



# **FROM THE DESK OF THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR 17/2011-12**

## **MY FELLOW ROTARIANS.**

Here I am again.

On the 7th March, I finally completed my official visit to all the 63 clubs in our District. It was indeed a very happy feeling to be able to successfully complete all the visits in ample time and giving us the opportunity to make another rounds of visit to some clubs, accept invitations to project launching both within and overseas, accept fund raising invitations, anniversaries, inter-clubs games and fellowship, youth programs and other invitations until June.

Both Kalimah and I wish to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all the Presidents and members of all these clubs and their spouses for the excellent reception and fellowship accorded to both of us during all these visits. We met many old friends and made many more new ones. It is only through visits like these that we are able know, understand and appreciate better the condition and situation of each and every club. Despite the challenges faced by some of them, they shouldered on happily to serve above self, unseen and unheard by many of us. We are indeed touched and humbled of what we saw and very glad to have the opportunity to have met them and held their hands.

During the whole month of February up to early March were spent more or less on visiting the remaining clubs in Johor, Brunei Darussalam, Sarawak, Sabah, Singapore and both the clubs in Sandakan.

Recently, we have set up one new club in Singapore called the Rotary Club of Tanjong Pagar. It received its charter from RI on the 28th February. At almost the same time, a provisional club was set up in Johor Baharu, called the Rotary Club of Johor Baharu Sentral. It has recently submitted its application for charter to RI. I have met the members and potential members of both clubs and told them that they all have made an excellent choice in choosing Rotary as their vehicle to serve mankind. We wish them the best to gain strength over time to be strong and vibrant clubs.

The month of February is also the month when Rotary International celebrates its birthday when on the 23rd of this February Rotary Districts and clubs all over the Rotary world celebrated the 107th Anniversary of Rotary International. It is celebrated in some places as World Understanding and Peace Day and some celebrated it as International Night.



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The Rotary Club of Kluang celebrated it as an International Night coinciding it with my official visit to them. Most members of the clubs and their spouses wore international costumes. Both Kalimah and I proudly wore our Punjabi costumes, tailored made within an hour by our fellow Rotarian from RC Kluang Gurvinder Singh and his charming spouse. It was a gift from RC Kluang and we thank them so very much. The food and songs were international too and all enjoyed themselves. In fact, many were reluctant to go home that night.

In Singapore, the event was celebrated with a banquet dinner on the 23rd organized by the Rotary Club of Singapore together with the Rotary clubs of Queenstown and Serangoon Gardens Orchard. It was an enjoyable night of good food, songs and music, dancing and excellent fellowship. Kalimah and I enjoyed ourselves having "paid" for our dinner with my 10 minutes speech. Kalimah wore the same Punjabi dress she wore in Kluang and many complimented on the dress that night and subsequently on facebook.

Early the next morning we flew to Tawau to join the Rotary Club of Tawau in celebrating their International Night celebrated as fund raising event to raise fund for their community projects. We were all entertained by a very well known Malaysian singer Datuk DJ Dave, a Rotarian himself from District 3300. The banquet hall was packed by his fans and of course Rotarians from both the clubs in Tawau and their family members; many were seen singing along with Datuk DJ Dave.

Again, early the next morning we flew to Kota Kinabalu to grace the occasion of its International Night by all the 7 clubs in KK hosted by the Rotary Club of Tanjung Aru. It was yet again a night of excellent fellowship, lively entertainments by the clubs and abundance of delicious food. The whole night was simply fantastic. Although, both Kalimah and I were exhausted with all the traveling, we enjoyed ourselves very much and reached home well passed the midnight.

I understand that the Rotary clubs in Malacca and Kuching also held their respective celebrations.



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During these periods, several important meetings were held namely the meeting of the District New Generations Committee, the District Membership Development Committee for Tawau/ Sandakan, Kota Kinabalu and Singapore and the second Board meeting of the District 3310 Incorporated Company. I am very pleased that a good number of issues were able to be attended to and resolved at all these meetings. I am following up on the other remaining issues.

In the first two weeks of the month of March, our District organized two RYLA camps. One was held in the town of Bintulu for the Sarawak/ Brunei sector jointly organized by the Rotary club of Bintulu and Bintulu Central and the other RYLA was held in Sandakan for the Sabah/ Labuan sector organized by the Rotary Club of Sandakan. From my own observations, both RYLAs were well organized, well attended and participated with good balanced programs and excellent speakers. The feedback I read from several emails and the many good comments in the facebook by the participants and the organizers and from the hundred of photos capturing beautiful moments of young people in action, I am certain that these Rotary sponsored programs have undoubtedly achieved its objectives and purposes. Many are already looking forward to the Advanced RYLA which is going to be held in Johor Baharu this coming June.

In the past weeks, I attended the inductions of new members by the Rotary Club of Bugis Junction and the Rotary Club of Luyang. In the coming days and weeks we have been invited to attend several more inductions by clubs in Johor, Malacca and Kota Kinabalu. I am looking forward to hear many more inductions by the other clubs soon. While doing so, be mindful of what I always said that we bring in to Rotary not only those with the heart to serve but also the capacity to serve.

Past President Alex Eow, our District Membership Development Chair has recently come up with the District Membership status report as at 1st March 2012. The report shows that while we were able to bring in 150 new members during the 8 months period of this Rotary year, we lost 52 Rotarians during the same period. At the same time, the report also shows that 13 clubs registered a negative growth in membership. All of us need to work hard and harder. PDG Dr. Wu Dar Ching has forwarded to us his Strategic Plan which serves as a valuable road map towards building stronger Rotary clubs in our District. It is a long term process to be consistently adopted over a period of time. Thank you PDG Dr. Wu.



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With all these hectic schedules, I took time off to accept the invitation of the Rotary Club of Tebrau to attend their fund raising dinner concert. Performing that night were Riem De Wolf, Vernon Cornelius Tony and Ted from Singapore singing several oldies bringing back golden memories of the past. There were many Rotarians too and we have had a wonderful evening.

Time has come for the next PETS/DA. I believed many of you together with your spouses have registered for this important event in the calendar of Rotary International. This is the time to learn, to abreast ourselves with the latest in Rotary and to enjoy Rotary fellowship.

At the Governor's Banquet, I will be presenting some significant RI Awards to outstanding Rotarians in our District and to clubs who were successful in the recent nominations of RI and District Awards. I understand from PP Gladys Pang, the District Award Chair, that she received overwhelming number of nominations for all the categories of awards especially in the Community Service and Public Relations categories. I will also be recognizing members of my team who have done exemplary well in the tasks assigned to them. All the recipients would have been notified by now.

The other awards such as the Membership Awards, the Most Outstanding Awards for District officers, for clubs, club Presidents and Rotarians and recognitions for my District team will only be presented at the forthcoming Pan Borneo Meet to be held in Kota Kinabalu from the 25-27 May. The details of the Membership Award have recently been forwarded to all Assistant Governors and club Presidents.

See you all at the PETS/DA this weekend.

"REACH WITHIN TO EMBRACE HUMANITY"

**Best regards.**

**Hj. Zainie Abdul Aucasa.**