



**SHS notes from participation to the “*Lab Proposed Transforming Brooke Dockyard into Maritime Museum*”  
(20/06/2019)**

SHS was invited and was represented by DS Ridu (President) and Ar Will Khoo (SHS adviser, architecture) at a Lab on the Brooke Dockyard project on 20/06/2019. At the meeting, a presentation was made by the parties involved in the project, followed by a site visit. Key information we gathered was following:

. The project is an adaptive re-use project coming under the Sarawak Museum Department with PU Architect as main architect and Ar Dominic Choo in charge of conservation (the latter was unfortunately not able to be present at the lab).

. The Museum content is to centre about 50% on maritime history, 30% on the Dockyard history to be interactive content.

. The steel structure is the main focus of conservation with the main ship repair hull area to be upgraded and restored. The front drop off from the main road expected to be fairly problematic due to congestion and suggestion was given to use the site around the ex-railway terminus building across the road. Discussion were said to be still underway on the proposal to accommodate a replica of the Royalist.

We made several comments on the project, in particular the apparent lack of proper transport roading plan, given the road access constraints. We expressed concerns on the preservation of the integrity of the steel structure and its construction, highlighting the significance of the steel bolts details and the original construction techniques and machinery. At the site visit that followed the discussion lab, our observation of the completed front facelift (with for ex. unsympathetic downpipe details and use of incompatible steel metal panels) highlighted inadequacies in the definition of a fine-tuned conservation strategy respecting the existing fabric and preserving the building without seriously altering its character. These inadequacies appear to pose a threat to successful integration of the old and new.