

Current Situation of Heritage Buildings In Malaysia



Authors S. N. Kamaruzzaman and Dr. R E Edwards,
Address Building Division, School of Mechanical, Aerospace
and Civil Engineering, PO Box 88, Manchester,
M60 1QD, England
E-Mail S.Nizam@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk

ABSTRACT

Preservation and conservation in Malaysia has been considered as a new practice compared to the more developed countries. With the spurred of construction spree in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries, Malaysia has inherited hundreds of heritage buildings from the past including the Indians, Chinese and Colonials era apart from the indigenous traditional buildings. However, these historical buildings have deteriorated over time and are in dire need for conservation and preservation. Extra efforts on preserving these building can bring immense benefits to the country and for the future.

This paper attempts to study the current situation of the preservation and conservation practice of heritage buildings in Malaysia. This was valuable in identifying current situation and help pinpoint problem areas within the preservation and conservation practice. The objective of this study is thus to provide possible solutions and recommendations as well as comprehensive measures to the problems identified. This includes issues relating to guidelines and legislation, public awareness and implementation process for the protection of heritage buildings.

This study was conducted by gathering essentials information through literature studies and interviews with related parties. It was difficult to obtain information on some of the issues due to restricted resources and reference documents. However, data and information was collected through reading and analysis of published studies and reports.

It is anticipated that this study would encourage individuals as well as the government towards preserving the national heritage by taking up proper steps and comprehensive measures seriously. By doing this, it would provide valuable information on the culture and the environment of the past that can be assimilated into sustainable development ideas and concepts for the future.

Keywords- Heritage Buildings, Malaysia, Problems, Solutions.