

POST EVENT MEDIA RELEASE

**An Estimated S\$5.5 million Extension will see  
the Asian Civilisations Museum  
Move into its Next Phase with Three New Galleries**



**[8 November 2012, SINGAPORE]** – The Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM) will be moving into its next phase of development as it prepares to add a new wing to one of Singapore’s landmark colonial buildings. The wing will be open to the public in 2015.

2 Blending old and new, the new wing, which will cost an estimate of S\$5.5 million to construct, has been designed by Singaporean architects GreenhillLi

Consultants. The new wing is a departure from the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Neo-classicism of the original structure: it will be a clearly modern structure, surrounded by a light-filled atrium, and will connect to galleries on three floors. From the outside, visitors can see works of art and the museum's programmes, framed by the windows and architectural features of the 1870s. Although clad in titanium, the new build will feel light and transparent, and will seem to float above the ground floor.

3 “The new wing is a respectable, yet clearly different, addition to an important heritage structure. The new galleries will take advantage of natural light and provide a different experience for the visitor. We will have the chance to reveal more of the museum's collection in an innovative and hopefully thought-provoking way. The generosity of the Hong Leong Foundation is a true model of philanthropy.” – Dr Alan Chong, Director for Asian Civilisations Museum.

4 S\$500,000 of the \$5million donation from the Hong Leong Foundation will be used to acquire artefacts related to Fujian culture. This will expand the collection of Chinese objects, specifically to allow audiences to make connections with the areas which gave rise to trade and immigration.

5 The S\$5million in donation funds marks the second occasion that the Hong Leong Foundation has provided major support to the ACM, and is the largest single cash donation that the museum has received to date. In 2001, Hong Leong Foundation donated S\$2.8 million for the establishment of the ACM's China gallery, which is named after Hong Leong Group's founder, the late Mr Kwek Hong Png. The recent S\$5million donation is part of Hong Leong Foundation's ongoing efforts to promote the understanding and appreciation of Chinese art and culture. Established in 1980, Hong Leong Foundation is the charitable arm of the Hong Leong Group, which is dedicated to the philanthropic causes of the Group, including the arts, education and welfare.

6 “By working with the Asian Civilisations Museum, we hope to be able to inform and educate future generations about the roots of our forefathers. The Fujian culture is especially meaningful to me as my late father was born in that region. He came to

Singapore at the age of 16 but never forgot his roots. He used to share with us about Fujian, its rich culture and fine art. We hope that through our donation, we are able to share this rich culture and educate Singaporeans, especially those with forefathers from Fujian, on their roots.. ” – Mr Kwek Leng Beng, Governor of Hong Leong Foundation.

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**\* Event Details**

<b>Name of event</b>	<b>Groundbreaking Ceremony for ACM Extension</b>		
<b>Date</b>	8 Nov 2012	<b>Time</b>	9.00am to 10.30am
<b>GOH</b>	<b>Mr Lawrence Wong Acting Minister for Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and Senior Minister of State for Communications and Information</b>		
<b>Media arrival time</b>	<b>8.45 am</b>		
<b>Venue</b>	Asian Civilisations Museum 1 Empress Place, Singapore 179555		

**ASIAN CIVILISATIONS MUSEUM**

**Factsheet**

<b>Name of Exhibition/ Programme*</b>	Groundbreaking Ceremony for Asian Civilisations Museum
<b>Date of Event</b>	8 November 2012
<b>Time</b>	9am – 10.30am

<b>Venue</b>	Asian Civilisations Museum (Learning Gallery)
<b>Name of GOH and Arrival Time</b>	Mr Lawrence Wong Acting Minister for Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth & Senior Minister of State for Communication and Information
<b>Organiser</b>	ACM
<b>Sponsor</b>	S\$5million sponsored by Hong Leong Foundation
<b>Designer</b>	GreenhillLi Consultants
<b>Gross Floor Area</b>	868.72m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2001, Hong Leong Foundation gave S\$2.8 million for the establishment of the ACM's China gallery, which is named after Hong Leong Group's founder, the late Mr Kwek Hong Png.</li> <li>• The S\$5million in donation funds marks the second time that Hong Leong Foundation has given to the ACM</li> <li>• The S\$5million donation is part of Hong Leong Foundation's ongoing efforts to promote the understanding and appreciation of Chinese art and culture.</li> </ul>
<b>Objectives and Desired Outcomes for the New ACM wing</b>	<p><b>ACM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reach out to new audiences with this new wing as it will present the museum in a more open concept.</li> <li>• To create a welcoming and engaging environment for audience to learn and be inspired</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The light and interconnections of the new wing will allow visitors to participate and interact with the treasures on display.</li> </ul> <p><b>Hong Leong Foundation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To inform and educate our future generations about the roots of their forefathers</li> <li>• To promote the understanding and appreciation of Chinese art and culture.</li> </ul>
<b>Exhibition/ Launch/ Programme/ Highlight *</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S\$5million donation by Hong Leong Foundation</li> <li>• First ever extension to the Asian Civilisations Museum</li> <li>• New look fusing the traditional with the contemporary</li> <li>• New wing's finishing done in matt titanium</li> <li>• Three spanking new galleries with unique features</li> <li>• Sky bridge linking the new wing with the existing building</li> <li>• 'Light well' on ground floor will allow for visitors to experience the museum even after operating hours</li> <li>• S\$500,000 worth of new acquisitions</li> </ul>
<b>Target Completion Date</b>	2015
<b>About the ACM Extension</b>	The architecture of the existing building dates back to 1864 and several extensions and modifications were carried out over 150 years with the most recent addition in 2003, all of

	<p>which were in the original style of the building while the new extension is contemporary in design.</p> <p>The existing courtyard facing the Victoria Theatre is transformed into the new extension of the museum to serve primarily as new spacious exhibition spaces for the existing China Gallery, which is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor adjacent to the courtyard.</p> <p>In essence, the new extension is a solid box floating in an enclosed space. The courtyard is the backdrop within which the new extension takes on the form of a metallic cuboid 'weightlessly' elevated one level above the ground. A three-level daylight-filled glass atrium between the existing facade and the new two-level 'box' forms part of the 1st level gallery space below. Lightweight bridges on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> level seamlessly integrate the existing and new galleries.</p> <p>The extension consists of three separate purpose-built galleries over three levels designed to offer different exhibition environments. To suit the collections displayed, these range from spaces with day lighting to accentuate artefacts such as ceramics and sculptures, to carefully controlled spaces with artificial lighting for exhibits such as parchments and paintings.</p> <p>The architecture of the new extension does not mimic the past, rather it represents architecture in the 21<sup>st</sup> century while at the same time complementing and integrating with the existing building. It serves to rejuvenate the historical building and underscore its viability and relevance for the future.</p>
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**About the Asian Civilisations Museum**

The Asian Civilisations Museum is dedicated to exploring the rich artistic heritage of Asia, especially Singapore's ancestral cultures. Through a collection of works of art and a varied exhibition programme, we hope to deepen understanding of Southeast Asia, China, South Asia, West Asia, and the Peranakan world. Rare among museums in Asia, the ACM connects audiences with many cultures.

The Asian Civilisations Museum first began its operations at Armenian Street in 1997, which closed at end-2005, and re-opened on 25 April 2008 as the Peranakan Museum. The ACM's flagship at the historic Empress Place Building opened on 2 March 2003.

**Address**

1 Empress Place, Singapore 179555

Museum Front Desk : (65) 6332 7798

**Opening Hours**

Mondays : 1pm – 7pm

Tuesdays – Sundays : 9am – 7pm (to 9pm on Fridays)