

WORLD AIRLINES CLUBS ASSOCIATION

# WACA WORLD NEWS

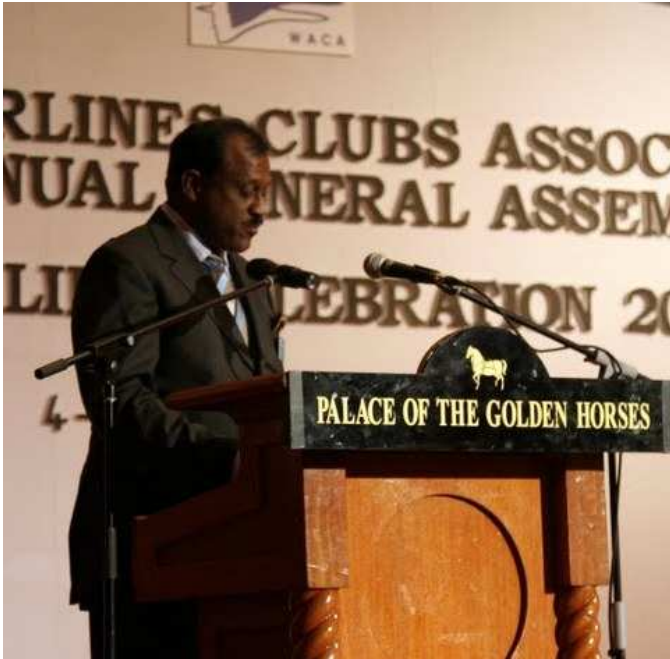
## Interline Festival in Kuala Lumpur



Fun and Friendship  
With the WACA Family



## President's Welcome Speech



Ladies and Gentlemen  
Good Evening - Salam Datang -

It is a real pleasure on behalf of the World Airlines Clubs Association to welcome you all in Malaysia for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Association. This AGA is hosted by the Executive Committee and Kuala Lumpur has been chosen to allow us to get the taste of its multicultural harmony, which we as WACA have been doing for the past 42 years and to witness the Malaysian hospitality and above all its commitment in sustainable tourism.

The World Airlines Clubs Association which was formed some 42 years ago, aim at bringing people working for the Airline Industry together in true spirit of friendship, mutual understanding and demonstration to the public the important contribution that international airlines are giving for better understanding among the peoples of the world. Through its activities, WACA promotes air transportation as a mode of travel and to promote better service to the traveling public and to provide social and economic causes to the benefit of the airline industry and the community in general.

With that philosophy, we at WACA are treating our stakeholders of the Tourism Industry ethically and in a responsible manner, which becomes the basics of our Corporate Social Responsibility, which many people of the world call it as CSR.

WACA has good rapport with, among others, IATA, the International Institute of Peace Through Tourism, the UN World Tourism Organization and UNICEF.

Through our activities, we never fail to fulfill our commitment as corporate and sustainable ambassadors of the globe by putting into action the resolutions of the UN Millennium Development Goals through our commitment and dedication to eradicate HIV/AIDS, provide education to the needy children and contribute in the awareness program of sustainable tourism.

As sustainable thinkers and responsible travelers and holiday-maker, forming part of the Aviation industry we are conscious that the industry we come from is a global one and we need to think globally. The Climate change today is becoming one of the main concerns of the world and you can see around us what is happening. We as responsible citizens of the world we need to bring our sustainable contribution. WACA is an appropriate forum based on our pledge we took when we joined the association to provide social and economic causes to the benefit of the airline industry and the community in general.

I will quote the IATA's Director General and CEO, Mr. Giovanni Bisignani on Climate Change:

Quote:

*Climate Change is a global problem. Aviation is a global industry. And we need a global approach for this industrial sector if we are to deal with climate change effectively.*

*Our targets are tough. Air transport is the first industry to commit carbon-neutral growth at the global level. And we have done it with an aggressive timeline of 2020. Our four-pillar strategy of technology investment, efficient infrastructure, effective operations and positive economic measures will make our vision a reality and is already showing results.*

Unquote.

Many airlines companies are adopting different approach to protect the environment and to reduce the Aviation's emissions. We as airline employees and as members of the prestigious association like WACA by our action of doing well by doing good we are supporting the good initiatives taken. By our action, we are demonstrating the world of our sustainability in our approach and not only as responsible airline employees but as responsible travelers as well.

WACA, as a world organization would also like to subscribe to the theme of the World Tourism Day 2009 as prescribed by the United Nations World Tourism Organization: i.e. Tourism-Celebrating Diversity.

Nothing could be more appropriate to have the WACA community at the Palace of the Golden Horses here in Malaysia for the coming week representing the diversity of nations flocking together as one big nation and to demonstrate the world how we can leave in harmony without any barriers. This is **WACA**.

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Interliners

Let us celebrate the diversity here in the multicultural Malaysia.

I wish you all best and may God Bless you all.

**Maga Ramasamy**  
**WACA President.**



## 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Assembly 4. – 9. Oct 2009, Kuala Lumpur - Malaysia

For the first time in its history, in Malaysia's Capital City of Kuala Lumpur, the World Airlines Clubs Association's (WACA) held its forty-second Annual General Assembly in conjunction with the 2009 Interline Celebration from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2009 at The Palace of the Golden Horses.

The event, organized by the Executive Committee of the Association, had the valuable support and contribution from the Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board and was attended by more than 300 participants from the commercial Airline Industry community. Active and retired employees and their guests, from over 30 countries worldwide visited Kuala Lumpur to join the representatives of the WACA's member Interline Clubs to commemorate the Interline Event.



During the opening ceremonies, the Director General of the Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board, Datuk Mirza Mohammad Taiyab, welcomed all participants to Kuala Lumpur and declared the AGA officially open. During his address to the participating Interliners, WACA's President, Mr. Maga Ramasamy, stressed the main objectives of the Association, highlighting the Social Responsibility of its members with focus in the objectives of sustainable tourism, the protection of the environment and the contribution of the Airlines to the reduction of the emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>.

During the working sessions held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October, the representatives of the WACA's 5 regions – Europe; Far East & Australasia; Latin America & Caribbean; Africa, Indian Ocean Islands & Middle East and North America- met to discuss the projects of their clubs within their respective region and the plans for future activities.

At the Annual General Assembly on the following day, the accounts and budget of the Association were approved and the strategy for the years to come was discussed.

With the present financial and economical situation experienced worldwide new opportunities were also explored. During the Assembly, the Executive Committee was pleased to award the following clubs for the year of 2009:

WACA-Club of the Year  
Best International Event:

Montreal Interline Club  
Nile Cruise - Jordan Interline Club  
Mystical Landscapes of China – Hong Kong Interline Club  
Jordan Interline Club

Best Media and Communication:  
Regional Club of the Year:

Europe:  
Far East&Australasia:  
Lat. America&Caribbean:  
Africa, Indian Ocean Islands &Middle East:  
North America:

Hungarian Interline Club  
Sydney Interline Club  
Jamaica Interline Club  
Indian Ocean Islands Interline Club  
Montreal Interline Club

Participants in the Event had the occasion to attend and participate in the Regional Cultural Events where each club had its own stand, promoting their country with brochures, dances and small souvenirs and cultural shows...

During the week all participants went on two tours organized by VIP Corporate Travel and Tours, where the most interesting places and buildings of Kuala Lumpur were visited. As part of our Social Responsibility a delegation of 30 club members visited the Pure Life Society and presented the President Mother Manganlin with a check from WACA of RM 1.470 and all the school supplies for the needy children brought by all participants. They were very well received and appreciation was expressed.

The President's Ball with Gala Dinner closed this successful event of the WORLD AIRLINES CLUB ASSOCIATION.

In conjunction with the Interline Celebration, some Pre- and Post tours were offered. The Interliners had the opportunity to visit Singapore and enjoy the Island of Langkawi. Visits to Malacca were chosen by most of the participants and after the event, a group of 100 Interliners joined the well organized tour to Sabah, Borneo.



**Rosemarie Mamede**  
**Vice President Public Relations**

## Pre AGA Tour - The Singapore Explorer Members Night – 02 OCT 2009

The Airline Club of Singapore had a members night on 02 OCT 2009 at the SIA Group Sports Club.



Approximately 30 members intermingled with another 30 interliners from afar. We had the live of the party, Captain Dara Singh socialising and entertaining the guests - nay entertaining everybody. We had food galore, soft drinks, beer, wine and Scotch Whisky.



Our one-man music machine, M. Ridhuan, belted the oldies that stir the inner feelings of music from yesteryear.



The interliners were brought around for a tour of the facilities at the SIA Group Sports Club and we hope they can bring back good memories of their night with us.



For the members, who miss tonight's gathering, we can only make this statement:

**"YOU HAVE MISSED THE MOTHER OF ALL GATHERINGS!!!"**



We will let our guests be the judge and feedback to us if they have thoroughly enjoyed their stay in Singapore and if they have been well treated.



**Burhanuddin Kamaruddin**  
Airline Club of Singapore



## Pre-AGA Tour – The Singapore Explorer 30. SEP – 4. OCT 2009

The WACA AGA was finally coming up Oct.4-9 ....and one of the things I like most about the AGA is The Pre/Post Tours. My friend Lana and myself decided to take the pre AGA tour "The Singapore Explorer" as we had never been there but heard lots of interesting things about the place and their way of life.



*Pragas (Singapore IC) Lana Wilmink (Vancouver IC) Burhan (Singapore IC) Gloria & Manu Thaker (Vancouver IC) on Jonker's Walk in Malaka, Malaysia*

Singapore is a city of almost 5million people which occupies the island country of Singapore. It has close ties to Malaysia, being connected to it's neighbor to the north by 2 bridges, and imports it's water, fruit and vegetables from Malaysia. Singapore was part of Malaysia until about 40 years ago when it separated into a country of its own. It has very little land but has many many high rises to house population and huge buildings to house commerce companies. The streets are extremely clean, no litter, smoking is not allowed in most places, no beggars, no homeless, no traffic jams.....everything seems to run on time, efficiently, people are friendly.....the government is constantly educating their population to participate in keeping Singapore this way....an amusing advertisement on the bus advises you "Do not pretend you are asleep" ," give up your seat to elderly/incapacitated riders"!!! It seems to work as this city is visitor friendly with English spoken, English signs, good transit , good customer service, wonderful weather and good shopping.



*Ayshia, Sharon & Lana in the famous Raffles Hotel....Long Bar enjoying a Singapore Sling*

As for the friendly people, we were looked after by the Singapore Interline Club representatives very well. Starting out with a welcome cocktail by the 4th floor swimming pool at our hotel, we were enjoying a drink with a couple from New Zealand when we all experieced a "moving" sensation....thinking we were ill or jet lagged, soon realized that we were feeling an aftershock of an 7.8 earthquake in Sumatra. Laughingly we continued to enjoy the cocktail party meeting some of the participants of the "Singapore Explorer". They were from New Zealand, Portugal, USA, Bahamas, Jamaica, Norway, Sweden and of course Canada.

With a smaller group than the AGA...about 40 all together...we were able to go in one bus to all the sights. The tour included....City Tour...River Cruise....Heritage Tour....Night Safari/Zoo..."Singapore Airlines Sports Club" for dinner/dancing, The " Club" is operated by Singapore Airlines for their employees who pay a nominal fee of about \$20-\$30 per month to enjoy the facilities....olympic size pool, childrens pool, cocktail lounge with pool table, party room, restaurant, casino, excercise room...and for extra costs join classes in yoga, dancing, water aerobics etc. On the tours we learned of the diversity of the population....strong Malaysian, Chinese, Indian heritage and of course the English



*Ayshia, Mario & Evelyn Mayorga of Kansas City, Sharon, Lana*

.....Singapore was a colony of England for about 200 years...so English is widely spoken, English law is observed, and in our spare time Lana & I visited the famous Raffles hotel , named after the English explorer, statesman who visited Singapore in the early 1800's establishing the colony.....a major street, shopping centre and the hotel are named after this important statesman. We even tried the "Singapore Sling" which was invented by a bartender at the "Raffles" at the Long Bar Lounge.....only costing Singapore Dollars 23.00 or about CAD20.00!!! All above very interesting and entertaining.



*Lana, Sharon, Ayshia (Vanc.lc) in the Singapore Flyer*

We can only sing the praises of The Singapore Interline Club and all their members, but especially Burham (President of SIC) and Pragas (Treasurer of SIC) who treated us like gold and were so helpful and accommodating. Taking the pre and post tours is a great way to really get to know a place and their peoples, and other interliners from around the world.

**Sharon Revel**  
**Vancouver Interline Club**



## 2009 Interline (*friendship*) celebration Kuala Lumpur, 4.-9. OCT 2009

Some call it "WACA Annual General Assembly of Delegates"; others refer to the event as "Interline Celebration", but the truth is that these annual gatherings are, no more no lesser, a reunion of active and retired Airline professionals, their families and friends that, with an almost devoted loyalty, travel thousands of miles every year, only to have the opportunity to share "quality" time, memories and fun amongst friends from long date.

Some took the Pre Event Tours offered by the event's organizers; others did their own "exploring" of the connecting Cities on their way to the event's destination and others will do it in one "single stroke of breath", but it all comes together at the registration room where, like magic, the fatigue and jet-lag, caused by the endless hours spent flying or sitting at Airports, as well as the nervousness caused by the stand-by probability, disappears instantaneously.



You look around for familiar faces and for those that are dear to you, and although you haven't been in touch with them for a long period of time, you are genuinely happy and relieved when you see them.

This is what WACA is all about, and is also WACA AT ITS BEST. You might travel alone or be part of a group and you may or may not develop new acquaintances or friendships during those trips. You might attend school or even family reunions, but the atmosphere isn't the same. Huge differences between those reunions and the WACA's gatherings are evident; In "our gatherings", you do not have to prove anything to anyone or tell your friends if you did ascend, descend or stagnate in the "corporate scale", you do not have to prove that you are doing better or worse than them, you simply relax, reminiscence over past events, either professional or amusing moments of your encounters and enjoy, to its full extent, the opportunity of sharing, again and again, time with your friends.

Rather than be repetitive and tell a story that probably others will do as well, this summary of the week" will focus on the 2009 Interline Celebrations and the moments shared with our friends, which to an extent, made us also, to forget the world's problems...



As previously mentioned, all come together at the registration suite when the truly "globetrotters" start their first not so much pleasant official "duty"...pay the balance of their package, get all their "official gear" and have their assigned "sleeping quarters". Once the registration formalities were completed then it was time for the gossip, the relaxation (*most of the times at the nearest bar*) and the planning for the week ahead of us all.



The previous day (*October the 3<sup>rd</sup>*) was a working and long day for the WACA Executive Committee members who met to discuss matters related with current status of the Association and also to get their assigned duties for the different tasks related with the smooth running of the event.

This year, the Event counted with the participation of over 300 interliners, active and retired airline professionals, family members and guests from the Airline community worldwide, and thirty one Interline Clubs, members of the World Airlines Clubs Association's five Regions, assembled in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia, for the forty-second Annual General Assembly of Delegates and the 2009 Interline Celebration making it the second best attended WACA.

Sunday, October the 4th..."D day" for the organizing Committee, EC members and "volunteers" with all the necessary preparations and set-ups to received and register, efficiently and trouble free, the participating interliners and their guests.



Registrations desks for the European, Africa, Indian Ocean Islands and Middle East and the Latin America and Caribbean Regions were managed by their respective Regional Vice Presidents, and the Far-East and Australasia and the North America Regions and WACA Membership at Large were manned by Evelyn Lim (replacing the Regional Vice President, who was assisting the V.P. International Events and Special Projects) and Al and Sobie Toledo respectively.



Meanwhile, V.P. International Events and Special Projects, Mrs. Elaine Miller was "having fun" setting up her "special booths" for the reception of donations for the "Pure Life Society" Orphanage, "Tombola" and for the sale of the event's commemorative regalia; Golf shirts and beach towels.

With the V.P. Public Relations preoccupied and taken with the protocol and engagements issues related with the Opening Ceremonies, two members of the Executive were let free of any immediate assigned duty; WACA's President, Maga and the RVP North America, Chico...We still wondering why...



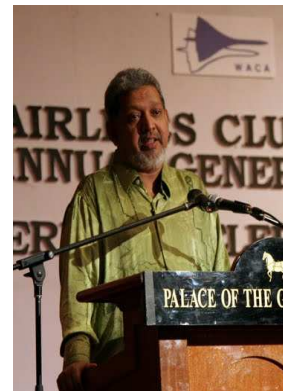
Chico's assignment, however, was to represent the EC (free roamer) which fitted perfectly with his self-imposed duties of "official photographer and cinematographer" (Wow! What a title) of the event, not to mention that he was free to meet and mingle with the arriving participants, which according to his own interpretation, was an added bonus...and he did not missed the opportunity!



*Can anyone blame him for not missing the opportunities?????*

By 19:00 "hundred" (military term to go along with the expression "D day") the "Royal Ballroom" started to take shape in anticipation for the Opening Ceremonies. Master of Ceremonies, Evelyn Lim from the Hong Kong Interline Club Association Ltd., introduced the WACA President Maga Ramasamy and the Guest of Honor and Director General Tourism Malaysia, Dato Mirza Mohammed Tayiab.

On his address to the Delegates and guests at the Opening Ceremonies, Dato Mirza Mahommed Tayiab, welcomed all participants to Kuala Lumpur, mentioning the significant contribution of the Airline Industry on the development of the tourism in Malaysia and declared the 42nd WACA General Assembly and 2009 Interline Celebration officially open.



WACA President, Maga Ramasamy, welcomed and thanked Dato Mirza Mahommed Tayiab for the valuable contribution and support from the Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board, which was essential to the success of the event, welcoming as well, all the participants to Kuala Lumpur and to the WACA 42nd AGA and Interline Celebration.



*Members of the WACA Executive Committee with the Director General Tourism Malaysia, Dato Mirza Mohammed Tayiab.*



Besides his message of welcome, WACA's President, Maga Ramasamy, stressed the main objectives of the Association, highlighting the Social Responsibility of its members with focus in the objectives of sustainable tourism, the protection of the environment and the contribution of the Airlines to the reduction of the emissions of CO<sup>2</sup>.



The evening was also highlighted by a Cultural Show followed by a cocktail and "hors d'oeuvre".



With all the business sessions and the Annual General Assembly of Delegates done and gone...it was time for the Delegates to join the Observers, who already had their share of fun and relaxation, to start, fully, enjoying the final days of their visit to the Malaysian Capital City, Kuala Lumpur.

The "fun" started after lunch on October the 7<sup>th</sup> when it was time to board our buses for the sightseeing tour of Kuala Lumpur, and people become instantaneously "color blind" and dyslectic, incapable of distinguish the color and number of the bus to which they were assigned in advance (Ok I confess! I was one of them...). One chance that the organizing "Doctors" had foreseen such "sickness" and managed to have few seats available per bus to accommodate those interliners affected by the "on the spot illness".



The tour took us to the major sights of Kuala Lumpur with photo stops at the Petronas Twin Towers, the Royal Palace and the Independence Square.



Kuala Lumpur surprised most of us for its cleanness, modern buildings and above all, well organized traffic. It also proved to be a hospitable and friendly city.



Our first photo stop was a spot with the striking and modern architectural complex of the Petronas Twin Towers dominating the panorama and, as expected, was the ideal site to remind interliners, at later date that they really were "there"...Some of the buses had their "own" open bar until we were all advised that if the bus was stopped and the police board it, our accommodations in KL (familiar name for the city) would have a "slight" change in the type of rooms that would be allocated to us.

Well...the advice did not close the "clandestine" bars but its "operation" was much more discrete...Our next photo stop was at the Royal Palace and once again the "tourists" rushed to have photos with the Palace as background and of course with the sentries posted to guard the main entrance to the Palace



After a short stop at the Independence Square, our final stop, before heading to the Seri Melayu Restaurant for dinner, was a pleasant "Bazaar" where, interesting enough, some husbands and "boyfriends" mysteriously lost contact with their "loved" ones, only to find each other, in time to board the buses...

The group activities for the day come to an end at the restaurant Seri Melayu where interliners were served a "lavish" buffet dinner and were entertained with a live cultural show. At the end of the dinner most of the participants return to the hotel, while the youngsters prefer to "hit" the local "discos" and Bars.

October the 8<sup>th</sup>, today's tour will take us to the Holiest site for Malaysians Hindus, the Batu Caves, followed by a visit to the famous Royal Selangor Pewter factory (another chance for husbands and boyfriends to disappear into thin air...) and a lunch in the revolving restaurant in the Kuala Lumpur Communications Tower.



The Batu Caves, besides its religious significance, is an impressive cave, with an opening natural "gallery" where the roof reaches an elevation of about 30 meters from the ground and the open space is, probably, close to or even more than 300 meters in diameter.

However, it is also the impressive formations of stalactites and stalagmites that make the Cave a must to see, despite the 252 steps needed to be climbed to reach the entrance and the 50 or so steps inside the cave.



Once I climbed up and down all those steps, keeping telling to myself that I surely was a "masochist" to submit myself to such a "punishment" I realized that, as compensation for all the forced exercise, not only God would waive all my past and present sins, but also, that for the entire year of 2010, I will be done with all the physical exercises.

My personal "saga" with monkeys had its second round at the Batu Caves' Square where wild monkeys wait to be fed by the visitors. My "encounter" with these "friendly" wild animals, started in Thailand, a couple of years ago, where I had my eye glasses stolen by a monkey suffering from "myopia". This time, I was dealing with a very smart and patient monkey that after establishing his supremacy among the youngster, monkeys that is, sat and took (very gentle and polite) one peanut at the time from my hand.



Well...time for me to start the climbing business and with the bag of peanuts "dangling loosely" from my hand I headed to the "dreadful" stairs. That was the moment so patiently waited by "George" (I had named the monkey).

As soon as I turn my back and start walking to the stairs, a little run and a jump from "George", and my bag of peanuts was gone and to top it, to a place inaccessible to anyone but a monkey!!!

This is one of the reasons why I enjoy so much the contact with the wild life...even with wild animals there is always a chance of learning a lesson or two, and in this case..."Patience is a virtue!!!" was my interpretation of the occurrence.

The "lesson" did not, however, change the facts...it still monkeys=2, Chico=0... I'm glad that I will return to Thailand in 2011 and maybe then, I will have a chance of getting the score straight!





The visit proved to be an interesting and educational tour, which to an extent, destroyed the myth that tin is a "cheap" mineral and with no other purpose than its industrial use or on inexpensive gifts and decorative items.



The factory produces items that goes from simple "door handles" to objects that come real close to master pieces of art or collectors-items, manually handcrafted by the factory' artisans.

As expected, there was an "exodus" practiced by the "male" participants as soon as we enter the show room... and most of "us" went straight to the exit door, and "dreamed" while "admiring" the huge replica of a beer mug on display in the court yard....

A bird's eye view of Kuala Lumpur from the revolving restaurant in the KL Tower



Once the visit to the factory was done and the ladies had finished their shopping, we headed to the KL Tower for lunch and also to the "end" of the day's activities as a group.

After lunch, a group of interliners will join the members of the Association Executive for a visit to the Pure Life Society Orphanage, WACA's adopted charity project for this year's event and as suggested by the Malaysian Tourist Department.

The visit proved to be, probably, one of the most rewarding and gratifying moments of our short stay in the Capital City of Malaysia. (please see separate report)

Tonight is the Gala Dinner and President's Ball. The reception will mark the end of the 2009 Interline Celebration. Amongst us was already that sad feeling that comes with the reality that soon you will start saying your farewell and "au revoir" to your friends.



A highlight of the night was the introduction of the Interline Clubs recipients of this year's WACA awards and the announcement of the WACA Member Club of the Year.



Depicted in the above picture, and in the habitual order, are the Delegates representing the awarded Clubs with WACA Secretary General, Mr. Julian Chau (HKIC); Ms Heather Voget (SIC); Ms. Andrea Lyseight (JIC); Ms. Colin Worswick (SIC); Mr. Barna Rimóczy (HIC); Ms. Jumana Hassan (JIC); Ms. Evelyn Lim (HKIC); Mr. Franky Hetimier (IOIC) and Mr. Steve Charlton (MIC).





The event, unfortunately, was "cut short" due to the fact that a large group of participants had to be ready, early in the morning (04:00AM) for their second or third "round" of their participation in this year's WACA's 2009 Interline Celebration...the Borneo "adventure" as so well put by Steve Charlton from the MIC.

As usual and to help WACA's finances, and before the Closing Ceremonies, there was the draw of the habitual 50/50 raffle tickets sold during the week's events.



The evening came to its end with the Closing Ceremonies and the transfer of the WACA Flag to the 43<sup>rd</sup> WACA Annual General Assembly and 2010 Interline Celebration hosting Club, the Interline Club of Portugal.



It was time for us to say, not only, our last farewells and "au revoir" to our friends, but also, to say goodbye to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and hello to Recife, Brazil.

And then it was time for the last group photos, or photos of departing good "old" friends and the usual wishes of "take care" and we shall see each other again in Recife or, for that matter, in any other "location" where an International WACA Event will take place.



But before "put" also an end to this "long" summary, I must make reference to the Beach Party and the Regional Nights (Cultural Evenings). The best way how to tell a story of a party is letting the photos do all the talking.

But before doing that I would like to thank the valuable collaboration with some of the photos used in this "story" of Carmen Thoumy - INTERLINE CLUB OF LEBANON, RON SHACKELLY - VANCOUVER INTERLINE CLUB, SHIRLY DIBLEY - FLORIDA INTERLINE CLUB and KARI VIITANEN - HELSINKI INTERLINE CLUB. Thank you so much to you all.

**Francisco Valdez**  
Regional Vice-President North America



## Cultural Evenings Kuala Lumpur, 4-9. OCT 2009

**BEACH PARTY AND EUROPE, FAR EAST AND  
AUTRALASIA AND AFRICA, INDIAN OCEAN  
ISLANDS AND MIDDLES EAST REGIONS**





**LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN AND  
NORTH AMERICA REGIONS**





## VISIT TO THE PURE LIFE SOCIETY Kuala Lumpur, 8. OCT 2009



On October 8, 2009, while attending our 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Assembly, a representation of 20 members of the World Airlines Clubs Association visited the Pure Life Society in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. We met with the staff and children and presented them with a cheque in the amount of 1,470 RM. As well, we also presented them with 4 boxes of school supplies. We were delighted with the welcome we received from everyone, especially the children.



The Pure Life Society is a home for disadvantaged children founded in 1949 by Swami Satyananda Ph.D., J.P. During the years 1945 to 1951, he was involved in relief work amongst the poor, the orphans, and the displaced children in Singapore and Malaya, assisted by Mother (then sister) Mangalam. In 1950, as a result of World War II, the first Home was established for orphans and underprivileged children.

We were thrilled with the excitement of the children and honored when Mother Mangalam, who, at 83, is an inspiration to everyone. Although she had not been feeling well earlier in the day, she came to welcome us and thank us personally for our interest and donations to the orphanage.



The pictures of the visit how how happy the children were and we all left with a warm feeling of making a small difference in their lives.



**Elaine Miller**  
Vice President Internat. Events and Special Projects





## Thank You to Julian Chau

Hi Julian,

As I do from time to time, I prepared some words to say to you at the Gala Dinner in Kota Kinabalu, on the post-AGA Borneo trip. Basically I wanted to thank you for a great trip, on behalf of the group.

However, I was unable to stay for the entire dinner, and never did take the microphone. If I had, you might have heard something like this.....

*Fellow Interliners, may I have your attention, please...*

*(For those who can't see me around the corner, it's Steve from the Montreal Interline Club...)*

*I feel now is a good time to give a heart-felt "Thank-you" to the person who worked so hard to make this trip happen. On behalf of the group, I'd like to say "Thank-you" to Julian Chau, for bringing us successfully to, and across, Sabah.*

*This was called the "Borneo Adventure", and what a good name - it was an adventure, I'm sure you'll all agree! This was a trip that most people would never take unless organized in the manner that it was! And you can imagine the time and energy Julian must have put in, to make it happen! These WACA trips are not only a good experience, but a good value, too!*

*Most of us, being retired, have to be careful with our money, and we grumble about rising costs, but let me recount something about this Borneo trip. Just before leaving Montreal for Singapore, I received a flyer from the alumni association of my university – it was a trip to Borneo, for the princely sum of \$5999 !!! **Each** ! Granted, it included airfare, and was a bit longer, but even taking off \$2000 for airfare, that trip was still 3 times what Julian was able to do for us. And you can be sure they would see the same rehabilitation centre, the same family groups along the river side, and would dodge the same rain showers. And they certainly wouldn't have had nicer buses, nor would they have eaten better than we have tonight! As WACA members, we should always remember to count our blessings! It makes up a bit for having been underpaid all these years ;-)*

*Some of you may go home, and tell family and friends of an "adventure" that will give little children nightmares – floating down a swollen river, full of ferocious crocodiles hiding just beneath the surface, waiting for someone to drag his hand in the muddy water; on either side of the river, groups of wild orang-utans, each lorded over by an angry jealous male, 200 pounds of pure muscle, able to pull any of us apart like a barbecued chicken wing if we landed on shore; and in the jungle, thousands of thirsty blood-sucking leeches, hanging from the branches like strands of black spaghetti, glistening in the sun, writhing, twisting, pulsating, looking for blood.*

*And all around us scuttled the natives, whose fathers and grandfathers were head-hunters, and who undoubtedly had a "white" head or so in their collection!*

*But we will more-likely tell the truth – how we were able to see wild, unspoiled nature up-close and personal, especially the poor gentle orang-utans, whose forest we are usurping to furnish our houses. In spite of assurances by our guide that logging has stopped, you know as well as I do that that money trumps conservation, and the forest environment of the oranges and proboscis monkeys is still under threat. We certainly have good memories of the gentle Malay people, who throughout the trip were always smiling, and helpful. I spoke at length early one morning with the night watchman, and another time with a girl in the Sports Centre, and both experiences were rewarding. One of the advantages of being on a WACA trip is to be able to talk with the locals, and I hope some of you were able to speak with them more than just "another coffee please".*



*I've taken a few trips now that Julian has organized, and we here today were wise to have taken this one! His experience, extensive knowledge, tireless energy, and customary good-humour have made this trip one that we will remember for a long, long time! Let's all stand in our place and give a warm round of thanks to Julian, who made this all possible! (applause)*

**Steve Charlton**  
**Montreal Interline Club**



## **WACA Family welcomes Nairobi Interline Club Annual General Assembly – Kuala Lumpur**

### **An Old Member Club rejoins the WACA Family!**

After years of absence, and all efforts made from AIM Region & Kenyan friends; it was a great pleasure again to welcome Nairobi Interline Club to Waca Family.



A good participation from NIC was in Kuala Lumpur attending the AGA as delegates & observers.



NIC attendees had the chance to meet with other Interline members from different Interline Clubs, which made them gain new experiences, friends and gave them more ways to promote their Club as NIC and their Country as Kenya and their Region as AIM in the future.



Special thanks goes to WACA EC Committee for the excellent hosting, meet & assist arrangements for all the delegates, the quality & quantity of events both socially and workload, and helping the NIC- as a new club- with special package.

On behalf of JIC, AIM Region and as a member of the WACA family we say:

**Welcome Back Nairobi Interline Club!**



**Suhair Mahmoud**  
**Assistant to the VP Public Relations**  
**JIC WACA Rep.**



## NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2009

### VICE PRESIDENT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS



Now that October 31<sup>st</sup> has come and gone and a few weeks have passed since we all returned from our 42<sup>nd</sup> Interline Celebration and Annual General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, it is time to get back to normal and get caught up with communications

First of all, our gratitude and thanks must go to everyone who worked so hard to make our 42<sup>nd</sup> Interline Celebration the great success we enjoyed. Your participation and enthusiasm was what made the difference and made all the hard work and planning behind the scenes worthwhile. These events don't just happen and it takes a great deal of time, talent and sacrifice on the part of everyone involved to make everything come together. Sure, there were shortcomings and some things could have been done better, but overall a good time was had by all. It is always easy to be critical, but remember, we are all members of WACA and work hard to make it a great organization.

For my part, I want to thank everyone who gave of their time and energy to help with the selling of WACA t-shirts and towels, the collecting of the charity and TOMBOLA prizes, selling 50/50 tickets, preparing for the TOMBOLA, the TOMBOLA itself and especially those who came with us to the orphanage.

We were able to present the Pure Life Society orphanage and home for disadvantaged children with a cheque in the amount of 1,470 RM and 4 boxes of school supplies brought by our members. We were warmly received by the staff and children of the Pure Life Society and Mother Mangalam expressed their gratitude. Mother Mangalam is now 83 and President of the Society. She has devoted her life to helping the disadvantaged children of her country. (Another Mother Theresa)

The WACA t-shirts and towels proved to be popular and were sold throughout the celebration. Since they are good advertising for WACA, if any clubs or individuals are interested in obtaining some of these items, maybe as a prize or promotion at any of your events, let us know so we can work out ways to deliver them to you. T-shirts are \$20.00 USD and the towels \$15.00 USD.

Our WACA Bonanza for the coming year will be again requesting new prizes. Your participation in buying and selling these tickets at all your events year round helps to make this project successful. We welcome your donations of prizes and encourage more new ideas.

While in Kuala Lumpur, I received many proposals and requests for dates for upcoming club sponsored packages and events for 2010. It promises to be an exciting year for WACA and we will culminate it with our net 43<sup>rd</sup> Interline Celebration and Annual General Assembly next October 17 – 22, 2010 in Recife, Brazil. I am sure there are others I haven't received yet and I hope to hear from you as soon as possible about your planned packages and tours in order to have your dates approved for inclusion in the WACA Calendar of Events and the WACA World News. We endeavor to avoid overlapping events.

Our 50/50 draw was very successful this year, due to the efforts of Chris Orton, Ria Bucheli and Mia Zwahlen. Our lucky winners were:

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	\$200.00	Mary Ekman, Sweden I.C.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	\$100.00	Susie Walters, Washington I.C.
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	\$ 50.00	Miriam Marley, San Diego I.C.
4 <sup>th</sup> Prize	\$ 25.00	Bertil Hammer, Sweden I.C.

The TOMBOLA evening, although hectic, was successful from a fund raising point of view. The success of the Tombola depends on two things; donations received and number of people buying tickets. Last year, in Nassau, we ran out of ticket envelopes, so we tried to increase the numbers this year by 500. It is always hard to predict how many donations you will receive and figure out the ratio of prizes to tickets sold. Thank you to everyone who brought items for the Tombola and especially to everyone who bought tickets. A special thank you to Marcy Watt and Debbie Rhein for organizing and wrapping all the prizes and envelopes. This is no small feat and required a big time commitment prior to the event. As this was held the day of the AGA, I depended on these two ladies to wrap, number, set up, and help sell tickets that evening. This is one of the few ways and means WACA has of raising funds so that we can continue to provide an organization you can be proud of and run professionally. Your participation is what makes it worth the hard work and effort. We would all like to relax and enjoy ourselves but without the workers no one has fun. This year we were able to realize a profit of \$1,709.00 from our combined efforts. THANK YOU EVERYONE!

All in all this was a wonderful 42<sup>nd</sup> Interline Celebration and we look forward to next year in Recife.

**Elaine Miller**  
**Vice President Internat. Events and Special Projects**

## Winner Grand Venture Bonanza Interairline Club Zurich Grill Party – Sep 2009

After a three days trip to Zurich and a one day trip to Geneva we are back again in Sweden.



We want to thank Interairline Club Zurich very sincerely, for the wonderful time given to us during our short stay there. Both Hilde and Eugen took care of us so well! A kind of hospitality, one cannot forget. Each and every detail were carefully organized.

Eugen even managed to fix my laptop to his broadband connection so that I was able to attend my urgent matters and monitor all my airline reservations at no cost.



We were fortunate enough to meet about 40 members from the Club there at the Barbecue Party, which was a fantastic one.

We were also taken to the beautiful mountains, 2020 meters high by a cable car, which we enjoyed so much.!

I just want to thank Britt, Eugen and my wife Shirani for "pushing" me to take this trip. I was not going to take it because of too much work... but now I realize that how much I would have missed.



Many thanks to all of you of the Zurich club who made our trip a memorable one !!!

Sarath and Shirani Wattegedera,  
Members of Sweden Airlines Club



## XXII Passarola Golf Tournament São Miguel / Azores, 20. – 24 OCT 2009

Between the 20th and the 24<sup>th</sup> of October, the Interline Club of Portugal held the XXII Passarola Golf Tournament at São Miguel in the Island of Azores. There were eighteen players participating from different Airlines of the world namely: Aeroflot, Cathay Airways, Singapore Airlines, Icelandair, SAS, Quantas, TAP Portugal and SATA. The Tournament was under the coordination of JOSÉ MENDES and took place at the Golf courses of Furnas and Batalha, played in the category of Stableford Single Play.



The Price giving took Place during the Gala dinner at the Club House of Batalha Golf course. Besides the excellent dinner, there was also good live music. The Golf Players there partners, and also all the participants from the Grande Festal 2009 which were invited, had really a good time and enjoyed themselves.

The winners were as follows:

### MEN-

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place NET- Michael Sng - Singapore Airlines
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Gross- Steini Mareinssn - Icelandair
- Longest Drive-Fernando Rodrigues - SATA-AZORES

### LADIES-

- 1<sup>o</sup> Place NET-Kirsten Rasmussen - SAS-SWEDEN
- Nearest to the Pin-Li/Lam Soo - Singapore Airlines



The Interline Golf Committee were satisfied with this event, and hope to repeat this success in the next PASSAROLA GOLF TOURNAMENT in OBIDOS (near Lisbon), which will be held next October 2010, with high quality Golf courses and beautiful surroundings

**José Mendes**  
Interline Club of Portugal





## Grande Festa 2009 Azores, 22 – 25 OCT 09

The 22<sup>nd</sup> of October was a quite different Thursday at the Airport of Ponta Delgada, when about 130 participants of the Grande Festa 2009 arrived with several SATA and TAP flights. Three coaches brought our group of members and friends to the Hotel Bahia Palace, located at a beautiful beach nearby the town of Vila Franca do Campo. A welcome cocktail was the beginning of these three days of friendly get-together.



Friday morning was the tour, which would lead us to the “Lagoon of Fire”. However, a heavy fog and rain made the lovely views of Miguel Island invisible for us. Leaving the hills, the organizers decided to have a stop at the bucolic “Caldeira Velha”, where we walked through a luxuriant vegetation, streams and waterfalls, guided by the odor of some of the volcanic springs of the island. Our next stop was the tea plantation of Porto Formoso, where a heartening and delicious tea with scones was served to the group. The shop of the farm was visited by most of us.



Always accompanied by the rain, but seeing some of the green valleys of S. Miguel Island, we reached the hotel Terra Nostra where the island's famous meal, cooked in the steam of volcanic springs, was waiting for us.



On our way back to Hotel Bahia Palace, we passed by the lagoon of Furnas to see how they prepare this meal, boiling in volcanic holes and then brought to town.

The day ended with a dinner together with the participants of the “Passarola Golf Cup”, served in the nice installations of the Green Golf Club House.

Saturday, November 24, began with a passage through the Lagoa do Fogo to admire the landscape that the fog and rain had us not allowed to see at the previous day. The tour continued with the visit of the city of Ribeira Grande and a reception in the Town Hall. We were honoured with a traditional drink and the presentation of a folkloric dancing group. All participants were invited to enter the dance.

The visit to the theatre of Ribeira Grande was, for all, a pleasant surprise. Lunch was served in the “Village of Chapels”. It was sunny day and the visit to the “Lagoon of Seven Cities” could be enjoyed in full.



The Gala Dinner in commemoration of the 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Interline Club of Portugal was served in the Hotel Bahia Palace, where local members from the Azores joined the group. A magnificent musical band was responsible for the fun of all dancers. It was an honor to welcome representatives of the Regional Government of the Azores, the Mayor of Ponta Delgada, the Director of Regional Tourism and the Administration of SATA.

As usual at our events, a donation to a charity institution was made during the dinner, offered to the Child Centre of Jacinto Ferreira. The evening ended with the expected raffle.

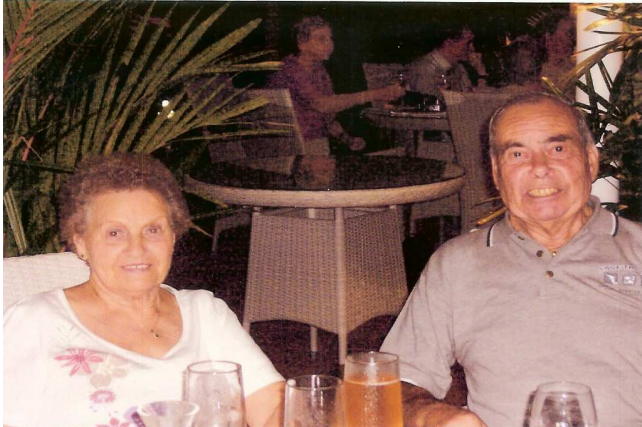


Sunday morning, after a good breakfast, the participants of the Grande Festa 2009 were transported to the Airport talking many good memories in their luggage. A vote of gratitude and recognition for the excellent work and dedication of the Delegation at the Azores and the Board of ICP.

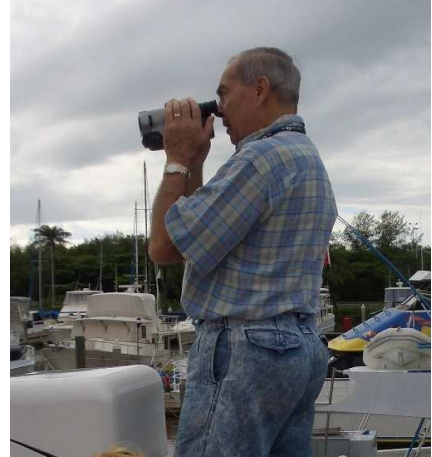


## Remembering Reg Groves

Our good friend and travelling companion Reg passed away in July. He was a founder member of the Gatwick Interline Club back in 1979. His wife Helen was the airline employee, meaning that Reg could not officially be elected to our committee, but we soon put that to rights by making him an Honorary Member. He was always involved with organising our local events. Reg and Helen travelled to many AGAs and International Events.



Reg loved recording all his trips on film and many will remember him as the guy with the big video camera, following behind the rest of the group in order to get the perfect shot. At the regional nights during AGAs he was happy to serve samples of British beer wearing his waistcoat and bowler hat.



As we travel to this year's AGA in Malaysia we shall be thinking of Reg and raising a glass to him – Borneo was one of the places on his wish list that sadly he never made it to.

**Sue Walker & Frank Miller**  
**Gatwick Interline Club**

## Sightseeing on the London Duck

Members from Gatwick and London Interline Clubs recently joined together for a sightseeing tour of London on the London Duck. The Duck is a converted landing craft used at the beach landings in Normandy. It now runs both on land and in water. The 75-minute tour took us to many of the famous sights in London, the guide giving a continuous commentary of interesting historic facts and sometimes amusing stories



Once we had driven down the ramp into the Thames (only those at the back got a bit wet) we passed close by the Houses of Parliament and other well known landmarks.



After the tour we had a pub meal and said how pleased we were that we had managed to escape the showers that had been around all day

**Frank Miller**  
**Gatwick Interline Club**



## Paint Ball Day! Jordan Interline Club

### A day in nature!

Around 50 members of Jordan Interline Club had enjoyed a full day of fun and activities at Mountain Breeze.



Interliners also had visited al Amani Community and donated some contributions to them and in the same time enjoyed their homemade brunch and brought some of their products home.



**Suhair Mahmoud**  
Assistant to the VP Public Relations  
JIC WACA Rep.



Last page....



Dear Interliners,

How fast time is running! It seems it was yesterday, when we met for our EC Meeting in Montreal, focusing all matters arising during the year and discussing details of the organization of the AGA, which was organized by the Executive Committee. And now, this fantastic AGA and Interline Festival is already history.... I am convinced, that all those of you who joint us at this great event returned home with a good feeling, that in spite of the economic crises, WACA is still there, alive, and full of surprises for its members! However, this event has not been possible to realize without the help and continuous support of a small but very strong group of interliners, who supported the EC and mainly the head of the organizational team, Julian Chau. Thank you again so much for all your efforts!

In this Edition of your WACA WORLD NEWS, you will have the opportunity to read everything about this great event, revive the best moments and have a look on all the photos. Those who where unable to join us will note, that they missed an excellent opportunity to meet friends, learn wonderful places in Malaysia and enjoy the excellent pre- and pos-tours! I am very grateful to all those who supported this edition with detailed reports and stories. A very special thank you to our photographers, mainly Kari Viitanen from Helsinki, Victor Carvalho from Lisbon and Chico Valdez, our RVP North America from Montreal.

In the meantime, you may have seen that many new and interesting events have already been scheduled for next year – just visit the Calendar of Events on our website [www.waca.org](http://www.waca.org) – it will help you to organize some nice and interesting vacations! The highlight will be next year's Interline Festival and AGA. For the first time we will meet in Brazil, in the city of Recife. Exciting pre- and pos-tours to Rio de Janeiro, Iguazú, Manaus and the Amazon – amongst others – will be published within the next weeks.

The end of the year with all its holidays and festivities is approaching. On behalf of our Executive Committee and myself, I want to wish you all, your families and friends, Merry Christmas and a Happy, healthy and successful New Year!

Yours in Interlining  
Rosemarie Mamede  
Vice President Public Relations

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