



新加坡全國商聯總會

**THE FEDERATION OF MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATIONS, SINGAPORE**

BLK 1 JOO CHIAT ROAD, #05-1019 JOO CHIAT COMPLEX, SINGAPORE 420001

TEL: 6741 4670 / 6745 0977 FAX: 6297 3945 EMAIL: [enquiry@fmas.org.sg](mailto:enquiry@fmas.org.sg)

WEBSITE: <http://www.fmas.org.sg> FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/sgfmas](http://www.facebook.com/sgfmas)

ROS No. UEN S89SS0010A

13<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dear Sir or Madam,

**CONSENT FOR THE NOMINATION OF HAWKER CULTURE IN SINGAPORE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE UNESCO REPRESENTATIVE LIST OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HUMANITY**

The Federation of Merchants' Associations, Singapore (FMAS) strongly supports and consents to the nomination of Hawker Culture in Singapore to the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

2 The FMAS is a non-profit organisation which was formed in 1989 to represent the interest of its members, which includes hawkers based at the various hawker centres across Singapore. One of the key objectives of the FMAS is to champion the interest of the hawkers and safeguard our hawker culture, by working closely with hawkers and hawker associations.

3 The FMAS safeguards and promotes hawker culture practice through various initiatives. These include facilitating networking opportunities among our members, hosting regular meetings with hawkers to address their concerns, and monitoring the issues and challenges faced by the hawkers. The FMAS also serves as a bridge between the Government of Singapore and the hawkers, and is involved in discussions with the government agencies regarding measures to safeguard hawker culture. In addition, we provide a wide range of programmes and events to raise awareness about the hawker practice among the general public.

4 In sustaining the hawker practice, we work in partnership with the National Environment Agency (NEA), a government agency which oversees policies regarding hawkers and hawker centres in Singapore. We represent the interests and views of the hawkers and work with NEA on initiatives to enhance the hawker practice. We will continue our work with the NEA and other stakeholders, and explore ways to attract new entrants and support aspiring hawkers, as well as raise the profiles of hawkers and the hawker practice. These efforts will help to ensure that the hawker culture continues to be safeguarded and transmitted for generations to come.



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5 For the nomination of Hawker Culture in Singapore, FMAS played an active role and was involved in all stages of the nomination effort, including:

- a) Focus Group Discussions to decide on the element to be nominated: Our Vice-President and Chairman of the Hawker Sub-Committee, Mr Lim Gek Meng, and several members from the hawker community, participated in focus group discussions organised by the National Heritage Board (NHB) in early 2018, to discuss possible elements to be nominated. We were heartened to know that many communities, groups, individuals and cultural experts who participated in these focus group discussions, like us, were keen to nominate hawker culture to the Representative List.
- b) Co-Chair of Nomination Committee: As the President of FMAS, I served as a co-chair of the Nomination Committee for Hawker Culture. The Nomination Committee is a group of 14 individuals from wide-ranging backgrounds who have a role in safeguarding of hawker culture. Hawker representatives from FMAS' Hawker Sub-Committee also attended the Nomination Committee meetings in 2018 to 2019, to share their views and suggestions to the nomination process.
- c) Briefing Sessions to Hawker Associations: As part of the preparations of the nomination, FMAS organised various meetings and briefing sessions in partnership with the NEA and the NHB. During these sessions, we briefed the hawkers about the UNESCO 2003 Convention, the definitions of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) and how hawker culture is an ICH element. FMAS also encouraged its members to share the information with other hawkers and to pen letters expressing their consent and support for nomination of hawker culture to the Representative List.
- d) Raising Awareness of the Nomination: FMAS worked with the hawker associations to display posters at various hawker centres across Singapore, and encouraged hawkers to display information labels at their stalls. These efforts helped to increase awareness and understanding about the nomination and garner support for the nomination. We also shared about the nomination effort at FMAS' various events and networking platforms. In addition, the FMAS also partnered the NEA and NHB to set up exhibitions at various hawker centres and community spaces around Singapore.



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e) Focus Group Discussions on Safeguarding Measures: As part of efforts to involve hawkers in the nomination effort, FMAS collaborated with NEA and the NHB to organise a series of focus group discussions in January to March 2019. These discussions involved 73 hawkers, who provided feedback on the nomination efforts and suggested safeguarding measures.

Please refer to **Annex** for pictures of the above events.

6 Hawker culture in Singapore represents the multiculturalism and diverse communities in Singapore, and serves as a bridge that connects people together regardless of religion, ethnicity, age and social-economic background.

7 Hawkers are important contributors to the myriad of affordable, multicultural food options available in Singapore, and we hope that a successful nomination will encourage them to continue the transmission of hawker culture, and inspire the next generation of young hawkers that will carry on this important intangible cultural heritage in Singapore.

8 It is for these reasons that we, the FMAS, give our consent and strong support for the nomination of hawker culture to the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Yours Sincerely,



  
Mr. Yeo Hiang Meng PBM  
President

The Federation of Merchants' Associations, Singapore (FMAS)





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### ANNEX



Mr Lim Gek Meng, Vice-President of FMAS and Chairman of the FMAS Hawker Sub-Committee, addresses hawkers at the start of a focus group discussion which sought feedback and suggestions on proposed safeguarding measures.



Hawkers being briefed about the nomination of hawker culture and the UNESCO 2003 Convention.





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Mr Yeo Hiang Meng, President of FMAS, sharing information about the nomination with hawkers and encouraging them to display information labels about the nomination at their hawker stalls.



FMAS organised onstage group pledging of Hawker Culture Nomination to guide members on how to scan QR code to do pledging. Most of the hawker association members prefer to pledge their supports at the mobile pledging station that was also setup onsite.





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FMAS also recommended hawkers from three selected hawker centres for the video of consent to highlight their support for the nomination.



FMAS Members' Hawker Associations garnering supports from their fellow hawkers at their respective hawker centres where they operate their businesses.





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At FMAS signature's event the Singapore Heartland Enterprise Star Award encouraged key representatives from the newspaper, corporation and agencies to rally pledging onstage during its Award Presentation and Gala Dinner Ceremony in September 2018.

嘉宾扫描QR码 支持小贩文化申遗

现场600多人用手机扫描QR码，支持为小贩文化申遗。

在场600人纷纷拿出手机扫描QR码，为支持小贩文化尽一分力。

颁奖晚宴结束前，司仪呼吁在场企业家拿出手机扫描宣传纸上的QR码。手机屏幕会显示为小贩文化申遗的网站oursgheritage。

企业家纷纷输入资料，再留下评语，旨在推广并传承本地独有文化，希望它能入选联合国教科文组织“非物质文化遗产代表名录”。

**Our SG Hawker Culture**

LET'S SUPPORT SINGAPORE HAWKER CULTURE

Join us in nominating Singapore's Hawker Culture onto the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage

PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT NOW!  
[www.oursgheritage.sg](http://www.oursgheritage.sg)

SCAN HERE

A collaboration of:  
National Heritage Board  
National Environment Agency  
新加坡国家环境局

Media report published on Chinese newspaper, Lianhe Zaobao, online website showing our key representative onstage to scan QR code and pledge using their mobile to 650-strong crowd at the Singapore Heartland Enterprise Star Award 2018 Presentation and Gala Dinner ceremony.

Source: <https://www.zaobao.com.sg/zfinance/sme/story20180919-892843>

**CONSENT AND SUPPORT FOR THE  
NOMINATION OF HAWKER CULTURE OF SINGAPORE**

Name of Hawker Centre: Tiong Bahru Market & Food Centre

熟食中心名称：中峇鲁巴刹与熟食中心

Address of Hawker Centre: 30 Seng Poh Road, Singapore (168898)

熟食中心地址：

Name and Title of Representative: Loh Teck Seng

代表人的姓名与称号：

Name of Hawker Association: Tiong Bahru Market Association

组织名称：

Address of Organisation: 30 Seng Poh Road, #02-69

组织地址：

Date: 18 January 2019

日期：

We represent the hawkers from Tiong Bahru Market & Food Centre.

Tiong Bahru Market opened in 1951. It was an instant draw for the residents of the area which had resettled in the area due to rapid urbanisation and development of Singapore in the post-World War Two years. Since its early days, the market has functioned as a "Town Hall", where community events would take place for the residents around the Tiong Bahru area. Till today, the centre continues to be an important node for the local community.

We consider Hawker Culture to be an important intangible cultural heritage that is appreciated by the people of Singapore, and reflects the daily lives and multicultural identity of Singapore.

We value this intangible cultural heritage and will contribute to the continual practice of this culture. We hope that Hawker Culture of Singapore will receive recognition on the UNESCO Representative List and will be practised and transmitted to future generations.

We indicate our free, prior and informed consent and support to the nomination of "Hawker Culture of Singapore" to UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



Please find appended in Annex A, the signatories of all the hawkers from Tiong Bahru Market & Food Centre who are supportive of the UNESCO nomination.

Please find appended in Annex B a brief history of Tiong Bahru Market & Food Centre.

## 简介

我们代表以上的小贩总会，为受代表的小贩提出这份认可书。

新加坡有超过 110 间小贩中心，而各小贩中心的小贩由一间小贩总会代表。我们代表以上的小贩总会，为受代表的小贩提出这份认可书。

我们同意将“新加坡小贩文化”申遗列入联合国教科文《非物质文化遗产代表名录》。

我们认为小贩文化是一份对新加坡人非常有意义的非物质文化遗产，因为它反映着新加坡人的日常生活与多元种族的文化。

我们希望能够为守护这份非物质文化遗产尽一份力，也希望它会被列入联合国教科文组织的《非物质文化遗产代表名录》，确保小贩文化得以传承，保持活力。

中峇鲁巴刹与熟食中心为申遗表示的支持和签署收入在附件 A。

中峇鲁巴刹与熟食中心的历史与文化内容收入在附件 B。

### **History and Heritage of Tiong Bahru Market & Food Centre**

The popular Tiong Bahru Market opened in 1951. It was originally named Seng Poh Road Market. The original market was built to house a large number of street hawkers who had served the rapidly growing community at Tiong Bahru. It became an instant draw for the residents of the area which had resettled in the area due to rapid urbanisation and development of Singapore in the post-World War Two years.

Since its early days, the market has functioned as a “Town Hall”, where community events would take place for the residents around the Tiong Bahru area. The centre has been upgraded over the years, in order to meet the changing needs of the local community.

Today, the Tiong Bahru Market & Food Centre is a two-storey building, housing a market and a hawker centre with 83 food stalls. The new centre has been endowed with user-friendly features with lifts, escalators and bigger stalls, to ensure that it remains an inclusive and accessible space for all. The centre continues to be an important node for the local community. The centre is not only a place where many experienced hawkers ply their trades. It is also a communal space where residents of diverse backgrounds would interact and meet over food.





## **CONSENT AND SUPPORT FOR THE NOMINATION OF HAWKER CULTURE OF SINGAPORE**

Name of Hawker Centre: 51 Old Airport Road Food Centre and Shopping Mall

Address of Hawker Centre: 51 Old Airport Road, Singapore (390051)

Name and Title of Representative: Mdm Susan

Name of Hawker Association: Old Airport Road (51) Merchant's Association

Date: 26 December 2018

We represent the hawkers from 51 Old Airport Road Food Centre and Shopping Mall.

2 We indicate our free, prior and informed consent and support to the nomination of "Hawker Culture of Singapore" to UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

4 We consider Hawker Culture to be an important intangible cultural heritage that is appreciated by the people of Singapore, and reflects the daily lives and multicultural identity of Singapore.

5 We value this intangible cultural heritage and will contribute to the continual practice of this culture. We hope that Hawker Culture of Singapore will receive recognition on the UNESCO Representative List and will be practised and transmitted to future generations.

6 Please find appended in Annex A, the signatories of all the hawkers from 51 Old Airport Road Food Centre and Shopping Mall who are supportive of the UNESCO nomination.

7 Please find appended in Annex B a brief history of 51 Old Airport Road Food Centre and Shopping Mall

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51 旧机场路熟食与购物中心小贩为申遗表示的支持和签署收入在附件 A。

51 旧机场路熟食与购物中心的历史与文化内容收入在附件 B。



### **History and Heritage of 51 Old Airport Road Food Centre and Shopping Mall**

51 Old Airport Road Food Centre and Shopping Mall is a two storey HDB hawkler centre with 168 cooked food stalls and 54 lock-up Stalls. It was built in 1972 and was rebuilt under the Hawker Centres Upgrading Programme (HUP) on June 2007.

This centre last underwent Repairs and Redecoration by Marine Parade Town Council between Jun and Jul 2014.

51 Old Airport Road Food Centre was built in 1972 to resettle street hawkers found along the Kallang Estate. This estate was created following the closure of Kallang Airport in 1955. The Singapore Improvement Trust built low cost housing in the district to house squatters who has been cleared from the town areas. The area on which this new estate was constructed was actually the old airport's runway. This became the Kallang Airport Estate.

A market was thus built as part of the estate's development. Initially called Jalan Empat Market, it was later renamed as Kallang Estate Fresh Market and Food Centre. By 1960s, it was not adequate to accommodate all the street hawkers who had gathered at the estate.

The solution was found in 1972 with the building of Old Airport Road Food Centre as part of the Kallang Airport Estate Redevelopment Scheme. The new facility was an emporium-cum-hawker centre with food stalls on the ground floor and shopping on the upper level of the building. When it was completed, it was considered the most modern hawkler centre, which had incorporated the latest architectural design.

Old Airport Road Food Centre has been a favourite haunt for diners looking for the best local food at reasonable prices. The hawkler centre's close proximity to the city also made it a convenient supper stopover for revellers after a night out in town. The centre operates from 6am to 12am and caters for all crowds.



## **CONSENT AND SUPPORT FOR THE NOMINATION OF HAWKER CULTURE OF SINGAPORE**

Name of Hawker Centre: Geylang Serai Market & Food Centre

Address of Hawker Centre: 1 Geylang Serai, Singapore (402001)

Name and Title of Representative: Mr Haji Abdul Razak Bin Mohamed Ismail

Name of Hawker Association: Pasar Geylang Serai Merchants' Association

Address of Organisation: Blk 415 Eunos Road 5 #17-58 Singapore 400415

Date: 5 Dec 2018

We represent the hawkers from Geylang Serai Market & Food Centre.

There are more than 110 hawker centres in Singapore. The hawkers of each hawker centre are represented by a Hawker Association. We represent the above listed Hawker Association.

We indicate our free, prior and informed consent and support to the nomination of "Hawker Culture of Singapore" to UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

We consider Hawker Culture to be an important intangible cultural heritage that is appreciated by the people of Singapore, and reflects the daily lives and multicultural identity of Singapore.

We value this intangible cultural heritage and will contribute to the continual practice of this culture. We hope that Hawker Culture of Singapore will receive recognition on the UNESCO Representative List and will be practised and transmitted to future generations.

Please find appended in Annex A, the signatories of all the hawkers from Geylang Serai Market & Food Centre who are supportive of the UNESCO nomination.

Please find appended in Annex B a brief history of Geylang Serai Market & Food Centre.



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芽笼士乃巴刹与熟食中心为申遗表示的支持和签署收入在附件 A。

芽笼士乃巴刹与熟食中心的历史与文化内容收入在附件 B。

### **History and Heritage of Geylang Serai Market & Food Centre**

Located between Changi Road and Sims Avenue, Geylang Serai Market was first opened in 1964. It has since become an important landmark. Considered new and modern then, the structure housed a wet market and a food centre, which drew families of various backgrounds from all over Singapore.

In 2003, under the Hawker Centres Upgrading Programme (HUP), the market began its urban renewal with a new lease of life. Finally reopening in 2009, the new complex housed the same tenants as the old one but in a cleaner, more spacious environment.

Traditional Malay houses inspired the 2-storey market's design: high, sloping roofs with timber panels, weaving patterns and a broad veranda to the Malay heritage of a kampung. The ground floor is where the wet market and stalls selling provision goods are, whereas the hawker centre and stalls selling piece and sundry goods occupy the 2nd level. There are 63 stalls selling cooked food located in level 2.

The centre continues to be an important node for the local community. The centre is not only a place where many experienced hawkers ply their trades. It is also a communal space where residents of diverse backgrounds would interact and meet over food.



**CONSENT AND SUPPORT FOR THE  
NOMINATION OF HAWKER CULTURE OF SINGAPORE**

Name of Hawker Centre: Serangoon Garden Market

Address of Hawker Centre: 49A Serangoon Garden Way Singapore (555945)

Name and Title of Representative: Mr Tan Beng Hock, Robert (Stall #017)

Name of Hawker Association: Serangoon Garden Market Association

Address of Organisation: 49A Serangoon Garden Way, Singapore (555945)

Date: 12 Dec 2018

We represent the hawkers from Serangoon Garden Market.

The name Serangoon is likely to be derived from Burong Ranggoon, referring to a species of black and white stork that lives around Sungei Serangoon (formerly called Rangoon River). Satu, or one in Malay, was added to the name, thus becoming Sarangoon. This name was used for a long period of time before it eventually evolved to Serangoon. During the Japanese Occupation, large plots of flower farms were cultivated in this region, leading to the naming of the estate as Serangoon Gardens.

The following is the story of stallholder of stall #045 and #046, Mr Sim Bak Sun. I started selling bread in the 60s by cycling around the Serangoon neighbourhood. I subsequently bought a car in the mid-60s to help in the business. I recall that during the 60s, there were only 4 choices of bread :- coconut, kaya red bean and cream. This is unlike today where there are many choices available. I expanded my business by renting a space at the bread factory in Serangoon to make bread. Eventually the bread factory closed down in 1994. I decided to relocate to Serangoon Garden Market to start my bread business. I now make my own bread at the stalls. I am proud to have played a part in the lives Serangoon residents over the years. I am supportive of the bid as Hawker Centre culture is unique to Singapore. It is also a dining place which offers many different types of food can be found under one roof.

We indicate our free, prior and informed consent and support to the nomination of "Hawker Culture of Singapore" to UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

We consider Hawker Culture to be an important intangible cultural heritage that is appreciated by the people of Singapore, and reflects the daily lives and multicultural identity of Singapore.



We value this intangible cultural heritage and will contribute to the continual practice of this culture. We hope that Hawker Culture of Singapore will receive recognition on the UNESCO Representative List and will be practised and transmitted to future generations.

Please find appended in Annex A, the signatories of all the hawkers from Serangoon Garden Market who are supportive of the UNESCO nomination.

Please find appended in Annex B a brief history of Serangoon Garden Market.

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实龙岗花园巴刹与熟食中心贩为申遗表示的支持和签署收入在附件 A。

实龙岗花园巴刹与熟食中心的历史与文化内涵收入在附件 B。

### **History and Heritage of Serangoon Garden Market**

Serangoon Gardens is fondly known as ang sar lee (红砂厘) by the local Chinese, referring to the red zinc roofs of the houses that once occupied this estate. In the old days, certain parts of Serangoon Gardens were given nicknames such as zhap ji cheng (十二千 or 12,000) and zhap si cheng (十四千 or 14,000), describing the approximate prices of the houses available in their respective areas.

The most prominent landmarks of Serangoon Gardens are perhaps the Serangoon Garden Circus and the popular Chomp Chomp Food Centre (its official name is Serangoon Gardens Food Centre), which serves delicious local delights in BBQ stingray, BBQ chicken wings, satay and Hokkien mee. The area resembles a mini-version of the Newton Circus and its food centre.

