



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2003

2003 was another busy year for the Club. The highlights of the year were two high-level ministerial talks at the Club, and the launch of our new website.

The year got off to a good start with Home Minister Wong Kan Seng's lunch talk on "The Threat of Terrorism" held at the Raffles Hotel. A lively discussion followed Mr Wong's presentation.

Former Singapore High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur, Mr K. Kesavapany, spoke on "Malaysia-Singapore Relations: A Walk into the Future" in July as part of the Club's Eminent Speaker Series.

This talk received extensive media coverage following remarks made by the Malaysian High Commissioner, who had been invited by the Club to attend Mr Kesavapany's talk.

But perhaps the most significant event of the year for the Club was the talk by Dr Lee Boon Yang, Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts, in November, which became the front page lead not only in The Straits Times, but also the Business Times, and overall received widespread media coverage.

A major milestone for the Club was the launch of the new website in October. Members now have another avenue to access latest information about Club activities.

During the year we started e-mailing circulars to members in addition to posting them. The circulars are now also available on the website.

Unfortunately, the Goodwill Mission to Korea in April had to be canceled at the last minute due to the Sars outbreak.

Among the highlights of the year was a welcome party hosted for PM's new Press Secretary, Mr Burhan Gafoor, in January at the Club House in association with the P. R. Academy.

The traditional Chinese New Year lunch was held at Novotel Apollo hotel in February.

The IMF's Asia-Pacific director David Burton gave a luncheon talk on China's threat to Asia's tigers in March. The programme was organised jointly with the Foreign Correspondents Association.

A social to welcome new members was held at the Club House in June. Another popular social was the annual lunch with the Institute of Public Relations of Singapore (IPRS), held in October.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PRESS CLUBS (IAPC)

The Singapore Press Club became a founder-member and was elected First Vice-President of the newly set-up International Association of Press Clubs (IAPC), which has its general secretariat in Dubai.

The IAPC aims to promote friendly contact among journalists worldwide and is working to set up reciprocal visiting privileges among its member clubs, including those in Paris, London, Geneva, Munich, Milan, Vienna, Malta, Dubai, Singapore, Hong Kong and New Delhi.

MEMBERSHIP

With over 100 new members enrolled during the year, we continue to maintain our position as the largest media club in Singapore.

A newly designed gold membership card was introduced during the year. Members are encouraged to wear it at all Club functions for easy identification by fellow members.

CLUB HOUSE

Life member Peter Wong has extended the use of his premises as our Club House. Members enjoy 20% off drinks and food throughout opening hours.

The Club House can also be booked in advance for private and corporate functions.

FINANCES

The Club's finances continue to be healthy, thanks to prudent management. Despite increasing the number of activities as well as the subsidy for them in view of the economic slowdown, we again turned in a respectable surplus.

The Club now has \$1.33 million in the bank.

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