

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - 2024

This report covers the period from 29<sup>th</sup> April 2023 to 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2024



# AT A GLANCE

**13** Public/Member Events

**480** Participants at Events

**3,100** Facebook Likes & **3,480**  
Followers

**1,720** Instagram Followers

**9,825** page views to SHS website



# MEMBERSHIP

## MEMBERSHIP

As of August 2024, **108** SHS Paid Memberships

The total of 108 breaks down as follows:

- 98 ordinary members
- 8 affiliate members (members who do not reside in Sarawak)
- 2 student members

*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)*

# ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

## Partnering and Networking

### Sarawak Tourism Co-ordination Committee (STCC) Meeting (No.1/2023)

@ Mega Hotel, Miri  
29 May 2023



# ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

## “Yu Lin Gallery Private Tour” (Exclusive Study Tour for SHS Members)

@ Yu Lin Gallery  
17 June 2023

**A SARAWAK HERITAGE SOCIETY EXCLUSIVE**  
THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL TALK BY  
FOUNDER AND OWNER OF THE GALLERY, MR CHAI CHIN KHONG  
(SINGLE LARGEST PRIVATE COLLECTOR OF SARAWAK ART)  
ABOUT HIS PERSONAL COLLECTION OF PHOTOS  
TAKEN OF THE NOMADIC PENANS OF SARAWAK

# YULIN GALLERY

**PRIVATE TOUR**

JUNE 17, 2023  
10:00 AM  
JEE KWONG OPTICAL, LEVEL 3,  
JALAN KULAS, KUCHING

  PLEASE REGISTER (LIMITED TO 30 PAX)  
EXCLUSIVELY FOR SHS MEMBERS ONLY

NON-MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN UPON  
SIGNING UP AS SHS MEMBER @ [WWW.SARAWAKHERITAGESOCIETY.COM](http://WWW.SARAWAKHERITAGESOCIETY.COM)  
whatsapp: 018 988 2343 | email: [sarawakheritagesociety@gmail.com](mailto:sarawakheritagesociety@gmail.com)



# ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

## InHerit (International Heritage and Cultural Conservation Conference) 2023 “Capturing and Digitising the Unique Architecture of Sarawak Malay Houses Along the Sarawak River”

@ University of Technology Sarawak, Sibul  
16 August 2023



# ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

## “A New Lease of Life” Repurposing the Old @ Borneo Cultures Museum 26 August 2023

SARAWAK HERITAGE SOCIETY HERITAGE SPEAKERS SERIES

### NEW LEASE OF LIFE

26TH AUGUST 2023 9.30AM - 5.30PM LEVEL 1, AUDITORIUM BORNEO CULTURES MUSEUM

A dialogue is created around the topic of adaptive reuse.

In repurposing old architecture, the architect faces the task of reconfiguring and redefining the spatial quality of the building. This talk encapsulates the revival and retrofitting of multiple existing buildings in the cities of Kuala Lumpur and Kuching.

REXKL & The Marian are respective winners of The Edge Property Award 2022 - "Conservation & Adaptive Re-use" category. The strong and deep-rooted impact these projects have had on the urban fabric of KL and Kuching have taken root and flourished, allowing a vision for the future of adaptive reuse in Malaysia.

Registration Link:  
<https://forms.gle/3Yp9p12222222222>



Organized by: Official Partner



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# ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

## “Uncovering the story of the mythical Red Bridge at Kampung Seropak”

@ Telang Usan Hotel  
22 October 2023

SARAWAK HERITAGE SOCIETY | HERITAGE SPEAKERS SERIES

*Uncovering the story of the mythical  
Red Bridge at  
Kampung Seropak*

AT TELANG USAN HOTEL  
SUNDAY, 22ND OCT 2023, 2.00PM


The history of Sarawak is fascinating and unique. The more than 100 years of rule by the White Rajahs have provided Sarawak with a history like nowhere else. Around the state there are several heritage sites that provide the people, local or foreign, with memories and knowledge on this unique past. Protecting these heritage sites is a great importance to commemorate the history and past. Without knowing where we come from, our understanding of the present and the future will diminish.



There is such a spectacular heritage site - the steel suspension bridge at Kop Seropak in the Bau District in the westernmost corner of Sarawak. Although known and used by the villagers, it was only in 2005 that the existence of this remote bridge became commonly known. Before this time there were rumours of a red bridge in the area, but they were more considered fiction than fact.

This story is about the finding of the bridge and uncovering its history. A 20-year journey that today enables us to tell the history of a 100 year old beauty.

**SPEAKER: MR. IB LARSEN**

Mr. Ib Larsen published his research about Sarawak history in the Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, Malaysian Heritage Society's Bulletin Warisan and Atlatir Society's Alimiah news. He has also given talks on the relation between the Hakka mining kongsi's in Kalimantan and in Sarawak for the Indonesian Heritage Society. Mr. Larsen has worked in Malaysia for 15 years, 7 years in Sarawak between 1999 to 2006.



ORGANISED BY:  SUPPORTED BY: 

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<https://forms.gle/1nB6Zz0dSxxxtf7>  
Admission is Free  
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[www.sarawakheritagesociety.com](http://www.sarawakheritagesociety.com)  
for more information





# ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

## Saving Sarawak's Malay Built Heritage

Documenting and digitising Malay houses of Sarawak River kampung in Kuching. (Collaboration with Faculty of Built Environment [FBE] UNIMAS & Community College Kuching)  
25th September 2023



# ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

## Partnering and Networking

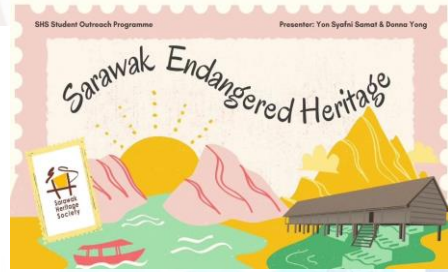
### Sarawak Tourism Co-ordination Committee (STCC) Meeting (No.2/2023)

@ Sri Samangang, Sri Aman  
30 October 2023



# ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

**“Lodge School Student Awareness Outreach Programme”**  
@ Lodge School  
6 November 2023



# ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

## “Preserving Indigenous Knowledge of Melanau Traditional Healing Rituals”

@ Borneo Cultures Museum  
25 November 2023

**PRESERVING  
INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE  
OF MELANAU TRADITIONAL HEALING RITUALS**  
25TH NOVEMBER 2023 BORNEO CULTURES MUSEUM  
2.30PM | SATURDAY 1F, ARTS & CRAFTS ROOM



Speaker:

**Muhammad Faiz**

Muhammad Faiz is currently completing his postgraduate study (Master in Social Sciences (Anthropology)) at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, UHMAS. His study addresses the indigenous knowledge of sago cultivation and the traditional healing rituals of Melanau in Sarawak. He has won several awards such as the Gold Award For Malaysia Technology Expo 2022, SDG International Innovation Award & Expo (Category: Zero Hunger) and Gold Award for Social Sciences & Humanities Cluster in Innovation Technology Expo (INTX22). Recently, he has shared his findings of his study on national television (Panorama, TV1 & SejahteraAsia, TV5).



We bring you another interesting talk in the DRH Heritage Speakers Series, on “Preserving Indigenous Knowledge of Melanau Traditional Healing Rituals”, by Muhammad Faiz. Indigenous Knowledge is defined by UNESCO as the understanding, skills, and philosophies that are formed by communities through a continuous interaction between the natural surroundings with its people. Indigenous traditions and customs, particularly traditional healing rituals within the Melanau community are being forgotten. There are several types of Melanau traditional healing rituals that are no longer carried out today due to the availability of modern medicine and religious conversion. Dakanribun are two of the rituals that are still practiced, but the number of practitioners with the knowledge is dwindling. Muhammad Faiz has conducted a study on indigenous knowledge of the Melanau in traditional healing practices and sago cultivation. He will present in this talk his findings on traditional healing practices by the two remaining active healers. Due to rapid modernization, preserving the practices of indigenous knowledge, especially Melanau traditional healing rituals is challenging.

Registration Link:  
<https://forms.gle/4SMqNE7ja5uu0vX9>



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# ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

## “Origins of Sarawak Timber Forts’ Carpentry”

@ Borneo Cultures Museum  
26 November 2023

SARAWAK HERITAGE SOCIETY | HERITAGE SPEAKERS SERIES

### ORIGINS OF THE CARPENTRY

OF THE BROOKE RAJAHS' TIMBER FORTS IN SARAWAK  
26TH NOVEMBER 2023 BORNEO CULTURES MUSEUM  
2PM - 4PM | SUNDAY GRD FLOOR, FUNCTION HALL

The timber frames of Sarawak's forts in the second half of the nineteenth century were prefabricated before being shipped out to remote locations and erected there. Vertical approaches are evident in the roof framing as their intermediate roof beams support the involvement of Malay carpenters. The wall framing uses dressed top plates and scarf joints, common in colonial-period timber buildings constructed by ethnic-Chinese carpenters in Southeast Asia. These joinery details can also be seen in Australia - flat-packed Singapore Cottages were originally imported from Singapore during the 1850s to address Melbourne's housing shortages. It has been suggested that it is a Chinese tradition due to Chinese carpenters being used to erect the Cottages and forts. However, the Cottages and forts details and construction contrast with Chinese carpentry, suggesting complex origins. This presentation is informed by new research that explores the forts and Cottages' carpenters and carpentry origins.

Registration Link:  
<https://forms.gle/nZPm25G4gCn15v46>



Speaker:  
**DR. JOHN TING**

Dr. John Ting is an architect, researcher and educator at the University of Canberra, Australia. He is also a registered architect, delivering modern, environmentally responsive and adaptive residential and heritage projects in Australia and Malaysia. He researches Sarawak's architectural and construction history and prefabricated timber buildings in nineteenth century colonial Southeast Asia and Australia.

Organized by:  Sarawak Heritage Society

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# ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

## "Preserving our Underwater Heritage"

@ Coco Cabana, Miri  
9 December 2023

SARAWAK HERITAGE SOCIETY | HERITAGE SPEAKERS SERIES

### PRESERVING OUR UNDERWATER HERITAGE

9TH DECEMBER 2023 CAFE DUA PULO, COCO CABANA  
SATURDAY 2PM-4PM MIRI, SARAWAK



Registration Link:  
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/preserving-our-underwater-heritage-tickets-71737367774

QR Code

**SPEAKERS**

**DR. AZMI HASSAN**  
Dr. Azmi Hassan is currently a GeoStrategist and Senior Fellow at Nusantara Academy for Strategic Research (NASR). He has conducted numerous research and consultant works and his recent works include the Indonesian Heritage Program, the evaluation, the benefit of zoning, the first Assessment to the International Ocean Barriers (IOB) in the world for the first time in the world, the first IOB in the world, the first IOB in the world, and more recently, Uluken Malaysia (upland, strategic and geopolitical). Azmi is the former of parent school, based for the United States Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office that deals with algorithms that can be employed to mitigate the U.S. Pentagon's GPS Anti-Spoofing policy. The parent is part of Azmi's Ph.D. dissertation from University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA.

**MR. GEOFFREY LEE**  
Mr. Geoffrey is an accomplished underwater photographer and an advanced scuba diver with a passion for exploring the depths of our oceans. Mr. Geoffrey Lee is a certified diver of the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI), in this capacity, he has played a crucial role in advocating for the protection of underwater heritage sites in Sarawak and Brunei. Geoffrey will share his insights and experiences on the rich underwater heritage treasure hidden beneath the surface of Sarawak and Brunei waters, delving into the historical significance of submerged artworks, such as the Imperial Japanese Transport Ship (IJS) Katori Maru and the IJS Katori Maru, and the British cargo vessel, the IJS Katori Maru, along with its sister ship, the IJS Katori Maru. Together with Geoffrey, Jenny Tjong, the founder of Miti Divers, will also on ways to visit the underwater heritage sites.

ORGANIZED BY  
**Sarawak Heritage Society**  
SUPPORTS BY  
**Tuyong**

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# ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

## Partnering and Networking

### Sarawak Tourism Federation Networking Session with Tourism Stakeholders

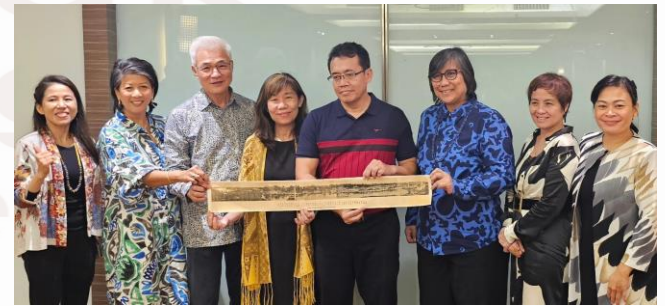
@ Sky Lounge, Riverside Majestic  
24 January 2024



# ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

## Partnering and Networking

**Singapore Culture Academy  
Networking Dinner**  
@ Grand Margherita, Kuching  
2nd February 2024





# ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

## Partnering and Networking

### “Friends of Archive Programme”

@ State Repository Record,  
Pustaka Negeri Sarawak  
28th March 2024



# ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

## Partnering and Networking

Singapore Heritage Society Study  
Visit With Culture Academy  
Singapore

@ Betong  
26th - 28th April 2024



# ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

## “Communing With The Dark Side Borneo's masks and masquerades”

@ Borneo Cultures Museum  
11 May 2024

SARAWAK HERITAGE SOCIETY | HERITAGE SPEAKERS SERIES



### Communing With The Dark Side

Borneo's Masks & Masquerades

**BORNEO CULTURES MUSEUM  
ARTS & CRAFT ROOM, LEVEL 2**  
11th May 2024, Saturday  
at 2pm

**The Speaker**



Dr. Michael Hespell spent a couple of years studying Iban adat & child rearing practices, the Bidayuh and Buket (Ukit) studying social organisation & child rearing practices. Dazzled by the very rich material culture of all Borneo people, he took a great interest in understanding more about such an underappreciated subject. He has written books on Iban art, Iban textiles and Borneo masks with one on weaponry & warfare awaiting publication.

**About the Talk**

Communing With The Dark Side discusses the different masquerade cultures of the Malay, Bidayuh, Kanayatn (Selako), Ibanic, Ot Danum and Ngaju, Kayan, Kenyah, Barawan (Leik) & Melanau. These masks address a gamut of different situations including mortuary, fertility, headhunting, cleansing rituals.

**Please Register**  
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# ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

## “Kuching Heritage Race”

@Batu Kawa  
18 May 2024

## Partnering and Networking

Participation in Kuching  
Heritage Race:

- SHS contributed 1 team of 5 to participate.
- “Heritage Hunters” team of SHS members



# ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

## Upcoming Activities & Projects

- Monthly Heritage Speaker Series / Heritage Workshop (Monthly)
- Curated BCM tour, guided by Curators of Sarawak Museum for members
- Workshop Session for Iban Traditional Claypot (GardenCraft Co.)
- Collaboration and MOA with UNIMAS to Document Built Heritage (Measured Drawings)
- Collaboration with Singapore International Foundation in Cultural Diplomacy Project (estimated 2.5 years project)
- School Outreach Programme

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2022-2024



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President



**Chung Sung Siong**  
Hon. Secretary



**Donna Yong**  
Vice President



**Chua Yaw Chiang**  
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**William Khoo**



**Joy Natalie Cotter**



**Michael Pengiran Liew**



**Yon Syafni Bt Samat**



**Traci Ann Tay**

## PAST SHS PRESIDENTS

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2010 - 2012 Joseph Ingai Gasing

2016 - 2020 Dato Sri Robert Jacob Ridu

2012 - 2014 Hong Boon Kheng

2008 - 2010 Mike Boon Chee Khian

2006 - 2008 Datu Aloysius Dris