



MABC Newsletter – November, 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MABC Annual General Meeting was held on October 20th, 2007. How time flies!! We have another new term...and you have a new Board of Directors as follows:

President:	Gina Hansen
Vice President:	Stan Ghanasan
Secretary:	Luke Tham
Treasurer:	Helen Yeoh
Directors:	Patrick See Boo Jock Chong Aria Ganesan Philip Woo
Ex Officio:	Aliman Md Saad
Auditor:	Guilbert Ho
Web Master:	Azroy Kandan

This year MABC is lucky to have a few old timers (original founding members of MABC) return as well as several Board Members from last year and also new Directors.

Our trusted Secretary Luke Tham has returned as well as our Treasurer Helen Yeoh, and Patrick See is back for another term. We have had our first Directors meeting and we have lots of events planned for the New Year. Keep checking our website www.mabccanada.com for updated events as well as our regular newsletter. Coming events are now posted on our website and pictures of some of our previous events are also posted for viewing including our MABC Golf Tournament and awards Dinner, Farewell Cruise for CG Mat Dris, Organic Farm Tour, Annual General Meeting, Salmon Spawning Tour and a few pictures of my attendance at the National Day Celebrations in Kuala Lumpur on August 29th, 2007. 42 media crew from around the world were covering the event, and the Minister of Tourism recognized us as representatives from Canada.

Our website has attracted lots of out of town attention as well as greetings from regular readers in Malaysia. If you have any type of business make sure that it is listed in our Business Directory. If you wish to be a sponsor on our website we can include an advertisement and link to your website. Call me for details.

As we plan for the New Year, we do it knowing that the very foundation of MABC is you...our very important members lah!!! Our new VP Stan Ghanasan is our new Membership Director. He's working hard on a renewed membership drive and we need your help. Let's all work to keep our momentum going. Your Board works very hard, all on a voluntary basis, and our only reward is to see your participation in our events.

Let's keep MABC strong and form a unique Malaysian community here with a sense of belonging and a home away from home. If you haven't already, please renew your membership. This promises to be another fun year where we demonstrate to all our Canadian friends the Malaysian trademark of friendliness.

Your Board of Directors would also like to hear from you. Let us know what kind of events you would like us to organize and we invite your participation in joining our various Committees to help in organizing these events. The camaraderie, the networking, making new acquaintances and friends makes it all worthwhile and rewarding.

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Also our newsletter is open to all members.... send a letter to the Editor, contribute an article, your favourite Malaysian recipe, ideas or feedback or anything you may wish to share with your fellow members.

This year, we want to shift gears and not only continue our social, sports, tournaments and Makan and other events but to also form a MABC Business Development Committee. We plan to organize several business seminars/presentations this year. Topics will be diverse and educational in maximizing the benefits to our members. As these events are organized, they will be posted on our website and newsletter.

Also mark February 9th, 2008 on your calendar when MABC will host a Chinese New Year Dinner. We strongly encourage you, your family and friends to attend these coming events that promise to be enjoyable, entertaining and full of surprises.

“Selamat Hari Raya”

Hari Raya Puasa is a most significant religious celebration for all Muslims and a time that marks the end of a month of fasting. All members who attended the MABC Annual Meeting were invited to the home of Consul General Mr. Hassan Bal where he and his wife welcomed members of the local Diplomatic Corp and invited guests to an afternoon of socializing and dining from a food buffet unmistakably a reminder of a classic Malaysian Banquet.

“Selamat Hari Raya dan Maaf Zahir Batin”

“Happy Deepavali to our Indian members and friends”

Malaysian hospitality at Deepavali Open House

Every year, Hindus await the seventh month of the Tamil lunar calendar as the time when they celebrate Deepavali. The festival, known as Festival of Lights, symbolizes the triumph of good over evil, the victory of Lord Krishnan over the demon King Narahasura. Deepavali, which means “Row of Lights”, is celebrated by lighting oil lamps in homes as a victorious symbol of light over darkness. On this day, Hindus wake up at dawn, bath themselves in herbal oil, put on new clothes and say prayers.

In Malaysia, Deepavali is celebrated in a grand scale with an “Open House” concept that is unique. It sees Malaysian of all races and religions, celebrating each other’s religious and cultural festivals together. It proves that racial tolerance, understanding, respect and unity are observed and treasured in this multi-racial country. This year, Deepavali is celebrated on 9th November 2007.

MALAYSIAN SALES MISSION REPORT – by Luke Tham

The Honourable Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, Minister of Tourism - Malaysia recently headed a sales mission to the United States and Canada and held a Cultural Extravaganza Dinner at The Westin Bayshore Resort and Marina, Vancouver for the local media and travel and tourism industry players in the local region on Thurs. 13th Sept, 2007 at 6:30pm.

The Minister launched the “Sell Malaysia & Win a Trip for 2 to Malaysia Travel Agent Contest”. There was a mock traditional Malay Wedding, and Dances by the Tourism Malaysia Canada Cultural Troupe, as well as a performance by Randy Raine Reusch, founder of the Annual Rainforest Music Festival in Sarawak.

The Minister honoured the Travel Industry by presenting appreciation plaques to Tour Agents and Operators.

The Minister encouraged more Canadians to come to Malaysia due to the good exchange rate, great shopping experience and its exotic Malaysian cuisine. He reported that during the period from January to June 2007, there were 24,811 visitors from Canada showing a growth increase of 28.6 per cent compared to the same period in 2006.

MABC Directors: Luke Tham, Robin Lau, Helen Leong and Gerald Lau were in attendance.

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MALAYSIA FESTIVAL EVENTS – NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2007

November 2 – 29th, 2007 Malaysia International Festival

The country's premier gastronomic event, the annual Malaysia International Gourmet Festival (MIGF) brings to the limelight some of the world's best chefs who make their home in Malaysia. For about a month, Malaysia's finest restaurants offer exclusive menu promotions and events that will tempt the most discerning connoisseurs. More information at www.migf.com

Deepavali Celebration and Open House 11 November 2007

Hindus celebrate Deepavali or the Festival of Lights in recognition of the triumph of good over evil. More information at www.heritage.gov.my

Malaysia A1 Grand Prix (Grand Prix of Nations) 23 – 25th, November 2007

Truly a treat for race enthusiasts, this event at Sepang International Circuit brings together some of the finest drivers in the world. Double frontage grand stands offer a spectacular view of this exciting event. More information at www.malaysiangp.com.my

Malaysia International Fashion Week 1 – 30th November 2007

www.m-ifa.com www.m-ifw.com

Christmas Celebration and Open House 29th December 2007

The Christmas spirit is very much alive and made merrier with the tropical warmth and welcoming nature of Malaysians. Like their brethren around the world, Malaysian Christians attend midnight masses and services, hold family dinners and exchange gifts. Visitors will find ample restaurants, hotels with special events planned for the occasion.

www.heritage.gov.my

Orphan's Christmas Get Together

If you can't get home for Christmas and still in Vancouver then I'm organizing an "Old Fashioned Canadian Christmas Get Together".

December 24th – Get Together for a Traditional Potluck Canadian Christmas Dinner, Turkey with all the trimmings. Turkey will be provided and the rest will be a Traditional Potluck.

December 15th – We'll have a get together for decorating the Christmas Tree.

Interested contact Gina 604-306-1956.

MALAYSIA'S NATIONAL FLOWER



The National Flower of Malaysia is the Bunga Raya "Hibiscus" and has been adopted as the logo for the MABC.

The hibiscus *Rosa Sinensis* is aptly humble, found throughout the country, is striking and strong. It was chosen to be the National flower by the first Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman.

The 5 petals of the hibiscus symbolize the Rukunegara (Five Principles of Nationhood) and the red colour symbolizes courage. In Malaysia the hibiscus is a hardy plant and flowers all year round. Here in Canada, hibiscus is perennial, blooming in summer. It requires full sun and is an easy plant to care for. Include it in your plants at home as it gives both beauty and memories of home!

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TRAVEL CORNER – by Gina Hansen

Make sure to visit Kinabalu National Park your next trip to Malaysia. Found 138km from Kota Kinabalu, capital of Sabah where Mt. Kinabalu is located, the highest mountain in S.E. Asia. This distinction has earned it considerable attention in myth and legend as well as in geography. The mountain has for most of history been revered as a sacred spot. Within this area is found some of the richest flora in the world. It peaks at 4,101 meters.

Flaura Fauna, the largest flower in the world grows there. Its giant red blossom, the Rafflesia can grow to over 170cm in diameter. More than 250 rare bird varieties have been recorded there.

It is an area for mountain climbing, photography, animal watching and jungle trekking. When I balik kampung recently, my daughter challenged me to go back in June 2008 as she and her friends are planning to climb Mt. Kinabalu.

I recently read a blog entry by a celebrity blogger, Keeny Siu, on his recent expedition up the mountain. The expenses for the trip are affordable. A guide, a porter and park fees is only RM70 per person with a stay at Labab Raa rest home only RM50. The only other expenses is the plane ticket to Kota Kinabalu and a night stay in a hotel on arrival and to extend your stay a few days to enjoy beautiful Kota Kinabalu. Well within everyone's budget, given the new exchange rates for our Canadian dollar.

I plan to take my daughter's challenge...of course after some physical preparation.... and I would like to invite anyone interested to join us. Malaysia is becoming more and more popular as the international destination to travel to....for unique mouth watering cuisines... lovely scenic beaches, lush forests, shopping, golf, resorts and more. The local office of Tourism Malaysia has a fabulous collection of colourful travel brochures. Drop by their offices and pick some up and pass them along to your friends.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL ANNOUNCEMENT - The local Malaysian Community was saddened with the news of the sudden passing of Chris Tham, Age 32, son of Luke and Cecilia Tham. Funeral services were held on Friday October 19th, 2007.

CONGRATULATIONS to Linda and Rahman on their assuming the operation and management of Seri Malaysia Restaurant, 2327 East Hastings St, Vancouver. Visit them for the very best in local authentic Malaysian cuisine.

CONGRATUATIONS to our Vice Consul Mr. Aliman Mohd Saad and his wife who now have a new Canadian baby girl born November 1, 2007.



Directors for 2007 – 2008

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The Malaysian Association of BC (MABC) was founded in January 2002 to promote Malaysia to Canadians and to bring together Malaysians living in BC through educational, economic, social & cultural activities.

Your MABC Board of Directors for 2007-2008 are:

Name	Telephone #	Email Address:	Occupation	Where from:	MABC Responsibility
President:					
Gina Quah Hansen	604 306 1956	gina@sunclubtravel.com	Owner, SunClub Travel	Penang	Everything: Special Projects/Editor
Vice-President:					
Stan Ghanasan	604 326 0022	ghanason@shaw.ca	Retired	KL	Everything too: Special Events/Membership
Secretary:					
Luke Tham	604 781 8988	luke_tham@hotmail.com	Owner, Bridgeport Post Office	Ipoh	Secretary/Building Fund
Treasurer:					
Helen Yeoh Leong	604 942 6966	helenyeoh23@hotmail.com	Homemaker	KL	Treasurer/Social
Directors:					
Patrick See	778 895 8168	patricksee@canada.com	Realtor	Cameron Highlands	Sports
Boo Jock Chong	604 724 5625	cebejay@gmail.com	Businessman	Penang	Special Projects, Golf, Business Development
Aria Ganesan	604 924 5490	aganesan@shaw.ca	Retired	KL	Director At Large
Philip Woo	778 668 5772	philipwoo@shaw.ca	Land Project Development, Consultant		Special Projects, Fund Raising, Building Fund
Ex Officio:					
Aliman Mohd Saad	604 685 9550	mwvcouvr@axion.net	Vice Consul		
Auditor:					
Guilbert Ho	604 926 4642	guilbertho@shaw.ca	Businessman		
Web Master:					
Azroy Kandan	604 222 1411	gokun2@gmail.com	Java Developer	Petaling Jaya	

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