

MEDIA STATEMENT

GEORGE TOWN, PENANG

6 April 2011

Celebrating Tagore in Penang in the month of May

Think City Sdn Bhd (“Think City”) has joined hands with several community-based partners from the heritage enclave to help celebrate Rabindranath Tagore’s 150th anniversary in Penang.

Think City’s partners in this endeavor are Liga Muslim Pulau Pinang, Masjid Kapitan Keling, the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Nattukottai Chettiar Temples, and the Arulmigu Maha Mariamman Queen Street Temple and the Sri Kunj Bihari Temple.

The partners are working in collaboration with the Indian High Commission on a series of events that has been lined up to commemorate the journey of Tagore to Penang in 1927. The events include an essay contest, exhibitions and a public lecture and these would be graced by the Indian High Commissioner His Excellency Mr Vijay K. Gokhale on May 12, 13 and 14.

Tagore who visited Penang in 1927 was also the Asia’s first Nobel Laureate. The Tagore events being organised by Think City aims to re-create some aspects of his visit here, and also to highlight his ideas about universal values, cultural identity and the importance of education.

The Tagore Celebration is part of the Penang Story initiative that hopes to promote a wider appreciation of history as a way to strengthen the special identity of George Town within the larger context of state and nation.

The first of the events under the Tagore initiative was an essay competition launched with Chung Ling High School on April 15. The prize giving to the winners of the competition would be held on May 13th.

The reason why Think City is collaborating with Chung Ling High School is because 84 years ago Tagore was received by a rapt audience at the school, and it was attended by Penang dignitaries and students from Chung Ling.

Upon Mr Gokhale’s arrival in Penang on May 12th, he will launch the *Portraits of Penang: Little India* in the heart of Little India, followed by an exhibition of the photos in Galeri Seni Mutiara at Whiteaways Arcade. The following day, the High Commissioner will attend the prize-giving for the Chung Ling essay writing competition at 2.30pm at the school.

On May 14th at 10am, Mr Gokhale will attend the Penang Story Lecture by Associate Prof Saranindranath Tagore who is the great grand nephew of Rabindranath Tagore.

The Penang Story is a public-private initiative designed to help revitalize the intangible heritage of George Town by way of stimulating local communities to learn about their histories and celebrate key events in Penang’s history.

Through these projects Think City hopes to generate greater awareness of significant events featuring Penang in regional and global history. It also aims to build resilient communities on a heritage revitalization platform.

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About Think City Sdn Bhd

Think City, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Khazanah Nasional Berhad, is the special purpose vehicle set up to implement and manage the George Town Grants Programme (“GTGP”). The GTGP is designed to stimulate urban regeneration and rejuvenation within the George Town World Heritage Site (“WHS”), by encouraging projects that promote inclusiveness and a shared understanding of George Town’s Outstanding Universal Values (“OUVs”) between residents, businesses and visitors alike. This approach is aimed at enhancing the city’s livability and to build social capital over time. For more information on Think City please visit its website (www.thinkcity.com.my).