

**WELCOMING SPEECH OF PRESIDENT MR. MAGA RAMASAMY AT THE 42<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 04 – 09. OCTOBER, KUALA LUMPUR**

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Evening - Selamat Datang -

It is a real pleasure on behalf of the World Airlines Clubs Association to welcome you all in Malaysia for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Association. This AGA is hosted by the Executive Committee and Kuala Lumpur has been chosen to allow us to get the taste of its multicultural harmony, which we as WACA have been doing for the past 42 years and to witness the Malaysian hospitality and above all its commitment in sustainable tourism.

The World Airlines Clubs Association which was formed some 42 years ago, aim at bringing people working for the Airline Industry together in true spirit of friendship, mutual understanding and demonstration to the public the important contribution that international airlines are giving for better understanding among the peoples of the world. Through its activities, WACA promotes air transportation as a mode of travel and to promote better service to the traveling public and to provide social and economic causes to the benefit of the airline industry and the community in general.

With that philosophy, we at WACA are treating our stakeholders of the Tourism Industry ethically and in a responsible manner, which becomes the basics of our Corporate Social Responsibility, which many people of the world call it as CSR.

WACA has good rapport with, among others, IATA, the International Institute of Peace Through Tourism, the UN World Tourism Organization and UNICEF.

Through our activities, we never fail to fulfill our commitment as corporate and sustainable ambassadors of the globe by putting into action the resolutions of the UN Millennium Development Goals through our commitment and dedication to eradicate HIV/AIDS , provide education to the needy children and contribute in the awareness program of sustainable tourism.

As sustainable thinkers and responsible travelers and holidaymaker, forming part of the Aviation industry we are conscious that the industry we come from is a global one and we need to think globally. The Climate change today is becoming one of the main concerns of the world and you can see around us what is happening and we as responsible citizens of the world we need to bring our sustainable contribution. WACA is indeed is an appropriate forum based on our pledge we took when we joined the association to provide social and economic causes to the benefit of the airline industry and the community in general.

I will quote the IATA's Director General and CEO, Mr. Giovanni Bisignani on Climate Change:

Quote:

*Climate Change is a global problem. Aviation is a global industry. And we need a global approach for this industrial sector if we are to deal with climate change effectively.*

*Our targets are tough. Air transport is the first industry to commit carbon-neutral growth at the global level. And we have done it with an aggressive timeline of 2020. Our four-pillar strategy of technology investment, efficient infrastructure, effective operations and positive economic measures will make our vision a reality and is already showing results.*

Unquote.

Many airlines companies are adopting different approach to protect the environment and to reduce the Aviation's emissions. We as airline employees and as members of the prestigious association like WACA by our action of doing well by doing good we are supporting the good initiatives taken. By our action, we are demonstrating the world of our sustainability in our approach and not only as responsible airline employees but as responsible travelers as well.

WACA, as a world organization would also like to subscribe to the theme of the World Tourism Day 2009 as prescribed by the United Nations World Tourism Organization: i.e. Tourism- Celebrating Diversity.

Nothing could be more appropriate to have the WACA community at the Palace of the Golden Horses here in Malaysia for the coming week representing the diversity of nations flocking together as one big nation and to demonstrate the world how we can leave in harmony without any barriers. This is **WACA**.

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Interliners

Let us celebrate the diversity here in the multicultural Malaysia.

I wish you all best and may God Bless you all.

Maga Ramasamy

WACA President.