



Annual Report 2022/2023

Presented to the 17th Annual General Meeting, 29th April 2023

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¹ This report covers the period starting 26th December 2022 (AGM 16) to April 2022 (AGM 17). The financial /auditreport covers the calendar year 2022.

SARAWAK HERITAGE SOCIETY (SHS)

SHS was set up as a non-partisan, non-governmental and non-profit organization in 2007.

The mission of SHS is to promote and advocate for the conservation, permanent preservation and sustainable management of Sarawak's significant cultural heritage assets, both tangible (buildings, monuments, sites, cultural landscapes, objects) and intangible (traditional arts and crafts, customs and traditions, food).

The vision of SHS is a Sarawak where all stakeholders value the rich and unique cultural heritage and diligently contribute, directly or indirectly, to its ongoing sensitive and sustainable protection, conservation and management.

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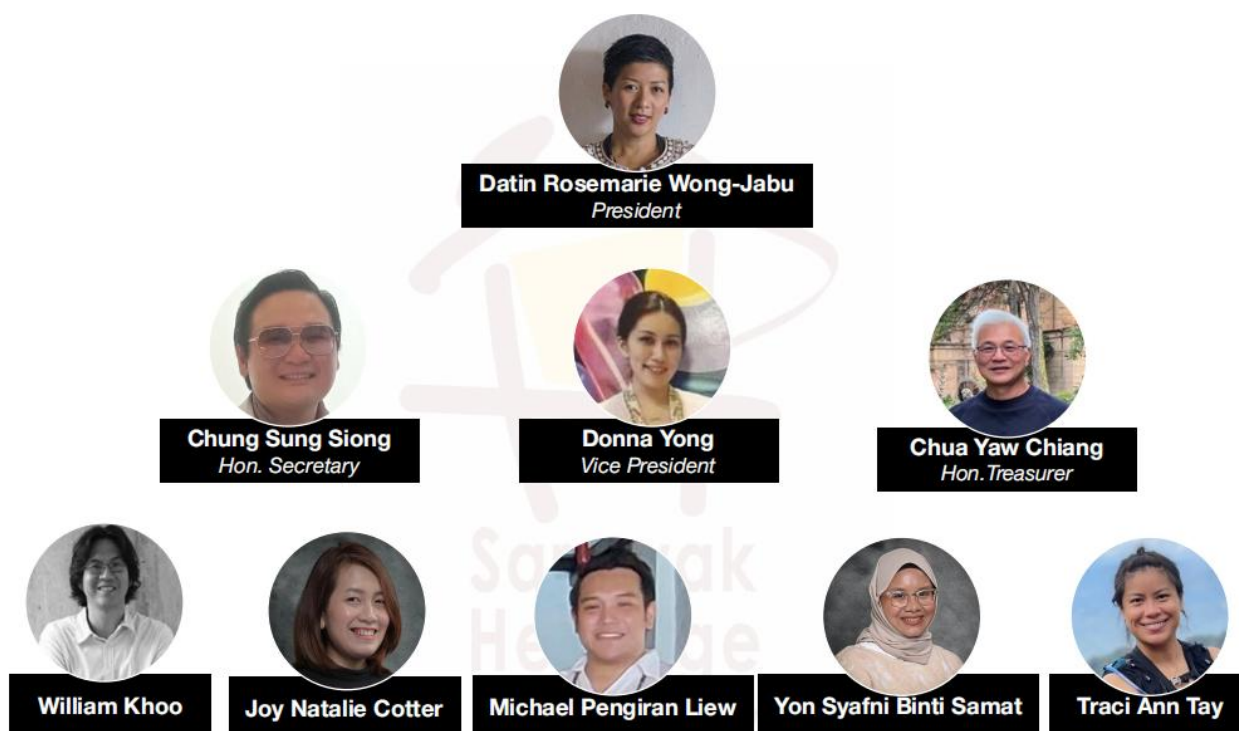
Sarawak Heritage Society SHS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (2020/2022)

President	Datin Rosemarie Wong
Vice President	Donna Yong
Hon. Secretary	Chung Sung Siong
Hon. Treasurer	Chua Yaw Chiang
Committee Members	Ar William Khoo Ar Joy Natalie Cotter Ar Yon Syafni Binti Samat Traci Ann Tay Michael Liew **

*** Co-opted in December 2022*

Membership admin:	Ming Hung
Website admin:	Francis Frey
Accounts admin:	Yvonne Saman



SHS Executive Committee members (in Nov 2021)

PAST SHS PRESIDENTS

2020 - 2022 James SL Yong
2016 - 2020 Dato Sri Robert Jacob Ridu
2014 - 2016 Karen Shepherd
2012 - 2014 Hong Boon Kheng
2010 - 2012 Joseph Ingai Gasing
2008 - 2010 Mike Boon Chee Khian
2006 – 2008 Datu Aloysius Abg Dris

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear fellow members of the Sarawak Heritage Society,

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to our Annual General Meeting (AGM).

So before we start, I'd like to specifically mention Item 6(a). While I don't want to detract from the mandatory agenda items, if you've not already given "the matter of a HQ Office of Heritage for SHS" some thought, could I please ask you to do so while we proceed, as it is our firm belief, as a committee, that the time has come for SHS to have a base, a HQ we can operate from. It will help to brand our valuable organisation to government, the businesses of Sarawak, and to the good citizens of Sarawak in our quest to ensure we have "a country with a past", and not "the emptiness of a barren continent".

The last AGM was held on 21 December 2022. As with many civil society organisations, the restrictions necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic have had a negative impact on our activities and previous AGMs. This non-election AGM, is held so close to the last for house-keeping and administrative purposes, and in a bid to regulate our AGM timelines back to the normal stipulated, in accordance with guidelines by the Registry of Societies (ROS).

As the President of SHS, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the importance of heritage, post-covid recovery, the potential of heritage tourism for sustainable development and for the improvement of local livelihoods, wellbeing, and community resilience. Heritage tourism has become an increasingly popular form of tourism in many countries, and has frequently been used to create new job opportunities and improve local livelihoods. The pandemic has shown how any country with a wealth of heritage assets should capitalise on this. One way of doing so was to stimulate domestic and regional tourism from neighbouring countries by improving strategies and products to target locals instead of foreign visitors to achieve this objective.

Heritage is not just about preserving old buildings or traditions; it is about acknowledging our past and learning from it. As Sarawakians, we are blessed with a vibrant and diverse culture that is unique to this part of the world. Our heritage defines who we are, and it is our responsibility to protect, document and preserve it for future generations.

SHS was established 17 years ago, and has always been run by a committee of volunteers and like-minded people. SHS's mission is to promote the conservation, permanent preservation and sustainable management of Sarawak's unique cultural heritage assets, both tangible and intangible.

SHS is guided by our principle objective of 3 'A's - Awareness, Advocacy and Advisory.

The first A is AWARENESS ... we try to organise public talks, workshops & study visits. SHS also designed the first heritage walk for Old Kuching. In addition, we have a newsletter, a website, Facebook and Instagram page, and a WhatsApp chatgroup to keep the heritage community connected. Our "Heritage Speaker Series" – started some years ago and we have had many interesting speakers share their work and insights on heritage issues with us. We have had for instance, Mr Colin Hygate, who shared his father's story as a prisoner of war in Sarawak, architect Dr John Ting's talk on "Sarawak's unique tradition of timber shophouses", Dr Kit Pearce on "The Sarawak Forest Supermarket", artist Ramsay Ong on his work using various traditional medium, Dr Chua Ai Lin from the Singapore Heritage



Society on "Placemaking, Communities and Civil Society in Sustainable Heritage Conservation", Datuk Sri Lim Chong Keat on "Heritage and Conservation". SHS also did a talk on "Reviving the Magic of Chinese Opera", with help from some members of a local opera troupe to demonstrate opera techniques.

The second A is ADVOCACY ... we speak out whenever we see any Sarawak heritage assets are not being properly maintained or managed. Whether it is a heritage building or monument, or a cultural tradition, art or craft.... our role is to highlight it. We engage with government and private sectors, academia and individuals where needed. Our immediate-past president, Mr James Yong, now sits on the Sarawak Heritage Council, a body created to advise the Sarawak Government on heritage matters. In other words, we try to be the voice of the community whenever heritage issues are brought up.

The third A is ADVISORY ... Heritage management is a multi-disciplinary area. People interested in protecting heritage include diverse professions - architects, town planners, historians, museologists, social scientists, artists, practitioners of culture, etc... in fact anybody can take an interest and learn more about Sarawak heritage because heritage belongs to us. In terms of Advisory, over time, we are building our own capacity as well as a network of people with knowledge and expertise on all different aspects of sustainable heritage management, so that when advice is needed, we try to help or link up to the right specialists.

My sincere appreciation to all who have helped and supported SHS throughout the years, and we hope you will continue to play an active role and help us protect the unique heritage of Sarawak.

We operate mainly on membership fees, occasional donations and periodic fund-raising activities. SHS membership is inexpensive and it is a worthy cause... so I would urge any of you who have friends and families who are interested in doing more for Sarawak's heritage to sign up as members.

Thank you.



Datin Rosemarie Wong-Jabu
President
Sarawak Heritage Society

AT A GLANCE

3,061 Facebook Likes

1,605 Instagram Followers

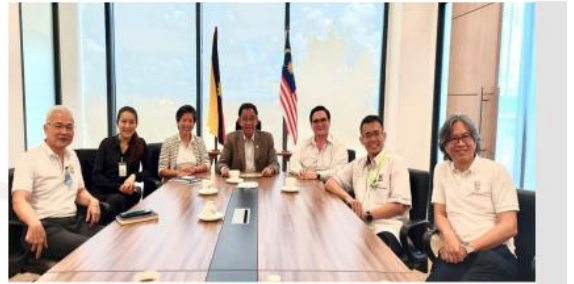
1,459 visitors & 3,031 page views to SHS website

3 Public/Member Events

247 Participants at Events

2 Key Government Engagements
(Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture
+ Sarawak Museum Dept)

115 SHS Members



MEMBERSHIP

As of April 2023, SHS has 115 members. The total of 115 breaks down as follows: 99 ordinary members, 10 affiliate members (members who do not reside in Sarawak) and 6 student members. We have welcomed 10 new members since the Dec 2022 AGM.

Compared to the membership of 133 at the time of the 2022 AGM (26/12/2021), there is a decrease of 13% over the period. In the period we have welcomed 10 new members. As this is a short committee term for only 4 months, we hope to attract more new members through our future activities for the remainder of our term in 2023-2024.

It is worth recalling that the membership fees have remained unchanged – at RM50/year or RM120 for 3 years for Ordinary and Affiliate Members, and RM25/year for Student Members – since the launch of a membership drive end of 2014. Most members have subscribed to the reduced 3 years rate.

ACTIVITIES and PROJECTS

Government Liaison / Public Policy Dialogue

ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

Engagement with Government

On 21st March 2022, our ExCo met with **YB Dato Sri Hj Abdul Karim Hamzah, Minister of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts**. This meeting was a courtesy call to the Ministry to raise support for our future plans and missions while introducing our new exco to the Minister.

On March 27th, the exco members paid a courtesy call to the newly appointed **Director of Sarawak Museum, Puan Nancy Bte Johli**. The meeting was for among others, the continuation of our collaboration, engagement, and support with the Museum for community based programmes.

On 21st March 2022, our ExCo was invited to attend the **State Tourism Steering Committee Meeting**, chaired by YB Dato Sri Hj Abdul Karim Hamzah, Minister of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts.



² Membership goes on calendar year. "In the event of a member failing to pay his subscription for six months, his membership shall be deemed to have lapsed." (SHS Constitution, clause 4.5)

Partnering and Networking

- Supported and participated in a freelancer heritage related event for Peranakan culture.
- Collaboration with Kuching Heritage Race:
 - SHS contributed 3 teams of 5 to participate.
 - “Rice Unites” team of SHS members
 - “Rojak Kuceis” team of UNIMAS + SHS
 - “Salvation Army Girls” team.



18th March 2023
SHS-backed Heritage Race Teams



18th March 2023
SHS-backed Heritage Race Teams



14th April 2023, A Peranakan Soiree at Tai Tai Restaurant

Activities and Events

- *Heritage Speakers Series (December 2022)* - Heritage Conservation and Adaptive Reuse featuring Mr. Rosli Bin Haji Nor, Ar. Tan Bee Eu & Ar. Au Tai Yeow ; **73 participants**
- *Heritage Speakers Series (March 2023)* - Surviving the Sword featuring Mr. Colin Hygate ; **79 participants**
- *Heritage Speakers Series (April 2023)*- ‘Bergendang’ and its Spatial use in Traditional Sarawak Malay House ; **95 participants**



18th December 2022 - Participants and speakers of Heritage Conservation and Adaptive Reuse.



1st March 2023, Participants and Speaker of Surviving the Sword



15th April 2023, Speaker and Participants of ‘Bergendang’ and its spatial use in Traditional Sarawak Malay House.

Upcoming Activities & Projects

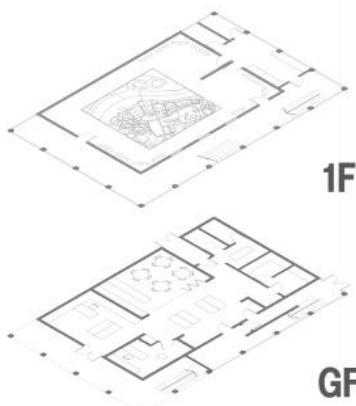
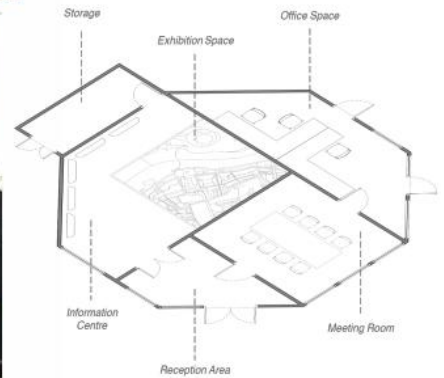
- Monthly Heritage Speaker Series / Heritage Workshop (Monthly)
- Visit to Private Yu Lin Art Gallery (June)
- Participate in International Museum Day (July/August)
- Collaboration with UNIMAS to Document Built Heritage (Measured Drawings)



SEARCH FOR A SARAWAK HERITAGE SOCIETY “HOME”



Proposal for Octagon Pavilion



Proposal for Textile Museum

ACCOUNTS

The accounts presented at this AGM cover the period Jan-Dec 2022, and have been audited by Richard Kiew & Company.

The Statement of Comprehensive Income shows a total accounting income of RM 24,596.67 of which a net 2022 income of RM 19,000.00 was a grant received from the Ministry of Tourism, Creative Industry & Performance Arts Sarawak, for the Heritage Speakers Series, RM 1,038.00 was donation from members, RM 3,625.00 from membership fees and RM 933.67 from fixed deposit interest income. Cash expenditure stood at RM 3,492.93, leading to a surplus of RM 21,103.74.

As of end of December 2022, the bank account balance stood at RM 33,621.26.

[for details, see the audited Financial Statements report]

SOCIAL MEDIA

The SHS **website** (www.sarawakheritagesociety.com) and **Facebook** presence continued to contribute to the visibility of the Society. The Facebook page currently has around 3,089 followers and 3,061 'Likes' and 1,605 Instagram visitors. The website, which functions mainly as a resource base, attracted some 3,031 page views by 1,459 visitors from July 2021 to of end Nov 2022 for the term ending 2022-2023. The '**SHS Community**' **whatsapp** chatgroup currently about 100 members.