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RAC and Think City sign MOU to realise heritage railway regeneration



By [pghyperlocal](#)

JUL 10, 2023 #Anthony Loke, #Depots, #MOU, #Penang CM, #RAC, #Regenerate, #Stations, #Think City, #Tourism, #Transport Minister



RAC and Think City MOU signing ceremony

Railway Assets Corporation (RAC) and Think City signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to realise the "Heritage Railway Rejuvenation Programme".

The aim is to celebrate Malaysia's rich railway heritage and the adaptive reuse of the heritage railway stations.

Present to witness the signing ceremony was Transport Minister Anthony Loke, Penang Chief Minister YAB Chow Kon Yeow, Lim Guan Eng, caretaker government's committee chairman for Transport and Infrastructure Zairil Khir Johari, Tourism and

Creative Economy's Mr Yeoh Soon Hin among others.



Signing the MOU was Think City managing director, Hmdan Abdul Majeed and chief executive officer of RAC, Azhar Ahmad.

The programme is expected to provide cultural, educational, economic and environmental benefits. For a start the Malaysian Railway building in Penang will be the first for the project.

It is expected to enhance value to Georgetown.

“The first railway in the country was started from Taiping to Port Weld. It will be a shame to let these heritage buildings go to decay.

“There are some 130 railway stations across the country and we will turn them into tourist attractions,” said Loke.

RAC has assets in all 11 states on Peninsula Malaysia.



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Railway Assets Corporation (RAC) and Think City Collaborate to Revitalize Heritage Railway Stations



Pocket News

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GEORGE TOWN, July 9 – In a momentous partnership, the Railway Assets Corporation (RAC) and Think City have joined forces to rejuvenate Malaysia's heritage railway stations. The collaborative initiative, named the Heritage Railway Regeneration Programme, aims to celebrate the country's rich railway heritage while promoting best practices in placemaking and adaptive reuse of these historical assets. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by RAC's CEO, Mr. Azhar bin Ahmad, and Think City's Managing Director, Mr. Hamdan Abdul Majeed, in the presence of esteemed dignitaries.

The Heritage Railway Regeneration Programme envisions vibrant spaces that honor the past while embracing the future, combining the preservation of historical assets with sustainable urban planning. This transformative program extends its impact beyond the railway stations themselves, encompassing the entire city and its inhabitants. The strategic collaboration between RAC and Think City aims to enhance the economic and business value of these heritage assets. Leveraging Think City's expertise in rejuvenation and placemaking, RAC, as the owner and administrator of the railway assets, aims to breathe new life into these culturally significant sites.

During the signing ceremony, Minister of Transport, Mr. Loke Siew Fook, emphasized the significance of this partnership in optimizing conservation practices and the adaptive reuse of heritage buildings. He also highlighted the program's focus on improving public spaces along RAC assets and enhancing the livability of the surrounding areas. Mr. Azhar Ahmad, CEO of RAC, expressed his enthusiasm for preserving the history and aesthetic values of these buildings while ensuring their continued income generation for the government.

He expressed his hope that the Heritage Railway Regeneration Programme would be successfully implemented not only in Penang but also across other RAC assets. Mr. Hamdan Abdul Majeed, Managing Director of Think City, underscored the pivotal role of transportation in shaping urban development and enhancing the overall well-being and prosperity of cities. The partnership between RAC and Think City holds great potential for strengthening the historical landscape of urban areas and unlocking the hidden potential of these railway assets.

This collaborative effort between RAC and Think City goes beyond being a mere project—it is a transformative initiative that will celebrate Malaysia's railway heritage and serve as a beacon for best practices in placemaking and adaptive reuse. The partnership will encompass strategy and planning, heritage restoration, data analysis, sustainability, transit-oriented development, placemaking, and community engagement.

The Heritage Railway Regeneration Programme sets the stage for a future where Malaysia's rich history is preserved and cherished, and its railway assets become catalysts for cultural, economic, and environmental benefits. This partnership marks a significant milestone in the journey of rejuvenating these historical treasures and unlocking their immense value for generations to come.

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THE Railway Assets Corporation (RAC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Think City Sdn Bhd as strategic partners to realise the 'Heritage Railway Rejuvenation Programme' that is slated to begin immediately across the country.

RAC is a Federal statutory body under the Transport Ministry, and Think City is an impact organisation dedicated to making cities more liveable.

The MoU signing ceremony was held at the Think City office in Gat Lebu China today.

RAC was represented by its chief executive officer Azhar Ahmad and Think City was represented by its managing director Hamdan Abdul Majeed. The MoU signing ceremony was witnessed by Transport Minister Anthony Loke Siew Fook and caretaker Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow.

Azhar said the Heritage Railway Rejuvenation Programme is a transformative programme that is aimed at celebrating Malaysia's rich railway heritage while promoting best practices in placemaking and adaptive reuse of heritage railway stations.

"This programme is designed to catalyse culture-based urban regeneration and foster local economic development.

"By combining the preservation of historical assets with sustainable urban planning, this programme aims to create vibrant, revitalised spaces that honour the past while embracing the future, beyond the station and the city," Azhar said in his speech at the MoU signing ceremony today.

Loke said the partnership between RAC as the owner and administrator of the railway assets and Think City as a consultant and delivering partner, also aims to help boost the economic and business value of these assets that are rich in heritage and history.

"The partnership leverages Think City's expertise in rejuvenation and placemaking.

"The partners will optimise conservation practices and adaptive reuse of heritage buildings. They will also identify the opportunities and provision of technical support for public realm improvement works to enhance the quality of public spaces and surrounding areas.

"The Heritage Railway Regeneration Programme will also provide cultural, educational, economic, and environmental benefits.

"By preserving and restoring these assets, we can celebrate their historical significance, attract visitors, educate communities, promote architectural and engineering appreciation, stimulate local economies, foster social cohesion, and contribute to sustainable development," he said.

Azhar added that the MoU is an effort by the Federal Government through RAC to preserve the history and aesthetic values of a building and other assets owned by RAC.

"In addition, this programme can ensure that these valuable railway assets continue to generate income for the government.

"This auspicious day also marks another important milestone for both RAC and Think City in the field of rejuvenating the historic railway assets and further commercialising the assets into something of high value," he said.

Hamdan said the partnership between Think City and RAC holds immense importance.

"This collaboration has the potential to be a game-changer, as it strengthens the historical landscape of urban areas.

"With RAC as the custodian of railway assets and Think City's expertise in culture-based economic approaches and placemaking, we will be strengthening our collaborative work to unlock the potential of these assets," he said.

Meanwhile, Chow said the MoU between RAC and Think City marks a significant milestone towards fostering collaboration, innovation, and shared success.

"An MoU is not just a piece of paper, it represents a commitment to a shared vision, a common goal, and a deep belief in the power of collaboration.

"It signifies a collective determination to combine strengths, resources, and expertise to achieve something remarkable.

"As we embark on this journey, let us remember that success is not measured solely by the milestones we achieve but by the transformative impact we have on society.

"The assets hold immense potential, and it is our duty to maximise that potential by preserving their history and aesthetic values and if possible, even to rejuvenate them.

"Lastly, on behalf of the Penang government, I express my deepest appreciation to all the individuals and teams involved in making this partnership a reality," said Chow.

Also present were Deputy Education Minister Lim Hui Ying, who is also the Tanjong MP, State Secretary Datuk Mohd Sayuthi Bakar, caretaker state Transport and Infrastructure Committee chairman Zairil Khir Johari, caretaker state Tourism and Creative Economy Committee chairman Yeoh Soon Hin, Bagan MP Lim Guan Eng, Think City chairman Datuk Seri Dr Anwar Fazal and RAC chairman Datuk Jana Santhiran Muniayan.

Story by Riadz Akmal

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RAC inks MoU with Think City to revitalise old railway facilities

Partnership to see heritage sites refurbished, turned into tourist attractions, says transport minister

Updated 2 days ago · Published on 08 Jul 2023 7:15PM

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RAC chief executive officer Azhar Ahmad (right) and Think City managing director Hamdan Abdul Majeed shake hands at the MoU's signing while Transport Minister Anthony Loke (centre) looks on. – IAN MCINTYRE/The Vibes pic, July 8, 2023

BY Ian McIntyre

GEORGE TOWN – Railway Assets Corporation (RAC) has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with urban regeneration agency Think City Sdn Bhd to revitalise social amenities, train stations and buildings aged up to 130 years along the western stretch of Peninsular Malaysia.

RAC is a government-linked company under the Transport Ministry entrusted to safeguard rail line assets, including stations and facilities. Think City was founded by sovereign wealth fund Khazanah Nasional Bhd.

Transport Minister Anthony Loke said that RAC has identified Think City as a strategic partner to revitalise old buildings, classified as heritage sites, by refurbishing and turning them into tourist attractions in their own right.

To realise this aim, the MoU was sealed at Think City's office in China Street Ghaut. It will also ensure that the heritage element of such assets is preserved and harmonised with present architectural needs.

Representing RAC was its chief executive officer Azhar Ahmad while Think City was represented by its managing director Hamdan Abdul Majeed.

The MoU is to realise the heritage railway rejuvenation programme, which will begin now.

“We will no longer find an easy way out to lease RAC buildings to third parties as they may damage it in the process. Instead, RAC will own and operate such premises by ensuring its heritage flavour is rehabilitated and promoted,” said

Loke.

Among the buildings which would come under the collaboration with Think City are the railway stations in Kuala Lumpur, Kluang, Ipoh, and Johor Baru, as well as the majestic Malayan Railway Building in Penang, which was recently the state headquarters of the Customs and Excise Department.

In a separate development today, the Transport Ministry plans to assist up to 9,000 B40 families (low medium income households), by providing professional ridership training and free MyLesen B2 motorcycle-class licences to their children.

This will help alleviate their burden and allow their children aged 16 and above a chance to fulfil the legal requirements to ride motorcycles, said Loke.

Having the B2 licence can ease their mobility, but they must ride responsibly and not end up indulging in illegal street racing (often referred to as the “mat rempit” phenomenon), Loke said.

He said this when handing over MyLesen B2 class licences to 293 participants of the programme, which was drawn up by the ministry to ease the living costs of the B40, especially after having to endure hardships arising due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Next year, the ministry plans to expand the outreach so that all B40 families, whose children want to own and ride motorcycles, can receive the free licences. – The Vibes, July 8, 2023

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