**Edition 2/2005** 

# Retrospection to the AGA in Delhi 10. – 15. SEP 2005



# NEWS WACA WORLD





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# President's Speech at the Opening Ceremony



Ladies and gentlemen,

NAMASKAR.....

It gives me the greatest honor to welcome you on behalf of the World Airlines Clubs Association to this 38<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly, in Agra.

It is a fact that it is not the first time that W.A.C.A is holding its Annual General Assembly in India. But each time we have experienced different facets of this beautiful country, rich in culture and after all the unity shown in all its diversity of cultures and traditions that fascinate us as visitors.

WACA is an association of people coming from different part of the globe forming part of the Airline Industry, meeting together with a view among others:

- To encourage active participation in all activities demonstrating to the public the important contribution the international airlines are giving for better understanding among the peoples of the world:
- 2. To unite the members throughout the word in friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding
- 3. To introduce free discussions on all subjects of interest to civil and commercial aviation:
- 4. To provide social and economic causes to the benefit of the Airline Industry and the community in general.

You all know that we have recently witnessed the climate change where Fire and Water caused massive human and environmental damage: as a massive tsunami swept across the Indian Ocean late December, summer fires raged throughout Portugal and flooding in India, Earthquakes in Japan, the most horrible hurricane Katrina put down America, killing huge numbers of people and leaving broken communities and destroyed livelihoods in its wake.

Adding to this, during the last few weeks we have series of Aircraft accidents where more than 600 people were killed, though Air transportation is considered as the safest means of transport.

We as Airline Employees, we should take our responsibility and being the main stakeholder of the Airline industry, we should continue to do our best through our interline movements to bring the sustainability touch whilst fulfilling the main objectives of WACA.

We need to stand by our individual national carrier so as to ensure that we are bringing our contribution to the Corporate Responsibility in terms of the three bottom-line concept i.e. Environmental/ Social and Economic.

There is no doubt that we interliners, being a privileged partner in the Tourism industry and being travelers of the globe through WACA, we are bringing our contribution to Sustainable Tourism.

We respect the socio-cultural authenticity of our host communities, conserve their built and living heritage and traditional values and contribute to the intercultural understanding and tolerance and encourage philanthropic projects with a view to eradicate poverty as far as possible.

On the other hand as individuals evolving in the Aviation field, safety and security are the two leading words in our daily life. Being environmentally responsible we need to share our knowledge and experience to the publics and thus avoiding calamities as far as possible where people and communities will not suffer.

Well, ladies and gentleman I am not learning you anything new, but it is important to express our concern and situate our association the World Airlines Clubs Association vis-à-vis the prevailing situation and bring our little contribution to the community at large. Our presence in India means a lot for our hosting club.

Dear Interliners, delegates and observers...

I have no doubt that we all shall be good guests in India, learn more of our geography, culture, history, beliefs and some words of the local language. And during our discussions and meetings we shall come up with some bright resolutions for the benefits of all.

I wish you all a happy Annual General Assembly and happy stay in India.

Thanking you for your kind attention.

God Bless you all.

Maga Ramasamy President

## **Editorial**

Dear Interliners,

Bit by bit we are approaching the end of this year. It has been a very hard and tragic year for so many people suffering from natural disasters such as the tsunami, earthquakes, flooding and fires, tornados and hurricanes. Let us hope and pray, that next year will be a better one, especially for all those who lost everything!

Seeing so many sad scenes in the news, it was a gratifying feeling to see, that interliners around the world had not spared any efforts in helping in such difficult situations – the WACA Relief Fund got great financial support from many clubs. Special events to gather funds were organized by several clubs to help those in pain. Never before have we seen so many interliners carrying bed linen and towels to the AGA – a hotel room full of material was collected and I'm sure that the tearful shiny eyes of the children who received John Aarons and his committee at Mother Theresa's' home will never be forgotten.

Now that our AGA in India is history and nearly all the entries in our Calendar of Events are fond memories, most clubs and their member are preparing the festivities to celebrate Christmas and the end of the year.

But also the preparations for the year are in full swing. You will find so many new and interesting events in our Calendar! Two excellent Ski-Packages, the two Australian Tours, our great Caribbean WACA-Cruise in March, the AGA in China ... And of course all the traditional events that all interliners love, such as the packages in Mauritius, Jordan, Jamaica, Finland and all the others. Never before have we had so many bookings in advance as at present and we recommend you make your reservations as soon as possible to guarantee your place!

Have a look at our Website <a href="www.waca.org">www.waca.org</a> before planning your next vacation and enjoy the company of interline friends, old and new.

On behalf of President Maga Ramasamy and all members of the Executive Committee of WACA we want to extend to all interliners, their families and friends our best Season's Greetings and wish you all a very peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Yours in Interlining Rosemarie Mamede VP Public Relations



WACA's Executive Committee: Staying fltr: Keith Miller-HQ Manger; Yousef Yousef-Reg.VP Africa, Indian Ocean Islands and Middle East, Renato Goldenberg-Reg.VP Europe, Valerie Welling-VP Finance, Julian Chau-Secretary General, John Aarons-VP Spec. Projects and Internat. Events, Sitting: Orathai Bhuddhamanupap-Reg.VP Far East and Australasia, Jacquie Lyseight-Reg.VP Latin America and Caribbean, Maga Ramasamy-President, Elaine Miller-Reg.V.P North America and Rosemarie Mamede-VP Public Relations

#### MATURING WITH INTERLINING: Gerry Philbrook's Speech

Mr. President, Members of the Executive Committee, Members of Honor, and Delegates and Observers:

My name is Gerry Philbrook and I am a Past President and Member of Honour of WACA. I worked for 30 years with Air Canada and retired 15 years ago as Senior Manager Employee Relations and Customer Care Development in our Montreal Headquarters. For the past 15 years I have been Vice President Western Canada for Rideau Recognition Solutions, an Employee Service and Performance Recognition company and took my second retirement in June this year.



I was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease shortly after the Annual General Assembly in Hungary in October 2002. I used to be quite a well spoken speaker but please forgive me my slurred speech and frequent pauses to find the text that I misplaced. It was my wife Valentina who first noticed the symptoms, which included a trembling of my arm when answering and speaking on the phone and a writing style that would compete with my family doctor. My doctor directed me to a Neurologist who had me walk down the hallway and said: "I am sorry, you have Parkinson's disease". I was devastated that I was inflicted with this disease and the inconvenience this would cause my family; however, nothing could be further from the truth as my wife and daughter have given me unconditional support. Even when walking the family dog, a Jack Russell Terrier by an original name of "Russell", he is always there to lick my wounds when I trip and fall. Val carries Russell's picture in her wallet while I protest the absence of mine.

Along with complications of Diabetes and high blood pressure, I go through with some 25 pills a day. My pill box requires a separate piece of luggage alone. I was given the added reason to be optimistic as there were other "Parkinson's People" such as The Late Pope John Paul II, Mohammed Ali, Janet Reno and Michael J. Fox who all suffered from this disease as well. The disease is debilitating and will get worse as the years go by; however, I have determined that life goes on and in actuality I can enjoy most of the activities that I have been part of my past. Now I see it as a mild inconvenience as my consumption of Johnny Walker Black Label Scotch has been axed, curtailed and strictly controlled by my dear Val.

Up until the day I departed for Delhi, there were many messages telling me that I should not venture on such a long trip to be here in Delhi. While such advice is well meaning, here I am and still enjoying every minute of my Interlining. My message to you is no matter what the problems and struggles that pursue you, if your spirit is strong it will carry you forward. The Interlining and being a Member of WACA family is a great remedy in itself, and I will try my best to come to future AGA's with my dear wife Valentina. She is the one who will tell you and me: "I have not been there. We want to go there, don't we, Gerry?", as I contemplate my 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> trip to Delhi, and I reply: "Of course Val, we can go."

I first became involved in Interlining in 1969 and WACA in 1972 at the 5<sup>th</sup> AGA hosted by the Bombay Interline Club and have attended 31 Annual Assemblies since then. I have developed many good life long friendships and Interlining became a style of life for me. It was at that AGA that Jal Daroowalla from the Bombay IC succeeded Ibrahim Jamal of the Interline Club of Lebanon as President of WACA. Jal presided for the next four years at the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> AGA's held in Bangkok, Nice—France, Montreal and Port of Spain.

I became Regional VP North America in 1973 and in the following year Secretary General succeeding Hans Proksh from Germany who retired from office after 8 years of outstanding service to the Association.

The AGA in Port of Spain was a coming of age of our Association as Selwyn Solomon and Grace Richmond of the Trinidad & Tobago Interline Club gave us an AGA to be long remembered. With over 600 Interliners present, we were received by the Governor General of Trinidad & Tobago, who was no doubt a personal friend of Grace. The Interliners called it later: "It was the WACA AGA that Was".

We lost Grace this year. She was well known to us as the First Lady of Interlining. She was a character and a pleasure to work with on the EC. She was elegant, strong willed and did not put up with any nonsense. When Grace was late for meetings according to Caribbean time, she would say: "I was just testing my luck at the local casino".

I was a President of WACA for three two year terms 1986-88; 1990-94 and presided in following AGA's: Cologne, Vancouver and following a two year sabbatical in Athens, Portugal, Thailand and Philippines.

My long time friend Malai Sakolviphak from Thailand IC served as President for the AGA's in Hong Kong in 1979 and Honolulu in 1980. I have shared a 33 year of friendship with David & Rita Larkin, and David headed the Association from 1984 to 1986 for the Mexico City and Miami AGA's followed by Julio Seiz of Montreal IC in 1986 to 1988 at the Singapore and Israel AGA's. With Julio and Maud I also share a long term friendship. We wish Maud for her return to good health, who has been very ill this year

From 1988 to 1990 Wally Gibbs from New Zealand presided at the Delhi and Jamaica AGA's followed by Marjorie Homenick of the Winnipeg Interline Club who served two terms at the office 1990 through 1994 at the Thailand, Greece, Norway and Kenya. Keith Miller from Montreal IC succeeded Marjorie in 1995 for the Amman—Jordan and 1996 at the Vancouver AGA's. Ramzi Shuweihat from Jordan also served two terms as President the next four AGA's in Sri Lanka, Portugal, Leon—Mexico and Cheng Mai—Thailand.

As we entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Maga Ramasamy is in his hird term of office in AGA's in Jordan, Hungary, Caribbean Cruise on Carnival Inspiration, Thailand and here in Delhi this year.

I am sorry to see many clubs missing the AGA this year. This was the result of a proposal submitted last year and defeated. It serves no useful purpose to attempt to reverse a decision that already was made by majority vote.

I am often asked: "What is the state of Interlining and the Worlds Airlines Clubs Association"? And I reply that as long as there are good hardworking people who cherish the aims and objectives of this Association, we can carry on indefinitely. It will probably mean that we will need to go through a rebuilding process within our Clubs' structure. Notice that I do not mention the WACA structure which was tampered with last year and is best to left as part of the archives.

Let us all get together and put any ill feelings behind us and march ahead together as the WACA family we are and ever will be. As a WACA "old timer", I am happy to see many young and new people at this AGA and the strong showing of certain clubs bringing strong representation to this AGA is most gratifying—in particular, Bahamas, Hungary, Jordan, Portugal, Calgary Interline Clubs and others as well.

We are enjoying this wonderful AGA hosted by the second most populous Nation of Mother Earth, and we will meet next year in the country of the most populous Nation in the World. Both of these great countries are making enormous strides and are fast becoming economic giants and WACA was there!

THANK YOU!

# Mother Theresa Orphanage, Agra, India

Amongst the wonderful work that Mother Theresa established during her lifetime were orphanages for deserted children in many parts of India.

In Agra one was set up to accommodate children from birth to 17 years of age or until they are able to obtain alternative accommodation or go into the workforce. Each year the hosting Club of the AGA is requested to submit a worthwhile charity and participants are asked to brings gifts as requested by that charity.



This year the request was for bed linen and towels. The response was overwhelming and I was delighted to arrange for over 20 large boxes of manchester to be given to the Orphanage. Nearly 20 Interliners joined me in the visit and presentation.

The Orphanage has around 70 children, of all ages and they care for them in the best ways possible. It was heartbreaking to hear the stories of some of the children. Some are left at the front door. The baby I'm holding was left in a garbage can outside the orphanage at the age of 2 weeks and will remain there until a family adopts her or till she is old enough to fend for herself.

I was personally disappointed we didn't have more toys and sweets to give to the children as their eyes lit up when they saw the parcels we had for them



WACA is often criticized for not doing the right things for people but I can assure you being able to assist a deserving cause such as this orphanage, makes me proud to be an Interliner and part of WACA.

My sincere thanks to all of you who carried the linen to the Agate rewards say it all in the faces of the children at the Orphanage.

John Aarons.

Vice President International Events and Special Projects

# Incredible India - homage from Jean Gregory

From around the world and far away We gathered in Delhi for the AGA. Some flew to Srinigar to houseboats, Lake Dal – A unique experience for one and all.

Enjoyed a shakari ride without any cares, While the "occasional" hawker peddled his wares! Folk music and dancing in traditional dress, But weaving through traffic caused some little stress!

Floating gardens, floating markets and paddies of rice, And the gondola at Gulmarg was so very nice. Then back to the airport – there's a security risk, So four times we were treated to a most thorough frisk!

In Delhi, a cultural show and many displays
To learn of their people and their int'resting ways.
The Taj Mahal, that incomparable jewel,
A monument of love in Shah Jahan's rule.

On to Agra Fort, a palace really, Where Jahan and his daughter lived so genteelly. We toured Fatehpur Sikri, the abandoned city – Just 5000 in his harem; for Akbar, a pity!



Now, some go to Jaipur and some to Nepal, Some go to their homes; treasured memories for all. So sadly we've come to the end of our stay; Bahut, bahut shukria and a heartfelt Namaste

Jean Gregory September 2005 While vendors besieged us, almost without stopping! We drove out in the country with forests and crops, And sometimes were forced to make unscheduled stops!

Driving in India is a real treat – With rickshaws and camels sharing the street, Along with trucks and bikes, horses and wow, Cars, donkeys, people and really – holy cows!

What a wonderful thing to gather in harmony, From so many countries – indeed we are family. I can't imagine the work in planning this do And to have it run smoothly – what a marvellous crew!



## Summary

Almost 250 delegates and observers, representing Airline Clubs worldwide, met from 10 - 15 September at the Mughal Sheraton Hotel in Agra, India at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly of the WORLD AIRLINES CLUBS ASSOCIATION (WACA). During his speech at the Opening Ceremony, Waca's President Mr. Maga Ramasamy (Mauritius) focused on the social responsibilities of WACA and its members, as partners in the Tourism Industry with the accent on the social cultural awareness and support of philanthropic projects. The Honorable Minister of Sports and Tourism of the Utra Pradesh Province, Mr. Mohammad Kaukav Hameed, lit the lamp and declared the Assembly open. Every aspect of this week in Delhi and Agra, home of the renowned Taj Mahal - one of the 7 Wonders of the World - were carefully prepared by the Home Club, The Delhi Interline Club, under the Presidency of Mr. Felix Fernandes and his organizing committee chaired by Ms. Gayatri Chandra.



Felix Fernandes, Gayatri Chandra and the organizing committee of Delhi Interline Club

At the beginning of the working sessions, Mr. Peter Gilardoni, President of the Interairline Club Zürich, was nominated a Member of Honor of the Association. In addition, awards of recognition were bestowed to:

- Sports/International Event of the Year: Interairline Club Zürich.
- Member Club Media/Communication of the Year: Interairline Club Zürich.
- European Regional Club of the Year: Interairline Club Zürich.
- Far East and Australia Regional Club of the Year: Airline Club of Thailand
- Latin America and Caribbean Regional Club of the Year: Jamaica Interline Club.

- Africa, Indian Ocean Islands and Middle East Regional Club of the Year: Jordan Interline Club.
- North American Regional Club of the Year: Vancouver Interline Club.
- Member Club of the Year: Interairline Club Zürich.

A special award from the Sydney Interline Club was also given to the Interairline Club of Zürich to acknowledge the excellent work done by their Charity Team, especially for their great support towards the Tsunami Relief Fund.



Peter Gilardoni after his nomination as Member of Honor and receiving the awards for his Club

After the official working-sessions, the Hong Kong Interline Club presented their program for the 2006 Assembly to be held in Shanghai, China to all delegates and observers.

The Africa, Indian Ocean Islands and Near East Region had their bid approved to hold the 2007 Assembly in Cape Town, South Africa.

The great support given by Thai Airways International offering reduced rate transportation for all participants and the special arrangements made by Indian Airlines to facilitate the extra tours to Islamabad, Goa and Nepal were highly appreciated by all participants.

WACA's President Mr. Maga Ramasamy and his Executive Committee were proud to have the Annual General Assembly of WACA in India for the third time, a country with such a varied culture, history and rich in traditions, where airliners from all over the world were made welcome with open arms.

Rosemarie Mamede Vice President Public Relations

#### Other Tours and News

# Jordan Adventure - What an impressive trip!!!!!!!!!

Dear Yousef.

I along with Barbara's message below, echo my praise for the superb job you did in organizing the 2005 JIC Jordan Adventure. It was absolutely the best.!!!! Please express my well done to your colleagues Salam and Ragheb. I am now reflecting on my adventures. It was magnificent and I was most impressed with the beauty, history and the internal security in your country. I have friends who are interested in traveling to Jordan and I will assure them like you did to me. Jordan is a safe and friendly country!!!!!!

What an impressive trip!!!!!!!!!



You deserve and the JIC members deserve an extra "WELL DONE"

James our guide was superb, Salam was always smiling and helpful and Ragheb showed me the way to enjoy Jordanian food. Please pass on my thanks to them also.

From the view at Mt. Nebo, the crusader castle at Kerak, Petra in awe as a Jordanian treasure, to Wadi Rum, our tent camp, singing, dancing and then 4x4'ing travel to touch the sands of "Lawrence" and "Sheriff Hussein bin Ali". To Aquaba, the Red Sea with a swim. Then to the Dead Sea where we floated and swimming was not possible. Finally to Madaba with our spectacular Farwell dinner in . Amman-The Citadel, Roman theatre and nearby where I bought my "Bedouin" antique Solid Brass coffee pot.

The hotels were absolutely first class, the food exceptional, and the 33 interliners- a fun group who liked everything plus cold beer in the bus.



My transportation to the AMM airport was on time and my flight was open (even though I was positive) AMM-JFK. I made the Delta connection to LAX in JFK, by less than a minute to spare. I literally was at Hi-Speed thru Terminal 3 to our connecting Terminal 2. Whew, I made it and by doing so I cut off a 3 hour wait for the next one. Good to be back home in Southern California. You and Alama (sp) are most welcome to visit us should your travels bring you this way. I am enclosing a photo of our house, and we have plenty of room and always cold beer.

Capt. Larry

# Poppy's Honorary party

Around 50 interliners, friends and family of Cyprus Interline Club went to Japanese Restaurant Bonzai at the Holiday Inn to an commemoration party for their club's past President Poppy S. Bowen, founding member and actual President of the Florida Interline Club and her husband Roy. Poppy was honored with the title of Honorary President of the Cyprus IC. Besides the certificate and a CIC mug, a silver St Mary icon was offered to keep her safe and fighting.

Congratulations, Poppy, you deserve it!



Left Ourania (Past WACA Rep.) Stelios (cashier) Stella S. (President) Poppy (Honorary CIC President) Stella Ph. (WACA Rep) Antonakis (Sp. Projects & Events), Maro (Past Assistant to WACA VP/PR Poppy Shiakalli Bowen), presenting Poppy the Honorary Certificate.

# Do you remember?

Our AGA this year was not the first one organized by the Delhi Interline Club. Who remembers that one in the year of 1989???



MAY 10 1989

WORLD AIRLINES CLUBS ASSOCIATION

**SECOND ISSUE 1989** 



# INDIA IS WAITING . . .

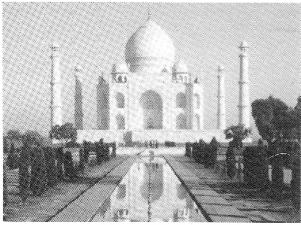
The Delhi Interline Club are looking forward to welcoming old and new friends to the 22nd WACA Annual General Assembly in Delhi, India, from 3–9 September 1989.

The venue for the AGA is the Five Star Ashok Hotel which is situated in the heart of the Diplomatic area of Delhi. The hotel is accustomed to hosting major international conferences and is well prepared to accept interliners from all over the world. Negociations for favourable rates are continuing with other hotels for pre- and post-AGA accommodation for interliners wishing to arrive early or leave later.

The Delhi Interline Club have been actively trying to reduce costs as much as possible and have managed to bring down the price of the observers and spouses package to only US \$460! Arrangements have been made for pre- and post-AGA packages and close contact is being maintained with the Indian Tourism Department. The AGA tour operator, Shikhar Travel, has arranged short tours every day for spouses and observers apart from post AGA tours to such magnificent places as the ancient city of Agra site of the magnificant Taj Mahal. Everything, in fact, is already in place to make this a truly memorable AGA.

Your visit to Delhi will be an experience of a lifetime. India is a vast sub-Continent with a rare mixture of peoples, languages, customs and traditions. Few countries cover such a wide spectrum. After your visit to

India you will not be the same again. She will have woven her web around you and given you a glimpse of her inner strength and beauty! In India, friends are held in high esteem. India and the Delhi Interline Club are awaiting their friends — NAMASKAR.



Agra The Taj Mahal.

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#### **WACA World News**

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Publicize your company, a particular product or a special offering and you have 7.000 interliners working to spread the word for you. Your ad will also help the cause of WACA itself, dedicated to furthering the cause of the air travel industry and to networking amongst its employees.

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