



Press Release

Date: 18 July, 2017

YHT is honoured to cooperate in conservation of historic Secretariat

YHT has been very pleased and honoured to play a part in the protection and restoration of Yangon's historic Secretariat these past several years.

From its inception in 2012, YHT have made the Secretariat a focus of its work and aims.

In 2012, when YHT was created, the Government of Myanmar had already awarded a lease of the site to the Anawmar Group. YHT discussed the future of the site with both the Government and the Anawmar Group. At the request of the Government, YHT wrote a Conservation Management Plan for the Secretariat in September 2015.

A Conservation Management Plan clearly defines a place's heritage significance and then sets out rules and guidance to make sure that significance is protected during renovation. A CMP does not look at financial plans, which are the responsibility of the leaseholder. This was the first ever in Myanmar. It is available online here, yhtliveableyangon.org/en/online-annexes/

Since then, YHT have, at the request of the government, provided technical assistance to the leaseholders in order to ensure that the unique cultural and built heritage of the site is conserved.

In May 2017, YHT and the Anawmar Group jointly organized a discussion meeting with historians and museum experts to discuss conservation of cabinet meeting room where General Aung San and Martyrs were assassinated. YHT will continue assisting conservation and reconversion of the cabinet meeting room, along with the former parliament building in the Secretariat complex to its original layout.

YHT Chairman Dr Thant Myint-U said: "The Secretariat is a place of tremendous historical importance and a physical link to Myanmar's colonial history as well as the history of anti-colonialism and the early post-independence governments." "Through preservation of places like the Secretariat, we not only strengthen people's ability to appreciate their past but also think creatively about the future".

He also said "The renovation of the Secretariat should be part of a broader plan to revitalise all of downtown Yangon, with its dozens of historic and cultural sites. This could be a driver of tourism for the entire country, bringing jobs and supporting small businesses throughout the city".

For more on YHT's plans for downtown Yangon, please see the Yangon Heritage Strategy at yhtliveableyangon.org

Yangon Heritage Trust is an independent centre of excellence working to promote and integrate Yangon's unique urban heritage into a 21st century vision of Yangon as one of Asia's most liveable

cities. Yangon Heritage Trust advocates for heritage protection, develops clear and sustainable policy options, engages with government, business and civil society, communicates its ideas to the widest possible audience, undertakes specific conservation projects, and facilitates research and training.

For more information on Yangon Heritage Trust:

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