



From the Communications Team.....

Dear Members,

Greetings from Portugal. As I am not in K.L. at the moment Alejandra Barbosa, our Webmaster will be sending out this month's Newsletter, thank you Alejandra.

During your summer break, our Events Planning Convenor, Marianne Khor, has asked if you would please think about joining the Events Planning Team on your return to Kuala Lumpur. It's a great team but we continue to need extra hands and new ideas to organise interesting events for the MCG. If you are interested please contact Marianne at mcgklevnts@gmail.com.

Michelle Pease

Coming up...

Lecture: Ramadan, A Introduction
Wednesday, 17th May, 10.00 for a 10.30 start to register please click [here](#).

Lecture: Malaysia, How Geology forged a Nation, Wednesday, 24th May 10.00 for a 10.30 start, to register please click [here](#).

President's Message



Dear MCG Members,

I am very excited and honored to play a small role in continuing the great work of the Malaysian Culture Group as it begins its 40th year as an organization.

I have been in Malaysia for just a year but MCG has been a wonderful part of that year as I met so many wonderful people at events, Enak! lunches and through the Explorers' programs.

I am so thankful, as I know all our members are, for the hard work that our departing committee members; Pam Currie, Maryann Kobzan-Diakow, Terry Piech and Henry Gan, have put in this past year. I am also thrilled and thankful that so many wonderful committee members from last year have agreed to stay on!

We are still in need of someone to oversee Communications, someone to manage the web site (Alejandra has agreed to train someone so don't be shy!) and someone to serve as the Secretary. The Secretary's role is mandated by the government for our organization to be officially registered so please consider stepping up for this role, we have meetings just once a month and we truly do try to make them fun!

As you all know, many of our fellow expats have been leaving town the last few years and the trend doesn't seem to be slowing. We need to increase our membership to ensure that we have a vibrant and financially solvent organization so please think about how you can help bring one new member to MCG this year! Share the fun that we have and the things we learn about Malaysia, our fellow group members and ourselves.

Also, we want to know how you think we can do things better, be it improving our existing offerings or perhaps augmenting those offerings. We're working on a survey to be e-mailed to all of you soon. PLEASE take a few minutes to fill it out so your voice can be heard and if you have an idea or feedback that doesn't fit in the survey, e-mail me at president@mcgkl.org

See you at the next event!

Bryan Morytko

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

Reviews...

Lecture - Exploring Myanmar
Michelle Dye



Excursion - Gerak Geri Photography Exhibition
Ann Means



Enak - Restoran Beng Kee
Pam Currie



Explorers Out and About - Visit to Tesco Distribution Centre
Carolyn Ritchie



Meet your MCG Committee.



Vivin Sjamir
Membership Secretary

Hi everyone, apakabar?

I am Indonesian. born 46 years ago. My family is originally from Minangkabau - West Sumatra but I was born and grew up in Jakarta, where I met my husband (also from Minangkabau) while we were employed in the same company.

Working in the oil company industry dealing with Engineering, Procurement and Construction, we were involved in

many mega structure projects from drilling until construction, both offshore and onshore, for many years. This experience taught us how difficult it is to achieve goals smoothly if we are not structured and organised.

Now being a 'retired' Structural Engineer, my husband and I (he is a Chemical Process Engineer), are still partaking in the most important project together in our life - not mega structure in oil fields anymore but being a family. We have one child who is at the moment studying in Grade 11 at ISKL. This year and the next will be the hardest time for him before he enters University life.

To try a new experience, as an expatriate, my husband accepted a great offer from an oil company based in KL, we moved to Malaysia in June 2006. We stayed here for four years until 2010; then moved to Muscat, Oman for two years; and returned to KL in 2012.

From August 2006 until December 2010, I was adjusting to life in KL by joining the parent community and volunteering in most events at my son's school - ISKL Elementary Campus in Melawati. By doing that, I got a lot of information about the international school curriculum, environment, hospital, and all about living in Malaysia, especially in KL. I also gained valuable experience there; like how to be an informative room mum for all parents, be a volunteer teacher in the mini academy for elementary student for a whole semester, be part of every celebration in school, until made a buddy program for new parents so they could feel comfortable in school during their transition.

In January 2011, I did the same things when we moved to Muscat, Oman.

I straight away joined the parent community in my son's school, TAISM (The American International School of Muscat), and again, volunteering in every single event and the benefits were vast - I gained a lot more experience and knowledge. In the middle of 2011 I joined two women's international clubs whose members were mostly from the school community. I became a member of the Photography clubs in both groups, I really enjoyed that experience, of searching for wonderful scenery to photograph and discussing all the techniques that we used afterwards. I also became involved in the Events Planning Team and ended up as a webmaster for one group, all of which made my two years in Oman very fulfilling.

When I came back in KL in August 2012, I was introduced to the MCG by Ms Chin (my son's favourite art teacher in ISKL - now our Enak convenor). She said "You should join the Malaysian Cultural Group in KL if you've already settled. MCG is almost the same as your groups in Oman". Thank you very much Rosemary !! I finally joined the MCG at the Open House 2014 and became the Membership Convenor in 2015,

Please forgive me for sending the annoying reminder for paying the renewal fee every year. Especially when it is almost at due date. :)

Vivin

The MCG Committee remains steadfastly committed to ensuring that the MCG meets the needs of our members. If you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to contact any of the Committee members by email. Yours in service of Malaysian culture!