



FROM THE DESK OF THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR 15/2011-12

HELLO MY FELLOW ROTARIANS,

It's me again. I trust that many of you would have enjoyed your Christmas and New Year holidays and many are back to the usual routines. Many may have made New Year resolutions to do this and that... But many amongst us have this resolution... that is to **STRENGTHEN OUR CLUBS** and our **DISTRICT**.

Under the leadership of our District Membership Chair PP Alex Eow, the plans for the 2nd Phase of the Membership Development Programs (MDP2) have been rolled out to all Regional Chairs just before the end year. In the main, **this MDP2 is all about strengthening Rotary Clubs.**

In the last two weeks during my visit to clubs in Sarawak and Sabah, I have taken the opportunity to meet up with the respective Regional Chairs and their teams for heart and soul discussions on the health of each club under their respective jurisdiction. It has indeed been an enriching experience, especially for me. Overall, we found that many clubs are lively and some are vibrant. Many are strong in projects and support for Rotary Foundation but are rather weak, at this point in time, in their membership drive. I found at least 2 clubs are in urgent need of attention. The danger signs are that when clubs are having very few non-Past Presidents and struggling to get a President Elect or when they start to recycle their Past Presidents.

All Regional Chairs and their teams working with the respective clubs will focus on helping these struggling clubs and also strengthen some clubs during the next coming months. I am confident that the enthusiasm, determination and commitment shown by everybody at these meetings will see the emergence of stronger clubs in these locations. Of course, in the interest of protecting the image of Rotary in our District, I have no hesitation to close clubs which made little or no effort to strengthen their clubs.

Singapore had their meeting last week and I hope to meet up with the team there either on the 1st or 2nd March. I urge all remaining Regional Chairs to have their meeting as soon as possible, if not already done so. I will be visiting your regions soon after the Chinese New Year and hopefully by then you will have the latest assessment of all clubs under your jurisdiction.

As mentioned above, the last two weeks were spent on visiting clubs in Sarawak and Sabah. Altogether, Kalimah and I visited 9 clubs with 4 in Kuching, 2 in Bintulu, 1 each in Sibul, Tawau and Kota Kinabalu. All the visits were packed with activities ranging from welcoming at the airport, breakfast meetings, visit to project sites, spouse programs, lunches, visit to project sites again, rest, meeting with Interactors, club assemblies,



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witnessing inductions, meeting with potential members and dinners. Very hectic indeed but we are not complaining. In fact, both Kalimah and I enjoyed the whole experience of the excellent reception and fellowship accorded to us throughout the whole trip.

Who can forget the non-stop eating marathon, amid meetings, on our first day in Kuching, putting at the golf course, meeting and addressing a gathering of about 150 Interactors and Rotaractors from 13 clubs, eating mee Jawa cooked by students from a Vocational Center, visiting the Kuching and a Chinese Museum, the durian party at the Salvation Army Girls's Home, learning to make cakes and tarts, visiting a brand new Toyota Showroom, visiting the Kuching Convention Center, having Sarawak Laksa at almost midnight, the hornbill that cannot fly and still stranded in Kuching?

How can we forget the tour of Bintulu market and eating ABC and sotong kangkong, learning to extinguish fire, live on Bintulu radio, eating Foochow buns, early morning tour and shopping at the Sibu market?

Who can forget the non-stop meetings and eating in Tawau from Yassin to Tsunami, distributing recycle bags at Giant Supermarket in Tawau, excellent presentation by the Interactors from SMK Stella Maris, the endless photo sessions and the many beautiful gifts given to us?

Our sincere thanks and deep appreciation to all those great friends for making our visits and stay an enjoyable, memorable and meaningful one. Photos of many happy moments with all of you taken from my camera can be seen and downloaded from my Facebook.

Our next visit will commence after the Chinese New Year celebration beginning with a visit to Malacca from the 1st February and thereafter to the remaining 13 clubs. We plan to finish our official visits by the 1st week of March.

As I have mentioned in my last letter just before Christmas, we are midway and now slightly pass midway of this Rotary Year which means we still have 5 plus months to go. We still have much to do especially in areas of strengthening our clubs. It is just like the building of a house where the foundation and walls have been built by those before us. We are to place bricks on top of those placed before us getting higher each time we do that. And, this will go on. As District leaders we must hand over a stronger District than we found it and as club leaders you must hand over a stronger club than when you took over it. My fellow Rotarians, LET'S DO JUST THAT!



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Apart from what was mentioned above, the District Vocational Committee headed by our PP Michael Yee will be carrying 3 big projects within these few months and they are;

1. Printing of the District Service Vocational Classifications and Networking Directory. About 20 clubs have yet to submit the information required. Please do so to PP Joseph Chua soonest.
2. Publishing a high quality hard cover Vocational Service Book comprising articles from RI President, PRIPs and other senior Rotarians, and
3. Conducting Vocational Service Seminars.

The details of projects 2 and 3 will be rolled out soon.

The District Awards and Recognitions for 2011/12 Brief has been issued to all Presidents, Assistant Governors, District Chairs and Past District Governors on the 7th January. Past President Gladys Pang, the District Awards and Recognition Chair, is reminding all clubs of the deadline to submit their award proposals. From my clubs visits I saw many deserving clubs. Some of these awards will be given at the forthcoming District Assembly in Johor Baharu.

During the coming school holidays this March, 3 big events are scheduled to be organized for our young generations, namely the RYLA in Bintulu, Sarawak, RYLA in Sandakan, Sabah and the District Interact Conference in Kuching. I believe details pertaining to these events have been circulated to all clubs in our District. If not already done so, kindly do so soonest with copy to me, please.

I wish again to remind those clubs who are yet to pay their RI dues and to submit their monthly attendance record to the District do so as required of them. I view these matters with great concern and will note them in my assessments of the club and its leadership.

I hope that all clubs have received their copies of the DG's Newsletter up to the month of November. There can also be viewed in the District Website. The December's issue is expected to be out very soon. In this connection, I call upon clubs to submit articles and photos of their activities for publication in the DG's Newsletter. I was very surprised to learn that there are clubs who thought that the DG's Newsletter is only meant for the DG!

As you all have known our District 3310 was incorporated on the 21st December, 2011 under the Malaysian Companies Act. The Board of Directors are the following: PDG Philbert Chin, PDG Lim Hock Teck, PDG David Tong, PDG Datuk George Ginibun, PDG Abang Nawawi, IPDG Dr Abraham, DGE Lee Kwong Wee, DGN Chew Ghim Bok, DGN2



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Haji Andre Suharto, PP Alex Eow, PP Chew Ban Seng, PP Philip Chong, PP Leslie Sim, PP James Jupinon (Secretary), Rtn Kevin Lim (Treasurer) and myself as the Chairman. The Board will be having its second meeting soon.

The 22nd PETs/ DA has been fixed on the 22-25 March at the Paragon Hotel in Johor Baharu. Apart for the training for the PE's and other incoming officers in the PETs, the DA is a venue for all Rotarians to renew acquaintances and at the same time to update themselves on the latest development in the Rotary World. I therefore urge all Rotarians and their spouses to come in big numbers to support these events. See all of you there.

I am pleased to inform that of late our District was honored with the visits of few distinguished Rotarians. After the visit of RI Director Shekhar Mehtar and his wife in early December, we have the honor of the visit of Past RI President Raja Saboo soon after that to Singapore and with whom we had a meaningful luncheon meeting.

Until my next letter, my family and I wish all our friends and your loved ones...



**"Happy and Prosperous Chinese New Year
GONG XI FATT CHAI"**



"Reach Within to Embrace Humanity"

Hj. Zainie Abdul Aucasa