



# VANCOUVER SINGAPORE CLUB

## VSC E-NEWS

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The Consuls General of ASEAN in Vancouver got together to organise the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asean Cultural Night on 18 October 2007. You can read about the event in this issue of VSC eNEWS.

With the rising prices of homes, many of us may be planning or have started on renovation projects to improve on their livability or to enhance their value. In this issue, we have reproduced an article from "LEGAL FRAMEWORK" that may provide some pointers on how to avoid certain legal pitfalls when undertaking a renovation project.

There are some interesting Singapore news ... the 1<sup>st</sup> flight of SIA's A380, new currency control rules and URA's fiscal measures against housing speculators.

More and more members have found great value of a membership with Vancouver Singapore Club. In fact, several Ordinary Members have decided to upgrade their membership status to "LIFE".

Have a great Autumn.

**Yee Hua Tan, Editor**



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# ASEAN Cultural Night



Consul General of Singapore in Vancouver, Foo Chin Kwok, Singapore's Musician, Ouyang Liang Rong, B.C.'s Minister of State for Inter-Governmental Relations, John van Dongen, and Singapore Business Council's President, Kwek Teong Sin

This year's ASEAN Cultural Night was held on Thursday 18 October 2007 at the First Nations Long House, University of British Columbia in Vancouver. More than 200 guests were invited to an evening filled with dances, music and gourmet delight from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

The Chairman of the ASEAN Consuls General in Vancouver, Thailand's Consul General Kosit Chatpaiboon delivered the welcoming speech.

A presentation of Mementos to the past organizer and supporters followed. The audience was then treated to a variety of cultural dances from Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia. The dancers adorned brightly coloured costumes and were a pleasant sight to behold.

For Philippines, a trio performed two musical pieces, which garnered a standing ovation from some of the guests, present that night.



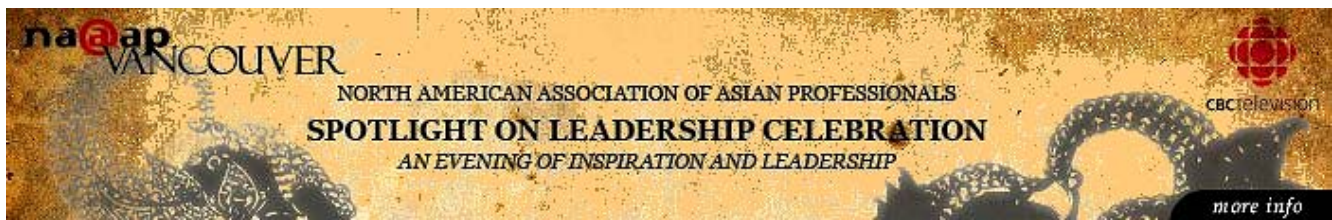
Singapore Musician, Ouyang Liang Rong

Singapore showcased one of our accomplished musicians performing on the "Guzheng", a traditional Chinese musical string instrument. Mr Ouyang Liang Rong began learning the "Guzheng" at the age of seventeen and at twenty-one, won the gold medal at the 1968-69 Radio Television Singapore Talentime competition.

He has represented Singapore in many international concerts and music festivals. He has also conducted numerous lectures on this instrument worldwide. Mr Ouyang presented 2 beautiful pieces of music that won mass applause that evening.

The audience was then treated to a great array of culinary delights from the five sponsoring ASEAN nations. We particularly enjoyed the beef rendang presented by Singapore's Prima Taste Restaurant.

T S Kwek (President of Singapore Business Council) and I were invited by CG Foo Chin Kwok to attend this event that we totally enjoyed. The performances were superb, the food spread was fantastic and the networking was just wonderful. We look forward to the next ASEAN Cultural Night in 2008.



## Spotlight on Leadership Celebration

On 25 October 2007, The North American Association of Asian Professionals, inaugurated the Spotlight on Leadership Celebration at the CBC Television Studio in Vancouver. Contact Singapore was a bronze sponsor of this event.

The Editor, Sub-Editor, President of Vancouver Singapore Club and Mr & Mrs Poh Soh Lim attended this very inspirational event.

The guests, numbering about 200, were enthralled by the humbling and touching recollections of the challenging and fascinating life of the keynote speaker, Vancouver Police Department's Chief Constable, Jim Chu. His years of hard work and dedication to his profession earned him the coveted position of Chief Constable. His advice to the mainly Asian professionals' audience has been most encouraging.



Vancouver Police Department's  
Chief Constable Jim Chu

The nominees for the award in the categories of Arts, Culture, Media, Business/Professional, Community Service & Cultural Promotion, and came from Vancouver's list of illustrious professionals in their fields of excellence. The honourees of these categories are:

**John Endo Greenway**, Designer, Composer, Musician, Photographer & Writer (for Arts & Media)

**Naeem Noorani**, Founder & Publisher of The Canadian Immigrant (for Business & Professional Achievement) and

**Henry Yu**, Historian, Activist (for Community Service & Cultural Promotion)

Each of the honouree recounted the uphill task of the Asian professional in seeking success and recognition in Canada. Their endeavours provided excellent references for Asian professionals in Canada who are aspiring to achieve success and a niche in their professional lives.

During a conversation with the President of NAAAP, Rudy Chang, we were told that he was hopeful that Singaporean professionals in due course could be featured in NAAAP's Spotlight on Leadership. We certainly hope that this will be so.



Naeem Noorani, Henry Yu & John  
Endo Greenway

# Renovations, Multivitamins, All Perils Insurance and Anti-Lock Brakes

If you're like so many others, you may have recently decided (or soon will decide) to finally undertake that renovation to your home, office, commercial space, or investment property. It seems that the combination of high real estate prices and the proliferation of property flipping and home renovation shows on TV have made "renos" the hip and happening thing to do. More and more people are opting to renovate rather than buying a new property. These renovations might cost as little as \$10,000 for a small bathroom or flooring job or more than \$1,000,000 for a complete or high-end renovation, although most probably fall in the \$50,000 to \$200,000 range.

If you wish to read more on what you should consider before embarking on a renovation project, please visit the following link:

<http://www.cwilson.com/newsletters/legalfw/lfoct07.htm#3>

Legal Framework is published periodically by the Construction Group at Clark Wilson LLP.



*News from Singapore . .*

## Taking Local or Foreign Currency out of Singapore

FROM 1 November 2007, travellers who take more than S\$30,000 in local or foreign currency equivalence in or out of Singapore will have to file a declaration.

This rule also applies to those who send and receive money through cargo, post or other means, but electronic transactions are excluded.

The measure, which was approved by Parliament last month, aims to combat terrorism financing and money laundering, the police said in a statement yesterday.

A declaration is made by filling up a form available at all checkpoints, police stations, Singapore visitor centres and Singapore Post branches, and submitting it to the authorities. The forms, which can also be downloaded from the police and Commercial Affairs Department's website, call for information on the type, amount and reasons for moving the money.

Apart from hard cash, the rule also extends to bearer-negotiable instruments such as travellers's cheques, bills of exchange and money orders.

Travellers can bring in and take out as much currency as they want, as long as they make accurate declarations. Those who fail to furnish accurate reports can be fined up to \$50,000, or jailed up to three years, or both, under the amended Corruption, Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Crimes (Confiscation of Benefits) Act. The money can also be seized.

If you need more information about this regulation, please visit Singapore Police Force's website: [http://www.spf.gov.sg/mic/2007/071026\\_cbni.htm](http://www.spf.gov.sg/mic/2007/071026_cbni.htm)

## Cooling off the red hot Singapore property market?

With the unprecedented economic boom of Singapore and higher incomes for most Singaporeans, the property market has been skyrocketing over the past 6 months. Prices are near and in some cases exceeded the 1996 highs.

However, speculators are now reconsidering their positions with the announcement made by the Urban Redevelopment Authority on 26 October 2007 that buyers of uncompleted private homes and offices will no longer have the option of using a deferred payment scheme.

In the past, homebuyers could pay as little as 10 per cent of the purchase price upfront, footing the rest only when the property is ready. House hunters are also thinking twice.

All buyers now will have to use the progressive payment scheme where they pay between 5 per cent and 25 per cent of the purchase price every few months.

Property agents agree that removing the scheme will achieve the Government's aim of reining in the speculators. But the agents believe low-budget buyers could also be hit.

Given the positive sentiments of Singaporeans about their economic prospects in the near future, many believe that the move would have a slight initial dampening effect on their decisions.



On 17 October 2007, at the SIA A380 Welcome Event, Prime Minister of Singapore, Lee Hsien Loong congratulated SIA for being the first to operate the Airbus A380, the world's largest commercial airliner. He also commended SIA and its partners for giving back to the community by raising funds for the less fortunate through its charity auction of the A380 inaugural flight. On behalf of all Singaporeans, he proudly welcomed the arrival of the first Airbus A380 aircraft to Singapore and wished SIA every success in flying this great aircraft around the world.







On 25 October 2007, the world's first A380, operated by Singapore Airlines, enters commercial service that day with its first flight, SQ380, from Singapore to Sydney, Australia. The aircraft departed from Sydney to Singapore the following day for the return leg of the flight.

On board the flights were the successful bidders of the A380 First Flight Charity Auction who helped to raise over S\$1.9 million for the Community Chest of Singapore; Australia's Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick, the Children's Hospital at Westmead; and Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders).

Unprecedented luxury, space and comfort await customers in all three classes. Exclusively available on the Singapore Airlines A380 are the New Singapore Airlines Suites, a class beyond first; the New Business Class, most spacious the world has ever seen; and the New Economy Class, promising more comfort than ever.

Read about this highly anticipated event which marked yet another historical milestone for the Airline.

Scheduled flights began on 28 October 2007 between Singapore and Sydney.

	<p><a href="#">Arrival of Singapore Airlines A380 to Singapore</a> Read about and view a video of the Singapore Airlines A380's arrival to its new home.</p>		<p><a href="#">World's largest airliner takes off on its first commercial flight</a> Read about the A380's historic flight.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Singapore Airlines A380 commences full service</a> Find out when the super-jumbo will start full scheduled services.</p>		<p><a href="#">\$1.9 million raised in A380 Charity Auction</a> A big thank you to sponsors of the A380 Charity Flight.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Singapore Airlines A380 Virtual Cabin Experience</a> Discover the revolutionary cabin products onboard the Singapore Airlines A380 and more.</p>		<p><a href="#">eNewsletter Archive</a> Take a look back at the stories so far in the A380 eNewsletter archive.</p>

You can read more about this historic event at  
<http://www.a380.singaporeair.com/content/news/enewsletter/archive/20071025/index.html>

Although SIA's A380 will not service the Vancouver route in the near future, we take pride that the National Icon of Singapore has created such a publicity around the world and making all Singaporeans proud. We wish SIA every success.

## *Coming Events . .*

- |   |                                    |                          |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | LIFE MEMBERS NETWORKING DINNER     | 8 December 2007          |
| 2 | MEMBERS' NIGHT (including Karaoke) | Sometime in Jan/Feb 2008 |
| 3 | CHINESE NEW YEAR DINNER/DANCE      | 2 February 2008          |

## *Ordinary Membership Renewal Reminder:*

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

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