UNESCO Heritage Awards 20th Anniversary Celebration:
Asia-Pacific Heritage 20/20 Forum and 2019 Awards Ceremony
(14 Oct | Bangunan U.A.B, Penang)

MORE ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

10:30 – 12:00 Panel Discussion with Heritage Awards Jury and Winners:

Richard A. Engelhardt
Former UNESCO Regional Advisor for Culture in Asia and the Pacific

Richard A. Engelhardt was the UNESCO Regional Advisor for Culture in Asia and the Pacific between 1994 and 2008. During his tenure, UNESCO conceived and initiated the Asia-Pacific Awards for Heritage Conservation programme. After his retirement from UNESCO, Engelhardt served from 2010 to 2015 as a senior research professor in the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Hong Kong. Today he is concurrently the UNESCO Chair Professor of the Conservation and Management of Historic Towns and Urban Centres at the National College of Art in Pakistan; Guest Professor in the School of Architecture and Urban Planning at Southeast University in Nanjing, China; Honorary Professor in the College of Architecture and Urban Planning at Tongji University in Shanghai, China; and Visiting Professor in the World Heritage International Research Center at Southwest Jiaotong University in Chengdu, China. Engelhardt has received numerous honours and awards in recognition of his contribution to the conservation of Asian heritage from governments of the region as well as from the Global Heritage Fund. In 1994, H.M. King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia knighted him with the title of Commandeur de l’Ordre Royal du Cambodge for his efforts in safeguarding the monuments of Angkor.

Anne Arnold
Chairperson, Heritage Council of Western Australia

Anne Arnold is the Chairperson of the Heritage Council of Western Australia, serving as a Councillor since 2008 and as Chair since 2016. The Heritage Council is a statutory authority of the Western Australian State Government, tasked with providing advice to the Minister for Heritage and decision-making authorities on applications to develop properties on the State Register of Heritage Places. The Register is a comprehensive statutory list of places that tells the story of Western Australia – its history, identity and diversity, including both colonial and post-colonial heritage.

Anne is a former Chief Executive of the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia. She has been involved in property, planning, real estate and housing throughout her career. She is also currently Director and Deputy Chair of the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Landgate).

Over the course of her diverse career, Anne has had an interest in heritage and its impact on property owners and has worked to help cultivate a deeper understanding and contemporary appreciation of the value of heritage. In her current role, she has a passion for celebrating and promoting the conservation and sensitive development of cultural heritage places in Western Australia.

Anne is an advocate for working closely with custodians of heritage places to enhance developments by retaining heritage buildings and fabric, and particularly enjoys seeing heritage buildings given a new purpose and being used by the community.

Mrs Arnold is very proud of the State’s record of success in creating adaptive reuse projects which are world-class as evidenced by the six WA heritage projects that have been recognised in the prestigious UNESCO Awards since 2012.
Salman Beg
Chief Executive Officer, Aga Khan Cultural Service Pakistan

Salman Beg completed an MBA in 1997 from Pakistan’s premier Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), to go along with a Masters in international Relations from the USA in 1987. Since October 1998 he has led the Aga Khan Cultural Service - Pakistan (AKCS-P) an affiliate of the Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme (AKHCP) of the Geneva-based Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), cultural agency of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN).

AKCS-P has been at the forefront of harnessing the transformative power of culture and heritage in making meaningful socio-economic impact in Gilgit-Baltistan since the early 90s and since 2007 in Lahore.

In addition to other awards AKCS-P has been recognised with 14 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Cultural Heritage Conservation awards since 2002, including twice the top Excellence Award for Baltit Fort in Hunza and for Shigar Fort in Baltistan.

Laurence Loh
Director, Arkitek LLA

Laurence Loh is recognized as a leading conservation architect and cultural heritage expert in Malaysia and the Asia-Pacific region. Best practice exemplars of his work in Malaysia include Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion (2000 Most Excellent Project), Cheng Hoon Teng Temple (2003 Award of Merit), Stadium Merdeka (2008 Award of Excellence) and Suffolk House (2008 Award of Distinction). His project for the adaptive reuse of the UAB Building in Penang won the Malaysian Institute of Architects 2018 Building of the Year Award. In 2019, the Institute honoured Loh with the PAM Gold Medal Award for Design Excellence for his lifelong contribution to the advancement of architecture in Malaysia and internationally. He lectures annually at the University of Hong Kong and is currently engaged with the Getty Conservation Institute to deliver a bi-annual Urban Conservation Planning course for ASEAN countries. He is an honorary fellow of the Hong Kong Institute of Architectural Conservationists and a director of Think City, a community-based organization that undertakes urban rejuvenation.

Abha Narain
Conservation Architect, Abha Narain Lambah Associates

Abha Narain Lambah has a master’s degree in Architectural Conservation from the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, and has been practicing in Mumbai for over two decades in the field of conservation. She was awarded the Sanskriti Award, the Eisenhower Fellowship, the Attingham Trust Fellowship and the Charles Wallace Fellowship, and in 2016 was nominated by Arc Vision as one of the Top 20 Women Architects Globally. She has received 10 UNESCO Asia Pacific citations for her projects and has been awarded Architect of the Year Award recently by Architectural Digest. Her architectural practice covers historic sites across India, including ancient Buddhist sites of Ajanta and Bodh Gaya, fifteenth-century temples in Ladakh and Hampi, medieval mosques, palaces, forts and caravanserais in Rajasthan, Hyderabad, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab, urban and regional conservation sites in Kancheepuram and Shekhawati, nineteenth-century colonial heritage in Delhi and Mumbai and management plans twentieth-century UNESCO Sites such as Corbusier’s Chandigarh and Art Deco Mumbai.

José Yam
Commissioner for Heritage, The Government of the Hong Kong SAR

José Yam earned his degree in Electrical Engineering (with Minor in Economics) from the University of Waterloo, Canada. He joined The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) as an Administrative Officer in 1999. Over the years, José has worked in various bureaux/departments including District Office (Islands), the former Housing Bureau, and Trade and Industry Department. He was a member of the negotiating team of the Environment Bureau when the Government discussed the Scheme of Control Agreements with the two power companies in 2007/08. José then served as the Assistant Private Secretary to the Chief Executive of HKSAR. From 2011 to 2015, he was the Principal Assistant Secretary for Transport looking after, among others, the operation of the MTR Corporation Limited. José has
been the Commissioner for Heritage since June 2015, and has led his team in taking forward a series of projects under the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme including the Blue House Cluster.

Yeo Kang Shua  
Associate Professor, Singapore University of Technology and Design

Yeo Kang Shua is Associate Professor of History, Theory and Criticism at the Singapore University of Technology and Design. He received his Bachelor of Architectural Studies, Master of Architecture and Ph.D. (Architecture) from the National University of Singapore. From 2014 to 2018 he was the inaugural Hokkien Foundation Career Professor in Architectural Conservation. He serves on the boards of numerous non-governmental organizations, including the Singapore Heritage Society and Singapore Society of Asian Studies, and is a founding member of ICOMOS Singapore (National Committee). He also serves as a member of the Heritage Advisory Panel of the National Heritage Board (Singapore), and the Heritage and Identity Partnership of the Urban Redevelopment Authority (Singapore).

Alfred Yeung  
Managing Director, Brock Carmichael Asia

Alfred Yeung is a partner of Brock Carmichael, a UK architectural and planning practice. He has also founded Brock Carmichael Asia where he looked after the practice’s Asian project portfolio. Alfred has held senior executive positions in a number of real estate companies and has more than 20 years of experience in designing and managing projects globally in United Kingdom, North America, Australia and Asia.

Alfred’s interests in social, cultural and economic aspects of urban development leads to his belief that cities need to continue to re-invent themselves for sustainable evolution. He has passion in working on adaptive reuse of buildings and urban fabrics with community engagement.

Alfred was qualified at Liverpool J.M. University and received a Masters degree in Construction Management from Bath University. He has also received architectural conservation training from Royal Institute of British Architects as well as executive management training from Harvard Law School, Franklin Covey Leadership Programme, Liverpool Business School and Richard Ivey Business School. He has also taught in Liverpool and Hong Kong and currently holds adjunct professorship at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

13:00 – 14:30  
Heritage Clinic: Emerging Challenges, New Responses

Susan Balderstone  
Honorary Research Fellow, Australian Institute of Archaeology

Susan Balderstone is an architect who has worked on the conservation of heritage places for over 40 years.

She holds a BArch (Hons) from the University of Melbourne, Australia, and an MA in Conservation Studies from the University of York, United Kingdom. She is a member of the Advisory Board for the Australian Centre for Architectural History, Urban and Cultural Heritage (ACAHUCH) at the University of Melbourne and an honorary research fellow at the Australian Institute of Archaeology. She was an advisor on World Heritage to the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) from 2008 to 2016 and has participated in various international projects in the Asia-Pacific region, including the Urban Heritage Conservation Strategy for Tianjin, China, and the AusAid Planning and Development Control Project for Hanoi, Viet Nam. During her appointment as Adjunct Professor at Deakin University, she was instrumental in setting up the post-graduate coursework programme in Cultural Heritage.
Chak Cherdsatirkul
Project Manager, Kaomai Estate 1955

Chak Cherdsatirkul is a native Thai from Chiang Mai, with the economics, management and sustainability degrees from Thammasat University, Babson College and Columbia University. He has been active in sustainability arena including waste management, clean energy project financing and biodiversity conservation. He currently is a project manager of his family’s heritage site, Kaomai Estate 1955, a preserved and rejuvenated 64-year-old tobacco processing estate. Chak is also a published children’s book writer.
Chak’s bird conservation project in Chiang Mai won the first prize of Asia-Pacific Lafarge Holcim Sustainable Construction Award in 2014. And his currently managed History-Ecology project, Kaomai Estate 1955, received UNESCO Asia Pacific Heritage Awards (New Design in Heritage Context) in 2018.

Chen Yoke Pin
Senior Manager, Arts-ED (Community-based Arts and Culture Education)

Chen Yoke Pin is the Senior Manager of Arts-ED, a non-profit organization (NPO) based in Penang, Malaysia, which specializes in innovative community-based arts and culture education programmes. For over 14 years, she has been actively producing, coordinating and facilitating arts, culture and heritage education programmes. More recently, she has been conducting training workshops for young people, teachers, community workers and artists, locally and internationally, using creative educational approaches that engage with local culture.

Duong Bich Hanh
Chief of Culture Unit, UNESCO Bangkok

Duong Bich Hanh is an anthropologist with extensive knowledge and experience in Southeast Asia and international development. She has a strong commitment to gender equality, cultural diversity and human rights, and has been involved in social research and program management in the areas of heritage preservation and community development since 1994. In 2009, Dr Hanh joined UNESCO to manage the Culture program in the Ha Noi Office. In May 2016, she moved to UNESCO’s Bangkok Office to lead the Culture unit there, covering the Mekong cluster countries and coordinating a number of regional projects in Southeast Asia and the Asia Pacific, and working to promote the ratification and implementation of UNESCO’s six cultural Conventions. She is especially interested in promoting the role of culture and cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, in sustainable development, and in ensuring that local communities both participate in and benefit from the protection of their own heritage.

Mark Chang
Associate Professor, Showa Women’s University

Mark Chang teaches at Showa Women's University in Tokyo, Japan. Trained in economics, he has been involved in several collaborative heritage conservation projects between Japan and Viet Nam, including in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hoi An, Viet Nam. He participated in the Hoi An Town Preservation Cooperation Project, Vietnamese Traditional Folkhouses Project, and Duong Lam Village Traditional Architecture Preservation Project, which received UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards in 2000, 2004 and 2013 respectively. In 2005, Professor Chang was recognized with a Viet Nam Ministry of Culture and Information medal for distinguished service in the field of cultural heritage.
Ng Boon Nee
Town Planner, George Town World Heritage Incorporated

Ng Boon Nee is the Town Planner with George Town World Heritage Incorporated. Serving in mission as a site manager to manage, safeguard and promote George Town as a sustainable heritage city, Boon Nee is responsible for the UNESCO pilot project on Community-Based Disaster Risk Management on Cultural Heritage programme since 2017. Working with the multidisciplinary, active and committed professionals from GTWHI, Boon Nee forte in project management is put to great use when organising community workshops on cultural heritage disaster risk management. The workshop is held every three months and equips the local community with the capability to fight disasters such as fire and flood in times of need.

Chatvichai Promadhattavedi
Chair, Society for the Conservation of National Treasure and Environment (SCONTE)

Chatvichai Promadhattavedi was Director of the Birasri Institute of Modern Art between 1976 to 1988. In 2002, he spearheaded the setting up of the Office of the Contemporary Art and Culture at the new Ministry of Culture, and became an Advisor to the Ministry. Campaigned for by artists and the public, the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre began its construction in 2004. Chatvichai was appointed Chairman of the Sub-committee for Cultural Management Policy, and became its Acting Director in 2008.

He is now on the BACC Board and its Secretary. As an Advisor to the Bangkok Governor in 2012, Chatvichai started putting together the City of Bangkok's new project: the conversion of the present City Hall to be the Bangkok City Museum and Library. For the City's Planning Department, he chairs the Committee for the Development and Conservation of Rattanakosin Adjacent Area.

Chatvichai has been on the judging panel of the UNESCO’s Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards. He is a member of the Siam Society's Siamese Heritage Trust Steering Committee. He is President of the Society for the Conservation of National Treasures and Environment (SCONTE), currently promoting Thailand's 21 Cities Conservation and Development Planning project under the Office of the Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning.

Rui Leao
Partner & Founder, LBA Architecture & Planning Ltd

Rui Leao is a partner and founder of LBA Architecture & Planning Ltd. His practice extends from architectural design to urban planning, art and furniture installation and editorial activity.

Since 1996, he has developed extensive design activity in the fields of architecture, planning and landscaping in Macau and China: his built work features awarded projects, namely the Nam Van Square (Arcasia Gold Medal for Architecture 2005-06), the Sai Van Urban Park (AAM Gold medal & Arcasia Honourable mention), both in co-authorship with Manuel Vicente and Carlotta Bruni, the Reading Room at the Macau Portuguese School (UNESCO award Commendation for heritage Innovation 2012 & AAM honourable mention for heritage conservation), and the renovation of the Moorish Barracks, a UNESCO World Heritage listed building.

He is President of CIALP (International Council of Architects of Portuguese Speaking Language) for the term of 2016/2019, and is the current chair of Docomomo Macau, an international NGO dedicated to conservation and documentation of the Modern Movement and is a nominated member of CPU: the Planning Committee of the Macau Government SAR.
Murali Ram  
Programme Director, Think City

As a Programme Director with Think City, an experimental social impact organisation, Murali leads the Urban Regeneration Programmes of Butterworth, a post-industrial city, and the George Town World Heritage Site, in partnership with the city councils of Seberang Perai and Penang Island. In 2018, Murali participated in the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Programme on Resilient Cities and Urban Sustainability held across four U.S. cities. He is now pursuing a Master in Sustainable Development Management at the Jeffrey Sachs Center for Sustainable Development at Sunway University. In his previous life, Murali was a disputes lawyer in Penang, London, and the Cayman Islands.

15:00 – 16:30  
Heritage20/20x Talks:  
Roundtable: Strategic Alliance for “Culture, Heritage and Sustainable Placemaking”

Hamdan Abdul Majeed  
Managing Director, Think City

Hamdan Abdul Majeed is a Director at Khazanah Nasional Berhad (KNB), the investment arm of the Malaysian government. He leads KNB’s regional office in the northern region of Malaysia with the mandate to seek out strategic investment opportunities to catalyze growth and development in that region.

Prior to joining Khazanah, he was an Investment Analyst with HSBC Securities and then a founding member and director of Bumiwerks Capital Management, where he was involved extensively in debt capital markets advisory specialising in structured finance, project finance and advisory.

He also serves as Executive Director of Think City, an urban regeneration outfit providing urban policy thinking, implementing and managing urban solutions in Malaysia. Hamdan is also actively involved in the Sustainable Penang Initiative and hopes to make his native city more liveable and sustainable.

Hamdan has an interest in the development of civil society in Malaysia, the political economy of Third World and Islamic Economics. He holds a degree in Economics and Management from University of London.

In 2012, he was awarded the Eisenhower fellowship as a young leader for his work on urban development and leadership on cities. In 2014, he was recognized by World Cities Summit as young leader on urban development and city transformation.

Montira Horayangura Unakul  
Programme Officer

Montira Horayangura Unakul is a Culture Programme Officer at the UNESCO Bangkok Culture unit. She has managed various UNESCO programmes within the Asia-Pacific region related to the safeguarding and sustainable development of cultural heritage, with a focus on World Heritage. She has developed capacity building programmes such as reviving traditional knowledge for conserving built heritage, sustainable heritage tourism and collections management. She has a BA in Economics and East Asian Studies from Harvard University (USA) and two Masters from the University of California, Berkeley (USA) in Architecture and in City Planning.
Ginevra Boatto  
Regional Representative for Southeast Asia, World Monuments Fund

Ginevra Boatto earned her PhD from the University of Padova, Italy with a research focusing on 3D virtual reconstruction of cultural heritage. Since 2012, she has served as Coordinator for the WMF’s Program at the Angkor Archaeological Park, and as Regional Representative for Southeast Asia. She also consults for the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts of Cambodia.

Leong Cheung  
Executive Director, Charities and Community, The Hong Kong Jockey Club

Leong Cheung has been the Executive Director of Charities & Community at The Hong Kong Jockey Club since 2014. In this capacity he is also the co-Chair of the Hong Kong Chapter of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Solutions Network. In the financial year 2018/2019, the Club approved HK$ 4.3 billion (over US$550 million) in donations for the betterment of Hong Kong society.

Over the years, the Club aims to help build a culturally vibrant Hong Kong, enriching lives and promoting social inclusion. It also seeks to preserve Hong Kong’s cultural heritage, notably through its partnership with the Government to conserve and revitalise the historic Central Police Station compound - Tai Kwun.

Before joining the Club, Mr. Cheung was an Operating Partner with Bain Capital, Managing Director of Global Sourcing & Supply Chain at Esquel Group, the founder and CEO of an education focused Internet venture, and a senior consultant at the Boston Consulting Group.

Passionate about literature and history, Mr Cheung is also a keen runner; a sport which has inspired him to co-found an innovative social enterprise, RunOurCity. Mr. Cheung has an MBA from Harvard Business School and a BBA from the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Thanpuying Sirikitiya Jensen  
Historian, Department of Fine Arts, Ministry of Culture (Thailand)

A trained historian in the Department of Fine Arts, Ministry of Culture (Thailand), Sirikitiya Jensen is a passionate storyteller exploring progressive ways through which history can be transmitted to broader audiences.

Working in the Conservation Architecture division, Jensen spearheads the Wang Na Project, for which she conceptualized and directed two multidisciplinary exhibitions in Bangkok. In Wang Na Nimitty (2018, Bangkok Art and Culture Center), Jensen explores the use of technology in heritage conservation, reimagining the Front Palace site through the use of digital reconstructions, and creating content to populate an online resource for younger audiences.

In In Situ from Outside: Reconfiguring the Past In-Between the Present (2019, National Museum of Thailand), Jensen invited seven contemporary artists to interpret the site and to create work “in situ” through which visitors can immerse themselves. Simultaneously, the tangible history of the site was recreated through the use of 3D architectural models; and multidisciplinary experts—from musicians, botanists, and a chef—collaborated on bringing to life the era’s intangible heritage in engaging and interactive ways.

Jensen graduated with a B.A. in History from New York University (2007), with a focus on East Asia.
Neil Khor
Special Advisor to the Executive Director, UN-Habitat

Neil Khor is a social historian with a special interest in how citizens make their towns and cities. He was founding Programme Director of Think City, an urban regeneration agency set up by Khazanah Nasional, the investment holding arm of the Malaysian Government. With its origins in the George Town UNESCO World Heritage Site, Neil helped expand this community-focused urban regeneration agency throughout the country. Think City now operates from offices in Kuala Lumpur and Johor Bahr, overseeing over 700 urban regeneration projects with a cumulative total value of USD 100 million.

Whilst at Think City, Neil was the organisation's Chief Operating Officer, helping set up a programme management office (PMO), overseeing partnerships, donor relations and strategic planning. He was actively involved in the setting up of the WUF9 Urban Village in Downtown Kuala Lumpur.

Before joining Khazanah Nasional, Neil was also a journalist with Star Publications, Malaysia's largest English daily, where he got involved in political analysis, heritage-making and civil society activities.

He is also a published author, having written some 10 books, ranging from Straits Chinese cuisine to his latest, Towns of Malaya: A Visual Urban History of the Malay Peninsula(Editions Didier Millet). Neil holds a Ph.D in English from the University of Cambridge.

Allen Tan
Managing Director, The Habitat Penang Hill & Executive Committee Member, The Habitat Foundation

Allen Tan is Managing Director of The Habitat Penang Hill. After several years living and working abroad, he returned to Penang in 2014 to undertake the development of The Habitat Penang Hill. The Habitat is a world-class eco-tourism facility located on the fringes of a 130-million-year-old virgin rainforest on Penang Hill. This rainforest is untouched and precariously exists side by side with urban Penang and its environs. The entire team behind the project, from the owners to the staff on the ground are dedicated to the conservation and preservation of this beautiful natural heritage for the benefit of the people of Penang and of Malaysia.

Allen Tan is also a member of the Executive Committee of The Habitat Foundation, the sister organisation to The Habitat which undertakes work in conservation, research, environmental education, sustainability and training and capacity building. Excess proceeds generated by the park are channelled to support the work of the foundation.

Dong Wei
UNESCO Chair in Cultural Resource Management, Southeast University

Dong Wei is UNESCO Chair in Cultural Resource Management at Southeast University's Department of Architecture, director of the Academic Committee of Urban Planning History and Theory, UPSC, and head of the SEU Key Laboratory of Urban and Architectural Heritage Conservation of the Ministry of Education in China. He was educated at the Xi'an Institute of Metallurgy and Building (now Xi'an Architecture University), the Traditional Architecture and Garden Design Institute of Xi'an and Nanjing Institute of Technology (now Southeast University). After obtaining his Ph.D. at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, he was a post-doctoral researcher at Tsinghua University in Beijing. In 1998, Professor Dong led an architectural survey of intact traditional buildings in the Xijin Ferry area in Zhenjiang, Jiangsu Province, a project that received a 2001 Award of Merit. Professor Dong was involved in the restoration of Zhongshan Road in Quanzhou, Fujian Province, China, a project that was also recognized with an Award of Merit in 2001.