

MEDIA RELEASE

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ASIAN CIVILISATIONS MUSEUM HAS RECEIVED A TOTAL OF S\$8.2 MILLION FROM HONG LEONG FOUNDATION – ITS LARGEST CASH DONOR

Latest S\$400,000 donation dedicated for research and development programmes



Kwek Hong Png Wing (Credit: Architectural design by GreenhillLi)

Singapore, 28 October 2015 – Ahead of the unveiling of its first newly revamped spaces in November 2015, the Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM) has received a boost to its research efforts and the development of programmes in the form of a cash donation of S\$400,000 from the Hong Leong Foundation.

Dr Alan Chong, Director of ACM said, “The Hong Leong Foundation has been a steadfast and very generous supporter of the ACM over the past 14 years. This new donation will strengthen our research and presentation strategies.”

ACM is eligible to apply for a dollar-for-dollar matching under the Cultural Matching Fund. With this funding, members of the public can look forward to specially curated programmes that will help ACM present important aspects of Asian history and culture, and interactive education programmes for local communities and visitors. It will also support research to enhance ACM’s collections, special exhibitions, and publications.

This marks the third donation to the museum by Hong Leong Foundation, making them the most generous long-term supporter of ACM. The Foundation has donated a total sum of S\$8.2million to date.

The charity arm of Hong Leong Group first donated S\$2.8 million in 2001 for the establishment of ACM's China Gallery. In 2012, they made a second donation of S\$5 million towards the development of a new, modern extension to the museum. Measuring nearly 900 sqm, the 3-level wing will provide galleries that focus on ACM's art from Fujian province.

Named after the Hong Leong Group's founder, the new Kwek Hong Png Wing will also include a contemporary art space; a scholar's studio gallery, featuring ACM's collection of Chinese objects associated with scholars, the emperors' courts, and merchants who strove to emulate them; and a gallery dedicated to the history of ceramics from China.

Hong Leong Foundation was set up on the principle that corporations should give back by paying it forward. Its charitable initiatives include helping the elderly and fostering education and the arts. The Foundation is also a strong advocate for heritage projects, and in this area, it has been supporting ACM from its earliest days, even before it moved to its present location at Empress Place.

Mr Kwek Leng Beng, Governor of Hong Leong Foundation, said "ACM's original China Gallery was named after Hong Leong Group's founder, Kwek Hong Png, my father. One feature of the Gallery is specialties from Fujian province, where my father hailed from. Recently, we contributed to the new extension, the Kwek Hong Png Wing. This new wing expands ACM's gallery space to display treasures from China, enabling it to tell more stories of trade and immigration, which are vital parts of Singapore's history and heritage."

"The Hong Leong Group of Companies hopes to foster greater appreciation and awareness of local arts and culture, allow more people to tap museums as a source of knowledge, and gain a keener sense of our heritage," added Mr Kwek, who is also the Executive Chairman of Hong Leong Group.

ACM is currently undergoing a renovation and expansion, and will unveil the first phase – which includes the Kwek Hong Png Wing, Levels 1 and 2 – on 14 November 2015. Level 3 is targeted for completion in the first quarter of 2016. For more information, visit www.acm.org.sg.

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About the Asian Civilisations Museum

The Asian Civilisations Museum is devoted to exploring the rich artistic heritage of Asia, especially the ancestral cultures of Singaporeans. Founded in 1993 and in its present building by the Singapore River since 2003, the museum traces its roots to the Raffles Museum, founded in the middle of the 19th century. ACM focuses on the many historical connections between the cultures of Asia, and between Asia and the world. Singapore's history as a port city that brought people together from all over the world is used as a means of examining the history of Asia. Special exhibitions bring magnificent objects from around the world to our Singapore audience. Programmes like the annual River Nights encourage visitors to connect more closely with culture and the arts.

For more information, visit www.acm.org.sg.

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