



Kampong Echo

*Persatuan Rakyat Malaysia di Perancis
Association des Malaisiens en France
Malaysian Association in France*

April-May-June 2003
Vol. 2/03

Message from the President

MAF's programme for the second quarter started with a friendly badminton match between our members and UNESCO's staff, and ended with a Malaysian food fair in Veneuil. At our Easter picnic, MAF juniors stole the show. If you had seen their enthusiasm during the egg race, you will want to join us next Spring. We are quite persuaded that MAF's objectives are already being handed down to the younger generation. Next, came the Pesta Gawai celebration that fell on a wet Sunday but the excellent turnout of members was really heartwarming. So, be it rain or shine, the Malaysian spirit of wanting to forge ahead will manifest itself. For example, at the Easter event, the children were reluctant to leave in spite of a drizzle. They enjoyed being together. It also goes to show that Malaysians, regardless of their age, are indeed gregarious by nature. The prevailing spirit and the willingness to share with others are two positive Malaysian traits that must be cherished at all times like a national heritage.

The success of our activities provides clear evidence that we are progressing in this direction because by working together, we have shared out time, our efforts and our knowledge and most importantly, we have shared moments which are unique. Our diffusion of information had benefited members who had the opportunity to assist in promoting Malaysia.

I fervently hope that you will renew your ties with MAF and be involved in our "gotong royong" (mutual help). Lastly, you are most welcome to view MAF's website at www.maf.online.fr and to contact us for further information.

Wan Hua Chapouthier

UPCOMING EVENTS

National Day Family Picnic	Sunday, 31 August
Business Seminar	September/October
Deepavali Dinner	Saturday, 25 October
Hari Raya Open House	Saturday, 29 November
MAF Annual Dinner	Friday, 12 December

**All events and dates are subject to change. Please check the web site regularly or with a member of the Committee.*

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OUTGOING EVENTS

THE EASTER EGG HUNT & TAI CHI were held simultaneously at the Jardin du Luxembourg on **Sunday 27 April 2003**. Despite the overcast, both children and adults had a great time at MAF's first Easter celebration. Little Maxime Decombredet went home with the trophy for the egg race. MAF ex-officio, Tanty Edaura Abdullah, led the children to sing our National Anthem 'Negaraku' to the amusement of the early morning joggers. MAF would like to thank the PERWAKILAN ladies for the support they gave to ensure the success of both the Easter and Tai Chi events.

PESTA GAWAI (HARVEST FESTIVAL) - Some 100 MAF members turned up in their best exotic sarong despite the "monsoon" downpour in Paris on Sunday, 18 May to celebrate Pesta Gawai. MAF member Shuah Nee Pitot graced the Pesta with an explanation of the harvest festival in Sarawak (article on page 3). The pot luck competition attracted so many participants that MAF judges had a rather tough time choosing the best dishes. **SYABAS & FELICITATIONS** to all the winners below:

Savouries: 1st Prize - Salmon rolls, **Karen Debrosse**
2nd Prize - Popiah, **Kalyani Beckers**
3rd Prize - Roast Lamb, **Maria Foret**

Desserts: 1st Prize - Lemon Meringue Pie, **Daphne Tye**
2nd Prize - Kuih Koci, **Rosilnah Costilhes**
3rd Prize - Chocolate Cake, **Zaididah A Rahman**

AGONG'S BIRTHDAY RECEPTION - A perfect spring day accompanied the outdoor buffet served in the garden of Rumah Malaysia, in celebration of the SPB Yang Di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail's birthday on **Saturday, 7 June 2003**. The gracious host, H.E. Ambassador Tunku Datuk Nazihah Tunku Mohd Rus was there to receive some 300 guests at the reception.



H.E. Ambassador Tunku Datuk Nazihah receiving guests



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MALAYSIA-FRANCE NEWS

DR M ACCORDED WARM WELCOME BY CHIRAC AT ENLARGED G8 SUMMIT

The Malaysian Prime Minister, YAB Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, attended the G8 Summit that was held in Evian from June 1-3. Upon his arrival, President Chirac shook his hands and hugged him warmly. YAB Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad described the enlarged G8 Summit as useful as it provided an effective and useful dialogue between rich and developing countries. This was the first time that G8 leaders were meeting many of their counterparts from developing countries at a G8 forum.



Dr Mahathir and Chirac at the G8 Summit

PETRONAS ENTERS EUROPEAN GAS MARKET

Petronas signed an agreement in April for the acquisition of a 50% working interest and joint operatorship of the West Delta Deep Marine (WDDM) concession, offshore Egypt and a 35% interest in the Egyptian LNG (ELNG) Project from Edison of Italy for € 1.6 bn. The acquisition positions Petronas as one of the leading investors in the North African gas business, and paves its entry into the European and US Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) markets. The ELNG project comprises the development and operation of LNG liquefaction plant and related infrastructure, with 3.6 million tons per annum already contracted to Gaz de France under a 20-year take-or-pay contract. Petronas views the acquisition as an attractive opportunity for investment and value creation. With significant upstream potential, strong domestic gas market and access into Southern European and Eastern Seaboard US LNG markets, the world class integrated project provides a high quality foundation for Petronas to further develop its gas business in North Africa and the Middle East. Petronas' existing position in North African gas business includes the development of the Ahnet gas project in Algeria in partnership with Gaz de France.



Alliot-Marie with Dr Mahathir in Putrajaya

FRANCE ENHANCES MILITARY COOPERATION WITH MALAYSIA

French Defense Minister Michele Alliot-Marie visited Malaysia in May at the invitation of her Malaysian counterpart, YB Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak. MAM, as she is fondly called, was also received by YAB Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. This visit was intended at improving military cooperation between the two countries, especially in the area of technology transfer. Currently, DRB-Hicom and France's Giat are in a joint venture to manufacture mobile artillery systems, and Malaysian military personnel are also undergoing training in France. Malaysia is scheduled to receive its first French submarine in 2007, and the second the following year.

FRENCH-MALAY DICTIONARY IN CD-ROM

The second version of the French-English-Malay dictionary CD-ROM was launched in April by the French Embassy in Malaysia. In collaboration with the Asia-Europe Institute of University Malaya, the CD-ROM is the result of years of work led by Professor Saharin Yusoff (Universiti Sains Malaysia), Professor Laurent Metzger (Université de la Rochelle) and Professor Christian Boilet (Université J. Fourier). The CD-ROM has proved to be more convenient compared to the web-based dictionary, and is of better quality in terms of content and performance. This latest version is an update of the html version done in 1999, and contains new words in both French and Malay.

MAF welcomes Puan Adlina Borhan, the new Director of Tourism Malaysia to Paris. MAF will continue to provide support to promote Malaysia in France.

The block contains two logos: 'TOURISM MALAYSIA' with a red and blue graphic element, and 'Malaisie B'Asie Authentique' in a stylized script font.



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Members write – Kampong Talk

A MALAYSIAN IN PARIS *by Kamala Nagappan, Paris*

Living in Paris is a one in a million chance in a lifetime for most and I am glad to be among the lucky ones. I arrived as a fashion student and have recently completed my degree, and am in the midst of completing my thesis for my Master's. However, getting a job is a totally different ballgame. While I have been through some really tough times, I try to look at the bright side. Not having a real job has only pushed me to work harder! Paris has liberated the creative juices in me. Personally I feel everyone should try to be a student again. Life is meant to be lived to the fullest, and that means facing uncertainties. Life is about fulfilling your dreams. While I shop at the flea market, I hold on to my dreams to some day become rich and famous. I dream of going to the Sorbonne to study philosophy, although I have no idea where the funds are going to come from. So if you are a Malaysian hoping to make it to Paris, or even a Français(e) hoping to start a business in Malaysia, I hope my experience will inspire you to take that first step forward. There is nothing more exhilarating than having the mind-set of a student. It is the elixir of life.

PESTA GAWAI *by Shuah Nee Pitot, Paris*

Starting on the 1st day of June and celebrated for a week by the Iban, Bidayuh and Orang Ulu communities (referred to as the Dayak) in Sarawak, Gawai marks the transitional period between the season of rice harvesting and the new planting season. Preparation for the festival include the sprucing up of the longhouse, clearing of the ancestral gravesites, and the preparation of the rice wine "tuak", and glutinous rice "lemang". Traditional foods are generously served, the elders perform traditional rites, and everyone dresses in the traditional costume. The fascinating dance "Ngajat Lesong" is performed along with the gongs and drum beat. Dancers show off their majestic tattoos. Gawai is an occasion of merry-making and feasting.

PAINTING EXHIBITIONS IN BRITTANY

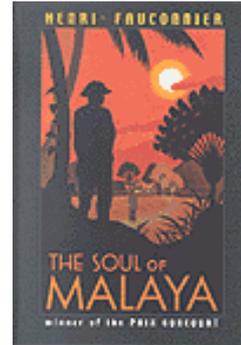
Dear MAF,

I was thrilled to receive the first MAF newsletter, "Kampong Echo". It makes me proud to be a member. My husband and I are glad to read about the activities in Paris, although we live in Brittany. I call or fax the Embassy to keep in touch "à la malaisienne". I hope other Malaysians will give the support and time to keep this newsletter going. I am holding two exhibitions as I am a self taught artist. The first exhibition will be held on the 15th of July 2003 at Prospoder, located on the west coast near Brest. The second exhibition will be on the island of Molène near the island of Ouessant on the 15th of August. Should any of you be around Brittany during that time, do not hesitate to contact me. My e-mail: josselinfer@wanadoo.fr
Shiva Fer, Brest

FRENCH MEMORIES IN MALAYSIA *by Bakhtiar Talhah*

The first recorded French presence in Malaysia (then Malaya) are the French nuns from the order of Saint-Maur, who traveled from Le Havre to Malaysia in 1850. The nuns, along with the monks of *Les Freres de la Salle*, came to build schools, orphanages and old folks homes in Singapore, Penang and Kuala Lumpur. Many of these institutions are still in existence today.

Many French men also went to Malaysia to seek fortune in plantations. Palm oil plantations started in Sumatra by Adrian Hallet, a Belgian agronomist, and was brought over to Malaysia in 1911 by a Frenchman, Henri Fauconnier, who planted the seeds at his Rantau Panjang Estate in Selangor. Along with another French man, Franck Posth, they founded the *Societe des Plantations Fauconnier & Posth*, known today as Socfin.



However, Fauconnier is best remembered for his novel "The Soul of Malaya," which won the *Prix Goncourt* in 1930. Other French authors have also been marked by their experiences in Malaysia, including Pierre Boulle whose account inspired the famous film "Bridge over the River Kwai". In the middle of the 19th century, a survivor of a shipwreck, who was an expert ship builder in Brittany, was given refuge by the Sultan of Terengganu. He worked with the local boat builders to produce new trade ships with a distinctive French influence. Another notable French man, Jacques de Morgan, lived closely with the Orang Asli and became known as "Tuan Kuat" i.e. "Strong Man." He explored the state of Perak in search of new tin veins, in exchange for his drawing of the first water distribution map of Perak. This is considered to be the first recorded map of Perak. Due to a French-Belgian association formed by Mr Bunge and Mr Grisar to develop a rubber plantation, the two men's names were contracted to create the name Bungsar Estate, which has now become the chic Bangsar!

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MALAYSIAN RESTAURANTS IN PARIS

Hello MAF ! I am the former Vice-President of the Malaysian Association in Myanmar and recently, the Malaysian Business Council of Cambodia. My family and I will be making a trip to Paris between May 29 to June 3 and would like to enquire on Malaysian restaurants in Paris. – *Malek Khair, Cambodia*
MAF: There are 2 Malaysian restaurants in Paris – Chez Foong (32, rue Frémincourt 75015 Paris – 01 45 67 36 99) and Krishni Indian Restaurant (21, rue Cail, 75010 Paris – 01 42 05 50 92)

All contributions to "Kampong Talk" can be sent by e-mail to any of the editorial board members or via mail to MAF.



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SPORTS & LEISURE

MAF Committee members envisaged sports and leisure activities as an ideal way for members living and working in Paris to regularly meet with one another. Hence, badminton was identified as a start up core activity, being the Malaysian national sport.

The first session was held on Wednesday 26th February 2003 at the UNESCO gymnasium. There were 10 badminton players who joined the session.

Since then, the activities have expanded to include table tennis, basketball, skittle, scrabble and card games. The entrance fee for all the activities is €1 for individual members and €2 for family members.



Members have even created a badminton team, which played a friendly match against the UNESCO Badminton Club. The next friendly match was against two West Paris Clubs – Maisson Laffite and Mesnil Le Roi. It was held on Sunday, 29th June at the Mesnil Le Roi gymnasium.

Contact: Chai Chia Sin (Tel: 06 81 27 33 99)
MAF Sports Committee

RECIPE OF THE DAY - Lemon meringue pie

Ingredients

4 eggs 150 gms granulated sugar
50 g icing sugar 1 lemon
75 g butter pie crust (pâte sablée)

- Preheat the oven at thermostat 6 for 15 minutes
- mix 2 eggs and 150 g of sugar, beat the mixture until almost white
- melt the butter in a sauce pan and add the lemon juice and the butter to the mixture and mix
- spread the pie crust in the mould and pour the mixture into it, and put in the oven for 30 minutes

Meanwhile, whisk 2 egg whites till stiff then add 50 g icing sugar and mix well. Spread the whipped egg white on the pie once it is cooked. You can even draw some designs on the whipped egg white before putting the pie back into the oven for another few minutes until the meringue turns slightly gold.

Daphne Tye, 1st prize for dessert at Pesta Gawai
10 years old

NEW MEMBERS

MAF would like to extend a warm welcome to new members:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Melinda Wong & Marcel Khan | Paris |
| 2. Mohd Naufal Mohd Saad | Limoges |
| 3. Faizul Azly Abu Dzubir | Paris |
| 4. Tan Tiang Chye | Paris |
| 5. Khor Jee Fei | Paris |
| 6. Sylvain Couedel | Paris |
| 7. Orla Lucky | Paris |
| 8. Stephen Anderson | Paris |
| 9. Leong Sue Loo Bee | Paris |
| 10. Norlaila Othman | Paris |

NEW CORPORATE MEMBERS

1. Madame Brigitte Perreau-Saussine - SAGEM, Paris
2. Mr. Albert Covaco - GIAT INDUSTRIES, Paris
3. Mr. J. Debourdeau - SOFRESA, Paris
4. Mr. Alain Letanoux - EADS INTERNATIONAL, Paris
5. Mr. J. Deseilligny - TECHNIP-COFELEXIP, Paris
6. Mr. Xavier Fels - PSA Peugeot Citroen, Paris
7. Mr. Cedric Costes - EUROCOPTER, Paris

MALAYSIA AIRLINES SPECIAL FARES



The special fares given to MAF members are €730 for low season and €899 for peak season. Please note that you need a letter from the Embassy to certify your MAF membership. Contact Rogayah or Halida at 01 45 53 11 85 or the Malaysia Airlines reservation office at 01 44 51 64 20

MAF COMMITTEE 2003

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Rathakrishnan Murugiah	Vice-president
Halida Nauleau	Secretary
Melissa Shee-A.Gomes	Asst. Secretary
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Benjamin Pitot

All contributions to the newsletter and suggestions on MAF activities can be sent by e-mail to any of the editorial board members or via mail to MAF.