

October 2011 - June 2012

NEWSLETTER



FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Sarawak Heritage Society is committed to raising awareness in the community on Sarawak's Heritage and so we, as an organisation would like to add our voice to the growing concern surrounding reports that the Trustees of **The Masjid Bandar Kuching** are proposing to demolish it to make way for a new and so-called improved structure.



The news is in stark contrast to the raging controversy surrounding the proposed works at Jalan Sultan in Kuala Lumpur. In that case, a corporation with the blessing of the government (as claimed by certain quarters) were imposing a disturbing loss of built cultural heritage against the wishes of the local community, which caused a political storm resulting in an eventual u-turn. But here in Kuching, this is only the latest example in a long line of private buildings that have been renovated with no thought to preservation of heritage. The Sarawak Heritage Society is dismayed at the realisation that it is private organisations and owners themselves, charged with the care of these historic buildings, who are promoting the destruction of these venerable examples of their own heritage, as in the case of the Summerhouse in the Museum Gardens, traditional shophouses, two town-centre Chinese temples and now the Masjid Bandar.

As the Sarawak Government strive to promote heritage concerns in the state through the creation of its new Heritage section under the Ministry of Social Development, Culture and Heritage, this decision by a private body appears to undermine those efforts. A recent claim was made in the press that the mosque has never been classified as a heritage building. Established in 1834, over 170 years ago, by the Indian Muslims who came from Southern India, this building falls clearly within the purview of the ordinances in place which govern antiquities. Its age alone makes it a heritage building, let alone its significance in the religious and social history of one the founding ethnic groups of Kuching.

Neither do the claims that the mosque does not have any special design hold any weight. Its longevity makes it unique and its charm and dignity are appreciated by

huge numbers of Kuching residents, both Muslim and Non-Muslim alike. It has been a well-loved landmark of Kuching for the whole lives of every resident here and the spice shops that form part of the complex are of great architectural significance.

As to the claims that the structure of the mosque is quite weak, these are not surprising. Built in a time before proper building codes and after 170 years in existence, we could expect nothing else. But should we consign it to the scrap heap or work to strengthen it? Both the Courthouse and the Square Tower required reinforcement as part of their restoration and these now stand proud on our Waterfront. No one is suggesting that the mosque should remain untouched in its current condition. Quite the contrary, the goal must be to return the complex to the height of its beauty so that we can ensure that it continues to stand for the next 170 years, a monument to the community that built it and the long-standing ties that community has to Kuching's history.

What of the claims that it is 'difficult and costly to repair'? Surely no one can dispute the financial value of heritage in a month that has seen an unassuming ceramic bowl of no special design that was once used to clean brushes sell for US\$26.5 million at auction. Both Penang and Malacca, designated UNESCO World Heritage sites, have reported significant increases in the values of properties within the heritage core, on top of seeing their tourist numbers swell exponentially. Here in Kuching, we have received feedback from locals and tourists alike that they can no longer relate to either of the Chinese temples rebuilt from the ground up in entirely new materials, ...continue pg.10



Masjid Bandar Kuching on Jalan Gambier.

GOVERNMENT LIAISONS

In an effort to continue the close working relationship with the government, SHS have participated in various meetings/conferences/activities organized by the Ministry and other agencies as follows:

- **17th October 2011** - SHS President was invited by Sarawak Tourism Federation to attend the meeting for planning for the students' Heritage Trail and Treasure Hunt 2011 to coincide with Remembrance Day on 05th November 2011.
- **28th October 2011** - SHS President was invited by Ministry of Tourism to attend the Wreath Council Meeting for war veterans and the Sarawak Heritage Treasure Hunt.
- **11th November 2011** - SHS President was invited by Sarawak Tourism Federation to attend the post-mortem meeting following the Sarawak Heritage Treasure Hunt 2011 in order to give a full report to the Ministry concerned on any achievements and shortcomings of the event.
- **13th February 2012** - SHS President was invited by Ministry of Tourism to attend the meeting for "21 Iban Trackers Memorial".
- **21st March 2012** - SHS President was invited by STF to attend a coordination meeting on Heritage Students Exchange - ANZAC Students.
- **26th March 2012** - SHS President was invited by Sarawak Museum Department to attend the opening ceremony for the exhibition of "Baro Commandos Heritage".
- **02nd April 2012** - SHS President was invited by the Sarawak Museum Department to attend the opening ceremony of the exhibition "The Ulu and The Museum".
- **26th April 2012** - SHS President was invited by MOT to attend a meeting on the proposed Brooke Dockyard Maritime Museum - Reconstruction of Yacht Royalist.
- **14th May 2012** - SHS President was invited by STF to attend a meeting to work out proactive steps to begin the implementation on the proposed renovation of the Batu Lintang POW Memorial and Historical Heritage project.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

SHS continues to raise public awareness on heritage conservation through its education programs.

- **06th October 2011** - Students from Taylor's University Lakeside Campus were guided by SHS member, Rose Au on the Kuching Heritage Trail for their research study.
- **29th October 2011** - SHS was invited to a seminar on *The Social History and Cultural Identity of the Chinese in Sri Aman Division* at University Malaysia Sarawak which was jointly organized by Institut of East Asian Studies (IEAS), Unimas and Sarawak Chinese Cultural Association (SCCA).
- **04th December 2011** - Mike Boon was invited to participate and present a paper in the seminar on *Local History Studies and Chinese Identity Recognitions* jointly organized by the Sarawak Taiwan Graduates' Association and the Sarawak Chinese Cultural Association and Association of Sarawak Chinese Academic Research.

COMMUNITY CULTURAL HERITAGE PROJECT

"Reminiscing forgotten treasures... SINIAWAN"

This is a joint project implemented by Sarawak Heritage Society & The Talent & Art Performing Group, for Swee Gek Kung Siniawan Sarawak & supported by BlueScope Lysaght (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd.

ART EXHIBITION AT THE SARAWAK MUSEUM

Coordinated by Goh Tze Hui (a student volunteer)

Siniawan is a historical town with many stories untold. In order to raise public awareness on the conservation of historical buildings, the Sarawak Heritage Society (SHS) has initiated a community-based heritage conservation project called "Reminiscing Forgotten Treasures, SINIAWAN" together with Wujaioji (The Talent and Art Performing Group) and the Siniawan Heritage Conservation Committee, which was also supported by BlueScope Lysaght (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd. It has been almost 3 years since the launching of the project in 2009, and the old town is once again in the public eye through a series of activities held by SHS, such as oral history with the local elders, architectural measured drawings by volunteers, photographing buildings for record and the latest being a sketching weekend led by artist Hoan Kee Huang on 3rd September 2011.

Subsequently, Sarawak Heritage Society collaborated with the Sarawak Museum Department on an art exhibition entitled "From Studio to Old Street - Capturing cultural heritage through art" by a renowned local artist Hoan Kee Huang. The exhibition was held from 14th January to 12th February 2012 at the Sarawak Museum. The launching ceremony was held on the 14th January (Saturday) at 9.30am. This exhibition was sponsored by BlueScope Lysaght (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd.



A painting by Hoan.



Paintings by Hoan on display at the exhibition.



Artist Hoan has a passion for local culture. Participating in the project since inception, he has committed himself to recording Siniawan's heritage through his paintings. The gifted artist specialises in portraits and landscapes that are painted in an eye-catching and innovative brush style and created paintings that have a three-dimensional feel. He said that each of his works of art is imbued with rich emotions of the land and strives to invoke the viewers' passion and love towards their own land and culture.

Hoan has held two solo exhibitions: "Portraits of Sarawak" in Kuala Lumpur (2003) and "Portraits of Malaysia" in Kuching (2005). In 2008, he also organised a retrospective exhibition entitled "Sarawak's 1st Generation Fine Art Artist" featuring 6 local pioneers in Sarawak's art scene. His paintings had been collected by various galleries and collectors including Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong XII Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin ibni Al-Marhum Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail. In 2003, Hoan was also commissioned to draw the portraits of His Royal Highness (Yang di-Pertuan Agong XII) and His consort, Tuanku Fauziah binti Tengku Abdul Rashid.

A series of graphic panels summarising activities carried out under this Community-based Heritage Project were also exhibited in conjunction to Hoan's exhibition. Members of the public were encouraged to view these works of art.

The exhibition was publicized in local newspapers, banners and flyers and well received by all. The society would like to extend its appreciation to the artist, Hoan Kee Huang; organizing partners; sponsor and volunteers for their hard work in each capacity.



Artist Hoan presented a painting to the Sarawak Museum Department's permanent collection.



Artist Hoan being interviewed by reporters.

Invited guests viewing the exhibitions.

HERITAGE SITE VISIT TO CHAN FAMILY MANSION, KUCHING

SHS organizes visits for members and public to sites in Kuching which are considered to have local heritage values to raise awareness and an understanding of our past.



Group photo of participating members with the hosts, Mr Chan Choon Ann (top left) and Mr KS Chan (top right), on the staircase approaching the main entrance.

On **09th June 2012**, a site visit was arranged by Irene Shepherd to the Chan family mansion located at No.2 Jalan William Tan. This was a rare chance to visit one of the old private houses remaining in Kuching.

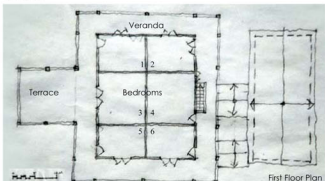
After gathering over breakfast at a coffee shop at Jalan Sekema, where the group could look clearly at the front porch of the Chan mansion, we made our way out to the main gate at Jalan William Tan.

The mansion is accessed by a narrow driveway which sweeps around the base of a small hill to reveal the house nestled behind it. From its vantage point on the hill slope, the front door overlooks the modern shophouses along Jalan Sekema with a view of Gunung Serapi in the far distance.

It is a double-storey building with a hip roof. Brick Doric columns encircle the ground floor creating a tranquil colonnade, supporting the timber veranda upstairs. The front of the house along the center axis has an extended rectangular terrace with a roof over it.

Being on high ground, the house is cool with trees planted around it. A gnarled and moss covered frangipani tree stands atop the original approaching staircase shading the traditional 'loveseat'. The main door of the house opens out onto a well-kept lawn spreading out across the front garden. With the hill behind it, the property is arranged according to classic feng-shui principles.

We were given a guided tour of the house by two of the Chan family members, Mr KS Chan who lives at the mansion, and his nephew Mr Chan Choon Ann. They directed us to view detailing of the structures old and new, and told stories about the house and their ancestors. According to Mr Chan, despite the weathered timber, the joineries remain original and intact.



Mr Chan Choon Ann mentioned that the Chan Villa was built in the early 20th century, though the building has been renovated many times, the timber cladding only dating back to the 1960s. Then we were led to tour the upstairs of the mansion by Mr Chan. It is fully timber with a wide veranda encircling the centre rooms (bedrooms). Interestingly, the bedrooms are positioned back-to-back with each other and each room has a window and a door opening out to the veranda.

The Chan Clan originated from Chan Kho, who as a boy sailed from Mainland China to Kuching and worked as a handy boy in Main Bazaar in early 1900s. He made his fortune in the Bau gold mine and came back to Kuching to start his trading business in a shop at Carpenter Street (now Universal Trading).

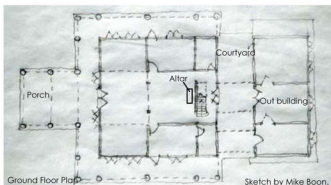
The family is well known for owning a total of five mansions in Kuching built by different family members since early 20th century. Currently only two of the buildings remain standing.

1. Chin Siak Garden at Jalan Mathies by second son Chan Kee Soon. This was later occupied by Kuching High School but burned down in 2008.
2. Chan Chng Villa at Jalan Tabuan built by his other son Chan Kee Ong. The building has since been demolished.
3. House of Lau Leong Yew & Chan Choo Nio, behind KMC flat, built by the daughter of Chan Kee Ong. This is the other remaining Chan mansion.
4. Chan Villa at Jalan William Tan, bought by Chan Boon Tho, son of Chan Kee Hock (eldest son of Chan Kho).
5. Kong Ann Garden at Jalan Pending, now demolished.

Chan Villa is the main ancestral house as one can see the display of photographs and plaques of the Chan ancestors on the altar in the living room downstairs. A few pieces of antique furniture remain where they probably originally were. Mr Chan mentioned that the house has gone through several renovations as could be seen from the oddly positioned beams.

The house has held many occasions of merriment and funerals, as told by Mr Chan. There is an extended building to the back of the main building which housed the old kitchen and store - the size of the kitchen utilities testify the amount of cooking done in those days!

The group enjoyed both Mr Chan's company and explanation, and the society wishes to thank them for showing to us how the inhabitants of the mansion had lived and their personal and social lives back then.



Approach to Chan Villa from Jalan William Tan.



Original brick approach wall



View from Jalan Sekema - the original main approach to the mansion.



Remnant of wooden screen

Column beam detail



Hall with altar



A single flight staircase provides access to the veranda encircling the bedrooms.



Brick colonnade supporting the timber veranda above.

RESEARCH PAPERS

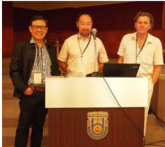
John Ting, John Walker and Mike Boon formed a panel and presented papers in two international conferences, at the 11th International Borneo Research Council Conference at the Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Brunei on 25th-27th June 2012; and the 29th Annual Conference of the Society of Architectural Historians Australia & New Zealand (SAHANZ) at the University of Tasmania, Launceston, Australia on 5th-8th July 2012.

Panel Topic : The Old Kuching Courthouse

Panel Abstract :

In 2000, Kuching's law courts were moved to a new building and a project to conserve and adaptively reuse the Old Kuching Courthouse for tourism purposes was begun. This event marked a radical change in the building's use since it was originally built in 1874, and inspired three researchers from different fields to begin exploring the history of the Courthouse independently of each other. While the background role of the Courthouse in Sarawak's socio-political history was well established, they found that there was a paucity of information on the architectural history of the building, including its design origins, construction, extension and symbolic representation, in addition to a lack of appropriate local examples to guide the conservation of the building. These three researchers (the first a conservation architect, the second an architectural historian and the third a political scientist) have since formed a close collaboration in their research of the Courthouse and its conservation. The initial findings of these three research projects has been presented and published in different forms since 2004. Subsequent research has revealed much more about the building's architectural and political origins, as well as the sequence of development of its different wings, and its relation to the development of both Kuching and Sarawak. This panel brings together the most recent findings of the research of the Old Kuching Courthouse.

Convenor : John Ting



A picture of Mike Boon (L), John Ting (C) and Dr. John Walker (R), taken at the Borneo Research Council Conference at the Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

Building Authority: Charles Brooke, Legitimacy and the Old Kuching Courthouse

John Walker - University of New South Wales at ADF
j.walker@adfa.edu.au

This paper explores the second Rajah of Sarawak's search for political authority (and its expression through architecture) following his accession to the rulership in 1868. Brooke's succession was highly contentious, even if, ultimately, uncontested. Brooke's own family, his predecessor's closest friends and collaborators and, possibly, the Malay elite in Kuching were all sympathetic to the claims of his older brother, Brooke Brooke. Noting Charles's linking of construction to prosperity and political legitimacy (as outlined in the Malay language Hikayat Panglima Nikosa, which Brooke sponsored), the paper maps Charles's early building program in Kuching, and in the government's outstations. This principle physical representation of his regime included outstation forts, his encouragement of the building of new hygienic longhouses, his construction of a new Istana (palace), and his redevelopment of Main Bazaar (Kuching's commercial precinct): the centrepiece of which was the Old Kuching Courthouse. The paper also compares this phase of construction with later institutional architecture, including extensions to the Courthouse. These works were executed after the British Government recognised Brooke as an independent prince, which accorded him precedence at the Court of St. James over the sultans of the Malay peninsula. Brooke used this additional level of legitimacy in conjunction with his architecture to assert his authority in the Malay world, both in Sarawak and beyond.

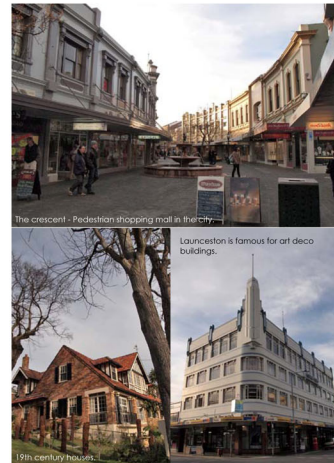
Life in Kampung Air, Brunei



Courts in Kuching : the development of settlement patterns and institutional architecture in colonial Sarawak, 1841-1941

John Ting - University of Melbourne, j.tarchitect@gmail.com

James Brooke's Sarawak Government was given jurisdiction over the three rivers that made up 'Sarawak' in 1841, when he was conferred the title of Rajah by the Brunei Sultanate. During his (and his two successors') century-long rule of Northwest Borneo, Sarawak's territory expanded several times to become what is now the Malaysian state of the same name. He established himself in the capital Kuching, and each time new territory was occupied, the government similarly established themselves by setting up an outstation at a key indigenous settlement. While he employed Europeans in his government, Brooke also relied on indigenous officers as part of his adoption of indigenous forms of rule. He also appropriated indigenous architecture and settlement patterns, when he began his tenure as Rajah. The location of his original court followed Malay tradition by being located in his Malay nobleman's house, built for him by the Bruneian governor in 1841. He began to develop the court as an institution when he moved his court out of his residence and across the river to the commercial side of Kuching in 1847. Similarly, his Government established forts in the outstations, which were used as courts for his indigenous and European officials to rule on his behalf. This paper explores how the Government adopted and began to change indigenous spatial practices as part of their diverse approaches to governing. In particular, the development of the Old Kuching Courthouse and its effect on Kuching's urban morphology will be compared to the establishment of Sarawak's forts and outstations in order to investigate the development of settlement patterns and institutional architecture in Sarawak from 1841 to 1941.



Conservation in Sarawak: the case of the Old Kuching Courthouse

Mike Boon - Arkitek JFN, ar.mikeboon@gmail.com & John Ting

The Old Kuching Courthouse (1874) was the second of ten buildings to be gazetted as a Historical Monument by the state government of Sarawak (in Malaysia), since the legislation was introduced in 1971. The building was originally established to house a number of different government departments, but by the 1970's only Kuching's legal courts remained at that location, as the other functions were relocated to dedicated buildings elsewhere in the city. The government decided to redevelop the Courthouse as a tourism-based facility when the courts themselves were relocated to a new and larger courts complex across the river in 2000. This conservation and adaptive re-use project was completed in 2003, to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the formation of Malaysia. On the face of it, this was a model heritage project – not only was it completed on time, to the client's requirements, and following the best practice of the time as laid out by the Burra Charter, it also went on to win a number of significant national and regional architecture and heritage awards. However, its successes mask the relative newness of contemporary heritage practice in the state, as well as a number of gaps and inadequacies in Sarawak's heritage legislation and administration. This relative unfamiliarity and legislative uncertainty, coupled with the political desires of the client body, created a tension that affected the process of conserving and adaptively reusing the courthouse. This paper explores the successes and failures of the approaches, tactics and strategies employed by the conservation architects in the process of the design, procurement and construction of the project; in the context of a developing conservation environment in Sarawak.

Vignettes of Cultural Heritage in Launceston, Tasmania



THE FORTS OF SARAWAK — A brief outline

The forts of Sarawak are spread across the state from Kuching to Baram. Through them can be traced the expansion of the Brooke regime and its interaction with the local communities that came under its umbrella. They changed the landscape as each successive fort established new communities, but yet conformed to it through their blending of east and west architectural traditions.

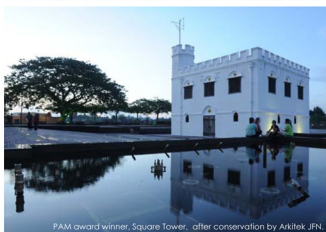
Over 20 forts were constructed, all of them in a strategic place on a river or at the river mouth. The goal, following a Malay practice, was to control river access, historically the primary form of communication at that time. In reality, the forts were called upon to serve a vast array of different purposes, functioning as courts, dispensaries, barracks, officers housing, jails, tax and post offices, stores and, even in one case, a residence for a visiting Brunei Sovereign.

Without fail, the establishment of a fort brought with it a metamorphosis in the local area. Generally, each location was chosen near the site of an existing Malay settlement or central to a group of longhouses. But each fort would draw in indigenous settlers to trade with it and, of course, Chinese settlers to trade with them. In fact, most major towns in Sarawak settled before 1941 conform to this pattern.

In terms of construction, the forts share certain broad similarities. With the exception of Fort Margherita and the Square Tower in Kuching, all outstation forts were originally timber construction. They were all barn-like structures with internal partitions, allowing for a flexible plan that suited their flexible purposes. Beyond that, they diverge into a number of 'types': single, double or even triple storeys; some with attic; some with look-out towers at the corners; some raised from the ground.

Only 14 remain today in varying states of repair, reconstruction or dilapidation. Out of those 14, however, only 8 are gazetted on the Sarawak Heritage List. These forts are among the most historically significant examples of the built architecture in the state, representing the architectural, social and political tradition of the Brooke regime and its impact on the state we live in today.

[Reference:
John Ting
"The Forts of Sarawak An Outline",
Journal of The Malaysian Institute of Architects Vol.21, Issue 1, 28-33.]



PAM award winner, Square Tower, after conservation by Arkitek JPH.



Fort Alice, St. Aman, 1864

Fort Margherita, Kuching, 1879



Square Tower, Kuching, 1879

Fort Sylvia, Kapit, 1880



Fort Lily, Belaga, 1885

Fort Charles, Kabong, 1895



Fort Lama, Limbang, 1897

Fort Hose, Marudi, 1898



Fort Lio Matu, Lio Matu, 1911

Fort Aundell, Lubok Antu, 1912



Fort Long Akah, Long Akah, 1929

Fort Tebekang, Serian, 1929



Fort Emma, Kanowit, 1951

Fort Brooke, Melau, 1935

(Photographs of surviving forts, courtesy of Jabatan Museum Sarawak (except Fort Charles by Mike Boon).)

A NARRATIVE OF THE HISTORY OF THE FORT AT LIO MATU (Article & photographs by Dalin Valerie Mashman)



According to the Sarawak Gazette, the request to build the fort at Lio Matu was received (Douglas 1908:156) "from the Kalabit chiefs Tingang , Tui Iwan and Golih Ballang in the head of the Baram , and the chiefs of the Leppu Asing and Saban tribes who live on the border line." It goes on to say that the building of the fort was a condition given for the Kelabit to move down. They "have promised to move downriver if the fort is built within a day's walk from it and the Kenyahs in the Upper Baram have agreed to move out of the tributaries." The construction of the fort began the same year.

From the Kelabit perspective, Malian Tepun, Headman of Long Peluan, tells the story of the origins of the fort in a historical narrative about the ancestral Kelabit leader Tai Iwan, who was instrumental in establishing the fort at Lio Matu.

"When he [Tai Iwan] arrived in Marudi, he was credited for playing an instrumental role in making peace. However, he was told that every household on the Baram was required to pay tax, in the form of gutta percha (para) as a means of finding out the number of households on the Baram who were the loyal subjects of the government.

Tai Iwan agreed but asked "How are we going to send the tax to Marudi? Why not build forts in Long Lama, Long Akah and Lio Matu, so if it is convenient for us to send our tax?" The government agreed and requested him on his return, to mobilize the Kelabit to cut the timbers for the posts, beams and rafters and the Kenyah to make the planks and the roofing shingles.

So, Tai Iwan went to inform people from as far as Pa Terap, Pa Orang, Long Papong and Long Budong in Kerayan. They came together with the Kelabit to build the fort at Lio Matu until it was completed. "



The Sarawak Gazette confirms that construction proceeded apace. By September 1908 the walls and the roof were finished (Douglas 1909: 158). The official date for the completion of the fort is gazetted as 1911 .

Today, the fort at Lio Matu stands on its original site with a commanding view of the school playing field padang and the school and the river. Not far downriver are islands where small crocodiles can be seen sunning themselves, and beyond are Kenyah longhouses where visitors can be entertained with music and singing. Upriver the road takes you on to Bario , via Long Peluan the Kelabit settlement that moved down to be closer to the fort.

It retains some of the original adze hewn planks used for the walls of the first storey. One of the local elders reminisced that the fort was used as a school in the 1950's and he had been taught there by a Mrs Cunningham. After a period of disuse it has now been renovated – ceilings and a new roof have been constructed, electrical wiring put in place and the whole building has been given a fresh coat of paint.

It is now the site of the district agriculture office. The ground floor houses the lock-up and the store, while the first floor is given over to office space and the area used for the market tamu. It is heartening to see this place put into use again, 100 years after it was built to benefit the remote rural communities of the upper Baram, with rubber planting and fruit nursery projects.

Note by SHS :

The forts at Long Akah and Lio Matu and most likely Long Lama share an architectural and administrative heritage. All three are mini versions of the Kapit type (of which there were four - Kapit, Sibul, Bintulu and Mukah), with two storeys and the corner tower at 45 degrees.

Forts at Lio Matu, Long Akah and Kapit still stand though sadly the others have been lost. Neither of the forts at Long Akah or Lio Matu are currently on the heritage list.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2012-2014

Past Presidents

Datu Aloysius Janalak Dris (2006-2008)
Ar. Mike Boon Chee Khian (2008-2010)

Immediate Past President

Joseph Ingai Gasing (2010-2012)

President

Hong Boon Kheng (2012-2014)

Vice President

Irene Shepherd

Secretary

Karen Shepherd

Treasurer

Colin Lau Yaw Siong

Committee members

Ian Thomas Parker
Teo Hui Kun
Chiong Sik Ing
Dato Wee Hong Seng
Chua Kok Kwang



Back (L-R)

Teo Hui Kun, Dato Wee Hong Seng, Ian Parker, Joseph Ingai, Chiong Sik Ing

Seated (L-R)

Irene Shepherd, Hong Boon Kheng, YB Liwan Lagang, Karen Shepherd

MEMBERSHIP

Since the inception of the Sarawak Heritage Society (SHS) on 14th February 2006, the Society has **35** registered members to date.

SHS AGM 2012

The Sarawak Heritage Society had its 6th AGM cum dinner on 16th March 2012 at Simplicious Restaurant, Jalan Pisang.

During the AGM, a new committee was elected for the term 2012-2014, with office bearers as listed.

The AGM dinner was graced by YB Liwan Lagang, the Assistant Minister for Culture and Heritage, as the Guest of Honour. Our newly elected President, Hong Boon Kheng, gave his maiden speech conveying his appreciation for the work of the past committees and his vision for the coming term.

Mike Boon, who is the project Director of SHS's Community Cultural Heritage Project — "Reminiscing forgotten treasures ... Siniawan", gave a presentation through a series of images and narration on the sequential events of this project for the past three years. Through the activities, the old town has been revived for the residents of Siniawan, developing their understanding of its past and glory; it has been brought to the attention of the local Kuchingites; and its historical and cultural significance has been introduced to students and scholars. The local has taken the ownership of the project and has initiated a weekend night markets to inject a new lease of life to the town.

The AGM Dinner adjoined after much interaction between members, guests and friends of the society.

We thank the following for their contributions in this edition of SHS Newsletter :

- * Photographs by Wixin Photography & Mike Boon, unless otherwise stated;
- * Article by Datin Valerie Mashman; Conference Paper Abstracts by John Ting, Dr. John Walker & Mike Boon;
- * Heritage in the News articles by Borneo Post; See Hua Daily News; Sin Chew Daily; International Times & United Daily News;
- * Editing by Karen Shepherd & Mike Boon; Graphic by Chen Li Li; Compilation by Teo Hui Kun & Chai Shwu Fun.

Membership Information (sourced from clause 5 of SHS Constitution as amended on 11.03.2008) :

Membership shall be open to Malaysian or non-Malaysian citizens residing in Sarawak except for Affiliate membership which shall be open to Malaysian or non-Malaysian citizens residing in Sabah and Semenanjung Malaysia subscribing to and interested in the objects of the Society without restriction as to age sex race or religion.

- **Corporate Member** (5-year membership fee RM 10,000.00)
- **Ordinary Member** (Joining Fee RM 100.00 & Annual Membership Fee RM 100.00)
- **Affiliate Member** (Joining Fee RM 100.00 & Annual Membership Fee RM 100.00)
- **Student Member** (Joining Fee RM 50.00 & Annual Membership fee RM 50.00) *require letter of verification from Institution*

For those wishing to inquire about SHS activities, general information or membership, please contact SHS at :

R.O.S. Registration No. & Address :

0071-06-SWK
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