

# THE CAUSEWAY



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This coffee-table book highlights the close social, economic and political links between Singapore and Malaysia through the history of the Causeway. Close to 240 images - which include photographs, maps, newspaper articles and archival documents - tell the human story behind the building of the Causeway and the people who use it, demonstrating the Causeway's role as a people connector between the two nations. This book is another milestone in the close relationship and collaboration between the National Archives of Malaysia and the National Archives of Singapore, following their successful joint publication-cum-exhibition in 2004 entitled *Reminiscences of The Straits Settlements Through Postcards*.







# THE CAUSEWAY



NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF MALAYSIA



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# MESSAGE



A handwritten signature in black ink, written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

*Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun  
Abdul Razak  
Prime Minister of Malaysia*

The bonds of friendship between Malaysia and Singapore are more than merely of that between neighbouring countries. Various trials and tribulations faced in the past have always been confronted with an abundance of resolve and tolerance based on the principle of sincerity and high aspirations of unity. The Causeway is a landmark which is not merely a bridge linking two nations but rather a testimony of the manner and reasons why both nations mutually need each other.

The Causeway is a meaningful link in the ties between two countries who are neighbours. Although it has been in existence for almost 86 years, its sound construction has ensured its continued use till this day. The cooperation extended by both nations in efforts to recognise this historical structure has made the Causeway a symbol as well as an expression of appreciation which possesses its very own significance. The publication of this book, which has documented all available information on the Causeway for reference by future generations, will hopefully make them realise the significance of the Causeway to Malaysia and Singapore.

In the face of possible challenges in the future, the Causeway will continue to be a symbol of the friendship between Malaysia and Singapore. May all of us be able to perceive how unique and fortunate it is for both nations to be linked by a Causeway whose very robustness is matched by the equally strong and close relations between the two nations.

# MESSAGE



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lee Hsien Loong". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

*Lee Hsien Loong*  
Prime Minister of Singapore

Singapore and Malaysia enjoy a long-standing, close and multi-faceted relationship. We are bound by common history as well as deep and abiding ties. Once a single society under British rule, our peoples still have similar cultures and share many family ties. Since Singapore and Malaysia became two countries, both sides have strived to build a constructive, mutually beneficial and forward-looking relationship, focussing on the possibilities of win-win cooperation.

The Causeway is a physical embodiment of the institutional and personal bonds between our nations and peoples. Tens of thousands make the journey across the Causeway each day, to work or study, to visit relatives or friends, or to enjoy the charms of each other's country. But the Causeway is more than a conduit for the movement of goods and people from one country to the other; it is also an enduring symbol of our historical ties and linked destinies.

This book documents the genesis and noteworthy moments of this key link between Singapore and Malaysia. I hope it will help readers to better appreciate the significance of the Causeway and more importantly, how much both countries benefit from the close ties that we enjoy.

# FOREWORD



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rais Yatim'.

*Dato' Seri Utama Dr Rais Yatim  
Minister of Information, Communications  
and Culture, Malaysia*

The genesis of this book started in earnest out of a brief proposal I had mentioned to my esteemed colleague, His Excellency Mr George Yeo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore sometime in early 2008 while I was then his counterpart in Malaysia. The idea was broached during one of the several interactions on subjects relating to Malaysia-Singapore relations. Mr Yeo, an ardent fan of history and culture himself, unequivocally agreed for the relevant department in Singapore to cooperate with its Malaysian counterpart to take ownership of the project. For this, our respective National Archives have been working jointly to produce this volume. With further input and encouragement from my colleague, Mr Lui Tuck Yew, the project is poised to be more significant.

The book traces the history of the building of the Causeway that took place some nine decades ago. By focusing on materials available in the archives of both countries, the book can be regarded as an exclusive publication and in a class of its own.

Time has proven that the Causeway continues to be the main physical link between the peoples of both nations, who have all these years shared multiple aspects of their lives, not to mention their history and culture. The bond is further strengthened by a tolerant disposition and spirit of interaction towards each other. In one cardinal sense, the Causeway has always been the umbilical cord that binds Malaysia and Singapore, nourishing in turn social and economic benefits for both countries.

It is hoped that this publication on the historic Causeway will be a much sought-after reference material for all who treat history as an ambit of civilisation. That long bridge linking both shores will always be a tangible reminder of what we were and what will be for the future.

My heartfelt appreciation and congratulations to both the National Archives of Malaysia and the National Archives of Singapore on a job well done in producing this excellent volume.