



Fujians: The Blue Ocean Legacy exhibition
at Marina Bay Sands opens in conjunction with the
7th World Fujian Convention

Rare, ancient artefacts with over a thousand years of Chinese history will be on display in Singapore from 24 November 2012.

(Singapore, 20 November 2012) Presented by The Singapore Hokkien Foundation, the three-month exhibition, ***Fujians: The Blue Ocean Legacy***, is one of the main highlights of the World Fujian Convention (WFC) and the 4th Singapore Hokkien Festival. The exhibition will showcase rare artefacts from overseas museums and from local collectors in a modern and contemporary manner. It is also the first time that Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan is partnering with ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands and overseas museums.

Being the first clan association in Singapore to organize an exhibition with ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands, Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan (SHHK) President Chua Tian Poh and Marina Bay Sands president and chief executive officer George Tanasijevich shared highlights of the unique partnership at a press briefing today.

Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan President Chua Tian Poh said, "The partnership is unique and created many firsts. Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan is an organisation with a long heritage and history. The partnership with ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands, known as a Museum of Creativity, tells the history of the Fujians in a modern and creative way. ArtScience Museum epitomizes modernity and creativity while Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan stands for strong roots and foundation."

The Exhibition and the partnership epitomize Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan's value of embracing change and challenges in order to stay relevant with the times. Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan hopes this will put Singapore in the international heritage arena. It also marks an important milestone for clan associations. Marina Bay Sands President and Chief Executive Officer George Tanasijevich is looking forward to welcoming delegates to the convention. He said, "Marina Bay Sands is proud to partner with Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan in helping host the 7th World Fujian Convention and share such a historically significant event with Singapore. We're particularly pleased to welcome ***Fujians: The Blue Ocean Legacy*** and its showcase of rare and consequential artefacts to ArtScience Museum. This exhibition provides a unique opportunity to share the important Fujian story as well as engage people of all ages at the same time. We're honoured to showcase ***Fujians: The Blue Ocean Legacy*** to the visitors of ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands."

The exhibition will showcase 600 pieces of exhibits, including rare artefacts classified as “First Class Cultural Relics” from Quanzhou city (Fujian province, China). Amongst the highlights are Yuan Dynasty stone carvings of two Chinese fairies holding a Christian cross; and a Ming Dynasty porcelain dish with peony and phoenix designs. These exhibits with intertwining cultural elements reflect an interesting cultural diversity stemming from seafaring activities in Fujian centuries ago. Also on display are stone sculptures and carvings with interesting religious imprints; and exquisitely-crafted models of ships with which Fujian ancestors set sail to Singapore.

Some of the local artefacts can be regarded as Singapore’s national treasures.

One of the featured local artefacts is an 1828 land title deed with a signature of Hokkien merchant and philanthropist Tan Tock Seng. The piece of land bought from British East India Company was used to build the Thian Hock Keng Temple. The well-preserved document is believed to be the oldest land title deed to be ever found in Singapore.

Exhibition curator and Chinese historian, Mr Toh Lam Huat visited Quanzhou and selected artefacts relevant to Singapore’s context. Mr Toh said, “The exhibition showcases the seafaring history of the Fujian people which had great influence on Singapore. It also marks a new milestone for Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan. In order to put up a content rich yet modern and contemporary exhibition, the Huay Kuan mobilized major resources over two years to plan, conceptualize and put together the exhibits.” He added that the seafaring history shaped Singapore’s demographics, making Hokkien Singaporeans the largest dialect group here. Fujian seafarers were already trading with their technologies and wares in new markets even before the Blue Ocean strategy became business jargon. Mr Toh is also the Vice-Chairman (Culture) of the Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan.

Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan, as one of the largest clan associations in Singapore, hopes that Singaporeans will visit the exhibition and re-acquaint themselves with their roots and heritage. The exhibits tell a vivid story of the intelligence and inventions of Fujians in the past, how they sought new opportunities via the sea, how they arrived in Singapore and how they planted their roots here. Hopefully, it will bring local Chinese, especially Fujians nearer to their roots and forge a stronger identity.

As part of ***Fujians: The Blue Ocean Legacy***, ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands is dedicating significant resources and exhibition space to enhance visitor engagement and the overall experience. These range from an interactive exhibit in each gallery which relates directly to the subject and/or objects showcased in that space, to a suite of informative and attractive outlets for school children and families which encourage learning.

ArtScience Museum is also offering a full program of events and performances in conjunction with ***Fujians: The Blue Ocean Legacy***. These include calligraphy demonstrations and workshops; live puppet and music performances; *Liyuan* Opera demonstrations and workshops; as well as ceramic creative workshops. Public tours of the exhibition will be offered as well in both English and Mandarin.

The partnership will see ArtScience Museum welcome 12,000 students and staff from the six affiliated schools of the Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan during the exhibition's stay. All students will receive a tailored tour through the exhibition using specially written educational material developed by the museum's professional staff, and will have the opportunity to participate in a creative workshop which promotes both Chinese and Hokkien culture. The invitation to learn and experience this important exhibit comes free of charge and is an extension of Marina Bay Sands' commitment to giving back and making a difference in the lives of Singapore's young people.

Fujians: The Blue Ocean Legacy exhibition opens to the public on 24 November 2012 at ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands. Each ticket for Singapore residents is S\$13 for adults, S\$12 for senior citizens and \$8 for children. The exhibition catalogue is also available at the ArtScience Museum for visitors to gain a better understanding of the various exhibits on display.

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