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## LIVE TO SERVE

### MAAM FLOOD RELIEF. KOTA TINGGI. DEC.2006.

8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December 2006- Manipal Alumni Association get together at Selesa Beach Resort, Port Dickson the flyer announced. What excitement Suzie and I looked forward to meeting up with old college mates with whom we had lost contact for years.

What a better way to end the year being with the best company we could think of. On our way from Kota Tinggi we picked up Chiefy in Kluang and headed up along the highway to Port Dickson. While heading to Port Dickson the 3 of us had a great time reminiscing the ups and downs during our college life in Manipal and Mangalore. Reaching Port Dickson, we were greeted by those who had arrived earlier. Many hugs and kisses brought wonderful memories back to us. The organizing committee under the able leadership of Koshy Thomas together with Jeyalan, Simon Martin and others did a wonderful job ensuring the function went on smoothly and everyone had a wonderful time. Congratulations and thanks to Koshy and committee. Reaching home we felt tired but happy.



Well Done Guys! Ronnie, Susie & MAAM members/well wishers

December 11<sup>th</sup>, it was back to work and the usual routine. The weather had been fine till the rains came on the 15<sup>th</sup> and continued. It had been raining in torrents reminding us of the monsoon season in Manipal. The level of the Sungai Johor passing through Kota Tinggi had been steadily rising and on December 18<sup>th</sup> night overflowed its banks flooding residential areas and the town.

The water rose rapidly and by noon Kota Tinggi town was already under about 10 to 12 feet of water. No business on the ground floor was spared. Eventually the flood water reached up to our front door but just a trickled flowed into our hall though our kitchens and bathrooms were in ankle deep water. That was all.

But the worse was yet to be realised. Many families living on either side of the river and low lying areas fled their houses with on the clothes on their backs loosing everything in their homes to the floods. Flood relief centres were hastily set up and filled up with victim in no time.

The Malays and Chinese were well taken care of but regretfully the Indians were neglected. Suzie and I could not stay without doing anything for them. So this is where I called Koshy and asked him if our alumni could do something about it. Koshy said he would consult the other committee members and get back to me. Less than half an hour later, he called me and told me that the alumni was prepared to send us RM2000 for the relief effort. This got the ball rolling. I called up some of our Manipalites for personal donations and the response was positive all around. All in we raised RM14,500.

We bought gas cookers, rice cookers, cooking pots and provisions which we distributed to nearly 300 Indian families and what was left were given to 12 police families as well as Malay and Chinese families. Helping us to distribute them were fellow Manipalites, Arasan, Maliga, Rathi, Vicky, Prema and their children as well as Ganesh from the TNB and his wife Sivapakiam.

Here it will be most important to mention the names of those Manipalites who without hesitation generously donated to this worthy cause and helped lift the heavy burden on the victims.



*Essential Supplies & Volunteers*



*Flood Victims queue patiently*

Manipal Alumni Association Rm2,000  
 Dr Ratnasingam (Pulau Langkawi) Rm2,100  
 Dr N.Mahadevan Rm1,000  
 Dr Arasaratnam & Dr Maliga Rm1,000  
 Dr Vickneswaran & Dr Prema Rm500  
 Dr Theenaparan Rm500  
 Dr Mohandas (Chiefy) Rm300  
 Dr Ganesan Rm100  
 Dr Rathi Rm200  
 Dr Ronnie, Dr Suzie & Fly Rm2,850

Dr Kuga Rm500  
 Dr Ranjit (Well Wisher) Rm500  
 Mr Prasad (Well Wisher) Rm1000  
 Mr Hardeep Singh (Well Wisher) Rm100  
 Lau Fly (Well Wisher) Rm300  
 Mrs Rani (Well Wisher) Rm100  
 Mr Chew Fa (Well Wisher) Rm200  
 Dr Ravi Paniker (Well Wisher) Rm500  
 Mr Radha Krishnan (Well Wisher) Rm500  
 Mr Achuthan (Well Wisher) Rm500

**Total Collected : Rm14,750**

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big THANK YOU from our hearts to all who contributed to this relief effort. I know that many of you would have contributed generously had I contacted you. But there were too many things going through my mind at that time and also many whom I would have contacted but I did not have your phone numbers. Anyway, cheers to you Manipalites because I know you are all big hearted and care for the less fortunate.

N.B. The second flood which hit on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2007 was worst then the December floods and forced Suzie and I out of our house which was in about 2 ½ feet of water. We lost all the furniture in 5 bedrooms, TV cabinets and other things. We were despondent but are determine to pick up with what we are left with and look forward in a positive way as all the things we lost are replaceable. It was a good but unpleasant experience but it has made us stronger.

The Sai Baba Organisation contacted Suzie to help them organise a medical camp in Kota Tinggi for flood victims on the 11<sup>th</sup> February which I participated along with 5 other doctors. The programme started at 8:30 am and ended at 4 pm during which we examined and vaccinated about 800 people with Anti Influenza Vaccine.

**Contributed by: Dr Ronnie Sivalingam & Dr Suseela Devi-Kota Tinggi, Johor**



*Bringing back the cheer*



*Vicky & Susie address logistics*

# Mauritus Escapade

## Preamble

Initiated in early Nov 06 as part of an activity for the alumni to foster fellowship camaraderie and create a relaxed environment for members to discuss and chart the future of the alumni.

February being Chinese New Year, was specifically targeted such that practioners need not close their clinic for too many days.

Feb 17<sup>th</sup> - a strong group of 48 pax led by the President the Mr.Thomas Koshy left via Air Mauritius.

5 Day 3 night s -@ RM 3,300 per pax was a steal considering it being full board in a five star hotel with towards included.

The tours included visits to the breathtaking Il Aux Cerf, islet situated at the is course of the island - perfect tropical play ground with dazzling structure of white sand and worm turquoise water.



*Next time fly business class ladies*

## Other Highlights:-

Troux Au Cerfs-existing volcanic crater with a stunning view .

Black River Gorges- ideal sanctuary for fauna and flora.

Chamarel with unique seven coloured earth

The visit to the biggest Siva Temple in the region was sort of a pilgrame for the Hindus.

Journey from the hotel to the tourist spots may be short in distance but due to the hilly terrain. The journey was at times long .The fine Fellowship kept the spirits high in both the tour buses.

The evenings were spend mostly socializing in the hotel lounge and boogieing to the beat of the local bands that were the there to entertain. As with always Malaysians were in their element and they kept the party alive.



*Don't Cha Bhangra wite me*



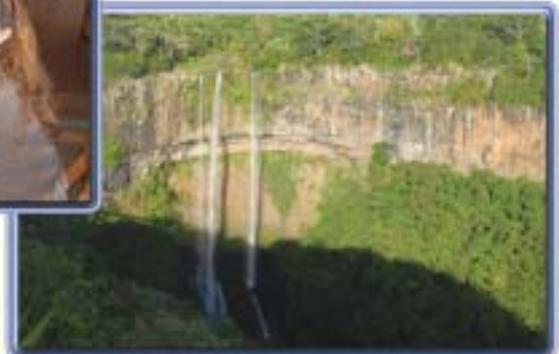
*Don't have to be genius to read my mind?*



*Check Mates*



*Soul Mates*



*National Geographic Paradise Moment*



*Achtung Babes*



*Local Pussycats..not bad..hmmm*



*Tumse Acha Kaun Hai*



*No Burger King/EPL-should have stayed home*



*Green Green Grass of Home*



*Looks easy enough for me*



*Can I get that in Petaling Street?*



*Lost & Stranded-US\$1000 Rogers Prostrate Pose -Priceless*



*Lord Shiva bestows blessings*



*Kepong much cheaper mah*



*Can I pee here?*



*Selva-All forgiven.Don't come home.*



*Been there, done that & bought the t-shirt*



*Aunty..Sorry Mauritius no Vanaavil*



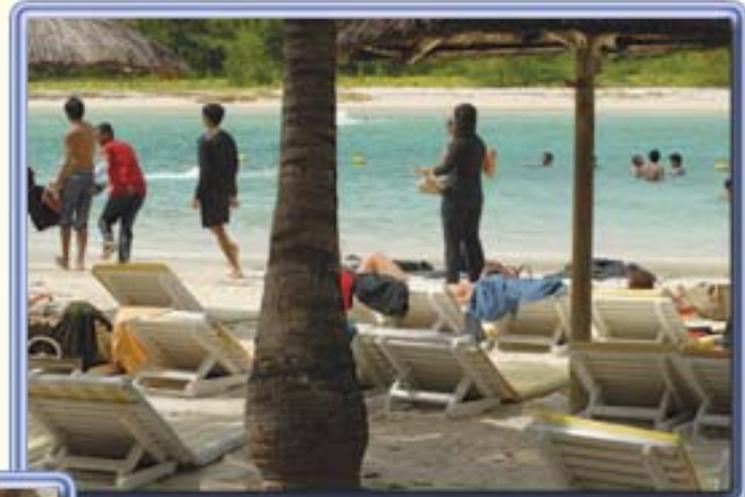
*Gals just wanna have fun*



*Soaking up sun/scenery*



*Beer, Beach & Babes*



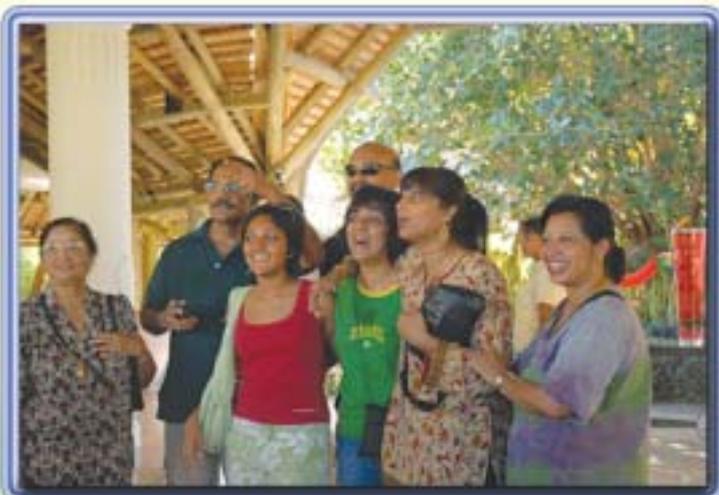
*Every breath you take*



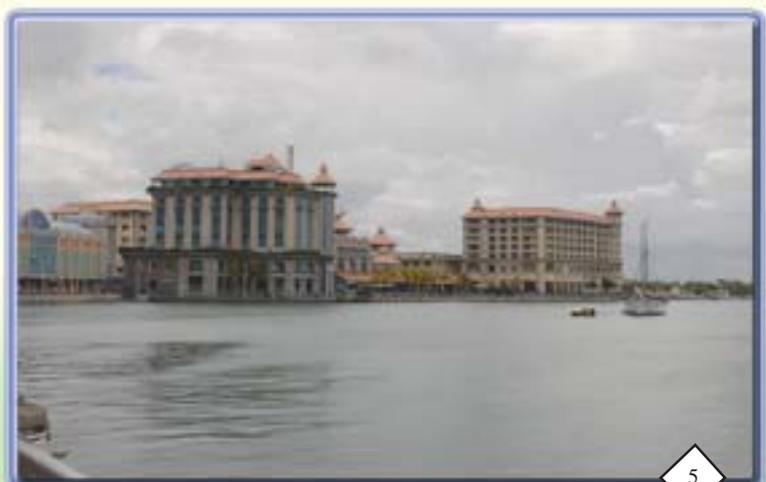
*Mauritius Escapade Team 2007*



*Its raining men...hallelujah*



*Jaffna Tilimulu Symphony Choir*



*Merci. Au Revoir.*

# Editor's Desk

Howzit everyone,

The President and Committee would like to extend their warmest greetings to all the members of MAAM.

We are busy preparing for the AGM at the Royal Selangor Club (Dataran Merdeka) on the 26/5/07.

Kindly inform us if you are attending for catering purposes...hmmm....on second thought..that was probably wishful thinking. The AGM is for members only as this is a strict requisite from the ROS. Since we are in such a good mood we have decided to foot the F&B bills for the night.

The cover story in this issue of Howzit highlights the selfless relief efforts of our members in Kota Tinggi during the recent floods. Community Service projects have always been our priority in our annual activities and we hope more members will volunteer in the future. I would like to thank Ronnie & Susie for contributing this article and MAAM appreciates the kind monetary gesture from the members. Way to go guys.

Some of our members have returned from a memorable holiday in Mauritius. Really did not get a chance to interview them and so as usual I settled to let the pictures do the talking. Have to thank Mupinder from Roche for all the photographs. Excellent Business opportunities in Tongkat Ali, Kereta Potong and Kachip Fatima in Mauritius. Details- Contact Arasu. We did have a couple of Committee meetings but unfortunately our hosts were always too generous with the beverages and so we ended up having a good time talking nonsense and politics, but surprisingly still managed to get some work done. Here are an updated and revised calendar of events for the year. BLOCK the dates now.

- 1) **AGM- 26/MAY/2007**  
Venue-Royal Selangor Club (Dataran Merdeka)
- 2) **CPD(ROCHE) LECTURE-19/AUG/2007**  
Venue-Kuala Lumpur
- 3) **CPD(ROCHE) LECTURES/ MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**  
Venue-Johore Baru  
-Kuantan  
-Penang  
Dates TBC
- 4) **COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT**  
Bukit Rotan Estate. Kuala Selangor.  
September 2007
- 5) **MANIPAL NITE/ CONVENTION**  
**14-16 DEC. 2007**  
Bayview Beach Hotel. Penang.



*H.E. Ashok Kanta & MAAM Exco*

Although Pulau Langkawi was first destined for our Manipal

Nite but after some tiresome negotiations, we could not arrive at an affordable package for you guys. The reason being that Dec. is peak season for all hotels especially resort concept ones and hoteliers have no leeway to offer us bargain packages. After more wheeling and dealing with the Penang counterparts we have come up with something a bit more tangible. More details and discussions during the AGM. Keep expectations low and be prepared for an individual package of approximately RM400 nett. Thamby has been appointed as our sole authorised agent to represent matters on our behalf in Penang. Members from down south are advised to block book Air Asia tickets ASAP.

Roche have agreed to sponsor us for 4 CPD lecture tours around the country. Thomas Abraham is in charge of all arrangements. We will kick off beginning with KL and Thomas has selected a fine array of interesting speakers. Take my word guys- don't miss it for anything in the world except.... maybe for an AC/DC Concert. We will announce the rest of the tour dates after the AGM.

Meanwhile back on the home front a few of us paid a courtesy call on H.E. Ashok Kantha the new High Commissioner of India. H.E. over tea was concerned with regards to the lack of interest in Malaysians pursuing higher education in India amongst other matters. He appreciated some feedback from us regarding this issue. Overall it was a very fruitful and open discussion. We promised on behalf of the Alumni to keep close ties with H.E. and also apologized for our Presidents absence because of a mild disposition.

OK guys gtg

Btw if any of you have anything interesting for me to publish please e-mail to the address below.

See you at the AGM.

Bye for now

Simon Martin

Editor

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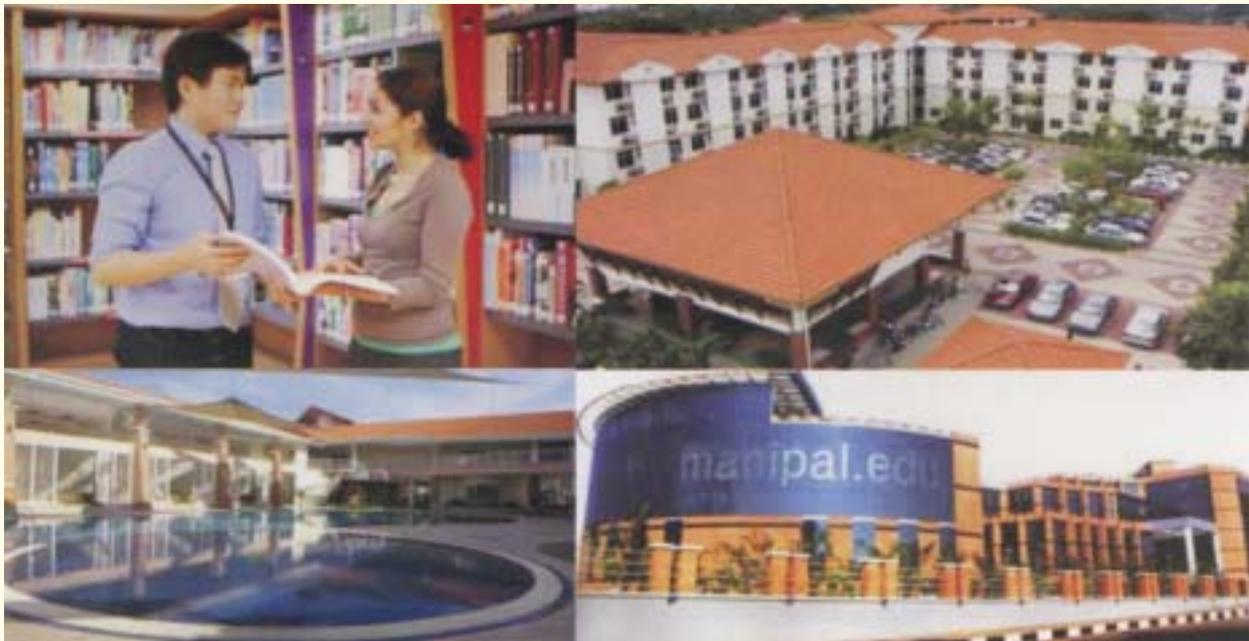
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Students selected for the programme do 2½ years of pre-clinical training in Manipal, India, followed by 2½ years of clinical teaching and training based at the Melaka and Muar Hospitals of the Ministry of Health, Malaysia. There are two intakes per academic year; March and September. Applicants with suitable grades in any three subjects out of Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics in their STPM or equivalent examinations will be considered for admission.



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