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# NEWSLETTER

## September 2005

### Xiamen International Kite Festival

Xiamen is a picturesque coastal city in Southeast China that has earned herself the name "Pearl on the East China Sea."



A kite festival will be held here from 28th to 30th October 2005. **If you are interested to fly your kites at the event, please contact Wing Lee.**

### Get some wind in your sails at kite-flying festival

By Derek Lee  
STAFF REPORTER (The Taipei Times)  
Friday, Sep 16, 2005, Page 15



*On your marks, get set, fly. Photo courtesy of Taipei County Government.*

Every year around this time the northernmost town of Taiwan, Shihmen (石門) has played host to kite-flying enthusiasts with the **International Kite Festival**.

Taipei County Government has been behind the event since 2000 and this year there are also many sponsors from the business community.

Although kite-flying is a traditional leisure sport in Taiwan, the festival has an international outlook, with Japanese, South Korean and Western techniques of kite making and flying on show.

A series of kite-flying events have been scheduled for every weekend of this month and the first weekend of October. The festival officially begins with a kite collection exhibition from Sept. 10 at the county government's administration building in Banciao (板橋), on the first floor.

There will be kite color drawing and stunt kite show at the Zhonghe (中和) Number Four park on Sept. 18, beginning 10am. On Sept. 24 and Sept. 25 there will be a display of different kinds of kites, including fighter kites, giant kites, stunt kites, surfing kites, buggy kites, jet balloons and air yoyos, at Green Bay in Wanli (萬里鄉翡翠灣). Uniquely, a night kite flying activity will be held there from 8pm on Saturday. On Sunday, rokaru fight kites will be on show between 4pm and 4:30pm.

In the first weekend of October, similar activities will be demonstrated at Baisha Bay (白沙灣) in Shihmen, but without the night kite flying and rokaru fight events. There will, however, be kite-making workshops and cultural seminars at the site.

International kite making experts and fliers will be invited to participate, in addition to kite-flying pros from Taiwan, such as Buteo Huang (黃景楨), and other high-profile professionals from the US, Canada, France, Germany, UK, Holland, Austria, India, **Singapore**, Malaysia, Australia, Japan and South Korea.

## Kites to paint Cape Town skies for charity



***On a high:** Zola Twale of Khayelitsha enjoys a ride on a kite belonging to the German team, who are in Cape Town for the International Kite Festival. Photo: Sophia Stander, Cape Times*

September 16 2005

By Hayley Axford

Despite temperamental weather conditions, the Cape Mental Health Society held a kite showing on Thursday for children at Imizamo Yethu Primary School in Khayelitsha.

The showing was a preview of some of the kites that are to be flown at the society's annual fundraiser, the **Cape Town International Kite Festival**.

"I believe I can fly" is the theme of this year's 11th annual festival, to be held at Zandvlei in Muizenberg from 11am to 3pm on Saturday and on Sunday.

International kites from Germany and Malaysia showcased their kites for K1 Special School and Imizamo Yethu, two schools in Khayelitsha.

The German team, "Team No Limits", filled the sky with the colour of kites of

well-known cartoon characters, while the Malaysian team flew beautifully made traditional kites.

Other kites to look forward to are of Sesame Street characters from the German team. Other invited countries will also be displaying their kites.

Keith Mould, a kiter of six years, referred to the sense of unity that was experienced through flying the kites at the festival.

"When you are looking at the kites, you can't tell from the kite who is holding it. Kites call it 'One sky, one world'."

A R5 entrance fee donation towards the Cape Mental Health Society is requested.

**This article was originally published on page 3 of [Cape Times](#) on September 16, 2005.**

## Korean Festival of Peace

Seoul - September 8, 2005

An international festival to promote the spirit of peace was held in Paju near the Inter-Korean border. The six-week festival consists of cultural performances, academic programs, exhibitions and other events on the theme of peace.

Kite competitions were held for Artistic Air Creation, Highest Flight, and Stunt Kite Showmanship. Points were awarded for appearance, entertainment and reflection of the event's theme.

Singapore was represented by Gadis Widiyati and Robert Foong.



*Gadis built this kite for the festival*



*Robert's creation*

## Borneo International Kite Festival

Bintulu - Wednesday, 23 August 2005

The organiser of the **Borneo International Kites Festival-Bintulu 2005** has been urged to bring in more foreign participants next year. Second Minister of Resource Planning and Management, Datuk Awang Tengah Ali Hassan, said the festival could be developed into a tourism product.

The one-week festival, organised by Sarawak Kites Association (PEWASA) with the support of Johor Kites Council and held at the old Bintulu Airport site, attracted kite flyers from New Zealand, Japan, Australia, Cambodia, Taiwan, China, Singapore, Brunei, Philippines,

Perlis, Kedah, Terengganu, Selangor and Kelantan.

Awang Tengah also agreed with a suggestion by Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) chairman, Datuk Talib Zulpilip, earlier on that Bintulu got an advantage to host the festival again next year.

Talib said the festival that started last Saturday drew over 6,000 visitors each day. A trade fair held to coincide with it was an additional attraction.



The festival organising chairman, Robert Laing Anyie also spoke at the ceremony that was also attended by Dewan Negara Member, Senator Hii Tiong Kuoh, Kemena State Assemblyman, Dr Stephen Rundi Utom, Bintulu Resident, Dr Razali Abon and Bintulu Development Authority general manager, Hj. Mohidin Ishak.

Starting next year, the Borneo Kites festival here will be an annual event. Chief Minister Pehin Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, who was agreed to this, said during the closing dinner of this year's festival at civic centre last Sunday that he was impressed by the enthusiasm of the participants and the public to the event, the first of its kind in Borneo. "I have decided, at the request of the organising committee, to help get the festival organised yearly," he said.

The festival, he observed, was an excellent event for people from all walks of lives to come together and socialise.





**Source** : Borneo Post, 24 August 2005 & 30 August 2005

The Singapore Team was represented by **Peter Teo, Tan Poh Wah, Tan See Liang** and **Robert Foong**.

## 'Born to fly' grandmother 106, dives from 12,000ft

Singapore - August 21, 2005

She made an experimental flight in a chair under a kite while holding an umbrella aloft at Woodlands in February 2005. Later that month, she made her official debut at the 10 th International Kite Festival at Pasir Gudang, Johor.

Her name is 'Opah Terbang' (Flying Grandmother) and according to Shakib Gunn, founding Member of the Singapore Kite Association, she is the mascot of the association and she was born to fly. Opah Terbang, dressed in smart batik pants, fashionable court shoes and with wavy silver hair looks every part the smart grandmother, except that she is not human.

Shakib explained, "Although she is full size and sexy, for her age, she is in fact full of air. Free-falling with her from 10,000ft at 220 kilometers per hour before the parachute opens presents a challenge, she could disintegrate into the thin air or blow up."



Three people were involved in the dive on the last day of the **Second Skydive Festival Singapore** being held at Marina Bay. Professional skydiver and tandem-master for this experiment was Mark Gazley 32, from Melbourne who harnessed Shakib Gunn, 71, who in turn was taped to Opah Terbang.

## Celebrate! Sembawang!

Singapore - August 14, 2005

**Celebrate! Sembawang!** was an event organised by the Sembawang Citizens' Consultative Committee. The local residents celebrate 40 years of nation building with a solemn March Past and mass display performances such as Silat, Yoga, Line Dance and Dragon Dance.

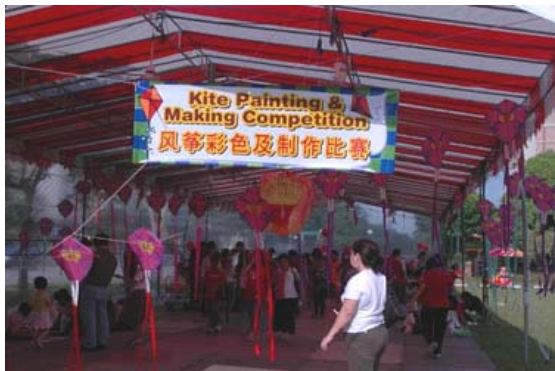
SKA was there to showcase a range of kites and to facilitate the Kite Painting and Making Competitions.



*A token hand-painted kite was presented to Dr Tony Tan by the SKA President*



Abu Bakar and Gadis setting up kites display for sale



All ready for Kite Painting Competition

## 27th Bali Kite Festival

Indonesia - July 30, 2005



SANUR: Balinese people watch flying traditional kites during the Bali Kite Festival on Friday. *ap.* **Source : Daily Times**

## Kite-flying enthusiasts from around the world converge for Downtown Beirut's festival

*Skies over capital play host to a colorful array of exhibitions*

By Hilary Robertson  
Special to The Daily Star  
Thursday, July 07, 2005



BEIRUT: Beirut's skies will be a bit more colorful this week, as kite-flying enthusiasts from around the world have descended on the city to hold the **6th International Kite Festival**, a series of kite-flying shows, exhibitions, and workshops. The festival officially kicked off yesterday evening with a news conference in Habtoorland hosted by Sami Sayegh of Ciel et Vent. In attendance were Abdullah Annan, the assistant president of the German Cultural Center; Dr. Fawzi Atoui, representing the culture minister; Dutch Ambassador Gerard van Epen, as well as several kite-flyers from various countries.

Sayegh noted that although he was happy about the success of the festival this year, bringing in international kite flyers had been difficult. He said many people were wary of traveling to Lebanon because of media coverage that made the country seem dangerous. However, since several of the participants had already been here for last year's festival, they worked to dispel their fellow kites' false impressions about Beirut's safety.

The camaraderie between participants was readily apparent as they talked, admired each other's work, and joked

about the rituals and practices of "kiters." Despite their different backgrounds and the occasional language barrier, the participants said they feel they always have a home away from home in the welcoming and generous kiting community.

Van Epen said he took special pride in the exhibition called "The Netherlands Sky," a collection of art from the best Dutch kite flyers currently on display in the Virgin Megastore.

Atoui and Sayegh both extended their thanks to everyone involved in making the festival a success, and emphasized the importance of the sponsors.

The visiting participants said they were having an incredible time in Beirut, with many laughingly calling the traffic and Lebanese style of driving "impressive".

Kiters spoke with contagious enthusiasm about their work and the art of kite flying itself. Pedro and Esteban Gonzalez of Spain have been involved in making planes, kites, and other airborne creations their whole life, saying "if it flies, we made it." Pedro explained that kite flying is more than just the act of keeping a kite in the air - it is a social activity, and a way to express creativity. The brothers, or "Los Hermanos" as they are called by their friends, specialize in making giant three-dimensional kites which can reach heights of more than eight stories.

One kite, made by Reinder and Getie Hofstee of the Netherlands, stood out because its design included a large image of Fairuz. Reinder said the two chose to make the kite out of a desire to design something specifically for Lebanon and an affinity for her music.

Sebastian Clarke of France said he was especially pleased with the good turnout and positive response from people to Street Kiting. Clarke specializes in 4-line kites, which he says were designed over 20 years ago but still remain the most efficient model.

German kite maker Ralf Maserski's colorful optical illusion kites will be showcased at an exhibition, entitled "1 Dimension for 3," in the atrium at Habtoorland.

In addition to the exhibitions, the festival includes children's kite workshops, which highlight environmental protection, road safety, and the Phoenicians, the theme of this year's festival. There are also four flying shows and giant kite shows in various locations during the remaining days of the festival, which ends on July 11.

### Should you need to contact us...

## SKA Committee 2004/5

#### *President*

#### **Lee Wing Hong**

- email [winglee@pacific.net.sg](mailto:winglee@pacific.net.sg)
- tel 6445 2096
- fax 6445 3986

#### *Secretary*

#### **Gadis Widiyati**

- email [gadis@singnet.com.sg](mailto:gadis@singnet.com.sg)
- tel 9787 0534

#### *Treasurer*

#### **Peter Teo**

- email [peterteosl@yahoo.com](mailto:peterteosl@yahoo.com)

#### *Founding Member*

#### **Shakib Gunn**

- email [shakib@singnet.com.sg](mailto:shakib@singnet.com.sg)
- tel 6440 2459
- fax 6440 2659