



Kampong Echo

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

July-Aug-Sept 2003
Vol. 3/03

Message from MAF

Here we are in the 3rd edition of our very own newsletter - MAF Kampong Echo quarterly. Our newsletters have not only allowed MAF members to keep in touch with one another but also serve to keep us informed on all the activities organised by the Association. We look forward to your participation in MAF events and welcome your contribution to our segment on "Kampong Talk". For online information on our activities, please visit www.maf.online.fr

NEWS BREAK

YAB Prime Minister and YABhg Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali were in Monaco to visit the Monaco Yacht show on 26 & 27 September 2003. The Malaysian community in the South of France took the opportunity to meet with YAB Prime Minister while he was there.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Deepavali Gathering	Saturday, 25 October
Hari Raya Open House	Tuesday, 25 November or Wednesday, 26 November
MAF Annual Dinner	Friday, 12 December

**All events and dates are subject to change. Please check MAF website regularly at www.maf.online.fr or with a member of the Committee.*

Editorial Board

Halida	halida@noos.fr
Bakhtiar	fendi@alumni.princeton.edu
Affendy	fnd@fnd-fnd.com
Tye Soon Kwai	tyesk@club-internet.fr
Melissa	winter_spring76@voila.fr

SELAMAT DATANG & BIENVENUE !

MAF would like to extend a warm welcome to Defence Attaché Kaptain Musa Omar and Puan Zainun and family. We hope that our DA will enjoy his term in Paris and look forward to his active participation in MAF.

OUTGOING EVENTS

PROMOTING MALAYSIA IN VENEUIL - MAF and PERWAKILAN promoted Malaysian cuisine during the Malaysian Food Fair in Veneuil held on **Sunday, 22 June 2003**. Veneuil is about 250 km from Paris. Satay, roti canai, lamb kurma, bubur pulut hitam were some of the delicacies prepared. Raffle tickets were sold with the first prize being a return ticket to Malaysia.

ASEAN FAMILY DAY - The ASEAN annual picnic, organised by the ASEAN Paris Committee (APC) took place at the Base de Loisirs of Cergy Pontoise on **Saturday, 28 June 2003**. The objective of the event was to bring the ASEAN community together. About 350 people attended the picnic.

FAMILY DAY PICNIC - In conjunction with the 46th Merdeka Day, the annual family day picnic for Malaysians was organised by the Embassy on **Sunday, 31 August 2003**. Held at the La Muette Stadium in Paris, about 250 people attended the event. H.E. Ambassador led the singing of "Negara Ku" and other Malaysian patriotic songs. Other activities included colouring contest, sepak takraw, basketball, egg race relay, candy race, etc...



NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION - H.E. Ambassador Tunku Datuk Nazihah Tunku Mohd Rus hosted a National Day Reception on **Wednesday, 10 September 2003** at Rumah Malaysia. Among the 290 guests attending the reception were Mr. Léon Bertrand, French Secretary of State for Tourism, senior officials from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, diplomatic corps, local business personalities and Friends of Malaysia. Thirty officials from the Selangor State government, led by YB Dato' Chong Toh Eng, who were in Paris for a working visit also joined the reception. Guests were treated to Malaysian dishes and local fruit i.e. rambutan, langsung and pisang emas. An ice-carved sculpture of the Petronas Twin Tower was another highlight of the evening.





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MALAYSIA-FRANCE NEWS

Chirac Presented With World Peace Award

July 22 - President Chirac was presented with the inaugural Kuala Lumpur World Peace Award by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in July. Chirac received the award, which is initiated by the Malaysian World Peace Foundation, after an hour-long meeting with Dr Mahathir at Putrajaya. The award was in recognition of Chirac's outstanding dedication to the peaceful resolution of international conflict, courage in defence of principle and commitment to cooperation among the nations of the world. The Kuala Lumpur World Peace Award comes in the form of an inscribed trophy of Malaysian pewter and a testimonial scroll. The award, which bears no monetary endowment, will be presented annually to an individual deemed most deserving of recognition for service to the cause of peace. (*Bernama*)

Malaysia-French varsity given Cabinet go-ahead

July 31 - The Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of a Malaysia-French university in Malaysia. Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad said the matter was discussed by President Chirac with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when Chirac was in Malaysia. Tan Sri Musa said that his ministry will work with the French Embassy to set up the university, with the minister seeing the university focusing on technical education as that is among the strengths of French universities. (*The Star*)

Malik Conquers English Channel

Aug 4 - Malaysia's marathon swimmer Abdul Malik Mydin created history as the first Malaysian to swim across the English Channel. He completed his 18-hour swim at the Wissant Beach near Calais at 7.50 pm French time (3.50 am Malaysia Time) on 3 August 2003. Malik started the 32.8 km swim from the Abbots Cliff Beach in Dover the previous day. (*Bernama*)



Petronas and Gaz de France in LNG venture

Oct 3 - Petronas and its partners of Train 2 of the Egyptian LNG (ELNG) project have signed two sale and purchase agreements (SPAs) to sell the entire 3.6 million tons per year of LNG output of the train to British Gas. Train 2, which is co-owned by Petronas, BG Group, Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) and Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company (EGAS), is scheduled to start commercial operations in 2006. The buyer of the output, BG Gas Marketing, intends to initially supply the LNG to the US market, Petronas said in a statement. With the signing of the SPA, the entire LNG production output from both Train 1 and 2 of the ELNG Project has been committed to buyers. Late last year, a SPA was signed for the sale of the 3.6 million tons production output of Train 1 to Gaz de France. Train 1, whose owners are Petronas, BG Group, EGPC, EGAS and Gaz de France, is expected to come on stream in the second half of 2005. (*Asia Pulse*)

Major French Participation In LIMA 2003

Sep 17 - A high-level French delegation took part in the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace 2003 (LIMA 2003) exhibition held in September, along with more than 10 French defense companies, naval ships and aircraft. The French Embassy in Malaysia said the country's presence at the exhibition underscores its desire to establish long-term partnerships with South-East Asian nations especially Malaysia. The French official delegation was headed by the defense minister's personal envoy, Jean-Francois Thibault, and International Relations Director of the French Procurement Agency (DGA), General (Engineer) Jean-Paul Panie. France's LIMA 2003 participation stresses the quality of bilateral relations between France and Malaysia, following the recent visits by French Defense Minister Michele Alliot-Marie in May and President Chirac in July. Malaysia has recently purchased two Scorpene submarines and France has committed to provide the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) with long-term technical support and assistance, particularly the training of RMN personnel. (*The Star*)



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MALAYSIA-FRANCE NEWS

Thales Views Malaysia As A Major Market

Sep 18 - Thales Telematics Plc (Thales), a French company foresees Malaysia as a potential market for its Intelligent Vehicle Telematics System (IVTS), to be priced at RM 2,000 per unit. By using IVTS, the driver, among other things, gets to enjoy Internet access, e-mail, vehicle theft tracking, route guidance and emergency rescue services. Thales' sales and marketing director, Stephen Clark said that Malaysia was important with regards to the company's expansion program in Asia Pacific. In regard to its expansion in Malaysia, Thales has teamed up with MIGHT-METEOR Advance Manufacturing Sdn Bhd and International Wireless Technologies Sdn Bhd (IWT) in the IVTS project, which encompasses the I.Car products, parts, components and software. Chairman of MIGHT-METEOR, Tan Sri Datuk Dr Ahmad Zaharudin Idrus said that this was first step in the collaboration between the parties involved in the development, manufacturing and commercialisation of the products in Malaysia. He said the fusion of the European and Malaysian technologies in telematics was the main agenda in the strategic collaboration. (*The Star*)

THALES

Renault To Begin Local Assembly with Kangoo

Sep 3 - The Renault Kangoo and Megane 11 which are now imported into Malaysia will be locally assembled in line with a Master Agreement signed in May this year by Renault with TC Euro Cars Sdn Bhd (TCEC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Tan Chong Motor Holdings Bhd (TCMH). The start of production is planned for November 2004, according to the executive vice president of Renault, Mr Georges Douin at an event to introduce the new Kangoo and Megane 11 in Malaysia. Douin said the new Kangoo will be adapted to the Malaysian market and TCEC's sales target was 100-200 units a month in the first year of commercial production, and is expected to increase up to 5,000 units a year according to market demand and development of the export business. (*The Star*)

TAN CHONG
International



Alcatel Chooses Malaysia as Its Regional 3G Hub

Sep 4 - Alcatel will be investing more than RM 200 m over the next five years to develop Malaysia as the hub for its third-generation (3G)/mobile business in South-East Asia. The new investment would primarily be used to provide support and expertise for 3G/mobile business and develop new mobile applications, particularly for 3G communications, with local partners in Malaysia. Alcatel chose to make Malaysia its regional hub owing to the dynamism of the local mobile communications market. Alcatel began putting in resources to build its mobile business hub in Malaysia last September with the setting up in Kuala Lumpur of a 3G Reality Centre for the South-East Asian region. The company said that with a mobile penetration rate projected to reach 60% in the coming years from the current 38%, Malaysia is set to be one of the most important markets for Alcatel in South-East Asia. Malaysia is also among the first countries in the region to have issued licenses for 3G mobile services. Since the inception of its Malaysia-based Alcatel Network Systems (M) Sdn Bhd in 1992, Alcatel has invested about RM100mil in its plant in Penang. (*The Star*)



Peugeot to Join Cycle & Carriage Assembly

Sep 5 - Cycle & Carriage Automobiles Sdn Bhd plans to locally assemble Peugeot and Mazda models by early 2005 with an investment of between RM 20 m and RM 50 m for each brand. The plan is to assemble 5,000 units of Peugeot models and between 3,000 and 5,000 units of Mazda models per year. About 60% of the production would be exported to ASEAN markets while the remaining 40% would be marketed locally. At least 2% of total annual turnover would be spent on brand building for Peugeot and Mazda cars. However, the company did not disclose which Peugeot models would be locally assembled, where the assembly plant would be located or when its construction would start. Currently, Peugeot has a 1.3% local market share while Mazda has a 1.5% share in the non-national car segment. Peugeot ranks third behind Mercedes-Benz and BMW in the continental car segment. C & C Automobiles has inked a deal with Automobiles Peugeot of France for the exclusive rights to import and distribute new Peugeot vehicles in Malaysia. (*The Star*)



Cycle & Carriage began operations in 1899 as a small family-owned shop in Kuala Lumpur, selling everything from soap to simple machine parts. It soon began to sell bicycles, motorcycles and cars. The history of Cycle & Carriage is inextricably linked to the evolution of the motor car and the emergence of Malaysia as a modern nation.



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Members write – Kampong Talk

MOVING INTO THE CITY *by Grace Defosse, Paris*
Having lived in the Parisian suburbs for 7 years, we finally decided to move into the city. Not that life in the suburbs was that bad, but we wanted to be where the action is.

So here we are, in Paris, comfortably nestled in a spacious loft. We did not know a soul in our neighbourhood when we moved in. Imagine our pleasant surprise when two of our new neighbours called in to welcome us, followed by what they called “neighbourly pot lucks”. Nothing of the “chacun chez soi” that we heard so often about life in the city. However, we received a nasty note in our letterbox after a week – all because we left our dustbin outside two days earlier than we should.



We love the cosmopolitan lifestyle in Paris, where you have people from all walks of life. We go out more often now – to museums, cinemas, expositions, flea markets etc.

VANITY *by Marianne Mai, Paris*

I’m vain. There, I said it. And it’s nothing to be ashamed of either. Trust me, if you were forced kicking and screaming to go to Tioman, and allowed but **one** item for survival... choose your sunscreen.

It’s not the desire to be *kulit cerah*. On the contrary, I used to be *hitam manis*. I knew this at the age of six, when my daylight hours were spent building sandcastles under the blazing Port Dickson sun & mom would poke her head out the door & holler, “Hitam manis! Have you put on your sunscreen?”



Some Swedish friends mentioned how they were off to the French Riviera with the aim of obtaining my colour (after spending years in Europe, I have turned *kuning langsung*... if only they’d known me as *hitam manis*). Sunscreen wasn’t on their list of baggage items. Concerned, I asked if they wouldn’t rather be *putih melepak* than *sawo matang*? Their reply was simple: they just don’t see the sun enough, any opportunity is to be savoured. Besides, they’re genetically predisposed to skin cancer, and it’s just a matter of chance if they get it or not. Supposedly, sunscreen does not prevent skin cancer for those born *pucat hantu*.

MY SECOND WEDDING *by Melissa Shee .A. Gomes, Paris*

My husband Fernando and I were officially married in 2002, by the Mairie de Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray, in Normandy. It was an intimate affair, to say the least. My “second wedding” was in Malaysia, in accordance with Chinese customs and tradition. It was a great day, as we had both our immediate family members in attendance to celebrate our union. It was the first time Fernando’s family had ever been to Asia, and the first meeting between the two families since Fernando and I made it official. The “big day” saw Fernando going through the tedious time of having to “bargain” with my friends for his entrance into the bridal house. Luckily for him, he had his brother and a couple of friends to help him endure the “punishments” meted out. Unfortunately for his “aides”, it would be an unforgettable introduction to dodol !!! My friends even managed to pull one last trick on them by hiding me in a different room. Once the tea ceremony got started, everything went smoothly. Fernando had words of guidance from my relatives as to the gestures he had to make and words of respect to be uttered. My parents-in-law participated whole-heartedly in the ceremony and were immensely touched by the cultural and traditional values involved.

Courriers d’ailleurs

FRANCOPHILES IN MALAYSIA

I host an online forum for learners of French in Malaysia. It is accessible at <http://forums.delphiforums.com/eiffel/>. Many of our members are keen to know more about France, and all things associated with France. Some are also looking for business opportunities and non-profit activities in France. I hope that MAF and us could explore ideas and options we could pursue together.
– Razin Murat, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

MAF: Yes, we encourage cooperation between MAF and other organizations.

VISA REQUIREMENTS IN FRANCE

I am a Malaysian residing in the USA and I plan to visit France sometime in December. I hold a Malaysian passport. Do I require to apply for a tourist visa to enter France?
– Geeta Prabhakaran, Denver, USA

MAF: Malaysian passport holders can enter France without a visa as a tourist for a period of three months.

MALAYSIAN REGISTRATION AT THE EMBASSY

I am a Malaysian student in Paris and have been here for some time. How do I register with the Embassy, or is registration automatic as soon as I register with the MAF?
– Hui Ling, Science-Po, Paris

MAF: All Malaysians residing in France are required to register with the Embassy. All Malaysians are invited to become members of MAF.

Contributions are welcome and should be addressed to the editor at MAF, 2 bis rue Benouville, 75116 Paris. E-mail: halida@noos.fr. The editorial board reserves the right to edit for grammar and length without changing the original meaning.



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SPORTS & LEISURE

Members of the badminton club participated in the Family Day Games on 31st August. We brought some basketball and sepak takraw balls, and some even came out winners in certain events. Attendance of our weekly badminton meet is encouraging, with an average of 10 attendees. The next match will be with UNESCO team, thus we need new players for "fresh blood" and maintain the high standard of our badminton team.

Recently, table tennis and basketball have been revived and new talents discovered. The club enjoys unflinching support from a few families (and singles!), and we hope they will continue to keep this club active. Please note that, as of October, all expired pass cards for access to the UNESCO sports gymnasium, will have to be renewed.

The club has also acquired a scrabble set and plans to purchase a chess set soon. However, **we need a chess expert to give us a few lessons**. Please contact us if you are interested.

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

DARTS WORLD CUP

by Vimala Geiller, Paris

Yes, such tournament exists and the first tournament of darts was dated in 1977. Two years ago, the World Darts Federation (WDF) organised the XIII World Cup tournament in Kuala Lumpur. And this year, it was held in Epinal, France.



More than forty countries participated and the Malaysian team managed to grab the 11th place. They beat several good teams from Germany, Ireland and Canada. A big round of applause for our Malaysian team:

- Tengku Hadzali Shah
- Ravi Sandiran
- Raku Nathan Ratnam
- Anandan Tandrian
- Mr. Quah (team manager)
- Dharam Singh (the president of Malaysian Darts Federation)

England won the overall champions title while the Netherlands won the runners up title. The next world cup (2005) will be held in Perth, Australia.

NEW MEMBERS

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

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Dato' Kamal bin Darus | Cherbourg |
| 2. Florence Law | Logne |
| 3. David Arokian | Ecouen |
| 4. Tar Tharmalingam | Lyon |
| 5. Siti Asriah Remil | Paris |
| 6. Abu Dzar Kasmani | Colmar |
| 7. Abdul Rahman Ayob | Cherbourg |
| 8. Mohammad Roslan Omar | Cherbourg |
| 9. Mohd Ridzuan Hamzah | Cherbourg |
| 10. Jeffry bin Faisal | Cherbourg |
| 11. Abdullah Sani Ismail | Cherbourg |
| 12. Saiful Bahri Baharuddin | Cherbourg |
| 13. Rosli Samsudin | Cherbourg |
| 14. Azman Abdul Hamid | Cherbourg |
| 15. Sirad Ibrahim | Cherbourg |
| 16. Mohamad Mansor Saleh | Cherbourg |
| 17. Ab. Rashid Hassan | Cherbourg |
| 18. Mat Sulpie Haji Jiman | Cherbourg |
| 19. Zulkifli Abdullah | Cherbourg |
| 20. Abdul Jamal Mohd Nasir | Cherbourg |
| 21. Chang Hang Long | Vitry sur Seine |
| 22. Noor Ashikin Mohd Jidan | St Nom La Breteche |
| 23. Shazrina Thouvenel | Nancy |
| 24. Nurazimah Moulin | Draveil |
| 25. Moungi Boussetta | Fontenay le Bois |
| 26. Yap Choon Choog | Antony |
| 27. Kapt. Musa Omar | Paris |

NEW CORPORATE MEMBERS

1. Mr. Bernard Gimbert - GIMBERT SURGELES, Fleurance
2. Mr. Guy Kurdjian - DCN INTERNATIONAL, Paris
3. Mr. Philippe J Gurdjian - PHG DEVELOPPEMENT, 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

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Wan Hua Chapoutier | President |
| Tanty Edaura Abdullah | Ex-Officio |
| Rathakrishnan Murugiah | Vice-president |
| Halida Nauleau | Secretary |
| Melissa Shee-A.Gomes | Asst. Secretary |
| Rogayah Decombredet | Treasurer |

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Tye Soon Kwai | Ahmad Affendy Awalludin |
| Tommy Lee Kok Seng | Kuek Sok Kiew |
| Chia Chai Sin | Benjamin Pitot |