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MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

REDEVELOPMENT OF THE CHANGI CHAPEL & MUSEUM

29 January 2018 – The National Heritage Board (NHB) will embark on the redevelopment of the Changi Chapel & Museum later this year, from 2 April 2018, to refresh the site’s infrastructure, content and offerings. This will be its first major redevelopment in more than 15 years for the Changi Chapel & Museum.

2 The Changi Museum Pte Ltd (TCMPL), an associate company of Singapore History Consultants Pte Ltd (SHC), was appointed by the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) and subsequently NHB to manage the museum from 2001 to 2017. It is a successful example of a private and public sector partnership between SHC and government agencies, STB and NHB. From March 2017 to 2018, TCMPL has jointly-operated the museum with NHB.

Redevelopment of the Changi Chapel & Museum

3 Dedicated to telling the stories that unfolded in Changi during World War II, the Changi Chapel & Museum aims to inspire younger generations while honouring the spirit and resilience of those who underwent that period of Singapore’s history. Originally located next to the Changi Prison, it was relocated to its current site on 15 February 2001.

4 The first gallery revamp of the museum was conducted in 2005 by TCMPL, with the support of STB, and involved the curation of new exhibits, galleries and programmes. The gallery revamp transformed three-quarters of the original gallery space, incorporating new artefacts and interpretive storyboards. The upcoming redevelopment aims to refresh the narrative of the museum, alongside essential infrastructural redevelopments that will help to enhance the experience for visitors.

5 The Changi Chapel & Museum will be closed to the public during its period of redevelopment, which will happen in two stages – the museum will first be closed to the public from 2 April 2018, while the Changi Chapel will close from 1 January 2019. Both the revamped museum and chapel are expected to reopen to the public in 2020.



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6 The redevelopment of the Changi Chapel & Museum will be managed by NHB, with the conclusion of the contract with TCMPL. Under TCMPL, the Changi Chapel & Museum has successfully established itself as one of the must-see World War II sites in Singapore, and has received international praise for its sensitive and poignant portrayal of the war years in Singapore. The Changi Chapel & Museum has consistently ranked highly amongst museums in Singapore and Asia on TripAdvisor. The various accolades received on TripAdvisor over the years include the “No. 1 Museum in Singapore” (2015, 2016) and “Top 25 Museums in Asia” (#21 in 2015 and #16 in 2016). More than 100,000 visitors, both local and foreign, visit the Changi Chapel & Museum annually.

7 Mr Jeya Ayadurai, Director of SHC, said, “For the past 17 years, the Changi Museum has grown to become an important place for those seeking a deeper understanding of the difficult years of the war in Singapore. The mission of the museum has been threefold: to recognise the contributions and sacrifices of all who defended Singapore during World War II, to honour the spirit and commitment of those who rose from the depths of adversity, and to inspire future generations through the sharing of stories of courage and resilience.”

8 “The museum has also established important research and collaborative ties with museums, organisations and Prisoner-of-War (POW) families all over the world. Consequently, it has been immensely rewarding to see the museum become a centre of learning for the war and more significantly, a place where ex-POWs, civilian internees and their families have found emotional closure to a painful period of their lives.”

9 “The museum has made conscious efforts to promote a culture of remembrance in Singapore through the organisation of several commemoration ceremonies and events, often in collaboration with key stakeholders in local government bodies and the diplomatic community. The museum has also played a role in international reconciliation by bringing together former combatant nations in joint remembrance ceremonies, such as the 75th Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore Commemoration Ceremony.”

10 The National Museum of Singapore, under NHB, will manage the redevelopment of the Changi Chapel & Museum, given the National Museum’s strong focus on the World War II narrative. Ms Angelita Teo, Director of the National Museum said, “With the redevelopment, visitors can look forward to refreshed content and offerings that will continue to highlight the stories of Changi. These will also complement the overall World War II narrative as told by



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the other World War II institutions in Singapore, such as that of Reflections of Bukit Chandu, the Former Ford Factory, as well as related galleries within the National Museum. The building and facilities will also undergo necessary upgrading works, to address the wear and tear from having been in operation for more than 15 years. This will translate into improved experiences for visitors when the site is reopened”.

Upcoming programmes at the Changi Chapel & Museum

11 In the lead up to the Changi Chapel & Museum’s closure for redevelopment, NHB and TCMPL are working together to keep the site open for visitors, and have lined up various programmes for the public. Come February 2018, as part of NHB’s annual *Battle for Singapore* initiative¹, Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents can enjoy a 50% discount on the Audio Guided Tours at the Changi Chapel & Museum over three weekends (16 to 18 February, 23 to 25 February, and 2 to 4 March 2018).

12 In addition, a special promotional discount will also be offered on TCMPL’s popular war trail, *Changi WWII*TM, before the closure of the Changi Chapel & Museum for redevelopment. The tour is a three-hour coach tour which commemorates the fight of brave men and women during battle and in internment. Some of the key stops on the tour are the Changi Chapel & Museum, Johore Battery and Changi Beach. Interested participants can enjoy a special 50% discount on *Changi WWII*TM on 27, 29 and 31 March 2018.

13 TCMPL and SHC have also created a new war trail, *From Changi to Kranji*TM. It is a four-hour coach tour which commemorates the fight of brave men and women during World War II in Malaya and Singapore, and brings out their stories of bravery, commitment and the indomitable human spirit. The key sites on the tour are the Changi Chapel & Museum, Johore Battery and Kranji War Cemetery. During the closure of the Changi Chapel & Museum, the site will still be a point of reference on the trail, until the Changi Chapel & Museum reopens again in 2020.

14 For full details of the above programmes, please refer to **Annex A**.

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¹ NHB’s *Battle for Singapore* initiative commemorates the Fall of Singapore in World War II, and shares more about the events leading up to the Fall and stories of the Japanese Occupation, through a series of programmes at various venues. *Battle for Singapore 2018* runs from 15 February to 4 March 2018.



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About the National Heritage Board

The National Heritage Board (NHB) was formed on 1 August 1993. As the custodian of Singapore's heritage, NHB is responsible for telling the Singapore story, sharing the Singaporean experience and imparting our Singapore spirit.

NHB's mission is to preserve and celebrate the shared heritage of our diverse communities, for the purpose of education, nation-building and cultural understanding. It manages the national museums and heritage institutions, and sets policies relating to heritage sites, monuments and the national collection. Through the national collection, NHB curates heritage programmes and presents exhibitions to connect the past, present and future generations of Singaporeans. NHB is now a statutory board under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. Please visit www.nhb.gov.sg for more information.

About Singapore History Consultants Pte Ltd

Singapore History Consultants was formed in January 1995. Since its inception, the firm has broken many new grounds in the field of heritage and history education in Singapore and contributed significantly to the ever-growing repository of historical knowledge. SHC aims to provide a deeper appreciation of the history and heritage of Singapore by engaging the hearts and minds of a wide spectrum of audiences.

SHC works closely with associate companies, Journeys Pte Ltd, The Changi Museum Pte Ltd and The Heritage Box Pte Ltd to improve and extend the company's scope of expertise. This includes the management of cultural assets, such as the Battlebox (#1 Museum in Singapore, 2017, #14 Museum in Asia 2017), research and consultancy, educational tours and tour development and training. Please visit <http://www.shc.com.sg/> for more information.



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ANNEX A

UPCOMING PROGRAMMES AND PROMOTIONS AT THE CHANGI CHAPEL & MUSEUM

Battle for Singapore Promotion on Audio Guided Tours

Dates: 16 to 18 February, 23 to 25 February, and 2 to 4 March 2018

Time: 9.30am – 4.00pm

As part of NHB's annual *Battle for Singapore* initiative, Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents can enjoy a 50% discount on the Audio Guided Tours at the Changi Chapel & Museum during the above mentioned dates and time.

**Usual price: S\$8.00 per adult and S\$4.00 per child*

Special promotion on Changi WWII™ Coach Tour

Dates: 27, 29 and 31 March 2018

Time: 2.30pm to 5.30pm

Please pre-register for the tour at least 48 hours before your chosen date at changicoachtour.peatix.com, and more information on the tour can be found on www.journeys.com.sg/tosw/our-tours/war-trails/

**Please note that as it is a coach tour, there are limited seats on the tour each day. Visitors should register early in order to avoid disappointment.*

To mark the closure of the Changi Chapel & Museum for redevelopment, visitors can enjoy a special 50% discount on the popular war trail, *Changi WWII™*, held from 2.30 to 5.30pm on 27, 29 and 31 March 2018. The tour is a three-hour coach tour which commemorates the fight of brave men and women during battle and in internment. Some of the key stops on the tour are the Changi Chapel & Museum, Johore Battery and Changi Beach. The promotion is open to Singaporeans as well as foreigners. All participants on *Changi WWII™* on these promotional dates will also receive a limited edition postcard with the compliments of TCMLP.

**Usual price: S\$58 for adults, \$30 for Children (aged 7 - 12 years old)*

New From Changi to Kranji™ Coach Tour

Date & Time: Available on Wednesdays, 2pm – 6pm

We appreciate reservations via phone or email: 6325 1631/fun@singaporewalks.com, by 5pm the day before. This allows us to arrange a suitable size coach and keep our tours 'green'.

More information on the tour can be found at

<https://www.facebook.com/theoriginalsingaporewalks>

A new four-hour coach tour created by TCMLP and SHC, *Changi to Kranji™* commemorates the fight of brave men and women during World War II in Malaya and Singapore, and brings out their stories of bravery, commitment and the indomitable human spirit. The key sites on the tour are the Changi Chapel & Museum, Johore Battery and Kranji War Cemetery.



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Commemorate the fight of brave men and women during World War II in Malaya and Singapore, and their subsequent internment. Go back in history to Changi, once the site of many prisoner-of-war camps during the Japanese Occupation, and the site of much pain, torture and human suffering. It is said that more Australian PoWs perished from incarceration than in battle itself. Then, take in the solemn sights of Kranji War Cemetery, the final resting place of 4,461 Allied military personnel who perished in Malaya and Singapore, and more than 24,000 war dead whose remains were never found. Hear their stories of bravery and commitment, and be inspired by the power of the human spirit.