



FROM THE DESK OF THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR 18/2011-12

My Fellow Rotarians,

Greetings to all of you!

Kalimah and I have just returned from Siem Reap, Cambodia on Tuesday 10th April after four days of participation in the Operation Smile, Cambodia, a cleft lip operation project involving Cambodian children.

This year the International partners to this project were the Rotary Club of Likas Bay, Kota Kinabalu and the Rotary Club of Lu Chuo, Taipei, Taiwan. Both these clubs have been partners to this project for the last four years where 2,744 operations have been successfully carried out. The Rotary Club of Likas Bay was led by its President KP Lu. Also in the delegation were two doctors from Kota Kinabalu.

We wish to record our appreciation and thanks to President KP Lu and all members of RC Likas Bay for having invited us to be part of this very meaningful and enriching project. There were many good moments but the one that we will cherish most was seeing the smiles on the faces of the children, their parents, the doctors, the volunteers and of course us the Rotarians signifying that something good has been achieved. These many moments were beautifully captured in photographs now shown in our Facebook. We look forward to returning again next year.

It was just slightly more than two weeks ago that we concluded what was described by PP Angamuthu Rajoo, the Organizing Chairman, to be one of the most successful President-Elects Training and District Assembly (PETS/DA) in recent years.

Congratulations to all members of the Organizing Committee and to President Ng Swee Poh and all members of the host club the Rotary Club of Johor Bahru for an excellent job done. I was also told that the Spouse Program, chaired by First Lady Maria, spouse of President Ng Swee Poh, was a great hit with the ladies and not forgetting of course the many "hits" at our credit cards when the ladies were at the Johor Premium Outlets.

I am certain those who have participated in the PETS/DA would have returned richer in knowledge, wiser in thoughts and better prepared in carrying projects for their communities in needs. On the backdrop of these settings, we wish DGE Lee Kong Hwee and charming spouse Nana a great enjoyable year ahead.

During the Governor's Banquet at the DA, I presented various RI and District Awards to outstanding Rotarians and clubs and recognitions to District officers who have performed exemplary service during this Rotary Year.



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The recipients and photos taken of them during the presentation ceremony will be published in the March issue of the DG's Newsletter, due to be out soon.

The Membership Awards and awards for outstanding clubs and club officials and Outstanding District Officer Award will be presented at the forthcoming Pan Borneo Meet in Kota Kinabalu this coming May.

After the PETS/DA, Kalimah and I flew back to Sabah where I was invited to launch the 60th Anniversary Celebrations and the unveiling of the anniversary logo of the Rotary Club of Kota Kinabalu, my own dear club. It is the 4th oldest club in the District chartered on the 24th November, 1952.

This celebration, which is designed to overlap two Rotary years, will be filled with community projects and events and a banquet dinner celebration coinciding with its charter date. Congratulations to RC Kota Kinabalu for reaching 60 years old and may you continue to be great for many, many years to come.

Two days later we flew into Singapore to attend to the invitation of the Rotary Club of Pandan Valley for the official handing over of passenger van to the Assumption School, Singapore. The fund needed to purchase the van was raised mainly from the club's own members and from the sales of the "Rotary Rocks" CD's. Well done to President Lim Eng Hai, PP Choe Peng Sum, Rtn Elsie Chua and all at RC Pandan Valley for the great team effort akin to "many pieces to make a masterpiece", a slogan well written on the wall of the school.

Later, that evening we had a wonderful dinner and fellowship of good singing and musical presentations by the students and a dance in the school restaurant run by the students themselves as part of the course offered by the school. It was indeed an enjoyable evening. Again, the photos on my Facebook say it all.

While in Singapore, we also accepted the invitation to have fellowship with the Rotary club of Bukit Timah and met up with President Andre and some old friends as well as some of the i-members who were inducted last February under the Innovation and Flexibility Program with i - for innovation. Very nice to have met them and to know from Rtn Ashwin Subramaniam, the founder of Gone Cyclin, of how he and his young friends have been cycling to raise fund for sustainable organizations. They have cycled 400km through Vietnam and Cambodia, Timor Leste and from Singapore to Ho Chi Minh to Siem Reap and soon to Sri Lanka. I am glad to know that they are enjoying Rotary. Congratulations to President Andre and all at RC Bukit Timah for daring to do something different. We wish all of them every success.

Before leaving for Cambodia to participate in Operation Smile Project mentioned above, I went to Lahad Datu, a flourishing town in the east coast of Sabah, and together with AG



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Judy Yu, President Franco of RC Tawau Tanjung, PP T- Arulananthan and PP Radaha Krishnan of RC Tawau, we set up a Provisional Club there. PP David Lau was appointed the Protein Chairman and it is hope to have the club charter soon

I am pleased to announce that a new club, the Rotary Club of Johor Bahru Sentral, has been admitted to membership of Rotary International with charter date of 3rd April. Congratulations to all who made this a reality.

In the coming weeks, I will be attending to several invitations by clubs to grace their events including a mass induction of new members in Malacca on the 18th April. I was told about 11 to 12 new members are to be inducted in a joint ceremony by the three clubs there. This is indeed a very good development for Rotary in Malacca. While in that area, Kalimah and I will go down to Segamat to meet up with President Hong Kay Wee and their members and spouses and then later to Muar to meet up with President Dr. Senthil and his club members for a project launching and induction of new members.

As most of you are aware, the Pan Borneo Meet will be held from the 25th-27th May in Ming Garden Hotel, Kota Kinabalu. The registration form and tentative programs can be found in the District website. I invite all of you to make this event a great and a memorable one.

Not forgetting our young generations, the District Interact Conference will now be held from the 5-7th June at the beautiful Tanjung Sutera Resort in Kota Tinggi, Johor. I wish to thank President Wong Ban Seng and all members of the Rotary Club of Johor Centennial, together with the Rotary Club of Kota Tinggi and Rotary E-Club 3310 for agreeing to host this event. The Organizing Chairperson is PP Fancy Tan. Details can be obtained from her and also from the District Interact Chair PP Ronnie Tan. This is the first time this event is being organized by our District and I urge all Rotary Clubs to send their Interactors to take part in this meaningful event.

It is now almost midnight. I have to wake up early tomorrow morning to join hundreds of Interactors in their celebration of the International Understanding Bazaar where they will be wearing the national costumes, serving foods in stalls decorated with national colours and performing cultural dances of countries they represent for attractive prizes to be won. This is a yearly event hosted by the Rotary club of Kota Kinabalu.

And, in the late afternoon I will fly off to Bintulu to join the clubs there in their celebration of the International Night. An expectation of another great fellowship and meeting of more friends.

Bye for now and best wishes to all. I shall leave you all with some pictures from our latest activities mentioned above.



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Operation Smile, Cambodia



Having a rest after a hard day's work



At the District Assembly...definitely dancing is not our strong point



Launching of 60th Anniversary celebrations of RC Kota Kinabalu



Handing over of passenger van by RC Valley



Formation of a Provisional club in Pandan Lahad Datu, Sabah on the 2nd April 2012

"REACH WITHIN TO EMBRACE HUMANITY"

Hj. Zainie Abdul Aucasa