

Source:	The Edge Financial Daily	Date:	22/4/10
Title:	RM1.8m grants cleared for urban renewal		

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Wednesday, 21 April 2010 22:53

GEORGE TOWN: Think City, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Khazanah Nasional Bhd, has approved a first round of 18 grants worth RM1.84 million under the George Town Grants Programme (GTGP).

The GTGP is designed to stimulate urban regeneration and rejuvenation within the George Town World Heritage Site, by encouraging projects that promote inclusiveness and a shared understanding of George Town's outstanding universal values between residents, businesses and visitors.

This approach is aimed at enhancing the city's livability and to build social capital over time, Think City said in a statement on Wednesday, April 21. The GTGP will be implemented for a period of two years. Think City has been allocated RM20 million via Khazanah for the purpose.

The firm said that of the 18 grants, 11 were physical conservation projects, of which seven are located in the core zone of the World Heritage Site and four in the buffer zone.

"The remaining seven approved grants are for documentation projects related to physical conservation and urban rejuvenation within the George Town Heritage Site," it said.

At the closing date on Jan 15, 44 applications were received for the grants. The board is scheduled to meet again in May to decide on applications that have been kept-in-view. Additionally, all physical conservation projects have been reviewed by Think City's technical advisory panel of subject experts. Grantees will be required to prepare conservation reports and other relevant documentation as the projects are being implemented.

The five George Town World Heritage office documentation projects that have received the green light include a homeowner's manual, booklets on building materials, posters and brochures on heritage shophouses, cataloguing of F W Kelly Maps and the building of an interpretive model of the heritage site.

There are three rounds of grant applications this year. The second round will begin on Monday and all interested parties should submit their application by May 20.