

Artists gather for a casual evening



From left: Long Thien Shih, Ahmad Khalid, Raja Zahabuddin, Awang and council member Ham Rabeah having a jolly good time.



From left: Mohamad Sani, Romli and Chan.

CHINESE NEW YEAR

DISCOUNT

10% -

70% -

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Story and pictures by K. Don Buddhadasa

MALAYSIAN artists had their annual gathering but there were hardly any dinner speeches.

People say artists do not talk much but their works do.

Organised by the Malaysian Artists Association, the dinner was held at the National Art Gallery, 1, Jalan Sultan Hishamuddin (formerly the Hotel Majestic) recently.

In spite of the heavy rain that evening, about 30 members, their spouses and friends turned up — all in casuals.

At least one was in shorts.

There were no lounge

suits, ties or bows.

A few came in batik: these included association president Ahmad Khalid Yusof, vice president Raja Zahabuddin Raja Yaacob, secretary Awang Damit Ahmad and Shah Alam Art Gallery trustee Mohamed Kassim Ali.

The aim of the get-together was also to inform each other of the programmes for next year.

These include travels to China and Vietnam to meet and exchange ideas with their counterparts and exhibit the Malaysian way of life and culture through art.

Most of the association members are educationists: art lecturers or teachers and art scholars.

Those who are not in the

academic field or not: in any other employment, have gone commercial for their living — such as those at the Central Market.

A few Central Market artists are also association members such as Long Thien Shih and Hoe Say Yong, both of whom are in the council.

Among those present at the dinner were Canadian High Commission First Secretary Gordon Morrison and New Zealand High Commission executive officer Magie O'Shea, both friends of the artists.

Others were Syed Thajuddin, Ramlan Abdullah, Chua Cheng Koon, Mohamad Sani Mohamed Dom, Romli Mahmud, Anthony Chan Sai Weng, Mrs

Choong Kam Kow, Helen Long, Affandi Awang, Zaharani Kitan, Judith Hurlzeler and Sharifah Zuriah Aljeffri.

Raja Zahabuddin, who led a Malaysian delegation to the Paris-based International Artists Association's (IAA) 13th general assembly held at Seoul some time ago, said the idea behind the assembly was to give artists from different countries a chance to meet and exchange ideas.

The conference discussed the status of artists around the world.

As the current president is an Australian, the headquarters most probably would be in this part of the world, either Australia, Japan, Korea or Malaysia.

