

Quarterly magazine of the Malaysian-German Society • for members only

The logo features a stylized blue 'MGS' with a red bird-like shape above the 'M'. To the right, the words 'NEWS' and 'LETTER' are written in large, bold, pink capital letters with a green outline.

# MGS NEWS LETTER

January - March 2016

**NEW**

Malaysian Traditions  
**Entering a Malay Home**

Writer's Corner  
**The Frequent Flyer**

Ethical Tourism  
**Marathon in Luang Prabang**



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## Lufthansa

# New Year's Message

## from President Achim

Dear Members, Honorary Members, Sponsors,  
Students, Partners and Readers



We have said adieu to 2015 and welcome in the year 2016.

Summarizing 2015 I am delighted to be able to say that it was a great year, very busy for the MGS Team and the MGS Office, challenging in part, but overall financially sound: we had 12 regular Board Meetings, six entertaining movie nights, five networking gatherings called 'German Breakfasts', four wonderful music concerts, four very interesting talks (about Hermann Hesse in Penang, held at the E&O Hotel, about the German Light Cruiser 'Emden' and her attack on Penang in 1914 and about studying possibilities in Germany), we offered four newsletters and circulated plenty of e-newsletters for your information, we invited you to two well-attended outdoor events (Open Day in March & Christmas Celebration in November), to the fantastic MaiBall and to our outstanding Oktoberfest, as the one and only party with oompah music and smash hits rocking our audience in the tent.

Apart from those social and cultural activities we employed three new teachers in July and had to replace one of them with a newcomer, starting in January, as our German Language Courses are still high in demand and prospering.

We spent a lot of time marketing the MGS, its events, its products (Language Courses, Library, Translation Works & a very informative Website) to reach out to you and were rewarded with your attention, attendance and attachment to the MGS. Thank YOU very much! We highly appreciate your support and loyalty!

What to expect in 2016? A hard-working and dedicated MGS Team (Board Members & Staff) mastering the daily challenges, offering again the full MGS' product range, organising many social activities (incl. the MaiBall on 14 May, the Oktoberfest on 21 and 22 Oct – please mark these dates in your diaries), planning the language teaching and developing further this wonderful friendship society in Malaysia.

In anticipation of your continued strong support here is wishing YOU a Happy New Year and hoping the year 2016 (the 'Red Monkey' will be the next Chinese Zodiac's animal sign) will bring you good fortune, peace and much happiness.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Achim Lauermann**





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• PET-CT Scan

• CT Scan

• 3T MRI

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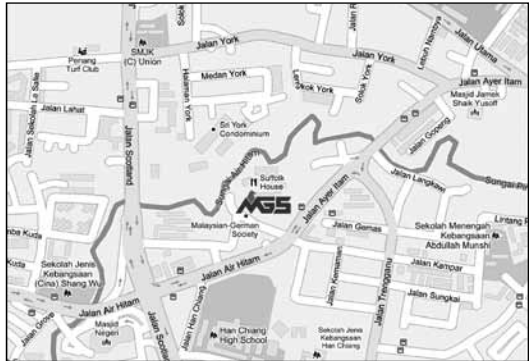
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Office opening hours:

Monday - Friday: 2:30pm - 7:30pm

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Monday - Friday: 11am - 7pm

**MGS Newsletter**

Issue January - March 2016

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Charlotte Smart, Anja  
Stegmann, Diana Walde**Contributions:** Jacqueline Grelak, Datin Cordi Halm, Dr Achim Lauermann, Dr Wolfgang Mark, Alawiah Osman, Ina Sammler, Volker Schmidt, Geoff Smart, Andrea Streller, Chef Tommes, Ralf Touby, Vötsch Industrietechnik, Annalena Wedel, Mariane Wray**Printer:** Pen'Ads (M) Sdn. Bhd.**GOETHE  
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**January**

	1	<i>New Year's Day</i>
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Fri	15	<b>Movie Night</b>
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Thu	21	<b>German Breakfast</b>
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	24	<i>Thaipusam</i>
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**February**

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	8	<i>Chinese New Year</i>
	9	<i>Chinese New Year</i>
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Fri	19	<b>Opening of Art Exhibition</b>
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**March**

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Thu	3	<b>Nyonya Talk</b>
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Fri	11	<b>Movie Night</b>
Sat	12	<b>Flea Market</b>
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Mon	14	<b>Cooking Demo</b>
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	25	<i>Good Friday</i>
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**Dear members and friends,**

We will open our doors already at 8 pm to welcome you to our movie night. You will have time to chat and have some drinks and nibbles before the film starts. Soft drinks will be for free, but you can also buy a can of beer for RM 7.  
At 8:30 pm we will start our movie as usual.

**Wahrheit oder Pflicht**

(Truth or Dare, drama, Germany 2005, 89 min, FSK 12)



**on  
mingle & chat  
start movie  
language**

**Friday, 15 January 2016**

**8:00 pm**

**8:30 pm**

**German with English  
subtitles**

**directors**

**Arne Nolting, Jan Martin  
Scharf**

**actors**

**Katharina Schüttler, Jochen  
Nickel, Therese Hämmer,  
Thomas Feist**

**plot**

Annika fails out of high school  
but doesn't tell her parents.  
This lie builds up until it hits a  
surprising double ending.

**Die zwei Leben des Daniel Shore**

(The two lives of Daniel Shore, thriller, Germany 2009, 95 min, FSK 12)



**on  
mingle & chat  
start movie  
language**

**Friday, 11 March 2016**

**8:00 pm**

**8:30 pm**

**German with English  
subtitles**

**director**

**Michael Dreher**

**actors**

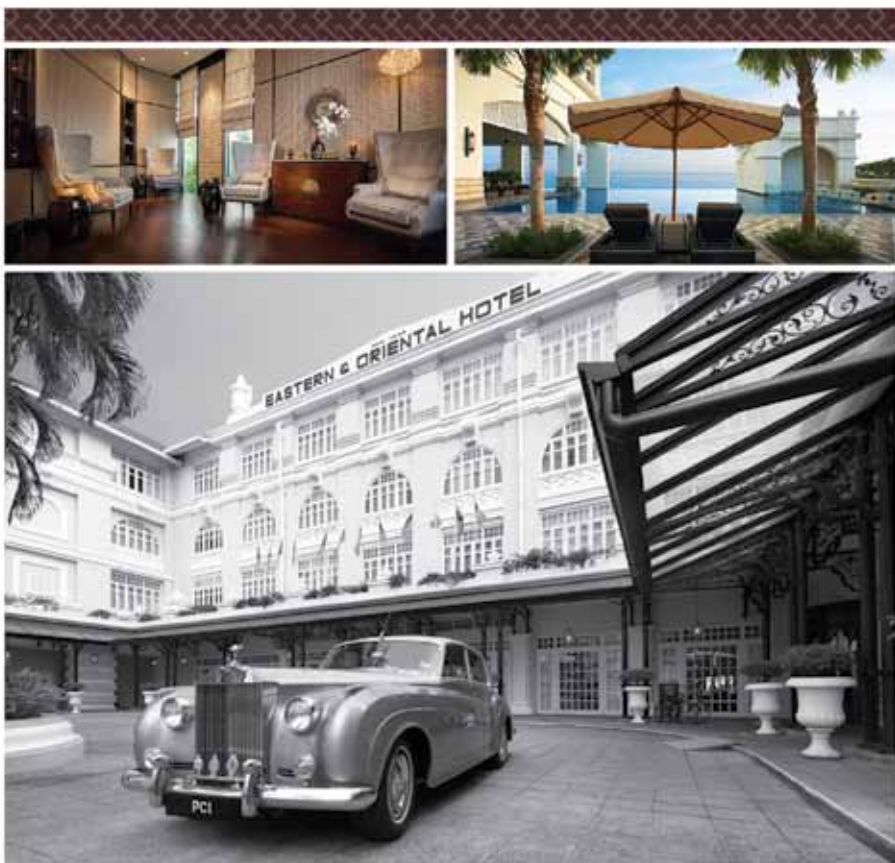
**Nikolai Kinski, Katharina  
Schüttler, Sean Gulette,  
Morjana Alaoui**

**plot**

Haunted by the memory of a  
boy who was killed and the  
knowledge that he may have  
been an accessory to the death,  
a German-American man  
returning from Morocco begins  
to unravel.



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## **German Breakfast / Deutsches Frühstück**

Five times a year our members and friends meet for German and international breakfasts held at our premises. There are always new people to meet and old friends to greet – not to forget the delicious food which is always prepared by a few of our ladies. Everybody is most welcome, especially those new to Penang.



Members RM 25, non-members RM 30, starts at 9:30 am

Next dates are: **Thursday, 21 January**    **Thursday, 14 April**

---



## **Opening of Art Exhibition**

On **Friday, 19 February at 8 pm** we are opening the next art exhibition in our society's premises. This time we are showing artworks created by some of our members and friends. Come along for some drinks, snacks and a chat and enjoy the fabulous paintings. If you cannot make it on that day, no problem – the exhibition will go on for a few weeks.

---

## **MaiBall**

Please mark your calendar already and prepare yourself for a marvellous evening with delicious food, excellent company and great party atmosphere!



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## Introduction to the Peranakan Culture

Expert of the topic and descendant of one of Penang's prominent families, Baba Michael Cheah will hold a talk about the history and development of the Peranakan or Baba-Nyonya culture at the Straits Settlements, in particular in Penang. He will also show samples of the famous beaded shoes, embroidery and some typical clothes.

Tze Koh Yin, the author of "My Little Nyonya Diary", will also be presenting a multimedia show on her recently launched publication.

We will finish the morning with a traditional Nyonya dish: Nasi Lemak and Nyonya Kuih for dessert.



**3. March 2016**

**10:30 am**

**at the MGS**

**price will be RM 10 for members and RM 15 for non-members**

**Please sign up with Elena at the office: 04-229 68 53 or [office@mgs.org.my](mailto:office@mgs.org.my)**

**Penang Passion**  
www.penangpassion.com

**'My Little Nyonya Diary'**

This photographic journal is a rich celebration of the Peranakan culture with all of its graceful and whimsical details captured and infused in each image. It represents the author's loving expression of the Nyonya world in which she finds infinite inspirations for her work. It is Koh Tee Yin's third publication and in addition to the book, a hand-crafted and hand-painted 'Kampong' souvenir magnet accompanies it to complete the ideal gift.

**Contact:**  
T +604 261 4099 E [petra@penangpassion.com](mailto:petra@penangpassion.com)  
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**RM59**

**RM98**

**My Little Nyonya Diary** was launched on Dec 4th 2015 at The Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion



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## **Charity Flea Market**

Don't fit in those clothes anymore? Bought that blender and never used it? Do you have any unwanted or unneeded things sitting in your cabinets? Then it's time to declutter and spring clean your home. Why not offer all those pre-loved items a new home? They may be somebody else's match.

We are organising a charity flea market and are looking for vendors with pre-loved items of the following categories: home, electrical appliances and fashion (no business sellers).

Are you are interested in setting up a table? Limited numbers of tables are available by donation of RM 100.

**Book your table and pay before Friday, 26 February 2016** at the MGS Office, 250 B, Jalan Air Itam, 11460 Georgetown.

Tables will be reserved only when completed application and payment are received.

Drinks and light snacks will be available for sale.

**Saturday, 12 March 2016**

**11 am - 4 pm**

**at the MGS**

Proceeds of table rental and refreshments will be given to a charitable organisation of the MGS's choice. Donations are welcome.

For information or application,  
please contact:

Yvonne 016-413 7897 or

Sangeet 012-521 2292





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6:30pm - 10:00pm



Golden Phoenix  
Daily, 12:00pm - 2:30pm  
6:30pm - 10:00pm  
Sat, Sun & Public Holidays  
9:00am - 2:30pm



nadaba  
Daily, 11:00am - 12:00am



Join us for an interesting and vibrant morning for another cooking class.

**Viji Reitberger** assisted by **Ling Scherzer** will show you how to cook delicious

### **Nyonya Mee Siam**

**on Monday, 14 March, 9:30 am**

**at the MGS**

**price RM 50 for members,  
RM 60 for non-members**



Proofing that Asia is a big melting pot, this tangy spicy rice vermicelli dish, is a combination of Malay and Chinese cuisine with some Thai influence as well. Malay and Thai ingredients like shrimp paste, lemon grass and coconut milk are blended with unmistakably Chinese salted soy beans and soy bean paste.

One can't help it but to relish every single bit of this dish with it's kalamansi lime, sambal, bean sprouts, chives, boiled eggs and fresh prawns to top it all up. We consider this dish a one meal dish simply because it is complete.

The demo is done from scratch and for those who are willing to help, please come forward on that day.

Later on, a typical Nyonya dessert and some coffee and tea will be provided.

Please sign up with Elena in the office at 04-229 6853 or [office@mgs.org.my](mailto:office@mgs.org.my) latest by 10 March 2016.

**Welcome to our new members**

**SINGLE MEMBER**

Jay Ho Kah Yau

**LIFE COUPLE MEMBER**

Lim Guat Poh & Tan Aik Chuan

**COUPLE MEMBERS**

Adrijana Rebernak & Andreas Stegmaier

Lidia & Peter Berberich

Katja Mayrhofer & Matthias Knörr

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- Free use of our extensive German library (not only books, but also audio books and DVDs)
- Free internet access for our students and regular members at the MGS library
- Membership discount on tickets and fees for our events and activities

As a member, you may use the MGS premises for your own functions. Come here for your birthday parties and other

celebrations. A small donation applies. Please contact the office for further information and booking.

The MGS expects a minimum donation for the usage of:

• Outside area and bar	per day	RM 150
• Outside area and bar, ground floor hall and kitchen	per day	RM 250
• Hall 1st floor	per hour	RM 50
• Classroom	per hour	RM 50
• Classroom with use of SMART board	per hour	RM 75

For private use at home:

• Festzeltgarnituren (tables and benches)	per set	RM 20
• Plates, bowls, cups, glasses, cutlery	per 20 pcs.	RM 5

The used facilities and items have to be returned in the same condition as before the usage. If cleaning is required, RM 20 per hour will be charged. Any loss or damage to premises or items will be charged according to the lost/broken items list or according to the actual cost for repair or replacement.



## This is our new Newsletter Team:

I am **Anja Laubner** and I love the international life I have, following my husband and his work. We are both originally from Hamburg in Germany and about eight months ago we moved to Penang. It is a great opportunity for me to get to know the world as well as finding new creative inspirations.

Being part of the newsletter team is already a new experience for me. Besides this I am trying to learn Bahasa Malaysia, I love to explore my new surroundings and appreciate being here.



Hello, I am **Petra Müller** and I have been in charge of the MGS Newsletter since October 2010. Over the years we have tried to find more advertisers, ramp it up visually, standardise the layout and of course have always tried to find good and interesting articles to keep you reading! Looking forward to working with the new team and feeling that new energy!

Hi, I'm **Diana Walde** and I've been living here since July 2015. Before I came to Penang I lived in France for three years. In Paris I was glad to be a member of the team that published the newsletter of the International German School. I really enjoy living here, the different climate, the variety of cultures and the multitude of exciting countries nearby. I'm looking forward to being part of the MGS Newsletter Team.

I'm **Anja Stegmann** and have been here

since September this year. Before that, I lived in Budapest for four years. I like travelling and I'm interested in other cultures. I also like to take photographs. Penang is a great place to combine all these things.



My name is **Charlotte Smart** and I have been in Penang for six years, now. My husband, Geoff, and I are from England but our daughter and grandson live in Berlin, which is why we thought it would be fun to join the MGS.

# -RAINFOREST-

Est.



2001

# -BAKERY-

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Business Hours: 10.30am-8pm

Liebe Bücherfreunde,

wie schnell doch so ein Jahr vergeht. Ich hoffe, ihr habt schöne Weihnachtszeit verbracht und seid gut ins Jahr 2016 gerutscht.

Wir freuen uns euch mitteilen zu können, dass Bestellungen der neuen Bücher und DVDs angekommen sind und nun für euch zur Ausleihe bereitliegen. Wir hoffen, dass wir die richtige Auswahl getroffen haben und für jeden etwas dabei ist.

Hier eine kleine Auswahl:

### **Kinder:**

**Ostwind 2** (Buch und DVD) - Ein neues Abenteuer mit dem Pferd Ostwind und Mika.



**Was liegt am Strand und redet undeutlich** - Rätselbilder und Quatschfragen

**Alea Aquarius Bd. 1** - Das Leben von Alea ändert sich schlagartig, als sie unfreiwillig mit dem Meer in Berührung kommt...

### **Krimis:**

**Verheissung** (Jussi Adler-Olsen) - Der sechste Fall für Carl Morck

**Stimmen** (Ursula Poznanski) – Mord in der psychiatrischen Klinik Salzburg-Nord, wer war der Täter?

### **Romane:**

**Spiel der Zeit** (Jeffrey Archer) - Clifton Saga Teil 1, Die Schicksale zweier Familien in den 1930er Jahren. Eine verborgene Wahrheit. Das Ringen um Freundschaft und Liebe.

**Ein Mann namens Ove** (Fredrik Backman) - Eine Geschichte über Freundschaft, Liebe, das richtige Werkzeug und was sonst noch wirklich zählt im Leben

### **DVDs:**

**Berlin Calling** - Tragikkomödie um einen DJ im Berlin von heute

**Ein Tick anders** – Eine Geschichte von einem Mädchen mit Tourette-Syndrom

**Der Nanny** – Eine männliche Nanny, die von den Kindern möglichst schnell wieder vertrieben werden soll...

Und vieles, vieles mehr. Lasst euch überraschen. Wir freuen uns, auf eure Rückmeldungen.

Bis demnächst,  
Cordi und Andrea

**Im Rahmen des Konversationskurses (ab Sprachniveau Ende A2.2) haben wir den "Club der lebenden Dichter" (im Anklang an den Film "Der Club der toten Dichter") gegründet und unsere ersten deutschen Gedichte geschrieben. Als bester Poet wurde Brixter gekürt und hier ist sein Gedicht und ein Foto:**

Was deine Augen so wach macht,  
das ist die Bewegung aus dem Augenwinkel.  
Was deine Ohren so hellhörig macht,  
das ist das Geräusch im leeren Raum.  
Was deinen Geist so wachsam macht,  
das ist das Gefühl, beobachtet zu werden.  
Was deine Stimme so sicher macht,  
das ist dein Wille den Geist zu verschrecken.  
Was deine Nase so empfindlich macht,  
das ist der Gestank des faulenden Fleisches.  
Was deinen Mund so verschlossen macht,  
das ist die Empfindung, dass jemand dir folgt.  
Was deinen Gang so aufrecht macht,  
das sind die Schritte von hinten, die lauter werden.  
Was deinen Schritt so sicher macht,  
das ist der Anblick, dass die Tür fast erreicht ist.  
Was deinen Rücken so stark macht,  
das ist die Sicherheit, wenn man endlich draußen ist.  
Was deine Gedanken so fantasievoll macht,  
das ist die Leere des verlassenen Hauses.  
Was deine Meinung so sicher macht,  
das ist die Kenntnis, dass das Haus noch besetzt ist.



# German Language Courses (GLC)



**1<sup>st</sup> Semester: January - June 2016**

**Price incl. of 6% GST!**

## A 1

<b>A1a</b>	<b>1 semester</b> Friday, 19:00 - 22:00 Saturday, 13:00 - 16:00	22 Jan until 17 June 30 Jan (!) until 18 June	<b>Total</b>	<b>RM 830</b> Course Fee, Textbook, CD & Membership
<b>A1b</b>	<b>1 semester</b> Monday, 19:00 - 22:00	19 Jan until 14 June	<b>Total</b>	<b>RM 830</b> Course Fee, Textbook, CD & Membership

## A 2

<b>A2a</b>	<b>1 semester</b> Saturday, 13:00 - 16:00	30 Jan (!) until 18 June	<b>Total</b>	<b>RM 882</b> Course Fee, Textbook, CD & Membership
<b>A2b</b>	<b>1 semester</b> Saturday, 09:30 - 12:30	30 Jan (!) until 18 June	<b>Total</b>	<b>RM 882</b> Course Fee, Textbook, CD & Membership

## Intensive Full A Level

<b>Intensive - Morning A1 + A2</b> Tuesday - Friday 09:30 - 12:30 <b>A1: 19 Jan until 29 March</b> <b>A1 exam: 30 March</b>	<b>A2: 31 March until 9 June</b> <b>A2 exam: 10 June</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>RM 3,520*</b> Course Fee, Textbook, CD & Membership <b>Extra exam fee: RM 84.80 per exam</b>
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## Intensive - Evening A1 + A2 recommended for continuee with B1 Crash

Monday - Friday 19:00 - 22:00 <b>A1: 18 Jan until 15 March</b> <b>A1 exam: 16 March</b>	<b>A2: 17 March until 10 May</b> <b>A2 exam: 11 May</b>	<b>Extra exam fee: RM 84.80 per exam</b>
<b>A1 or A2: RM 1,737 + RM 40 = RM 1,777</b>		

\*Discount for booking the full A Level: Total RM 3,328.40 - no refund for cancellation after the course started

## B 1

<b>Full B1 CRASH COURSE</b> Monday until Friday, 18:00 - 22:00 16 May until 23 June (B1 exam: 24 June)	<b>Total</b>	<b>RM 3,094</b> Course Fee, Textbook, CD & Membership
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## B 2

<b>B2.2</b>	<b>1 semester</b> Saturday, 09:00 - 12:00	30 Jan until 18 June	<b>Total</b>	<b>RM 882</b> Course Fee, Textbook & Membership
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### Please note

Payment: After the courses started, there is no refund for cancellation. There might be changes due to official holidays. The payment has to be done BEFORE the courses started. Min. number of students: Courses can only be held with a minimum number of 6 students for A level classes only, for B levels the minimum number of students is 5 only. Age limit: You have to become 14 years in the semester you are registered.

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**MGS**, 250B, Jalan Air Itam, 10460 Penang (next to Suffolk House)



## FLASHBACK | Hermann Hesse Evening

What a fantastic poetry reading dinner it was on 17 October 2015 at the E&O Hotel, in which Hermann Hesse stayed during his time in Penang in 1911. About 60 people joined the invitation of Cecil Rajendra of Friends of Artistes Liaison, the E&O Hotel and the Malaysian-German Society to enjoy poems, citations and extracts written by the Nobel Literature Prize winner. German and English readers Mecky Lauermann, Lars Kabatnik and James Lochhead ensured for a great atmosphere and everyone was taken back one hundred years in time to a quite different yet at the same time familiar Penang. Singer Marlene Fox and pianist Philip Yeoh performed songs from Hesse's era, which, accompanied by the fabulous dinner at the antique 1885 Restaurant, helped set the mood for this great evening.



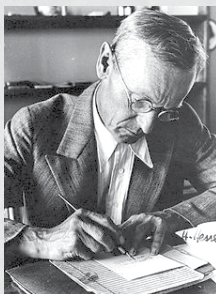
**Remembrance of India, 1916**

It was a hot summer of 1911 that we travelled together through Switzerland and the scorched regions of upper Italy to Genoa, and from there by sea without interruption to the Straits Settlements. On a damp, hot, glorious evening in Penang, for the first time the surging life of an Asiatic city burst upon us; for the first time we saw the Indian Ocean glittering between innumerable coral islands, and we stared with astonishment at the many-coloured spectacle of street life in the Hindu city, the Chinese city, the Malayan city. A wild, colourful human swarm in the ever-crowded alleys, at night a sea of candles, motionless coconut palms reflected in the sea, shy naked children, dark fishermen rowing antediluvian boats! From these first impressions of the already somewhat Europeanized harbour cities to the silent, pathless, tropical forest in south-eastern Sumatra, the pictures increased in number and in power until each of us had found his India, his Asia, and bore it within him...

**Abend in Asien**

aus: Aufzeichnungen von einer indischen Reise, 1913 Fischer Verlag, Berlin

...Hier gibt es keinen Sonntag, hier gibt es keine Nacht; ohne Ende und ohne sichtbare Pause geht die gelassene, gleichmäßige Arbeit weiter, nirgends nervös und übertrieben, überall fleißig und heiter. Klug und geduldig kauert auf hohem Brett der kleine Straßenhändler über seiner Bude, still und würdevoll arbeitet am Rande der brausenden Straße der



Barbier, zwanzig Arbeiter klopfen und nähen in der Werkstatt eines Schuhmachers, freundlich bereitet ein mohammedanischer Kaufmann auf niederen, breiten Ladentischen seine schönen Tücher aus, die aber fast alle aus Europa stammen. Japanische Dirnen sitzen kauern am Steinrand der Gasse und girren wie fette Tauben, aus chinesischen Freudenhäusern glänzt golden der wohlbestellte steife Hausaltar, hoch über der Straße in offenen Veranden hocken alte Chinesen mit kühlen Gebärden und heißen Augen beim aufregenden Glücksspiel, andre liegen

und ruhen oder rauchen und hören der Musik zu, der feinen rhythmisch unendlich komplizierten und exakten chinesischen Musik. Köche siedend und braten auf der Gasse, Hungrige speisen an langen Brettertischen gesellig und feinschmeckerisch und sicher für zehn Cents nicht schlechter, als ich im Gasthaus für 3 Dollar gegessen habe, Fruchthändler bieten unbekannte Früchte an, phantastische Erfindungen einer müßigen überreichen Vegetation, kleine Buden haben ihre ärmlichen Güter, eine Handvoll getrocknete Fische oder drei Häuflein Betel, sorgsam mit Kerzen beleuchtet. Hier wandeln im verschwenderischen Licht, das namentlich der Chineser liebt, unverändert alle Gestalten der östlichen Märchen, nur die Könige, Wesire und Henker sind zum Teil verschwunden, gleichwie vor Jahrhunderten arbeitet der geschickte Barbier, tanzt die geschminkte Dirne, lächelt ergeben der Diener und blickt stolz der Herr, wie immer kauern wartend die Träger und Arbeitssuchenden, kauen Betel und erzählen einander Geschichten.



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## Oktoberfest 2015

by Wolfgang Mark

**As has become a good MGS tradition since 1973, the annual and now famous Oktoberfest was officially opened to the public, on 23 Oct 2015 at 7 pm, by tapping a wooden barrel of beer and calling out the Bavarian exclamation "O'zapft is!"**

After nearly 360 days of waiting, this good news was announced at the end of October 2015: The 43rd MGS Oktoberfest, a well-known event in Penang and throughout Malaysia, opened its gates and was ready to receive many happy guests. From the beginning, in 1973, we at the MGS have provided the same hallmark ingredients as the original, world-famous Munich Oktoberfest in Bavaria/Germany: a uniquely and attractively decorated tent, a festive opening ceremony, an authentic Bavarian brass band, a broad range of very drinkable imported beer brands, a variety of tasty food, fun games and challenging entertainment and, most of all, the intoxicating atmosphere of the singing and dancing crowd till late evening.

Over a period of 43 years, this wonderful MGS festival has become a cultural



highlight in Penang and contributes to thriving Malaysian-German relations and continuing friendship. It is a great opportunity to celebrate a wonderful evening with your family or colleagues, meet local and international friends and have fun together with many other beer enthusiasts from all over the country. Many of our guests love dressing up, during the Oktoberfest, in typical lederhosen for men or the charming dirndl for ladies.





We had the great honour and pleasure to welcome YAB Tuan Lim Guan Eng, the honourable Chief Minister of Penang, together with his family, as our most faithful VIP guest.

The festive opening of the Oktoberfest was conducted by tapping a nicely decorated wooden barrel of beer and calling out the famous Bavarian exclamation "O'zapft is!". The six-piece oompah Band – Froschhaxen Express – delivered their very best music during the two-day event. Their repertoire is exactly what all the excited visitors expect. They produced a wide range of entertainment – from traditional folk music to the most up-to-date party hits. They had all flown in from Regensburg in Bavaria especially for this occasion and enjoyed staying in Penang and performing at the 2015 MGS Oktoberfest.

The highlight of each successful Oktoberfest is of course a wide range of

pale and sweet draft and bottled beer. With the great support of Carlsberg this year, we were able to offer the well-known German brands: Löwenbräu, Erdinger, Franziskaner and König Ludwig. As well as tasty beer brands, it is extremely important to have a wide variety of delicious food. There was traditional German food, such as a whole roasted pig, grilled sausages, pretzels, schnitzel, mashed potatoes and sauerkraut as well as several local



dishes, Mexican food and a wide range of desserts, all offered by friendly vendors.

To keep visitors and guests entertained, several more exciting activities were initiated as the evening progressed: group dancing, polonaise dancing, traditional adult contests for beer-drinking, arm-wrestling and mug-lifting, with a specially designed 3-litre wheat







Many thanks go to our main sponsors, Carlsberg, E&O Hotel and Lufthansa, as well to all advertisers, volunteers, suppliers, caterers, the MGS office and the Oktoberfest organizing committee. It was only their dedicated support and team-oriented contribution that made the 2015 Oktoberfest, once again, such an outstanding highlight in the

beer glass. There were also fun game stalls for the children that were provided by our longstanding supporters, B. Braun and Bosch. The kids very much enjoyed the fun and challenging games available.

Penang calendar of events. We hope to see all of you for the MGS Oktoberfest 2016 – when again it will be exclaimed: O’zapft is!

Overall the MGS Oktoberfest 2015 was a highly successful event and we welcomed more than 3000 happy guests from Penang, Malaysia and around the world. Many said this event was just a “Hammer Party” with a fantastic atmosphere. Those who missed this year’s spectacular Oktoberfest should diarise Friday & Saturday 21 & 22 October for the 2016 event!



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# Amazing Officers of the SMS Emden

by Geoffrey Smart

**On Friday 20 November, MGS members and guests were treated to an extremely interesting and entertaining presentation by Dr John Robertson on the extraordinary exploits of the German cruiser Emden during the First World War. Dr Robertson is a retired consultant psychiatrist and served for several years in Britain's Royal Navy as a medical officer.**

The central character in Dr Robertson's story was Captain Karl von Müller, who was given command of the Emden in the spring of 1913. After the outbreak of war he proposed that the Emden be detached to raid Allied commerce in the Indian Ocean. Von Müller went on to achieve a reputation for daring and chivalry unequalled by any other German ship or Captain since. He was highly scrupulous about trying to avoid inflicting non-combatant and civilian casualties. While capturing or sinking fourteen enemy and merchant ships, the only merchant sailors killed by the Emden's guns were five victims of a bombardment of British oil tanks and a merchant ship at the port of Madras, India. Emden also sank the Russian cruiser Zhemchug and the French destroyer Mousquet during a daring raid on Penang. Thirty-six French survivors from Mousquet were rescued by Emden, and when three men died of their injuries they were buried at sea with full honours.

The Emden was eventually intercepted and defeated by the heavier guns of the Australian light cruiser HMAS Sydney. However such was the courage and success of the Emden's exploits that every officer was awarded the Iron Cross First Class and 50 crewmen were given the Iron Cross Second Class. After the war von Müller was awarded the Pour le Mérite (or Blue Max) and finally promoted to Kapitän zur See.

Dr Robertson also recounted the exploits of several other colourful Emden officers. One was Julius Lauterbach who, after the Emden was scuttled, traveled from Singapore to Padang to Cebu to Manila in a matter of six weeks using various disguises and false passports. With a thousand pounds reward on his head, Lauterbach then caught a Japanese collier to Tientsin and moved on to Shanghai. To evade capture by the British he jumped into the river and subsequently stole a US Navy Lieutenant's passport, using it to gain passage aboard an American ship to Nagasaki. Then, disguised as a Dane, he reached New York by railroad and bribed his way aboard a Danish freighter at Hoboken, N.J., as a stoker. His ship was intercepted off the Orkney Islands by a British armed merchant cruiser, but after five days of futile searching, she was released to resume her course to Oslo, Norway. From there, Lauterbach visited the German naval attaché's office in Copenhagen, and on October 10, 1915, he arrived home to a hero's welcome!





## FLASHBACK | Christmas Bazaar

We would like to place a sincere and huge THANK YOU to all the people who volunteered to help and support us in whatever way to make this year's Christmas Bazaar such a great success. As usual, we had a great atmosphere, we enjoyed the carols sung by the IWA choir and music performances of several local artists, the children had fun at the crafts table and playing on our spacious grounds, Christmas stories were read in German and English and even Santa visited us later in the afternoon! People could buy some gifts and goodies from some vendors and the culinary highlights were German cakes, Glühwein, sausages, meat loaf, pretzels, potato salad and sauerkraut.



Our sponsored child from Ramakrishna Ashrama orphanage, Kayal with her friends Ashweny and Munisha



# The Day the Sauerkraut was Late

by Ralf Touby

Have you been to the MGS Christmas Bazaar on 28 November? It was yet another great event organised by the MGS. And the food! Home-made cakes, potato salad, sausages, meat loaf, pretzels and the most delicious sauerkraut. Wait – sauerkraut? There was no sauerkraut! At least not until later that day. And yes, it was all my fault! I like to take the opportunity to offer my sincere apologies for any culinary disappointment that my late arrival might have caused.

Actually my wife had given me detailed instructions when and where to get that kraut. However, the message was not clearly received.

But there is a lesson to be learned here and that concerns the way women communicate with men:

Men need simple instructions. Something like "Get the sauerkraut at 2pm. Drive it to the MGS". That's it. You might want to reinforce your given instruction by asking "Get what?" - "Sauerkraut". "When?" - "2pm". "Drive it to?" - "MGS". And a call at 1:30pm as a reminder would

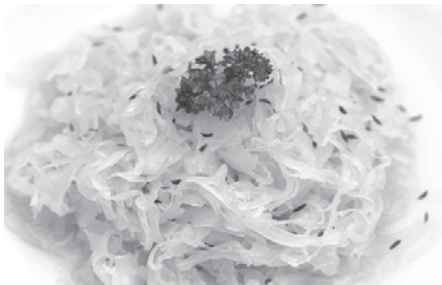
be helpful too. That will give you a reasonable chance that your helpmate (husband) will act as instructed.

Don't say something like "later you must drive to the German restaurant "Ingolf's Kneipe", you know where it is, right? You have to use the back entrance around the corner at 2pm, he should be there. Anyway, we will be at the MGS until 7pm and after that we might go to the movies at 9pm although since we got up at 6am I might fall asleep by 8pm".

Ladies, this is information overflow for a man hence there is somewhat of a chance that the sauerkraut gets delivered late. Well, that's what happened here anyway.

I am always amazed at the amount of information women process verbally. When I enjoy a cup of coffee at Starbucks and 6 women walk in, they all talk simultaneously. All six of them. Non-stop! For 2 hours! My ears start bleeding and my head is buzzing but surely, everyone of them knows exactly who said what and when. Amazing!

So ladies, spare yourself unnecessary stress. Speak in short sentences, give clear instructions, followed by positive reinforcement ("I know you can do this, honey") and promise a reward (sex works particularly well here) and we will do whatever it takes to execute your commands.





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*Dinner 6pm to 10.30pm*

**SUNDAYS WE ARE CLOSED**

About 55 Malaysians came to the MGS on 3 December 2015 to learn more about studying in Germany. The talk was held by Dr Guido Schnieders and Ms Norlis Simaa Mohd Ali from DAAD in Kuala Lumpur, the German Academic Exchange Service: [www.daadkl.org](http://www.daadkl.org)

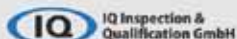




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On 13 December 47 music students took part in the MGS Music Festival at USM. Jury Prizes were won by Ng Yi Wei (harp), Verena Koay (violin), Abigail Soo (cello), Nicholas Khor (piano) and the Han Chiang Private High School String Orchestra.





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# Sommerfest des deutschen Schulvereins

by Volker Schmidt

**Gleich zum Start ins neue Schuljahr traf sich der deutsche Schulverein bei guter Laune und bestem Wetter zum alljährlichen Sommerfest in großer Zahl. Die Kleinen tollten auf der Wiese, die Großen hielten sich eher an ein Glas Wein oder Bier. Neulinge machten sich bekannt, die alten Hasen tauschten Neuigkeiten aus, neue Bekanntschaften wurden gemacht - eine fröhliche Runde.**



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Lehrerin: Miriam Riedelsheimer, E-mail: [miriam.riedelsheimer@scips.org.my](mailto:miriam.riedelsheimer@scips.org.my)

The International School of Penang (Uplands), Jalan Sungai Satu, 11100 Batu Ferringhi

Lehrerin: Isabella Nwankwo, E-mail: [isabella.nwankwo@uplands.org](mailto:isabella.nwankwo@uplands.org)

Deutscher Schulverein, Dr. Udo Streller (Präsident), E-mail: [deutscherschulverein@gmail.com](mailto:deutscherschulverein@gmail.com)

Mächtig unterstützt wurde die gesellige Runde durch ein reichhaltiges und leckeres kaltes Buffet. Kein Wunder, denn was aus den Küchen unsere Mitglieder kommt kann sich nicht nur sehen, sondern erst recht genießen lassen.

Bei Sonnenuntergang wurden dann endlich die Laternen angezündet, worauf die Kleinen schon die ganze Zeit gewartet hatten. Groß und Klein stimmten feierlich in den Gesang zum Sankt-Martins-Fest ein und man sah stolze Gesichter hinter den selbstgemachten Laternen leuchten. Der kleine Martins-Umzug rundete das Sommerfest schließlich für alle ab - schön war's mal wieder!

Ziel des deutschen Schulvereins ist es, bei deutschen Kindern durch den Deutschunterricht die Muttersprache zu fördern bzw. zu erhalten, um eine spätere Re-Integration ins deutsche Schul- oder Universitätssystem zu erleichtern bzw. zu gewährleisten. Gegründet im Jahr 1997 vom deutschen Konsul Dato' Herbert Weiler und engagierten Eltern, wurde zunächst nur in der St. Christopher's International





## Visiting a Malay Home

by Alawiah Osman



It could be helpful to know a few things about visiting a Malay home:

### Time

Visits can actually be done at any time. One will always be welcomed, but in modern times the nuclear family has replaced the extended family and most people have jobs, so it is best to go when one knows the occupants are at home.

However the extended family still exists in the villages and therefore, for maximum attention, it would be best to go after 5 pm because that is after the evening Muslim prayers (as most Malays are Muslims).

Avoid visiting at twilight, as it is also prayer time, although one would still be welcomed.

In an extended family, the family members would keep you company, if your friend is busy.

### Destination

Finding one's way to a friend's house in a village is easy. Just go to the village, look for children playing about, and ask them the whereabouts of your friend's

house. Usually the children will escort you.

### Attire

The attire depends on the occasion, but ladies should avoid wearing shorts, tightfitting, sleeveless or revealing garments, though no-one would comment should one wear these.



### Greetings

On arrival, a Muslim would say "Salamualaikum" 3 times. If there was no reply such as "Mualaikumussalam", a good Muslim would not enter the compound but would return another time to visit. Apart from that, one could call out the friend's name. Sometimes the children who escorted you would help to call, too.

When someone opens the door to welcome you, one could wish the usual Selamat Pagi (good morning), Selamat Tengah Hari (good afternoon) or Selamat Petang (good evening).

### Welcoming in

After being welcomed in, it is important to take off your shoes before crossing

the threshold, so wearing easy-to-remove shoes would be convenient.

Traditionally, Malay houses have a big vase full of water for one to wash their feet before ascending the steps to enter the house, and there might be a rag mat to wipe the feet. The reason for this is that, in the past, some walked barefoot or only wore sandals.

### **Gifts**

It is not the Malay culture to bring flowers as gifts. They would usually bring their garden's produce such as fruits or home made goodies. It would be alright not to bring anything.



### **Gripping of hands**

Gripping hands with the same sex only, is done before being ushered to sit, though sometimes it is optional.

### **Seating**



If there are no chairs, you will be invited to sit on the floor which will be covered with carpets or at least simple mattings. It is important to know, when sitting on the floor, that men would sit cross-legged, whereas

it is considered decent for women to sit with both knees bent together. Avoid pointing your feet towards someone.

### **Refreshments**

Coffee or tea and maybe some goodies would be served. If the visit happens to be at a mealtime then very often you would be invited to join with the family and share whatever they have. The host always tries to give the best to the guest. Malay food is very often cut in small pieces, as it's easy to eat with the hands, and this means it could also easily be shared with unexpected guests.

### **The Visit**

One can stay to chitchat as long as one likes. You would not be asked to go home. If the host is busy, he/she would excuse himself/herself and come back to sit later, or other family members would keep you company.

During conversation, NEVER, NEVER, point at anything with your feet, as Malays are very offended by this.

Always use your right hand to give or receive things.

### **Departure**

When a guest finally decides to leave, if living in a village the hosts might pack up some goodies or fruits for you to take home. Your gift basket/containers would be returned to you, having been filled with whatever goodies were available. It is not the custom to return someone's container empty. The host would then escort you to the door or even to your transport and invite you to visit again

Now then, have a pleasant visit!





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## Gulyás - Hungary

For the last 4 years, I have lived in Budapest, Hungary. If you ask someone what Hungary is known for, then the answer will certainly include goulash and paprika. If you order goulash in Germany, you may expect to be served a stew, while in Hungary you will be surprised that it is served as a soup. There are many different recipes, but traditionally, goulash is cooked in a cauldron, and a "must have" at every party. Here in Penang, bell peppers and chillies are also as important as in Hungary. So maybe you may want to try and prepare this Hungarian soup next time.

Jó étvágyat!

### Ingredients for 4 persons:

250 g onions  
500 g beef (shin/shank or brisket)  
2 tbsp lard  
salt, pepper  
1 tbsp paprika  
1 tsp cumin  
300 g potatoes  
250 g tomatoes  
250 g green bell peppers  
1 tbsp tomato puree  
100 ml sour cream  
chillies



### Method:

- Peel and dice the onions. Wash and dry the meat, cut into 3 cm cubes.
- Heat the lard in a roasting pan. Sauté the onions in it. Add meat and fry for about 15 minutes, stirring regularly. Season with salt, pepper, paprika and cumin.
- Deglaze with 750 ml of water. Cover and simmer for about 50 minutes first. Meanwhile, wash and peel potatoes, cut into 2 cm cubes. Wash tomatoes and green bell peppers and cut into small pieces.
- Stir the tomato paste into the stew add the prepared ingredients and an additional 750 ml of water. Cover and simmer for another 40 minutes.
- Season again with salt, pepper and paprika. Refine and serve with sour cream.

You can add some "spätzle" or pasta and chilli slices to your taste.

**Anja Stegmann** has lived in Budapest for 4 years before coming to Penang. She loves cooking and trying out new recipes. She also finds it exciting to mix the best from several different recipes to create a new dish.



## The Perfect Hard Boiled Egg

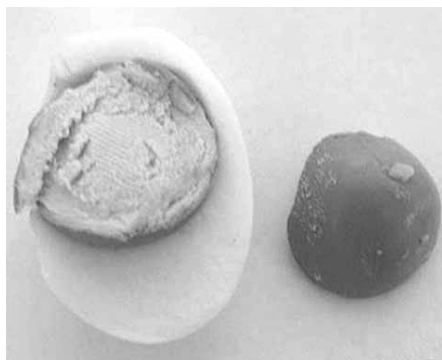
by Chef Tommes

**I know that you are smiling right now. You are thinking: “What is this nonsense? A hard-boiled egg? Easy. Anybody can do that.”**

Well, I disagree. Most people can't. How often have I had to eat boiled eggs which had grey or even green discolouration on the egg yolk, had dry yolks or pale ones? How often have I peeled the egg to find the white looked more like the surface of the moon than the smooth white shiny beauty it should be? Why? Because it was cooked in a way that made it very hard to peel. I am sure you have had experiences like that.

Let's look at a Nasi Kandar food stall. Look at the eggs. They are over cooked and that's what makes this green layer around the yolk. Actually it is a "life saver" for you, because at least you know that all the proteins in the egg have been killed. You don't want to eat a half-cooked egg that then lay around the whole day in 35 degrees heat. It would make you very sick. It is amazing that it was only in 1985 that it was discovered that the bacterium "Salmonella enteritidis" is to blame for food poisoning. So, the Nasi Kandar stall doesn't know how to make a perfect hard-boiled egg and overcook them to err on the safe side and not kill their customers. Quite clever I must say.

A perfect hard-boiled egg has a sunny yellow yolk which is fluffy and still moist



even though the cooking has already coagulated the proteins so they cannot host bacteria. When you overcook an egg, the protein strands press off water molecules and so free oxygen. This oxygen then oxidises the sulphur in the egg yolk (that's what makes it yellow) and the sulphur turns either grey or green, depending on how overcooked they are. They even smell bad. It is that sulphur smell.

**So how do you avoid overcooking and have a perfect hard-boiled egg every time you do it?**

Two things are very important: ice cubes and a timer.

Firstly, you put your eggs into a pot of cold water. They should be fully submerged.





If there are eggs that swim then they are rotten so throw them away; if there are eggs that stand up in the water then they are no longer fresh but ... well – I don't take chances, it's your decision.

Now you turn up the heat to high and bring them to a rolling boil. That means big bubbles. Once the water has achieved that state you take your pot off – don't just turn the heat down, take it away from the burner – and set your timer to 10 min. Wait. The residual heat will now boil the egg slowly. The heat will go into the egg from the outside to the inside. After ten minutes, discard the water, quickly shake the pot with the eggs inside so that the shells crack a bit, and then transfer them into a bowl of ice water. Don't use your still-hot pot for that. It will melt the ice faster. What is happening now is that the cold is going into the egg from the outside to the inside. That means that when your egg is cold, every part of your egg has been cooked for the same amount of time with the same average temperature. First the heat from outside in – then the cold from outside in.

The result – the size of the egg doesn't matter – is always the same: a perfectly cooked yolk, and a solid, but not rubbery, white. The next mistake people often make is to peel the cold egg straight away. Disaster. No, put your egg into your fridge overnight – or even longer – before you peel it. What happens in the fridge is that the boiled egg shrinks a little inside the shell. That means that it separates itself from the shell a tiny bit. So when you peel it you have a much easier time. Of course what you should also do is you crack it a bit on the blunt side where the air pocket is and use a little running water from the tap so the water goes underneath the skin between the white and the shell and separates the shell from the egg without creating a moon crater surface. But you knew that already, right?

Now look at the beauty and cut it in half. A beautiful yellow. And it tastes better as well. Just a bit of salt maybe? It is the little things in life ... Bon Appetit.



Chef Tommes is the owner and chef of "That Little Wine Bar", 54 Jalan Chow Thye, 10050 Georgetown, Penang. Open from 5 pm onwards. Closed on Sundays. [www.thatlittlewinebar.com](http://www.thatlittlewinebar.com)







# Infineon Technologies (Kulim) Sdn Bhd

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## Activities

Semiconductor, 8" wafer fabrication of power technologies for automotive, industrial and multimarket applications.

## Background

Infineon Technologies AG is a world leader in semiconductor solutions that make life easier, safer and greener. Microelectronics from Infineon is the key to a better future. In the 2014 fiscal year (ending September 30), the company reported sales of Euro 4.3 billion with about 29,800 employees worldwide. In January 2015, Infineon acquired US-based International Rectifier Corporation with revenues of USD 1.1 billion (fiscal year 2014 ending June 29) and approximately 4,200 employees.

Infineon is listed on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange (ticker symbol: IFX) and in the USA on the over-the-counter market OTCQX International Premier (ticker symbol: IFNNY).

Infineon's wafer fabrication facility in Kulim High Tech Park, Kedah, is its first wafer fab in Asia and presently employs 1,800 staff. The Kulim plant has added a building-shell which can include a new 12,000 square meter fab facility with the potential to double production capacity. With Fab 2, Infineon Kulim is positioned as the manufacturing competence centre of semiconductors focusing on the efficient use of electric energy and the electrification of automobile for improved performance and safety as well reduced carbon emission.

Infineon Technologies Kulim Sdn Bhd (679693-W) implemented advanced manufacturing concepts such as radio frequency lot tracking system – a total paperless concept; Zero Defect Culture which strongly focus on "do it right the first time" with no rework; and a Green Concept fulfilling environmental requirements on its products and the industries of its customers. Other accolades include ISO 14001:2004 and OSHAS 18001:2007 certifications.

With the Wafer fabrication in Kulim and the Assembly and Testing in Malacca, Infineon Technologies has the full value-added chain in Malaysia and fosters close cooperation between the sites. Multimedia Super Corridor status was achieved in August 2007.



## **Vötsch Industrietechnik GmbH**

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**What do you think of when you get into your car and start the engine? Traffic? Your driving route? Whether or not you will be on time for your next appointment?**

Whatever it is, surely you don't think (or worry) about the power steering, engine management, air bags or any of the other electronic systems in your car. That's because these systems are designed to work with incredible reliability and chances are that they have been tested in a Vötsch Environmental Chamber to improve their design and verify their performance even under the harshest conditions.

Think about winter in Europe. The temperature at night can drop to -25° Celsius. You start your car and within minutes your heating system reaches a comfortable +23° C. Such a sudden change in temperature imposes enormous stress on all electronic components like the car's radio. Try this with your mobile phone and chances are that it may not even survive such an ordeal. The systems in a car however, have to withstand this abuse on a daily basis over a lifetime of more than 10 years and without any failure!



But how do engineers have access to extreme conditions for their product development, improvement and testing? This is where V ö t s c h

Environmental Test Chambers are used to simulate a wide range of environmental conditions such as high/low temperature, rapid temperature change, humidity, vibration, solar radiation, salt spray, water and dust, corrosive gas, and others.

The objective is to expose products to conditions that simulate the components life cycle including storage, transport and finally their use (and abuse) environments. There are even design tests with the objective to destroy the product. Think of it, you increase the thermal stress until the first component of an electronic board fails. Replacing that component with a more rugged one will improve the overall toughness of the product.

Accelerated tests with higher than normal test conditions (e.g 85° C at 85 % relative humidity) allow for life time predictions and estimated failure rates.

Environmental Test Chambers are used in almost all industries: "Automotive" and "Electronics" are the most obvious,



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but chambers are also used in the "Aerospace", "Pharmaceutical", "Food and Beverage", "Plastic" and many other industries.



A few years back I went to a factory producing Mentos. Candy, really? Why would they possibly need a climatic test chamber? Well it turned out that they had problems with the packaging of their candies because in countries like Indonesia, road shops are not air-conditioned and the product is stored in hot and humid outdoor conditions resulting in a reduced shelf life.

So Mentos got a climatic chamber from Vötsch to help them improve the packaging of the product (try to rip open a Mentos package and you know what I am talking about. It's tough!).

But tests are not only done on component levels in relative small chambers ranging from 20 ltr to 1,000 ltr. Complete cars, trucks or busses are tested in climatic chambers simulating climates that range



Drive-in chamber for vehicle performance test

from the tropical heat of Malaysia to the cold and dry weather of Alaska (I always pity the engineer who has to operate a car inside of a chamber at a temperature of  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$ !).

People can also be tested in large walk-in chambers from Vötsch. The military is using such chambers to conduct heat stroke tests on soldiers exercising on treadmills.



Other applications for civil use include tests of safety equipment e.g. for fire fighters under harsh environmental conditions.

Altitude chambers simulating reduced air pressure at higher elevations, have been used to condition athletes for the Olympic Games e.g. in Mexico.



Environmental Test Chambers help to improve most products of your daily life. So the next time you start your car remember the many electronic systems that ensure a safe and comfortable ride and think about Vötsch Chambers that made it all possible.

## **An internship in Penang - what an exciting experience!**

by Jacqueline Grelak

**I am studying Business Administration at Osram in Berlin, Germany. The course lasts 3.5 years and will be completed in block instructions of 8 weeks each, being conducted at the University of Economics and Law Berlin, the Siemens Vocational School and training on the job in different departments at Osram. In the end you will get the Bachelor of Business Administration and also the graduation of Industrial Clerk. In the third year of study I have gotten the opportunity to complete one part of 8 weeks at Osram, Penang. Why not, I thought, and decided to give it a go...**

I was so nervous when I got out of the aircraft. A new town, a new country, a new world! But the nervousness was gone, when I saw my wonderful accommodation in Tanjung Bungah, with a direct view of the sea. I got a warm welcome from the family where I

lived for the time and looked forward to the next two months.

Every morning I was lucky to get taken to the factory by an Osram colleague. Osram is located in the south of Penang, near the airport and the way there took around 40 minutes. I was appointed at







the procurement department. The team is very big, with around 26 employees and all of them were very friendly and helpful. My desk was right in the middle of the office and so I connected to the colleagues very easily. First I had some problems with the language, because the English of Asian people sounds very different than the English of European people. But that was just a problem of some days. In the purchasing department I had different tasks all the time, so I got the chance to learn a few new things and had a lot of work.

Lunch was daily from 11am to 12am and the colleagues showed me different food courts near Osram, where I tried Malaysian, Indian and Chinese food. I love the different options to eat in Penang and especially the spicy ones.

Food was a daily topic and seems to be very important for Malaysian people. Every day I had to give a detailed report about the German cuisine and what Germans like and dislike.

In the beginning I was very precarious if it is safe to go alone by taxi or bus to a shopping mall or for sightseeing to Georgetown, because I had the feeling that all people gazed at me. But over time the feeling went away and so I tried to see as much as possible of the island as I could.

A perfect opportunity to get an overview about the many tourist attractions are the Hop-on-Hop-off busses in Penang. They have two routes, one beach route and one city route. I used both routes and saw at the beach route a lot of nice beaches, some monkeys in the jungle and a lot of big hotels. The city route goes to the Penang Hill Station, the Kek Lok Si Temple, the Botanical Garden, Gurney Drive and through Georgetown. All of these places were unique and very impressive.

Finally I could say, that this was the best experience that I have done yet and to everyone out there: "When you will get a similar chance, use it. It will change your life, it will change your perception and you will learn a lot of new things, which you can apply later."

My name is **Jacqueline Grelak**, I'm 28 and come from Berlin, Germany. I enjoyed the international life in Penang. It was a great opportunity to work there and see the different cultures. Now I will finish my studies in Germany and I'm sure I will come to Penang again.



## **An internship in Malaysia**

by Annalena Wedel

**Hello everyone or as you say in Bahasa Malaysia: 'Selamat pagi'!**

**My name is Annalena Wedel and I'm a student of the dual system at the German Bosch plant in Nürnberg and at the same time being enrolled at the Cooperative State University in Heidenheim. During the training at Bosch, it is compulsory to do one internship abroad and so I chose Malaysia. The reason for choosing Malaysia is the variety of culture and the chance to gain new impressions and experiences due to this cultural diversity.**

Thus, I started my internship abroad at Bosch in Penang end of September. You may not know, but at first I was not a fan of Asia, but some superiors suggested I do my internship here. Like the most I



wanted to go to the US. After I informed myself about Asia, I got to know the country from articles and short stories and I thought to take Malaysia as an opportunity to experience something new. Consequently, I already had to revise this statement after a short time in Malaysia and would say: 'Asia, what a thrilling and exciting continent'.



I even settled down quite quickly and feel comfortable. Of course, it is not the familiar surrounding like in Germany. You just have to be open-minded and give the various cultures a chance, then you feel very quickly at home. Surprisingly, I had no problems with the cuisine here. You have to try everything and after all you find very fast a few favorite dishes, such as Ginger Chicken, Butter Chicken with Plain Naan and Brown Noodles. However, there are still so many more dishes that you should try.

At Bosch PgP1 belonging to the Car Multimedia division, I support the Indirect Purchasing and assist the department manager, in various projects such as 'Transnational Volume Bundling of Office Supplies' and 'Introduction of Ordering Center and easyRFQ in



Indonesia' and in daily operations. I like my tasks and the colleagues are very friendly, helpful and open-minded. That's the reason why my work is greatly facilitated. In addition, I get along very well with my boss, so it is quite normal in Malaysia that you call everyone by their first name. In addition, the whole work has a rather harmonious and southern impression because of the many palm trees and seating areas which can be found in the whole plant. Compared to Nürnberg there are so many things which are quite different: on one hand, every door is just opened with a personal ID and on the other hand there is always a pocket control at the guard house after work.



Malaysia, the country with a mix of cultures, is a very impressive and exciting country, mainly because of the beautiful islands. During my free

time I have explored several places and islands in Malaysia and in the surrounding countries with some German students and international interns. On my first weekend I already flew to the capital Kuala Lumpur or as it is called here: 'KL'. I was totally impressed by this city, even if it is quite 'western' compared to Penang. KL is therefore more like these typical big Asian cities with many large modern shopping centers. On my second weekend I went to Redang Island - a fabulous and fantastic island. I recommend travelling to Redang if you are in this area. The following weekend I flew to Cambodia and had looked at a variety of historical sites in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap. Last weekend I spent in Penang and celebrated the Oktoberfest which the Malaysian-German Society had organised - with German music, German food and German beer.

Many other countries and islands like Thailand (Phuket, Koh Phi Phi, Krabi and Bangkok), Hong Kong and Singapore, will be travelled on the following weekends. Thus, I can still enjoy many great experiences and exciting adventures. In addition, I look forward to my next responsibilities and projects at Bosch, as well as upcoming events with my colleagues and say:

*'Selamat Tinggal'!* (= Goodbye)

**Annalena Wedel** is currently doing her internship of 8 weeks with Bosch Car Multimedia, where she gains new experience working in Asia for the first time. She is from the beautiful Franconia in Bavaria and enjoys travelling in the Asian region.





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# The Frequent Flyer

by Ralf Touby

**What do flying and smoking have in common? Well for one, they both can kill. But let's look at the advertising and marketing side of it. Didn't the Marlboro man stand for freedom? And so does flying. I just don't know why.**

Flying is often associated with freedom, soaring above the clouds. *Smooth as silk* – Thai Airways, *Your palace in the sky* – Air India, *Where the world unwinds* – SilkAir, *A great way to fly* – Singapore Airlines, *Arrive in better shape* – Cathay Pacific, ...and all that. Really?

After a cramped 12-hour economy flight, however, not much is left of such notions and there is only one predominant thought: LET ME OUT. That's probably why as soon as the wheels touch the ground, people jump out of their seats and, despite all efforts of the cabin crew, start pulling their bags from the overhead compartments while the jet is still thundering down the runway at 150 miles per hour.

Most annoying of all: the captain comes on the intercom with something like "I hope you have enjoyed the flight with us". Taking the pain of such a flight is one thing. But being ridiculed by the crew is quite another. Associating this kind of suffering with enjoyment requires a certain affinity to masochism.

To be sure, the airlines and bad luck can add to the misery. Let's just say you queued your way to your seat and even found some space to stow your hand luggage. You arrive at your seat. Remember, it's the place where you'll

experience all that endless joy, fun and comfort for the next 12 hours. How much space do you actually have here? Less than 1 m<sup>2</sup> I reckon! I think that's even less than the legal space limit for a chicken in an egg farm.

And then you discover that the video systems box is installed below the seat in front of you. Too bad, 50% of your leg space is gone. That's bad enough - but there can be more!



My last flight was very safe. This lady chanted prayers for hours on end without moving



Dr. Helmut Schweigart (Head of Technology Development – ZESTRON)



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### Here are my Top 10 signs that your flight might spell trouble:

10. The aircraft is older than you
9. The screen of your inflight entertainment system asking you to re-boot
8. The crew telling you not to fasten the seat belt because the plane is being refuelled. Hint: just in case of a fire - that one really made me feel safe
7. The stewardess having trouble finding your seat
6. The toilet being closed for "technical" reasons
5. Technicians still working on "minor issues" while you are boarding
4. After one hour on the ground the captain confirming that all systems are repaired now and that there is really no reason to be worried at all
3. The guy next to you chanting prayers
2. The pilot asking if there is a doctor on board

And the number one sign that your flight spells trouble:

1. Your seat neighbour requires a seat belt extension

I am not kidding, seat belt extensions exist for guys too big for a regular seat belt.

Here is what happened to me last time: I was looking down the aisles praying that the tiny Chinese girl was going to occupy the seat next to me and not that fat sweaty guy behind her. Nope, it was the fat sweaty guy. He couldn't squeeze into the seat with the arm rest down so there went my last line of defence and the arm rest up. And yup, he got the belt extension while spilling himself half into my seat. And when the seat in front of you swings back you realize that even

Houdini would not make it out of there. That's it. You're pinned down. You are not going anywhere for the next few hours. Emergency evacuation? Forget it.

To divert your thoughts from this misery for which, by the way, you paid a lot of money, most planes have inflight video screens. But there is another problem. With the front seat in the recliner position the video screen is only inches from your nose. Unless you are extremely short-sighted you will have difficulties focussing on the screen. Tip: Bring reading glasses, even if you normally don't need glasses.

I could go on, really. But I spare you my thoughts on seats with padding thin as paper, bad food, spilled drinks and horrible toilets.

So please don't give me that "Smooth as Silk" crap. With more than 100 flights a year I can assure you that I don't enjoy flying. And it seems to me that the marketing guys that come up with all these fancy slogans must either be the most ruthless people on the planet or maybe have never been incarcerated in an airplane for 12 hours.

Your Frequent Flyer

*P.S. Regarding the marketing guys: I stick with ruthlessness. After all, they had Marlboro man portray freedom until he fell off his horse and died of lung cancer.*

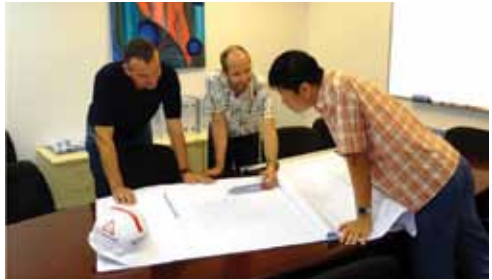
**Ralf Touby** is a sales professional working for Vötsch Industrietechnik. He has been living in Penang with his family for 10 years.



# Caverion

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The roots of caverion GmbH are four long-established companies in Germany in the field of facility engineering and facility systems. Today, the caverion group provides a broad scope of services - from technical advice and construction through to the operation and management of facilities and systems. We have a number of branches and affiliates distributed throughout Germany and around the world; this entitles us to claim to be the right partner for carrying out overall industrial and non-industrial complexes inclusive of all facility systems.

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Planning & operation of equipment relocation, moving-in of machines & assembly work

**Background :**

Klose Group started with the business logistic & warehouse.

Klose Industrial Service established in year 2007 at Europe and later at Malaysia in year 2008 as a company providing the said activities at above.



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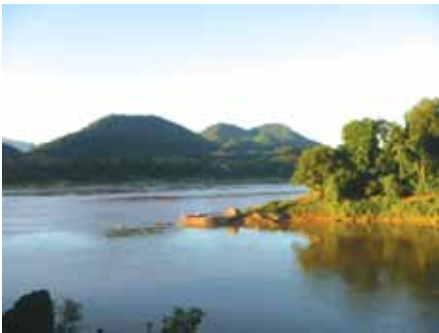
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## Ethical tourism in Luang Prabang

by Marianne Wray

Those of you who have been to Luang Prabang before know that it is a UNESCO World Heritage area on the banks of the Mekong River, with many beautiful temples and the ritual giving of alms to the monks every morning. It is well worth a visit. This time, my second visit to Luang Prabang, co-ordinated a holiday with an opportunity to assist the local population, whilst participating in an international event that allowed me to experience the local culture and people?



Recently, six girlfriends and I travelled to Luang Prabang in Laos to compete in 'La Procession', the third annual Half Marathon. 21.2 kms is the longest distance on offer in this event, but other options are 7 km or 14 km individual, or a three person team with each team member completing one 7 km lap each.

The course was three laps of a 7 km loop around the historical centre, and it was beautiful. The locals and race volunteers were all out in force, and provided excellent support and morale throughout the race. Local kids from one of the schools waved flags and cheered runners on throughout the race, and were more of a highlight than the amazing scenery, international field, and numerous water stops.

The event was held on 16 October 2015. Entry fees were high - over \$100 USD - but the event does away with traditional Asian race niceties, such as prize giving and medals for all finishers. Even the organising committee and race day helpers all complete the tasks voluntarily, and all the funds raised are spread across local causes that benefit local people. This year, funds raised were distributed across the three agencies below, all of which work in youth health and education;

### **Friends Without A Border, and the Lao Friends Hospital for Children:**

Friends Without A Border (Friends) is a not-for-profit organisation based in New York City, and is committed to providing high-quality and compassionate healthcare to the children of Southeast Asia. In 1999, Friends built and opened





the Angkor Hospital for Children (AHC) in Siem Reap, Cambodia, and in the spring of 2015, opened Lao Friends Hospital for Children (LFHC).

### **Eau Laos Solidarité (ELS) & the Girls' Hygiene Empowerment Project:**

Eau Laos Solidarité (ELS) is a grassroots organization that supports hygiene projects in Laos schools. Although the school curriculum in Laos includes reproductive health, teachers are too shy to cover the topic and there are no teaching aids. Menstruation is not discussed, and girls report fear at their first period and poor basic hygiene thereafter. Due to lack of awareness, the absence of coherent information and poor infrastructures, girls struggle to study during these times and may miss school.

The ELS Girls' Hygiene Empowerment Project is training female puberty educators to conduct Girl Workshops at schools. An informed girl improves her health, participates in her community and contributes to her country's development confidently.

### **Big Brother Mouse:**

Big Brother Mouse was established in 2006 and is a Lao-based, Lao-owned

project that, since 2006, they've been publishing "books that make literacy fun!"

Until now, few books were published in the Lao language. Many people in Lao villages never saw a book. Big Brother Mouse is not just a publisher. They assist young people as they learn new skills: writing, editing, translating, computer use, and organising events. Big Brother Mouse is also developing effective new ways to distribute books in a country where currently, there's no system that supports this.

For more information on any of these worthwhile causes and ways to donate, you can check out the websites below. Alternatively, you could find a local agency that requires assistance, and make a difference in your own local community.

**Lao Friends Hospital for Children:**  
[www.fwab.org](http://www.fwab.org)

**Eau Laos Solidarité:**  
[www.eaulaos.org](http://www.eaulaos.org) (in French)

**Big Brother Mouse Literacy Programme:**  
[www.BigBrotherMouse.com](http://www.BigBrotherMouse.com)

What are you waiting for? Get out and find a cause that makes you feel great, gives you new experiences and helps others along the way!

**Mariane Wray** is a New Zealander living in Penang with her husband and two children. Apart from running, Mariane likes most outdoor activities, and instructs with Warrior Bootcamp Penang.







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