



## Press Release

Date: November 24, 2017

### **Colonial Administrative Building of Yangon to be commemorate with the Blue Plaque**

**YANGON:** The nineteenth blue plaque was installed to commemorate the High Court of Yangon Region as the landmark building on November 24 with the cooperation of Yangon City Development Committee, Yangon Heritage Trust and Royal Phillips Cooperation.

The High Court building is another outstanding example of a grand old building of Empire. Large and composing, the Queen Ann style building is an archetypal colonial administrative building located on Pansodan Street with an entrance on Mahabandoola Garden Street.

The construction of the High Court started in 1905 and completed in 1911 at a cost of twenty-four and a half lakhs of rupees. It was designed by James Ransome (1865-1944), a Consulting Architect to the Government of India and constructed by the Indian-owned construction firm Bagchi & Co, who was also involved in another important contract to construct Yangon General Hospital. The building was designed to symbolize the regal might of the British Empire and includes distinctive features such as crouching lion statues and a massive clock tower with a bell that chimed every hour.

The former High Court building was also one of the very first buildings to use electricity, which had just been introduced to Yangon. Due to the swampy soil, the clock tower was a risky endeavour and required extensive foundations made of thitya (local hardwood), which is especially durable in damp conditions.

The building was in constant use as the highest court in Myanmar and witnessed several landmark cases. Since the Supreme Court was re-established in the new capital of Naypyitaw in 2006, the building has housed the High Court of the Yangon Region.

Dr. Thant Myint-U, Founder and Chairman of Yangon Heritage Trust, said that "The Blue Plaques programme is meant not only to mark specific buildings as important, but to help the people of Yangon recover, remember, protect and celebrate their history."

"The legal decisions take at the High Court have shaped this country for over a hundred years. But how many people who see the building every day on their way to work know this history? Part of our aim is helping people realize the deep history that's all around."

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.

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### **Yangon Heritage Trust**

Established in March 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.

For more information on Yangon Heritage Trust:

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### **Royal Philips:**

Royal Philips (NYSE: PHG, AEX: PHIA) is a diversified health and well-being company, focused on improving people's lives through meaningful innovation in the areas of Healthcare, Consumer Lifestyle and Lighting. Headquartered in the Netherlands, Philips posted 2013 sales of EUR 23.3 billion and employs approximately 113,000 employees with sales and services in more than 100 countries. The company is a leader in cardiac care, acute care and home healthcare, energy efficient lighting solutions and new lighting applications, as well as male shaving and grooming and oral healthcare. News from Philips is located at [www.philips.com/newscenter](http://www.philips.com/newscenter).

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