

E&O Hotel celebrates 140 years of timeless heritage and hospitality

BULETIN MUTIARA

Admin

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STEEPED in history and charm, the Eastern & Oriental (E&O) Hotel marked its 140th anniversary this evening with a grand celebration befitting its storied legacy.

The celebration, held in the hotel's ballroom, was graced by Penang Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow and his wife, Madam Tan Lean Kee, as the guests of honour, alongside dignitaries, industry leaders, and long-time friends of the hotel.

In his speech, Chow congratulated the E&O Hotel for reaching what he described as a rare and remarkable milestone.



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“One hundred and forty years is no small feat. It is a legacy that very few institutions in our region can claim, a legacy that belongs not only to the E&O Hotel but also to Penang itself,” he said.



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The early days of E&O Hotel in Penang.

Chow noted that the E&O's history is inseparable from the story of Penang.

“I must say, after spending the past week in Kuala Lumpur for a working trip, it struck me that the oldest and most iconic hotel in Malaysia is not in the capital, but right here in Penang.

“The E&O Hotel stands proudly by the waterfront, a timeless reminder of our heritage and our strength as a state,” said Chow.

He added that since its establishment in 1885, the E&O has welcomed travellers from across the globe, witnessing Penang's transformation from a bustling maritime port into the vibrant, cosmopolitan city it is today.

“The E&O Hotel is a living testament to Penang's enduring role as a maritime trading hub and global connector since the 19th century, a role that continues to define who we are today,” Chow said.

Among those present were Penang Tourism and Creative Economy Committee chairman Wong Hon Wai, Penang Agrotechnology, Food Security and Cooperative Development Committee chairman Fahmi Zainol, the acting Chinese consul-general in Penang Madam Ding Qiao, Kerjaya Prospek Group Bhd chairman Datuk Seri Tee Eng Ho, E&O Berhad (development and construction) director Michael Tan and

E&O Hotel general manager Alison Fraser.

Chow also highlighted that what truly distinguishes the E&O is not only its architecture or longevity but the people who have kept its spirit alive through generations.

“The warmth, professionalism, and dedication of its staff, past and present, are what have sustained this hotel’s legacy.

“Every smile at the lobby and every thoughtful gesture at the table tells a story of pride and tradition passed down through time,” Chow said.

He also extended his heartfelt appreciation to the hotel’s management and employees.

“Thank you for carrying forward this proud legacy with grace, warmth, and excellence.

“May the E&O Hotel continue to shine as a beacon of heritage and hospitality, welcoming future generations of travellers to our shores, reminding the world that Penang will always be a place where history and heart meet,” he concluded.

Meanwhile, Fraser, who proudly stands as the hotel’s first female general manager, said it was a great honour to lead the hotel at such a momentous time.



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“As the current custodian of this iconic property, I am truly proud to be part of its incredible journey.

“Thank you all for your unwavering support and for being such an important part of our story. I look forward to working with the dedicated E&O team to ensure the enduring elegance and preeminent style of this heritage icon continue to thrive,” she said.

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