



FROM THE DESK OF THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR 6/2011-12

Hello my Fellow Rotarians,

When I was in Kuching last weekend to attend the Membership Seminar, two fellow Rotarians asked me "DG when is your next letter from the desk?" I was pleasantly surprised. They seemed eager wanting to know what is coming next... wanting to know more.

At that moment, I felt like writing one immediately. However, the whole of last week, apart from other commitments, I was busy attending several Rotary meetings, namely the 21st District Conference Organizing Committee, the DG's Newsletter Editorial Board, the Joint Presidents Meeting of Group 13 which includes discussions on the forthcoming Rotary Foundation Seminar and the Walk for Eradication of Polio. All committees were reporting excellent progress. I am glad that I was able to meet up with them before I begin with my lengthy club visits in a week time. I am very proud to be associated with these friends working tirelessly silently behind the scene.

As mentioned in my last letter, the 13th August Saw Kalimah and I participated in two Rotary events, one the launching of the Rotary Community Corp project in Kampong Terengai, a remote village in Sabah and the other is the Installation occasion of the Rotary Club of Raffles City, Singapore.

At precisely 6.40 am, with Rotarian Grant Colbron at the wheel and PP Richard Barrow at the bodyguard seat, both my club members, we drove out of Kota Kinabalu to begin the 2hours 30 minutes journey to Kg. Terengai. Had it not be for the fasting, we would have made the traditional several stops for "breakfasts" before reaching the project site. Despite my insistence for breakfast stop at our usual shop in Tuaran for my two friends to grab some food, they politely refused. We arrived at the village on the dot at 9.30 am



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greeted by many villages, the Village Committee, our Rotarians and their spouses led by President Lawrence Thien of RC Kota Kinabalu, District General Secretary James Jupinon and PP Robert Lai, the District Chair for Rotary Community Corp. After the speeches, cutting of ribbon and the other formalities, not forgetting the numerous photo sessions, the function closed with a beautiful Rungus traditional dance performance led by the village chief himself. Also present were PDG Edward and spouse Mariana, PP Ronnie Tan (E-Club 3310) and Rotarian Gary Chieng (RC Kuching Central). As both Kalimah and I got a plane to catch, we bid farewell, sad to leave them but feeling satisfied that Rotary is embarking into yet another fantastic project. Thanks to the excellent driving of Rtn Grant under the watchful eyes of PP Richard, we arrived in KK safely giving us just enough time for shower and then rushed to the airport for the Airasia flight to Singapore at 2.55 pm.

AG Rustom was so kind to pick us up at the airport and straight to the Installation venue, 1 Degree 15, where we were met upon arrival by President Aaron Tan and Organizing Chair Thomas Graf. After a quick shower, we arrived at the hall just in time for the commencement of the function. It was an elegant event with a theme "What One Person Cannot Do Alone, We Can Achieve Together". We witnessed the installation of President Aaron Tan and his team of dedicated Rotarians as they "Reach Within to Embrace Humanity". After several inspiring speeches and the "mandatory" group photo sessions we were serenaded with several unchanged melodies by amongst others, the ever popular PP George Abraham and PP Ronald Pereira. My wife and I truly enjoyed ourselves. It was a great evening of excellent fellowship. Thank you President Aaron and to all our friends in the RC of Raffles City.

Last weekend on the 20th August we had another Membership Seminar and this time in Kuching, hosted by the Rotary Club of Kuching Central. It was again a great success with



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Rotarians from as far as Brunei, Kuala Beliat, Miri, Bintulu and Sibul who joined their fellow Rotarians from Kuching for an eventful day of Rotary sharings followed by a great evening where the many achievements of Rotary were showcased to our spouses and invited guests, many of whom are potential members. PP Ravi Velu carried the occasion extremely well. I joined the many in congratulating PP Alex Eow, President Juergen Ertl and the Organizing Chairman PP Kho Ping and his hard working team and all members of the Rotary Club of Kuching Central for having hosted such a splendid event. We thank you all for the excellent hospitality extended to Kalimah and I, in particular for having food delivered to our room for the buka puasa and sahur(early breakfast), which was indeed very thoughtful and much appreciated. Kalimah wishes to thank first Lady Lauren, Pauline and Hajjah Norzan for having taken care of her and the other visiting spouses. PP Albert Tan of RC of Bandar Seri Begawan has this to say of the event and I quote "We are all very delighted and impressed with the kind hospitality and the manner in which members of RC of Kuching Central conducted themselves and gone the extra miles to make all of us feel welcome", unquote. The full text of his "syabas" message can be seen in the coming edition of the DG's Newsletter.

The three remaining Membership Seminars will be held in Singapore (10th September), Johor Baharu (24th September) and Malacca (25th September). Once again, I urge all Rotarians to come in full force to attend these seminars.

By this time, most of you, if not all, would have read the July's edition of the DG's Newsletter either from the email, the District website or from the hard copies sent to all clubs. Congratulations to PP Alice Kunjan and her Editorial Team for coming up with this first issue, which is normally the most difficult one. For the subsequent issues, Chief Editor PP Chio Cheng Leng is hoping for more articles from the other locations of our District and urging his Area Editors to do their part.



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I was informed that there are still clubs who have not paid their dues and many are yet to submit their Membership Goals Form. Please do so without the reminders.

The District General Secretary PP James Jupinon has recently submitted to all clubs the nomination form for the nomination of the District Governor for the RY2014/15. Clubs wishing to make nomination must do so on the prescribed form and to reach the Chairman of the District Nomination Committee on or before the 30th September this year.

I will begin my official club visits starting this 6th September with clubs in Singapore, Johor and then Malacca towards end of October. The schedules of visit have been given to all the Assistant Governors for the three locations and barring any unforeseen circumstances, I should be making the visits based on the schedules given. The schedules would be printed in the forthcoming issue of the DG's Newsletter. I am still finalizing the schedule of visit to clubs in Sarawak, Brunei, Sabah and Labuan which I planned to visit in November and December.

In conjunction with the United Nations Year of the Forests, the E-Club of Singapore in collaboration with the District Preserve Planet Earth Committee, will be organizing an 8 days events at the Orchard Central, Orchard Road, Singapore from the 9th-16th September. The Organizing Chair Rotarian Maria Boey has invited me to give a welcoming address at the launching of the Singapore Breaking Record of Re-cycled Can Sculpture event on the 11th September at 9.30am at the same venue. I hope to see many of you and your family there to support this event.

In my coming letters, I would be giving prominence to some of the forthcoming District



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level projects to garner stronger support and participation from all of you with the objective of making our District better coordinated, stronger and vibrant.

As the Hari Raya Celebrations are already here, my family and I wish to take this opportunity to wish all our friends who are celebrating Hari Raya... Selamat Hari Raya, Maaf Zahir Batin and to all, do enjoy the holidays ahead.

Until then, take care.

"Reach Within to Embrace Humanity"

Hj. Zainie Abdul Aucasa