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Singapore museums draw record three million visitors

By: Julia Ng; Channel NewsAsia | Posted: 26 April 2007 2308 hrs

SINGAPORE: It was a record-breaking year for Singapore museums last year, with the 45 museums attracting some three million visitors.

State-owned museums under the National Heritage Board also doubled to 1.1 million visitors - compared to five years ago (over half a million visitors in 2002).

The Board's Chairman Professor Tommy Koh released these figures at the welcome dinner of the World Federation of Friends of Museums General Assembly and Council Meeting Thursday evening.

The meeting is being held in Asia for the first time in 30 years, instead of in Europe or America where the annual event has been held since its inauguration in 1975.

Professor Koh told delegates from 22 countries - some of whom are billionaires and staunch patrons and friends of museums in Europe and America - that museums worldwide have undergone a renaissance, with visitorship increasing everywhere, especially in Asia.

Going to the museum is no longer seen as boring, but instead cool and hip.

He stressed that philanthropy and volunteerism are vital to nurture the culture of museum-going, especially in the young.

"Going to a museum can be a very enjoyable experience for a family! And our mission is to make museums venues in which we inform, we educate and we entertain our visitors, and we want the experience of coming to a museum to be a very enjoyable one so people want to come back to a museum to see the next show!" said Koh. - CNA/yy



Photos

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Side view of restored National Museum