

MV Monthly

The latest news from our volunteers and the museum

Nr 7 - May 2014

Green light for Coffee Table Book

Good things come to those who wait, and we are very grateful that JMM has kindly agreed to provide the funds to finish and publish our famous MV Coffee Table Book. For those who have yet to submit their articles: we are extending the deadline to **31 May**. For more info, please send an email to Magan via magan25@gmail.com

No more Frontdesk duties. From now on, we're guiding in dynamic duo's!

You might have noticed: since the entrance of the museum is now at the back, the front desk has not really functioned as a front desk. MVs doing front desk duty are, more often than not, quite bored. So, starting this month, there will be no more front desk duty! Instead, we will have two guides on the ground. It is up to you and your partner to decide if you want to do one tour together, or split up your group and both do your own thing. And yes, we are considering doing two tours a day. One tour starting at 10 am and one at 11 am sounds like a possibility. But we won't start doing that any time soon - we will study the options, and of course we will have to see how many MVs we have left after the big summer break, when people always leave.

Coffee morning: 6 May

It's that time of the year again: we are looking for new trainees for the next batch of MVs. If you know anyone who might be interested, please invite them to the coffee morning on **6 May, 10 am** in the MV Room.

A Divine Journey to the Sri Kandaswamy Kovil Temple

The Museum Volunteers (MV) focus group kick - started the year 2014 by organizing a tour to the Sri Kandaswamy Kovil temple on 20th April.

This temple, constructed a century ago, is distinctive for its exquisite Ceylonese architecture and craftsmanship. It was initiated by the Indian diaspora vis-à-vis Tamil Ceylonese who resided in the Brickfields locality. Nearly two dozens of MVs who comprised of multiethnic participants from the local and international scenes, reached the *Kalamandapam* Hall (right next to the temple) entrance at 10 o'clock on Sunday morning. Both the prominent speakers Dato' Jegathesen and Dr. Thilagavathy welcomed us with a warm smile. They were donned in their traditional Indian apparels such as veshti (a white colour cloth that is wrapped from the waist to the ankle of a man) and saree (a one-



piece fabric that is five and a half metres length that is draped by the females). As we were seated in the hall, both speakers briefed us on the protocol of the temple before we proceeded. We removed our footwear and cleansed our feet before stepping into the temple. The peaceful and tranquil atmosphere of this temple showcases the prime deity, Lord *Sri Sakthi Vel Peruman* with two other subordinate

idols who are Lord *Sri Vinaayagar* and Goddess *Sri Rajarajeswari*. Besides that, the speakers also highlighted the religious observance, the auspicious 'vehicles' (transportation) of the deities such as the peacocks, mouse and lions. They walked us through clockwise while illustrating the intricate artistic features of the shrine. Later, the MVs were treated to sumptuous Malaysian vegetarian cuisine

that consisted of mee hoon, nasi lemak and carrot halwa with Bru coffee instead of the typical Indian entrée. This influence ensued via our palatable menu due to the cultural mosaic of Malaysia. Later, the day ended with a question and answer session when the inquisitive MVs were inquiring on the Hindu rituals that are performed and the breathtaking architectural design of the temple. Amidst the skyscrapers and modern highways of the bustling city, stands the *Sri Kandaswamy Kovil* temple along Scott Road in Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur and it serves as a significance of spiritual identity in a fast-paced world. It was certainly a memorable trip that broadened our (MV's) horizons regarding Hinduism and Hindu temples.

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