

FRIDAY, 2012 07 06 THE FORMAL OPENING:

Due primarily to the time change and time of departure from NA and Brazil, although Friday was the formal beginning of the TAFISA event, it seems like we have been here much longer!! I believe I have said it before, but it is worth repeating: It is hot, my god it is hot; AND to make matters worse, the only air conditioning we have seen is in large stores. I think you have gathered by now that our accommodations definitely have not Air/Con lol; (not)

Friday morning we gathered for a review of the week's events. I will not get into details, suffice to say they lacked a PA system and the result was not favourable. On the PLUS side, near the end of the session, some of the more senior officials of TAFISA did come to the front and address certain "larger" issues. Sitting at the side, viewing all of this, was the TAFISA President, Dr. Kang-Too Lee. I recognized him and told Michael that if he approached him, I would take their pic! He did so, and I took his pic.

However; the more SURPRISING, and more memorable aspect is this: After several pix had been taken of others who wished to take the opportunity, our group began to slowly move away. For whatever reason, Dr. Kang-Too Lee placed his arm on Lois, began talking with her, and posed for a pic with her!!

I am now going to insert two pix: The first will be of the group that attended the Briefing as described above.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> pic will be of Michael holding the TAFISA flag.



We now move on to page 2 and the next major event of the day which began at 12:00 (noon). .

## LITHUANIA'S VERY SPECIAL DAY!

July 06<sup>th</sup> is to Lithuania what July 1<sup>st</sup> is to Canada, and July 4<sup>th</sup> to the USA. Their celebration took place at the City Square and we made a point of being present. I have some great pix of the event and will present them in a SLIDE SHOW. (I cannot give you the link RIGHT NOW as I am writing in my room and have no access to my Slide Show software.)

Perhaps the 1<sup>st</sup> thing I should explain is that their celebration of Independence goes back on 2 Decades, that is correct 20 years. This notwithstanding that at one time they had a King, who was mentioned to-day, and various relationships with other European Nations. Let us just say that wars have not been kind to Lithuania. For those who have an interest, suggest you look up Lithuania in Wikipedia. Many



dignitaries spoke at this event; bands played and Ladies dressed in traditional costume.

There was a military "Fly Past"; many of our group were sitting enjoying a beer when the 3 Jets ROARED, and I man roared over our head, BARELEY over our head. Marius was so darn shocked that he GOT UP AND RUN, Lois thought he might have a heart attack!! Gus expressed the sentiment of most of us when he remarked after: "I expected

the END at any second!! No doubt their approach had been announced, but of course we would not understand. We did understand the THUNDERING ROAR as they flew right over us. We believe the aircraft were from Polish Airforce. The beer was good, very good.

**This will be our Military Pic!** We have two guides assigned to us, both volunteers. This young man, between Jim and Michael performed in the Celebration. He learned his English while studying in the US. Jim served with the US Marines and Michael with the US Air force.

OK > I am going to now post. The Parade took place to-day AS WELL as the huge opening Ceremonies. I will play catch up and post

ASA P. . Stan 2012 07 07 (but this is the report for the 6<sup>th</sup>)

