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President's Message



Dear Fellow Members,

We have been extremely gratified over the past few months to see the wide range of activities being conducted by the AUJAC Organizing Committee in preparation for the AUJAC 2008 Convention. The most recent is the establishment of the Business Sub-Committee with Mr Loh Hoon Sun as the Chairman. Mr Loh is a veteran and prominent person in the financial community. Vice Chairman of the Sub-Committee is Mr Michael Yap. Taking advantage of their strong ties with the community and other business organizations, this newly established sub-committee presents a wonderful opportunity to work alongside with other sub-committees. Their strategic approach is to engage the business community to participate in the AUJAC 2008 programme and sponsorship opportunities.

This is the first time that the AAS's President and a number of members participated in the Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration to bring festive cheer and laughter to 80 needy and elderly folks at the Moral Neighbourhood Link at Telok Blangah Crescent on 21 September 2007. The night's programme started with a song sung to the elderly folks, "That's What Friends Are For", followed by song performances, line dancing and games. The visit to the elderly had provided the AAS with a dynamic arena for social work. We plan to hold more of such events for the elderly during the various festive celebrations in the future. The next event which we will organize will be some time next year after the AUJAC 2008 Convention. AAS members are most welcome to join in to lend a helping hand, contribute items or make donations.

The AAS has been in existence for 52 years and since its inception, AAS members take great pride in promoting the objectives of the Alumni. As an umbrella body for all Australian universities, the AAS has built a leading presence in Singapore, and what better opportunity than now for the current members to encourage more Australian graduates to join the AAS either as individual member for a small annual fee of \$25 or life membership for a one-time fee of only \$250.

As always, we look forward to your contributions and meaningful feedback. You may send your comments to our mailbox at: secretariat@ozalumni.org.sg.

The AAS Management Committee wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thank you.

Warmest regards

Simon Ho

AAS President, 2007/2008

Australian Universities International Alumni Convention (AUIAC) 2008, 10 - 13 June 2008

at Suntec Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Centre

(written by Peggy Tan, Chairman, Scientific Committee/AUIAC 2008)



The Convention is just six months ahead. We are very happy to announce that His Excellency, President S R Nathan has kindly accepted our invitation to grace the Convention's Gala Dinner as our Guest of Honour on 12 June 2008. Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong will also be at our Welcome Dinner on 10 June 2008 as the Guest of Honour.

If you have been following our AUIAC2008 website (www.auiac2008.org), you will note that we have confirmed about 80% of our speakers. We are very privileged that Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Minister for Finance and Minister for Education, has accepted our invitation to deliver the keynote address on the opening day.

Joining our impressive list of speakers are local entrepreneurs, Mr Richard Eu, Group CEO of Eu Yan Sang International Ltd, Dr Wilson Goh, Managing Director of GPA Holdings Pte Ltd, Dr Kevin Chan, Medical Director of Flinders Practice and Mr George Wong, Founder of Topwines Pte Ltd; academics, Professor Tim Roberts, Dean of University of Newcastle (Singapore Campus), Associate Professor Teo Choo Soo, Director, Office of Alumni Relations, NUS and Mr Mohan Balagopal, President of Alumni International Singapore. We are very pleased to announce that Dr William Tan, our home-grown world renowned Olympic Wheelchair Athlete, Neuroscientist, Medical Doctor and Champion Fundraiser for the Disabled and Needy, will also be speaking at

the Convention, thanks to the University of Newcastle for their generous sponsorship.

Our list of esteemed speakers from the Australian Universities includes The Honourable John Dowd, Chancellor of Southern Cross University, Mr Maurice Newman, Chancellor of Macquarie University and Dr Alan Finkel of Monash University.

We have set up a Business Sub-Committee headed by a prominent figure in the financial and business circle, Mr Loh Hoon Sun who is the Managing Director of Philips Securities and an UQ alumnus. They will strengthen the business aspects of the Convention. The Social Programme Sub-Committee are planning exciting and interesting programmes for the Welcome and Gala Dinners, an escapade to Night Safari for the Fellowship Nite, as well as sight-seeing tours for accompanying persons of our international participants.

Just a gentle reminder that the early bird registration for the Convention closes on 31 December 2007. We have received many inquiries from overseas and are expecting participation from Papua New Guinea, Taiwan, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Philippines and of course, Malaysia and Australia. Do not lose out on the many exciting academic, business and social activities and the chance of meeting new friends and renewing acquaintances.

Please register early! Register today!

Mid-Autumn Festival at Moral Neighbourhood Link

(written by Tan Ye Ping)



• Walkabout outdoors with candle-lit lanterns...

The 15th day of the eighth month of the Chinese Lunar Calendar brings to mind the Mid-Autumn Festival that is still being observed by many Chinese in this part of the world. Though not an officially designated public holiday, a number of people with big hearts decided to take this opportunity to spread a little cheer and joy with a visit to the Moral Neighbourhood Link at Telok Blangah Crescent. It's a homely place where the majority of elderly folks who live in the vicinity would gather to participate in various activities or just for companionship.

The event was originally organized by the Southern Cross University Alumni Singapore. An invitation to participate was subsequently extended to the Australian Alumni Singapore.

The evening may have started fairly tepid at the beginning, but all inhibitions were cast aside after a resounding rendition of a classic Bacharach number was performed by the volunteers, reciprocated in-kind with warm applause from the 80-odd crowd of appreciative folks. Other entertainment followed, with singing, karaoke, line dancing and games that were all well-received by the seniors, who themselves did not need much prodding to participate.

One of the highlights of the evening was the traditional walkabout outdoors with candle-lit lanterns. The line of brightly coloured lights circling the park at night was indeed a pretty sight.

The fun-filled occasion also included a catered buffet dinner for the senior folks who were served by the volunteers. Last but not least, moon-cakes were given out at the end to everyone as a parting gift to round up a memorable evening.



• And the top prize went to our 90 year-old lady for her stellar performance!



CONGRATULATIONS



Mr Tan Kah Hoe, 70, is the Singapore High Commissioner of Sri Lanka and the Maldives since 1996. Currently, he is on the Board of Visiting Justices of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Panel of Town Planning Appeals of the Ministry of National Development; Mediator on Relational Disputes of the Ministry of Law and Chairman of the Patients' Grievances Review Panel of the National Kidney Foundation, and had held numerous positions in various organizations.

He received the Commonwealth Fellow Award in 1979, the Community Service Medal Award (PBM) in 1987 and was appointed as Justice of the Peace in 1994. We in AAS are proud of him. The President and Members of the AAS Management Committee would like to congratulate...

Mr Tan Kah Hoe JP, PBM

for being awarded the

PUBLIC SERVICE STAR

at the

National Day 2007 celebrations



Seasons Greetings

*The President and Members of the
AAS Management Committee wish all readers
a Merry Christmas
&
a Happy New Year!*



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New Members

We are very happy to welcome the following new members and one conversion to Life Membership:

- Mr Stephen Lee: University of Manchester Institute of Science & Technology
- Mr Ong Yu-Phing: University of Adelaide & Mdm Sophia Ang Bee Leng: National University of Singapore
- Ms Margaret Teo: Conversion to Life Membership



Membership Renewal

Ordinary members who have not renewed their membership are kindly reminded to do so using the form below.

I, _____, of address _____, hereby wish to renew my membership. I enclose a cheque for \$25 payable to "Australian Alumni Singapore" being the payment for the membership renewal for the period March 2007 to February 2008.

Please send to:

The Secretariat, Australian Alumni Singapore, 35 Selegie Road #09-30 Parklane Shopping Mall, Singapore 188307.