

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Embargoed till 3 August, 11am**

**MARKING 50 YEARS OF SINGAPORE'S INDEPENDENCE WITH A LOOK BACK IN TIME**

*Exhibition at Asian Civilisations Museum to showcase 50 objects from a time capsule buried in 1990*



*Image courtesy of the Asian Civilisations Museum*

**SINGAPORE, 3 August 2015** – Singapore has made tremendous progress since gaining independence 50 years ago. But what was life like in the early days of being an independent nation? In celebration of Singapore's Golden Jubilee, the Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM) presents an exhibition showcasing objects from a time capsule buried 25 years ago, which will take Singaporeans back in time to witness how the nation has progressed over the decades. From the signboard of the first NTUC FairPrice supermarket and an old model of a Motorola mobile phone, to a 1978 education report, and a booklet on the opening of the Singapore Zoo, *Unearthed: Singapore at 25*, displays 50 objects that carry with them familiar stories of our past.

2. In December 2014, the National Heritage Board (NHB) and ACM unearthed a time capsule that was sealed and buried at Empress Place during Singapore's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in 1990. Known as the "Singapore 2015 Time Capsule", its aim was to capture key national

accomplishments from 1965 to 1990 through items that represent development in Singapore's economic and political fields, as well as progress in education, defence, security, and infrastructure. Displaying a selection of objects from the "Singapore 2015 Time Capsule", the *Unearthed: Singapore at 25* exhibition at ACM was launched by Mr Heng Swee Keat, Minister for Education and Chairman of the SG50 Steering Committee, on 3 August 2015.

3. Mrs Rosa Daniel, Chief Executive Officer of NHB, explained: "The items from this time capsule are particularly interesting as we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> year of independence. They tell the story of Singapore's beginnings as a young nation, and how far we had progressed in a short span of 25 years. Many policies and initiatives that were put in place then continue to be relevant to Singapore today. This exhibition is also a nostalgic reminder for those of us who have used some of these items, and whose lives were actually impacted by some of the policies. As for our younger visitors, they can now see for themselves what an old handphone and a 'packet drink' look like!"

4. Mr Heng Swee Keat, Minister for Education and Chairman of the SG50 Steering Committee, announced the plans for a SG50 time capsule at the launch of *Unearthed: Singapore at 25*. Singaporeans are invited to participate in a public vote for items to be included in the SG50 time capsule, through the SG50 website or on-ground selection stations. More details will be announced at a later date.

5. *Unearthed: Singapore at 25* will be one of the key highlights happening over Singapore's extended Jubilee weekend between 7 and 10 August 2015, in addition to special programming at ACM, and NHB's other museums and Heritage Institutions. *Unearthed: Singapore at 25* runs from 3 August to 27 September 2015 at ACM, admission is free.

Please refer to the following attachments:

- **Annex A** for a list of exhibition highlights from *Unearthed: Singapore at 25*
- **Annex B** for a list of NHB's Jubilee Weekend programmes

For more information, please visit [www.acm.org.sg](http://www.acm.org.sg)

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### **About SG50 Jubilee Weekend**

To mark Singapore's 50 years of independence, 7 August 2015 has been declared a special SG50 public holiday. Singaporeans will be able to enjoy an extended Jubilee Weekend from 7th to 10th August, so as to commemorate this significant milestone in our nation's history.

The Jubilee Weekend is a special time for Singaporeans to spend with their family, friends, and community, to celebrate SG50 in a meaningful way. A variety of programmes have been organised around the island, to reflect our journey as a nation, to celebrate what makes Singapore our home, and to strengthen our ties as one people.

For more details on the programmes over the Jubilee weekend, please visit <https://www.singapore50.sg>.

### **About National Heritage Board**

The National Heritage Board (NHB) was formed on 1 August 1993. As the custodian of Singapore's heritage, NHB is responsible for telling the Singapore story, sharing the Singaporean experience and imparting our Singapore spirit. NHB's mission is to preserve and celebrate the shared heritage of our diverse communities, for the purpose of education, nation-building and cultural understanding. It manages the national museums and heritage institutions, and sets policies relating to heritage sites, monuments and the national collection. Through the national collection, NHB curates heritage programmes and presents exhibitions to connect the past, present and future generations of Singaporeans. NHB is now a statutory board under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. Please visit [www.nhb.gov.sg](http://www.nhb.gov.sg) for more information.

### **About the Asian Civilisations Museum**

The Asian Civilisations Museum is dedicated to exploring the rich artistic heritage of Asia, especially Singapore's ancestral cultures. Through a collection of works of art and a varied exhibition programme, we hope to deepen understanding of Southeast Asia, China, South Asia, West Asia, and the Peranakan world. Rare among museums in Asia, the ACM connects audiences with many cultures.

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