

THE YEAR IN REFLECTION

Mind-Mapping the Future

“The small Peranakan Museum... explores this unique culture, presenting artefacts... as well as displays that detail the Peranakans’ way of life...”

– Ms Sonia Kolesnikov-Jessop, *International Herald Tribune*, 24 April 2008



Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and RAdm (NS) Lui Tuck Yew, Senior Minister of State, MOE and MICA, touring the new Peranakan Museum which captured the hearts and imagination of local and foreign visitors.

The year has been especially eventful with new developments, events and initiatives launched. These pioneering projects are driving Singapore closer to becoming a world-class cultural and heritage hub.



THE HI²P EXPERIENCE

FY2007 saw private sector projects supported for the first time by the pilot Heritage Industry Incentive Programme (Hi²P).

Launched in early 2007, Hi²P encouraged private heritage and museum partners to showcase Singapore's rich cultural capital and develop new heritage products. From pub walks to children's books with a Peranakan theme to a catalogue featuring artist Tan Swie Hian's works, Hi²P provided the fuel to catalyse a diverse range of innovative heritage products and services.

Moving ahead, the next year promises even more excitement for the heritage eco-system in Singapore, moving the industry from a largely government led one to one with greater private and people sector participation.

SHOWCASING SINGAPORE'S VIBRANT CONTEMPORARY ART SCENE

Lending the spotlight on contemporary art in Singapore and the region, 8Q sam – the new wing of the Singapore Art Museum (SAM) – will house diverse contemporary and experimental art across its six galleries.

Featuring works by young contemporary artists in Singapore, 8Q sam is located in the Bras Basah Cultural District and represents an exciting phase in Singapore's art and cultural landscape. With its community-oriented programming, this new space allows the public to be acquainted with the works and ideas of living artists while understanding their historical, social and cultural contexts.

NEW PERANAKAN MUSEUM OPENS

The Peranakan Museum was opened by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on 25 April 2008. This boutique museum houses the world's finest and most comprehensive collection of Peranakan artefacts, and aims to explore Peranakan cultures across Southeast Asia.

The opening ceremony saw a gathering of over 800 guests, including local and overseas Peranakan associations, various dignitaries and ardent supporters of the museum. In its first nine weeks of operation, it attracted more than 50,000 visitors, more than doubling initial targets.



Artist's impression of 80 sam