



Press Release

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Central Press building receives Blue Plaque commemoration ahead of renovation

YANGON: Government Central Press building in Yangon received the seventh Blue Plaque commemoration today.

Over a century old building which is located at the corner of Thein Byu road and Anawrahta road in Botahtaung township is one of the listed heritage buildings of Yangon standing in good condition.

With the façade design drawn by a well-known Scottish Architect John Begg, construction of the site started in 1909 and completed in 1912 with additional amenities such as electrical lifts, stabling and servants' quarters. The Government Central Press began as a distribution point for government stationary brought from India and later printed materials such as the exhaustive census reports and gazetteers.

After the Independence and during the Socialist Era, the Government Central Press expanded into neighbouring premises in order to meet the increased demand of many new ministries, government departments, boards and corporations that emerged after Independence. The entire compound was subsequently renamed the Government Printing and Stationary Department. Modern printing machines were imported and employees were sent abroad for training at institutions in Australia. The building later served as the Office for the Minister of Information. This building is still owned by the Ministry which maintains some offices here.

Yangon Heritage Trust has been working with several government ministries and also welcome the idea of renovating this magnificent Government Central Press Building to become a hub for book stores, printing and publishing solution.

Dr Thant Thaw Kaung, one of the board members of Yangon Heritage Trust, said that YHT will be closely working together with the ministry to implement and monitor the process of renovation.”

“We welcome Ministry’s initiative to give space for book and related industry such as printing and publishing in this historic and magnificent building. This project is hoped to bridge the major gap which many book shop owners and readers are facing at present time,” he said.

The commemorative Blue Plaque is a part of Yangon Heritage Trust's efforts to highlight historical buildings and renowned residents who contributed to the narrative of the city. Yangon Heritage Trust believes that the introduction of commemorative Blue Plaques will make Yangon's history accessible to people of all age and backgrounds.

The plaque in the Central plaque is the seventh Blue Plaque of YHT's initiative following City Hall, AYA Bank Headquarter, Armenian Church, Central Fire Station, General Post Office and Myanma Agricultural Development Bank.

Royal Philips agreed to contribute US\$ 75,000 for the Yangon Blue Plaques initiative. Aside from the highlighting key cultural heritage locations, the contribution will also support the research and curation of historical sites, and creation and installation of Blue Plaques that will share the historical relevance and background of notable people and places across the city.

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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