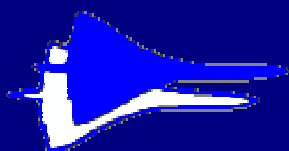


Edition 1/2006



WORLD AIRLINES CLUBS ASSOCIATION

WACA WORLD NEWS

Next AGA in Shanghai,

Metropolis of Future....



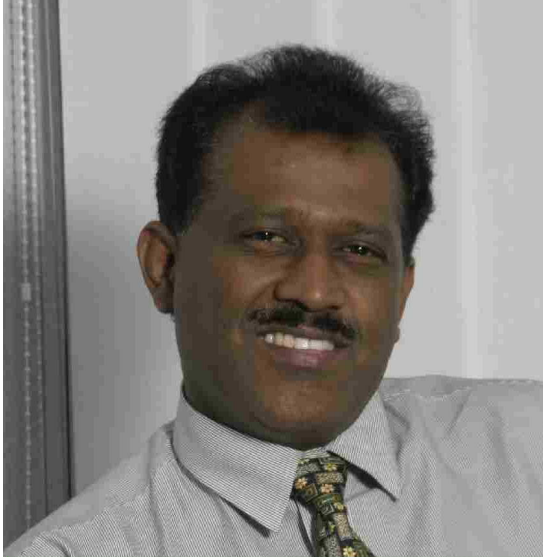
.... and millenarian traditions



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President's Message



My dear interliners

It is with great pleasure to communicate to all our readers of the WWN mainly for this first issue of the year 2006.

WACA World News is one of the communication tools, with the support of the dedicated team of the VP Public Relations, in which we are investing a lot of time to reach our objective of informing our interliners and other potential new members about what we are doing and who we are. It is also important that you share the news to your colleagues at the office as well as to other well-wishers. WWN is linking the world together.

To remain in the subject matter of communication, we have thought it wise to have an updated and reliable portal to enhance better service to our member clubs and individual interliners.

Our VP Public Relations as the team leader of the project is coming forward shortly with the final report of the project and no doubt will be an added value for each and every one whilst positioning our Association in a professional manner within the Airline Industry. I would be happy to see our WACA ID card to be linked with this project as well.

Furthermore, we have set a laudable objective this year to ensure that we have a good number of interliners traveling throughout the Globe by participating at our WACA International Events and to share our main objective in true spirit of interlining and mutual understanding amongst people coming from different part of the world with variety of cultures and customs and to participate fully in all philanthropic projects organized by hosting member clubs and/or Airline Companies to eradicate poverty throughout the World.

I am sure many of you are getting ready for our grand event in Shanghai, the 39th AGA and also for the 40th Anniversary of our Association to be held in Cape Town next year.

I can only rely on the support of each and everyone to keep our WACA always high and to bring your contribution in assisting the Executive Committee team in their task to SERVE.

Maga Ramasamy

Editorial



Dear Interliners,

This year began with much better perspectives for the airline industry and so did our Association. Our Calendar of Events shows how many of our clubs are presenting new programs, with very interesting cultural tours, sporting events and social get-togethers. Several events this Year are already completely sold out, months in advance, which has not happened for many, many years. Congratulations to the organisers for their outstanding performance. We know what hard work this is!

Following this positive trend of the member clubs, WACA is also improving the products for interliners, investing in better communications and following our vision to be a recognized international organization. Our new "Grand Venture Bonanza" is a great success. This combination of the old WACA Raffle and the WACA Grand Venture has been very well accepted by our membership and the list of prizes for the raffles has increased a lot compared to the last few years.

Our AGA in October and the four Pre- and Post-AGA tours will bring around 430 interliners to Shanghai for the first time, where an interesting and diversified program, carefully organized by the Hong Kong Interline Club is waiting for us. Shanghai, the largest industrial city in China, and known as "the Oriental Paris", is also a shopper's paradise. A very hard situation for lot of us interliners! Many of our clubs are presently promoting theme evenings about China and their members are becoming well prepared to visit this big country, where the people and their culture is still unknown to most of us.

When this first edition of the WWN in 2006 reaches you, most of the Regional Meetings wil already have taken place. Let me know about your experiences during these meetings, at your clubs local events and on the several international tours. Send me photos from these events, to enable me to share your experiences within the WACA Family and the Interline Community worldwide.

Yours in Interlining
Rosemarie Mamede
VP Public Relations

Wedding Bells in Washington



Ann Lenahan and Peter Gritis invited interliners to Washington to celebrate their recent marriage. Pictured here are the happy couple with their interline friends: Stan Fafoutis, Roger Sutton, Patricia and Heinz Fuhr, Roy Guiver, Arthur Pickford, Nuala Boardman and Chris Orton who traveled to Washington for the celebrations, along with Kathy Ferguson, Susie Walters, Sandie Hutchinson and Helene Kumar from the Washington Interline Club. We had a lovely cheese and wine reception with about 100 of Ann and Peter's friends and family, followed by a formal dinner for the family and out of town guests. It was wonderful to see Ann looking so happy and to find out that her friends and family were all thrilled as well. Special thanks to Kathy Ferguson for accommodating Heinz and Patricia Fur and a BIG thanks to Susie Walters for providing the 4 of us from London with an excellent chauffeur service for the duration of our stay and also

for looking after us so well, including hiring a van to transport the LIC group and Stan and Roger from Montreal for the reception, and taking us shopping, etc. Interlining as it should be... We look forward to welcoming Peter to the rest of the WACA Family when he attends the AGA in Shanghai.

Nuala Boardman

Nepal Cultural Tour – Organized by WACA 17.-20. SEP 2005



After the AWACA AGA in Delhi, 44 Interliners, included myself, boarded a Nepali Fokker 100 airliner for the exotic capital of the Himalayas, Kathmandu. The journey took slightly over an hour and the skies were cloudy, and it looked like we will have to wait later to catch a glimpse of the mighty Himalayas. After landing at Tribhuvan International Airport, we were met by our local reps Babu and Krishnan, who welcomed us with the traditional Nepali welcome by offering flower garlands. It wasn't long before we arrived at our hotel in the Thamel district of the city. The district is home to back packer hotels and the centre of the shopping activity of Kathmandu, to the delight of the many ladies in our group. Before long, we were to meet up at the hotel lobby for lunch but I realized people were late to show up, this is when I realized Nepal time is 15 minutes ahead of India time and many were unaware to adjust their watches. Anyway, we headed off to a garden restaurant for lunch where the group gladly devoured the western dishes on offer and guzzled the refreshing "Everest" brand beer. Later, Babu and his team came to pick us up for dinner, which was held at the Nepali Kitchen, where we had an exciting cultural show showcasing the dances of Nepal's various ethnic groups. Nepal is a small mountainous country nestled between China and India. The country rises from the low Terai plains adjacent to India and meets the Chinese border at Tibet, with the main Himalayan range acting as the border. Nepal is a monarchy and Hinduism is the official religion, although there is a significant Buddhist population as well.



Early next morning, we headed back to the airport to catch the Everest experience flight. Because the small Beechcraft aircraft can only take around 16 to 18 of us, 3 aircraft were required. The early morning flight was essential as the clouds normally roll in as the morning progresses. As our flight took off, Kathmandu and its red brick dwellings fell below us. This gave way to verdant terraced hillsides and the first peaks of the Himalayas came into view. The twin peaks of Menlungtse and Gauri Shankar came into sight. Then it was the main attraction, Everest, the unmistakable pyramid thrusting itself above the clouds, alone in the realm of mighty peaks. The flight took less than an hour and immediately after landing, we were

on our way to the various attractions of the Kathmandu valley. We visited Swayambhunath, a Buddhist Stupa located on a hill and overrun by monkeys. Next, we visited the Hindu cremation site at the famous Pashupatinath shrine. The experience was an eye opener; with regards to the way, Hindus conducted their funeral rites. Our next cultural attraction was at the giant Buddhist stupa of Bodhnath, where we had lunch on the rooftop of a local restaurant. The stupa is surrounded by Tibetan Buddhist shrines and Thangka workshops (Thangkas are Tibetan paintings with a Buddhist theme). The stupa and the Buddha's eyes painted on it are featured prominently on guidebooks and tourist literature, making it the de facto symbol of Nepal, along with Everest.

After Bodhnath, we were on our way to the hilltop resort of Nagakot. The drive, which took around 1.5 hours, was a pleasant drive through the green hillsides of rural Nepal. Our bus arrived at the spectacular hotel first, and the view was a sight to behold, as an entire valley spread out before us. Whilst we waited for the second bus to arrive, we had coffee in the beautiful porch of the hotel, soaking in the impressive view. Finally, our second bus arrived and they had been stuck on the way up by a stalled vehicle, which they managed to push aside with their bare hands. Dinner was a fantastic affair and the group capped it off with a party in the hotel porch, supplemented by free drinks brought along by members of the group. The party and dancing (Don Cole's son was the DJ) was interrupted abruptly when a thunderstorm struck. A morning call at 6 am rudely woke me from my deep slumber. The previous night's heavy downpour has cleared the skies and we witnessed a spectacular sunrise over the Himalayas. Afterwards, a large part of the group made a trek down the hill to the Kathmandu valley. We walked through farms and villages inhabited by the Tamang ethnic group. Although the Nepali villagers are very poor, they carry along with their business in dignity, their villages are clean, and their houses well kept.

After our hike, we joined the remainder of the group in Bhaktapur, a world heritage site and home to many famous pieces of Newari architecture (the Newars are the predominant ethnic group in the Kathmandu Valley). We had lunch in a Newari Pagoda and enjoyed the sights. Afterwards, whilst one bus decided to head back to the hotel, our bus decided to visit Patan (Patan is a neighbor of Kathmandu and famous for its shrines and temples).

We had our farewell dinner in the Rum Doodle Restaurant, where famous mountain expeditions gather. It was our last night in Nepal and we were reluctant to leave, longing to return again. Next morning, some of us caught the Thai Airways flight to Bangkok, whilst the rest of us caught the return leg of the Cosmic Air flight to Delhi.

Julian Chau, Hong Kong Interline Club

Many activities on the Island of Serendipity

Sri Lanka Interline Club Pool Tournament



Sri Lanka Interline Club organized a Pool Tournament for the members on the 5th of November 2005. It was held at the Queens Pool Lounge, Colombo. This event was an introduction of Pool to the Sri Lankan Interliners. We had 22 teams registered for this tournament among 14 Airlines.

Each team consisted of 2 members and Over 80 Interliners were present to witness this event. Championship was won by SriLankan

Airlines (A team). 1st and 2nd runner up was SriLankan Airlines (Airport team) and South African Airways respectively. The losing teams of the first round had to compete for the best loser's trophy, it was won by Emirates combined with Air Canada. This is the last event organized by the SLIC committee 2005 for the year 2005.

Onalee Perera, SLIC

Sri Lanka Interline Club held the 22nd Annual General Meeting on the 25th Nov 2005.

It was held at an exclusive members club, popularly known as "80 Club", Colombo. With the heavy rain, the attendance was good with over 50 members in total including honorary members and past

presidents. Also 29 Airlines co-ordinators were appointed and the Executive committee for the year 2006 was elected.

A social with dinner and Karaoke entertainment was organized. It was very constructive and an enjoyable evening.



WACA Relief Fund for Sri Lankan School Library, damaged by Tsunami

Sri Lankan Interline Club received from the Ministry of Education a detail list of the schools damaged by Tsunami which was also presented at the WACA AGA in Agra and were able to obtain approval for budget of approximately US\$. 4000/-.The schools in several affected areas such as Eastern Province and Southern Province have received pledges. Places like Negombo, Gampaha in the Western Province are not been considered due to donors commitment to more affected schools. The lesser affected schools unfortunately are neglected.

The list was short-listed according to the budget and schools closer to Colombo to enable us to follow up even after the completion of the project.

Thereafter we identified "Duwa Kanishka College" to supply the Library equipments, books and materials

On the 15th of October 2005, we visited the school, which is situated in Negombo, approximately 35km away from Colombo. (Ms Onalee Perera- President, Ms Ashani – Secretary, Ms Mayanthi – VP social, Mr Ziad – VP Training and PR, Ms Sajeewani – Past President and Mr Lantra – Past President)

The school had been 5ft underwater for a long period just after the tidal waves. The equipment and books in the Library were completely damaged. We requested from the Principal of the school to provide us with details of the requirement of books and equipments such as tables, chairs, bookrack etc.

Full report and photos of this project will be published in the next issue of WACA World News.

Jordan Interline Club elected a new Executive Committee



Cabbage tour 2006 ... and again there was nothing to complain about

A round of applause from all cabbage tour participants to Rolf Carstens, who took care of all the organizing, who chose the wonderful hotel and place of the cabbage event, the bus company and last not least the program of this special weekend. Everything worked out fine and therefore everyone was in good spirits and had fun, including the two winners of the package from Jordan who enjoyed this special trip to the North of Germany. As suggested they brought along warm clothes for our cold and snowy trip.

Starting early on Saturday morning with breakfast on the bus, accompanied by champagne we used the chance to exchange news, to chatter and to laugh a lot and time just flew by on the long way from Frankfurt to the northern part of Germany in the vicinity of the old town Oldenburg.



On arrival at our charming hotel we moved into our rooms and had a drink at the hotel bar to strengthen us for the traditional walk afterwards.

We had to cope with a walk of several miles through the woods in order to earn the ample meal that was to follow that night. Wrapped up warmly on the outside we also enjoyed some warming Schnaps

from inside (rule: you've got to drink one at every crossing you pass and there are many crossings in German woods I assure you). Tiny beer mugs had been distributed at the outset of the tour, carried on a string around the neck and ready for use.



And then the food ... the restaurant served the traditional curly cabbage accompanied by sausages, smoked pork chops, varied kinds of potatoes as well as a delicious soup and dessert while the life band played on the stage. Beer and schnaps flowed abundantly - this meal goes well with the cold and wet season.



Now to the awards: the last one with a full plate, while everybody else has had his/her fill were elected Cabbage King respectively Cabbage Queen. This year's winners were Gabriele F. and Jens K. and they danced together with the winners from the other tables the dance of honors. Then everybody joined them, danced and was jolly. Some of us closed the night at the bar with a small nightcap and then we toddled to bed.



The next morning looking out of the windows we enjoyed the snow that had fallen overnight, a sumptuous breakfast and thus fortified we descended on Oldenburg for a guided tour of the city, learn about its history and architecture. At lunchtime our guide dropped us at the Ratskeller, a quite well-known restaurant in this area.



We enjoyed our meal (no cabbage this time) and finished it with a Schnaps served on a big pewter spoon and a toast given by the owner of the restaurant in low German, then translated for all of us non-northern Germans. Another typical custom for this German region.

The weather forecast not being too favourable for driving we went homewards to Frankfurt – no stops for T-break, P-break or break for a smoke but anyhow we enjoyed the ride.

All were enthused by this wonderful weekend and requests for next year's tour were made. It will be the first weekend in February 2007. So don't miss your chance to participate in it.

Uschi Weldle/Gabriele Rihn/Monica Mueller-Roemer
(translator)



Winter Wonderland, Calgary – 04.-10. FEB 06

Glorious sunshine, snow blizzards, exhilarating downhill runs through a Winter Wonderland, opulent hotel. All these provided a backdrop to our ski adventure in the spectacular Canadian Rockies in Alberta. The Calgary Interline Club organized the ski trip and it coincided with the WACA Executive Committee meeting in the city. There were a total of 41 skiers from various Interline Clubs, which included London, Sweden, Zurich, Frankfurt, Hong Kong and elsewhere, although the Hong Kong Club provided the bulk of the participants, with 24 in attendance.



The start of the ski saw us in the Garden Inn Hilton Hotel at Calgary Airport, where the group stayed for 1 night. To ensure there was excitement right from the start, the Calgary Interline Club organized a "Hoe Down" at the hotel, where participants danced and dressed to a Cowboy Western theme. Early next morning, we boarded a bus for the Rocky Mountains. Kim Evans of the CIC introduced Calgary whilst we drove through the city. As we left the city, we headed into the direction of the mountains, whose outline was visible in the horizon set against an azure sky. The scenery here is so beautiful that Ang Lee, the Oscar Winning Chinese Director from Taiwan, chose this place as the backdrop to his acclaimed movie, Brokeback Mountain.

Just before lunch, our bus pulled into the town of Banff, a famous tourist attraction that serves as the hub for Banff National Park. After some feverish shopping and stocking up of supplies (mainly of the alcoholic nature and ski accessories), we drove into the heart of the Rocky Mountains, until we finally arrived at the grand and stately Chateau Lake Louise. The hotel is situated next to the frozen Lake Louise, amongst some of the most spectacular scenery on planet earth. The Rocky Mountains here are special and look very different from the American Rockies in Colorado, for example. The last ice age had carved the mountains into jagged and interesting forms, making them unique from the Alps and other great mountains.

After settling in and checking out the excellent hotel facilities on offer, we had a nice buffet in a private room in sumptuous surroundings. Next morning, after a well-deserved rest, we took the hotel shuttle to the nearby Lake Louise ski station. The morning was crispy cold and the mountain beckoned. With the stunning scenery around us,



we tackled the varied ski terrain on offer. Some of us carved through the fresh powder snow of the steep and challenging Black Diamond runs, whilst some took a leisurely cruise through the groomed and long ski runs. We saw sunny weather and we had a day of blizzard conditions on the mountain. In the end, after 4 days of wonderful skiing and rehabilitation in the hotel whirlpool, we packed up our ski gear and prepared for the conclusion of the trip. Meanwhile, on one of the evenings, the Calgary Interline Club organized a skating event on the natural ice rink at the frozen lake behind the hotel and ensured that we stayed occupied throughout the duration of the package.



The Calgary Interline Club, who helped with the check-in on Air Canada, assisted our return trip and subsequent departure from Calgary Airport. Now this I call seamless and outstanding service! . Many thanks must go to Kim Evans, Linda McIlhone, Kathie Kraus, Shannon McKenzient, Pamela Smith and Elaine Miller.

Julian Chau, Hong Kong Interline Club

Winter Wonderland, Calgary – 04.-10. FEB 06

40 Airline members from Asia, Europe and North America participated in our Lake Louise Ski Package. We welcomed the members with a western Hoe-down and were excited to introduce the participants to the WACA E.C. who were also in town for their executive meetings and took time to visit with us.



On the drive to Lake Louise we stopped in Banff for a few hours of touring, shopping and beer tasting. The Chateau Lake Louise Hotel in the Rocky Mountains is one of Canada's visual and historical landmarks and the scenery is breath taking. The skiing conditions were all we could hope for with +2°C temperatures, fresh snow in the back bowl and no injuries.

After a hard day of skiing some of our members even found the energy to lace up their skates and twirl around the ice castle on the lake. Others just enjoyed the ice sculptures along the pathways.

The evening ended with a very "special" hot chocolate in the lobby lounge.

The last evening we all met in the pub for food, drinks, and merriment.



The members enjoyed skiing the Rockies so much that those who had later flights paid to ski the last morning and some even took the opportunity to stay a few extra days. For the group heading to YVR and beyond they appreciated the special check-in arrangements by the Air Canada staff at the Calgary Airport.

We really enjoyed meeting everyone and appreciated the opportunity to host the event.

Kim Evans, Calgary Interline Club



On behalf of Michele's family and friends, I would like to express our deep gratitude to the WACA Family for your tremendous support through this very difficult time.

Your support has really been a true reflection of Love and confirmed just how much Michele affected all our lives in such a profound way.

Each expression has helped her family and friends to cope with our loss, and we are grateful that God brought her from Eternity into Time to shine in our lives - even for such a short time.

Michele left behind a "Word of Wisdom" for each one of us

Don't wait to spread your Love

Do it today!

Do it this second!

Look up that long lost friend or family member

Tell them that you love them

Don't keep it to yourself

LOVE BENEFITS NO ONE IF IT IS NOT SHARED

May the Lord bless each and everyone of you.
Thanks.

*Jacquie Lyseight
RVP Latin America and Caribbean*

Headquarters' Manager representing WACA

On 9 December 2005, the WACA Headquarters Manager hosted the annual wine and cheese reception for IATA staff that volunteered their time to assist the Association in some way over the past year.

Principal guests enjoying the party are (back row from left to right): Tatiana Tarassova, IATA Web Master; Marina Tsolis, Headquarters Committee; Kitty Winterbotham, Past Headquarters Committee and Patrick Corbeil, IATA Web Coordinator.

Front row from left to right: the current and past Headquarters Managers Keith Miller and Aubrey Winterbotham.

Missing: Carmen Ramos, Headquarters Committee



As WACA is an international organisation based in Montreal, the Manager, WACA Headquarters was recently invited to a reception with the city's Consulate Heads and Heads of Permanent Missions of the International Civil Aviation Organization. The reception was hosted by the City of Montreal and was held in the elegant, historic town hall. Posing for a photograph at the reception is the Mayor of Montreal, Gerald Tremblay (on the left) with Manager, WACA Headquarters, Keith Miller.

An epitome of true Interliner

We were contacted by Poppy Shiakalli Bowen one evening late last year, she would be transiting London en-route from Larnaca to Tampa – could we help? Of course we said come and stay with us... but it transpired that Poppy had been in Cyprus for 6 Months and was not at all well. After numerous e-mails, it was decided that Poppy and Roy (her wonderful husband) and their friend Anna would arrive at LHR and Chris and I would go in two cars to pick them and their 8 pieces of luggage and take them to Gatwick, where they could overnight in peace before their flight to Tampa the following day... As their flight into LHR was scheduled to arrive at about 8 p.m., we decided to book into the same hotel and make an evening of it. We also contacted Frank and Sue from Gatwick and they were there to meet us at the hotel. Unfortunately, there was no wheel chair available for Poppy when we arrived, so we "borrowed" a typists chair and wheeled her around on that - which was fine until Chris and Roy tried to "wheel" her along the rough carpet – but we all laughed. It was obvious that Poppy had lost a lot of weight and that her illness was getting worse, however she still dazzled in her designer outfits! We enjoyed a bottle of wine or two and reminisced about past interline events... The next day we saw them off and they were very pleased with the seats they were allocated – THANKS to Sue and Frank. Poppy is a very special lady who has done a lot for interlining. She was involved from the start and was instrumental in the formation of the Cyprus Interline Club, she also formed the Florida Interline Club, and even though she was sick – she hosted the

North American Regional Meeting in 2005 and was the WACA VP PR for 4 years.

Poppy is the epitome of the true interliner – twice while in Cyprus on my own I contacted her and she made time to drive to my hotel and spend time with me, taking me to local restaurants after she finished work – aware that I was on my own on a strange Country – working throughout the day but going back to a hotel room on my own at night.

But the best news of all is that she has just contacted me to say she is now in remission – so our prayers have been answered, let us all hope and pray this will continue. **Poppy is one special lady!**

Nuala Boardman



Do you remember?

WACA is promoting Toys for Tots since 20 Years...

TOYS FOR TOTS



The Toys for Tots program initiated at the AGA in Mexico City was a huge success. Each participant brought a new stuffed toy for the children of a Mexican orphanage. Posing with a sample of the toys are, from left to right: Yolanda Ramos, President — CIM; Chiku Advani, Vice-President — Special Projects, WACA; and Past Regional Vice-President — Latin America and Caribbean, Grace Richmond.

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