



The Malaysian Culture Group



From the communications team.....

Another new member joins the team! Comings and goings. Hellos and goodbyes. This is the nature of expat life. Transition and change we know only too well. Away from home, we are lucky to meet people from all over the world, who then become our best support system! Together we try to grasp the basics of a new language, experiment with fabulous new flavours and are exposed to a whole new culture. The bonds that are formed stretch across continents and spread over years. And the world becomes a smaller place!

I am an Indian who has moved from Indonesia to Malaysia. Similar, some would say, but still different. I look forward to discovering all the similarities and all the differences too, with members from the MCG! I feel blessed to have been granted this remarkable opportunity.

Reeta Chopra

President's Message



Dear MCG members,

MCG Ahead



Reflection is an often a forgotten source of energy. I treasure the moments that my wife and I stand still on the mountain trek, look back and enjoy together the view. This feeling of achievement makes us forget how tired we feel. It is also the moment to take the compass

and map, to check the weather and decide together where to go next.

MCG Ahead is a similar reflection. As a committee we review what is going well and what can be improved keeping member satisfaction as the main purpose of MCG. We discuss what has changed in the environment and what we can learn from others. Then we decide which actions we will take going forward. Past experience has shown that this process worked well. Anyvite, new audio equipment in the Meritz and better team bonding in the Committee are examples of earlier results.

We ask you as a member to support the MCG Ahead reflection by responding to a member survey that will take about 10 minutes. We will use the online tool called Survey Monkey. The results will be summarized and shared in one of the President's next messages. Our Member Secretary will ensure that personal information is kept confidential. No names will be shared in the MCG Ahead discussions.

Another opportunity for participating in MCG Ahead is to join the discussion. Every member is welcome. The MCG Ahead meetings will be held on two mornings. The first one is on Wednesday 28th October, 2015, 9 am – Noon, in the KLCC area.

Changes in the Committee:

The recession in the oil industry is also affecting MCG. Our Treasurer, Debbie Ferguson, has had to leave Kuala Lumpur unexpectedly. We would like to thank her for her quality work as Treasurer and for her great support in organizing activities like the Open House. We wish her all the best.

We need a successor urgently. For the time being I will take care of this job.

The challenge to fill vacancies at the 34th AGM on 6th April 2016 has become bigger:

President, Vice President, Treasurer; these roles need to be filled in, else MCG will have to close down according the rules of the Registry of Societies.

We also need to fill the roles of Events Convener, Explorers Convener, Communications Convener and Systems Administrator.

I can hear members thinking: no worries, every year it is the same story! Last year, Amita and I decided at the last minute to take up one more year to prevent MCG from closing down. This year we will not do so. We do not want the 34th AGM to be the last one. But we are preparing for this scenario as Plan B.

I really hope that we all together go for plan A: MCG Ahead with full energy. Do contact me if you are interested in supporting the continuity of MCG or know other members who maybe interested, but are hesitant to come forward. A summary of the roles is described below.

Enjoy the wide range of MCG activities!

Alexius

Coming up...

Lecture: Sarees Lecture and Demonstration
October 29 ~ 10:00 a.m. ~ [The Meritz](http://mcgevents.anyvite.com/zhug7yiqj1)
<http://mcgevents.anyvite.com/zhug7yiqj1>

Excursion: Deepavali celebration
(members only)
November 4 ~ 9.30 a.m. ~ Temple of Fine Arts
<http://mcgevents.anyvite.com/pmhvp101oa>

Lecture: Splitting a Dato from a Datuk, Malaysian Names & Titles
November 8 ~ 10:00 a.m. ~ [The Meritz](http://mcgevents.anyvite.com/1qmkhmbqip)
<http://mcgevents.anyvite.com/1qmkhmbqip>

Lecture: A Call To Travel: Muslim Odysseys
November 26 ~ 10 a.m. ~ [The Meritz](http://mcgevents.anyvite.com/cxnxlgcfhp)
<http://mcgevents.anyvite.com/cxnxlgcfhp>

Lecture: "Wild Things", Nick Fuller will talk about his recently published book.
December 2 ~ 10:00 a.m. ~ [The Meritz](http://mcgevents.anyvite.com/dl0os2b5ia)
<http://mcgevents.anyvite.com/dl0os2b5ia>

Reviews...

Available on our website www.mcgkl.org homepage by clicking the 'News and Current Reviews' button

Lecture - His Stories of Kuala Lumpur, Dato'Ar. Haji Hajeedar Abd. Majid - Anjeeta Nayar



Lecture - Malayan Memories: Life in a Multi-cultural Malaysia and the Transition to Modern Day Malaysia - Susan Sawyer

Excursions - MCG visit to the Islamic Arts Museum of Malaysia, Islamic Art Museum - Collete Hassan



Excursions - Tour of Tung Shin Hospital - Rande Duncan

ENAK! - Restaurant Sao Nam - Suparna Kundu



Vacant Committee Roles:

Time commitment may vary with the implementation of a new process or tool.

President

The President leads the organization and focuses on serving the interests of members. He/she chairs the MCG General and Committee meetings; oversees all organizational operations; is also responsible for organizing and hosting the Open House and is the spokesperson for the MCG. He/she presents a short activity report at each committee meeting.

Time Commitment: Two days a week (if there no vacancies in the committee).

Vice President

The Vice-President stands in for the President, if he/she is absent and also assists with other committee projects, whenever needed. The Vice President is also responsible for organizing the MCG Annual General Meeting.

Time Commitment: 1 - 2 days a month.

Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for the finances of the MCG, including recording all transactions and ensuring that all revenue, expenses and reimbursements are correctly undertaken and accounted for.

This involves a monthly reconciliation and reporting to the Committee on all financial matters and the preparation and auditing of the annual accounts. Expert support is available. Basic computer skills are required. The Treasurer prepares a financial report for each committee meeting.

Time Commitment: 1 day a week.

Events Planning Convener

The Events Planning Convener leads a dedicated team of 5-8 members responsible for the schedule over the next 3-4 months. The Convener communicates with members and ensures the smooth execution of each event. He/she holds monthly Events Planning meetings, delegates roles and responsibilities within the Events Planning Team, for each event; trains the team members in software tools and tasks based on a check list. This position requires strong coaching leadership skills and basic computer skills. The Convener gives a short report at each committee meeting.

Time Commitment: 1 - 2 days per week.

Explorers Convener

The Explorers Convener conducts a yearly Explorers orientation session to brainstorm program ideas and plan the schedule for the year. Members organize an excursion

in turn. The Convener takes ultimate responsibility for the activities. The Convener makes a short report at each committee meeting.

Time Commitment: 2 days per month.

Communications Convener

The Communications Convener leads the communications team to manage the Newsletter, Website, Facebook and external publications. The team provides up to date MCG information for members and others interested in the MCG. The Communications Convener also manages the service provider which hosts the website; ensures consistency in the messaging and regularly reviews efficient use of the media.

The Communications Convener provides a short report at each committee meeting.

Time commitment: 3 days a month.

Systems Administrator:

The Systems Administrator's responsibilities include supporting the organization with up to date software tools like MCG mail, Anyvite, Storage on Google drive, controlling the settings and passwords, reviewing their usage and organizing training and ad hoc support, whenever needed. The Systems Administrator furnishes a short report for each committee meeting.

Time Commitment: 1 day a month.

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!