

E&O Hotel welcomes Christmas with annual tree-lighting ceremony



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GEORGE TOWN: Adorned with festive ornaments and fairy lights, the grand Christmas tree at the Eastern and Oriental Hotel (E&O) is an enthralling sight.

The 6m-tall tree stands in the heart of the hotel's Heritage Wing lobby, welcoming guests as they arrive at the grande dame of hotels.

The hotel's annual Christmas tree-lighting ceremony, a tradition since 2003, was a merry affair this year as it coincided with the hotel's 140th anniversary, marking a season of reflection, gratitude and enduring heritage.

The mini celebration, held to usher in the start of the Christmas season, took place on Dec 1.

Guests gathered around the tree in anticipation of the official lighting ceremony. The tradition is considered a symbolic gesture to welcome the festive season.



In attendance were hotel guests, the expatriate community, corporate partners and staff, who enjoyed an evening of drinks and festive canapés, including Lobster Louie, Spiced Prawn Croquettes, mince pies and traditional fruitcake.

The atmosphere was elevated by the Penang Island Chorus, whose melodious carols filled the grand lobby with holiday cheer.



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As the lights sparkled and the carols filled the air, the evening captured the spirit of the season, blending nostalgia, warmth and new beginnings.



Hotel general manager Alison Fraser said Christmas at the E&O had always been a time of joy, gratitude and togetherness.

“As we celebrate 140 years of heritage and hospitality, we are deeply thankful for the continued support of our guests and community.

“This tree lighting is not just a festive tradition but a heartfelt reminder of how far we have come as well as a celebration of the bright year ahead,” she said.