



To the "Pretty Committee"...

by Anne-Mette Thomsen, LCI Secretary

Originally, the Board Meeting was scheduled for Sweden – but things doesn't always go as planned. After a great deal of talking an e-mail was sent to the Ladies of LC Hong Kong and lucky for us they were thrilled to accept an official visit from the LCI President and at the same time host the LCI Board Meeting 3. The trip was planned - partly as a private trip and partly as an official trip.



On Saturday evening Kjerst, Marlin and I met at Copenhagen Airport and went via Beijing to Hong Kong. After a long flight the three of us were greeted with open arms by Lucy, Davian and Jenny who had just arrived from Singapore where she and her husband has been transferred to.

At the airport we were introduced to the program – I was impressed – the whole week was planned. Down to the last detail. For the first time in a long long time I could just relax and enjoy – what a great feeling. We didn't have to discover Hong Kong – the HK ladies had done that for us already and they had planned only the best for us.

Monday: After a long flight we started out doing some shopping at the Stanley Market. Well guided by the Hong Kong Ladies we were set loose – what can I say: "Heaven" – then lunch – and again shopping. To be quite honest – if we wanted to bring presents home to our dear ones this was actually our only opportunity.



In the evening we met with the LCHK ladies at the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club. First light show of Hong Kong harbor and then dinner. A BIG thank you to our host Jodie and also to all you wonderful ladies for a great evening with LOTS of laughter.



Tuesday: This was one of the items on the agenda that I had really been looking forward to: "Crossroads Foundation". Crossroads is a non-profit organisation – a place where need meets resource. Crossroads takes Hong Kong's quality superseded goods and redistributes them to people in need, locally and internationally. Here they have everything – and I mean everything. The charity starts by getting a request from a country that eg. needs facilities for a new classroom and everything is packed in a container and shipped off. In the container there is even a small "From Hong Kong with love" note signed by every single one of the people who has helped packing the container. – very special.



Did you know that Ladies Circle Hong Kong twice has been awarded the: "Caring company" - a price awarded by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service in recognition of their charity work. WELL DONE!

After a presentation and a guided tour of the site we helped out in the stationary room – what a great feeling to know that this matters. I was also amazed by the LCHK ladies who come here in turns two days a week helping this organization – why? Because they care! And just like the whole Crossroad-team – they are all non-paid. To be honest I felt shameful: In Denmark I do not do that kind of charity – I normally just give money when asked. Actually, very sad! Please do take a look at their web: <http://www.crossroads.org.hk>



On our way back we had time to make a small de-tour with the "Star ferry" that goes from Hong Kong island to Kowloon. A quick trip to the pearl market and back to Hong Kong Island. Here we went up the escalators where we got a good view of the streets, markets and restaurants – wonderful atmosphere! Power sightseeing – power shopping!

In the evening we were the guests of Angela's at Helena May. Helena May is a house for women only. An elegant white colonial house with a lovely garden from year 1916. Here we were taken back in time – so peaceful. This place was meant for young women who came to Hong Kong to work as governess, teachers



etc and who needed a respectable place to stay. Thank you Angela for sharing this special place with us.

Wednesday: Board meeting until 18 pm. A quick shower and "Pot luck" dinner at Lucy's. Everyone brought with them a dish and they also brought with them that special circlers spirit! And it was here I learned about the pretty committee. We were sort of joking about what the families called Ladies Circle and one of the ladies said that her son called us the "Pretty committee". And that is what the Hong Kong Ladies are!!!

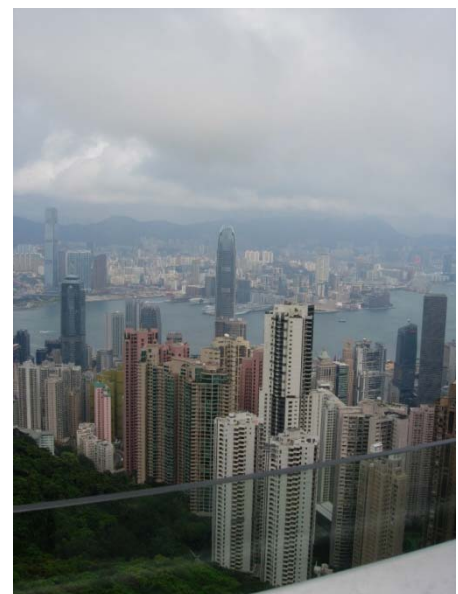


Thursday: Board meeting until 18 pm. And we did it! Worked hard and closed the meeting. This meant Friday off! A quick shower and ready for the HKLC Monthly Meeting. The meeting was held at the Aberdeen Boat Club – it was also here we had the board meetings. We – the board – were introduced and Kjersti lighted the candle of friendship. The special speaker of the evening was hat designer Annelies Riem Vis Gruben. It was very special to see how differently meeting are held all over the world but with the same spirit. There was a raffle and Jodie had been up all night cooking

marmalade, which was also sold. All income went to the ISP. Thank you LCHK! Also a special welcome to the new circler who was chartered by Kjersti. Unfortunately, there are no photos of this – Kjersti lost her camera in the taxi on our way back. Sh....

Friday: We decided to spend the day going up the escalator again – exploring the area (and do some shopping). Kjersti, Nicole, Jenny, Lucy and I took the tramp up to the peak. The view was spectacular. For the first time in over a week the sky was clear and here we were – this place is "one of the 1000 places to visit before you die" - BREATHTAKING!!! And we had lunch in one of the cafes – never have I been to a café with such a view – we had eagles flying just outside the window.

Friday evening – our last evening together with the Hong Kong Ladies. Jenny's husband had arranged a Junk trip for us – Thank you!. We went to the Lamma Island for Seafood. Yum Yum and fun fun. Kjersti asked the board to stand up and tell everyone what we will remember most from this visit. I said: Crossroads and also I will treasure the friendship that I have made and the great laughs that we have had. As Lucy rightly said – we are like sisters just without emotional baggage.



Lucy, Kathy, Davian and Jodie: From our hearts – thank you for opening your homes to us.

And to all you lovely ladies of the Pretty Committee: **Thank you for welcoming us and for making this visit unforgettable!**