

The NANYANG MBA 2012-2013 EXCO NEWSLETTER

Issue #4: March 8, 2013



From the Nanyang MBA Olympics Committee

The 3rd Nanyang MBA Olympics!

To the Nanyang MBA Cohort!

The MBA Olympics Sports Teams require your **presence** and **cheers** to **ignite** our torch and **light** our path to **glory**!

The annual NTU MBA Olympics event needs your fiery passion and support to make this event a successful one as we unite six MBA schools in Singapore to participate in this charity event for a good cause.

We hope to see you all on Sunday 10th of March 2013 at 9am sharp in the Clementi Sports Hall. This time around, we want to be the ones to hold the flaming torch up high...

LET'S DO THIS!!!

Fast Facts on the 3rd Nanyang MBA Olympics

When will it be held?
10th March 2013 (Sunday)

Where will it be held?
Clementi Sports Hall

What sports will be played?
Futsal, Basketball, Badminton, and Table Tennis

Who are the beneficiaries?
World Vision and Special Olympics Singapore

Which schools are participating?
Nanyang, NUS, INSEAD, S P Jain, Essec, and SMU

For more info, visit
<http://www.nanyangmbaolympics2013.com>



A Merry Christmas in Singapore!

Article by Priya Kashyap

Just before the Nanyang MBA cohort were to break off for their Christmas vacation, John-Rae Cortes, on behalf of the Cultural club, hosted the Christmas Party on the last day of the mid-term exams, 15th December 2012. It was a beautiful Saturday evening in Singapore at a party room in Marina Residences, courtesy of Mike Caravaggio.

Personally, Christmas is all about a joyous festive feeling in the air. It is about the winter, the great food, the Christmas presents, melodic Christmas carols, and even more so, bonding with our close ones. And the Nanyang MBA experience gave me all that and much more.

Even though Singapore doesn't really have a winter season per say, but by sitting indoors in the festive atmosphere, you are constantly reminded that you celebrating Christmas the winter way. As I entered the room on that beautiful Saturday evening, my heart filled up with warmth by just meeting my cohort - all celebrating together. The aromatic flavors of mulled wine and turkey filled my senses and I could not stop myself from devouring all of that.

It was a great cultural experience as we had the most traditional Christmas meal. Our German friend, Stefanie Rau spent hours making the most perfect traditional Christmas beverage called 'Glühwein' in German and more popularly known as Mulled wine. *It was prepared from red wine, heated and spiced with cinnamon sticks, cloves, star aniseed, citrus and sugar.*

The evening become even more fun when the Secret Santas were announced and everyone was giggling with excitement as they gave their gifts and opened their presents. This brought back very fond memories of the time when in school, I used to look forward to the Secret Santa experience and the Christmas season in general. And as I know it, Christmas is never complete without Christmas Carols and our star performers John Rae and Ming-Min filled the room with their melodious voice. We bid farewell to our exchange students who ended the term at this lively gathering. The party followed a relaxing swim which was truly refreshing. Spending Christmas with my Nanyang MBA Cohort reminded me of how I celebrated it back home. It was a home away from home and I loved every moment of it.



Mingling Beyond the Nanyang MBA

Article by Edwina Regina

It's not surprising that in one way or another, there were people who always asked us why we chose the Nanyang MBA over other MBA schools in Singapore. While I'm sure you have different answers to the question, I honestly have never gotten to know at all what it is like to be in other MBA programs, because I had never met anyone from the other schools.

While it's true that we, as Nanyang MBA students are in tough fights with other MBA students; be it to emerge as winners in case competitions, or in the job market, it simply doesn't mean that there's nothing that we can learn from one another. In fact, as we live in the small city-state of Singapore, I believe we should all the more develop our network extensively to know what's beyond our beloved S3.2.

The Nanyang Executive Committee, led by our Social Vice President Josephine Hong, started working really hard to establish the *first* ever inter-MBA Social event night. It was held on Tuesday, 22 January 2013, in one of the place to-be-seen in Singapore, none other than the City Golf in One Altitude at Raffles Place, a rooftop bar located on the 62nd level in Raffles City. The schools that were invited were National University of Singapore (NUS), Singapore Management University (SMU) and INSEAD. We even had the

Nanyang Fellows MBA batch join us. During the event, we sold drink coupons, which were priced cheaper than usual and held Polaroid photo booths. The event being a fundraiser, the profits were donated to World Vision International charity.

Students from other schools were surprisingly early, with students from INSEAD to arrive the earliest. After the welcome speech by Andy Kim, students were allowed to mingle freely with one another. Some were playing golf; some were munching the free-flow yummy finger foods, while some, being too engrossed in talking, forgot about having food throughout the night. New network was made and shared, as some students exchanged name cards with one another to keep in touch after the event.

Personally, I was surprised to meet a very old friend whom I have not met for more than 10 years who is now studying part time MBA in SMU. We shared some of the similarities and the differences between both programs in the different schools. Some students went up to the rooftop bar to take tons of pictures, before the bus fetched them back to the Hall. It was a night not to be forgotten, and I am definitely counting down to meet more MBA students from other schools in Singapore during the MBA Olympics to be held on Sunday, 10 March! ☺



A Colorful Intercultural Event

Article by John Rae Cortes



Various members of the cohort in their national costumes.

On February 22nd, the current MBA batch, together with some exchange students and members of the MBA office and faculty, celebrated the end of Trimester 2 with an inter-cultural party at the NBS Student Lounge,. More than half of the class turned up in their traditional national wear, with notable examples from Germany, India, the Philippines and Thailand, to name a few. Josephine Hong and Stefanie Rau won prizes for the authenticity and completeness of their costumes. Several classmates from Austria, Switzerland, India, Germany and Mauritius also generously brought samples of their local food, treating the class to culinary delights such as blueberry pudding, cheese fondue, and flavored liquor.

The celebration also served as a farewell celebration to classmates from ESSEC and St. Gallen who just finished their MBA and those in the Nanyang-Waseda program who are spending their third and last term in Japan. After a simple tribute video, the class participated in a trivia game about them, which Wang Hantang won. Who knew that Olivia used to be in a taekwondo club, or that Martin studied ballet?





Article by Rita Zhang

Gong Xi Fa Cai!

The Nanyang MBA Culture Club and Women in Business Club successfully co-organized the 2013 Chinese New Year Party at Graduate Hall Lounge on last Saturday. It was a wonderful festival celebration event that gave all of the guests a happy and cheerful grand culture banquet.

12:00pm, a team of six people from three countries start food, beverage and decoration shopping in Shengsiong supermarket. Led by Jennifer, (Chen Yan), Amy, Wu Hao, Alex, Lily and Rayman the team brought back vegetables, beef, beers for the dinner and Chinese FU Character and Spring Couplets as decoration. Almost four hours' of shopping got them so much stuff that they had to ask Hantang and Andy for help to get our food delivered to the Graduate hall. Many thanks to Hantang Da Ge and Andy!

16:00pm, Dinner preparation started in the Graduate hall kitchen. This year's main menu was **HOT POT**, the must-have dinner in almost every Chinese family during Chinese New Year. Here we appreciate our girls, Meow, Amy and Jennifer's hard work in washing the vegetables and in particular, cutting radish. And thank you, Albert and Apiwat, for your help on our venue decoration!

20:00pm, Cheongsam Competition! Julia, Stephanie, Paloma, Meow, Amanda and Jennifer were in traditional Chinese Cheongsam (Qipao) and waiting for student votes! Curiosity arose and everyone was wondering, 'Who will be our Miss. Cheongsam tonight?' The winner was... Henry, the only guy in traditional Chinese Changshan! And the prize was a red envelope with \$20! Thanks Mr. Changshan, for bringing us so much fun!





Article by Shilpa Vaswani

Led by Bodi Yuhico, John-Rae Philippe Cortes and Jenie Lago, the expedition to the Philippine was one of a lifetime, with memories that the batch will cherish forever. The convivial 'kabayans' took care of every little detail and ensured that we had an amazing time in the country.

We were welcomed by the incredible Yuhico family in Manila and were amazed with the hospitality and love showered upon us, followed by a delectable Greek meal.

We also went on the historical 'Intramuros tour' by the famous Carlos Celdran as we were introduced to the cultural mélange that has formed the Philippines; the tour was an absolute eye-opener. It ended with an analogous dessert, depicting the richness of the Filipino culture.

We continued our Manila tour to the Pearl Market at Greenhills shopping center and were fascinated by the exquisite collection of fresh water and south sea pearls.



We ended the night at Manila with an elaborate introduction to the Filipino cuisine at Mesa Restaurant at the Greenbelt Mall, I am still craving the appetizing Laing rice!

The next few days were spent amongst the radiant people of the gorgeous island of Boracay! We experienced almost every mode of transport towards and around Boracay: Plane, Bus, Van,





Trike, Carriage, Flying (almost while Parasailing), what a remarkable journey!

The white sand, the clear waters, the perfect weather, Boracay was so picturesque, it almost seemed surreal! The next few days followed a boulevard of excitement and a deep dive into the sea of adventure. Parasailing was magical, Kayaking was a fun affair, Flyfishing was goosebumpy, Snorkelling was extraordinary, Beach Volleyball was fun, Driving our own ATV's to watch the sunset at Boracay's highest point was exhilarating, Cliff diving was.. well.. Exorbitant.

The proudest moment was when Aikta Kumar was the only girl to do the 5, 8 and 15 m. jumps and Jennifer Chen Yan took the bold decision to test the waters for the first time!) It was the most amazing feeling when each time our batch-mates dived from

uphill, and the fellow batch-mates would cheer each other along. The Nanyang spirit was incredible... the vigor was simply contagious! The merriment on the ferry on our way back was a moment each of us can relive and realize the bond that the Nanyang MBA class of 2013 carries (woot woot!)

The night ended with one of the most unforgettable and amusing nights at Cocomangas, and we literally left our imprints ;)



The final and last day was pure relaxation accompanied by a soothing body massage, a fun shopping experience by the flamboyant marketplace where our MBA negotiation skills came in handy with the bargaining.





From Left to Right: John Rae Cortes, Bodi Yuhico, and Jenie Lago, the Filipinos of the Nanyang MBA Cohort who organized the Philippine Trip.

Sadly it had to end and we had to make our way back to the airport, but we knew that this was an exceptionally unforgettable holiday that we can relive as many times by sharing the innumerable stories, laughing at the fun times over and over, and reviving the experience by looking through the amazing memories captured in pictures. *Salamat* to our fellow Filipinos, without whom, this experience would not have materialized.

For the **short trip**: Special thanks to Bodi Yuhico! He organized every minute of the trip and took care of every little detail, from marketing the Philippines, to the logistical planning, the financial analysis, the organization, the core strategy and executing the most elaborate trip ever! From the

tickets, to the discounts, to the stay arrangements, to the food, to the daily activities, to the minute details and the big urgencies, to ensuring we felt welcomed and enjoyed every moment in the Philippines, to lending us Pesos so we can boost the Filipino economy ;) and hedge the foreign exchange risk, to reminding us about the visas, the check ins, the electronic converters, He literally took care of EVERYTHING! His family welcomed us like we were one of them. ☺

We really felt taken care of at EVERY STEP!
SALAMAT KUYA!



It's More Fun in the Philippines

Part 2: *The Long Trip*



Article by Julia Rickert and Stefanie Rau

After saying goodbye to over 20 of our classmates, travelling became a lot easier ;-D



Arriving in Bohol and a great sightseeing tour in Cebu, several rounds of "In Between" improved and/or reduced our travel budget tremendously. With a little hangover we started the next

morning for a diving (John-Rae) and snorkeling trip (Jennifer, Julia, Claudia, Stefanie) where we saw several turtles and amazing coral reefs. The day ended with a relaxing massage on the beach. Friday first of March, we visited our new favorite animals, the Tarsiers (sooo cute!).

After tasting a lot of local food and visiting really nice churches, the scenic Chocolate Hills were the highlight of the day - although the dinner feast with a lot of Halo-Halo ice cream, chips, biscuits and some Boracay rum came really close.



Back in Manila, the Cortes family warmly welcomed us and John-Rae's aunt cooked an amazing local buffet for the "tourists". Full and happy we saw a





volcano the first time in our lives (the Taal volcano at Tagaytay). What a view!!!

We had Sunday Mass with John-Rae in the choir: a real cultural experience, which was beyond the normal tourist trips. Pearls and Co. shopping provided us with nice souvenirs of our wonderful paradise-like Philippines trip. I think we will apply for Philippine citizenship!

No Goodbye, Just See You Later 😊

We would like to bid farewell to the Double MBA classmates from Waseda, St. Gallen, and Essec who will be leaving after Trimester 2. Fare well from the **NANYANG MBA Cohort of 2012-2013!**



TOP LEFT TO RIGHT: Albert, Eng Soon, Eric, George, Jenie, Souma

MID LEFT TO RIGHT: Manish, Oliver, Olivia, Sapan, Florence, Camille

BOTTOM LEFT TO RIGHT: Martin, Hao, Karan

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*Watch out for the blog at <http://blogs.ntu.edu.sg/mba/thenanyangmba>

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