



**From the communications team.....**

Dear members,

It has been another amazing year for the Malaysian Culture Group, and once again the AGM is upon us. How time flies when you're having fun!

Those who attended last year's AGM will remember the superbly delivered lecture by author and former journalist Rehman Rashid, in which he shared many fascinating insights based on his thought-provoking book, A Malaysian Journey.

This time we will be meeting at Bank Negara Museum and Art Gallery, for what promises to be an equally engaging event. Once business is concluded, we will listen to an informative lecture about collecting Malaysian art, followed by a guided tour of the captivating gallery. We will then have a chance to mingle over a delicious lunch provided by the committee.

It is often difficult to articulate the merging layers of beauty that ripple through Malaysia's extraordinary cultural diversity. But as the old saying goes: 'A picture is worth a thousand words.' So please join us for a morning of discovery through the unspoken voice of art.

We look forward to seeing you at this all important event, and would like to thank you in advance for your support in the continuing success of the MCG.

Chrissie and Iva

**Coming up...**

**MCG AGM 2016 and Lecture 13 April)**  
 This year we are fortunate to have Lucien de Guise, Director of Sasana Kijang, Museum and Art Gallery of Bank Negara, to speak to us about collecting Malaysian art.

April 13 ~ 10:00 a.m  
 Bank Negara Museum and Art Gallery  
 Sasan Kijang, 2 Jalan Dato' Onn,  
 50480 Kuala Lumpur

**Excursion: Guided tour of the "Love me in my Batik" exhibition at the Ilham Gallery**

April 20 ~ 10.00 am for 10.30 am start  
 Ilham Gallery, levels 3&5, Ilham Tower No 8,  
 Jalan Binjai  
 To reserve a space [click here](#)

**Excursion: Japanese Tea Ceremony**

April 28 ~ 10.00 am for 10.30 am start  
 The Japan Club of Kuala Lumpur  
 To reserve a space [click here](#)

**Reviews...**

**Lecture - History of Malay Sultanates**  
 Leslie Muri

**Explorers - Orang Asli village**  
 Mandy van Veen



**Book - The Narrow Road to the Deep North**  
 Marianne Khor

**Book - The Art of Hearing Heartbeats**  
 Susan Millar

**ENAK - Hanwoori restaurant**  
 Pam Currie



**President's Message**



Dear MCG members,

The decline in the oil industry is affecting many of us. Quite a few people have left KL or are relocating, others feel uncertain about the future. Looking at the MCG membership list we see a sharp drop in the number of members, a very different picture to last year. We have just learnt that our Secretary will be relocating as well, leaving yet another vacancy on the committee.

We discussed the situation at the MCG committee meeting on 17 March. Several ideas were considered as to how the MCG could effectively move forward given the limited resources available. One option emerged - to use paid assistance to support and so reduce the work load of committee members. We are financially strong enough to do so.

We would like to discuss this and any other ideas you may have to address the current situation, at the AGM on 13 April. We hope that we will find a way forward, which will need to be worked out within a few weeks after the AGM. If a solution is found within these few weeks, the current committee is happy to stay on and support the transition. If it does not materialize, the committee is forced to start the process of the dissolution of the MCG.

Let's keep the soul of MCG alive !  
 Looking forward to meeting you at the AGM.

Alexius

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**Meet a MCG member...**



Terry Piech

I am writing while the thunder and lightning crash around me, and the palm trees sway in the near-daily downpour in the tropics of Malaysia, our host country. Within this rainforest, Southeast Asian cultures have for centuries co-existed and mixed it up.

**Tell us a bit about your life before moving to KL.**

I'm also in the blend, having lived here for sixteen plus years. Originally from the USA, I've lived 'overseas,' for more than half of my life; in Belgium as a child, then with my husband in Amman, Jordan, where my daughter was born; Nairobi, Kenya where my son was born and in Malaysia now. I am a registered architect as well as a licensed high school teacher, and I worked in both capacities for over forty years in the places where I've lived with my family. Then, the wonderful crazy kids grew up and left the house. And several years later, last June, my husband and I stopped working, retired from ISKL, and started a new phase of life. I like yoga, reading, hiking up in the hills behind my home, and learning more about Malaysia, which is why I joined the MCG, where

I would like to learn more about the links between its cultures, indigenous knowledge and religious knowledge systems.

**What draws you to the MCG?**

I have two draws to the MCG. The first is that I see the country's development in every direction, devouring entire ways of life. Yet, in Malaysia and globally, the old cultures still substantially shape the stories that we tell about ourselves. So, it's important to hear them, and to understand some of the beautiful customs and art in the community in which we live. The second is on a personal level. I like the talented, bright and inspiring people whom I've met at our meetings. I have made friends and renewed older friendships. I joined the events group as a volunteer, and hope to be able to contribute to the organization.

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!