

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- + Next MVM weekday training to start on **15th September**
- + Next MVM weekend training to start on **26th September**,
- + Our new events coordinators are: **Diane Banz-Derez**
bd.banzderez@gmx.com
and **Kokkie Paauw**
kokkie_paauw@hotmail.com
- + Join the **Phase 1 Website Working Group** and help get our new website online. Contact Eric on ebonnet01@wanadoo.fr
- + We need help to spread the word on MVM, and build up our **MVM publicity and marketing** . Contact lorienholland@me.com



Fun at the first Focus Session, thanks to the MVM's Japanese group and the art of Furoshiki

Dear MVM Members,

There have been a number of new initiatives started since the beginning of 2009. We have introduced a new group called 'Focus.' For those of you who already attend the French group 'Regards Croises', you will be familiar with the structure. 'Focus' will meet one Thursday a month in the Meeting Room at Muzium Negara and will be a talk or demonstration in English. Members will be able to invite non-members. This will enable the MVM to broaden contacts with the English speaking community and encourage recruitment for the MVM training programmes.

Eric Bonnet unveiled his **website** to the Executive Committee in February and I have to say we were all very impressed. The website will take over as the main tool of communication within MVM within the next two months. It will initially be launched in English and French. We already have a group of volunteer translators who will be working on developing the website in Bahasa, Mandarin and Japanese. We will be looking for **more volunteers** to develop other areas of the website, and I sincerely hope MVM members will be enthusiastic about this project.

The dates for the 2009 MVM **training programme** have now been set. The weekday training will begin on Tuesday 15th September and the weekend training will start on Saturday 26th September, after Hari Raya.

Aileen Olesen resigned from organizing events for MVM and organized her last event in February - the trip to Eu Yan Sang Medical Hall which was a great success. Aileen has done a fantastic job over the last two years organising an informative and enjoyable programme of events for all of us, and I know you will all wish to extend your gratitude and thanks to her.

Events will now be organized by **Diane Banz -Derez** and **Kokkie Pauw**. If you have interesting ideas for trips or speakers please get in contact with them.

Lastly I know all members of the MVM would like to extend their congratulations to **Yuoko** on the arrival of her baby boy at the beginning of February and our editor **Lorien** on the arrival of Isabel in mid-February.

Chrissy Lioe, MVM President



MVM SCHEDULE

April & May

FOCUS SESSIONS (English)

9 April **History of Asian Ceramics**

Sylvie Gradeler

14 May **Moghul Art & Architecture**

Diane Banz-Derez

25 June **Irian Jaya people of the Baliem Valley**

Kokkie Paauw

REGARDS CROISES (French)

23 April **Shop Houses**

Catherine Bossis

7 May **Information for new members**

11 June **Moghul Art & Architecture**

Diane Banz-Derez

FOCUS SESSIONS GET OFF TO A GREAT START

'Focus' meets once a month with a talk or demonstration relevant to Asia and Asian culture, history, art and tradition. The meetings are open to non-MVM members and it is hoped that this will encourage recruitment on to the MVM training programme and raise awareness of MVM in the local and international communities.

The aim is to broaden our knowledge of Asia through the knowledge, and experiences of our members who come from or have lived in different cultures and countries.

Our inaugural 'Focus' meeting was organised by the MVM's Japanese group on February 19 and we had a lot of fun learning about the art of 'Furoshiki.' This is a type of traditional square wrapping cloth frequently used to transport clothes, lunch boxes, gifts and other goods, during the Edo Period in Japan. Everyone had a go at practicing the different wrapping techniques. We also learnt about the Yukata, a casual form of kimono made of cotton rather than silk and often worn during the summer. There were also wonderful examples of origami, the traditional Japanese art of paper folding. As you can see from the accompanying photographs it was a very enjoyable and informative morning.

Building on the success of that Focus session, we had another the next week. Catherine Bossis gave a talk on the **Pua Kumbu** on February 26. This is a woven textile made by the Iban, who are the major indigenous group of Sarawak. These fine weavings are the best ikat textiles found in Malaysia and help understand the traditional organization of Iban society. There has been a revival in the art of the Pua Kumbu as a contemporary form of art in recent years, but it is still a dying craft in most Iban communities.

Traditionally, Pua Kumbu were highly valued, and a great warrior would choose a skilled weaver for his wife. She used cotton yarns cultivated near the long house. Natural dyes in deep red and indigo blue came from leaves and roots.





PHASE 1 WEBSITE WORKING GROUP

Help us get the MVM web site launched by mid-June!
We need writers, polishers, translators, tecchies, and geneally helpful people. Please contact Eric on ebonnet01@wanadoo.fr

NEW BOOKSHELVES AND LOCKABLE CABINET

The Malaysian Culture Group has bought some new shelves and a lockable cabinet for the MVM room. More space for library books and a safe spot to leave your bag whilst guiding.
Many thanks, MCG!

RAUB HERITAGE CAMP CALL FOR GUIDES

MVM Member Aurelie Bosc is organizing a Raub Heritage Camp from June 1-3. Raub is a small town 120 kilometres from Kuala Lumpur. It has one main street with Chinese shophouses, and also kampungs with traditional Malay houses and it has been Aurelie's "hometown" for more than two years.

The goal of the camp is to promote awareness in the community of the importance of heritage, in order to better understand and preserve it. The target group is 50 students aged 13-17 and Aurelie needs ten MVM guides to help the students learn about their historical and cultural background through interactive approaches.

June 1 TALK: Introduction to heritage. **ACTIVITY:** Heritage walk around Raub

June 2 TALK: Malay houses. **ACTIVITY:** Workshops on photography, drawing, interview techniques etc

June 3 TALK: Chinese shop houses. **ACTIVITY:** Workshops .

CONTACT AURELIE (batch 1)
on boscaurelie@orange.fr



SCHOOLS PROGRAMME EDUCATES IN GARDEN INTERNATIONAL, ALICE SMITH AND SRI KDU

Hayley Holle, Zahara Shariman and their team have had a busy few months.

On February 25, 100 students visited the Museum from Garden International School to learn about the golden age of Malacca and also traditional weapons used by Malay, Chinese and Indian populations.

"The trip to Muzium Negara was very enjoyable as well as educational and beneficial...the outing was very nice and worth going to. Joyie Chooi Kar Mun - 7K"

On March 24, the whole of Primary 5 at Sri KDU visited the Museum. The four activities were a "Taste of Adventure" in the auditorium, a trail through the Senjata Exhibition, a "Mission Impossible" game through Galleries B and C and guiding in the Malay World Gallery and Istana Satu. To hold the attention of 178 children, let alone motivate, interest and entertain them, was quite a challenge... I am very happy to say that nearly all the guides came back to me reporting that they had fun and the children had enjoyed themselves. Sri KDU has also come back with positive feedback. They were very impressed with our organization and the helpfulness and expertise of the guides. A huge thank you to all involved – Kanishta, Kim, Elisabeth, Nuria, Robin, Wong, Azahar, Nisha, Karen, Zahara, See Ting, Sarah, Val and Shirley.

Most recently, the Schools Programme went to the Alice Smith School on March 31 to talk to the whole of Year 1 about "How Things Have Changed." Karen Loh and Zahara Shariman took quite an array of artifacts to show the children. These included an old telephone, a gramophone, an amazing original iron and all sorts of kitchen utensils. Zahara and Karen told me the kids loved it and they really enjoyed themselves too. Teacher Gretta Funnell sent me a lovely email thanking the MVM for such a great and authentic way to teach the children about the past.

Next up is a four-day workshop for 150 Year 6 students from Garden International.

HAYLEY HOLLE (batch 2)