



HSBC Contributes Towards Restoration of Suffolk House

HSBC Malaysia contributed RM2 million to restore Suffolk House, the first “Great House of Penang” that was built on the vast land owned by founder of the British Settlement of Penang, Captain Francis Light. Suffolk House is the purest example of Anglo-Indian architecture outside India.

HSBC has always been an advocate for the conservation and development of the arts, including those related to heritage and culture. As part of its corporate sustainability initiatives, HSBC launched Phase 2 of restoration with the State Government of Penang in 2003 by contributing a total of RM2 million out of the RM5 million needed to fully restore Suffolk House to its former glory. The State pledged RM1.5 million towards this phase.



A dilapidated Suffolk House before restoration



Suffolk House restored to its former glory



HSBC also launched the “Saving Suffolk House” campaign to raise the remaining RM1.5 million needed to fully restore Suffolk House, including fit-out. Rooms and columns, including original columns, were sold over the year. Through generous contributions by various corporations and friends of Suffolk House, over RM2.8 million was raised as of March 2007.

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Suffolk House was built on the land owned by founder of the British Settlement of Penang Captain Francis Light. It was once home to early governors and the scene of many important social and official events. Known as the first “Great House of Penang”, it stands unsurpassed in its architecturally and historical significance, and is the purest example of Anglo-Indian architecture outside India.

Although the campaign to restore Suffolk House began as early as 1961, Phase 1 of restoration works began in November 2000 by the State with an allocation of RM500,000.

Suffolk House is scheduled to be completed by late 2007 and will be used as a multi-functional building, available to all members of the public.

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