



FROM THE DESK OF THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR 19/2011-12

My Fellow Rotarians,

I thought before we leave for the R.I. Convention in Bangkok this 5-9th May, I wish to update all of you of the events of the last 3 weeks since my last letter to you and to share some of the events at the Convention which our District are going to be involved.

On the 15th April, Kalimah and I attended the International Understanding Bazaar hosted by the RC of Kota Kinabalu. This is a yearly event held in a shopping mall participated by all the Interact clubs under RCKK. This event is very lively and colorful as ever with different clubs decorating their tents, wearing the national costumes, cooking food and doing national dances of the respective country they represent. The public were thrilled by the high standard performances of the participating clubs which was a nightmare for the judges to decide on the winners.

The same afternoon I flew to Bintulu to attend the International Night there jointly organized by RC Bintulu Central and RC Bintulu and hosted this year by the RC of Bintulu Central. The hall was packed with Rotarians, their families and friends who were entertained to live performances by a group from the Philippines. I must congratulate President Allen Wong and the Organizing Chair Rotarian Rachael Diaz for a very well organized event.

From the 18-21 April, Kalimah and I were in Malacca and in the Johor towns of Tangkak Ledang, Segamat and Muar to attend induction ceremonies and witness medical community project.

I am indeed very pleased with President Gunarajah and all members of the RC Kota Melaka for having successfully met the challenge I put forth to them during my official visit on the 2 February that if they can bring in at least 4 new members I will personally come to witness their induction. They did just that but instead of 4 they brought in 8 new members!

The induction ceremony was also attended by members from the RC of Malacca, RC of Kota A'Famosa Malacca, RC of Muar and RC of Tangkak Ledang held in an elegant pool side setting spoiled by the abundance of delicious food and excellent music.

During that occasion we also witnessed the induction of 1 new member by the RC of Muar with 3 others unable to make it to Malacca but will be inducted at a later date. RC Muar under the excellent leadership of President Dr. Senthil and the guidance of PDG M. Jayasingam, has done superbly well with their membership recruitment with 16 members at the beginning this Rotary Year and due to reach 30 by this June.



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The next day we left for an overnight stay at Tangkak Ledang for fellowship with members of RC of Tangkak Ledang. The day was occupied with visit and short climb of Gunung Ledang with AG Sia Chong Teang and the evening spent attending their club meeting in their new office served with dinner of Nasi Briyani which was simply delicious.

PP Onn Kiat Keong was so kind to drive us the next day to Segamat with stop over at the Bukit Kepong to visit the site of the burnt down police station. The 2 hours' drive was made more pleasant by the sharing of knowledge by PP Onn of the background and history of those places we passed through as we drove down to Segamat. We thank him so much for his time and fellowship.

At Segamat, we were hosted to the famous Mustapha Chicken rice lunch by President Hong Kay Wee and his spouse Wong Siew Jin and his other members and then later on to an old coffee house for the famous Segamat coffee and roti kaya and buns.

During the evening we witnessed the induction of 2 new members, 2 more to be inducted at a later date. The dinner function was also attended by AG Joseph Tin who drove all the way from Kluang and President Dr. Senthil of RC Muar.

President Hong and his members in RC of Segamat have made strong effort to get new members. According to him it is a combination of team effort and strong determination by everybody in the club.

After the function, President Dr. Senthil drove us for the 2 hours drive to Muar where we have been invited by him to attend to their medical camp project the next day.

Despite the heavy downpour that morning, the crowd turnout was very good. Many, including Kalimah and myself, had our blood pressure measured, eyes tested and general screening done. The event finished at around 2 pm and after a good lunch of asam pedas and after a short rest at PDG Jayasingam's house we were sent to the airport for our flight to KK.

The whole of the last weekdays of April was free for us to attend to some personal errands and catching up with business matters. Rotary functions caught up with us again when on the Saturday 28 April I have to attend to two official functions in KK, namely the opening of the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) training (Part 2 & 3) in the morning and the Chartering of the UMS Rotaract in the evening.



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I was indeed pleased to see the overwhelming response by Rotarians to the RLI with 32 participants coming in as far as from Brunei Darussalam and Tawau.

They were fortunate to have the presence of PDG Fong Hoe Beng, PDG Edward Burongoh, DGE Lee Kong Hwee, PP John Chan and PP Leslie Sim to share with them on how to become an effective Rotary Leader. My congratulations to PP Philip Chong and his team for the effective manner in which they have successfully organized the RLI.

Both Kalimah and I enjoyed ourselves at the Chartering Night Banquet of the UMS Rotaract Club which I was told was organized by the Interactors themselves. The Vice Chancellor Datuk Seri Panglima Kamarulzaman Hj. Apong and his charming spouse and were also in attendance. That night, we saw the induction of the Charter President Nicholas Tay and his board of directors. They were all beaming with pride and honor and later surrounded by all their charter members who were equally proud to be part of this momentous moment. As I said in my speech that night, all Rotarians will be pleased to see another Rotaract club Chartered because it means more young people will benefit from the programs of Rotary International. We wish all of them the best in their undertakings. Congratulations to RC of Likas Bay for having chartered yet another Rotaract club. This is another addition to your long list of great achievements.

The next day we left for Singapore to attend the 3rd Anniversary Dinner Banquet of the RC of Sentosa. It was a grand occasion of excellent music and songs and good fellowship and where we saw President Victor Khoo sharing what the club has achieved in the past months and hearing what Incoming President Naresh Kalani hopes to achieve in the coming Rotary Year. Thank you for the invitation and keep up the excellent work especially in bringing in more people to share Rotary.

While in Singapore I also met up with the District Governor Professor Vesna Baltezarevic of District 2483(Serbia and Montenegro) and her 10 members delegation over a breakfast meeting hosted by President Angelia Tio of RC Serangoon Gardens Orchard. During the meeting we also signed an agreement for the establishment of an Intercountry Committee (ICC) for the promotion of fellowship and intercultural understanding. I have appointed RC of Serangoon Gardens Orchard as our host club to follow through with this agreement. Thank you President Angelia and Past President Leong Cheng Chit for the nice lunch while Kalimah was busy with her friends on the other side of town.

We flew back home that evening to be in time the next morning to join my club in the Heritage Tour of our past projects in conjunction with the club's 60th Anniversary



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Celebration. It was indeed a very meaningful and enriching experience and worth all the efforts to come back early for it.

The many beautiful moments of all these events were well captured by our old but reliable canon 95 camera and are now shown in our Facebooks.

Looking forward to more events in the coming weeks, with the Bangkok RI Convention just 2 days away. I was told that an estimated 35,000 delegates will be at the forthcoming RI Convention in Bangkok. Numerous programs of fellowship gatherings, the Opening and Closing ceremonies, the many plenary and breakup sessions, project handing over ceremonies, exhibitions and of course not forgetting the much sought after and must visit venue the HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP.

While we engross ourselves with all these activities, please do not forget to visit booth 1018 at the Convention Center to meet up with our District Preserve Planet Earth Committee Chair Assistant Governor Chew Ban Seng, Rotarian Maria Boey and President Dr. Senthil of RC Muar and his team displaying their environmental projects, namely the tree planting projects carried out in Muar and Singapore.

Remember also to be at the House of Friendship on the 6 May at 12.30 pm onward to join Rotarian Elsie Chua and her gang from RC of Pandan Valley representing our District showcasing their "Rock Rotary."

Watch out too for the breakup session on "Revitalizing Rotary Brand and Enhance Public Image" on the 9th May 12.30-2.00pm in room Sapphire 204 at the IMPACT where PDG Pratheep S. Malhotra or "Peter" will show and make reference to the success stories of the RC of Likas Bay in their use of the print media to promote the image of Rotary. PDG Peter is very thankful to President KP Lu and his members for contributing the materials needed for his presentation.

Kalimah and our daughter Ernie will also be attending this RI Convention. We will be arriving in Bangkok today (5 May) in the late afternoon together with a strong delegation of 44 Rotarians and their families from Sabah.

Immediately upon arrival, both Kalimah and I will be attending the 55th Anniversary and Installation ceremony of the Rotary Club of Dhonburi, which incidentally is the club of Past RI President Bhichai Rattakul.

On the morning of the 7 May, I will join RC of Marina City and their sister club in the Thai Scholarship and Flood projects both in Bangkok and Ayudhya.



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In the afternoon of the same day, I have been invited to deliver the opening address at the Rotary Action Group (RAG)-Dengue Control Meeting at the Fraser Place, Urbana, Langsuan. This project is the brainchild of PDG John Cheah and supported by our District.

While at the Convention, we will take the opportunity to meet up with our MG project counterparts in the Thai rehabilitation projects. Through the good office of District Governor Supong Chayutsahakij of District 3350 a luncheon joint meeting has been arranged at the Hongkong Fisherman Restaurant, Thong Thani Convention Center near Hall 8 on the 8 May. All clubs in our District who are involved in this Flood Rehabilitation MG projects are invited to attend with their spouses. Kindly confirm with PP Leong Chee Woh, please.

After the Convention, Kalimah and I have been invited to join the members of the RC of Garden City for a 3 days tour of the Thailand province to visit a number of their projects and handing over of contributions.

Back to home ground, we have the Pan Borneo Meet coming on the 25-27 May in Kota Kinabalu. Once again, I urge all Rotarians, particularly those from the island of Borneo, to register for this coming event.

It is encouraging to know that the number of Rotarians registering for the Meet are increasing each day. We are also seeing registrations coming in from as far as Singapore and other parts of our District and from neighboring District 3300. Let us all give our strong support to the Organizing Chairman PP Gerald Goh and his team and to all members of RC of Penampang and make this a memorable Rotary event in our District.

During this event we will also witness the ground breaking ceremonies of two big Rotary projects, one is that of the Heamodialysis Center, a project by the Rotary club of Penampang and the other is a Children Hostel by the Rotary club of Kota Kinabalu South.

The District Vocational Committee under its Chair PP Michael Yee will be organizing the District Vocational Seminar which will be held in 4 different locations, namely in Kota Kinabalu on the 25 May (a day before the Pan Borneo Meet), Singapore on the 2 June, Muar on the 3 June and Kuching on the 9th June.

This is the first time that such a seminar is being held which is pursuant to a resolution passed to this effect at the last District Conference held in Kota Kinabalu last November.



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I understand the programs and speakers have more or less being finalized and PP Michael Yee will make an announcement soon. Do book your date to attend this event. The District Membership Development Committee Chair PP Alex Eow is now calling all clubs to submit their latest membership strength in order that he can finalize the recipients for the various District Membership Awards which are to be given at the forthcoming Pan Borneo Meet.

At the same time, the figures given will also enable the District to gauge how well it has performed in its membership development and retention. Due to the tireless efforts of many clubs, early indications are that we are going to have a huge number of new members during this Rotary Year. I wish thank all those clubs for this excellent achievement. Sadly, this achievement is being pull down by some clubs whose effort in membership drive are much to be desired. A final membership status report will be given once it has been finalized.

I wish also to announce here that a committee at the Pan Borneo level under the chairmanship of PDG Datuk George Ginibun has been set up with the primary objective of enhancing the Rotary Movement within the Pan Borneo region. PDG Datuk George will make a presentation on the background, objectives and structure of this committee to the delegates at the forthcoming Pan Borneo Meet.

Will be back again with more updates after the Pan Borneo Meet. Until then, take care.



International Understanding Bazaar-
the winning presentation



International Night in Bintulu



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Mass induction in Malacca



PP Onn Kiat Keong outside the
RC Tangkat Ledang new Rotary office



The lonely walk up Gunung Ledang.
Photo courtesy of AG Sia Chong Teang



At the Lagenda Gunung Ledang Resort



With PP Oon at the Bukit Kepong
"Police Station"



Thank you President Hong and all at RC Segamat



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Thank you to the volunteers at the Medical camp



At the well attended Rotary Leadership Institute



Chartering Night of the UMS Rotaract Club



Cake cutting marking the 3rd Anniversary of RC of Sentosa



Exchanging of agreement with DG Vesna of District 2483(Serbia and Montenegro)



RCKK's Heritage Tour-At the Society for the Deaf.



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...the Maternity Center



...at the Mental Health Center



...at the Kota kinabalu Wetlands Center



...at the Rotary Hostel, KK General Hospital



... with the students at the Religious school,
Kampung Warisan

"REACH WITHIN TO EMBRACE HUMANITY"

Hj. Zainie Abdul Aucasa