

HERITAGE & CONSERVATION TALK

FIRE SAFETY IN HERITAGE BUILDINGS

1 LAM CPD POINT



Dato' Ar. Zulkhairi bin Md Zain
Moderator

**18 SEPTEMBER 2021
SATURDAY
11.00AM- 1.00PM
ZOOM WEBINAR**

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Engineer Hao-giang Tay
2nd Speaker

UNDERSTANDING THE GUIDELINES TO FIRE SAFETY FOR HERITAGE BUILDINGS

In light of the challenging views in interpretation of the UBBL on the requirement of fire safety provisions, especially for heritage buildings, PAM decided to take the initiative to complete a guidelines with industry stakeholders. One of the most important consideration is saving lives of inhabitants above property. However, it is also essential to take into account property protection to ensure our heritage is preserved. The principles of building conservation should be observed during implementation.

We take a look into the draft content of the document. The subject of fire risk, the importance to consider business continuity, the fragile state of the heritage buildings (mainly of timber), and site constrains. The provision of active system is a possible solution in solving certain constrain, thus compliances to strict National and International Guidelines.

FIRE SAFETY APPROACH IN PRESERVATION OF HERITAGE BUILDINGS

Climatical changes in global warming have resulted in an increase in global warming. Warmer climate and lower humidity increase the probability of fire incidents as reflected in most recent forest fires throughout the continents including arctic region. Preceding the enactment of Uniform Building By-laws, most heritage buildings were built with no fire safety measures and fire protection system required to ensure the safety of occupants. More importantly, the heritage buildings with historical and cultural value may lost once they are destroyed by fire. Even though they can be salvaged and repaired, the replica would have lost the art of the heritage in terms of constructions method, tradesmanship and ancient building materials which dated back decades or even centuries.

There are many heritage buildings in Malaysia with two UNESCO World Heritage Sites (cities) in Malacca (Melaka) and George Town (Penang). Many residential heritage buildings in Melaka and Penang were converted into commercial use such as signature hotels, restaurants and public assembly buildings. As a result, the occupancy change into higher occupancy risks means the buildings must comply with the fire safety requirements in the legislative laws. Unfortunately, heritage conservation has its own set of rules for preserving the building as well as restriction in renovation allowed. This paper will be looking at some of the issues with a holistic fire safety approach for heritage buildings.



Ar. Steven Thang Boon Ann
1st Speaker

