



MALAYALI ASSOCIATION (MA)

**POST BOX - 150, KUALA BELAIT KA - 1189
NEGARA BRUNEI DARUSSALAM.**

ANNUAL REPORT 2023





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INTRODUCTION.

When we serve others selflessly, we not only make a difference in their lives, but we also enrich our own. It's the path to true fulfillment and inner peace. The purpose of life is not to be served, but to serve and make a difference in the lives of others. A gentle pat of affection, pacifying words of care, and audaciously bold hands of confidence - make this association unique.

The **Malayali Association (MA), a Non-profitable Charity Organization**, came into effect in the year 2013 as per subsection (3) of Chapter 8 of the Societies Act, (Chapter 203), Registrar of Societies, Brunei Darussalam.

The Governing Body of the Association is called the Management Committee and shall consist of 17 Management Committee Members. As per the updated list, we currently have 156 active members as of 1st February 2024 including the 25 new members who joined in 2023-24.

Aims and Objectives.

- a) To serve as a platform for Malayalees to meet and exchange views and Ideas to foster friendship, goodwill and understanding among the community and the natives as well as to help the needy.
- b) To enable the children of Malayalees to get to know one another and to learn the language, arts, and sports of Malayali Community.
- c) To engage in Educational, Social, Charity and Welfare activities and other services for those in need in Negara Brunei Darussalam with a view to return the gratitude of the Malayali Community to this nation.
- d) To do all that is possible which may be conducive to the advancement of nation building and for upholding the national prestige of Negara Brunei Darussalam.

MAMC-2023.

The Malayali Association Management Committee for the year 2023 is formed through consensus from the members present at the AGM on 11th March 2023 at IAB Hall, Seria, KB and assumed the office, as no nominations were received.

SI No.	Name	Positions
1	Cyril Joseph K	The President
2	Rajesh P C	The Vice-President
3	Rajeevan P Malayil	The Hon. Secretary General
4	Natasha Puri	The Hon. Dy. Secretary General
5	Sajith Venkitachalam	The Hon. Treasurer
6	Jinu Chacko	The Hon. Deputy Treasurer
7	Aneesh Thathanath	The Hon. Sec. for Moral and Culture
8	Chithra Chinthu	The Hon. Secretary of Education
9	Sunil Kumar	The Hon. Sec. of Social and Welfare
10	Tony Abraham	The Hon. Secretary of Information
11	Shaji Padappayil	The Hon. Secretary of Sports
12	Anil Kumar Pillai	Ordinary Committee Member
13	Jose Kuncheria	Ordinary Committee Member
14	Baburaj A P	Ordinary Committee Member
15	Boby M	Ordinary Committee Member
16	Remin Thomas	Ordinary Committee Member
17	Shyju Kumar	Ordinary Committee Member



MAMC - 2023- Group photo.

A. Front row, sitting from left to right.

1. Sunil Kumar. 2. Aneesh Thathanath. 3. Rajesh P.C. 4. Cyril Joseph. 5. Rajeevan. P. Malayil.
6. Natasha Puri. 7. Chitra P Kurup. 8. Sajith Venkitachalam.

B. Back row, standing from left to right.

1. Shyjukumar. 2. Tony Abraham. 3. Boby M. 4. Remin Thomas. 5. Jinu Chacko.
6. Jose Kuncheria. 7. Baburaj. 8. Shaji Padappayil. 9. Anilkumar. S. Pillai.

Mr. Cyril Joseph, Hon. President, addressed the floor after the oath taking ceremony and assured the commitment of the Management Committee towards the community and in organizing various activities during its tenure.

Let's have a look at the status and attendance percentage of Monthly and other meetings of MAMC-2023, conducted online and offline, before going deep into events and activities.

SL No.	MONTH	DATE	VENUE	TIME	ATTENDEES	%
MONTHLY MEETINGS-2023						
1	MARCH	22.03.2023	C J CAFÉ & BISTRO, K B	07.00 PM	17	100
2	APRIL	13.04.2023	C J CAFÉ & BISTRO, K B	07.30 PM	11	65
3	MAY	04.05.2023	C J CAFÉ & BISTRO, K B	07.30 PM	09	53
4	JUNE	02.06.2023	C J CAFÉ & BISTRO, K B	07.30 PM	13	76
5	JULY	06.07.2023	C J CAFÉ & BISTRO, K B	07.30 PM	14	82
6	AUGUST	10.08.2023	C J CAFÉ & BISTRO, K B	07.30 PM	12	71
7	SEPTEMBER	02.09.2023	C J CAFÉ & BISTRO, K B	07.30 PM	16	94
8	OCTOBER	05.10.2023	C J CAFÉ & BISTRO, K B	07.30 PM	10	59
9	NOVEMBER	02.11.2023	C J CAFÉ & BISTRO, K B	07.30 PM	09	53
10	JANUARY	11.01.2024	C J CAFÉ & BISTRO, K B	07.30 PM	10	59
11	FEBRUARY	01.02.2024	C J CAFÉ & BISTRO, K B	07.30 PM	12	71
					133/187	71%
EMERGENCY MEETINGS						
1	MAY	21.05.2023	I A B, HALL, SERIA	03.30 PM	09	53
2	NOVEMBER	21.11.2023	ONLINE	08.00 PM	10	59
3	JANUARY	23.01.2024	ONLINE	08.00 PM	05	29
					24/51	47%
MA ONAM MEETINGS						
1	JUNE	29.06.2023	C J CAFÉ & BISTRO, K B	07.00 PM	12	71
2	JULY	28.07.2023	C J CAFÉ & BISTRO, K B	07.30 PM	10	59
					22/34	65%

Apart from the meetings mentioned above the MAMC has convened at certain times, especially during the MA Onam preparations for the smooth conduct of the event.

The following are the important, Social welfare-Cultural-Educational- and Sports activities organized during the year 2023-24 with the support of the community.

MAMC-2023 also showed its gratitude to the outgoing office bearers of the previous Management Committee, by organizing an appreciation dinner and presenting mementos.

Introduction of Committee Members to the Indian High Commissioner and Appreciation Dinner to the Outgoing Office Bearers.

A family gathering of the newly elected and outgoing committee members was organized on Thursday 1st June, 2023 at Serikandi Café and Restaurant, KB. It's conducted as part of introducing the committee members of MAMC-2023 to the High Commissioner of India to Brunei Darussalam and an appreciation dinner to the outgoing committee members, MAMC-2022.

The Guest of Honor, His Excellency Mr. Alok Amitabh Dimri, the High Commissioner of India to Brunei Darussalam graced the occasion with his presence and inspiring speech. He highlighted the significance of an organization like Malayali Association in fostering and familiarizing the culture of Kerala, including the history, tradition, and celebrations among the posterity of Malayali community in Brunei Darussalam. He presented the mementos to the outgoing Committee Members for their committed service throughout the year and appreciated all they did.





The programme ended with a dinner and group photo of all the attendees as well as the new Management Committee Members with the High Commissioner.

MORAL AND CULTURE

1. EASTER-VISHU-HARI RAYA CELEBRATION

Adding beauty to the divergent culture of God's Own Country, Malayali Association illuminated the essence by blending the trio celebrations, Easter-Vishu and Hari Raya on Saturday 29th April at IAB Hall, Seria. MA took this opportunity to honour Mrs. Molly Joseph Mathews, who had served 58 years in the Sultanate as a teacher. The event witnessed performances from members of the Malayali Community which included classical dance, music and Kerala's traditional drum, called *chenda melam*.



The event ended with a spread of traditional Kerala cuisines along with other local delicacies.

2. MA ONAM-COLORING CONTEST

As a part of the Mega Onam Celebration a Coloring Contest was organized at Pusat Insani on Friday, 25th August. The zeal and creativity of the young, talented, budding artists were beyond words.

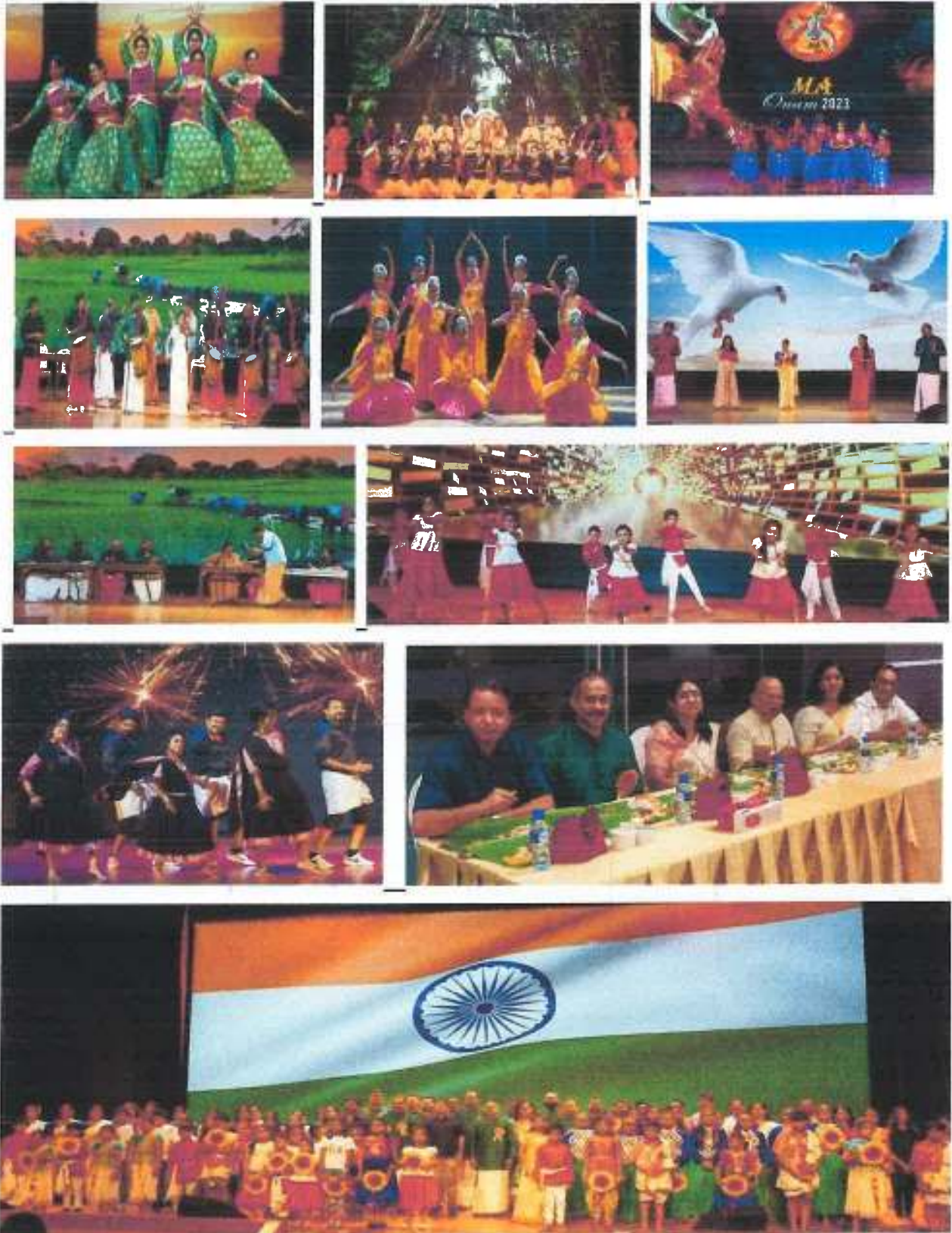


The winners were given prizes, and the MA President congratulated the participants and appreciated the parents and judges for making this event a grand success and remarkable.

3. MA ONAM-2023- THE MEGA EVENT

Malayali Association celebrated the Onam, the Festival of Harvest at Pusat Insani, Seria on Sunday, 27th August with an out-and-out blend of music, rhythm, and steps in spectacular and splendid way. More than 500 people attended the programme, including the Legislative Council members, Yang Berhormat Haji Mohd Salleh bin Haji Othman, Yang Berhormat Mohd bin Abdullah@Lim Swee Ann and H.E.Mr. Alok Amitabh Dimri, the High Commissioner of India to Brunei Darussalam who officiated the event.





The fantabulous event ended with a sumptuous Onasadhya in banana leaves.

4. APPRECIATION DINNER.

The MAMC organised Appreciation Dinner in KB and in the capital city for the choreographers, participants , sponsors, and Sub-committee members in recognition of their support, hard-work,dedication, and active involvement in the MA Onam Mega Event. Mr. Cyril Joseph, Hon. President of MA expressed his overwhelming joy in response to the constant and praiseworthy dedication and support from the members of the association, in all aspects.



5. KERALAPPIRAVI & MALAYALAM CLASS CLOSING CEREMONY.

The Keralappiravi and Malayalam Class Closing Ceremony was held on 25th November at the IAB Hall, Seria. Mr. Cyril Joseph, Hon. President of Malayali Association inaugurated the event. The enthusiastic audience witnessed fun filled games, songs, and '*Nadanpattu*'. A quiz based on the socio-historical and cultural background of Kerala was conducted and winners were given prizes. The event ended with the blessing taste of multitude of dishes from Kerala cuisine.



EDUCATION

1. MALAYALAM CLASS.

It's one of the objectives of MA to enable the children of Malayalees to learn the language, arts, and sports of Kerala, the land of coconut trees, which is more popular as God's Own Country. The inauguration of MA's 2023 Malayalam Class took place on Sunday, 21st May, at 2:30 pm in the IAB Hall, Seria, with Mr. Cyril Joseph, Hon. President leading the ceremony. The response and cooperation received from the community was invaluable and there was an increase in the number of children for the Malayalam class.

The initial session was held in-person, and a total of 40 students had enrolled in the Malayalam class. The classes were structured in four efficacious levels according to the proficiency of the children in Malayalam, aligning with MA's primary goal of instilling reading and writing skills among the children of its members. Dr. Shanthi Thomas taught the Beginners group, Dr. Chitra P Kurup handled Intermediate 1, Maya Jaideep managed Intermediate 2, and Baburaj took charge of the Advanced group. Subsequent classes were conducted online to accommodate the convenience of all participants.



2. WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATION.

MA organized a poster design challenge and one-minute speech focusing on the topic of Plastic Pollution on Sunday, 11th June at Kuala Belait beach in observance of World Environment Day. All participants were awarded certificates in recognition of their involvement. It was organized jointly by the Education and Social Welfare Department with an aim to instill a sense of responsibility in leading an eco-friendly life.



A commendable sense of enthusiasm was seen throughout the presentation, and it captured everybody's attention because of the highly impressive designs and content with in-depth cognition.

3. SERIA ENERGY LAB (S E L) VISIT.

MA arranged an educational excursion on Sunday, 8th October, to the Seria Energy Lab (SEL) for children aged 7 to 16 years. The trip encompassed visits to the Exhibition Hall, the Aqua Centre, and a captivating Science Show. Parents were also invited to participate in this enriching event.



The parents as well as children were loaded with scientific-aquatic erudition and acquired some domestic skills such as fire extinguishing.

DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL WELFARE

One of the objectives of the Malayali Association is to engage in Social, Charity and Welfare activities and other services for those in need in Negara Brunei Darussalam with a view to return the gratitude of the Malayali Community to this nation. With much pleasure and enthusiasm, the MA Management Committee would like to acknowledge that we could carry out a lot of fruitful charity events this year to cater to the needs of the well-deserved recipients.

A) 9th HARI RAYA DONATION DRIVE

The real challenge in front of the committee during the 9th Hari Raya Donation Drive was to sort out the number of needy recipients within the budget as we got a wide list of poverty-stricken families. As a result of this, it's decided to expand the sphere of deserving people to enjoy the true spirit of MA's Hari Raya Charity Donation Drive, and it's done in two phases.

A.1 Hari Raya Donation Drive: Phase.1

Phase one of Hari Raya Donation Drive took place in Anthony Abell College, Seria on 6th April 2023 with the wholehearted support of the Principal and staff. Mr. Baburaj, MA Management Committee Member as well as a Teacher of English at AAC took applaudable efforts in scrutinizing and finalizing the list of recipients. Hari Raya hampers and 'Angpau' were distributed during the event in the esteemed presence of Deputy Principals, PIBG President, and MAMC-2023 representatives. Mr. Baburaj welcomed the audience while Mr. Cyril Joseph, Mr. Rajesh, P.C. and Mr. Jose Kuncheria felicitated.



A.2 Hari Raya Donation Drive: Phase.2

The second phase of Hari Raya Donation Drive was conducted on 16th April 2023 at Kampong Bukit Sawat auditorium. Mr. Sunil Kumar, the Hon. Secretary of Development and Social welfare delivered the welcome address and the Chief Guest Yang Berhormat Hj Mohammad Bin Abdullah, the Ahli Mesyurat Negara and Ketua Kg. Bukit Sawat graced the occasion. Hari Raya hampers were distributed to the destitute families during the event.



A total of twenty families were blessed with Hari Raya hampers during these two events. With great expectation of the same kindness in the future as well, MAMC-2023 expresses its gratitude to all the donors and supporters.

4. WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATION.

MA Welfare Department celebrated the World Environment Day on Sunday 11th June by organizing Tree Planting, and a Cleaning Campaign at Kuala Belait beach. Legislative Council member and Pengulu of Mukim Bukit Sawat, Yang Berhormat Haji Salleh bin Haji Othman attended the function as the Guest of Honour.





More than 100 Association members participated in the cleaning campaign and 60 bags of plastic waste collected and disposed of.

3. BLOOD DONATION DRIVE.

One of the well acclaimed events organized under the Welfare department every year is the Blood Donation Drive.

It was organized on 13th August 2023 in conjunction with the 77th Indian Independence Day celebrations and MA's welfare activities and its commitment to social responsibility. The campaign was also in response to the Ministry of Health's call for more blood supplies as well as emphasizing the importance of donating blood to save lives and leading a healthy lifestyle. The donors comprised MA members, Indian and local Brunei community, and foreigners.

MAMC-2023 made a new history by organizing this Blood Donation Drive, in the capital city, Bandar Seri Begawan, in collaboration with the Blood Bank at RIPAS Hospital, which would be inscribed in golden letters.

A simultaneous campaign was held at SSB Hospital, Kuala Belait on the same day and witnessed tremendous support from the public. MAMC would like to extend its gratitude to the donors for their invaluable support in making this event an astounding achievement.





70 pints of blood were collected from 100 registered donors where the highlight was Shuif bin Haji Mohd Ghani donating blood for the 107th time. Gift hampers were distributed to all blood donors.

3. MAMC SERVICE DAY-23

The M A Management Committee observed 'MAMC Service Day 2023' in October in conjunction with the 154th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, and International Non-Violence Day. As a part of this a widow in Sungai Liang was supported by donating a generator to light up her house, house maintenance, free grass cutting and electrical repair. Follow up supervision was done by the Welfare Team for a period and ensured the satisfactory functioning of the generator and the electricity.



The sense of kindness shown by the community members is indefinable and MAMC would like to extend its gratitude to all adherents for their invaluable contributions.

SPORTS

1. MA BADMINTON TOURNAMENT.

The Malayali Association organized the 7th Badminton Tournament on Saturday 15th July at the indoor court of Pusat Insani, Seria in conjunction with 77th Royal Birthday Celebration of His Majesty, the Sultan of Brunei Darussalam.

Forty teams took part in the under 15, mixed doubles, men's, and women's doubles categories.





His Excellency, Mr.Alok Amitabh Dimri, the High Commissioner of India to Brunei Darussalam, presented the trophies to the winners and runners-up.

2. MA ONAM SPORTS.

The members of the Malayali Association joyfully participated in the amusing games and activities organized on Sunday 20th August at Anduki Park, as a part of MA Onam sports and took a trip down memory lane to their innocent, golden childhood days whereas the kids got an immersive experience from the game environments. A crowd of amused spectators cheered up the participants which elevated the sense of elation.



The event was packed with multifarious activities reminiscing the traditional Onam games.

INFORMATION

The main objectives of the Information department are to cascade relevant information to the members within Brunei & across India. These objectives were met during the period 2023-24. Information regarding MA's events cascaded through MA's social media pages such as Facebook, Instagram & WhatsApp. Further, we have taken the initiative to post all events on MA's website as well. Posters and Google forms were issued for most of the events to ensure better participation. During the period we have observed that there was a higher member engagement on our Facebook & Instagram pages. Also, we have uploaded the Full MA Onam 2023 event in our YouTube channel and all efforts have been made to upload all the previous years' Onam events as well.

The information shared to us by the Indian High Commission Office, Indian Association of Belait and other language groups have also been cascaded.

We have also managed to ensure majority of our events to have Brunei Media attention. Seven of our events got covered by Borneo Bulletin and a few appeared in Chinese newspaper.



MA FUNDAY

The Malayali Association Management Committee organized MA FUNDAY on Thursday 08th February 2024 at Anduki Park with BBQ Lunch and fun games as a closing ceremony event with an overwhelming support from the community. The members gathered at Anduki Park, full of the joys of spring and it was a pleasure to behold the indefatigable spirit among them throughout the activities.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

Apart from the aforementioned activities, the Association became a part and parcel of other events organized by various associations and the High Commission of India. Tamil New Year Celebration by BSBIA, Deepavali by IAB, the Ministerial visit, International Yoga Day, Indian Independence Day, and Republic Day celebrations organized by the High Commission of India are some of them. The Association also got remarkable recognition in some of these events as being requested to showcase the art forms of Kerala. The invited audience was absolutely enthralled and enraptured by the performance of the extremely talented members of MA.



EXTENDED CHARITY DRIVE

It's glad to know that our association's charity events are getting noticed by the external communities as well. We could extend the realm of charity by supporting a few families as they were facing substantial damage and loss due to house fires in Seria. The Association received a message from the Principal of Anthony Abel College, informing the serious deprivations of these families and requesting our support. It was considered earnestly and immediate support was provided as requested.



BEHIND THE SCENES

The audience and spectators might have relished, astonished, whistled and applauded!! But the sweating effort of a diligent team behind the curtain is unseen, unheard or even unnoticed most of the time. The Committee made extreme efforts in meeting the community members as a part of the membership campaign and met the sponsors, and well-wishers for their support for the conduct of all events.

The Meetings, planning, discussions, and modifications all made the events magnificent, and months long practices fashioned the performances - a feast for the eyes!



CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT AND R O S APPROVAL.

One of the greatest achievements of MAMC-2023 is, the Malayali Association Constitution is amended and revised by incorporating the resolutions submitted so far and got approved by the ROS with effect from 24th January 2024.

The amendments are,

1. Added Governing Body Election -Guidelines and Procedures. **Article 14**
2. Continuation of an Office Bearer in the same post in the Governing Body .**Article 13(d)**
3. Objectives and Scope of Annual Audit. **Article 29**
4. Office Bearers Term changed from 1 year to 2 years. **Article 7(f)**
5. Life Membership. **Article 4© and Article 6** [Life Membership is offered to all the personnel who falls under single or family membership and no need to renew the membership every year upon the payment of lifelong membership subscription fee ie; **BND 300.00** in addition to the admission fee for the membership]

WAY FORWARD.

It's with regret I would like to inform the AGM that some of the activities such as Football Tournament, Trip to Bandar, and MA Food Fare were planned but not practicalized due to time constraints, unavailability of venue and lack of enough participants. So the MAMC-2023 hopes that it would be feasible for the forthcoming Management Committee.

CONCLUSION

As we reflect on the completion of this report, I am filled with gratitude and on behalf of MAMC-2023 I extend my thanks to each member of the Malayali Association for their invaluable contributions.

Together, we have achieved a significant milestone, and I am confident that our efforts will yield positive outcomes. Your dedication to our shared goals is commendable, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with you all.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support and commitment. I look forward to our continued success with the new Management Committee for the year 2024.

" Keep your face always toward the sunshine, and the shadows will fall behind you."

Muchas gracias!

Sincerely,



RAJEEVAN P MALAYIL

Hon. Secretary General, MAMC-2023.

ma.honsecretary@gmail.com



Secured by
SREETHA NAIK



Cyril Joseph
the President
18/02/2024