

PENANG

Ferry museum slated to open early next year

Highlights include exhibition depicting history of operations

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THE first Penang Ferry Museum will be open to the public early next year if refurbishment work is completed according to schedule.

Penang Port Commission (PPC) chairman Datuk Tan Teik Cheng said work was in progress despite setbacks because of the pandemic.

"In addition to handling the interior decoration, the management company responsible for the project has actively coordinated with all government departments so that work can be completed as soon as possible," he said in a Facebook post.

The museum will retain the original dimensions and appearance of the ferry that is being converted into the museum.

"The original ferry area of 621sq m will be maintained.

"When the ferry museum opens, the entire space can receive visitors," he said.

Accompanied by the management company and PPC officials, Tan visited the Bagan Dalam Shipyard to inspect the ferry under renovation.

Tan said the museum would be divided into four parts.

"The lower ground is the engine room which is the heart of the entire museum.

"Visitors can enter this space to see the ferry engine up close and learn about its operations.

"Some of the equipment will be



Tan (second from left) visiting the Bagan Dalam Shipyard, accompanied by the management company and PPC officials.

on display and explanations will be given by tour guides.

"Old ferry machinery will also be preserved on this floor including a petrol storage room and water pipes," he said.

The second level which is the main deck will serve as a historical corridor for the museum.

The main deck will house an exhibition on the history of Penang ferry operations from its inception

to the present day.

"A replica of the ferry will be on display here.

"There will also be a photo booth.

"This floor will have a cinema showing clips of the Penang ferry service which connects the mainland with the island.

"A classic car show will demonstrate the arrangement of cars in the ferry during operations.

"There is also a gift shop on this floor," he added.

The third floor, the upper deck, will be a digital interactive entertainment area.

"This area will house ferry-related digital exhibitions and interactive games.

"It will also have a neon art exhibition with a Penang ferry motif and glow-in-the-dark displays.

"Several artists from Penang will be involved in these exhibits.

"In addition, a workshop will show visitors how to assemble a replica of the ferry," he said.

Finally, the roof of the ferry will

be covered by a canvas canopy with seating provided for visitors to rest and enjoy the view.

"The ferry cockpit will be a cafe selling coffee, ice-cream and snacks.

"Visitors can rent binoculars to see the sights of Butterworth and George Town," he elaborated.

Since this museum is the first project of its kind in Malaysia, Tan said some hurdles had to be overcome including the granting of a temporary occupation licence.

"According to the management company, the ferry museum will sail from Bagan Dalam to Tanjung City Marina Penang in October and dock in the area.

"If all follow-up work goes smoothly, it will be at Tanjung City Marina early next year for the public to board," he said.

Tan has also instructed the management company to complete the work as soon as possible.

"If there are any problems with government departments, PPC will provide assistance," he said.