



TURQUOISE MOUNTAIN

Press Release

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Renovation starts at a heritage apartment in Yangon's Historic Downtown

YANGON: Renovation started at a heritage building in Yangon's Downtown as the project has started in July with the partnership of Yangon Heritage Trust and an international NGO Turquoise Mountain.

The restoration project which will run from the beginning of July 2015 for nine months forms part of a wider planning project for the historic Downtown area of Yangon, being undertaken by the Yangon Heritage Trust in partnership with the Prince of Wales' Foundation, and funded by the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, and Alphawood Foundation through Global Heritage Fund.

This work is aimed at engaging the public and government in a conscious decision making process regarding the development of Downtown Yangon, and to guide it to promote and integrate its unique urban heritage into a 21st century vision of Yangon as one of Asia's most liveable cities.

The project is to restore a historic building at 491-501 Merchant Street which is over 100 years old, and has a mix of commercial and residential uses. The work will be carried out to international standards, and will provide an example to drive the sympathetic conservation of other historic Downtown buildings. The project will secure the future of the building, and a programme of vocational training run in parallel will provide vital skills to the local construction industry. The project is being carried out with the permission of the Yangon City Development Committee.

The building embodies so many of the qualities and challenges of properties in the Downtown. It is a prominently placed elegant colonial building with grand internal spaces and vibrant street life surrounding it, but is in a very poor state, littered with unsympathetic additions and in need of urgent repair. For these reasons it makes an ideal exemplar project, as the achievements and lessons learned will be applicable across the Downtown.

The restoration works are being carried out by a local build contractor Myanmar Integrated Engineering Group, who is also working on the historically significant Yangon General Hospital. These works will be carefully carried out around the existing building tenants under the watchful eye of Turquoise Mountain's in country team.



Yangon Heritage Trust is an independent centre of excellence working to promote and integrate Yangon's unique urban heritage into a 21st century vision of Yangon as one of Asia's most liveable cities. YHT advocates for heritage protection, develops clear and sustainable policy options, engages with government, business and civil society, communicates its ideas to the widest possible audience, undertakes specific conservation projects, and facilitates research and training.

For more information on Yangon Heritage Trust:

Shwe Yinn Mar Oo, Media and Communications Manager

Tel: 951 240544

Mobile: 959 73055187

Email: info@yangonheritagetrust.org

www.yangonheritagetrust.org, <https://www.facebook.com/theyangonheritagetrust>



TURQUOISE MOUNTAIN

Turquoise Mountain is a non-profit, non-governmental organization specializing in urban regeneration, and traditional arts and architecture. Turquoise Mountain was established at the request of HRH The Prince of Wales and the then President of Afghanistan, and has been successfully completing projects in Afghanistan since 2006. It was set up in Myanmar at the end of 2014 and is working with the Yangon Heritage Trust to carry out practical heritage led regeneration projects in Yangon's historic Downtown as well as delivering a programme of vocational training to complement this. It is also working to promote and develop Myanmar's traditional craft industry.

For more information on Turquoise Mountain

Harry Wardill, Director – Myanmar,

Tel: 951 540 198

Mobile: 959 979 786 575,

Email: harry@turquoisemountain.org

www.turquoisemountain.org

www.turquoisemountainarts.org



The Prince's Foundation for Building Community is a UK based charity working around the world on built environment issues. The charity is part of The Prince's Charities, a group of not-for-profit organisations of which HRH The Prince of Wales is President. Our goal is to transform lives by building beautiful, harmonious communities. We believe that the built environment plays a key part in people's quality of life. Through our projects, the Prince's Foundation champions these principles across the world, helps to deliver projects that showcase the possibilities of our ethos and educates people to ensure they have the skills to meet the challenges of a rapidly urbanising world.



This activity/project is undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through the Department of Foreign Affairs Trade and Development.



Global Heritage Fund (GHF) is a leading, international conservancy whose mission is to protect, preserve and sustain the most significant and endangered cultural heritage sites in the developing world. GHF utilizes its 360-degree Preservation by Design® methodology of community-based planning, science, development and partnerships to enable long-term preservation and sustainability of global heritage sites.

Since its founding in 2002, GHF has invested over US\$30 million and has secured US\$25 million in co-funding for 20 global heritage sites to ensure their sustainable preservation and responsible development.

For more information:

Elinor Betesh, Manager, Public Relations

Email: ebetesh@globalheritagefund.org

www.globalheritagefund.org



Alphawood Foundation is a Chicago-based, grant-making private foundation working for an equitable, just, and humane society. Alphawood Foundation funds organizations whose primary mission honors, promotes, and sustains the built environment. Qualifying heritage preservation organizations must promote the preservation and protection of historic resources through advocacy, education, fund raising, and/or

stewardship. Qualifying organizations focusing on architecture must promote an equitable, just, and humane society through one or more techniques using concepts related to participatory design, socially engaged design, and sustainable design.

For more information:

<http://www.alphawoodfoundation.org/>