



Press Release

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YHT commemorates its fifth year anniversary with a conference on Yangon's future

YANGON: Marking the fifth year anniversary of The Yangon Heritage Trust (YHT), YHT has organized a conference on Heritage Conservation and Urban Revitalization of Yangon with the Chief Minister of Yangon Region to support activities for the conservation and revitalization of downtown heritage area.

Yangon Heritage Trust was established in 2012 as a center of excellence in urban built and cultural heritage management and today marks the fifth anniversary of the Trust. The mission was to raise awareness of the city's heritage assets and to encourage authorities and respected parties to protect the assets.

YHT and Chief Minister of Yangon H.E U Phyo Min Thein have brought together the senior officials from the Yangon Region Government and Yangon City Development Committee, related government departments, local and international NGOs, national and international experts and business sector, to participate in the conference and share their ideas and opinions to protect, manage, promote and sustain the historical heritage of Yangon.

Chief Minister of Yangon H.E U Phyo Min Thein has said that "Yangon has the potential to be a modern and livable economic center of the country while conserving its unique heritage buildings and greenery. To achieve this, the answer lies in careful and visionary planning that must integrate heritage conservation into every step of preparation and implementation"

Over the past 5 years, much progress has been made in the area of Yangon conservation and urban planning. Since 2012, YHT has managed to radically slow the demolition of Yangon heritage structures and has worked closely with Union and Regional governments on the renovation of heritage structures and on broader urban planning questions.

"Six years ago there was every possibility that Yangon's unique old town would be destroyed. Hundreds of buildings had been torn down and hundreds more were set for demolition," said Founder and Chairman of Yangon Heritage Trust, Dr. Thant Myint-U.

"The Yangon Heritage Trust has worked together with city authority to stop these demolitions, raise awareness of the value of Yangon's built heritage, providing technical assistance to over 100 renovation projects, and work with government and civil society to plan for a better future. This conference will help continue our road to this better future, by

improving coordination, further raising awareness, and setting a realistic agenda for the years ahead,” he added.

YHT has discussed many issues with government and relevant parties over the years, including designation of heritage conservation area and an action plan on sustainable tourism development. The action plan includes opening up Yangon riverfront to create needed public recreation spaces, the creation of a walkway from the Shwedagon Pagoda to the Yangon River; a financial facility for the renovation of government property downtown and the creation of a demonstration area around Bank Street and the waterfront.

YHT believes Yangon can be one of Asia’s most livable cities as well as a top international tourist destination. The heritage of Yangon is the priority, and can be a global example of the inclusion of cultural diversity, protection and conservation.

YHT believes the conference promotes the awareness of conservation led urban development as well as introducing fresh ideas from national and international experts. The regional government and stakeholders dedicate their support of a realistic medium-term implementation plan forward from 2018 to 2021.

Yangon Heritage Trust

Established in 2012, the Yangon Heritage Trust promotes the proper conservation of Yangon’s rich urban heritage within a cohesive planning process. It believes that good integration of conservation and development can make Yangon into one of Asia’s most beautiful and liveable cities. The Trust assists in the conservation of urban heritage places, advocates for sustainable and sympathetic development within the historic city, advises on the adoption of planning policies and manages a range of training, public outreach and advocacy programs.

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