



## 23rd Joint Conference 2011 Info & Background

### Sun Yat Sen and Soong Ching Ling Memorials Worldwide

Since 2005, the Sun Yat Sen Penang Base has participated in the annual Joint Conference of Sun Yat Sen and Soong Ching Ling Memorials. Represented by Ms. Goh Mai Loon, the Sun Yat Sen Penang Base has had the unique privilege of becoming the first Malaysian participant of the Joint Conference.

During the 2008 annual conference in Fuzhou, the delegates of the Joint Conference (including those from Singapore and Taiwan) unanimously agreed to hold the next conference in Penang in 2010. They also unanimously appointed Sun Yat Sen Penang Base, currently the only Malaysian member of the network, as the host of this upcoming event. This was reconfirmed at the 21st Joint Conference of the Sun Yat Sen and Soong Ching Ling Memorials held in Beijing in May 2009.

In 2011, the 23rd Joint Conference was held in the Chung-Shan building in Taiwan. In the following year, the Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall in Singapore took over the international conference: it was organized as a three-day event.

The conference invited over 70 representatives from various Sun Yat Sen and Soong Ching Ling Museums all over the world to share on respective museums' programmes and to discuss on possible collaborations in the near future. Ms Josephine Teo, Minister of State for Finance and Transport, was the Guest-of-Honour for the event held at Grand Park City Hall.

The Conference provided an invaluable opportunity for the Memorial Hall to engage with our international partners.

– Source: 'Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall' website

The event was renewed in 2013 in Wuhan, China.

### Beginnings

The Joint Conference of the Sun Yat Sen and Soong Ching Ling Memorials was originally called the Alliance of Sun Yat Sen and Soong Ching Ling Memorials. It is an annual joint working conference, founded in 1989, for China and overseas organizations related to Sun Yat Sen and Soong Ching Ling memorials and sites.

From the mid-1980s, after China opened up its political, social and economic development to the world, there was a tremendous increase of international visitors, especially the overseas Chinese, to Sun Yat Sen and Soong Ching Ling memorial sites in China. In order to adjust to this trend, each Sun Yat Sen and Soong Ching Ling memorial site gradually increased its contents and layers of development. For example, the 'Shanghai Former Residences of Sun Yat Sen and Soong Ching Ling', formerly only open for small-scale internal tours, expanded its operation in 1988 in order to cater to large public tour groups. In the meantime, it started to have a development program, including the set-up of publicity team, the building of a museum, archives centre etc. In order to facilitate the development of the Sun Yat Sen and Soong Ching Ling memorials, each memorial site started to initiate some exchange and cooperation. In 1988, a formal network was established to further promote and enhance the development of professional exchange between Sun Yat Sen and Soong Ching Ling memorial sites.

In February 1988, the Shanghai Sun Yat Sen and Soong Ching Ling Heritage Management Committee, sub-committee of the Management of Mausoleum of Soong Ching Ling, together with the Nanjing Mausoleum of Sun Yat Sen, started to prepare the Alliance of Sun Yat Sen and Soong Ching Ling Memorial Sites. After that, the Nanjing Mausoleum of Sun Yat Sen sent letters to all Sun Yat Sen and Soong Ching Ling memorial sites to seek their opinions, and received majority approval. Shanghai and Nanjing also sent representatives to consult with Guangdong Province Cuihen Village Sun Yat Sen Museum. Finally in May 1989, the Nanjing Mausoleum of Sun Yat Sen organized the first Alliance of Sun Yat Sen and Soong Ching Ling Memorial sites.

Today, the Sun Yat Sen and Soong Ching Ling Memorial Joint Conference is a major event hosted in different cities annually, and participated by representatives of major museums and memorial sites, of China and overseas.