Rotary Project Smile goes beyond boundaries

The Rotary of Likas Bay joined hand with its sister club, the Rotary Club of Lu Chou, Taiwan embarked on project Smile Cambodia from 24th to 28th April 2013. This is the 4th such projects over the years in Cambodia, working with the local organization, Operation Smile Cambodia headed by Mr Chan Kok Choy as chairman and Dr Theavy Mok, its medical director. Operation Smile works on providing corrective surgery for cleft lips and palates, especially for those who cannot afford the high cost of surgeries. Patients were from all over Cambodia with transportation allowance given.

This is such a meaningful project with life changing impact that the Rotary Club of Likas Bay had a big contingent of 27 persons headed by President George Ligunjang and First lady, Christina. Immediate Past District Governor, Haji Zainie and Hajjah Kalimah were there too, being there in the last mission in Siem Reap and having witnessing the great impact of this mission in changing life forever. 13 members of the club turned up in this project with the spouses and daughter. Rotary Club of Lu Chou also have a big contingent of 12 members, spouses, children and friends turning out for this project, led by their President Water.

Both the Rotary Clubs contributed a total of US 6,000.00 to this project. In addition, the son and daughter of PP Steven Lee of Rotary Club of Lu Chou have contributed US1,000.00 each. A former member, Build has contributed another US1,000.00. All in all, a total of US 9,000.00 were contributed to this meaningful mission.

The Rotary Club of Likas Bay brought along 4 doctors for this mission. They are Consultant Plastic Surgeon, Dr Sergius Ajik (honorary member of Rotary Club of Likas Bay) well assisted by his assistant, Dr Ken Zosimo and also Consultant Paediatric Anaesthesiologist, Dr Vinodh Suppiah ably assisted by Dr Lee Chong En.

At the end of the 2 days of operation whereby the medical team and volunteers worked into the late hours, a total of 51 patients were being operated. That is a huge success considering the long time required for a cleft lip/palate operation. The medical teams and volunteers have done a great and wonderful job with some of them having stiff legs after long hours of standing. All were very satisfied, knowing that an hour of operation have changed the life of the kids forever!!

A big thank you must be given to our long time partner in service, Operation Smile Cambodia which was formed some 11 years ago and to date have operated on more than 3100 patients. This is an organization led by very able and selfless persons with many kind hearted volunteers. Due to their good works, they have received great support from both private and government sector.

This Operation Project Smile has been and will be an annual project of Rotary Club of Likas Bay and its sister Club and all of us are looking forward to the next mission next year. This is such a meaningful and life changing project that it fits very well into the next Rotary year Theme “Engage Rotary, Change Lives”.

Report prepared by

IPP K.P. Lu
Organising Chairman
Project Smile Cambodia 2013
Rotary Club of Likas Bay
Big contingent of 27 Rotarians & Rotary Spouses from RC Likas Bay led by Pres. George Ligunjung & First Lady Christina arrived at Calmette Hospital, Phnom Penh Cambodia on 24th April, 2013.


IPDG Haji Zainie & Hajjah Kalimah happily joined the Operation Smile Cambodia project again.

One for the album....Guest of Honour, Malaysia Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia, Datuk Pengiran Hj. Mohd. Hussein b. Datuk Pengiran Hj. Mohd. Tahir Nasruddin (5th from left to right front row) with RC Likas Bay and RC Lu Chou Taipei delegation and Operation Smile Cambodia team at the Welcome Dinner.

President George Ligunjung handing over US$3,000 contribution to Chairman of Operation Smile Cambodia, Mr. Chan Kok Choy while Pres. Water and H.E. Prof. Cheang Ra, Director of Calmette Hospital (Right hand side) look on.

Chairman of Operation Smile Cambodia, Mr. Chan Kok Choy receiving cash contribution of US$3,000 from President Water, RC Lu Chou Taipei.

Some of the 51 Cleft Lip & Cleft Palate Patients at the Opening Ceremony

First Lady Christina, Rtn. Maureen Lind and Rotarystores distributing biscuits and sweets to children

Rotarian Samuel Yeh with 8 months boy before surgery

DGND Philip gave his camera to the Cleft Palate patient in order to stopher from crying while Rotarians C.P. Lim, K.H, Lim and Plastic look on

Dr. Sergius Ajik performing the surgery with the assistance from Dr. Vinoh Suppiah (Consultant Paediatric Anaesthesiologist), Dr. Lee Chong On & Dr. Ken Zosimo

Surgeons from Cambodia performing the Cleft Lip surgery

Rtn. Maureen’s daughter, Ms. Evanna (medical student) with the Consultant Plastic Surgeon Dr. Sergius and Dr. Ken during the surgery operation.

First Lady Christina holding a 7 months old cleft lip baby after surgery flanked by President George

Hajjah Kalimah carrying a Cleft Lip baby after surgery at the Calmette Hospital
A baby recovering after the operation

A happy mother watching her baby taking milk after the surgery

Vice President Gwen Vu holding a baby boy after the operation

PP Datuk Lee Chuen Wan and Naomi cladding a baby after the surgical operation

Nancy & PP Michael Tong happily holding a cleft lip patient after the operation

PP Steven Lee’s children with the cleft lip and cleft palate patients before surgery

Mr. Chan Kok Choy, Chairman Operation Smile Cambodia presenting a souvenir to Pres. George flanked by H.E. Prof. Chheang Ra, Dr. Mok, Director of Operation Smile & IPDG Hj. Zainie.

H.E. Prof. Chheang Ra presenting souvenir to Rtn. K.H. Lim

Rtn. C. P. Lim & spouse receiving souvenir from H.E. Prof. Chheang Ra, Director of Calmette Hospital, Cambodia
PE Woo Soo Poo & incoming First Lady Set Mui receiving Certificate of Appreciation from H.E. Prof. Chheang Ra

H.E. Prof. Chheang Ra presenting Certificate of Appreciation to PP Bowling as witnessed by Pres. Water

Mr. Chan Kok Choy receiving a Rotary pen from Pres. George while IPP K.P. looks on