

Re-Cap of the 2006 Malaysian Gala

On Saturday, Aug. 26th, the **Malaysian Association of Georgia (MAG)** held its 2nd annual Malaysian Gala at the Sheraton Buckhead Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. The Malaysian Gala commemorated the **49th year of Malaysia's national independence**. The Guest of Honor was the new **Malaysian Ambassador to the U.S.**, Her Excellency Datin Paduka Dr. Rajmah Hussain. Approximately 330 people attended the sold-out event. Dressed in batik, kebayas, saris, cheong- sams, kimonos, tuxedos and other formal attire, guests came from all walks of life and also distances. Some traveled from as far as Washington DC. One family scheduled their trip to see their daughter in Atlanta and timed it to attend the Malaysian Gala.

Other VIP's in attendance included A.T. Phang, Director of MIDA (Malaysian Industrial Development Authority), Dr. Josephine Tan, Chair of the Georgia Governor's Asian American Commission for a New Georgia, Representative Charlice Byrd of Georgia's House of Representatives, Mr. Martin Rickerd, Her Majesty's Consul General from the British Consulate, DeKalb State Court Judge Al Wong, and the Mayor of the City of Chamblee, Eric Clarkston.

The event began with a **pre-gala networking reception** sponsored by ACT Investments/Atlanta Chinatown. Guests at the reception were interrupted by drum beats and two dancing lions performed by a local Chinese kung-fu group. The lions led the guests from the reception room into the grand ballroom. Ambassador Rajmah came on stage to present the lions with the traditional "ang pow" or red packet. Dinner proceeded with a Malaysian cuisine buffet, featuring twenty one items catered by 10 Atlanta restaurants. Featured items included favorites such as wine & ginger chicken, chicken satay, chow kuey teow, chicken rendang, sambal shrimp, biryani chicken and beef rending.

After dinner, MAG President, Fabian De Rozario addressed the guests and introduced the team of officers who have volunteered their time and personal resources to help build the association. MAG was founded in June 2005. Next, Ambassador Rajmah spoke and indicated to the audience that this was her first time to Atlanta. She praised MAG for being able to establish and sustain a vibrant Malaysian presence in Atlanta, indicating that she now has two "MAG's" that are near to her heart, MAG, the Malaysian Association of Georgia, and MAG, the Malaysian Association of Geneva, in Austria, where she had also served as the Ambassador.

MAG unveiled its first ever **Suria Awards and Student Awards** program, which was sponsored by Century Security Bank. This event recognized high achieving Malaysians in Georgia and student scholarships. The winners of the awards were:

Suria Awards winners for the categories of...

- Community: An Goh, a registered agent with New York Life
- Corporate: Sean Foo, a district pharmacy supervisor for CVS
- Entrepreneur: Peter Chang, President & CEO of ACT Investments and Atlanta Chinatown

Student Awards:

Boon Ching Lee of Georgia Tech Institute
Stephanie Loo of Emory University
Angeline Boey of Agnes Scott College
Michael Kuek of Lassiter High School
Rachel Wong of Northview High School

The evening completed with a series of **cultural presentations** that highlighted Malaysia's ethnic diversity. Local performers presented Chinese, Indian, Indonesian and Malay dances. There was also a fashion show by MAG members. A martial arts group from Chicago, lead by a Malaysian teacher showcased the unique and rare art of "Silat Seni Gayong" which is indigenous to Malaysia and Indonesia. The finale' was leading all guests to sing "Rasa Sayang" a favorite Malaysian song that is often performed at the conclusion of a celebratory event.

Comments received via e-mail...

The event actually touched me in a personal way. It has been a long time, but for once, y'all have made me felt like a Malaysian again.
Jerrica

Congratulations on the success of the MAG Gala event celebration!!!
Indeed after this event, MAG could be considered as the most "forward looking" & "diligently-run" association in Atlanta and it has also set a bench mark for all Asian associations to follow.

Cheers to all MAG's committee members.
Anthony
COO of a local investment company in Atlanta

What a fabulous night. For an organization that is still in its infancy the production was wonderful. I enjoyed meeting each and everyone of you. Having lived here for 20 years I did not have the opportunity to meet many Malaysians. I have to thank Lydia for this as she coaxed me to join MAG so that I could meet some wonderful people. And I am glad I did.

Sharman

Hats off to your entire Team. You should be proud of the MAG family! Our daughter, Elaine and I enjoyed the great food, wonderful people and excellent conversation with old friends and new ones.

Henry
Managing Director of Global Trade Solutions
SunTrust Bank

Congratulations to your leadership and your dynamic team for the incredible job with the Gala. What a SPECTACULAR, MEMORABLE and AWESOME night! It was an outstanding success from top to bottom. Not only am I proud to be a member of MAG, but I am so proud to be in this quality circle of friends.

Well done! SHABAS! MEMANG BAGUS SEKALI!
Lydia

Congratulations for a successful MAG Gala. You and the MAG team members deserved a pat on the back for the hard work and dedicated effort. Ambassador Dr. Rajmah is impressed and proud of the Malaysian spirit and solidarity exhibited at the MAG gala.

I am pleased to add that MAG has set a high standard and new benchmark for the rest of Asian community organizations to follow. Keep up the good work and continue success.

Li Wong, Publisher of Georgia Asian Times

For more information

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