

2008 SABA President's Report

This has been another busy year for the Singapore America Business Association. Perhaps more so than in previous years, we strived to collaborate with other networking associations in Silicon Valley.

On February 10, we had our Chinese New Year luncheon that was co-organized with NUSEA and Singapore Connect and co-sponsored by the Singapore International Federation. The event was held at the Crowne Plaza Cabana Hotel in Palo Alto, and the Consulate-General of Singapore, Mr. Jee-See Heng, his wife Wendy and both his children attended along with about 100 other guests. It was a huge success with various performances including lion dances, face painting, martial arts performance, Chinese orchestra, Chinese calligraphy, and many others. Thanks to Board member, Sharon Sim-Krause, the event got coverage from a local Chinese newspaper, Sin Tao Daily, and from Silicon Valley Business Journal!

In early March, we participated in a Mixer with the Chinese Software Professionals Association at the Computer History Museum. Also in March, we participated in an event organized by the Young Professionals International Forum of the World Affairs Council in San Francisco with Consulate-General Mr. Jee-See Heng as the featured speaker. He gave a good overview of Singapore's progress over the last 50 years and the talk was very well received.

On April 22, SABA co-organized a panel discussion on Ultra-Wide Band Technology and Applications with SVC Wireless Association, held at Wilson-Sonsini conference facility, thanks to SABA Board director, Tom Savage. There were speakers from various startup companies including SenseIQ, AetherWire, SiBeam and Tzero, and I was the moderator. More than 50 people enjoyed a deep discussion about various approaches to ultra wideband usage.

In May, we co-organized a Medical Devices panel discussion, held at Stanford University, thanks to the efforts of SABA Board Director Jayson Goh and his EDB team, as well as Colin Tan from Singapore Connect. We had some great panelists including SABA Board Member William Chang of Stryker Corp.

On May 10, SABA co-hosted our 2nd Annual Singapore Charity Golf Event with the Consulate-General Office of Singapore. The event was held at one of the toughest golf courses in Northern California, The Bridges Golf Club. There were more than 100 golfers. Most importantly, we raised more than \$32,000 for the Blind Babies' Foundation. Among the VIPs were the Consulate-General Mr Heng and the Mayor of San Ramon.

After our customary summer break, we had a late August BBQ picnic with members from the World Affairs Council in San Francisco. This was held at the lovely Fort Mason Center, overlooking Alcatraz Island and the Bay.

In mid-September, SABA held a Speakers' Series event with Mr. Yorgen Edholm, CEO of Accellion. He gave a presentation titled, "Opportunities and Pitfalls in US Market by Startup Companies". It was kindly sponsored by SABA corporate member, Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore.

The marquee event of the year was our 16th Annual Gala, held at Hotel Nikko in San Francisco. The theme for this year's Gala was "Compassion" and more than 180 guests attended. We raised more than \$4000 for two charities – one for disaster relief effort in Sichuan for victims of the earthquake, and the other for the victims of Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar. Thanks to all our sponsors and dinner guests, we raised more than \$20,000 to support our operating expenses for next year.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our former Executive Director, Isabelle Lee, who did a great job organizing our events through the month of October. I like to also extend a warm welcome to our new Executive Director, Rachel Ang, who did a great job at our Gala event in November.

It has been a great pleasure serving you in the past two years as SABA's president. I have reached my term limit as a SABA Board Director. My sincere wishes for continued progress in the year's ahead.