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Night of merrymaking

Pressmen take a break and let their hair down at media night

CORDIAL chatter and clinking glasses were heard all night long as Penang pressmen took a break from their usual pursuit of news stories.

Some 300 of them from the digital and print platforms had a blast during the Eastern and Oriental Bhd (E&O) Media Appreciation Night.

They were served with cocktails and canapes to whet the appetite, before being let loose on a sumptuous buffet spread.

Dishes like Thai-style Roasted Chicken, Salmon Provencale, Lamb Osso Bucco, Char Koay Teow and Satay, went down well.

In his welcome address, E&O group hospitality and lifestyle director Michael Saxon said the media was the vital bridge that connected the premier lifestyle property developer, to a broad spectrum of target audiences.

“As we strive to continuously nurture this positive relationship, E&O is also proud to be deeply connected with the past, present and future of Penang.

“We cherish our role as custodian of the beloved heritage landmark, E&O Hotel, and as a developer of exemplary living spaces.

“These include the award-winning masterplanned Seri Tanjung Pinang development, which is progressing from its first to second phase,” he said.

Adding excitement to the recent soiree held at the hotel’s Grand Ballroom was the Trivia Quiz, which required attendees to dash to the stage to answer questions related to the group.

Each correct answer earned them a red packet containing a RM50 cash voucher sponsored by Straits Quay’s tenants — The Shed, Real Food and Uncle Alberts.

The Penang Minyi Diabolo Team then went up to entertain the guests with the traditional Chinese artform of balancing hour-glass-shaped tops and spinning them on a string fastened at the end of two sticks.

E&O Group also surprised China Press journalist Lee Kah Li, who has retired after 47 years in the industry, with a floral bouquet and spa vouchers.

“It’s a pleasant surprise. I never expected it,” quipped the 66-year-old who first joined Sin Pin in as a proofreader back in the 1970s.

“Back then, employment opportunities were limited, so when the position was available, I just took it.

“I’m sad to leave the industry after being in it so long, but have adjusted well to a



Saxon (back, centre) watching fellow pressmen with birthdays in February, sing the birthday song.

more relaxed life after retirement,” she added.

Lee was later joined by her media counterparts whose birthdays fell in February, in a cake-cutting ceremony and birthday song sing-along.

A total of 58 lucky draw prizes including E&O Hotel stay vouchers, dining vouchers, Panpuri Organic Spa vouchers and exclusive souvenir sets were presented to lucky ones throughout the night.

Just when everybody thought the excitement was over, Saxon announced a special ‘General Manager’ prize of a weekend’s stay at the Victory Annexe Corner Suite with three meals included for two.

Former Harian Metro bureau chief Mohd Saipul Adli Mohamed bagged the special prize.



E&O’s group strategy and communications senior manager Ann Tan (left) presenting a floral bouquet and spa vouchers to Lee.