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SPEECH BY MR WAN HUSSIN ZOOHRI, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY (HEALTH AND CULTURE), AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM "OUR HISTORICAL SITES" AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATIONS AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM ART GALLERY ON FRIDAY, 28 OCTOBER 1983 AT 5.30 PM

Since Singapore embarked on an urban renewal programme in the sixties, the built environment has undergone tremendous change. Inevitably, old ways of life have crumbled under the demolition machines. A case in point is Chinatown. Another, the Singapore River. The romantics lament the change while the pragmatic applaud the successful urban renewal programmes.

Amidst the many changes, the National Museum is concerned with documenting and recording the old environment. Aside from providing a valuable source of information to research scholars, more important, these records provide our people a valuable link with their past.

The two multi-slide shows presented this evening mark the National Museum's inaugural venture into the use of the audio-visual medium to disseminate our history. Through this sensual medium and programmed presentation to visual images, Singapore River and Chinatown capture the sight and sounds characteristic of the two historical sites. They trace the origins, growth and development of the two areas, preserving on slides, the changing life-styles of their residents, and their disappearing crafts and skills.

A print exhibition accompanying the shows will take you on a nostalgic journey of the two sites, whose modern history started in 1819 when Raffles established a trading port on the bank of the Singapore River.

It is heartening to know that a business organisation like Shell is interested in the National Museum's programme to preserve the past. It is with their generous funding that the shows and print exhibition are made a reality. Their financial commitment to a series of historical shows is also commendable. Credit must also go to Adcolor and its producer who not only made the productions at cost but went beyond the call of duty to help make the launch a success.

I am pleased now to launch the National Museum's 'Our Historical Sites' audio visual presentations.

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