



Publication: TODAY

Date: Apr 26 2008

Headline: Peranakan Museum making a splash



WEETECK HIAN

## ZUL OTHMAN

[zul@mediacorp.com.sg](mailto:zul@mediacorp.com.sg)

It may still be early days but the newly-opened Peranakan Museum is already making a "small splash" internationally.

This was Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's take on the new cultural landmark located at Armenian Street.

Speaking at the gallery's opening on Friday night, Mr Lee said proof of this splash was evident in the "good write-up" featured in the *International Herald Tribune* on Wednesday.

Describing Peranakan culture as "colourful and elaborate", the article

also details the museum's efforts to depict the community's way of life as authentically as possible.

Such international recognition is important, said Mr Lee, because Singapore cannot just be an economic marketplace if it wants to stand out as a truly distinctive global city.

"Indeed, the world is noticing – media articles and analyst reports are describing how vibrant Singapore has become, and what an attractive place it is to live in," he added.

The museum, located within the three-storey building formerly occupied by the Asian Civilisations Museum, touts itself as the first museum in the world to look at the

Peranakan cultures in the former Straits Settlements of Singapore, Malacca and Penang.

Mr Lee said that the new museum is also a precursor of good things to come: In a few years' time, arts and heritage fans can look forward to the National Art Gallery. All of these will generate significant economic spin-offs and will also lead to the development of our own creative industries.

Mr Lee added: "But more importantly, it will provide Singaporeans with a rich cultural life, nurture the sense of pride in our heritage and history and strengthen our identity as a nation."