

Our Reference : PBBPP.UKK.100-2/1/2(5)
Date : 3 February 2024

PRESS RELEASE

PENANG HILL STATION REOPENS AFTER UPGRADING WORKS COMPLETES

Penang Hill Corporation (PHC) is excited to announce the highly-anticipated reopening of **Penang Hill Station**, following an extensive upgrading project that commenced on 20 March 2021.

With an investment of RM10.9 million and over three years of dedicated efforts, the newly upgraded Station is now ready to welcome visitors again.

Formerly known as the Penang Hill Upper Station, it has now been officially named as **Penang Hill Station**.

The upgrading centres on expanding the waiting hall and facilities, aimed at elevating overall visitor experience and enhancing Penang Hill's allure as a family-friendly destination. The architectural and design elements also abide with the guidelines stipulated in the **Penang Hill Special Area Plan (SAP) 2016** and draft **Special Area Plan 2020**.

Facilities

The Penang Hill Station now offers a new holding area on the first floor and a queue area at the ground floor, capable of accommodating 700 visitors - it represents a substantial increase from the previous capacity of 250 people. The project expands its current single-floor space of 800 sqm to a two-floor space of 1,422 sqm.

Originally constructed a century ago during the station's initial development, the Penang Hill Station stands as a testament to PHC's commitment to conserve and preserve the heritage. The historical

significance of the original station building has been carefully conserved, ensuring that its architectural charm remains intact. Today, visitors can still marvel at the original facade, a tangible link to the past that adds to the station's allure and serves as a reminder of its rich history.

Simultaneously, the station is enhanced with modern facilities to provide a more comfortable and family-friendly environment for everyone. This harmonious blend of the past and present not only honours the station's rich history but also offers a contemporary and enjoyable experience for visitors.

The facilities include a ticketing counter, queue number counter, a lift, escalators, restrooms, and a baby changing room. Additionally, telco towers are also installed at the upper station for better connectivity and visitor experiences at the station.

Enhanced Accessibility

Notably, the Penang Hill Station offers improved accessibility features to accommodate the elderly and those who are differently abled. Elevators and escalators provide easier access to vantage point, ensuring that visitors are able to enjoy the breathtaking views.

The upgraded station is now directly linked to David Brown's Restaurant & Tea Terrace, providing a convenient access for visitors, including access to the SkyLift that offers direct route to KOTA & The Loaf Railway Cafe and Penang Hill Gallery@Edgecliff. This enhances the overall connectivity of the Penang Hill experience, allowing visitors to enjoy refreshments while waiting for the funicular service or simply relax and take in the magnificent views surrounded by lush greenery.

The station's design also maximizes sightlines, providing an immersive experience, that includes views of the George Town UNESCO World Heritage Site and the iconic Penang Bridge, adding an extra layer of charm to the overall experience.

Smart Queue System

The Penang Hill Station also features a smart queue management system for a more comfortable and productive waiting period while on the hill. As part of this system, visitors at the upper station are required to obtain their boarding queue number from the designated Q-Counter at the ground floor of the Penang Hill Station, before boarding the funicular to the lower station.

Through the smart queue management system, visitors will be assigned batch numbers with the estimated time of entering the boarding area. This system, already successfully implemented at the lower station, allows for a more organised and optimal use of time on the hill. Visitors can either relax at nearby cafes for an enjoyable break before boarding the return trip.

Sustainable Practices

In line with sustainable practices, Penang Hill Station features rooftop solar panels complemented by a green roof that promotes environmental sustainability through natural insulation and biodiversity. Penang Hill Lower Station and Penang Hill Gallery@Edgecliff also contribute to clean energy, courtesy of the solar panels generously provided by **First Solar Malaysia Sdn Bhd**.

This initiative underscores PHC's commitment to eco-friendly practices, shaping a more environmentally conscious Penang Hill experience by creating a more energy-efficient operation and encouraging the use of renewable energy.

Moreover, the upgrading project includes a Building Management System that optimises energy usage for efficient operations throughout Penang Hill Station. Additionally, a rainwater harvesting system has been implemented to contribute to irrigation needs. This initiative aligns with the State Government's vision for sustainable development, aiming for a Green Building Index (GBI) Gold rating.

Biodiversity Wall and Contribution Wall Honouring Those Behind the Railway Construction

Nestled within the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, the Penang Hill Station also showcases information walls that highlight the rich biodiversity of the area. Visitors can delve into the Penang Hill Biosphere Reserve and also learn about the people who contributed to the construction of the railway.

The feature wall is attributed to the unsung heroes who used their bare hands to build the funicular railway, including Arnold Robert Johnson (1879 – 1966), the engineer credited with designing the historic Penang Hill railway. Visitors will also get to read a 1923 old news clipping detailing the opening of the railway at this distinctive wall. The wall serves as a dedication to those who sacrificed and contributed to the construction of this iconic funicular railway.

PHC invites the public to join in the celebration of this milestone, marking the rebirth of Penang Hill Station as a popular destination with enhanced facilities, sustainability initiatives, and a commitment to providing a memorable experience for all, offering an enhanced experience as a gateway to Penang Hill Biosphere Reserve.

#END#

About Penang Hill Corporation

Penang Hill Corporation was established in 2009 through an enactment passed by the Penang State Legislative Assembly. Its main focus is to manage the funicular system, undertake the development of socio-economy and infrastructure in Penang Hill and promote the Hill as a major ecotourism destination, in its vision to make Penang Hill the Hill Resort of Choice in Malaysia and the region.

Corporate Communications Unit

Lim Woan May
Penang Hill Corporation
Tel: 04-828 8880
wmlim@penanghill.gov.my

Ahmad Aizat Bin Khalid
Penang Hill Corporation
Tel: 04-828 8880
aizat@penanghill.gov.my

Vivien Loo
Penang Hill Corporation
Tel: 04-828 8880
vivienloo@penanghill.gov.my

Lee Shew Yean
Penang Hill Corporation
Tel: 04-828 8880
sylee@penanghill.gov.my

Tan Lee Ling
Penang Hill Corporation
Tel: 04-828 8880
ltan@penanghill.gov.my