

SHS is confident it can contribute and value add to the conservation and promotion of Sarawak's heritage in the following ways

Focus Areas

Highlights

1 Conduct an assessment of the public policy, regulatory, financing and enforcement framework

- Assessment would **review existing frameworks**, and where necessary provide **insights** and **recommendations**
- To be headed up by a small SHS-led technical team
- Team would require relevant information and involvement from the following key stakeholders (non-exhaustive)
 - Ministry of Tourism Arts & Culture, Sarawak
 - The Sarawak Museum Department
 - State Planning Authority
- This assessment could be followed by a workshop to discuss findings and chart the way forward.

2 Facilitate a **Baseline Technical Study** by independent consultants on Kuching's heritage zone

- The content of such a study would be the following 4 key areas:-
 - i. Provide an **expert assessment** of the **built and intangible heritage conservation potential** of the Kuching heritage core, taking into account current and proposed programmes and projects (e.g. Heritage Square, Heritage Trail, etc)
 - ii. Outline proposals for a **mid-term strategy** and **planning itinerary** for the **heritage core**
 - iii. Draft a Concept Paper / **Terms of Reference** for the preparation of an **Inventory of Heritage Assets** and a Special Area Plan for the heritage core
 - iv. Present a technical opinion and suggestions on **conservation itineraries** that could be envisaged for **specific assets** such as the old Brooke Dockyard and the old Hokkien school building at Jalan Tabuan.

3 Raise public awareness

- To continue to raise public awareness through site visits, field trips, study tours, outings, large and small conferences, forums, talks
- Social Media Communication
- better structuring of information on various aspects of Sarawak cultural heritage,
- collaboration with other stakeholders involved in heritage conservation: beyond Government agencies,
- sourcing sponsorship for project financing, building on existing tax incentives

In return, SHS are kindly requesting for the following commitments to able to work effectively and efficiently

From the Government

① Strengthened public policy, regulatory, financing and enforcement framework

- There should be stronger enforcement of the existing building and heritage regulations. For example, the historical centre of Kuching is a landscape of rampant illegal, often unsightly building extensions, signages and loud colours



② Strengthened Cultural Heritage Management Framework

- The framework would have diverse facets, e.g. policy, strategy, regulatory, and financial
- Our view is that the first step should be to **commission a candid, independent review** of the current status of **Sarawak's heritage conservation and management**.
- The actual **gazetting of heritage sites** that have long been in the **pipeline** for listing, as well as additional sites and areas, e.g. the old Hokkien School, Siniawan Bazaar, the old Brooke Dockyard, and creation of a gazetted heritage zone

③ Government Budget Allocations

- The State may need to consider providing Government budgets or measures
 - i. commensurate to the **maintenance requirements** of the gazetted government-owned heritage sites
 - ii. providing **financial support to selected** heritage conservation **projects**
 - iii. providing **financial incentives to private owners** of built heritage to conserve and maintain their assets.

④ Increased public awareness of heritage protection and conservation issues

⑤ Grassroot participation & willingness to highlight to SHS and relevant agencies those areas where heritage assets are being damaged or improvement to heritage management is required.

⑥ Active participation by holders of heritage assets in their conservation and management.