

PM declares Johor Chingay procession a cultural heritage

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JOHOR BARU: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has declared the annual Johor Chingay procession as a national cultural heritage.

The parade, that traces its origin to a float decorating competition held in Penang back in 1905, later spread to other parts of the country in the 1960s and was eventually associated with the Chinese New Year celebrations.

It is said to have united the Chinese community for the last 148 years.

At the event here tonight, Najib presented the National Chingay Heritage certificate to Johor Baru Tiong Hua Federation's president Lim Ik Kim as official recognition of the event.

Among those present included the Prime Minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, Tourism Minister Datuk Ng Yen Yen and MCA president Datuk Dr Chua Soi Lek.

The Johor Baru Tiong Hua federation manages the Johor Ku Miao (Johor Ancient Temple) and is assisted by five clans representing the Teochew, Hainanese, Hokkien, Hakka and Cantonese communities.

The Johor Ancient Temple was officiated by the late Sultan of Johor, Sultan Abu Bakar in 1870.

Besides the colour float parade, guests and more than 200,000 people attending the event were entertained with 'Eng Kor' dance from Shan Tou city of China and lion dance from Muar's Kuan Seng Kong Association.

The Johor Chingay parade also attracted floats from Singapore, Hong Kong, China and Japan.

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