

—ROTARY CLUB OF SINGAPORE—

PRESENTS

Crossroads

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*Our Nation
turns 45!*



BLUFF YOUR WAY ON CORONERS



By:
Jeffrey Chan Wah Teck S.C.

SPEAKER'S INTRODUCTION



V.P. David called upon Hon. Secretary Rtn. Vijai Parwani to introduce the Speaker, Mr. Jeffrey Chan Wah Teck S.C. who is the Deputy Solicitor-

General of Singapore. He studied at Telok Kurau English School and Raffles Institution where he obtained his Higher School Certificate in 1968. He was awarded the President's Scholarship to read law at the University of Singapore where graduated in 1973 as the Gold Medallist of his class. He subsequently obtained his Masters in Law degree from Harvard University (USA) and completed the Advanced Management Programme at Wharton Business School (USA).

SPEAKER



Rtn. Jeffrey recounted how he first addressed the Club as an Interactor of Raffles Institution Interact Club and how he was instructed to ask the

Rotarians for greater support, which he added might not have gone down very well with members of the Club, as he was only invited again after 33 years!

Rtn. Jeffrey added that he was speaking as a Rotarian, he is a member of the Rotary Club of Raffles City, and that the topic of his talk was "Bluff Your Way On Coroners" was a gesture from the "Bluff Your Way" series, without

which, he would not have passed his exams!

Rtn. Jeffrey gave a light hearted and humorous talk on how coroners came about from medieval England with its feudal system in the service of the Crown. He gave a historical overview of the coroner's duties and powers. He also spoke of the procedures which coroners were involved during those medieval days such as a "hue and cry" had to be raised in cases of sudden or unnatural deaths; the bodies of the deceased could not be moved until the arrival of the coroner to conduct an inquiry, and in fact, the inquiry would be held in public at the spot where the body was found. Rtn. Jeffrey stated that persons who reported to the coroners were always deemed as suspects and were usually tortured until he confessed to the crime, which no doubt led to the appointment of official "reporters", usually persons beyond reproach.

Rtn. Jeffrey highlighted how the coroners in England underwent numerous changes and that the coroners system was introduced worldwide by the British to their colonies. He also spoke about the coroners in Singapore and how the early colonial authorities were pre-occupied with law and order. He mentioned that the law on coroners largely unchanged since 1898s. However, Rtn. Jeffrey added that the new Coroners Act 2010 has introduced new paradigms and he informed members of the expanded jurisdiction as well as additional

power of coroners in Singapore. Rtn. Jeffrey concluded by stating that there was "no more cover ups for Doctors!!" and graciously answered the questions posed to him by members.

VOTE OF THANKS



In his vote of thanks, PP Dr. Oliver Hennedige stated that it was an interesting and informative talk from a very interesting person,

who was not only a Rotarian but also a top legal mind who has given us a better understanding of coroners in Singapore, their duties and their limitations. PP Oliver hoped that it would not be another 33 years before Rtn. Jeffrey got to speak to the Club again, and perhaps he could return again to speak on a medical-legal topic, which he requested the Programmes Chairman to take note.





Club happenings on August 4th - Reported by Bernadette Rayney-Ng

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Vice President David Ong chaired the meeting and extended President Bala's apologies for not being present as he is feeling unwell.

V.P. David welcomed members to the first meeting in August, designated by Rotary International as Membership and Extension Month. He also gave a warm welcome to his good friend, the Guest Speaker, Mr. Jeffrey Chan, President of the Medico-Legal Society of Singapore.



Taipei Club's 62nd anniversary celebration on 9th October. She also highlighted some of the special tours and sights, which would be arranged for members. Club of Hamburg-Altona coupled with the toast to Rotary International.

GUEST OF MEMBERS

Duty of welcoming Guests of members and Visiting Rotarians fell to Rtn. Robert Craiu:

Guests:

Ms. Joy Toh,
Mr. Soumen Mitra,
Mr. Lucas Murewzi

Visiting Rotarians:

Glasmacher – Garbsen-Wunstorf,
Germany
Mercedes Reyes – Pasay Villamor,
Philippines
Elizabeth Lim – Taipei, Taiwan
Henry Luk – Hong Kong Northwest,
Hong Kong

TOAST

Rtn. Paul Kayoboke called upon visiting Rotarian Elizabeth Lim from our sister club, Taipei to address the Club. Rtn. Elizabeth sent the regards of her club's President "Story" to members and advised that she was a Malaysian, in Singapore to visit friends and to extend a verbal invitation to members to join the

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS

Hon. Secretary Vijai Parwani announced that in The Straits Times (dated August 3 2010), the government feedback unit Reach was seeking rejuvenation with new posts in its supervisory panel. He was pleased to add that among the unit's new panel are the "young at heart" PDG Dr. Philbert Chin and Vice President David Ong.

On behalf of the Club, Rtn. Vijai extended heartiest congratulations to both PDG Philbert and V.P. David. In response, VP David remarked that "growing old is mandatory, however growing up is an option!"

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

V.P. David reminded members that notice was given at the weekly meeting of July 14th, for nominations for the four members of the Nominating Committee. Four nominations of eligible members were received to the Nominating

Committee for this Rotary year. They are:

PP Tan Chin Ngiap
PP Stan Low
PP Peter Tan
Rtn. Robert Craiu

VP David further advised that the Nominating Committee would comprise of the abovementioned members together with President Bala, IPP Dr. Yap Lip Kee and PE Tapan Rao.

VISITING ROTARIANS



