



From the communications team.....

Dear members,

Whoosh! We are already in the third month of 2016. How time flies when you are having fun! We hope you are enjoying life in bustling Kuala Lumpur and of course, attending the many events and excursions organized by MCG.

In a recent survey, Malaysia ranked among the top ten places to live and retire in 2016. While many of us have arrived in Malaysia owing to a spouse's work situation, others amongst us have in fact elected to make Malaysia 'home'.

The warm climate, friendly people, easygoing lifestyle, are just some of the country's major draws as ascertained by one of our newest members, Francien Lucas-Janssen featured in this month's 'Meet an MCG member.'

Hmm, whom should we feature next? Any takers?

Happy Easter and safe travels if you are heading out for a 'break.'

Anjeeta Nayar, Iva Petkova

Coming up...

Excursion: GUIDED TOUR OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM, KUALA LUMPUR
 March 16 ~ 10:00 a.m.
 ~ National Museum KL, Jalan Damansara
 To reserve a space click [here](#)

President's Message

Dear MCG members,

A good start to 2016

At the Committee meeting on 18th February, we were pleased to hear very positive member feedback about the first Events and Explorer Tours in 2016. The Book Groups and Enak! are growing as well. Let's cherish all these great experiences and the spirit of bonhomie they generate.



Donations
 MCG continues to remain financially very strong. We have managed to strike an ideal balance between our income and spending. As a result, our bank balance in 2015 remained healthy. The external auditors have reviewed and approved our financial books.

The Committee discussed options to donate more to those who need it. These may be underprivileged Malaysians or other groups who promote culture and arts. As we are a small organization, we prefer to align with a smaller group, define a project with visible results and feel mutually engaged. Any suggestions from members are always very welcome!

Membership 2016
 Thanks to those who have renewed their membership. Some have not done so as yet. If you want to continue to be a member, please do so at the earliest. The Membership Secretary will send you a reminder. Regrettably, those who have not paid their renewal dues by February 2016 will be eliminated from the membership list.

Committee 2016
 Some members have attended a Committee meeting as a guest to get a feel of how well we work as a team. We continue to collaborate effectively with minimum disruptions due to members' frequent travel schedules.

One member has shown interest in taking over the role of treasurer. However, we still need to fill the vacancies for posts of President, Vice-President and heads of Communications, Explorers and Events.

We remain hopeful, but only when members come forward; hope will turn into the continuity of MCG. Current and past committee members have enjoyed the teamwork, the chance to learn new things with the help of a guideline framework, which makes it easy for new people to pick up tasks.

AGM and lecture
 All members will receive an Anyvite at the end of February for the MCG AGM scheduled for the 13th of April 2016. The event will be held from 9.30am until 1 pm, with the AGM lasting approximately for half an hour. After the AGM, members will have the chance to enjoy a lecture and tour of the Arts gallery of Bank Negara, a hidden gem in KL!
 Looking forward to meeting many of you at our forthcoming events!

Alexius

Reviews...

Excursion - Welcome of the year of the Fire Monkey
 Judyth Gregory-Smith



Excursion - Thaipusam
 Anjeeta Nayar



Excursions - "Khayamiya: Kedral to Contemporary" The Tentmakers of Cairo
 Judyth Gregory-Smith

ENAK - Ampang Park Food Court
 Randee Duncan

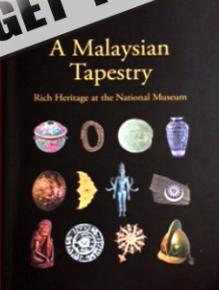


Book - Chronicle of a Corpse Bearer by Cyrus Mistry
 Margo Rosenberg

Book - Ghost Cave by Elsie Sze
 Gwen Smith

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In conjunction with their tenth anniversary, Museum Volunteers JM-M (Jabatan Muzium Malaysia or the department of museums Malaysia) has put together a compilation titled 'A Malaysian Tapestry: Rich Heritage at the National Museum.' The book showcases the stunning permanent collections of Muzium Negara.

With a spotlight on the masterpieces of the museum, items of cultural importance and other favourite exhibits, it tells the story of significant events in the history of Malaysia from pre-historic times, through classical Malay kingdoms and the colonial era, to the coming of independence.

From artefacts to colourful colonials, from traditional practices to legendary heroes, A Malaysian Tapestry guides us through the museum with an in-depth view of the development of a nation over the centuries. Handsomely illustrated with stunning photographs, paintings and sketches – many original artworks- this book provides a fascinating complement to tours and exhibitions. Whether layman, student, docent or visitor, A Malaysian Tapestry offers a fascinating insight into the rich heritage of Malaysia.

Museum Volunteer and MCG member Rose Gan will be offering this fantastic publication at a special price of RM40 at MCG events in March.

If you can't make to the events do contact Rose on email(rosemmgan@gmail.com) to book your copy.

Meet a MCG member...



If we were to pose the question 'How did you relocate to KL?' Most of our members would reply that they flew in from here and there, while some would say they drove across the border from Singapore or elsewhere in Malaysia. Not many would reply that they sailed into the country. Meet one of our newest members, the vivacious Francien Lucas-Janssen, who in fact sailed into Port Kelang all the way from Rotterdam.

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

Born and raised in The Netherlands, I immigrated with my husband 35 years ago to South Africa. Ever since then our family of four moved every three years around the world, living and working in Europe, USA, Africa and the Middle East.

We decided to finish our last assignment in Saudi Arabia in March 2015. We then travelled to Malaysia by container ship from Rotterdam, Netherlands, to Port Kelang, a journey of 28 days at sea.

So we then left behind our global corporate working lifestyle to find new meaning and goals in a mindful way.

What do you like most about living here?

As we never lived in Asia before, KL seemed to be a good starting point to see more from this part of the world. KL has many expats and international groups, making it easy for us to make friends with common interests.

My husband and I like the people, climate and the easy going life style in this lively city.

What draws you to the MCG?

I joined my first MCG event in October and became a member shortly after. I found this so interesting, meeting not only fellow expatriates, but also local people with different cultural backgrounds. I like the many interesting events the group has to offer and look forward to being an active member.

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!