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**Stand  
by  
me...**



**7am - 8am** - It was a hot beautiful Sunday morning on 22-3-09 when familiar smiling faces from past MCS projects gathered @ the TAR Hospital Klang. Some looked a bit forlorn when news of MU's 2nd consecutive defeat filtered in or was it the previous night's fast & furious activities.

**8am- 9am** - Convoy of private cars, bus, and a mobile dental unit head out along the scenic coastal road towards Morib a rustic seaside town. A word of caution...don't ever get into Naga's Beamer unless you have a death wish of some sort.

**9am- 9.30am** - Welcome breakfast of hot coffee, tea, roti canai and mee hoon @ the Manager's Mr. Matthew's bungalow.

**9.30am** - All the various units were set up by the respective specialities comprising O&G, Ophtho, ENT, Paeds, Radiology, Dental & Medicine.

**10.00am** - The crowd gathers as the heat swelters and soon everyone is busy running around & manning the camp. The intermittent breeze carried along with it strong par fums from the nearby pig, cattle and chicken farms in different dazzling directions. Here is where we separated the men from the boys by their tolerance levels.

**11am** - YB Xavier Jayakumar our very own Alma Mater arrives for the official opening and his first pit stop is to visit the patients and dialogue with them (politician mah). Later after a brief press interview we get to aaraveh with him a 'la Manipal lingo.





2pm - Patients still trickling in after their field work and tired medical staff start looking worried but shortly after that the camp was officially closed. The patients were all provided with food and mineral water. Many were dispensed complimentary prescribed drugs that were at hand. Empty stomachs later beelined to the food stations for a hearty lunch of chicken beriyani. Some decided to charge themselves with bhayangra cold out of the world "Oru Maram Kallu". (single malt toddy) compliments of Mr. Matthews.

3pm - Speeches and later Certificates of Attendance / Appreciation were handed out.

3.30pm - Till we meet again in October 2009

#### Examination Profile

Patients Examined: 228

Profile of Common Type of Ailment / Disease

Dental:	General Carious Lesions and Gross Periodontitis No malignancy detected
General Medical:	Hypertension Uncontrolled Diabetes URTI Bronchial Asthma Rheumatoid Arthritis Skin Problems
E.N.T.:	Allergic Rhinitis / Otitis Media Hearing Impairment Lymphangioma Obstructive Sleep Apnoea Chronic Suppurative Otitis Media No malignancy detected
Paediatrics:	Viral Fever Rhinitis Bronchitis
Radiology:	Ultrasound of cases referred from O & G and E.N.T. were done. - Ovarian Cyst and Cystic Hygroma detected.
O & G:	Menstrual Irregularity Cervical Pathology 2 malignancies detected
Ophtho:	Dry Eyes Cataracts Refractive Error

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following for their invaluable contribution to the success of the camp:

- 1) Mr. KG Matthews, Staff & workers of Bedford Estate
- 2) YB Dr. Xavier
- 3) Mr. Sasu Antony
- 4) All Doctors & Volunteers

The requisites in organising a medical camp requires weeks of meticulous planning & coordination between various personnel and numerous trips to the estate site to arrange the infra structure. Last but not least kudos to Tommy (Thomas Abraham) for organising & managing this mammoth task once again.



I won't cry  
No I won't shed a tear  
Just as long as you stand  
Stand by me.  
- Ben E. King (1984)



# Drift Away



The President & Committee would like to express our deepest appreciation to all the participants who were present at the 22nd MAAM Convention in Putrajaya. Amidst all the hullabaloo & rigmarole it was still a hot blazing 48 hours of non-stop heart pounding action. As promised unconditionally we signed sealed and delivered the ultimate in entertainment ranging from the top indie band Russel Curtis Concept, Exotic pole dancers, Brazilian Campoeira to the local favourite The Comedy Court. The cuisine at the Marriott Putrajaya got the 2 thumbs up even from our most cynical food critics (names withheld for obvious reasons). The panoramic view from the roof top @ the PICC during cocktails was just simply orgasmic. Finally we would like to thank all our sponsors esp. Roche & Novartis, Ms. Jamaliah from Marriott & Mr. Vallavan from PICC.







# Manipal Convention 2008

Sitting in my hotel room with my kids at Sepang on the night of 30th November, 2008, getting ready to leave at the wee hours of the following morning to the airport for our flight to Siem Reap, I received a call from the organisers of Manipal Convention 2008 that the venue has been changed from Pullman Resort to Putrajaya Marriot. Convention was only 5 days away and we are changing venues?? Well, it's no "big deal". As usual, I attempt to attend all Manipal gatherings; - definitely, the venue is not the main attraction, but the people are – it's an annual opportunity for all the members of our fraternity to get together, and if venue has changed for whatever the reason, so be it.....

The 5th morning dawned bright and cheery, (at least from my location in town that morning). After lunch, dropped my kids off at my cousin's place in Bangsar and drove following Sarah and Dolly to Putrajaya. The kids had long ago decided this was my alumni, not theirs so they opted to party with their friends in town. By the time we arrived, golf, held at the IOI palm garden golf club was already over. Dr Loga and Dr Nesa were the heroes of the day. Cricket, unfortunately was subject to the forces of nature and had to be abandoned. North was declared the winner, based on the Duckworth Lewis scoring system (??? – yes, I too learn something new every day!). There was something for the younger kids too and a telematch was organised for them in the evening.

The informal night lived to its theme of "White night". Members were sporting enough to all come in some semblance of white. The downside of shifting the venue at the 11th hour was that the room for the informal night was a bit congested, but who cares – the watering hole was strategically located and some of the tables were also placed outside for those who wanted to have a bit of breathing space, so it augured well for all. The kids of some of our members entertained us to 7 numbers. Capoeira, the Brazilian art of dance and self-defence is now gaining popularity in this country esp. in Penang and the Klang Valley, and we were exposed to a small sampling of that. (I have witnessed an excellent Capoeira performance in Brasilia a couple of years ago – the energy exuded is unbelievable!). Here, there were only 2 performers but they provided a glimpse into what capoeira is all about. The members lived up to expectations and to the music of the band provided, danced the night away.





Saturday the 6th of December was an eventful day, with sufficient activities planned to keep one busy all day. The traditional netball and football games took place at the Taman Panherona grounds. At precisely 9.15 am (give or take a few minutes, or even more as Malaysian time goes), the buses were at the hotel entrance waiting to carry our enthusiastic sportsmen and sportswomen to the games. As expected there were insufficient members from the North for netball so a happy compromise on how the game should be played was decided upon. The South team won both events – netball and football respectively. Not everyone was at the sports grounds. I noticed that some of the members took some time out to spend a leisurely morning at the beautiful Marriott pool – some mindfully watching the kids, others gathered around buckets of beers and some models-in-the-making posing for photographs amongst the lovely gardens therein. The whole afternoon was spent at the CPD sessions, with the varied topics covering nephrology and hypertension as well as talk on investment in UK!! Dr Tamil Selvam rose to the occasion where lecture was concerned – in spite of a glitch with his computer, he was able to substitute his lecture for another.

Buses were organised to take us from the hotel to the Putrajaya Convention Centre for the formal night. This was the highlight of the whole convention and I must say everyone looked splendid dressed to the hilt. The rooftop of PJCC where the pre-dinner cocktails were held provided a spectacular view of Putrajaya at sundown. The function itself was impressive. Dr Warrior, the chief guest spoke with much passion on Manipal, its achievements and current services and amenities at the University. Entertainment was also good, though I do believe that the dancers rocked Putrajaya!! Definitely, a night to remember with echoes of “yam seng” ringing through the hall. The buses commuted at regular intervals back to the hotel. Many, living up to the Manipal tradition revelled till the wee hours of the morning – yet again...

With hardly 3 hours of sleep, I had to leave at some unearthly hour on Sunday morning to dash to Bangsar to pick up my kids and hurry to Ipoh for a morning wedding. It was a pleasant surprise to find that I was not alone. Dr Warrior was also rushing to the airport at that hour and so were some other members running off at that hour. I regret that I could not have stayed longer to enjoy another leisurely breakfast with friends – the 2 days passed far too quickly and there were just too many things going on simultaneously to sit back and relax....ah well, hopefully we will meet again for the following convention.

*Some comments:*

As usual I enjoyed the Manipal convention. But maybe, it's about time we reflected on what our main objectives are, not necessarily to be portrayed as a time for wine, dance and song. My personal view, it's a time for us in the fraternity to meet and interact with each other. Not all Manipalites live in the Klang valley to constantly do this.

- In future, may we look at some general objectives on what the convention is going to be all about? What do we want to achieve?
- The only opportunity to really meet other Manipalites is during the informal night. But this gets diluted with non-Manipalite guests and children. I suggest that we take a cue from MMA and restrict the informal night to alumni and spouses only. Please don't get me wrong – I love kids – they are wonderful!! But if we want to have a party for our kids and family members – let's have it some other time as a private function. Let us use this time to network with one another. Let us get to know one another. Let us exchange business cards so if I want to refer someone to an ENT surgeon etc, I will recommend another Manipalite.
- The organising committee as usual did a sterling job. However, it would be nice to have options on the rooms. I may choose to come alone and would like a quote for a single supplement. If I want a suite, it would also be nice if the quote includes the cost of a suite. I don't mind paying more. A sea-facing room would cost more than a garden view and the option should be given for that as well.
- One glaring observation -where are the young Manipalites???

Overall it was a great convention! Food was excellent and the ambience at Putrajaya Marriot was serene. Koshy, Jeyalan, Simon, Viji, Nirmal (forgive me if I have missed out names) and the rest of the team performed miracles (they always do..) and in spite of all the constraints, rose to the occasion. Congratulations, guys!! I look forward to the next convention.....

*Bina Rai*



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**References:** 1. Poldermans et al. Tolerability and Blood Pressure-Lowering Efficacy of the Combination of Amlodipine Plus Valsartan Compared with Lisinopril Plus Hydrochlorothiazide in Adult Patients with Stage 2 Hypertension. *Clin Ther* 2007; 29(2):279-289. 2. Smith et al. *J Clin Hyperten*, 9:5(355-364). 3. Allemann et al. EXFAST study. *J Clin Hypertension*, Mar 2008. 4. Philipp T et al. Two multicenter, 8-week, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group studies evaluating the efficacy and tolerability of amlodipine and valsartan in combination and as monotherapy in adult patients with mild to moderate essential hypertension. *Clin Ther* 2007;29:563-580;2007;369:1431-9.

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# MAAM SPORTS NEWS

## Breaking News

Recent developments in the sports arena this year.

We are sending out an invite to Melaka – Manipal College to play all games against MAAM. If all works out we shall not be holding the traditional North – South games for this year. All games will mean – Football, netball, cricket and squash.

A New Year has dawned and another year of activities are on the board, ranging from community services, CPD workshops, the annual AGM and finally the convention on the 11th and 12th of December in Melaka.

Our games have always been held in a Mardi Gras type of atmosphere and the closest we came to that was in Penang 2007, where the response was fabulous. Despite the scorching heat and no shade in sight, the sidelines were packed. We only lacked the dental floss bikinis, bronzed muscles, drums and trumpets. Hopefully the “Melakarians” can get us back to those glorious standards.

Planning and organizing the games in the different locations has been quiet an experience. The hunt for the venues is always fun; traveling round and round in circles, stumbling upon nice durians or at times a watering hole with fresh seafood and a scenic view. Booking venues is usually a breeze but if you have to go through a government agency.....yooo hooo. Shopping for medals, trophies and T shirts while ensuring the colors do not run is another thing. In Penang, the women went on a war path when they were given kiddie size T shirts! Appointing captains, getting the teams’ ready, arranging logistics and the drinks are some of the other details that have to be worked out. First aid kit prep is another issue..... how comprehensive should it be?

The teams have traditionally been divided as North and South but due to the arithmetic involved the teams are a mix and match. The number of younglings participating in the games has been growing and is very encouraging. Let’s get this trend to persist and we may see an increase in the games being played. We have the numbers to make this a great sporting event and let us strive to make this happen. (P.S. Squash will be included this year).



## The year that was - 2008

Chronologically...

Golf was held at the IOI Palm Garden Resort with Dr S Loganathan claiming the Nett Championship and Dr Nesarajah returning as the Gross Champion.

Cricket was held at the famed Kinrara Oval in Puchong, a venue that easily matches the standards of many international cricket grounds. Rain and lighting almost forced the game to be abandoned but it blew over and became merely a delay. Based on the Duckworth-Lewis scoring system, North was declared winners with Dr Jaendran as the man of the match.

The Telematch for the kids aged 12 and below was held at the hotel grounds. Ms. Prem Martin held a very successful event, with all the kids emerging as champions, complete with gold medals.



## 2008 – Results

Event Winners Result

Golf - Dr S Loganathan Nett Champion  
- Dr Nesarajah Gross Champion

Cricket North - Duckworth-Lewis scoring system

Netball South - 8 – 0

Football South - 5 – 2

The amazing standards put forward by Putrajaya Town Planning Department got us going in loops looking for the football / netball grounds.

It was almost a case of “a bridge too far” but eventually we made it to Taman Pancherona - Precinct 18 and the trip was the catalyst for my purchase of a GPS system nary a month later. South won both the netball and football games with a score of 8 – 0 and 5 – 2, respectively.

A new development in 2008 saw the prize presentation taking place at the respective games venues. This trend will continue unless the next committee thinks otherwise. This saves time for both dinners – we always fall short on party time. However, I do admit to a lack of fanfare during the “victory ceremonies”.

Coming in December '09... “Hang Loose”

There are some major changes planned for 2009. Firstly, cricket and golf timings will be switched. The rationale behind this move is multifactorial.

The cricket game is ultimately short changed due to time and/or weather constraints. The golfers are usually rushed through their flights and hurried to conclude their lunch and the mandatory post-competition fellowship ceremony to participate in cricket. In 2009, golfers-cum-cricketers may have to choose between the games, but we are still trying hard to accommodate. Our regrets to those who may go home feeling their cups are half empty. We can only please everybody if ours is a 4 day convention (not too bad an idea some would say).

In Malacca, cricket is to start at 9.30 am and will run on a 20 – 20 format. Details are to be confirmed but Malacca High School field is probably our pitch. It is very close to the convention hotel so logistics should be smooth. However our traditional umpire Mr. V doubts our fitness will allow a 20-over game. I say come December, he will witness the iron will of Manipal! With this new format, the cricket will be concluded by 1 pm and the golfers can then go for their game.

## Schedule

11.12.2009 (Fri) Time Venue – TBC  
Cricket - 9.30 am Malacca High School  
Golf - 12 noon Tiara Golf Resort  
Telematch - 3 pm TBC  
Squash - 4 pm Renaissance Malacca

12.12.2009 (Sat) Time Venue – TBC  
Netball - 3.30 pm Malacca High School  
Football - 4.00 pm Malacca High School

The timing of the CPD session and the games on Saturday will be interchanged. Football and netball will be held in the afternoon and the CPD moves into the morning slot.

The objective of CPD is for the Alumni to keep abreast with the latest medical developments. To ensure that this important session has maximum impact on the audience, the time slot has been changed.

The convention hotel has a heated swimming pool (6 am to 11 pm). Please make full use of the pool, there are not many in this country.

The squash tournament will be held at the hotel’s two courts. A stress ECG is a recommended pre-requisite for more elderly participants.

Dr Mano and Dr Eugene have graciously consented to be our liaison officers. A small committee will be formed and the persons-in charge of the respective events will take the responsibility of captaining the South teams.

Games	Captain / In Charge	Phone No.
Golf	Dato Dr Ammandan	012 3639304 06 4411639
Cricket	North Dr Arun Kumar South Dr Eugene	012 2233452 013 6261340 06 3346988
Telematch	Ms Madelina	019 6657221 06 2811133
Netball	North TBC South Dr.Malini S.	
Football	North TBC South Dr Pieus Doshi	012 200 7877 06 2861863
Squash	Dr Mano	019 6273797 06 3346988

Catch the next newsletter for updates.

Nirmal @ J.J.  
Sports Convener





## BACK TO THE PAST .....CLASS M.B.B.S 1981

On the morning of 18th. of December 2008, Bajpe Airport, saw the arrival of doctors from the 1st. M.B.B.S. 1981. Though arrivals from Bangalore were in groups, all 26 Malaysian graduates met up at the Paradise Isle Resort along the Malpe coast.



They were with their respective families and by late afternoon, under the scorching heat, we chit chatted and reminisced the good old days of being there. The children, too, met up with each other and got along very well.

Some of us had arrived in India earlier and made one's way from Bombay and Kerala. The adventurous duo of Kewaljit and Thomas John, drove from Trivandrum, via Ooty. The idea of this class reunion was first suggested by Dr.Damodar Shenoy, when I had attended the Golden Jubilee Celebrations in 2005. However, the response was lukewarm and fizzled out, but not for long. Damo came to Malaysia for a conference and once again put the idea forth. Last year after trying to get hold of classmates, Sunil Thomas, or fondly called 'Crow' e-mailed me and phoned me to start the ball rolling. Sunil played a pivotal role in getting the e-mails of as many classmates spread our the habitable globe.

After a year's planning, the stage was set and the response was overwhelming. Thank you Sunil and Damodar.

We had a formal dinner on the 18/12/2008 with the Master of Ceremony, making sure that each and everyone come forth with their families and introduce them and give a brief picture of their current lives. This was interesting a, and at times hilarious. Many have put a few pounds around the waist and some with loss or complete loss of hair. A group photo was taken of the class of 1981, 36 in total, and another with the entire group present, which was a staggering 81 !!

Following this, the usual dancing, in the true spirit of all Manipalites took off. Wow, surprisingly, many still have the energy to dance through the night. Dinner was a sumptuous spread, so the dancing help burn away some calories.

On the 19/12/2008, after a fantastic breakfast of tosai, idli, sambar, puri and excellent coffee, we were ready to board the bus to Manipal campus. While lazing around in the foyer, we were pleasantly surprised by the presence of our dear Professor in OBGYN, Professor Dr. Pratap Kini. He looks exactly the same as he was 25 years ago.



Up the hill we cruised from Malpe to Manipal, till the gate cross at the entrance to 'end point'. As you enter, you will see the 2 lovely residences of the Vice Chancellor and Pro Chancellor. The first stop, was Valley View, where we were greeted by Dr.Padmaraj Hegde. We were then, ushered into this lovely wooden floored hall where we were greeted by the illustrious and jovial, Vice Chancellor, Prof Dr.Raj Warriar. Many may remember him at our annual dinner in Penang, where he delivered a prolific key note address. The University hosted a fantastic array of local cuisine, which all the children said was absolutely

good. Following this, Prof.Dr.Warrier, presented recyclable files with the emblem of Manipal University ( ironically MU !!) and lapel pins to everyone.

This led to the start of the tour of campus, which started of with the trip to the library and administration offices housed in the new tinted glass mega structure. The library is really modern, not like the days we had it. Each floor houses different topics in medicine, but most are now done via electronic education. By the way, you will need to pass a metal detector to the library !!!!

At the administration block, which is across the library annexe, we were taken to the roof top where there is this lovely oval shaped boardroom, where the big decisions are made.

Once again Prof Dr.Warrier was there to greet us, and the big surprise followed in tandem.

????? Prof.Dr.L.N.Rao, Prof Dr.Sithram Bhat and Prof Dr.Somiagi were all present and met with all the good and mischievous students who have passed through them.

Someone even asked Prof Dr.L.N.Rao, why he was so strict, his reply was that he wanted everyone to do well and quickly pass out as good doctors. A true teacher to his heart. We also had the pleasure to meet with the infamous Mr.Ford, who has since retired. At the next stop, the anatomy museum, we were greeted by Prof Dr.NR.Rau, who had his characteristic laugh and bold !!! The museum was bustling with activity by visiting school children and also the public.

Some of us, had probably had enough of cadavers and specimens, decided to visit the evergreen man of Iceland, Mr Kini. We had a good chat with him while sipping on some good old fashioned cold TCW..... forgot,eh.....Tender Coconut Water !!!! A round to the 'end point' for a while and back to the resort. My family and I together with Dr.Sushila Devi decided we could not miss the opportunity to miss Diana's. There we had the calorie filling, sugar imbibed decoction of Falooda, Gadbud and I had the paneer puri. The cashew nuts here too, were cheap and enormous. Shanti decide to buy a few packets, to keep the cholesterol at its peak!!!!



Following a beach football and sports, where all the children were covered by the healing powers of the Malpe beach sand, we adjourned for the first phase of the night, BBQ. Here we were given framed photos of the classmates and children were given Christmas gifts. With Christmas decorations, sedate environment, starry skies and the white break of the tides ebbing and flowing, it brought back the nostalgic feeling of being a student once again.

Then, it was 'bhangra', 'hip-hop', 'disco' or just about anything as long as you shake your 'boogey'. Guess what, dinner was then served at around 11 p.m. The sweets and desserts were a blast, especially with the kids .....and also the adults !!!

Sunday, 21/12/2008, saw everyone getting up to depart. Some of us left early to Bangalore, while the rest went on to Mangalore to have high tea at Moti Mahal. By the way, the food in

Moti Mahal's is good and the 'Night Flight' disco is still there !!!!!

Thanks to Sunil Thomas for having organized this event and I had informed them that, if everything goes on as planned, we may meet at the International Alumni Meet in 2010 in Kuala Lumpur. Many have shown keen interest, especially from India. So, hope Dr. Koshy Thomas and his team get cracking!!!



Happy New Year  
Selvakumar



## Howzit Everyone,

The President & Committee convey their warmest greetings but hey wait a minute... actually they never said a word.

We checked into a Rehab without Amy Winehouse after that nerve wrecking harrowing hell and back experience from our Convention.

Some of us have not recovered completely so please treat us with as much TLC as you can or maybe an expensive single malt may do the trick.

On a brighter note we are glad to report that we have sorted out the legal issues & entanglement that we encountered and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Lim Cheng Bock our favourite solicitor for his invaluable assistance to MAAM. The "Man of The Match" Manipal Convention 2008 goes to Santiago for patience & outstanding service beyond the call of duty in the F&B dept. especially the table arrangements for the formal dinner where he received tons of undeserving flak.

The past few months have been consumed with furious brain storming meetings & sessions to prepare and finalize our Calender of Events for 2009. You will be amazed how frustrating this simple task can turn out to be so arduous. I probably will have to shoot you myself if I have to divulge the details. So friends please take out your necessary tools and diligently mark down these dates.

### 1) Community Service 3 - 22-3-2009

Since this event would have taken place by the time you read this...Please refer to report on front page. Tommy- a brilliant hattrick.

### 2) CPD Lecture Series 1- 5-4-2009

Bala Appoo has painstakingly arranged a fine distinguished array of speakers to reignite the neurons and bions that should interest both the medical & dental fraternity. If you are making any plans to go for the F1 please engine block the idea and drive straight to PJ Hilton. We promise to update you on the race during the the break...sorry no large screen lah. Sumptuous fellowship dinner follows.

### 3) AGM - 23-5-2009

The AGM will be held as usual at The Royal Selangor Club. Dataran Merdeka. Please grab this opportunity to voice your opinions or to grab some beers. The Committee welcomes bouquets & brickbats but preferably the former if you catch my drift. Non-members are welcome to the fraternity dinner for a nominal fee. Convention leftover T-shirts will be on sale to raise funds. Please purchase even it is not your size or your spouse's.

### 4) Community Service 4 - Oct. 2009

Venue and Dates TBC. We are proud to announce that we have secured a full sponsor for this specific camp. Details are P & C.

### 5) MAAM Convention- 11-13 Dec 2009

Since we received the Govt. stimulus package that we were anxiously anticipating... the venue for the MAAM Convention 2009 will be hosted by the Renaissance Melaka whom we have negotiated tirelessly for a very attractive package. Jeyalan, Nirmal & yours truly sacrificed (hint hint) a very hot Sunday scouting for



Meeting @ Renaissance Melaka

a suitable Hotel in Melaka with our hosts Mano & Eugene who were unduly & responsibly concerned with our dehydration status. A word of caution if I may...please bring your driver if you have any serious intention to fellowship with these guys. The dates were intentionally selected to avoid clashing with the Freemasons (c'mon guys get a life) and their "activities". We will be providing T-Shirts in both formats this year ie. round neck & collar. For logistics requisites you are required to e-mail & furnish us with your preference and size asap to avoid disappointment. Meanwhile Jeyalan is busy negotiating with mud wrestlers and synchronized swimmers. Dialogue & discussions with the floor @ the AGM. We do have some other programmes lined up for you which we will keep you updated once dates have been finalised. WATCH THIS SPACE.



Outside Melaka Club

Bina Rai has provided us with a very entertaining, enlightening, eye-opening cover story on the Manipal Convention 2008. The Committee will be discussing her feedback and we would also like hear your response and comments. Since Jeyalan, Nirmal & myself are already making plans for the Convention and some ideas are already on the drawing board we hope you give us your invaluable suggestions ASAP...but holding on to that thought... that's of course wishful thinking.

Nirmal's report on Sports highlights the trials and tribulations in organising this event...sometimes ignored and hardly appreciated enough. Please courier his favourite Singleton to the Secretariat if it brought tears to your eyes (more than Slumdog Millionaire). Selva, TJ & their respective Class of '81 batch mates had an eventful reunion in Manipal to reminiscence & recapture their glory days (right we heard that before)...read the censored diary and laugh hysterically or feel green with envy. Photos from the Convention will appear in 2 parts in 2 consecutive issues of Howzit as space is a constrain.

The cost of printing has escalated in the last year and we are now ruthlessly pursuing advertisement sponsors for this newsletter to cover our costs. We earnestly hope that you guys can identify potential sponsors for us so that I can upgrade this stagnant monotonous image of Howzit. I did a brief article on the Convention for the Manipal Link ...if you are interested in reading or simply got nothing better to do-google Manipal Link and turn to page 58-59.

Ok guys gtg and finally don't miss the recommended movie of the month - "The Watchmen"... err sorry no Sikhs acting. Gracia's to all the contributors in this issue namely Bina Rai, Nirmal, Jeyalan & Selva. Thanks to Sivaroshan also for the wonderful work in Facebook.

Bye for now.  
Simon Martin  
[howzitnews@gmail.com](mailto:howzitnews@gmail.com)



Official Secrets Actors



# Happenings Around Town

The President and Council of the MAAM hosted an "Appreciation Dinner" for the sponsors of the recently concluded 23rd Annual Convention at the Marriott, Putrajaya.



This annual affair is to commemorate the successful hosting of the Convention and to thank our sponsors for their support.

During his thank you speech Dr Koshy touched on the need for a great working relationship and cooperation to ensure that this partnership

with the industry will be perpetual. The sumptuous dinner, great music and camaraderie was the icing in the cake for a cosy Night at Jeyalan's home.

Our incumbent VP Arasu threw a lavish party to celebrate his birthday cum house warming at his residence. No photographs of his mahligai with beautiful waterfall cascades were allowed for security/copyright reasons but I am sure he would give you a grand tour on prior written request.

Santiago who lives opposite also celebrated a long overdue get together a month later with some of his friends and colleagues. I can't seem to remember the reason for this occasion when we decided to cash-in on the rain cheque, but it was a great evening and the highlight was Jessie's (Mrs. Santiago) homemade mouth watering mutton omelet and sorry no photographs of the preparation was allowed for the same copyright reasons.

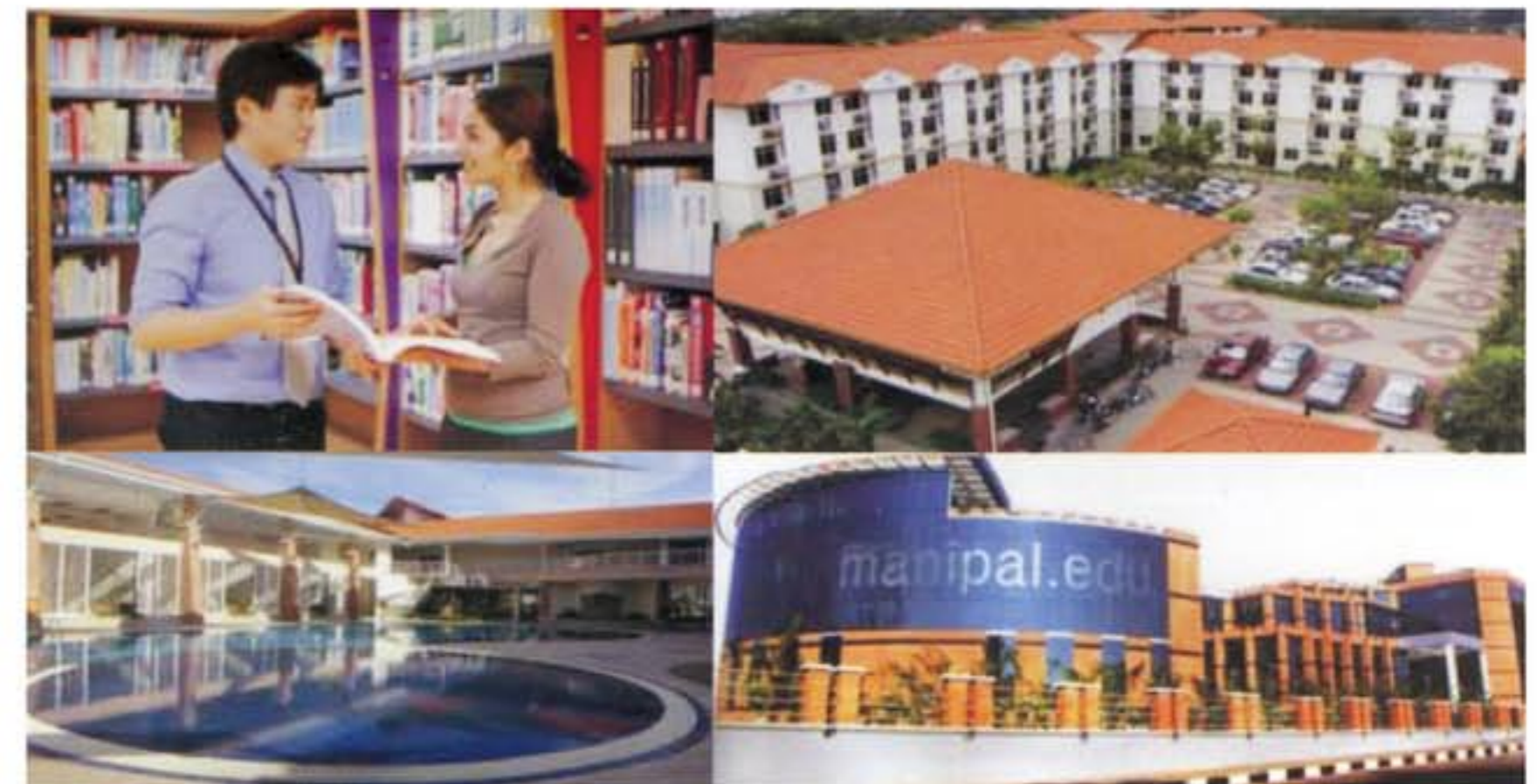
Please feel free to invite the Committee to dinner in your house and get a courtesy review in this newsletter.



## MELAKA-MANIPAL MBBS TWINNING PROGRAMME



Students selected for the programme do 2 1/2 years of pre-clinical training in Manipal, India, Followed by 2 1/2 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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