

**Activity Report Vice President Far Eastern Australasian Region
Annual General Assembly
04-08 October 2009
Kuala Lumpur**

It has been 12 months since the economic crisis hit the world, and so many people have been hit hard by this situation. It has affected most Companies and Associations and as members have decided to not travel it has obviously affected W.A.C.A. Fortunately there has been an upturn in recent months but as unemployment rises significantly in America there is concern that this could lead to another downturn in the coming months so I feel we have to look at ways of making packages more attractive to our members to gain their continued support.

The last twelve months have been very interesting to see how different personalities express their desires and needs within the organisation. The Far East Australian region has been hit hard by the crisis but gradually clawing their way back to their old ways of life and now spending money on luxuries, such as travel, that that would not contemplate earlier in the year.

Unfortunately several packages had to be cancelled this year but hopefully we can look forward to support for more packages in the coming year. Sydney will be hosting a package to the wineries next year and details will be released at the A.G.A..

I was able to meet with Bryan Wannell from Auckland in July and he informed me that due to the economic crisis their Club was going to become “status quo” and wait until conditions improve. In other words they will cease to operate as a Club until they can see positive feedback they can continue. I shall table a letter from Wally Gibbs regarding their position at our meeting.

There still is no communication from Onalee from the Sri Lanka Club. As a result I have contacted Shanaz Preena to request her to get somebody from the Club to advise what their current position is regarding their activity.

As you are aware the 42nd. A.G.A. is to hosted by W.A.C.A. and the Executive Committee and Julian Chau has taken this on board with the Assistance of his Colleagues in Singapore. As RVP for the region I have not been consulted in any discussions or plans for this event.

At our regional meeting in Singapore there was distinct division between this group and the others in attendance. Unfortunately my Assistant Gayatri Chandra (a Member of Honor) left in tears and will not be attending this AGA, leaving the Delhi Club in danger of pulling out of W.A.C.A.

I have personally been involved with WACA since 1980 and have never seen this behavior before. It's a disgrace to our region. We are a voluntary association which sets out to promote goodwill within the industry. Unless this behavior ceases this region will fold as several Clubs have told me they are ready to leave the Association.

On a brighter side I have been working with a group in Cairns and will have a Club set up by the end of the year as they want to start afresh from the beginning of 2010. In addition I have been in discussions with Tiger Air to become a Sponsor for our region and also the Accor Hotel Group have advised me they would be prepared to assist in sponsorship as well.

Overall I am pleased with the continued support of the majority of Clubs in the region. I have, over the years, seen high flyers come and go, get very enthusiastic then if they don't get the glory they seek from the Association fade into oblivion. W.A.C.A. is not for self glory it's a damn hard job. On a personal note I, together with several hard working members from the Sydney Interline Club have built up Membership from 20 odd people (when we would almost have to go on the street to get enough people for a quorum) to now a very secure Club with over 300 members. Now in my 20th year as President of the Club I feel I have made a major contribution to the Association and proud of my achievements, also making the Clubs one of the main contributors to the revenue for WACA.

I look forward to a good year with the assistance of my supporters and trust all of you attending the AGA will develop the friendship and bonding that W.A.C.A. is about.

Yours in Interlining,

John Aarons

Regional Vice President Far East Australasia

9th September 2009