



FROM THE DESK OF THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR (5 / 2011 - 12)

Hello my Fellow Rotarians,

Here I am back again.

As I write this, we are entering mid-august and soon will be two months into the Rotary year. Time certainly "flies" when you are having fun. Yes, indeed. Kalimah and I certainly have fun.

Our visit to Singapore on the 29th-31st July were filled with Rotary events and fellowship starting from friday evening until sunday afternoon when we departed for the airport back to Kota Kinabalu.

At the opening ceremony of the Rotaract District Assembly on saturday morning we also witnessed the installation of DRR Sorensen Law by the outgoing DRR Toh Chun Keong. Excellent speeches by both of them. Congratulations to the organizing chair Abdul Wahid Wahimudin and his team for a formal, yet lively event, well attended by Rotaractors even from as far as Malacca and Johor Baharu. My thanks to PP Derek for the arrangements with the Rotaractors.

Soon after that we were at the Interactors Annual Training Camp sponsored by the Rotary Club of Singapore. Kalimah and I were very delighted to be introduced to the kids. Present were President Tapan Rao of RC Singapore, PDG Dr. Philbert Chin, PP Koh Juay Meng and other Rotarians from RC Singapore. Also in attendance were AG Chew Pak Heng, PP Michael Yee and other Rotarians from other clubs. Kalimah was so attracted to the kids that she accepted, without hesitation, an invitation to join them in their evening function.

After that, we joined RC Garden City at their luncheon meeting. Although, it was not an official club visit but that was my first visit to a Rotary club in Singapore. Good meeting by President Francis Chan. Nice to have met old friends PDG Dr. Wu, PP KB Lee, PP Matthew Yong and of course, PP Michael Yee and AG PP Chew Phak Heng, both of whom I have met in earlier functions. I promised the club that I would speak to them in Mandarin when I meet them next.

That evening Kalimah joined the Interactors for dinner and had a great time watching their lively presentations. She sang and danced with them, feeling 17 years old at times during that evening. Kalimah told me she felt so attached to the kids. They were so charming and full of energy and that she felt in love with all of them. That few hours with the kids had a profound impact on her and she hopes to have more such opportunities in the future. She also said that evening was made more enjoyable with the presence of PDG Philbert Chin, PP koh Juay Meng and his son Wayne Koh, PP John Ng, DRR Sorensen and other Rotarians.



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While all this was happening, I was at the Joint Presidents Meeting(JPM) hosted by President Tapan Rao. Well attended by almost all the Presidents of the clubs in Singapore and other invited Rotarians. A number of issues were presented. The meeting was excellently conducted by President Tapan, leaving a lot of time to enjoy the sumptuous food and fellowship. Thank you my friend Tapan for hosting the evening.

Last weekend was equally hectic with two membership seminars in Sabah. The one in Kota Kinabalu was a great success with 100 participants including participants from RC Labuan and so too, was the one held next day in Tawau. I was told that 60 Rotarians including from the Rotary Club of Sandakan North, Interactors and few potential members attended the event. President Franco Lee of RC Tawau Tanjung, in his welcoming address, thanked the District for bringing the seminar to Group 14, making it possible for so many to benefit from it.

From feedbacks received, the resounding success of these two seminars were due firstly to the new innovative format of the seminar incorporating the Membership, Public Image and Fellowship elements into one and starting only after lunch with fellowship "Celebrate Rotary" in the evening. Secondly, the aggressive promotions done at the District and Regional level and the use of professionally designed leaflets and extensive use of the electronic medias such as facebook. And thirdly, the presence of several senior experienced speakers from within and outside the District including local speakers from Kota Kinabalu and Tawau.

The speakers, session chairs, panelists and rapporteurs were PDG Dr. Philbert Chin, PDG Dr. Wu Dar Ching, PDG Dr. Arasu, PDG Edward Sung Burongoh, Rtn Ong Hock Siew, AG Erich Schneider, PP Michael Yee, PP Andre Suharto, PP Datuk Vincent Pung, PP Datuk Dr. Johnson Tee, PP Dr. Richard Barrow, PP Datuk Lee Chuen Wan, PP Dr. Teo Tu Huah, PP Patric Chin, PP Peter Wong, PP Frankie Chua and PP Vincent Chong. Both PDG Dr. Arasu and Rtn. Ong Hock Siew are from the Malaysian District 3300.

The telling of stories and sharing of experiences during the "celebrate Rotary" in the evening was indeed a great idea which captivated many that night.

SYABAS once again to PP Alex Eow, the District Membership and Retention Chair, PP Hj Andre and PP Ravi Velu, Regional Chairmen AG PP Judy Yu and PP David Chin and their team, host clubs President Lawrence Thien and President Franco Lee, all participating clubs, speakers, session chairmen, panelists and rapporteurs for all their hard works and contributions in making the 2 events a resounding success. And of course, to all the participants for their attendance and staying power for without them there would be no seminar.

In the words of PP Alex and I quote "we have done it. The two seminars will be "unforgettable" for your Rotarians for some times. This is the beginning for the journey to help DG to achieve membership growth. This is a small step, we still have a lot of work to do in the next 11 months together with the AGs and Club Presidents" unquote.



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All attention are now directed at Kuching, Sarawak, the venue for the next membership seminar scheduled on the 20th August. PP Kho Ping, the Regional Membership Chair and President Juergen Ertl of the Rotary Club of Kuching Central and their members have been working tirelessly to ensure that this seminar will be another resounding success with not less than 100 participants. I have every confident in them as this is the very club that took the largest number of delegates to the District Assembly at Johor Baharu last April. Best of luck PP Khoping. Best of luck Kuching Central.

During the same weekend but in the Island of Singapore, PP Steven Teng, our District Chair for the Family of Rotary Committee, working together with Rotarians from the E-Club of 3310, Interactors from the ITE College East and the Rotaractors from the Rotaract Club of Raffles City were busy organizing the Love in R(EVOL)T, a humanitarian Outreach Event for Singapore youths to revolt against poverty. I was informed by PP Steven this morning that the event held at Scape was most meaningful and well executed. For the 3 days they received about 3000 plus visitors, approx 80% youths and managed to raise over S\$80,000. Well done everybody!

This saturday Kalimah and I will be involved in two important Rotary functions. One is in a remote village 3 hours drive from Kota Kinabalu where I am to launch the Rotary Community Corps Project-"the Kg.Teringai Development Initiative" by the Rotary Club of Kota Kinabalu at 9.0 am. Thereafter, back to kota Kinabalu and leave on the 2.55 pm flight to Singapore to attend to the second function of the day - to witness the Installation of President Aaron Tan and his Board of the Rotary Club of Raffles City at One Degree 15, Sentosa. We will fly back to Sabah late sunday afternoon.

During my last trip to Singapore I met up with PP Er John Tan, District Chair for the Avoidable Blindness Committee, who briefed me his AB program for the year. I urge all clubs to support this AB Program as blindness is so prevalent in our society, in fact just at our door steps, and there is so much we can do about it. PP John Tan will be communicating again with all clubs to give further details of his program.

All Club Presidents and Secretaries please don't forget to quickly submit your club's attendance report to PP Jennifer Lasimbang, who has recently been communicating with you all on the format to use.

Got to stop now. Only realized that it is rather a long message. Until then, do enjoy our Rotary as we "Search Within to Embrace Humanity".

Haji Zainie Abdul Aucasa.