cultural dynamism
- Professor Yoshifumi Muneta, Kyoto Prefectural University Faculty of Environmental Design and Director, ICOMOS Japan
- 10:30am Asian network for urban conservation and Nara Machizukuri Center, by Ichilwai, Nara Machizukuri Center, Japan
- Two decades toward a stronger heritage movement, by Catrini Pratihari Kubontubuh, Indonesian Heritage Trust, Jakarta, Indonesia
- ICOMOS Thailand and conservation activities, by Yongtanit Pimonsathean, ICOMOS Thailand
- The current status of community development and culturally-led urban regeneration in China, by Professor Long Yuan, Huaqiao University, Xiamen, P.R.China.
- Yangon urban heritage conservation: efforts and challenges, by Moe Moe Lwin, Yangon Heritage Trust, Myanmar
- LUNCH
- 1:45pm Banda Aceh and heritage movements: 8 years after the tsunami, by Yenny Rahmayati, Aceh Heritage Community Foundation, Indonesia
- The Changing Faces of the Shophouses in Phuket Old Town, by Pranee Sakulpipatana, Thai Peranakan Association, Thailand
- Cases of practical use for vacant houses at the Imai Important Preservation District for Groups of Historic Buildings, by Hiroaki Yonemura, Nara Machizukuri Center, Japan



Phnom Penh Development and Heritage Conservation Challenge, by YAM Sokly, Khmer Architecture Tours, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Transforming heritage districts in Taipei - the case study of Dadaocheng, by Alice Chiu, Institute of Historical Resources Management, Taiwan

Creative Urban Solutions Center: Chiangmai Learning Center, by Ms Manissaward Jintapitak and Mr Nuttakorn Vititanon, UDIF, Chiangmai, Thailand

The Historical City: Nara-machi - its current situation and NMC' s latest project, by Masahiro Muro, Nara Machizukuri Center, Japan

The urban development history of Bukchon Culture Forum and its current situation, by Joo-yeon Lee and Kyung-taek Lee, Bukchon Culture Forum Seoul, Korea

### **DAY 3**

Date : Monday, 14 January

Time : 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Venue : Penang Teochew Association hall, 127 Chulia Street, Penang

9.00am Registration

9.30am Internal meeting of NGOs (closed meeting for NGOs, non-NGO participants can attend as observers)

Challenges for heritage conservation,

Penang Declaration draft by NMC,

Brainstorming network cooperation

LUNCH

1.30pm Brainstorming network cooperation

## 3-2. PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

20 local NGOs and other groups, from 9 countries,

KOREA	Bookchon Cultural Forum
CHINA	Huaquiao University, Xiamen
TAIWAN	Taiwan Institute of Historical Resources Management
CAMBODIA	Khmer Architecture Tours
MYANMAR	Yangon Heritage Trust
THAILAND	Thai ICOMOS Chiang Mai Urban Development Institute Foundation Creative Urban Solutions Center Phuket Community Foundation
INDONESIA	Indonesian National Heritage Trust Aceh Heritage Community Foundation Badan Warisan Sumatra PAN-Sumatra Network Jogja Heritage Society Paguyuban Cak & Ning Surabaya
MALAYSIA	Lestari Heritage Network Penang Heritage Trust George Town World Heritage Incorporated Perak Heritage Society
JAPAN	Nara Machizukuri Center Inc.

## 3-3. RAPPORTEUR NOTES FOR SYMPOSIUM

### Day 1

#### *Session 1*

**Presentation 1:** Introduction to the Restoration of the Penang Teochew Association.

**Speaker:** *Ms Lim Gaik Siang*, Penang Teochew Association Trustee and Conservation Consultant for the Penang Teochew Association; Hon. Treasurer of Penang Heritage Trust & Organising Committee.

Lim Gaik Siang gave a brief presentation on the conservation project of the Penang Teochew Association, followed by a video presentation that gave an in-depth narrative on the Teochew culture and the restoration of the Han Jiang Ancestral Temple.

**Presentation 2:** Introduction to the George Town World Heritage Site

**Speaker:** *Ms Lim Chooi Ping*, General Manager, George Town World Heritage Incorporated.

Ms Lim's presentation introduced the George Town World Heritage Site to the participants. She first presented on the geographical and physical site of George Town World Heritage Site, followed by the cultural and built heritage of George Town. She explained that all these characters formed the basis for the recognition of George Town as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Ms Lim also presented on the George Town World Heritage Incorporated, the custodian of the George Town World Heritage Site. Aside from safeguarding the World Heritage Site, the institution also functions as the centre for regulation, monitoring, education, public awareness and promotion of the GTWHS both locally and internationally. Many programmes were carried out since, and these include heritage clinics, public talks, forums and workshops, guided tours, greening efforts, database compilation as well as collaborating with other partners such as Lestari Heritage Network and George Town Festival for special projects.

#### **Q&A Session:**

A question and answered followed the presentation, and several topics were raised during the short session. One of the most talked about topics was on the core and buffer zone of George Town, and how these zones are regulated. According to Ms Lim, the demarcation of the zones was done during the submission to UNESCO, and was based on the old town area. She also clarified that the zones are regulated based on a similar set of conservation guidelines, with no difference between them.

Another topic that was discussed was on the regulation of properties in the George Town World Heritage Site, and the existing guidelines that are available to manage gentrification. According to Ms Lim, there are no existing regulations on property sale and rental, as well as control on prices. However, GTWHI do play an on-going role to educate property owners, developers and tenants on the importance of maintaining the price and encouraging local lifestyle and culture to continue to thrive.

Lastly, Ms Lim also addressed a question on the involvement of stakeholders in developing a heritage management plan for George Town. According to her, stakeholders are engaged on all different levels while developing the plan. At present, the plan is at its final stages, and once it is

once it is ready, it will be exhibited for the public to comment and suggest changes to the plan before it is submitted to UNESCO.

**Presentation 3:** Penang Story: Community mapping of cultural diversity through historical narratives.

**Speaker:** *Ms Khoo Salma*, President of Penang Heritage Trust

Ms Khoo presented the Penang Story, a project initiated in 2001 to build networks amongst the various stakeholders and communities on the history of Penang. The project had similar values that matched the outstanding universal values of UNESCO, although it was initiated prior to the inscription. It was also carried in the spirit of the UNESCO Declaration of Cultural Diversity, whereby ‘...culture is embodied in the uniqueness and plurality of the identities of the groups that make up a community’. The Penang Story then engaged the community to tell their stories, and became involved in developing the oral history of Penang. With these stories, Penang Story then organized four colloquia in four different languages, and culminated with the Penang Story Conference, a presentation of the various research papers that documented the history of Penang.

The Penang Story continued in 2010, with the support of Think City Sdn. Bhd. This time, Penang Story was not only oriented to profile the history of Penang, it was also aimed to gather and attract talent to return to Penang to recount their research and findings.

**Presentation 4:** Visions of Penang

**Speaker:** *Dr Gwynn Jenkins*, Conservation consultant and restoration architect.

Dr Jenkins presented on the archiving of the important visuals and resources that are available for reference in Penang. The Visions of Penang project was initiated as a platform that catalogues and documents the various photographs, plans and maps available for Penang. She noted that the information provided then will transcend boundaries such as language in order for better public use and understanding. Archived material will assist conservation architects and restoration efforts to determine the type and set of the buildings that are of concern.

The Visions of Penang consist of 190 scanned maps of various parts of George Town. Efforts are still on going to digitise various other resources and maps that are related to Penang. The archive had expanded to include the Wade Postcard Collections and other photographs from the Penang State Library.

**Presentation 5:** Revitalizing Intangible Cultural Heritage in George Town World Heritage Site (RICH) project.

**Speaker:** *Ms Lim Gaik Siang*, Project Consultant for Revitalizing Intangible Cultural Heritage in George Town World Heritage Site project.

Ms Lim presented on the RICH project, focusing on the methodology and process of documenting the intangible heritage of Penang. This project meets the third criteria of the OUV, whereby the coexistence of the tangible and intangible heritage forms the identity of the WHS. Intangible heritage includes the practise, representation, expressions, knowledge, skills and other associated instruments, objects and tools that are used. The Bangkok Convention further stressed ICH and its importance to the cultural identity of the area. The

RICH project focused on the ICH in the community level, and it covers trades, occupation, artisans, handicraft, arts and culture.

Ms Lim then presented the output from the project, and explained on how it may be utilized as a reference tool for public consumption and research.

### **Discussion Session:**

A short discussion session was held after the presentation by Ms Lim. Again, several topics were raised from the discussion, and centred upon the presentations delivered. The first topic that was discussed was on the Penang Story, and on its account on European history. According to Ms Khoo, while there was no active documentation of European history in Penang then, the European community did come forwards to engage themselves with the project. As Penang Story was seen as the story of Penang, many did come forwards to participate and contributed to the oral history of Penang.

The discussion followed by an emotional amazement and appreciation on the works carried out to enhance Penang's heritage and culture. Ms Fionna of Universiti Malaya expressed her amazement on the various efforts and projects undertaken, and her desire for these projects to be replicated outside of Penang. Ms Lim Gaik Siang explained that the RICH project was the first to be carried out in Malaysia, and it was a success in various levels. The project encouraged joint ownership of various stakeholders on the intangible cultural heritage of George Town, and had also served as a platform to encourage youth participation in preserving the heritage of George Town. She also expressed her hopes to see the project replicated for other states.

Lastly, the discussion centred on the built landscape of George Town. Ms Teoh from University of Shanghai pointed out the various new developments that were incorporated into the Special Area Plan, and had enquired on the availability of guidelines that regulates new establishments. Ms Lim explained that a mechanism is already in place to regulate and guide new developments and establishments in George Town, and it involves various stakeholders including GTWHI and PHT.

## ***Session 2***

### **Presentation 6: Penang Living Heritage Treasures and Penang Artisans Apprenticeship Programme (PAPA)**

**Speaker:** *Ms Ho Sheau Fung*, General Manager of Penang Heritage Trust

Ms Ho presented on the intangible heritage aspect of George Town, with reference to two projects by the Penang Heritage Trust. She started by outlining the background and factors that led to the establishment of the programmes. The repeal of Rent Control Act in 1999 had forced many families in George Town to leave the city and move to sub-urban neighbourhoods. This had affected the traditional trade, crafts and demand-supply chain that were established in town. Having noticed the decline and problem from the repeal of the Act, PHT collaborated with Arts-Ed to catalogue these traditional trades, and brought them to the attention of various stakeholders including school children. This further led to various activities and initiatives that slowly reintroduced the craftsman and traders to the public and visitors.

In 2005, PHT initiated the Living Heritage Treasures Award, a programme that gives acknowledgement and recognition to traders, artisans and craftsman. The programme also created a link that allows for artisans and craftsmen to interact with visitors and tourists alike. The nominations are obtained from the public, and award recipients are acknowledged for life.

Further from the awards, PHT then initiated Penang Apprenticeship Artisan Programme (PAPA) in 2009, whereby the artisans in a certain craft are linked with apprentices. The programme was designed for the artisans to pass their knowledge and skills to the next generation, allowing the trade or craft to continue to flourish.

#### **Presentation 7:** George Town World Heritage Site Celebrations

**Speaker:** *Ms Ho Sheau Fung and Mr Lim Chung Wei.* Lim Chung Wei is from GTWHI

Mr Lim presented on the George Town World Heritage Site Celebration, a small celebration to commemorate the inscription of George Town as a World Heritage Site, its conceptualization and its evolution into becoming the George Town Festival. While the George Town Festival had expanded, the main focus is still the George Town World Heritage Site celebrations.

Ms Ho continued with presentation by outlining the themes and concepts that guides the selection of programmes that are curated for the festival. She further explained on the various level of engagement between the communities and the festival, and how it allowed for the communities to be exposed for public awareness and education.

#### **Presentation 8:** Shophouse conservation and Adaptive use in George Town

**Speaker:** *Mr Tan Yeow Wooi,* Heritage Consultant and Conservation Architect

Shophouses form part of the third criteria of the OUV associated with George Town World Heritage Site. Mr Tan presented on the history of shophouses that were present in George Town, and the various factors that spur the development and also the decline of these shophouses. He explained that the decline of shophouses, including several demolitions, started as early as in the 70s.

Adaptive reuse of shophouses did increase since 2008, but it is still slow in comparison with the rate of demolition and abandonment. Aside from that, there are also other constraints that hinder the proper conservation and restoration of these houses, including the lack of skilful artisans, material sourcing and funding. He presented three case studies of successful and proper restoration to end his presentation.

#### **Presentation 9:** Universal Access to Heritage Sites and Properties

**Speaker:** *Dr Naziaty Mohd Yaacob,* Department of Built Architecture, Universiti Malaya

Dr Naziaty's presentation highlighted the concept of enabling access for the disabled and elderly in the World Heritage Site, and questions the suitability of the site for barrier-free access. The three principles that guide the design are usability, safety and function. Several examples were shown on how sites and other attractions did not comply to the guiding principles of accessibility, although these sites are barrier-free sites. She then shared the E-access guide programme, a checklist on 12 sites that are access-friendly, that was funded by Think City Sdn. Bhd.

## **Discussions:**

Following the presentations, several topics were again discussed to benefit the audience, and also to allow the presenters to further elaborate on the issues in George Town. The first discussion centred on the endangered trades and artisans in Penang. While the programme did manage to give recognition to several trades and artisans, Ms Ho explained that the present efforts are just not enough. She opined the need for more efforts and support, especially from the government, to preserve these cultural heritages of George Town. Mr Ooi Kee How from PenangPAC offered the Penang Performing Arts Centre (PenangPAC) as a platform to showcase and support the traditional performing arts in George Town.

The next discussion centred on the George Town Festival and celebrations. Ms Ho explained on the expansion of the celebrations, and the growing awareness and recognition by the local community on the celebrations. Ms Khoo Salma further elaborated on the two different types of show, paid and free; and how these shows generate different responses from the public.

On building conservation and preservation, the discussion centred on the methods and guidelines for conserving buildings, especially heritage houses and shophouses in George Town. Mr Tan explained that while regulations do exist, many owners are not aware, and the lack of enforcement further encourages the demolition and change of the shophouses.

While discussing on accessibility and barrier-free buildings, Dr Naziaty pointed out that there are good examples of hotels and sites that have followed the guidelines accordingly. She further pointed out that many other buildings have yet to adopt these guidelines to become barrier free.

## **Day 2**

### ***Session 1***

#### **Keynote Address**

**Title:** New trends in 4 fields of Heritage Conservation

**Speaker:** *Prof Yoshifumi Muneta*

Prof Muneta set the tone of the symposium by recounting the recent World Heritage and Sustainable Development conference that happened in Kyoto, 2012. In the conference, it was identified that local communities play an important role in ensuring conservation of heritage is sustainable, and transcends various spheres, including the international network. The role of community is finally gaining recognition, and the best way was through consultation with the local community in the aspects of heritage conservation.

He then showed the changing trends of tourism in the ASEAN region, giving emphasis on the growing tourist market of Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia. This was reflected in the GDP of the countries. However, the growth in GDP did not necessarily guarantee the development of the communities. There are other aspects that will influence the change of distribution of wealth from the GDP, and in the aspect of heritage conservation, these aspects include citizen movements, participation, decentralization, parliament and constitution.

The change in heritage conservation is now driven by networks of facilitators and professionals , equipped with the knowledge and skills that will allow them to manage heritage conservation purposefully. There is also a change in the significance of heritage, as we move beyond the ‘old buildings’ conservation to a wider range of heritage and values. There is also a shift of the responsibility from the state or government to the local communities, market drivers and private sector. However, tradition is often considered as a strong constraint in the community, and the dynamics of change is also limited by the diversity of poverty from the different communities.

In maintaining the heritage conservation values, it can be seen from several levels of participation, or custodians, based on the roles and impact. The first custodians are the ones directly involved in the heritage, namely the residents and owners. The second ones are the local community, whereby they complement the conservation by ensuring the sustainability it. The third ‘custodians’ in heritage conservation are the citizens of the state. They play a role by participating in the efforts to make conservation of heritage sustainable. Lastly, the fourth ‘custodians’ are the tourist, whereby they spur the local economy and generate a market for heritage conservation.

The conservation of heritage is not necessarily limiting, as explained by Prof Muneta. He showed several examples of traditional companies in Japan that seeks to preserve their heritage, such as kimono making and pottery, but these companies had also undergone an industrial and innovation change to produce other products to meet contemporary needs. By doing that, not only is the company able to diversify and innovate, they also regenerate interest of the modern community to the heritage values that they were once involved in.

Prof Muneta closed his presentation by presenting his latest conservation focus, the Kyo-machiya residence in Kyoto. These traditional structures are a traditional heritage of Kyoto, and are used as residences and also for commercial trade. In the efforts to preserve the Kyo-machiya, Prof Muneta explained that these houses will need to undergo change in use and design to preserve the heritage, and to cater to the new needs of the local community in Kyoto.

### **Questions and Answers:**

The following short questions and answer session discussed on the possibility of encouraging heritage conservation through internet and social networking. Another question on Penang's plural diversity and multicultural scene and its influence on the heritage preservation and conservation was also asked, but answered privately by Prof Muneta due to time constraints.



### **Presentation 1: Asian Network for Urban Conservation and Nara Machizukuri Center**

**Speaker:** *Mr Ichiro Iwai*, Nara Machizukuri Center, Japan

Mr Iwai presented on the history of the Asian Network for Urban Conservation, and its various activities and conference that were organized previously. The network was involved in programmes such as creating awareness in heritage conservation in places such as Chiang Mai, and had also assisted in disaster relief such as during the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004.

He also presented on the works of Nara Machizukuri Center, such as having talks and workshops across the Asian region, and also the works in preserving heritage structures and culture practices. He pointed out that heritage is slowly threatened by demolition, and also in bad practices in conservation. Several examples of bad conservation are also shown in UNESCO heritage sites, whereby the residents and community are evicted for the purpose of conservation and tourism.

He concluded his presentation by presenting his hopes for proper conservation, and outlined a set of strategies and values that can be used to ensure that heritage and cultural diversity is preserved objectively.

### **Presentation 2: Two Decades toward a Stronger Heritage Movement,**

**Speaker:** *Ms Cartini Pratihari*, Indonesia Heritage Trust

Ms Cartini presented on the heritage conservation movement in Indonesia that has taken part for the past two decades. There has been tremendous progress since the first movement to promote awareness of heritage conservation to the people in 1994. Indonesia has recognised the value and importance of heritage conservation, and has now several important organizations that are involved in heritage such as the Indonesian Heritage Trust (BPPI), the Heritage Emergence Response for Natural Disaster *etc.*

She continued by presenting the various activities that were organized for the heritage conservation efforts in Indonesia. The conservation is not only limited to tangible heritage, but had also included intangible heritage and the natural heritage of Indonesia.

### **Presentation 3: ICOMOS Thailand and Conservation Activities**

**Speaker:** *Mr Yongtanit Pimonsanthean*, ICOMOS Thailand

Mr Pimonsanthean started by presenting the three main conservation issues that are present in Thailand. The differences are present in the conservation techniques and approaches, the heritage values and designation; and the area for conservation. He continued by presenting several examples of heritage conservation efforts that are happening in Thailand. He also showed several threats to the heritage buildings and communities in Thailand, such as the construction of a monorail in the heritage Chinatown in Bangkok, and how ICOMOS is working with the government to ensure that the heritage area is conserved.

He continued with a presentation of the profile of ICOMOS, and its development in Thailand. The Venice Charter was developed and ratified in 1964, and ICOMOS was established in 1965 in Paris, but took another 20 years before it was established in Thailand. In 2009, ICOMOS became a non-governmental organization in Thailand. There are approximately 300 local members and 20

international members in ICOMOS Thailand. The activities of ICOMOS Thailand include workshops and meetings, conferences, conservation efforts and professional heritage guided tours in Thailand.

**Presentation 4:** The Current Status of Community Development and Culturally-led Urban Regeneration in China

**Speaker:** *Prof Long Yuan*, Huaqiao University, Xiamen, China

Prof Long started the presentation by showing the various level of stakeholders that are involved in heritage conservation, but noted that all the levels are under the control and influence of the Chinese Communist Party. He then showed the pioneer movements of heritage conservation in China, and the various efforts that are starting to take place in China.

**Presentation 5:** Yangon Urban Heritage Conservation, Efforts and Challenges

**Speaker:** *Moe Moe Lwim*, Yangon Heritage Trust

Ms Lwim presented on the present heritage conservation status in Yangon, and the developments that had taken place since heritage conservation was given prominence. The movement is rather slow and faces many challenges, but is still on-going, and was given a boost in 2012, with the setting up of the Yangon Heritage Trust.

**Session 2**

**Presentation 6:** Banda Aceh and Heritage Movements: 8 years after the Tsunami

**Speaker:** *Ms Yenny Rahmayati*, Heritage Community Foundation, Aceh

Ms Yenny started the presentation by presenting a brief history of Banda Aceh, its geographical structure and the changes that had taken place in land use prior to the 2004 tsunami. The architectural heritage of Aceh can be characterised by 3 main groups namely ancient or archaeological; vernacular; Dutch colonial and Chinese architecture. The last group of architecture is the post 2004 tsunami architecture. The 2004 tsunami did affect the architectural heritage of Aceh, as it had destroyed many monuments, and also altered the use and function of many structure and sites in Aceh.

She then continued her presentation on the Aceh Heritage Community Foundation, its inception, role and also the various function of the foundation. They are active in various programmes that include networking, capacity building, conservation, public awareness and education for Aceh heritage.

After 8 years from the tsunami, the heritage condition can be largely categorised to 4 categories, namely demolition; renovation; maintained; and neglected. She followed up by presenting examples of buildings that fall into these 4 categories. Several problems and challenges still exist, such as lack of funding, lack of expertise and knowledge, lack of public awareness, partnership, and legal protection.

**Speaker:** *Ms Pranee Sakulpipatana*, Phuket Community Foundation, Phuket

Ms Pranee's talk focused on the Dee-buk Road, also known as the Millionaire's road in Phuket. The road gets its name as it originated from the tin mines in Phuket, and the road is lined with mansions of great owners of tin mines in the past. She showcased the various heritage aspects and elements that are present in Phuket, and expressed her hope that Phuket will take the footsteps of Penang to become a World Heritage Site in the near future.

**Presentation 8:** Cases of Practical Use for Vacant Houses at the Imai Important Preservation District for Groups of Historic Buildings

**Speaker:** *Mr Hiroaki Yonemura*, Nara Machizukuri Center Japan

Mr Yonemura gave a brief presentation on the history of his town in Imai, showing the various important elements of the town such as the ancient gates, the moat, the temple and the traditional old houses in the area. Despite the traditional appearances of the houses, many of it has changed its function from traditional residences to now include other activities such as commercial outlets, public buildings, and also other functions such as a lodging house and offices.

**Presentation 9:** Development and Urban Heritage Conservation Challenges

**Speaker:** *Yam Sokly*, Architect and Researcher, Khmer Architecture Tours, Cambodia

Mr Sokly started his presentation by introducing to the audience the Royal University of Fine Arts, a university established in 1965. The university is formed with five faculties, namely Choreographic Arts, Music, Archaeology, Fine arts and Architecture and Urbanism. He followed with an explanation on Khmer Architecture Tour, a center established in 2003 with the aim to promote understanding of modern architecture in Cambodia. He also showed images of the different tours that are organized by Khmer Architecture Tours.

He continued his presentation by presenting on the different types of heritage buildings and areas available in Phnom Penh, and explained the different influences and the adaptations required to utilize the area.

Moving to the challenges in conservation, he further explained on the various challenges that are present in conserving Phnom Penh's heritage identity.

**Presentation 10:** Transforming Heritage District in Taipei □ The Case Study of Dadaocheng

**Speaker:** *Alice Chiu*, Institute of Historical Resources Management, Taiwan

Ms Chiu presented on the heritage conservation effort of Dadaocheng, the oldest business area in Taipei, Taiwan. The history of Dadaocheng started in the Qing Dynasty, in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century. The first settler moved to Dadaocheng in 1851, and developed into the second largest city in Taiwan by 1890s. The port opened, and it became a trading port for economic products such as tea and silk.

During the Japanese Occupation (1895 - 1945), there was a new phase of development as the Japanese changed the structural and geographical landscape of Dadaocheng. A lot of buildings and areas were cleared and reorganized into an organized grid.

The NGO's participation started in 1987, following the lifting of the Martial Law of the KMT, and the first civil movement took to the streets to protect the change in widening of Di Hua

During the Japanese Occupation (1895 - 1945), there was a new phase of development as the Japanese changed the structural and geographical landscape of Dadaocheng. A lot of buildings and areas were cleared and reorganized into an organized grid.

The NGO's participation started in 1987, following the lifting of the Martial Law of the KMT, and the first civil movement took to the streets to protect the change in widening of Di Hua Street. Di Hua Street is the center of many big businesses, and there is growing momentum to balance the heritage and tradition in tandem with the development of the area.

In 2000, Dadaocheng was declared as a Historic Special District by the Urban Development Ordinance, and several values were drafted up to protect, rehabilitate and control the development in Dadaocheng. This also saw the growth of restoration and conservation efforts of buildings, both private and public buildings.

She concluded her presentation by showing many images on the restoration and conservation efforts in Dadaocheng.

#### **Presentation 11:** Creative Urban Solutions Center: Chiang Mai Learning Center

**Speaker:** *Ms Manissaward Jintapitak and Mr Nuttakorn Vititanon*

Mr Vititanon started by presenting a brief history of Chiang Mai, the second largest city of Thailand, and will be celebrating its 760<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016. Chiang Mai is a metropolitan city and is a destination of choice for many people, including foreigners such as Japanese and Chinese. However, the increase of city size also bring along many problems such as pollution, overcrowding, and expansion of space into its surrounding. The expired city planning regulations also pose as a problem, as indiscriminate development are happening in the area surrounding Chiang Mai old city.

He then presented on the Creative Urban Solutions Center, a center developed with the aim to address the development issues and to propose solutions for better development in the city. The center also provides workshop, forums, training and education to various groups of people on the issue of city development.

Ms Manissaward gave an in-depth presentation of the conservation of the temple in Chiang Mai, a heritage building that had existed since the Lanna period. The presentation showed the many bad practices of unskilled and uninformed artisans that had done restoration work, but in fact destroyed the original structure and texture that was in place.

#### **Presentation 12:** The Historical City: Nara Machizukuri □ its current situation and NMC in Nara

**Speaker:** *Mr Masahiro Muro, Nara Machizukuri Center(NMC)*

Mr Muro presented a brief history of the NMC, whereby it was established in 1979 and incorporated in 1984 as a citizen's organization. Its objective was to restore the 'spiritual' and 'religious' heritage of Japan, which is centred in Nara. Nara is the oldest historical city in Japan, established since 710 A.D. It was the birthplace of Buddhism in Japan, and the traditions continued to flourish until today. One of the unique characteristic of Nara is the layout of their houses that resembles a checker board. In 1989, NMC proposed to the City Council for the reutilization of vacant houses for other facilities such as museums, galleries and for public use.

threat of development towards heritage conservation. However, she hesitated and opined that the difference in governance is still too early to provide a suitable conclusion on the future direction of Yangon.

### Penang Declaration by NMC

The session continued with the discussion of a draft of the Penang Declaration, proposed by the Nara Machizukuri Center. The declaration did not reach an agreement because there were differences of opinion among participants on roles of NGOs. Many of the participants however understood the basic purpose and spirit of the draft.

2013	Penang Declaration (Draft)	January 14,
---For Asian NGO Network for Urban Conservation--- “Urban Conservation Network in Asia and Its Future –Heritage, Cultural Identities and Asian Dynamism–”		
<p>Most of cities in Asia have been rapidly changing under the economic globalization. Recently, historic urban areas and historic communities are in crisis in Asia. Historic living spaces and architectural heritage have been demolished easily and replaced by modern buildings and skyscrapers.</p>		
<p>It is time to take effective actions for conserving Asian historic urban areas with traditional human lives. Non-governmental organizations based on local communities and familiar with regional problems have to play important roles in urban conservation. We have to make a strong network throughout Asia, to arouse public opinions, to appeal to each government for effective regulations, and to create a new movement for urban conservation.</p>		
<p>Representatives from Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, South Korea, Taiwan, and Thailand have reached a basic agreement on the Asian NGO Network for Urban Conservation as follows:</p>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. We have to take actions to stop further demolitions of historic urban spaces in Asian cities, particularly in emerging nations, and do our best to conserve every historical environment.</li><li>2. We have to conserve historic urban spaces together with traditional family lives, communities, and variety of human activities including intangible cultural heritage.</li><li>3. We have to conserve historic urban spaces as coexistence places for every ethnic group and have to respect for cultural identity and ethnic diversity.</li><li>4. We have to map up flexible and dynamic conservation plans in each area from coordinating variety of opinions among residents through the process of citizens’ participation.</li><li>5. We have to promote tourism in historic urban areas harmonized with human lives of local residents although tourism is an important element of cross-cultural communication.</li><li>6. We have to protect our heritage from every natural disaster and have to support each other to recover heritage sites when disastrous occur.</li></ol>		

7. We have to establish a strong Asian NGO network for urban conservation throughout Asian historic cities for the above objectives.

### **Brainstorming network cooperation**

The session then continued with a ‘roundtable’ sharing, when all the participants contributed their opinion and thoughts on the heritage conservation and its challenges, especially in the Asian region. In the discussion, the recurring topics centre on the following:

- a) The use of new, alternative media and platform to reach out towards conservation; useful in spreading awareness and also to exchange knowledge and experiences
- b) The emergence of youths in heritage conservation
- c) The importance of building a strong network, and joint collaborations; sharing of resources and knowledge materials is crucial in assisting those who are new in the heritage conservation and knowledge field
- d) Funding and its limitation towards heritage conservation
- e) Publications such as newsletter and e-books to promote better knowledge sharing
- f) Engaging NGOs and community as tools to facilitate better heritage conservation and protection in the cities.

### ***Session 2***

#### **Brainstorming network cooperation**

The second session commenced after lunch, and the participants were divided into groups to identify key strategies that can be undertaken to strengthen heritage conservation and protection between the cities. Each group was asked to develop three strategies, and from there, identify one key strategy that can be employed immediately for the benefit of others.

##### ***Group 1***

The three strategies:

1. Strengthening the overall impact of the work in as a network. To come up with a prize as a motivation for the best community conservation project
2. Strengthening communication via newsletter, or an e-newsletter format. There will also be a need for coordinator and writers. Mailchimp is a possible solution.
3. **To use social media, and possibly other form such as ASANA, a communication tool that can be developed for better communication. ASANA can be modified to suit the need for the group. (Key Strategy)**

##### ***Group 2***

The three strategies:

1. Exchange programme, with a shared curricular, to be developed. Several programmes are already in place and can be researched upon to further enhance the network
2. There are many foundations in Japan, and probably can be explored to seek resources for the exchange programme.

3. **To let the network form a collaborated youth programme that may include field studies and hands-on training that allows the youth to learn and increase interest in heritage. Identify from the host countries, or network countries, and then share it out with the network. (Key Strategy)**

### *Group 3*

The three strategies:

1. For the directory of the organization, it needs to be renewed and supplemented with new information such as expertise, education, knowledge etc.
2. **To improve communication via social media such as Facebook to reach out to larger and younger audience, and also to facilitate easier networking between the network countries. (Key Strategy)**
3. To create a database centre that includes information, knowledge and resources
4. To have a calendar of events from the different cities, countries and also the organization.

In conclusion, the most possible solution identified is to exploit social media, especially Facebook, to reach out to a larger demography. Another option is to have a Twitter account that can be used as an engaging tool between various organisations in the network. However, there is also a need to engage a committed coordinator to ensure that the knowledge sharing process is continued, and also to act as an administrator for the network.

The session continued with the selection of a name for the new network. By agreeing on the name, the members are now part of this network and will be responsible to engage in the network's activities and also to facilitate better knowledge and resource sharing between the countries. After the selection process, the members agreed that the new network will be named Asian Heritage Network (AHN).

With the formation of the network, the session ended with a simple signing ceremony of MoU between PHT and Indonesia Heritage Trust. The MoU signing ceremony indicates the start of a new alliance between Indonesia and Penang in developing better collaboration efforts and networking in promoting heritage conservation and protection between these two cities.

# 3-4. PHOTOS

DAY1 Saturday, 12 January 2013



Gather at 23 Love Lane



Heritage walk through George Town



Visit George Town World Heritage Incorporated





Participants at Penang Teochew Association



Khoo Salma Nasution (Penang Heritage Trust)



Ms. Lim Chooi Ping (George Town World Heritage Inc.)



Dr. Gwynn Jenkins



Lim Chung Wei (George Town World Heritage Inc.)



Ho Sheau Fung (Penang Heritage Trust)



Tan Yeow Wooi (Tan Yeow Wooi Culture Research Studio)



Naziaty Mohd. Yaacob (University Malaya)



Sunitha Jaramohanan (George Town World Heritage Inc.)



Dinner at Hai Nan Town

DAY2 Sunday, 13 January 2013



Eastern & Oriental Hotel



Professor Yoshifumi Muneta (Kyoto Prefectural University) Japan



Ichiro Iwai (Nara Machizukuri Center) Japan



Professor Dr.A.Ghafar Ahmad (University Science of Malaysia)



Catri Pratihari Kubontubuh  
(Indonesian National Heritage Trust) Indonesia



Yongtanit Pimonsathean (ICOMOS) Thailand



Professor Long Yuan (Huaqiao University) P.R.China



Moe Moe Lwin (Yangon Heritage Trust) Myanmar



Yenny Rahmayati (Heritage Community Foundation) Indonesia



Pranne Sakulpipatana (Phuket Community Foundation) Thailand



Hiroaki Yonemura (Nara Machizukuri Center) Japan



YAM Sokly (Khmer Architecture Tours) Cambodia



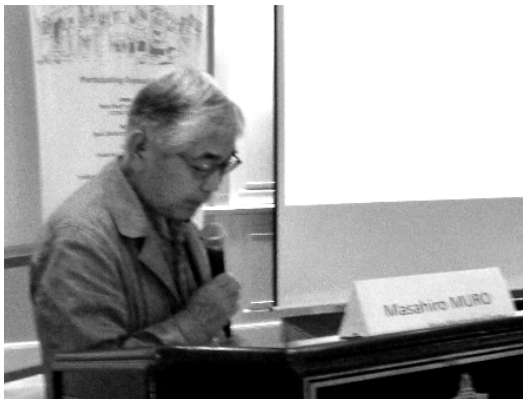
Alice Chiu (Institute of Historical Resources Management) Taiwan



Nuttakorn Vititarn (UDIF) Thailand



Manessaward Jintapitak (UDIF) Thailand



Masahiro Muro (Nara machizukuri Canter) Japan



Joo-yeon Lee (Bukchon Culture Forum) Korea



Kyung-taek Lee (Bukchon Culture forum) Korea



Khoo Salma Nustion (President, Penang Heritage Trust)



Staff (Penang Heritage Trust)



Dinner at Penang Teochew Association  
Lim Guan Eng (Chief Minister of Penang, Malaysia)



DAY3 Monday, 14 January



Closed meeting (Penang Declaration, Network name and website etc.)



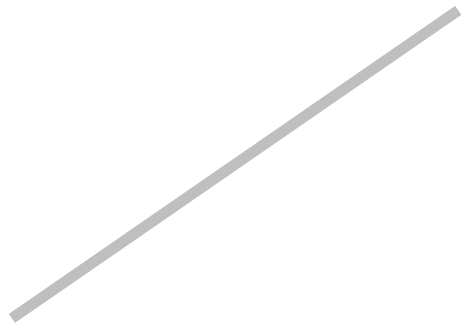




Brainstorm network cooperation



Memorandum of Understanding PHT-Indonesian Heritage Trust



Introduction to 23 Love Lane restoration



Introduction to Chulia Lane house restoration



## 4. REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

### 4-1. REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM - RESULTS

Starting from the support for heritage conservation in Malaysia's Penang in 1991, Nara Machizukuri Center has been involved in international exchange, cooperation and mutual support in Asia for almost 20 years. To summarise the 20-odd-years of activity and to propose for the future in the time of globalisation, an international symposium “Urban Conservation Network in Asia and Its Future – Heritage, Cultural Identities and Asian Dynamism–” was held between 12th and 14th January 2013 in Penang, a World Heritage site.

The symposium was co-hosted by Nara Machizukuri Center and Penang Heritage Trust. 20 groups from 9 Asian countries and regions have gathered to report the current situation of heritage conservation and heated discussions took place on how we can protect the historical heritage and community there, and how the future of the heritage conservation in Asia should be.

The meetings were mostly held at E&O Hotel (EASTERN&ORIENTAL HOTEL) and Penang Teochew Association. On the second day of the symposium, there were 120 participants, as well as an honorary guest Mr Lim Guaneng, the Chief Minister of Penang. During the 3-day official programme, reports from various groups and discussions took places one after another, from early in the morning to late night. It was so full of contents that every minute was precious: In the presentations, we saw many scenes where a bell was ringed to announce the end of 3-minute presentation time for one group, which disappointed the presenters and speakers but brought smiles on the faces of other participants watching it.

On the last day, there was a discussion on the Penang Declaration, based on the draft prepared by Nara Machizukuri Center. Also, a workshop-discussion was held to discuss how we should proceed with the networking among the groups of various countries and regions. And it was agreed among the participating organisations to expand the existing network The Asia and West-Pacific Network for Urban Conservation (AWPNUC) and to establish a new network organisation called Asia Heritage Network (AHN). (When deciding the name of the new network, many names were proposed from different groups and it was decided by votes in the end, but when searched on internet to see if the abbreviation of the new name is already used, we found out that there were so many of it in different fields and that caused a big laugh among the participants.) And, although it wasn't initially planned, Penang Heritage Trust and Indonesia National Heritage Trust decided to exchange a partnership agreement and Nara Machizukuri Center signed it as the witness.

Together with the members of the host organisation Nara Macizukuri Center, the participants from Asian countries and regions all tried to learn new things from each other in limited time. They got on well, felt moved when there was something they could share, and laughed. There were also moments when they talked each other of the problems they face in tears. Exchange parties were held every night, including the night before the first day, which helped to strengthen the mutual trust among the groups. In order to promote further partnership and

exchange, it was agreed to take an advantage of internet. (Among individual participants, too, it was often seen that they were asking each other “let’s do an exchange on internet” or “do you do Facebook?”. After the symposium, we still exchange e-mail and Facebook comments.) At the end of the meetings and when parting, we said good-byes with hugs.

Members of participating groups were relatively young compared to Japan and it reminded us again the importance of “handing to next generation”, which is the issue of town planning in Japan. There were many young people among the local staff from Penang who helped to prepare this international meeting and student volunteers were working eagerly.

Our exchange with Asia in heritage conservation started about 20 years ago, around 1991, when the members of Nara Machizukuri Center gave their support to the heritage conservation in Penang by helping to establish Penang Heritage Trust, providing know-how and financial aid, organising the first international conference, with the support of the Toyota Foundation, and that marked the start of the network. After 20 years, we came to hold an international conference with 20 participating groups from 9 countries and regions and to set up a new network called Asia Heritage Network (AHN). It was a very small step at the beginning but as we kept stepping forward, it has become a large wave. The listing of Penang (George Town) in UNESCO’s World Heritage in 2008 was a fruit of seeds that the volunteers in Penang and their friends had planted 20 years ago. When we held the first international conference, we had talked about the listing as a dream story.

*Masashi IMASE, Representative Director of Civic Action Clearinghouse, member of NMC*



## 4-2. SHARED RECOGNITION FOR “PROTECTING THE TOWN” IN RAPIDLY-CHANGING ASIA

There is an on-going destruction of historical heritages such as buildings and urban landscape in Asian cities where there are a rapid economic growth and urbanization. 20 local NGOs and other groups, as well as approximately 120 individuals, who, from 9 countries, share the sense of emergency towards such situation, held an international symposium at Teo Chew Association and E&O Hotel in Malaysia's George Town, Penang, a World Heritage Site listed in 2008. It was hosted by Nara Machizukuri Center (NMC) with the financial support of Toyota Foundation, co-hosted by Penang Heritage Trust (PHT), and its official title was “Urban Conservation Network in Asia and Its Future”, with “Heritage, Cultural Identities and Asian Dynamism” as the main theme. The exchange among those Asian cities began in 1991, forming The Asia and West Pacific Network for Urban Conservation (AWPNUC) and the network has organized symposiums for 8 times. The participating groups of the latest gathering in 2013 have newly established Asian Heritage Network (AHN), agreeing to hold a meeting every few years and to strengthen the mutual link. What was gained through presentations and discussions was a shared recognition that taking care of beautiful landscape and buildings nourished by the local history and tradition, as well as enduring skills, cultures and communities that are diverse and unique, can lead to create genuine wealth.

### Penang - attempting to regenerate traditional culture and craft

There were 8 participants from Japan: Seven members of NMC, including Chairman Masahiro Muro, and, from ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites), Professor Yoshifumi Muneta of Kyoto Prefectural University. Participants from other countries are as follows /Seoul Bookchon Cultural Forum, Korea /Professor Long Yuan from Xiamen Huaqiao University, China /Institute of Historical Resources Management, Taiwan /Khmer Architecture Tours, Cambodia /Yangon Heritage Trust, Myanmar /Four groups from Thailand /ICOMOS Thailand /Chiang Mai Urban Development Institute Foundation /Creative Urban Solution Center /Phuket Community Foundation /From



Participants visiting a shophouse

Indonesia, as many as six groups came to take part, including groups from local cities such as Aceh, the place hit by 2004 tsunami /Indonesian National Heritage Trust /Aceh Heritage Community Foundation /Badan Warisan Sumatra /PAN-Sumatra Network /Jogja Heritage Society /Paguyuban Cak & Ning Surabaya /From the host country Malaysia, three groups joined PHT /Lestari Heritage Network /George Town World Heritage Incorporated /Perak Heritage Society

Day 1, the 12th, consisted mostly of visiting the centre of George Town in several groups and the presentation on the project of the World Heritage site Penang. I had visited Penang in 2006 and what was a coffee factory then has now turned into a fashionable café. Walls of shophouses are decorated by ironwork-artworks using iron wires, expressing the lives of citizens. There are now many hotels and B&Bs using traditional buildings, packed with tourists mostly from Europe and America, and we also stayed in a hotel called “23 Love Lane” that utilised an old house for the main building and a shophouse for an annex.

and a shophouse for an annex. Moreover, what was impressive was that there were no signs or advertisements of national chain convenience stores and supermarkets that are bound to be seen in Japanese cities similar to the size of George Town. Even though what are sold are global products, the stores seem to be run by the residents themselves.

On the first day, the presentations were mostly from the locals of Penang. Penang is outstanding in terms of youth participation, fundraising, research activities of various kinds, refurbishment of old houses and shophouses, educational and cultural activities using excellent heritages and old houses etc., and has an annual festival held in every June or July with programmes related to the revival of traditional ceremonies, crafts and arts or visits to the concerned buildings. All related important information is data-based and saved at a knowledge bank. What is particularly significant is the effort for “revitalizing intangible cultural heritage” . Intangible heritages such as traditional crafts and skilled craftsmen or festivals rooted in people’ s lives exist in various forms, from ones known globally and to those existing only within a community.



Ms Khoo Salma, left, and young volunteers at Hotel 23 Love Lane

In order to conduct surveys on such heritages, more than 200 young research assistants received trainings on survey methodology and about 100 of them are selected to visit approximately 5,000 households in the World Heritage site, conducting 3,400 interviews from craftsmen and residents, recording the results into computer, as well as selecting the 20 cases to conduct further interviews in the native languages of the interviewees with photographs and video recordings.

### **Community itself is the cultural heritage**

Even if the place is listed for the World Heritage site, it would be meaningless to just preserve buildings and the old town. In a second day’ s presentation on 13th, Mr Ichiro Iwai, an executive committee member of NMC who has been working for many years to build an Asian network of the World Heritage sites, introduced past cases of the World Heritage sites, such as an European city where the residents ceased to live there any more or a city in central Asia which forced the residents to move out in order to maintain the heritage.

Also in Professor Muneta’ s Keynote Address “New trends in 4 fields of Heritage Conservation” , it was emphasised that the residents are the custodian of the heritage. Following the coming of post-industrial society, the professor claims that there are idea-changes occurring in the definition of cultural heritage from monuments to landscape, buildings to urban area, archaeological sites to historical and cultural environment, “community with heritages” to “community as the heritage” , heritage functioning for the “national unification” to “respecting the cultural diversity” , and from “tourism income” to “economic and social profits in a broader sense” . He also argues that, instead of the state and bureaucrats deciding everything, the democratic process of decision-making and citizen participation are important and that there are bigger roles for people with multi-speciality or

who can facilitate different specialist, rather than specialists who can only work in a single sphere.

According to Professor Muneta, the first “custodians” are the owners and residents, and the community is the second custodian protecting the first ones and maintaining the environment, while the third ones are the residents of the surrounding areas who can be influential on decision-makers and on local economy and society, and lastly, the tourists who give their support through eating and shopping can be seen as the fourth custodians. He argues that, for an industrial city to transform into a city with uniqueness, the key is to take an advantage of traditional cultures such as arts works, crafts and creative activities succeeded from the old communities, and for that, it is essential to create human resources through education and social development.

### **“Land price is rising and we cannot protect cultural heritage”**



Ms Yenny Rahmayati from AHCF

The presentation from other countries, too, had much emphasis on community. Indonesia, in regarding 2013 as the “Heritage Year” , is starting to make a move under the theme “cultural heritage for local welfare” . 10 cities including Banda Aceh, Palembang, Denpasar and Yogyakarta have been selected as the pilot cities, in order to utilize the heritage preservation for the revitalization of community. There is a mood for such movement as we saw at the end of the symposium PHT and an Indonesian National Heritage Trust signing a partnership agreement, with Chairman Muro of NMC as the witness to the agreement. On the other hand, Ms Yenny Rahmayati from Aceh Heritage Community Foundation (AHCF), who presented on the 8-year passage of activity after the

2004 tsunami, has pointed out issues and problems such as the government dismissing local research institutions and organisations and placing them outside the governmental plans, a lack of communication among the government, non-governmental organisations, universities, and local groups, and not having strong legal regulations to protect the cultural heritage.

In Myanmar and Cambodia, countries that were behind the others in terms of internationalisation, are now facing a rapid urbanisation with an increasing number of new skyscrapers. The land price has risen and, in Myanmar’ s largest city Yangon, “land price has gone up and it has become difficult to protect cultural heritage” (Ms Moe Moe Lwim, Yangon Heritage Trust), “the land price is the same as in Tokyo. There are places where the distance between the buildings is only 1 metre. This may be because the countries in Europe and America are having a recession and the investment is heading to Asia” (Mr Yam Sokly, Khmer Architecture Tours, Cambodia): It is said that the historical heritage is facing a critical situation. In Bukchon, Seoul, where there are unique Korea houses called “hanok” , the peaceful life of the residents has been disturbed by turning into a tourist place and now the “silent sightseeing campaign” is organised by Bukchon Culture Forum.

### **Discussing the “Penang Declaration” draft prepared by NMC**

On 14th the last day, there were a discussion on the draft of “Penang Declaration” prepared by NMC’ s executive committee member Mr Iwai and a workshop to discuss “strategy from now” . The draft was aimed at confirming the basic recognition and attitude towards the crisis of rapidly-changing Asian historical cities amid the economic globalisation. It proposed:

- To act to halt the destruction of urban area
- To protect traditional living and community
- To respect cultural uniqueness, such as ethnic minority, and diversity
- To create a flexible and bold preservation plan with the participation of citizens having various viewpoints
- To note that harmonising the life of residents and tourism is an important element of cultural exchange
- To protect cultural heritage from natural disasters and mutually support the suffering area
- To establish a strong network of Asian NGOs for the aforementioned purposes

The draft did not reach the agreement, however, in the discussion, there were comments like “there are residents who play important roles though they are not part of the network” , “there are governments with an allergy to NGOs” , “linking with the conservation of national property, it is necessary to update the existing laws to the new laws for protecting heritage at community level” . I also suggested that “we should declare our demands for avoiding



Inside a comfortable shophouse

historical heritage to become subject to speculative selling and buying” . Workshop was held in three groups for discussion and there were comments like “we should try to attract the youth using Facebook and other social network services (SNS)” , “let’ s make a calendar with festivals and events of each region” and “let’ s create a database for information, knowledge and resources” .

What we have now is called “machine civilisation” and the praise only goes to the latest industrial technology. Yet, once there is a blueprint, such technology creates mass-produced products, and is unexpectedly shallow and weak. Moreover, there is a tendency that the

one who owns the technology dominates the users. This tendency is getting stronger with digitalisation. In contrast, traditional skills are polished as part of human body in order to polish the human life. Such skills have gone through creation and innovation over generations, as a polished tool for enriching the living. For example, shophouses, with their high ceilings, have a way to let the room well ventilated and to relieve the heat. It is full of wisdom that is contrary to electronic machinery and machine civilisation heavily dependent on energy consumption. Those who gathered in Penang must have shared such values and, through this symposium, deepened their recognition towards such recognition.

*Takemi JINNO, freelance writer, member of NMC*

## 5. FUTURE PROSPECTUS

### 5-1. FOR A NEW NETWORK OF HERITAGE CONSERVATION IN ASIA

#### Summary of achievement

Asia and West Pacific Network for Urban Conservation (AWPNUC), an Asian network of urban heritage conservation, was formed in 1991 by NGOs from countries such as Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Taiwan, Singapore, Vietnam and Australia, and it has played a large part in the citizen-oriented conservation of urban heritage in Asia. First, let's review the footprint of the network by dividing it to two parts: Starting period and expansion period. Please note that "Asia" in this essay refers mainly to East Asia and South East Asia, and it is a notion of activity philosophy and defines the area of such activity, and does not strictly define a geographical space.

#### *Starting period of network: 1991 - 1999*

When the network was formed in 1991, while the economic development of NIES and ASEAN received much attention, few people focused on the importance of historical heritage. In such circumstance, this Asian network tried to make citizens and public administration understand the necessity of heritage conservation in Asia, and played a big role in establishing citizen-oriented conservation policy of highly-valued historical heritages such as Taipei in Taiwan, Yogyakarta in Indonesia, Penang and Malacca in Malaysia. The members of this Asian Network has organized international symposiums in turn, 1991 Penang, 1993 Adelaide in Australia, 1994 Hanoi in Vietnam, 1995 Nara, and 1997 Taiwan, to report on the activities in their region and to exchange know-how, as well as to inform the residents and local governments the importance of their activity.

This period coincided with the time when many Asian regions were booming in the economic development and urban heritage conservation was seen in society as relatively a minor activity, but the network members were encouraged by the birth of urban heritage conservation activity in many Asian regions and, with the pride of being a pioneer in urban conservation, continued their work. Being a pioneer also meant that everything was trial-and-error, facing difficulties in fundraising and getting governmental understanding, yet, every time you attend a symposium, you would be moved and stimulated by the exotic urban landscape and unique activities of other regions,

#### *Expansion period of network: 2000 - 2012*

When symposiums had toured in most of the participating cities, Nara Machizukuri Center started to expand its own network, starting an exchange programme with Chiang Mai in 2003, support programme for the revival of cultural heritage in tsunami-hit Aceh in 2005 and exchange programmes with the researchers from Seoul, Korea and China in 2009. Ms Khoo Salma, who is the leader of Penang, has created a new Asian network called Lestari Heritage Network in 2004, and in the start of the new century, a number of heritage trust organizations were formed in Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries. In other words, it was a time when there were multiple and diverse layers of network. With the World Heritage

listing of Nara in 1998 and Penang and Malacca in 2008, in the cities with highly-valued historical heritage, conservation activities have been grounded and heritage tourism has grown rapidly. By 2012, urban heritage sites listed in the World Heritage have gone up to almost 30 in East and Southeast Asia and, with people's understanding, reorganising city centres around historical heritage has become a world trend, not only in Asia.

On the other hand, in China and other emerging countries, like what it was in Japan, as the economy continues to grow rapidly, traditional communities that were created historically as a human living place were destroyed, and the elements that create the uniqueness of the city, such as ethnicity, locality and historicity, were increasingly lost, with super-modern urban spaces made of glass and iron now being seen even in smallest local cities. We see a separation between conserved urban spaces where conservation is established and tradition maintained, and contemporary urban spaces completely detached from traditions. Conservation in the former group is of course important but it is also necessary in other cities to maintain historical communities that have nourished living cultures, not just letting the places renewed in a way totally detached from the tradition. In order to maintain and develop such communities in the dynamic economic growth, we need a conservation process that will not give a halt to the economic dynamism. This global economy is so strong that it can turn urban spaces into financial instruments and renew them instantly, and, therefore, a system for conservation is urgently required in emerging countries to prevent the rapid destruction of urban heritage following the introduction of market economy. While conflicts often called clashes of civilisations occur around Asia and diplomatic relations of governments are not looking good, we need a point of view that can respect the identities of different ethnicity and nations, and to see urban space as a place for co-existence.

### **Outcome of the Asian neighbours program**

While such a view point is required in Asia's urban heritage conservation, Nara Machizukuri Center's Asian Neighbors Program was planned to find a new direction. The keywords were, as seen in the subtitles, "utilisation of heritage", "inheriting cultural identities" and "Asian dynamism". Just before the main symposium in Penang, we conducted a preparatory research in emerging Myanmar, looking at the activities of Yangon Heritage Trust, which is newly set up for the heritage conservation in the country's largest city Yangon.

In the Penang symposium, the main project, first there were presentations from Penang, which is now the model case in urban conservation, about the summary of past activity and current project. Projects such as "Anak-Anak Kota", a heritage education programme which utilises historical heritage of various ethnic groups, "Penang Story" recording the oral history told by senior members of community, and the latest project "intangible heritage conservation", which can all be regarded globally as the most advanced. Then, Professor Muneta, one of the proposers of the 1991 network, gave an analysis on the development of conservation activities in the world and where the Asian network stands now. I also reported on the past activity of the network after having been involved from the start and how, instead of such effort, the destruction of urban heritage is going on even now, followed by a suggestion for the future conservation in Asia. I think those reports helped young participants and groups which attended for the first time to grasp the situation in Asia and to share the sense of emergency.

After that, the heritage conservation groups around Asia have given their reports on various activities and the sites they work on.

Following those summaries, the discussion was held on how we should proceed with the conservation in Asia. Based on the draft of the “Penang Declaration” prepared by Nara Machizukuri Center, opinions were exchanged on essential tasks: How to support the conservation system in emerging countries, how we can respect the ethnic identities, and how we can reflect upon the Asian dynamism. Unfortunately, the declaration was not agreed on, but the participants could share the awareness of the issues beyond their differences. It was hugely meaningful for various organisations in Asia, with diverse cultural backgrounds, to mutually confirm the basic rules of urban conservation.

The reason why the Penang Declaration was not agreed on was that, while the majority of activity is conducted by NGOs, participants from the countries with different political backgrounds such as Myanmar and China found it difficult to give their consents. Even so, it was worthwhile to specially invite two participants from Myanmar and a researcher from China. Urban conservation in Asia cannot be advanced without China, where the world largest urban development is going on, and there is a need for emerging countries like Myanmar to establish a system for conservation before the market economy is introduced. It became very clear once again the importance of supporting policy that has taken into consideration the difference in political situation.

Lastly, the possibility of network utilising social media was discussed and the new conservation network called “Asia Heritage Network” was established from that day. This is a closed network of Facebook members and is becoming a useful place for information exchange with latest information from urban heritage around Asia.

Not only the official discussions but also many events and entertainment activities in the post-symposium parties also helped to develop the exchange. The multi-cultural city Penang has offered a special place for such exchange. In this city, there is a welcoming atmosphere that makes you forget about the differences in culture or language. The globalisation in economy has caused a massive change in urban space, but it has also brought about a borderless situation in which people can exchange without being conscious of borders. Whatever the relations between governments are, and even if there are ethnic conflicts occurring, the citizens’ network can be more free, spontaneous and creative. I hope that the exchange of citizens on urban conservation, which deals with the basis of human life, can wipe out the rigid political situation of Asia and deeply-rooted distrust between each other

### **Future prospectus of urban conservation in Asia**

In the new Asia network, what will be important is a system of international exchange in which citizens will cooperate, while paying attention to different political situations, to respect ethnicity, locality and historicity. In this last section, following the outcome of the symposium, I will look into the future of Asia’ s urban conservation.

The first important point in the future urban conservation is the support for urban conservation in emerging countries including Myanmar, Indonesia, Cambodia and China. When

we think of expected economic growth, establishing urban conservation policy is urgent, but what we need is not a rigid conservation with enhanced regulations but a system in which urban conservation can help to improve people's lives and to develop their cultures, a system in balance with the economic growth. We wanted in this programme to go as far as to propose a model of urban conservation in emerging countries, but the discussion did not go that far and such a model will be sought after through our practices. As regard to the support for emerging countries, conducting support plans through various channels, through citizens' exchange and lobbying, as well as working with scholars, can lead to a new model of development based on tradition.

Secondly, there is the influence of young generation arising around Asia. Over the 20-year history of the Asian network, the emergence of new generation in NGOs around Asia is happening rapidly. The young generation who participated in the Penang symposium, I felt, are exceeding the previous generations in terms of their global mind, their ability to present and communicate, and to organise the event. If we could get the most out of their abilities, the network can become one that is free, open and has practical capacity.

What are even more important are the enthusiasm and independent thinking of NGOs. The NGOs in the developing countries are not just waiting for the aid, unlike what many NGOs used to be. They are more active than the NGOs in the developed countries and there are now many groups with creativity and excellent planning capacity. Now, it is ideal for the developed countries to let the ideas flow from the NGOs in the developing countries and support them indirectly from the side, not like the rich helping the poor. After the Penang gathering, the participants from Indonesia expressed their will to hold the next meeting in their country. The young Korean participants also proposed to host the one after the next one. There is a lot to learn from such positive attitudes. We are gradually seeing the outline of a network in which many independent and innovative projects are born and complement each other. If we could grow this bud to a big, strong tree, there should be a new movement starting from Asia that can lead the world's urban conservation.

Now the stream of the world's civilisation is moving in a large scale from Europe and America to Asia, from the developed countries to the developing countries, and the new Asian network of historical urban conservation needs to be planned as part of such a large trend. That is the step-out from the Euro-America-centred philosophy in urban planning, the first step to a new paradigm: From development to conservation, government-led to citizens-oriented, separation to exchange, civilisation clash to co-existence.

*Ichiro IWAI, a board member of Nara Machizukuri Center*



## 5-2. CULTURAL HERITAGE, CULTURAL IDENTITY AND DYNAMISM IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

I took part in a symposium, which was a part of the project held in Penang on 12th January 2012, and gave a lecture under this title. With some part taken from the lecture in Penang, I would like to provide a new set of views on the Network and its future.

The Asia and West Pacific Network for Urban Conservation (AWPNUC) is an international network established by professionals, representatives of citizens' groups and others from Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, India, China and Japan who participated in "Development and Conservation in Major Asian Cities" held in Penang in 1991, a workshop hosted by United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) and co-hosted by the Penang State Government. Since then, AWPNUC has received supports from organisations such as UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau in Bangkok and Toyota Foundation, and the member -organisations have made exchanges among them for more than 20 years. Later, 4 countries/region, Korea, Taiwan, Cambodia and Myanmar, joined the original 6 countries. And for this symposium, from a large country like Indonesia, there were participants from several states (regions). I gained an impression that there were many new, young members at the symposium.

Needless to say, in the past 20 years, the economic development of Southeast Asian countries was rapid. But there are huge differences in growth rates among those countries, as well as the differences in social development. In many countries, the income inequality, which was not so small in 1990, has grown. On the other hand, those countries also saw a steady increase in the numbers of people belonging to middle income groups, a rise in educational standards, and the development in the activities of civil society.

As the result of economic growth, there were fast development projects happening not only in large cities but also in small and medium-size local cities. Citizens' lifestyle and productive activities have changed, and the traditional urban heritage has been lost. Changes in lifestyle and occupations are due mainly to the industrial development: A wide-spread of consumer electronics and cars, as well as an improvement in the large-scale infrastructure that creates a foundation for it, have drastically changed the cities and villages. In addition to that, the signs of new civil society that are now seen among young people, encouraged by the rapid spread of new information technology in the last 10 years, are thought to be changing people's thinking.

Originally in Southeast Asian countries, there is a large group of youth population. With a rise in the educational standard, young people with high information literacy now instantly receive world's information and they themselves send out a huge amount of information. Presumably, there is a difference in influences caused by the kinds of economic growth that Japanese young people experienced a half-century ago and that the youths in the age of developed information technology experience. Although there were many young participants in the symposium, we cannot grasp the overall tendency just from them. However, it is worth noting that there are more young people who are highly interested in local traditional cultures and historical heritages. Because of the freshness of young participants who speak of urban conservation in the symposium, there was a totally different atmosphere; it is obviously different from Japan, a country with an incomparable rate of aging, but also from what the meeting was like 20 years ago, and one could sense that there is a new purpose for urban conservation. The difference from 20 years ago is that there are less

nostalgic feelings for what have been lost, less senses of urgency and suspicion towards the rapid development, and more willingness to create unique local cultures, rather than to preserve historical heritages. To put it more simply, there is an emphasis on creation than conservation, and a wide recognition that there are resources among traditional local cultures that can lead to social developments.

Following the economic growth, there were increases in the national income, people's living standards and the rate of people going into higher education. Because of that, though there are problems to be solved, democratic political systems are gradually installed in many counties with the development of citizens' activities. Of course, such citizens' activities are not only happening in cultural heritage and historical urban conservation. In the field of conservation, the movement is different from the ones pursued by the developed countries in Europe, America and Japan. Penang, the host state of this symposium, has already been registered as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2008. There are supports from international organisations and the systems and skills of conservation are reaching the international standards, presenting an excellent model to neighbouring countries and regions. The activities are made open and are inviting people to participate, with an effort to privatise the public bureau for cultural heritage. We can say that it now has the most open system among various citizens' activities.

Now, GDP and GDP pro capita in 2012 are mostly proportional, but countries with larger population, such as China, has a relatively low GDP pro capita. On the other hand, in the case of Malaysia, with a relatively smaller population, GDP pro capita is high. An extreme case is Singapore, with a higher GDP pro capita than Japan. Among the participating countries, Japan has a GDP pro capita over 40,000 USD, followed by Korea and Taiwan with over - 20,000 USD GDP pro capita, and Malaysia whose GDP pro capita has just gone above 10,000 USD, then China with 6,000 USD, and Thailand just less than China at 5,000 USD, Indonesia at 3,000 USD, and Cambodia and Myanmar with GDP pro capita below 1,000 USD (Fig. 1). By the way, compared to the numbers in 1991, China has increased by 17 times, Malaysia 4 times, Thailand 3.4 times, and Japan 1.6 times. In other words, this Network, which started in Penang in 1991, has been active in the 20 years in which GDP pro capita of major participating countries have risen from 3,000 USD to 10,000USD (Fig.2).

There is a view that, when GDP pro capita exceeds 2,000 USD, the movement for democratisation becomes active, and when going beyond 10,000 USD, changes occur in the form of the state government and public administration. There is also an argument that the urban conservation movement starts to happen with a nationalistic purpose and method, followed by the second stage in which the cultural diversity is respected along the democratisation, with an increasing interest in popular culture, ethnic minority and rural culture. It finally develops into the third stage with an emphasis on cultural integrity and creativity. If we look at the case of Japan, the protection of cultural properties started in the pre-war period when GDP pro capita was still below 1,000 USD, and then there was the enactment of the current Cultural Property Law in 1950 with GDP pro capita at 2,000 USD, legalisation of urban conservation in 1970s when GDP pro capita increased from 5,000 to 10,000 USD, and we saw the registration system and the Urban Landscape Law installed in the 90s with the GDP pro capita going beyond 30,000 USD. Although the current numbers of GDP pro capita in major Southeast Asian countries are still low, because of the globalisation accelerated by the new information technology, they appear to go through the path very quickly. Yet, there are countries who take the fast path towards conservation, such as Malaysia and

Thailand, and those who slow down like China, due to differences in social background of each country.

The first difference is the way in which each country has been built. Among the participating countries of the Network, Malaysia is a typical multi-ethnic country, and Indonesia, with its large geographic area, has ethnic issues and so does Thailand. For a long time, the Federation of Malaysia has taken policies of *bumiputera* to give a favourable treatment to Malays and, culturally, too, has treated the protection of cultural heritages of Malay and of British colonial periods differently from cultural heritages of Chinese citizens such as the ones in Penang. In the 1990s, Badan Warisan (Malaysia National Trust) was not particularly keen on the protection of Chinese cultural heritage in George Town. Because of the national policy on affirmative protection of Malay culture, protecting Chinese cultural heritage could be seen as an action of separatism.

In the era of building a nation-state after independence, protection of cultural heritages was not seen as uplifting national culture and was often out of government's interest, if not harshly excluded. There were very few interests in traditional cultures and traditional architecture of ethnic minorities living in a border region remote from the capital city, and it was generally thought that an immediate development should be implemented in such regions by national unification. Actually, due to the development of infrastructure and natural resources, as well as the industrialisation, those border regions are disappearing in Southeast Asia. At the same time, a half-century after independence, the movement for ethnic independence or secession has mostly calmed down. Integration of regional economy and its development exceeded the impact of ethnic unification, and the sweetness of fruits that the economic integration created has changed the meaning of culture in multinational state.

Cultural policies of multinational state and its development shall be discussed elsewhere and we come back to the issue of urban conservation in Southeast Asia. It is thought that the first stage of nationalism has shifted to the second stage where much emphasis is placed on cultural diversity, and now to the third stage with cultural integrity and creativity. In the symposium, a region that attracted most attention was Sumatra. Aceh in West Sumatra, where the independence struggle has ended in 2005, with PAN-Sumatra Network, has placed Sumatra's urban conservation as part of gentle unification on the basis of their acquired autonomy. It was also pointed out that the fast recovery from the Indian Ocean earthquake in 2004 is destroying the traditional heritages.

Likewise, people of Penang show their interest in conserving and inheriting the cultures of *Baba Nyonya*, or *Peranakan* in Indonesian, also called *Straits Chinese*, the descendants of Chinese immigrants who settled in both sides of Strait of Malacca. In the symposium, there were participants from Phuket in Thailand, Aceh and Medan in Indonesia and Malacca, all belonging to this cultural zone, with two historical cities, George Town of Penang and Malacca, being listed as the World Heritage sites. Because it was a British colony, many young people of *Baba Nyonya* study in the UK, Australia and the US. They are familiar with citizens' activities and international exchanges, and are highly interested in historical cultures. Also, there is one of the major cities of Southeast Asia, Singapore, nearby, and the network of urban conservation that goes beyond national borders is integral, if not autonomous. One could not help feeling that there is a rise of cultural uniqueness with high integrity.

In the symposium, Mr Yongtanit, representing Thai ICOMOS, talked about the plan for creating the conservation principle of Southeast Asia that can replace the 1962 Venice Charter. Thailand, along

with Vietnam from which there were no participants this time, is a great power of this region. It is also a country where urban conservation has been advanced with the help of Japan and other developed countries. Members of Nara Machizukuri Center, too, have supported the planning of conservation in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Thailand and Vietnam have their own unique cultures and pursue good conservation activities, which are different from the ones in the region around the Straits of Malacca. Among the five Mekong countries, they are particularly influential economically, socially and culturally. They are also said to compete each other for the hegemony. Both countries are keen on the World Heritage registration and also have issues regarding cultural property protection that may not be solved by Western methods. While Penang and Malacca have taken the advantage of international corporation by the three major EU countries, the UK, France and Germany, Thailand and Vietnam are searching for cultural uniqueness and slightly different conservation techniques from the ones in Penang or Malacca, and the questions raised from their search are sure to keep attracting much focus.

It is also necessary to refer to a Big Ban in tourism that has happened in Southeast Asian countries over the past 20 years. As well as an increase in the number of tourists from outside the region, such as Europe, America, Japan, Korea and China, the tourists from the ASEAN countries have drastically increased, first from Singapore, then from Malaysia, and from Thailand. Because of the rise in GDP pro capita, the richer people's overseas travel boom came earlier than expected. ASEAN countries are sending out tourists to Europe, American and Japan, but also a large number to neighbouring countries within ASEAN. In addition to that, there is also a rapid increase in tourists for domestic travel. World Heritage registration and urban conservation are taking places alongside this boom in tourism. If we just look at George Town, the number of tourists walking in the town is incomparable to what it was 20 years ago.

It is interesting to look at the influences of such development in tourism. In the research conducted by UN, WTO and other organisations, the problems of tourism development in developing countries have been pointed out numerously. Although there are still problems left, the main stream of tourism is now what they in the West call cultural tourism. In the past 10 years, there was an increase in the number of petit hotel called boutique hotel that use the traditional buildings. Nowadays, large-scale resort hotels by giant capital are not the main stream, but the shophouse hotels in the town are becoming popular. Probably there still are large tourist-groups from China or Taiwan, but individual tourists and small groups who stay for a longer period of time have become increasingly prominent and, not only the tourists from Europe or America, but also the young tourists from the ASEAN countries are starting to spend their time like people do in European tourist cities. Shops and small museums that follow such trend are starting to appear, fully utilising the charm of conserved popular culture. Although this trend may not be seen throughout the Southeast Asia region, it can be said that the Big Ban in tourism has not only caused the expansion in numbers but also a qualitative improvement.

The purpose of UNCRD proposing an international network at its research and training project "Development and Conservation in Major Asian Cities" was to encourage not only international exchanges but also inter-citizen exchanges for pursuing urban conservation. Urban conservation is part of cultural property protection but it goes hand in hand with other issues such as the rise in people's income and living standard, democratisation, the autonomy and development of unique local communities. And the moving engines are local citizens and to-be-seen civil society. Gaining cultural autonomy and identity that can contend with industrial development, expansions of logistics

and consumption and tourism development can lead to the maturing of civil society. For that, conservation of cultural resources in local communities is essential.

Maybe we should once again remind ourselves of this basic principle, a starting point. The 20-year activity of the Network was not guided by particular leaders who embodied this principle. Rather, it was those individuals who did not recognise the principle so strongly but somehow shared it with others and who participated by their good will. Because the principle possessed certain universality, the direction of the Network has not been lost.

The participating cities and regions of the Network showed steady development over the past 20 years. It was not merely an economic growth but also a cultural development. We need to be reminded that Nara, a town with no apparent sign of change, has experienced a drastic qualitative change in the last 20 years. The change in Nara may be difficult to spot, but we need to look carefully at the changes occurring in other places of this Network. We may be able to find something shared by diverse forms of civil society, which have sprouted from different localities. Starting from such shared foundation, we can then look ahead of urban conservation, into the future of our society.

The numbers of cities and regions that have participated in the Network are still limited. There are members who wish to invite more members. On the other hand, there are those who wish to develop the essence of this project.

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Fig.1: GDP (Gross Domestic Product) in 2012 and nominal GDP per capita in USD

Country	Nominal GDP			Nominal GDP per capita in USD		
	Shown in 1 billion USD	Change from previous year	Standing	Shown in USD	Change from previous year	Standing
Singapore	276.52	+1	8	51,161.60	+1	1
Japan	5,963.97	-0.5	2	46,735.72	+4	2
Korea	1,155.87	-0.5	3	23,112.93	+3	3
Taiwan	473.97	-1	5	20,328.31	+2	4
Malaysia	303.5.	+1	7	10,304.17	-1	5
China	8,227.04	-0.5	1	6,075.92	+4	6
Thailand	365.56	-2	6	5,678.48	-1	7
Indonesia	878.20	-0.5	4	3,592.29	-0.5	8
Philippine	250.44	+4	9	2,614.16	-0.5	9
Vietnam	238.07	+1	10	1,527.95	+1	10
Laos	9.22	+1	13	1,445.53	+3	11
Cambodia	14.24	+4	12	933.61	-1	12
Myanmar	53.14	-0.5	11	834.60	-0.5	13

Fig.2

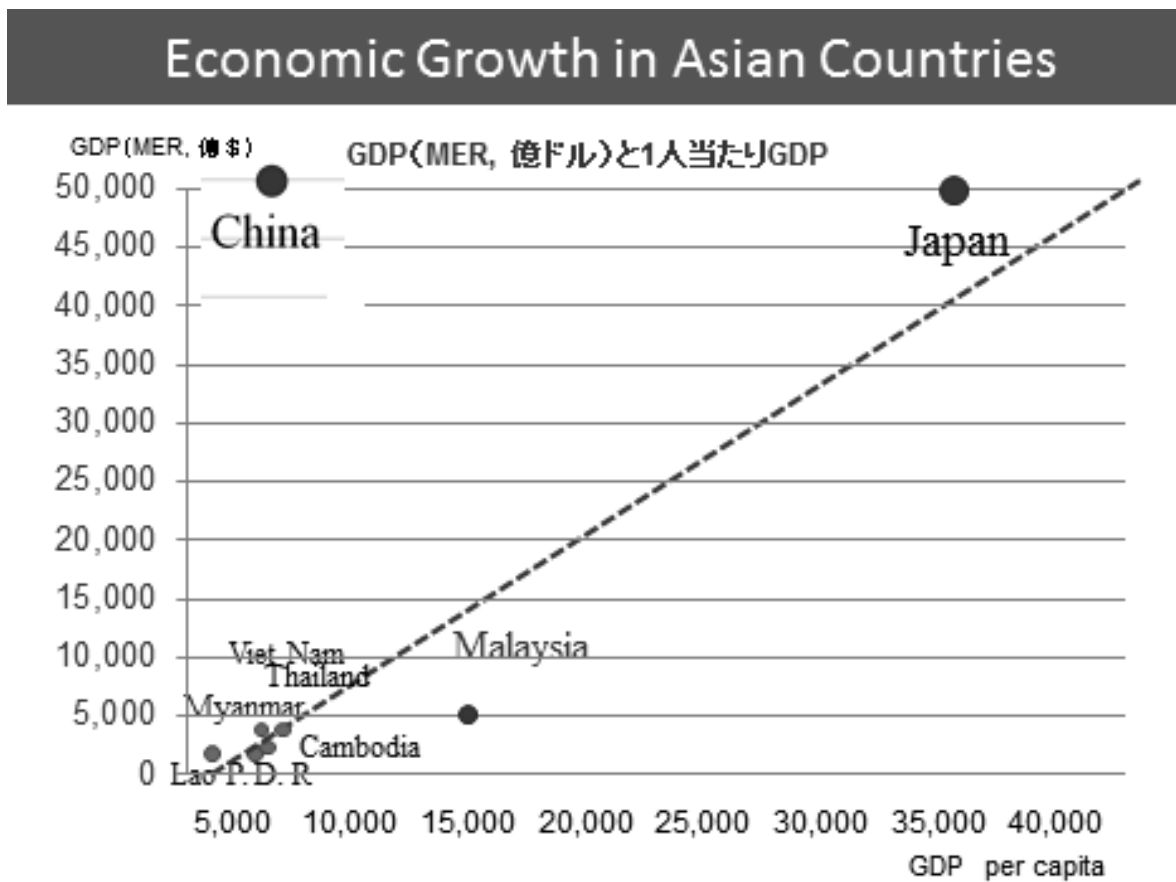


Fig.3

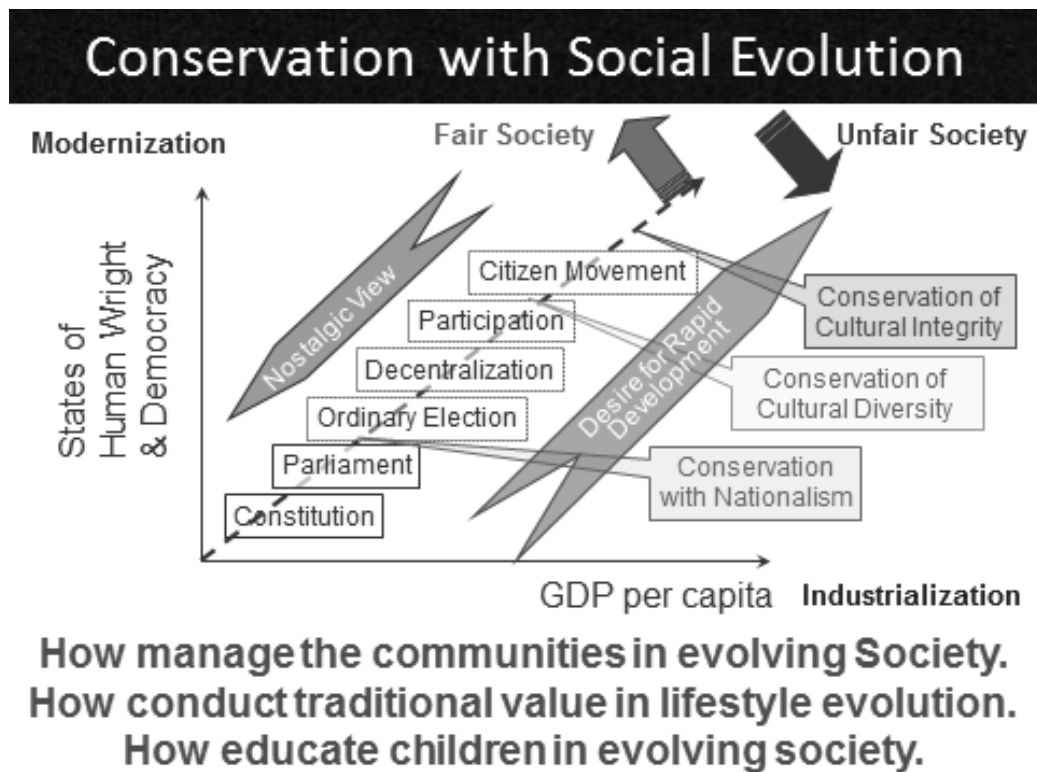


Fig.4

