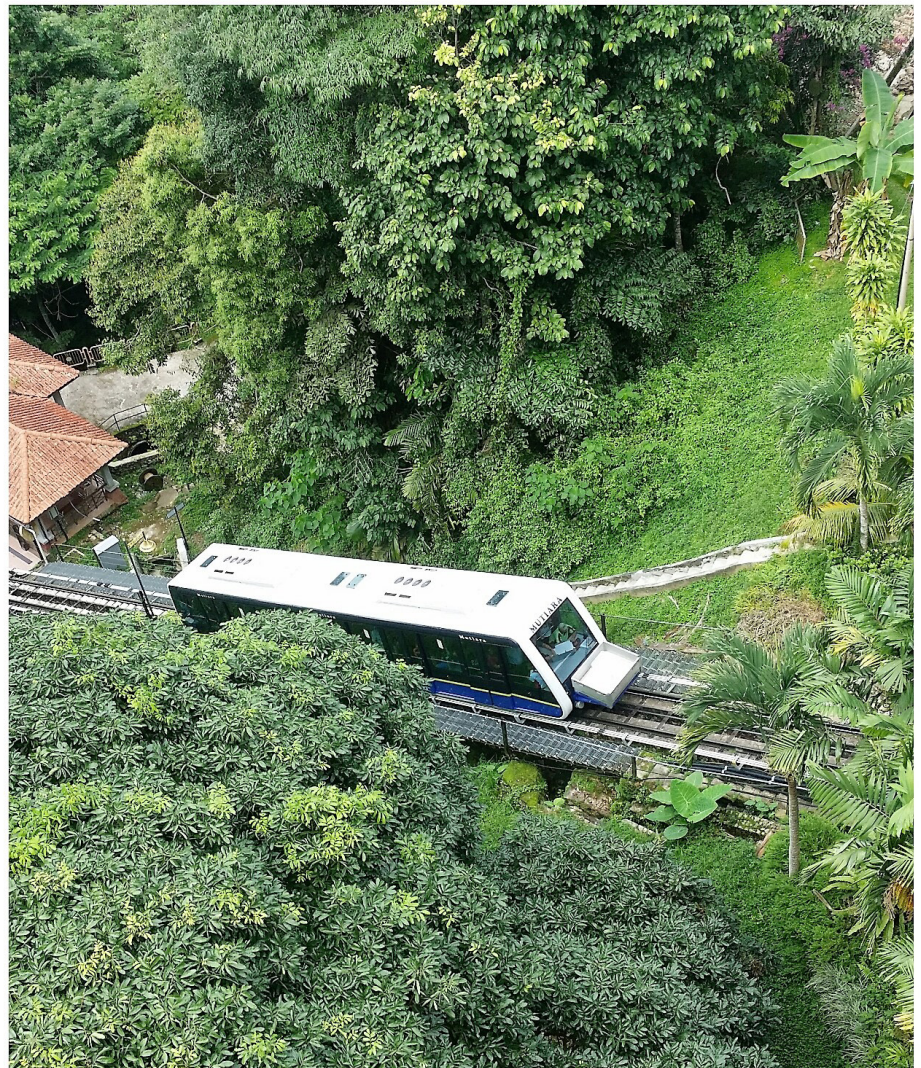




NEW PENANG HILL RAILWAY



The funicular Penang Hill Railway, designed by Arnold R. Johnson, an engineer with the Federated Malay States, started operations on 1 January, 1924, with 4 wooden carriages. In 1977, these were upgraded to 2 red coaches equipped with fans and automatic sliding doors.

After a series of breakdowns, the railway was closed on 22 February, 2010, for a complete overhaul. New tracks were laid and 2 Swiss-made coaches weighing 14,500kg with a payload of 7,500kg each, were

introduced. The coaches, equipped with modern air-conditioned system, can carry 100 passengers each and are powered by a 710kW electric motor. They are connected to a haul rope with a diameter of 38 mm which provides maximum traction speed of 10 m/s.

The railway service resumed full operations on 25 April, 2011. The railway line cuts through a steep tunnel and lush green vegetation, allowing passengers to enjoy the clean environment of Mother Nature. ■