

Short Note From Hong Kong

26 May 2000

Well, not much going from Hong Kong this trip. This is one of those trips where I haven't been able to wander more than ½ mile from the hotel. I'm here for the Hong Kong Civil Aviation Authorities hosted an airline meeting which. They have really put on the dog. A huge (and I mean huge) convention center was built here for the hand-over ceremonies (where the People's Republic took back Hong Kong) and that is where the meeting was held. We had about 150 people in our meeting and my guess is that they could handle about 100 times that. The building was so big, that it took us about 10 minutes to walk from one entrance to our meeting room. The problem with high ceilings and huge rooms is that you can't really air condition it well. By the time we got to our meeting room, we were dripping. It's been weather where the humidity exceeded the temperature. Not much sightseeing. We were stuck in Wan Chai (the island part) and our meetings ran so late and had functions afterward so we never even got to get on the Star ferry and go to Kowloon.

Boeing travel made a mistake in hotels. Usually, Asian hotels are the greatest. Instead of getting booked into the Renaissance Harbor View we got booked into the Harbor View International. Big Difference. These hotel rooms were more like what you would expect in Europe. Ones where you can touch opposite walls at the same time. The tub/shower was about 3 feet long and the bathroom was so small that the sink hung over the bathtub. It was too much trouble to change and so we stayed there.

It looks like the Asian crisis is lifting. During the meetings, we saw that Cathay Pacific is starting to make money again. A lot of building is going on. We got to go through the new airport, Chep Lap Kok, and it was run very efficiently. No lines in immigration and we had to wait about 3 minutes for our bags. Good old Boeing travel had arranged for a "free" limousine to pick us up. That was fine, but I was presented with a \$500hk bill when I got to the hotel. Just another in a long line of disappointments with Boeing Travel.

Well, I'd better get packing,  
More later,  
Dave