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FOR CHINESE NEW YEAR



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your premier society & tourism magazine!

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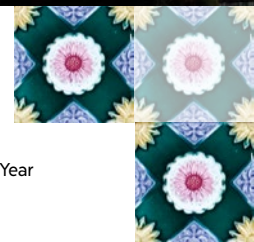
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## 24-27 NOVEMBER 2022

### George Town Literary Festival

The George Town Literary Festival is an international literary event that celebrates world literature, translations, and literary arts. Held annually in the UNESCO World Heritage site of George Town, the festival is a Penang State Government initiative and one of the few free festivals open to the public. It is recognised as one of the best literary festivals in the world.

 George Town, Penang

## 27 NOVEMBER 2022

### Penang International Dragon Boat Festival

Did you know the Penang Dragon Boat Festival has a history dating back thousands of years and is steeped in tradition? Enjoy a weekend of thrills and spills as teams from around the world compete in intricately designed dragon boats, paddling through the waters to the steady beat of the rowers' drum to vie for first place!

 Teluk Bahang Dam



## 11 DECEMBER 2022

### Penang Bridge International Marathon

The Penang Bridge International Marathon (PBIM), the most anticipated and largest annual sports event in Northern Peninsular Malaysia, returns with a physical run after a two-year hiatus. Participants in the Full Marathon (42km), Half Marathon (21km), and 10km Run (Open/Junior) will once again be able to run through one of Southeast Asia's most iconic bridges.

 Penang Bridge

## 01 JANUARY 2023

### Penang Pesta Chingay Parade

The Penang Pesta Chingay Parade is a unique performance where the Chingay and Lion Dance troupe members demonstrate their skills in balancing giant colourful flags with some on stilts, during this annual street parade. There will also be floats and lion and dragon dance performances to thrill the crowd. The popularity of Chingay in Penang has made it one of the most impressive cultural landmarks as well as a notable tourist attraction.

 Starting Point: Padang Brown, Jalan Dato Keramat to Esplanade



Image courtesy of Buletin Mutiara



For further event information, please visit [inpenang.com/listing-form](https://inpenang.com/listing-form), scan the QR code or email [inpenang@chtnetwork.com](mailto:inpenang@chtnetwork.com) for any enquiries.



# Christmas

*the Most Wonderful Time of the Year...*

A season of joy and warmth, Christmas commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ. According to the New Testament, Jesus was born in Bethlehem to Joseph and Mary. Although the month and date of his birth are unknown, the Western Christian Church had set Christmas on December 25 by the early-to-mid-fourth century. This date was later adopted globally. Christmas is a national holiday in Malaysia, and it is marked by religious and secular traditions and practises.

Christmas trees with all the glitter and trimmings, festive shopping, delectable Christmas treats and sweets, get-togethers with family and friends, church events and prayers, Christmas carols, gift-giving, and Santa Claus are all popular celebratory customs and traditions, defined by family and friendship.

With year-end sales looming, major shopping malls and stores are decked out in resplendent celebratory decorations with Christmas melodies playing in the background...yes! the festive feel of December is here!



# CHIEF MINISTER READING UP ON THE CHIEF MINISTER

We read about Penang's Chief Minister in the news everyday, but ever wondered how Y.A.B Chow Kon Yeow feels reading about himself in the iNPenang magazine?

The iNPenang magazine, which is published every two months, is the most popular and longest tourism and society magazine in the state. Although it is said that the print industry is no longer viable in today's digital world, why do some people prefer a Lamborghini over other four-wheeled vehicles? Breaking and fast news may not have a long printed shelf life, but society and tourism information remain very relevant due to their right positioning accessibility.





# The Penang Aquarium



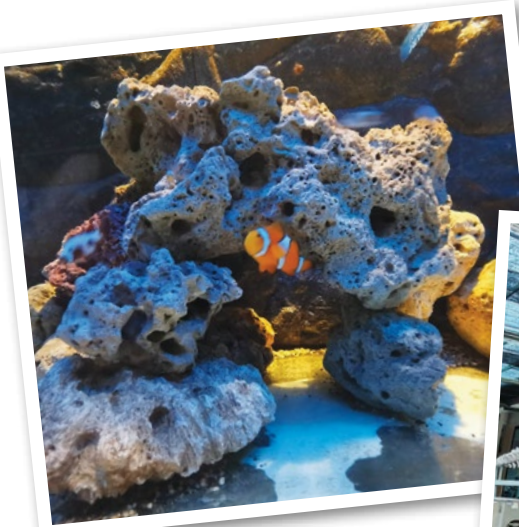
We're guessing that few people are aware of Penang's own underwater world, the Akuarium Tunku Abdul Rahman (AkuaTAR), and those who are, may recall it from its previous location in Gelugor many decades ago.

This tourist attraction, also known as the Penang Aquarium, is located within the Fisheries Research Institute (FRI) Complex in Batu Maung, a fishing village on Penang Island's southern tip. The FRI oversees the main function of this aquarium, which focuses on marine and coral ecosystems. It also initiates research programmes in fisheries, such as those on aquatic plants, coral, and ornamental fishes. In the 25 display tanks, you can see lionfish, boxfish, moray eels, sharks, stonefish, and stingrays, among other marine life. Look out for the colourful corals, sea anemones, and sea urchins too. Other highlights include seahorses, baby and adult green sea turtles, jellyfish, and ornamental fish such as the discus and goldfish, an entire skeleton of a whale as well as freshwater fish and plants. Each tank has information boards explaining the type of fish, their scientific names and species, and their distribution around the world.

AkuaTAR hopes to instil the importance of marine life in schoolchildren and the general public and raise public awareness about the importance of ecosystem conservation in order to ensure the long-term viability of our fish resources.

Are you ready for a fun and educational family outing?  
Visit the Penang Aquarium this weekend!

Akuarium Tunku Abdul Rahman (AkuaTAR)  
Jalan Batu Maung, 11960 Batu Maung, Penang.  
Opens: Daily from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm; except Wednesdays.





## Steaming Ahead with a Flycruise Strategy – Penang’s Next Tourism Agenda



**YB YEOH SOON HIN**  
*Penang State EXCO for Tourism and Creative Economy (PETACE)*

With the rapid development of vaccines and administration of booster shots worldwide, many countries are gradually returning to normalcy with many economic sectors thriving once again. As the waves of Covid-19 attack start to recede, global tourism industry players are now marking a glorious return after plunging and sailing in troubled waters since the virus plagued the world in late 2019.

Alike many other tourism powerhouses in the region, Penang’s tourism landscape celebrated a V-Shape revival when Malaysian borders reopened. The sights and sound of tourists thronging our food outlets to savor Penang’s internationally acclaimed street food certainly became familiar once again. In fact, Malaysia’s tourism industry players were caught off guard by this ease of restriction, especially hotels which struggled to match its steep surge in occupancy, though they certainly rejoiced reaping the benefits of a full house again.

However, it wasn’t long till Penang learned that this V-Shape recovery is partly powered by “revenge tourism”, a phenomenon where people rush to travel to nearby destinations after suffering from the tiring and mundane everyday routines of the lockdown. This presumption is also backed by recent research published in the International Journal of Advance and Innovative Research which the International Air Transport Association (IATA)’s survey concluded that nearly 60% of respondents intend to travel within two months after confinement. In other words, these somewhat commendable results may be temporary and could cease when “revenge tourism” comes to a halt.

Nonetheless, the pandemic has reminded all policymakers, including myself, that formulation of pragmatic strategies and holistic policies are important to mitigate crisis and ensure resilience within and beyond the industry. As such, a thorough analysis on Penang’s natural resources, geographical location, and infrastructural

amenities has inspired me to embrace the concept of “flycruise”, an under-discussed but highly promising sector that can expand the ripple effects of economy to the whole value chain of tourism.

As the name suggests, flycruise is the integration of two distinctive yet relevant industries, namely the aviation and cruise industries, both of which form the cornerstones and foundation of a flycruise concept. This concept is only feasible exclusively at destinations equipped with both airport and cruise facilities, as it sees a traveller flying (fly) into a specific destination to board on a cruise (cruise) ship for an unforgettable wanderlust.





Looking into Penang's context, despite having a comparatively small international airport when compared to Malaysia's capital, Kuala Lumpur, the Penang International Airport still holds an impeccable track record of connectivity, particularly evident via the plethora of direct flights with countries and major cities including but not limited to Hong Kong, China, Qatar, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Meanwhile, our illustrious past as a port city and its longstanding port facilities have also unlocked the opportunity to position Penang as one of Southeast Asia's leading flycruise hub. To begin with, Swettenham Pier Cruise Terminal (SPCT) is the only port in the world that is situated in the heart of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its recent facelifts, upgrades and facility enhancement will also see the much-needed extension of the wharf by 220 meters, enabling two of the world's largest Oasis-Class ships to berth at any one time, upon completion. This implies that SPCT will catapult its passenger capacity by 150%, totalling at 12,000 passengers as compared to the initial 8,000 passengers prior to the upgrade, that is priced at a hefty RM155 million in total.

Based on these above data and findings, I mooted the idea for Penang to set eyes on flycruise tourism, considering our small yet bold state already helms both – an international airport and a world-class port under our belt. However, it must be underscored that instating SPCT as a homeport is prerequisite for us to achieve our aspirations in flycruise tourism, which implies that Penang will need to expand the role of SPCT from a transition port to a homeport.

The efforts to make Penang a homeport will also be coupled with my latest initiative, where I rolled out the Penang Aviation and Cruise Liaison Committee, of which will see participation from major stakeholders and decision makers from airlines, cruise operators, airport authorities and governmental representatives. The Committee will steer cross-sector industrial partnerships to create a more holistic tourism ecosystem, eventually benefitting the tourism industry at large.

Above all, once flycruise is set into motion in Penang, local tour operators can entice travellers to travel into Penang via flights, and extend their stay for a few more nights, either prior or after the travellers' cruise ride. This will then create a ripple effect to Penang's tourism economy, ensuring shared prosperity for all, including but not limited to airlines, cruises, hotels, attractions, souvenirs, transportation and even food and beverages.

As they always say, "Well begun is half done", Penang's advantage in this facet should be leveraged on to build long-term sustainability, resilience and opportunities. It is my sincere hope that the flycruise strategy, under my stewardship and the partnership of many, will follow through with flying colors. After all, it's either one day or day one, and I have proudly chosen the latter because opportunities wait for no man.

# ATAP says Thank You Malaysians



**“ Thank You,  
Malaysians,  
for making  
Penang your  
No. 1 travel  
destination  
again! ”**

The Association of Tourism Attractions Penang (ATAP) recently celebrated its 18th anniversary at The Wembley - A St Giles Hotel in Penang, providing a night of catch-up and warm fellowship for the 250 attendees from the tourism fraternity after two years of pandemic protocols.

Guests were treated to the premier of 'Horizon Redefined,' an ATAP production highlighting the association's unwavering commitment in assisting its members during the pandemic.

ATAP Chairman Dato' Ch'ng Huck Theng thanked the state and federal governments, as well as medical and law enforcement frontliners, for their cooperation and prompt actions during the COVID-19 crisis. He also thanked all Malaysians for making Penang their top travel destination following the reopening of interstate borders.

Dato' Ch'ng also signed an MoU between ATAP and the Malaysian International Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MICCI) Penang Chapter, establishing stronger business relations to boost tourism in Penang.



# The Rabbit Hops In...

Chinese New Year, which signifies the first day of the Lunar New Year, is without a doubt the largest and most important annual festival celebrated by Chinese communities worldwide.

Every Lunar New Year is represented by an animal sign from the Chinese zodiac, in the following order: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig. Each animal sign has a 12-year cycle, and we will enter the Year of the Rabbit on January 22, 2023.

The first two days of the Chinese New Year are gazetted public holidays but the festivities get underway the night before when family members from all over return home for the reunion dinner.





iNPENANG  
FESTIVAL



Over the next fifteen days, there will be get-togethers with family and friends, open houses, delicious food, lion and dragon dances, prayers, red packets, fireworks, and more, culminating in the Chap Goh Meh (fifteenth and final day) celebrations.

It will also be a period of spiritual devotion and dedication. The majority of Penang's temples will be full of visitors and devotees, including the Kek Lok Si Temple in Air Itam, also known as the Temple of Supreme Bliss. Its spectacular light display is made up of thousands of traditional Chinese lanterns and thousands more colourful neon and LED bulbs that seem to light up the night sky from afar. A sight not to be missed!

Penang will be buzzing with activities honouring the religious and cultural significance of Chinese New Year, so come enjoy the merriment, brimming with positive energy!



# The Perfect Gift

The legacy lives on... the exclusive Ghee Hiang CNY 2023 Limited Edition Premium Gift Bag, imprinted with a delicate pink and green Baba Nyonya porcelain ware motif, is now available for orders. Enjoy the heart-healthy, halal-certified Baby Brand Sesame Oil as well as a selection of traditional Chinese New Year treats such as the Emperor Boy Premium Abalone, Bird's Nest, aromatic Pure White Coffee, and more! What a great way to celebrate a special occasion!



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# Let's Ronda to a "Pasar Malam" Near You...



A Pasar Malam (meaning Night Market or Night Bazaar in Bahasa Malaysia) is a neighbourhood street market featuring a myriad of stalls selling everything under the sun... from local hawker fare to snacks and beverages, clothes, shoes and toys to souvenirs and more! You can be sure of an amazing adventure just strolling through these stalls whilst soaking in the ambience.

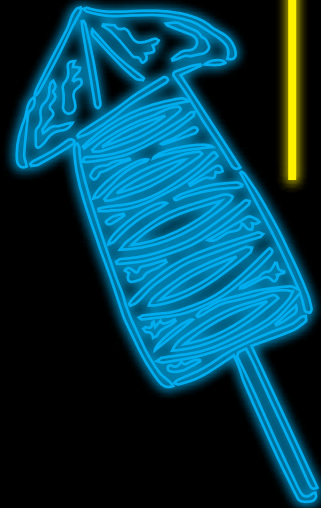
As the traders are on the move nightly, you'll need to know where they are and our Ronda Ronda iNPenang team has got you covered... with the list of our Penang Pasar Malam daily locations, pick a night (or every night!) and ronda over for a fun-filled evening with family and friends. And oh... don't forget to test your bargaining skills to get the best deals!



## MONDAY @ MACALLUM STREET NIGHT MARKET

Location : Lintang Macallum 1, Pengkalan Weld,  
10300 George Town, Penang.

Time : 5.00pm – 10.30pm



Monday  
...  
Tuesday



## TUESDAY @ TANJUNG BUNGAH NIGHT MARKET

Location : Jalan Tanjung Bungah, Taman Tanjung Bunga,  
11200 Tanjung Bungah, Penang.

Time : 5.30pm – 10.00pm





iPENANG  
RONDA-RONDA

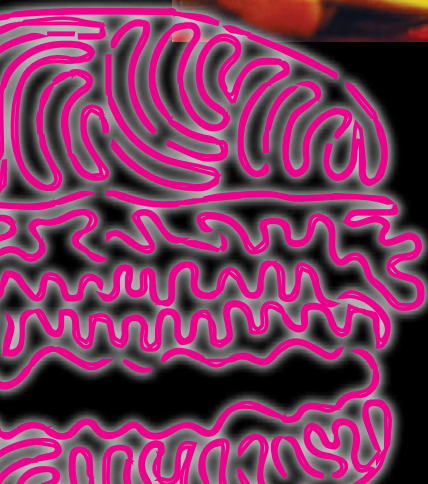
**WEDNESDAY @ FARLIM NIGHT MARKET**

Location : 27-75, Medan Angsana, Bandar Baru Ayer Itam,  
11500 Ayer Itam, Penang.

Time : 5.00pm – 11.00pm



*Wednesday*  
...  
*Thursday*



**THURSDAY @ BATU FERRINGHI NIGHT MARKET**

Location : Jalan Pantai Batu, Taman Pantai Batu,  
11200 Tanjung Bungah, Penang.

Time : 7.00pm – 12.00am



## FRIDAY @ JELUTONG NIGHT MARKET

Location : Taman Continental, 11600 Jelutong, Penang.

Time : 6.00pm – 11.00pm



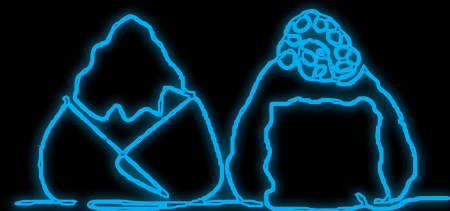
Friday  
...  
Saturday



## SATURDAY @ SUNGAI DUA NIGHT MARKET

Location : 1, Jalan Sungai Dua, Sungai Dua, 13800 Gelugor, Penang.

Time : 5.00pm – 10.00pm



## SUNDAY @ PAYA TERUBONG NIGHT MARKET

Location : 12281, Jln Paya Terubong, Bandar Baru Air Itam,  
11500 Ayer Itam, Penang.

Time : 5.30pm – 10.30pm



*Sunday*  
...  
*Bukit Mertajam*



Image courtesy of Buletin Mutiara



Image courtesy of Buletin Mutiara



Image courtesy of Buletin Mutiara

## MONDAY - SUNDAY @ BANDAR PERDA

Location : Perda City Flea Market, Bandar Baru Perda,  
14000 Bukit Mertajam, Penang.

Time : 10.00am – 12.00am Midnight





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# GEORGE TOWN





# COLOURS IN HIS WORLD

*TAN JUN JIE, fondly known as JJ, is diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) - a complex developmental condition of variable severity that is characterised by challenges in social interaction and communication, restricted interests and repetitive patterns of thought and behaviour.*



Tan Jun Jie





That however, did not deter him from expressing himself through his brush strokes and colour palette. With his hard work and tenacity coupled with the unwavering belief and support of his parents, teachers and the art fraternity, JJ held his first solo art exhibition entitled 'Colours In His World' with much aplomb and great success at Jade's Art Space, Gurney Plaza recently.

Honoured at being invited to officiate JJ's 'Colours In His World', President of the Penang Art Society, Dato' Chng Huck Theng, in his opening speech, commended this gifted young man for the vibrant and dazzling display of his colourful and meaningful artworks. His talent, his positivity and ability to communicate and express himself through art, is an encouragement to others with similar challenges to persevere and is testament that 'when there is a will, there is a way' to success.



# Straits Chinese Porcelain in Penang

Among the many antique items collected in Penang, famille rose Straits Chinese porcelain or loosely called Nyonyawares dating between the mid-19th and mid-20th centuries are probably the most popular where collectors are willing to pay high prices especially for rare pieces. One of the reasons why these Chinese-made porcelain items are so popular is because Penangites have a very strong connection with this particular era of time. This was when a wave of Chinese migrants especially from the Fujian and Guangzhou provinces left their war-stricken and corrupted country travelled down south to the South East Asian countries in search of better lives during the 1850s to 1900s. Known as the 'kuli' (hardship labourers in Chinese), some found work in Penang as the island was an important trading port for both East and West. Before the kuli, another Chinese community namely the Baba Nyonya existed and were living comfortably in Malaya. Hence, due to substantial

Chinese influence in Malaya, many products from China were imported and to some extent, specially commissioned and it was the beginning of a beautiful relationship between Straits Chinese porcelain and those living in Penang.





A few decades on, the later generations of Baba Nyonya started to value and preserve these once-neglected pieces (which were sometimes found for sale on roadside stalls), making them a much sought-after collector's items. The increase in the value of these pieces also created a new interest in the culture itself and in collecting or investing in these ceramics; they are highly collected and very expensive ranging from a few hundred ringgit for a porcelain spoon to tens of thousands for a big kamcheng. Today, Straits Chinese porcelain have claimed its own status around the world. Collectors especially from Malaysia and Singapore with a penchant for these pieces, are willing to pay premium prices to own them. Even the Chinese collectors from China find it difficult to understand why these porcelain fetch such high prices.



# The Hearts of Beingness



When asked about how such approach can compliment USM's position as a public university, Hasnul replies, "We are often taught to measure, to compare, to differentiate, to race, to compete and to argue. These are not bad qualities, they are important. But we may become obsessed with them until we forget to live, to feel and to be. In our race towards having, we forget about being. In our obsession with knowing, owning, racing and winning, we may have neglected to care about our own mental and emotional wellness, collectively.

Not everything should be quantitatively measured in our quest for having a good living. Ya, all of us have our own 'ribut' or storm to face. But we also need some spaces for love, compassion, gratitude, honesty, joy, fun and happiness too. We need spaces for wonderful and amazing interconnectivity. We need spaces where the rhythm of our intuitive minds and subjective feelings can be synchronised together. In these spaces, hopefully we can collectively emit our inner lights and elevate the quality of our consciousness and mental health.

When asked about the word 'be' in the current logo of Muzium & Galeri Tuanku Fauziah, Universiti Sains Malaysia (MGTF USM), here is the response from its Director, Associate Professor Hasnul J Saidon,

"MGTFbe signifies an empowering state of beingness and becoming, driven by 'belas' or compassion. It also underlines MGTF USM's vision and mission, especially in re-imagining and co-creating a healthy, sustainable and preferable artscience learning space for all. The future is what we decide to 'be' now. We have to decide wisely."

In regards to how MGTF USM has translated such 'be'ingness, Hasnul explains,

"We translate that by co-creating multiple modular settings where our visitors and audience can tune into a desired mental and emotional channel. What it means is to collaborate with our friends, experts, neighbours and partners in setting up experiences. That experiences may include compassion, kindness, love, gratitude, joy, fun, happiness, respect, honesty and many more. The experiences embodied by our visitors and audience are the hearts of our beingness."



For that, whenever possible, we have to also immerse with our neighbourhood through their shared spaces. We can't behave like an institution for only a small circle of elitist class. We also need to dissolve our presence from the trappings of intellectual and academic arrogance. We need to explore beyond the guarded walls that separate the arts, sciences and societies. We need to free ourselves from the pedestal and glittering stage of 'high art' that can be inaccessible to the common folks, especially the urban poor. We need to be a part of our neighbourhood. It may not be easy, but we can try. We can be inspired and learn from many other individuals, collectives and existing spaces who have similar take and have done lots of community-oriented co-creation projects.

For this year, we have worked with YB Syarleena Abd Rasyid, the ADUN of Sri Delima and her team on a project called "Arts in the Park" at Taman Kejiranan Karpal Singh, Gelugor.

We have also worked with Center For Islamic Development Management Studies, Universiti Sains Malaysia (ISDEV UISM) on a project called "My Hero" with children from urban poor families at Sungai Nibong.

For the past two years, we have worked with seven dislexic kids and their parents based in Alor Setar and Sungai Petani on a project called "Denai Sutera". It was complimented by an MOU between UISM and Malaysia Dyslexia Association early this year. Along similar line, we went to Sedim, Kedah to offer a one day experiential learning on Nature and printmaking with selected kids from B40 family at SK Sri Lindungan Raja. For this, we worked closely with the Headmaster, the teachers and most importantly the parents. We collaborated with a professional print making group called 'Go Block' led by respected printmaker, Mr Juhari Said.

These are few examples of how we try to share our beingness in a positive way by co-creating with selected neighborhoods or communities near and far. We hope to sustain this approach as we continue to learn and improve along the way. For us, true impact of our activities occurs in the hearts of our visitors, audience and communities that we work with."





One could say that he was already “in” Penang ever since his arrival in Singapore as analysing Malaysia and East Asia politics was his “thing”, in addition to having written over 20 books – the biggest being *The Reluctant Politician*, a biography of Tun Dr Ismail Abdul Rahman.

Singapore may have been a bigger “pond” but Penang holds its own advantages as a globally defined cultural hub. He hopes to continue leading Penang Institute

to new heights in the next few years, and aims for the institute to gain and maintain regional stature.

For this, he invests in young minds that form the pillars of the institution. Having intimately experienced Sweden and Singapore, he understands that the importance of building an institution lies not in the strength of an individual, but in the expressed passion and vision of the staff.



# Investing in His Staff

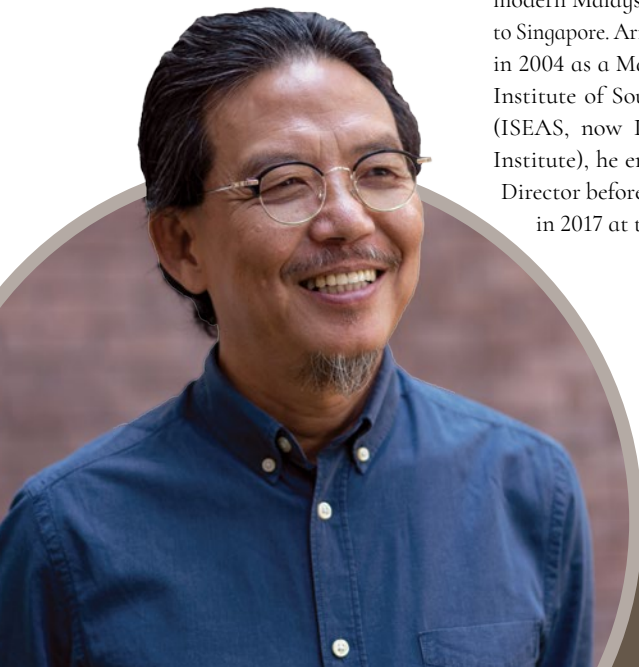
A Xaverian, a political historian, a mentor, or a storyteller, these labels speak volumes but they do not exemplify the entirety of Penang-born Dato' Dr Ooi Kee Beng who currently helms the think tank Penang Institute as its Executive Director.

He obtained his Honors in Public Administration at Stockholm University, Sweden, before furthering his studies in China on Chinese Philosophy. Together with an acquaintance, they translated Chinese war manuals into the Swedish language – one of it being the infamous Sun Tzu Art of War – which even after 30 years, is still being utilized by the Swedish Military College in its syllabus.

While juggling two full-time jobs – weekends at Ericsson and weekdays as a lecturer in Chinese Philosophy and History – he also managed the (almost) impossible feat of completing his PhD.



His use of ancient Chinese political concepts within his PhD to describe modern Malaysia propelled his career to Singapore. Arriving back in the region in 2004 as a Malaysia analyst for the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS, now ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute), he ended up as its Deputy Director before departing for Penang in 2017 at the age of 62.



**Dato' Dr Ooi Kee Beng**  
Executive Director of Penang Institute

FACES **IN** PENANG

# Investing in His Staff

**Dato' Dr Ooi Kee Beng**  
Executive Director of Penang Institute