



MVM VOICES



Museum Volunteers Malaysia, hosted by Muzium Negara, 50566 Kuala Lumpur
email: mvmqueries@yahoo.com web: www.museumvolunteersmalaysia.org
Newsletter Issue 1, December 2, 2008

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

***New Saturday training programme to start soon, with registration on Jan 17. It will be at least 13 sessions long.**

***Volunteer renewal of RM50 for all trained guides will be due on March 1.**

Tours are scheduled like this:
TUESDAYS English 11am
THURSDAYS Japanese 10am, English 11am and French between 9-12noon
SATURDAYS English 11am

MVM SCHEDULE DEC & JAN

Through December, there are **additional Saturday guided tours** at 11am in Malay and Mandarin, to coincide with school holidays. But there is no English tour on Dec 25.

2 Dec 9am Workshop Batch 6, session 11, "The White Rajahs of Sarawak"

2 Dec 1pm Workshop batch 5

4 Dec 10am Trip and Guided Tour of Islamic Arts Museum

9 Dec 9am Workshop Batch 6, session 12 "Malaysia Post World War II"

9 Dec 1pm Workshop batch 5

16 Dec 1pm Workshop batch 5

18 Dec 9.45am Parliament visit

17 Jan 9am Batch 7 starts

Dear MVM Members,

Welcome to the MVM Newsletter, which will be emailed to all members bi-monthly from now on. You can also find hard copies in the MVM room, or look on our new web site (address above).

I hope this newsletter will help to keep us all in touch and encourage more participation from all our members.

Many new and exciting projects are being planned and we need everyone's help and support over the coming year. There are varying lengths of commitment, so even if you only have a couple of hours to spare please do donate that time to the MVM.

Right now, the MVM's Executive Committee has been decided and details are on page two. Zahara, Fauziah, Janet and I are busy getting the MVM officially registered as a society. We have our first meeting with the ROS in early December, and I hope to report back on our progress in the next issue.

The MVM will also be sending out a reminder to all members that their annual Volunteer Renewal (once fully graduated from the training programme) will be RM50 and due on 1st March, 2009.

In addition, the Docents Training Programme for 2009 will have a revised cost structure, because of increased costs of the training manual and materials. Weekday Docents will pay RM150, whilst Weekend Docents will pay RM100. The variation in cost reflects the fact that weekday trainees are able to attend Thursday lectures and seminars, while (due to work commitments) most weekend trainees are unable to use this facility.

Before I sign off, I know you will all join me in conveying our special thanks to Marie Tseng. It was her energy, imagination, enthusiasm and inspiration which allowed the MVM to become the success it is today. I am sure she will remain in contact when she leaves for Singapore later in the year.

A Very Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Kong Xi Fa Chai to all.

Chrissy Lioe, MVM President



MVM ETIQUETTE

A couple of reminders from **Angela Naylor** (Research and Training)

First, guides are NEVER allowed to accept money to conduct tours. We are volunteer guides and our tours are always free of charge.

Second, training sessions are conducted for guides and guide trainees. These lectures are not open to the public. If members of the public want to join a lecture for a valid reason, this has to be cleared first with the training facilitator (either Diane or Angela).

MVM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MVM Founder Marie Tseng organized a comprehensive consultation process for the MVM Constitution and the new MVM Executive Committee. The Committee held its first meeting on 23 October, and here are the members:

CHRISSY LIOE (Batch 2) – President
chrissy_lioe@hotmail.com

ZAHARA SHAHRIMAN (Batch 1) – Vice-President
niki@streamyx.com

AILEEN OLESEN (Batch 1) - Secretary
aileenolesen@yahoo.com

YON SEE TING (Batch 6) - Treasurer
seeting.yon@gmail.com

RENATA BALTRUNAITE (Batch 2) – Operations
retabalt@yahoo.com

DIANE BANZ-DEREZ (Batch 4) – Guiding
yavadiaben@hotmail.com

ANGELA NAYLOR (Batch 1) – Research & Training
naylors@tm.net.my

HAYLEY HOLLE (Batch 2) – Schools Programme
hayleyholle@yahoo.com

LORIEN HOLLAND (Batch 2) – Communication & Events
lorien.holland@koryogroup.com

Please don't forget that MVM works because of the many contributions of its members, so please volunteer to help in any of the sub committees you are interested in.

Did you know?



Animal Tin Coin Gallery C
 (Zahara Shahrman)

Chinese accounts of the Malay Peninsula report that tin ingots were used as money from the 15th century.

Many of these ingots which have survived are in the form of animals, especially crocodiles, elephants, tortoises, grasshoppers and especially cockerels.

It is said that these tin animals were originally intended as talismans, weights or even toys but were later accepted as currency although they were not widely used.

In Perak, in the mid-nineteenth century, one cast tin cockerel was valued at 10 *pitis* (tin coins) or 100 *duit ayam* (copper tokens bearing the image of a fighting cock and privately issued by Singaporean merchants.)



BATCHES 4 AND 5 GRADUATE – WELCOME TO YOU

On 18th October, 29 people from batches 4 and 5 graduated from their training programmes at a special ceremony at Muzium Negara. Batch 4 is our second weekend training group and Batch 5 is our first Japanese training group.

The ceremony was officiated by Encik Wan Jamaluddin bin Wan Yusoff, Deputy Director General, Department of Museums Malaysia. The other museum officials who were also present included Ms Janet Tee, and Encik Mohamad Shawali bin Badi, both Deputy Directors of Muzium Negara.

MVM NEWSLETTER AND WEB SITE

Keeping in touch with each other is essential for MVM volunteers. Please do **send guiding tips and ideas for articles** to be included in the next issue to lorien.holland@koryogroup.com. Perhaps you did an interesting research paper, or found an article elsewhere that you would like to share with the group.

We also need short articles on artifacts for the “Did You Know?” section. (These artifacts need to be in the Muzium Negara, and come with a photo.)

As I am having a baby in February, I would also appreciate some help on layout and editing for the February 1 edition. Please contact me direct on 012 303 0105 if you are interested to help.

MVM also has a new website.

The address is www.museumvolunteersmalaysia.org. At the moment, the site is a simple weblog. But our MVM member Eric Bonnet will be upgrading it to a proper website in early 2009.

In the meantime, you can see the guiding and talks schedule, the newsletter, MVM history, photographs and upcoming events on the weblog. (The Yahoo! Group will still continue)

Lorien Holland
(Communications)

A warm welcome to our new graduates!

(Don't worry, you are exempt from paying the annual Volunteer Renewal of RM50 until March 1, 2010). Below is a profile of one of our new graduates, Mari Osawa. We will profile other graduates in the next issue of the newsletter. Please email Lorien on lorien.holland@koryogroup.com if you would like to be included, or you have a suggestion for an interesting MVM member to profile.



1: FULL NAME AND NATIONALITY

Mari Osawa, Japanese

2: HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN MALAYSIA AND WHAT IS YOUR OCCUPATION?

I have been in Kuala Lumpur for one and a half years, and I am a housewife.

3: WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT FROM THE MVM TRAINING COURSE?

I have learnt a lot about Malaysian history and its culture which I had never known before and still learning a lot with great interest.

4: WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO DO WITH MVM?

As a Japanese guide, I would like to help many Japanese to know about Malaysia through the Museum. And at the same time, since I belong to batch 6 as well, I would like to make good communications with other batch members and exchange information to make our guiding better quality.