

**The Integration and Institutionalization of Chinese Migration Communities in  
Colonial Singapore: A Perspective From Inscriptions and documents**

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The Hok Tek Chi Loke Yah Teng was established as a new communal organization during the early period in 1819 when Chinese communities in Singapore were characterized by bang divisions and interaction among themselves. It is still active today. During the colonial period of Singapore, the Hok Tek Chi Loke Yah Teng was a temple and burial ground management organization which dealt with the faith, burying after death and sacrificial rites of Guang and Ke bang migrant groups, as well as served as the highest joint front of 11 regional organizations representing Guang and Ke bang migrants, responsible for the commitment of unity, cohesion and integration between these two communal groups. This article attempts to make use of various inscription and written documents of tablet inscriptions, accounts books, minutes of meetings and constitutions which the organization preserved, to do a focal discussion on how the Hok Tek Chi Loke Yah Teng was functioning with these Chinese cultural resources during the period from 1824 to 1927 so as to go through the historical process of a century of communal integration and organizational structural institutionalization under the social networks of the colonial period in Singapore. The studies of this article show that migrants from southern China who were going to Southeast Asia during the colonial period had experienced a process of depending on Chinese cultural resources of their ancestral native places to rebuild their social structures and cultural formations within their local social networks in Southeast Asia. Nevertheless, in this historical process, the communal integration and Chinese organizational structural institutionalization of migrants from the Min (Fujian) and Yue (Guangdong) regions of southern China was one of the most fundamental and essential substances for building up a Southeast Asian Chinese society. The centenary development and evolution of the Hok Tek Chi Loke Yah Ting provides a valuable case study of academic research on the investigation into the history of Chinese in Southeast Asia.