



Closer Australian ties a boost for Penang's heritage

TWO heritage organisations have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with their Australian counterpart to boost mutual co-operation in the fields of cultural and natural heritage.

The signing ceremony was between the Penang Heritage Trust (PHT) and Think City Sdn Bhd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Federal Government's investment arm Khazanah Nasional Bhd, with AusHeritage.

Established by the Australian government in 1996, AusHeritage is a network of Australian cultural heritage management organisations and practitioners.

The ceremony was recently held at the E&O Hotel.

In her speech, PHT president Khoo Salma Nasution said the MoU would allow the organisations to work closely together to promote conferences, seminars, workshops and exhibitions to facilitate heritage skills development and internship and to

explore other areas of co-operation.

"From the late 1990s, the PHT has worked hard to put George Town on the Unesco World Heritage list.

"It took 10 years, not counting the groundwork laid before that but heritage work is never done.

"Now we have to work even harder to promote public awareness, heritage education, monitoring and managing the heritage site and AusHeritage has extended a helping hand," she said.

Think City chairman Prof Datuk Anwar Fazal said the MoU brought "added value" to George Town heritage site stakeholders by giving them access and exposure to the specialist knowledge of the AusHeritage network members.

AusHeritage chairman Vinod Daniel said more than 10 senior heritage practitioners from Australia had visited the state to deliver lectures and workshops.