



<http://societyseasians.wordpress.com/>

2011 ANNUAL REPORT



SOCIETY FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN COMMUNITIES, INC.

From humble beginnings, the Society for Southeast Asian Communities, Inc. (SSEAC) has now started the building blocks to achieve its intended objectives, vision and mission.

The year gone was a year dedicated to building our profile and our image in the community. For this purpose the Society had projects in 2010/11, including:

Logo Design Competition

We ran a logo design competition, spearheaded by our Media Relations Officers Pauline Cheah and Tien Vu. We received 8 highly professional and well-crafted entries from the wider Wellington communities. A panel of judges composed of Farib Sos, Matilde Tayawa, Nino Triono, Pauline Cheah and Tien Vu selected the entry of Michael Javier from the Filipino community. He was later enticed to become a member of the Society and has contributed to the design of our brochures, business cards and fundraising tickets.

The generosity of members of the Southeast Asian business community was prevailed upon for prizes for winning entries: *Lucky Travel*, a Filipino-owned travel agency, provided a return domestic airfare; *NAM Restaurant*, a restaurant owned by our members Tien Vu and Nikki Chung, and *Lotus Restaurant*, formerly owned by another member, Annie Coates, donated free restaurant vouchers; and *ICM Trading*, owned by Matilde Tayawa and husband Clark Figuracion, gave free food vouchers (a bag of rice and mango puree juice).

Brochure And Business Cards

Allan Villarante initiated the drafting of our brochure's contents. With the help of our in-house graphic designer, Michael Javier, we now have professional-looking marketing paraphernalia. Similarly, we have also provided our Executive Committee members with professional-looking business cards, also designed by Michael.

Website And Social Media

With the advent of technology and social media, information has become much easier to disseminate to a wider audience. SSEAC, through its Vice Chairperson, Matilde Tayawa, was able to tap another Filipino talent, Karl Quirino, to help develop the very professional and highly valuable content of our blog website, www.societysoutheastasians.wordpress.com free of charge. Matilde also created a Facebook page for the Society to complement the blog site; both are now interlinked.

With the end in view of raising the profile of Southeast Asian communities through dialogues and cultural events, we have implemented projects towards this end.

Southeast Asian Night Market

Thanks to the network of our Chairperson Farib Sos and our Ex-Officio Murali Kumar, we had been invited to participate in the initial discussions and planning of the Southeast Asian Night Market event held in May 2011. It was agreed that the Society will play an active role in organising this event in the future.

Race Relations Day

In collaboration with the Wellington City Council, *Settling In* of the Ministry of Social Development, Whitireia New Zealand and Mabuhay Association, the Society also organised an event that supported the Race Relations Day celebrations here in New Zealand.

Diversity Action Programme

SSEAC is now an active member of the Human Rights Commission's Diversity Action Programme.

Dialogue With Relevant Stakeholders

To help raise its profile, SSEAC has initiated dialogues with appropriate stakeholders including the Wellington City Council Mayor and Councillors, the Heads of Missions of Southeast Asia, Human Rights Commission and the Ministry of Social Development.

Migrant Workshop

SSEAC recently organised a dialogue, a migrant workshop that aimed at understanding the issues as well as the strengths of our communities. The workshop held on the 25th of June that was facilitated by a Working Committee composed of Allan Villarante, Murali Kumar, Victor Diem and Matilde Tayawa was attended and participated in by representatives from our Indonesian, Malaysian, Singaporean, Thai, Filipino, Cambodian and Vietnamese communities.

The workshop validated what we wanted to do and expanded what the role of the Society is for the future. It likewise provided us with the mandate to do more work and to play an active role to advance our objectives, principal among which is for Southeast Asian communities to enjoy a bigger voice here in Wellington and the wider NZ society.

In addition to raising our profile and image vis-a-vis the Southeast Asian community and beyond, we had other projects intended to address some of the objectives of the Society such as our international humanitarian objectives.

Fundraising Dinner For Indonesian Earthquake And Tsunami Victims

SSEAC organised a fundraising dinner at Lotus Restaurant. Entertainment was also provided by talented members of the Filipino community. The event generated \$1,260 which was donated to the earthquake and tsunami victims through the Indonesian Embassy. We received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Embassy for our donation.

Funding Support

SSEAC was fortunate to have received funding support totalling \$3,500 from the Family & Community Services, Ministry of Social Development.

Charitable Status

SSEAC was conferred with a charitable status (CC45024) by the Charities Commission on 25 August 2010.

Membership

Our numbers have grown since we were formally organised. From the original 5 members that started the Reference Group Meeting, we now have about 20 members. We pride in the quality of our members, not in its quantity.

We have been cautious in approaching membership to the Society and have resorted to increasing our membership by invitation only.

With the active involvement of the members of the Society, we have been able to accomplish all these things. We will continue to implement projects that are consistent with our objectives, mission and vision of Southeast Asian Communities '*Going Forward Together*'.

Farib Sos
Chairperson

Matilde Tayawa
Vice-chairperson

Nino Triono
Secretary