

MEDIA STATEMENT**GEORGE TOWN, PENANG****9 March 2011****Think City approves 18 grants worth RM1,182,888**

Think City Sdn Bhd (“Think City”) has **approved 18 grants worth RM1,182,888 under the third round of the George Town Grants Programme (“GTGP”)**. The approved applications have been chosen based on **six key parameters**:

- projects must be catalytic;
- build capacity via partnerships;
- developmental element;
- inclusiveness to promote cohesiveness amongst communities;
- projects must be socially and economically sustainable; &
- applicants must show creativity and innovation in their projects.

Out of the total, **seventeen (“17”) are physical conservation projects**, of which twelve are located in the core zone of the World Heritage Site and five are in the buffer zone. All physical conservation projects have been **reviewed by TCSB’s Technical Advisory Panel** of subject experts.

A notable difference from previous rounds of grant approvals is four physical projects which aim to re-introduce the **concept of affordable housing into the World Heritage Site**. In line with Think City’s objective to encourage private sector and civil society initiatives to promote **economically sustainable housing models**, these projects were chosen for their potential to kick-start regenerative effects in their respective locations:

1. Restoration of 345 Beach Street - communal student housing;
2. Restoration of 2-20 Acheen Street - student hostel for Wawasan Open University George Town campus, which will be located on China Street Ghaut;
3. Restoration of 10 Shophouses Armenian Street – working with property owners to restore heritage properties sensitively while retaining long term residents; and
4. Restoration of 24 China Street - traditional communal accommodation provided by Nattukotai Chettiar Temples.

Additionally, the “Shared Spaces” programme that started with the Greening of Lebuhraya Carnarvon will be extended into two physical projects:

1. Loo Pun Hong – this extended grant for façade restoration will also include a landscaping component for the fore-courtyard of the Carpenter’s Guild; and
2. Refurbishment of the Penang Road Catholic Cemetery – to ensure careful pruning of aged trees and rehabilitation of tombstones.

These projects are important to renew interest in the heritage and history of the respective communities, while eliciting “pride of place” and retaining the OUVs of the World Heritage Site.

The complete list of approved grants is as follows:

No.	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Approved
PHYSICAL REJUVENATION PROJECTS			
1.	Lena Leong Oy Lin	Restoration of 345 Beach Street – Communal Student Housing	RM140,650
2.	Loo Pun Hong	Extended grant for façade restoration	RM57,000
3.	Hock Teik Cheng Sin	Restoration of 10 Shophouses, Armenian Street	RM111,500
4.	Lio Chee Yeong	Restoration of 84, Church Street	RM33,000
5.	Estate Yeap Chor Ee	Restoration of 2-20, Acheen Street for Student Hostel of WOU	RM119,711
6.	Catholic Diocese of Penang	Refurbishment of the Penang Road Catholic Cemetery	RM21,600
7.	Loh Choon Kueng	Restoration of 22, Toh Aka Lane	RM65,950
8.	Siew Ewe Gai	Restoration of 94, Armenian Street	RM34,650
9.	Tan Shih Thoe	Restoration of 49, Muntri Street	RM36,407
10.	Cheah Hooi Giam	Conservation and Restoration of 100, Lebuh Melayu	RM50,000
11.	Saw Brothers Realty Sdn. Bhd.	Conservation and Restoration of No. 5, Weld Quay	RM59,000
12.	Registered Trustees of Nattukottai Chettiar Temples	Restoration of 24 China Street (Nagakaviduth) Chettiar Lodge	RM62,000
13.	Dato’ Seri Yusoff Latiff	Repair and Restoration of Makam Asaiyudu Mustapha Idris Wali Allah, Transfer Road (Makam Dato’ Koyah)	RM25,120
14.	Mor Hun Club	Conservation of 122, Armenian Street into Teochew Heritage Centre	RM21,500

15.	Penang Chinese Chambers of Commerce	Conservation of Lot 523, Light Street	RM243,200
16.	Green Building Sdn. Bhd.	Restoration of 82A-B-C, Penang Street	RM82,800
17.	Sun Wui Wui Kwon	Dilapidation Study and Condition Survey on Sun Wui Wui Kwon	RM5,000
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT			
18.	73A Lebuh Aceh	Protective hoarding for 73A Lebuh Aceh	RM13,800
TOTAL DISBURSEMENT FOR ROUND 3			RM1,320,388

The **Penang Story** will be Think City’s main **cultural mapping project** for 2011, which will encompass public lectures, workshops and conferences that feature Penang as a place of “conjunctures, confluences and contestations” – highlighting the multi-ethnic, cosmopolitan society that contributed to local, regional and global histories.

END

For further information, please contact Veronica Liew at +604-222 6956 or via e-mail to veronica.liew@thinkcity.com.my or visit www.thinkcity.com.my for more information on each approved project.

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 liveability and to build social capital over time. The GTGP will be implemented for a period of two years. Information on GTGP projects will be made available on the Think City website (www.thinkcity.com.my).