



From the Communications Team.....

Dear Members,

Wow, it is hard to believe that the MCG is celebrating its 35th Anniversary this year. Not bad for an association that is run totally by Members for Members. Please consider what you can do to help the MCG move on to its next 35 years and beyond. The important positions of President, Vice President and Events Planning Convenor will become vacant shortly after the AGM. There also other ways you can help the group, offer to do a review or take photos at event for the group's Facebook page, Newsletter and Website. The Events Planning team are also looking for new members

Michelle Pease

Save the date...

The Malaysian Culture Group has been in existence since 1983. The group was set up by a group of Expatriates who wanted to learn more about the traditions and culture of the country they were living in.

To celebrate our 35th Anniversary we will be holding our 2019 AGM at Carcosa Seri Negara (originally built as the residence of the British High Commissioner of Malaya) on Thursday the 25th April. Full details will follow in the next few weeks but in the meantime PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!

Reviews...

Enak: Toriden Japanese Restaurant

Judyth Gregory Smith



Explorers: Visit to Loke Yew Mansion

Elena Mei Yun



Excursion - Chinese New Year Walking tour

Marianne Khor



Book Group 1: - The Face: Strangers on a Pier by Tash Aw

Jane Duxbury

Book Group 2: - Iran Awakening by Shirin Ebadi

Nabila Ahmad

Coming up...

Lecture: Trailblazers: British Adventurers in Malaya, a talk by Rose Gan. Wednesday, 6th March, 10.00 for a 10.30 start. To register please click [here](#)

Excursion: Half Day Workshop at FRIM, Forest Research Centre of Malaysia. Wednesday, 20th March, 8.45 for a 9.00 start. Please register via your personal Anyvite invite which will be sent out shortly.

Lecture: Building Up, Tearing Down, the Whoops factor. A lecture by Elizabeth Cardoso, President of Badan Warisan Wednesday, 17th April, 10.00 for a 10.30 start. To register please click [here](#)

President's Message

Dear MCG Members,

I hope you all had wonderful celebrations ringing in the Year of the Pig! It's hard to believe that we're nearly two months into 2019.



As many of you may know, MCG originated 35 years ago. We look forward to celebrating this milestone at the Annual General Meeting on Thursday, April 25th. And, especially excited that it will be at Carcosa Seri Negara (think Crazy Rich Asians)! Please mark your calendars now for this special event.

On another note, our committee board will have a few openings come May 1, including President and Vice President. This is a great opportunity, especially for newer members, to get involved in our exceptional organization. The committee truly works as a team, with not any one person doing all the work. Feel free to contact any of us to know more about what we do!

Best Wishes,

Jeanne

Did you know that the Malaysian Culture Group has a Facebook page? Click [here](#) to visit the MCG page.

Meet your MCG Committee



Bindhya Priesner
Secretary

Dear Members

I joined MCG as soon as I arrived, and it made my transition into a new duty station a lot easier to meet like-minded people at the monthly lectures and explore Kuala Lumpur through ENAK and Explorers. I was also lucky enough to get an opportunity through 'members corner' to share the concept of Bhutan's Gross National Happiness with our members.

I am from Bhutan. I was educated for most of my formative years in Bhutan, after high school in New Delhi, India where I majored in English literature I completed my academic studies with a M.Sc. in Health System Management (Public Health) from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

I worked for several years as development worker in Danish International Development Assistance Program followed by UNICEF as Health and Nutrition Project Officer, and in recent years as a freelance consultant.

I am married to an Austrian and we have two young men who have been an absolute highlight of our lives. One of my boys has already started University studies this past September and our younger one will be joining university coming autumn, making us empty nesters, which I am frankly dreading.

With my husband's work with UNDP and now UN, we have lived in several countries: Nepal, Bosnia i Herzegovina, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan and since 2017 summer, Malaysia. In all the countries we have lived in, I was active in international schools/

expatriate associations and have served on the board or on committees. Some of my roles were: fund raising for International Women's Association of Sarajevo, Co-Chair for British Women's Association in Bangladesh, Management and fund raising for two slum schools in Dhaka, Vice President and newsletter editor for the Diplomatic Spouses Association in Tashkent.

We as a family are outdoor oriented and love nature hikes, climbing mountains, or rock climbing. Malaysia has a lot to offer in that direction and more. We look forward to exploring as much as time allows of this beautiful and varied country.

I believe it's time to give back a little to the community by helping out in the committee. However, I am working full time since August, and might not be able to dedicate as much time. I will do my best to fulfill my obligations as MCG Secretary, and look forward to working together with the MCG committee in the coming year.

Bindhya