

Insight with each footstep

Harmony walk opens window into diverse cultures

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A HARMONY walk offering insight into various cultures brings Penang Harmony Week 2022 to a close.

The walk along Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling in George Town, also known as the Street of Harmony because of the different places of worship there, saw a group visiting St George's Church before heading to the Goddess of Mercy Temple, the Sri Maha Mariamman Temple and Masjid Lebuah Acheh. They ended their tour at Masjid Kapitan Keling.

Penang Tourist Guide Association vice-president Clement Liang shared the history of the landmarks with the group and they were also joined by representatives from each place of worship. Student Nur Dian Seri Mohd Faizal, 25, was surprised and intrigued by what she learnt.

"I have always wondered what the inside of a church looked like. I did not know that people from many other cultures kneel when praying as well."

"Next time, I would like to visit a Siamese temple," she said when met at Masjid Kapitan Keling.

Nur Dian's mother Juana Razalli, 47, said she wanted her daughter to be exposed to various cultures. "I am a tour guide and I believe it is important to broaden one's knowledge," she said.

Housewife Emi Yanazaki, 54, from Japan, who has been living in Penang for 20 years, had always wanted to visit different places of worship but was apprehensive as she was not sure if she would be welcomed.

"A friend invited me to the walk and it has been a wonderful experience," she said.

Emi said she enjoyed looking at the buildings as the architecture showed the influence of diverse cultures.

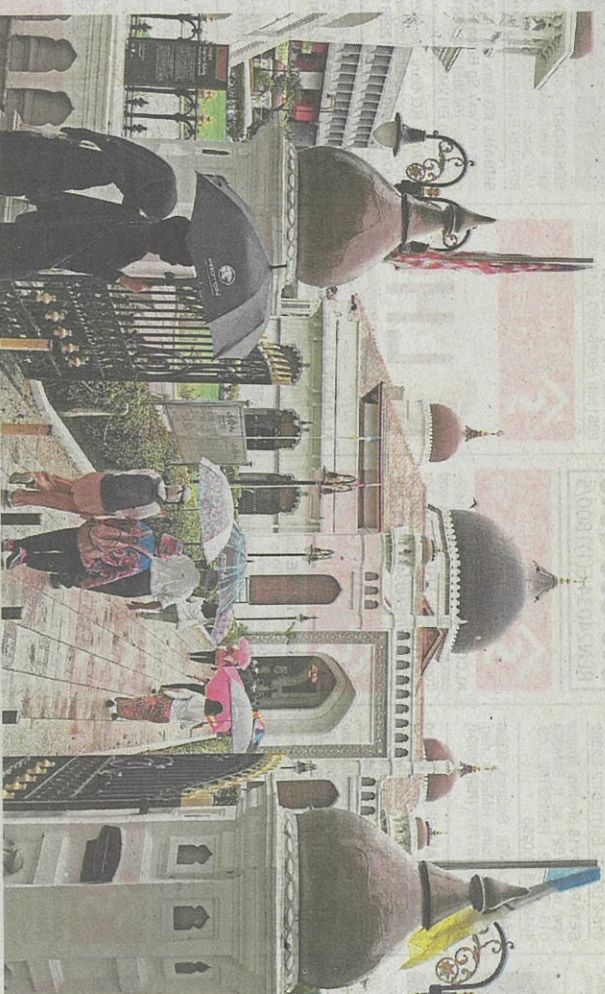
Organised by Penang Harmony Corporation (Harmonico), the walk was the last event of Penang Harmony Week 2022.

Themed "Fostering Harmony in Diversity", the week was planned out to engage the public through outdoor activities, arts, exhibitions, performances and dialogues.

Social development and non-Islamic religious affairs committee



Harmonico board director Datuk Seri Dr Anwar Fazal (left) narrating a poem by former Indian president A.P.J. Abdul Kalam about Penang titled 'The Great City of Harmony' during the walk with Chong.



The group making their way to Masjid Kapitan Keling in George Town. Photos by K.T. GOH/The Star



(From left) Nur Dian, her mother Juana and other participants listening to a briefing by tour guide Cheam Cheng Sooli (right, blue batik) on the history of Sri Maha Mariamman Temple.



Anwar (left) meeting representatives of the places of worship at the Goddess of Mercy Temple.

chairman Chong Eng, who joined the group, said the harmony walk was timely as it was held to coincide with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial

Discrimination on March 21. "This street that houses all these places of worship shows that Penangites of different origins have lived peacefully with each

other for a long time," she said. Harmonico was established under Penang Chief Minister Incorporated last year to promote racial harmony in the state.