



VANCOUVER SINGAPORE CLUB

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2007/2008**

VSC e-NEWS

President:
Kwek Teong Sin

18 May 2008

Issue 2/2008

Vice President:
Robert Chia

This is the last issue of VSC eNEWS that the 2007/2008 Exco is putting out.

Honorary Secretary:
Agnes Loh

The year had been very exciting for the Exco and members. So many new things happened and initiatives taken.

Honorary Treasurer:
Michael Cayetano

On 31 May 2008, the Club will be holding the Annual General Meeting. A new team of Exco members will be elected to continue the creation and management of activities for the enjoyment of members.

Editor:
Tan Yee Hua

Sub-Editor:
Albert Lee

The Government of Singapore has appointed Mr Koh Yong Guan as Singapore's High Commissioner to Canada. He will be resident in Singapore. Mr Koh is currently the Chairman of Central Provident Fund Board.

Committee Members:
Brian Chong David Chong
Simon Chow Alin Kasenda
Ken Lau Lillian Quek
Jeannine Sheares Shirley Wong

After presenting his credentials to Ottawa, Mr Koh will be visiting Vancouver on 25 May 2008.

Contact Information:

Telephone:
604 762 2588

There are also several interesting announcements in this issue .. please read on ..

E-Mail:
President.VSC@Gmail.Com

I hope that you will enjoy the warmer weather and longer daylight hours of spring.

Website:
www.SingaporeClub.ca

Yee Hua Tan, Editor



yeehua@shaw.ca



President's Message & Greetings

18 May 2008

My first term of office is coming to an end soon.

It has been a most interesting and challenging year.

Several activities offered by the previous Executive Committees that have proven to be successful were carried out. Several new initiatives were introduced and implemented. There were so much support and encouragement by members.

I have been very fortunate to have an Executive Committee that had been most supportive and cooperative. Each Exco member had contributed their time and efforts selflessly and made every event enjoyable and successful. I hope that the next Executive Committee will have members that have the same level of zeal. At the same time, I also hope that members will work closely with the Executive Committee members (who are all volunteers) to plan and deliver quality and fun programmes.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 31 May 2008. I hope that all of you will attend this meeting.

Let us come together and enjoy the various activities that the Club will organise this summer.

Warmest Regards



Kwek Teong Sin
President

Club Matters . .

19TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice of the 19th Annual General Meeting has been given to all members. It will be held on Saturday, 31 May 2008 at 11.30 am at

127 East 3rd Street (3rd & Lonsdale)
North Vancouver

Members of good standing are invited to a Buffet luncheon after the meeting.
For catering purpose, please confirm your attendance of the AGM & buffet luncheon to President.VSC@Gmail.com by 24 May 2008

NEW HIGH COMMISSIONER

The Government of Singapore has appointed Mr Koh Yong Guan as the Singapore High Commissioner to Canada. He will be resident in Singapore. Mr Koh will officially assume the appointment on 21 May 08 after presenting his letter of credentials in Ottawa.

Mr Koh is currently the Chairman of Central Provident Fund Board. He served in the Ministries of Finance (Revenue Division), Education and Defence before being appointed Second Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Defence in 1989. Mr Koh was the Commissioner of Inland Revenue from 1991 to 1997. In 1998, he was appointed Managing Director, Monetary Authority of Singapore. Mr Koh had also held the appointments of Permanent Secretary in the Ministries of Health and National Development, as well as Second Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance (Budget and Revenue) between 1998 and 2001.

We wish to thank Mr Vanu Gopala Menon, the current High Commissioner for his guidance, friendship and support of Vancouver Singapore Club. Mr Vanu Gopala Menon continues to be the Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations.

SINGAPORE BUSINESS COUNCIL

At the recent Annual General Meeting, the following were elected as Directors of the Council for 2008/2009:

President:	Kwek Teong Sin
Vice President:	Ronnie Tan
Honorary Secretary:	Tan Yee Hua
Honorary Treasurer:	Michael Cayetano
Directors:	William Chew, Brian Chong & Simon Chow

As always, Vancouver Singapore Club will continue to work closely with Singapore Business Council to promote Singapore's business opportunities both in Singapore and Canada.

SIA SPECIAL FARE



Due to our strong ties with the Vancouver Singapore Club, Singapore Airlines is pleased to offer our members of good standing **special economy class fares** all year round from Vancouver to Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Brunei.

Going home to visit friends and relatives, shopping along famous Orchard Road or enjoying the fabulous food is just a click away. Enjoy the product and services that you are familiar with and feel at home from the moment you stop on board. Whatever your reasons, go ahead and take advantage of these exclusive economy class fares.

Fares start at approximately CAD\$1352* (inclusive of taxes and surcharges). To book simply go to www.singaporeair.com/VSC, select your destination and travel dates and enter code **202141331** and your Vancouver Singapore Club membership number in the booking form to enjoy these amazing fares.

Welcome home!

*Fare Terms and Conditions:

These exclusive economy class fares are based on a round-trip purchase and valid for new bookings made and ticketed from 01 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 (inclusive). Permitted outbound travel dates from 01 April 2008 until 28 February 2010. No Minimum stay; maximum stay is 12 months. Not combinable with other offers. Other restrictions apply. **Please present your membership ID at the airport at time of check-in for fare verification. Failure to do so will result in loss of this exclusive fare.**



News from Singapore..

SINGAPORE – KUALA LUMPUR SHUTTLE SERVICE WILL CEASE ON 1 JUNE 2008

The next time you wish to take a flight from Singapore to Kuala, you will have to book your ticket just like you would do to travel to other destinations.

From 1 June 2008, you will no longer be able to walk in, purchase the ticket and queue for your flight. SIA and MAS have announced that they would be terminating the 25-year Shuttle Agreement.

NEW CHINESE VISA RULES

CHINA has introduced new visa rules on travellers to China ahead of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. Changes include new visa requirements, more documents needed for visa applications, and restrictions on movement of foreigners between Hong Kong and China.

These steps are said to be in line with growing security concerns over the August Beijing Olympics and the unrest in Tibet.

'From July 1, 2008, China temporarily requires Singaporean passport holders to enter China with a valid visa,' said the website of the Chinese Embassy in the United States.

The visa-free facility was accorded to Singapore Citizens since 2003 for travels of 15 days or less would be reinstated after the Beijing Olympics. The Chinese authorities have not informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the exact date when the visa-free facility will be reinstated.

All travellers to China now also have to present a return ticket, hotel vouchers and a full itinerary for a visa application.

OVERSEAS OR FOREIGN TALENT?

Prime Minister Lee of Singapore expressed his concern over the loss of local talent when he spoke at the 4th London School of Economics Asia Forum in April 2008.

This was the third time Mr Lee expressed his concern since the Cabinet reshuffle on 29 March 2008.

'To do well, a country needs a core of its ablest citizens, those with both the intellectual and social acumen to play leadership roles in the economy, the administration and the political leadership.

'Without that central core to take the country forward, the society cannot perform to its full potential, and the citizens will suffer,' he said.

But, Mr Lee said, Singapore must accept such talent flows as a reality, draw in foreign talent and encourage its citizens who study and work abroad to return home.

What a refreshing change!



EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN SINGAPORE

Members who are interested to learn about the employment conditions and opportunities can visit the website of Contact Singapore, <http://www.contactsingapore.org.sg/home/>

THE SINGAPORE FLYER



THE Singapore Flyer was officially launched in style on the evening of 15 April 2008 with a dazzling laser light show and fireworks display. The Flyer is the world's highest. It has been open to the public since March 1.

The Flyer, a \$240-million observation wheel is 165m-tall wheel, was the latest addition to Singapore's constantly growing and changing skyline. It offers a remarkable view of 'our beautiful city' after a ride on it.

Announcements & Coming Events . .

VANCOUVER SINGAPORE FILM NIGHT



The Inaugural VSFN (Vancouver-Singapore Film Night) will be held at James Cowan Theatre, Shadbolt Centre for the Arts at 6450 Deer Lake Avenue, Burnaby on Saturday, June 7, 2008 from 4:30 p.m. to 10:30 P.M.

There will be two feature films - **Just Follow Law** and **Singapore Dreaming** and 3 short films - **Cafe**, **G23** and **Blood Ties** to be shown during this inaugural event.

The cost of ticket is \$25 per person. This includes admission to watch all the movies, a chance to win a lucky draw and savour the Singapore cuisine catered at the Buffet Reception.

The organisers of this event have kindly agreed to accord Vancouver Singapore Club members and their spouse only a 10% discount on the ticket price. The Club has also decided to partially sponsor our members' attendance of this event with \$5 per member & spouse only (to a maximum \$10 per membership of good standing). The cost to each member is \$17.50. This privilege is extended only to members of good standing.

Please direct all enquiries and purchase of tickets to Mr Albert Lee (Tel: 778 9913988 Email: albert4852@gmail.com).

Announcements & Coming Events . . contd

1) MEMBERSHIP CARDS

The Club's membership cards for Life and Ordinary members are now ready for collection. Members can collect their cards at the various VSC events. You can also collect your membership card at the upcoming Annual General Meeting.

There will be an administrative charge for the replacement of lost or damaged membership card.

Membership cards will only be issued to members of good standing. Members are requested to bring along their membership cards when attending all Club's events for identification and enjoying membership privileges.

2) MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| • Chili Padi Restaurant | - | 10% discount |
| • Sri Malaysia Restaurant | - | under negotiation |
| • Winnie & Victor Florist | - | % of discount to be confirmed |
| • Northern Crown Holiday & Travel | - | Special discount for members |
| • Continental Seafood Restaurant | - | 10% discount |
| • Golden Summit | - | 10% discount |
| • McFairview Printing | - | 10% discount |
| • Unitel Communications - Security | - | Free installation |
| • Singapore Airlines | - | Special fare |

All privileges accorded by the above vendors are subject to terms and conditions that they may impose from time to time and without the obligation to give members any notice.

General Membership Renewal Reminder:

If your membership had expired recently, please mail your membership renewal payment to:

Vancouver Singapore Club,
2719 Main Street,
Vancouver, B.C. V5T 3E9