

NHB promotes Singapore's heritage in diverse ways

I THANK Mr Kwan Jin Yao for his letter, "Don't lose sight of **cultural heritage** as S'pore transforms" (*my paper*, March 30).

His suggestion certainly calls to mind the National Heritage Board's (NHB) mission to bring heritage closer to the hearts and minds of both Singaporeans and visitors.

Museum visitorship and heritage outreach activities have been scaling new heights.

About 2.62 million people visited NHB museums in financial year 2008, a jump from 1.34 million in FY 2006. Attendance at outreach events also rose from 2.93 million in FY 2006 to 6.31 million in FY 2008.

NHB has been marking major historic sites that serve as reminders of national history. To date, there are 86 marked historic sites islandwide for visitors to go on a trail of discovery.

In addition, through the Preservation of Monuments Board's efforts, 61 iconic buildings have been gazetted as

national monuments.

We have also been developing heritage community trails that feature national monuments and heritage sites, as well as installing heritage markers and storyboards that document the history of various places.

These trails make for authentic tourist experiences and have been extended past the Civic District and Singapore River areas to suburban areas, like Queens-town, Balestier, Jalan Besar and Bukit Timah, with more to come in the future.

NHB's key outreach programme, the Singapore HeritageFest, continues to thrill locals and tourists yearly with its offerings of specially-curated exhibitions, heritage tours, cultural performances and more.

The festival, which attracted two million participants last year, will be back this year as a festival partner of the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games, where it aims to showcase the best of Singapore's multicultural heritage to visiting athletes, among others.

Our museums are committed to presenting a range of world-class exhibitions and rare cultural offerings that cultivate people's love for museums and our shared heritage.

With over 50 museums and **galleries** islandwide, visitors will be able to learn more about Singapore through a diverse range of themes, including art, culture and history.

We have also been working closely with the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) to actively promote Singapore's museums as lifestyle destinations that offer windows to the world to both locals and tourists.

According to a recent survey by NHB and STB on selected museums in Singapore, 37 per cent of museum-goers last year were from overseas.

This shows that Singapore attracts an encouraging level of global interest in cultural understanding and learning.

NHB is pleased to note the public's increasing interest in Singapore's rich heritage and

culture. We will continue to preserve and promote Singapore's vibrant multi-ethnic heritage.

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HELPDESK 我的字典

Cultural heritage:
文化遗产 wén huà yí chǎn

Museum: 博物馆 bó wù guǎn

National monuments:
国家历史文物 guó jiā lì shǐ wén wù

Galleries: 美术馆 měi shù guǎn

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address and a telephone contact
number. We reserve the right to
edit letters for clarity and length.

Taxi queues at airport a traffic hazard

EVERY evening, between 5pm and 8pm, as many as 50 taxis may be queueing for passengers at Changi Airport Terminal 1.

The vehicles spill onto the left-most lane in Airport Boulevard, which connects to the Pan-Island Expressway (PIE).

The stationary taxis are like objects waiting to be hit. If other motorists are not careful, collisions – leading to serious, even fatal injuries – may occur.

This has been the traffic situation at the airport for more than two years.

The Traffic Police and the Airport Police Division need to do something about this.

On Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, the queue of taxis can extend up to the stretch of PIE near the factories in Changi South.

MR RAYMUND KOH JOO GUAN

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