

message from the President

We did it !!! Malaysian Games champion and then Asean Badminton Champions in Paris. Not bad for a beginning. Thanks to all who have contributed and also to the new committee. They've organised a couple of events quite successfully and won a couple of championships. Keep up the good work.

Syabas! everybody



SK Tye
MAF President

Selamat Datang

Bienvenue à Paris to Mr. Zainuddin Mohamed and his family. Mr. Zainuddin is our new Malaysia Airlines Director replacing our good ol' Mr. Sylvester Ong. We hope that Mr. Zainuddin will enjoy his term in Paris and we look forward to his active participation in MAF.

EGM 2005

MAF'S Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM), Saturday, 16th April 2005 was held at the Embassy. The meeting chaired by the new President was held to present the 2004 Secretary's and Treasurer's report, followed up by a Q&A session by members.

MAF committee 2005

Patron
H.E. Dato' Hamidah Mohd Yusoff
President
Tye Soon Kwai
Ex-Officio
Capt. Musa Omar
Vice-president
Mohd. Yusoff Kamarudin
Secretary
William Khor
Treasurer
Azam Shah Othman Basha
Committee Members
Woo Wai Fong
Logi Dashan
Sylvian Coudel
Henri Chapouthier
Khairul Hisham

editorial board

Zatashah Idris Editor in Chief

Halida Nauleau
Bakhtiar Talhah
Affendy Awaluddin

contact :

e-mail : www.maf@free.fr
infonet1@free.fr



upcoming events

August 31	National Day
Venue:	Paris
Sept 24th, 25th	Cross Cultural Homestay
Venue :	Vitré, Ile et Vilaine
November 3/4	Hari Raya Aidilfitri
December	MAF Annual Dinner
All events dates are subject to change . Please check the website [www.maf.online.fr] regularly or with a member of the committee for confirmation.	

Invitation to a Homestay

Through a "Bretons" home stay, MAF members are invited to a weekend stay in the home of the people of the city of Vitré in Brittany. It's an opportunity for Malaysian to discover the way of life in the country side of France. It is also a chance for the French to meet Malaysians and to know more about Malaysia.

Visit our website to find out more or call us at 0611014219 or 0626095283 for more details or to sign up. We're counting on you
Malaysia Boleh !!!

MAF Easter Picnic – Sunday, 3 April 2005.

MAF's 3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt picnic was held on Sunday, 3 April 2005 at the Parc André Citroën in Paris. Despite the demise of the Pope Jean-Paul II announced the night before the picnic, about 100 people comprising of MAF members, the Embassy's staff, the Malaysian agencies officials together with their families and friends participated in the picnic. The highlight of the picnic was the children's Easter egg run which was enjoyed by both children and adults. H.E. Ambassador gave away the prizes to the lucky juniors and followed by a nasi lemak picnic à la Malaisienne!



Dato' Sri Mohd Najib in Paris

The Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister made a five-day working visit to France from 9 to 13 June 2005. During his visit he also attended the Le Bourget Airshow at the invitation of his French counterpart, Michele Alliot-Marie. A working lunch with the French business community as well as visits to Brest and Cherbourg were also part of the programme during the official visit. The Deputy Prime Minister also met with the Malaysian community on Sunday at the Grand Intercontinental Hotel.



High Tea with the 2005 Executive Committee of the Malaysian Association in France (MAF) H.E. Ambassador hosted a high tea for MAF's newly elected executive committee members at Rumah Malaysia on Sunday, 10 April 2005. The 2004 executive committee members and members of the association were also present. During the high-tea, H.E. Ambassador and the new committee had an informal exchange of views and ideas on MAF's projects and activities for the year.



SPB Yang Di Pertuan agong's Birthday, Saturday 4th June 2005.

A simple ceremony was held at Rumah Malaysia on Saturday, 4 June to celebrate the SPB Yang Di-Pertuan Agong's Birthday. H.E. Ambassador delivered a speech and quoted the YDP Agong's Birthday speech to the guests. Guests then joined in the choir of singing the National Anthem, Negara Ku followed by the popular patriotic songs of Kerana Mu Malaysia and Jalur Gemilang

Official visitors from Malaysia

The Hon. Dato' Seri Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir, Minister of Information was in Cannes to attend the Marché International des Programmes de Television (MPITV Fair) held at the Cannes Palais des Festivals from 11 to 15 April 2005.

The Hon. Tan Sri Samsuddin, Chief Secretary to the Government attended the meeting of the Commonwealth Association of Public Administration and Management (CAPAM) in Paris from 24 to 26 April 2005.

YBHG. Jen. Dato' Seri Abdul Aziz Haji Zainal, Panglima Tentera Darat made a courtesy call to H.E. Ambassador on Wednesday, 18 May at the Embassy.

The Hon. Tan Sri' Dato' Hj. Muhyiddin Mohd Yassin, Minister of Agriculture and Agro based Industries attended the 73rd Annual General Session of the International Committee of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), in Paris from 22 to 27 May 2005. During his stay, the Hon. Minister visited Agropolis, an international centre for research and higher education in agriculture located in Montpellier and hosted a dinner for the Malaysian community attended by some MAF members and Malaysian students in Paris.

Maulidur Rasul Gathering

On the occasion of the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad S.A.W., H.E. Ambassador hosted a Maulidur Rasul gathering at Rumah Malaysia on Thursday, 21 May 2005. Around 60 people consisting of Embassy staff and Malaysian agencies in Paris and their families attended the gathering. The objective of the gathering was to forge silaturahmi among fellow Muslims especially the Malaysian community in Paris.



Five Board members of the National Accreditation Board (LAN) led by LAN's Chairman, Dato' Dr. Mohamed Sulaiman visited their counterpart, the French National Accreditation Committee (Comité National d'Evaluation) in Paris. The delegation who was on a two-day visit also met with officials from the French Ministry of Education and the University Paris-Sud XI on 26 May

The Hon. Datuk Seri Utama Dr. Rais bin Yatim, Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage was in Paris from 6 to 9 June 2005 to attend the Second Meeting of ASEM Culture Ministers held in Paris. During his stay, the Hon. Minister visited the Fashion and Textile Museum (Musée de la Mode et du Textile) in Paris and also the city of Lyon. In Lyon, the Minister and his delegation were received by officials from the City hall of Lyon who presented the Minister with guided tours of Lyon as a historical city and UNESCO's world heritage site.

In Transit

YB Datuk Dr. Leo Micheal Toyad, Minister of Tourism from Dakar for Kuala Lumpur on 1 April 2005

H.E. Pehin Sri Tan Sri Dr. Haji Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, Chief Minister of Sarawak from Kuala Lumpur for Stuttgart on 23 May 2005.



H.E. Dato' Hamidah with the Embassy Team

The MAF team emerged as the overall winner of the Malaysia Games 2005 to take the challenge trophy Piala Tunku Nazihah at the second annual Malaysia Games held at the Embassy on Sunday 8th May 2005. The two-day games were held with a view to fostering closer relations among Malaysians and Friends of Malaysia in France. The participating teams comprised of the Embassy team (staff of the Malaysian Embassy and other Malaysian government agencies in Paris); the MINDEF team (the Royal Malaysian Navy team from Cherbourg and Brest) and the Malaysian Association in France (MAF members including students). Games competed were badminton, bowling, table tennis, sepak takraw and board games, such as darts, scrabble and carom. The kids were not forgotten at this year's games as they took part in the bowling and the board games.

The Embassy and the MINDEF teams were joint runner-ups. H.E. Dato' Hamidah Mohd Yusoff gave away the trophy and the prizes to the various winners.

Rythmic Gymnastics

The 31st International Tournament of Rhythmic Gymnastics organised by French Rythmic Gymnastics Association was held at the town of Corbeille-Essonnes, at the town's Sports Complex from 6 to 8 May 2005. Malaysia managed to be placed in the 15th ranking.



Hot Spot

Focus on Brest



In each issue, Kampong Echo will highlight a "hot spot" that we think is a must-see in France. We include sightseeing spots, historical tit bits and places to stay, dine and party the night away! Let's turn our attention to a naval, coastal town in the gorgeous north-western region of Bretagne (Brittany).

Brest:

With a magnificent natural surrounding, Brest has one of the world's finest bays, ranging over 1,500 hectares of water and a sparkling emerald coast. It is the perfect place for tranquil promenades or even a spot of aquatic sports. In Brest, you have the vibe of a major port, a large university city and an old harbour scene.

Brest is also the home to the first batch of Malaysian submariner trainees from the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) who are based at the Brest Naval Training Center. Arrived early this year, the 90 Malaysian submariners are being trained in the "Ouessant SKK" training ship at the Malaysian submarine school. Besides Brest, there are also 20 Royal Malaysian Navy officials overseeing the construction of the two Scorpene-class submarines in Cherbourg, purchased by Malaysia, scheduled to be delivered in 2008.

Top 3 Sites:

1. Musée Nationale de la Marine:
Rue de la Château. This huge medieval fortress was built in the 3rd century and has remained the soul of the town for seventeen centuries and is perhaps one of the most impressive monuments in Brittany. Apart from touring the Chateau, it also serves as a museum with a large collection of models and artefacts tracing back the history of this maritime port.

2. La Tour Tanguy:

Rue de la Porte. The Tanguy Tower with its massive imposing architecture was built in the 14th century. Inside, it is also a museum dedicated to the town during World War II.

3. Océanapolis:

Port de Plaisance. Opened in 1990, this large scientific cultural centre has millions of visitors every year. Dedicated to the study of oceanic activities, there's a polar and a tropical ecosystem pavilions, a 3-d cinema, conservation areas – all surrounded by verdant foliage. An opportunity to see sharks, seals and tropical fishes from the Great Barrier Coral Reef.

Top 3 Hotels:

1. Belvédère Hôtel
Sainte Anne de Portzic, 29280 Plouzane
Within the radar of Brest, this lovely 3-star hotel has an excellent panoramic view.

2. Hôtel Centre

4, Boulevard Léon Blume, 29200 Brest.
A calm hotel situated in the city centre. Bright, functional clean rooms. Fitness centre, hammam and sauna.

3. Hôtel Continental Mercure

24, rue Lyon, 29200 Brest
From the well-known chain Accor. Basic, functioning and easy access to the town attractions.

Top 3 Restaurants:

1. La Chaumière

25, rue Emile Zola, 29200 Brest.
Serves excellent seafood and fish. A small, authentic familial eatery with a warm fireplace during the cold winter months.

2. La Pensée Sauvage

13, rue Aboville, 29200 Brest.
A romantic little restaurant in the Saint Michel quartier serving rich food in generous portions with wines to match.

3. La Maison de l'Océan

2, Quai de la Douane, 29200 Brest.
Facing the port, this restaurant has several excellent specialities. Recommended reservations.



Top 3 Clubs:

1. Stendhall

18, rue Colbert, 29200 Brest.
2 rooms – one for the young and techno in the basement – the other a salon de danse on the ground floor.

2. La Manoir du Curru Discothèque

Route d'Argenton, 29290 Milizac.
Situated 10 minutes away from Brest in the direction of Saint Renin, this club is known for its extraordinary view, it's a must for the Bretons and students during the weekends.

3. La Soute

22 bis, rue Lyon, 29200 Brest.
Located in the centre of the town, this refined club plays different types of music from retro on Fridays to house, garage and dance on Sundays. Clientele is selective and composes mainly of celebrities.

Food for Thought

by Salmah Shahrom



NASI LEMAK – Salmah SHAHROM

(If you have been invited to MAF or the Embassy's functions and still do not know the Chef of the fragrant nasi lemak served with its spicy sweet sauce of sambal tumis, well, we all owe that 'big terima kasih' to Mrs Salmah Shahrom – reservation strictly recommended)

Ingredients:

1 cup rice
3 screwpine leaves (pandan)
salt to taste
1 grated coconut

Method:

Clean the rice and drain. Squeeze out 2 cups of thick coconut milk from the grated coconut (or ready-to-serve coconut milk). Cook the rice in the coconut milk with screw-pine leaves. Add in salt. If you desire, you can also add in some sliced shallots, ginger or cloves.. Serve this rice with sliced hard-boiled egg, cucumber and Sambal Ikan Bilis.

Ingredients:

1 bombay onion
1 cup dried ikan bilis (anchovies)
1 clove garlic
tamarind juice (asam jawa)
4 shallots
8 dried chillies
Shrimp paste
salt and sugar to taste

Method:

Fry the ikan bilis until crisp and put aside
· Grind the prawn paste together with shallots, garlic, dessede dried chillies. Slice the bombay onion into rings.
· Heat 2 tbsps oil in a pan and fry the ground ingredients until fragrant. Add in the onion rings.
· Add tamarind juice, salt and sugar.
· Cook, stir occasionally until the gravy thickens.
· Add in the ikan bilis and mix well.
· Serve with steaming hot Nasi Lemak.

France-Malaysia News

Lafarge Malayan Cement Bhd, Malaysia's largest cement producer, will not initiate a price war despite a fall in cement demand due to the weakening in the local construction industry, said president and chief executive officer Alain Crouy. "However, we will match the price of competitors to protect our market share," he said after the company's AGM in Petaling Jaya yesterday. Crouy said Lafarge was the clear market leader with share of close to 40%. Other big cement producers are YTL Cement Bhd (24%), Cement Industries of Malaysia Bhd (16%), and Tasek Corp Bhd (13%). (The Star, April 2005)

Moulinex launches three new kitchen helpers
French home appliances giant Moulinex Tuesday launched three new kitchen helpers for the local market. The products comprise the Frutti Pro juice extractor, the Vivacio blender and the Vitapress citrus press. "These products not only assist in creating a healthy diet but are so easy to use that preparing meals will no longer be a chore," he said. The Moulinex products are distributed locally by Groupe SEB Malaysia Sdn Bhd. (BERNAMA, April 2005)

Malaysia Pavilion to be set up at Paris Air Show

A Malaysia pavilion showcasing the country's technological capabilities in aviation and aerospace industries will be set up at the Paris Air Show from June 13-19.

Seven local companies -- Airod Sdn Bhd, Sapura Defence Sdn Bhd, Zetro Aerospace Corporation Sdn Bhd, Composites Technology Research Malaysia (CTRM) Sdn Bhd, SME Aerospace Sdn Bhd, Satang Jaya Holdings Bhd and Le Proton LIMA Sdn Bhd have confirmed participation in the world's largest air show in Paris. Thousands of visitors visited the Malaysia pavilion in the last two shows held in Paris, he said.

(BERNAMA May 31, 2005)

news in brief

Asia-Europe Ministers Agree On Culture-Exchange Programme

Culture ministers from Asia and Europe who met here have agreed that a culture-exchange programme be held towards better cooperation between the two continents. Culture, Arts and Heritage Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said they also approved Malaysia's suggestion for cultural differences be exploited to instil cooperative spirit and tolerance. The Minister was in Paris to attend the two-day Second Asia-Europe Culture Ministers Meeting from 7 to 8 June. France and Malaysia are joint-chairmen of the meeting held under the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) co-operation. Malaysia will host the Third Asia-Europe Culture Ministers Meeting in 2007.

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French Firms Seek Malaysia's Help In Promoting Halal Foods

French firms have sought Malaysia's expertise in organising the country's halal food market worth three billion euros (about RM15 billion). The managing director of Algodoal & Cie Antoine Bonnel, said Wednesday Malaysia was sought out because its expertise and advancement in promoting halal food were known globally. "Malaysia has specific standards in production, handling and storage of halal food in compliance with the Good Manufacturing Practice and Good Hygiene Practice," he told Malaysian reporters at the Second Euro Halal Exhibition at the Porte de Versailles, here. Eleven Malaysian agencies and firms took part in the exhibition in Paris.

They are Extreme Success Sdn Bhd (promoting hand-made chocolates), DeliGateaux (cake, brownies and pie), Central Vista (M) Sdn Bhd (biscuits and snacks), London Biscuits Bhd (biscuits), Ultra Sepadu Sdn Bhd (frozen food), Spicon Products Sdn Bhd (spice powders and seasoning), Johor Halal Food Industrial Park, Malaysian Pineapple Industry Board, Matrade, Jakim, and Mihas Halal Malaysia.

(BERNAMA, June 8, 2005)

kampong talk

Asean Family Day at Athis-Mons



This year's Asean Family Day was organised by the Laotian Embassy in Athis-Mons. The team from the Malaysian Embassy comprised a few MAF members and they put up a good show. The kids had fun during the games for children and they won lots of prizes. Meanwhile the adults went on to more serious stuff namely the Asean Badminton Championships and the came out tops. Mens' doubles champion and mixed doubles champions and first runners-up.

