

2 November 2021

WACA is Back!

A total of 55 participants met face to face at The 2021 Interline Festival in Dubai; the first international WACA event to be held since the 52nd AGA in Johannesburg exactly two years prior. In addition to the usual valid passport, a negative PCR test was one of the requirements to enter the United Arab Emirates which all participants obtained prior to their arrival. The Hotel Al Bandar Arjaan by Rotana was most accommodating allowing a Regional Night to take place amongst other niceties afforded to the Association. A city tour, desert safari, marina cruise and a day at the recently opened Expo 2020 were highlights of the Festival. An optional tour to Abu Dhabi visiting the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque amongst other marvels added to a wonderful week.

Association's Supporting Team Meeting

The 4th Association's Supporting Team Meeting of 2021 was held on 18 October during the Interline Festival in Dubai. Attended by Council members and Regional Coordinators the meeting discussed general matters of concern and interest for the Association and how WACA will move forward as life begins to get back to normal following the excesses of the coronavirus pandemic. It is hoped that there will be at least one international event in each WACA Region during the course of 2022 and WACA hosting the 53rd AGA in Bali, Indonesia.

53rd Annual General Assembly (AGA): The 2022 Interline Celebration

The website has been updated to show the pre-AGA tour, 53rd AGA and post-AGA tour dates and locations, i.e. Pre-AGA Tour: Java Grand Tour. 9–16 October 2022. Venue: departs from Yogyakarta, concludes in Bali. 53rd Annual General Assembly (AGA): The 2021 Interline Celebration, 16–21 October. Venue: Bali, Indonesia. Post-AGA Tour: Land of the Dragons and the Lesser Sunda Islands, 21–25 October. Venue: departs from Bali and concludes in Bali. The cost of the tours and the 53rd AGA package as well as registration forms and a detailed brochure will be issued as soon as possible.

WACA Office Closing

A notice was recently issued to the International Air Transport Association (IATA) staff that its two largest offices in Montreal and Geneva would be combined into one Head Office situated in Geneva. This will result in most of IATA's current activities in Montreal transferring to Geneva. This decision will also mean that nearly all of the current office space will soon be vacated including the space rented by WACA. A final rental agreement between IATA and WACA has, therefore, been signed up to the end of 2021. It will not be an easy task to vacate the premises in such a short time frame. Sorting, storing, scanning 50 years of files, minutes, legal and financial records

etc. will be no easy task not to mention the migration of WACA's domain name and all that this entails. Transfer of data, e.g. e-mails, images, electronic documentation, etc. from IATA's server to another host server will also be an important task that has to be undertaken as well as changing the address and telephone number.

Holy Land Tour 2021

As there are now almost no COVID-19 cases in Israel, "We are Back" says the Israel Interline Club. It would like to welcome all WACA members to visit the Holy Land from 19–25 December. Staying in Tel Aviv and visiting Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, Caesarea, Haifa, Rosh Hanikra and the Sea of Galilee amongst other historic sites. Complete details can be found in the attached brochure.

Scent of Colour

By smelling and touching ... the wonderful work continues for WACA's Ambassador for Blind Children, *Suheil Baqaeem*:

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Dedication

Further to the obituary announcement in Membership Message 12/2021, Sri Lanka Interline Club (SLIC) President, *Ranjeeva Senanayake*, sends the following dedication to his memory.

Zulki Hameed, a dear friend to all of us, was a live wire and a very active member of the Sri Lanka Interline Club over the past 20 years. He was not just a member but a wonderful gentleman who had a very positive approach to everything in life. He never gave up on anything or anyone and always looked for a solution with a big smile on his face even at the most difficult and impossible times.

Zulki held office in many positions within the SLIC Executive Committee and served as President of the Club in 1999/2000 where he contributed yeoman service to all interline members and to the airline industry.

His father was infected and was fighting the coronavirus but he succumbed on 19 August and our beloved Zulki also left us forever one day later on 20 August losing his battle with the dreadful virus leaving behind his wonderful family and friends. May Zulki and his father's souls rest in eternal peace.

Attached is the last picture taken at an SLIC event where Zulki was honoured as a "Legend Past President of the Sri Lanka Interline Club."

Yours in interlining,

Keith Miller
WACA Administration Manager
World Airlines Clubs Association
Telephone: +1 438-258-3243
E-mail: info@waca.org
Website: www.waca.org