



Press Release

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Yangon residents to reveal the value of heritage

YANGON: With the assistance of the New Zealand government, Yangon Heritage Trust initiates a major project aiming to understand what Yangon residents value on their local environment through direct consultation this month.

The program will be led by YHT with the support of the YCDC and will study what local residents' opinion on the city that they call home. This study will provide one of the first opportunities for downtown communities to express how they feel about the streets and urban environments they live in.

The Founder and Chairman of the Yangon Heritage Trust, Dr Thant Myint-U, said that the Trust could only help provide options and bring technical advice and lessons learned from abroad.

"In the end it's the people of Yangon who will need to decide how they would like to protect their heritage and see their city grow. This project is for us a hugely important initial step towards trying to engage local people and communities, and hear from them their thoughts, stories, and ideas for the future." he added.

This community engagement project is expected to give the YHT to allow directly engaging local communities and establishing connections with local residents, encouraging local residents to think about what they value and what they do not value in their neighbourhoods and help local residents consider more closely the link between the way they live and the environment.

YHT also hopes that this study will provide the ways to address concerns raised by local residents and help the government in taking the responsibility. However, addressing the concerns of local residents does not fall within the scope of this project.

This is an opportunity for YHT to understand the way local residents value their neighbourhoods. This project may form the foundation for more complex and longer-term work looking at how to address the urban planning issues of Yangon.

The reason this is a first step is that in order for YHT to be able to advocate for the protection of what communities want and the alteration of problems they have, there must first be a receptive process of determining value. This receptive process is direct community consultation where local people have the opportunity to say what they value and what they do not.

YHT sees this as an important way of assisting local communities to engage directly with their neighbourhoods and to consider the value of the heritage fabric they live amongst.

Yangon Heritage Trust

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.

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