

GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY LETTER

Rotary International District 3310 Berhad

April 2014



DG Chew Ghim Bok



My dear First Class teammates,

We are on the last lap. Now with barely three months left in our individual terms of office, I trust that you would have, by now, achieved or near to achieving the personal and club goals you have set for yourselves.

When you enjoy what you are doing, time passes very quickly. For the past nine months, thanks to the cooperation and enthusiasm of everybody, my journey as your District Governor has been most refreshingly enjoyable and richly rewarding. I hope you are enjoying your individual journeys as much as I have enjoyed mine.

Many clubs have started preparing their handovers to their new teams of club leaders. Some are already having joint board meetings with their incoming boards, ensuring a smooth transition. If you have not already done so, I urge you to start immediately. Do not wait till the last moment. A successful club is one that practices succession and strategic planning. Likewise, my district team also is gradually handing over the reins to the incoming district team.

In early March, we completed the training of the incoming district officers and assistant governors. The District Team Training Seminar (DTTS) was well-attended. Not only did the incoming district officers and assistant governors receive valuable updated Rotary information, they were also trained in facilitation and leadership skills. I should place on record our heartfelt thanks to Vanisa Lee and Past President Kenneth Leow who volunteered their professional services in the Train-the-Trainers (TTT) sessions.

The 24th Presidents-Elect Training Seminar (PETS) and District Training Assembly (DISTAS) successfully took place at KSL Hotel and Resort, Johor Bahru, 27-30 March. We had a record-setting attendance of more than 380 Rotarians, incoming club officers, and Rotary Spouses for DISTAS. There was full attendance of all Presidents-Elect during PETS. The Governor's Banquet had the highest attendance ever, with more than 440 participants. Well done, incoming Governor Haji Andre Suharto! Your team, with the hardworking District Trainer DGN Philip Chong and his equally industrious District Training Committee members, did an outstanding job.

Guest speakers PP Dato' Dr Siva Ananthan and Joyce Lim were most inspirational and entertaining. Congratulations to Organizing Chair PP Dolly Yeap, Host Club President Steven Pang, and all members and spouses of Rotary Club of Kulai, the host club, for an outstanding PETS and DISTAS. Everybody who attended enjoyed themselves and were full of praises.

May I add that it is customary that DTTS, TTT, PETS, and DISTAS are the responsibility of the incoming governor and his team. This year they have raised the bar.

During the Governor's Banquet, I mentioned that I had mixed feelings and was sad to note that my term as governor will soon be over. I know, however, that incoming Governor Andre will keep the flames of the district burning brightly and will 'Light Up Rotary' in the next Rotary year.

But our year is not yet over! We have one more important event ...

I should like to remind all of you to support our district's 23rd District Conference, which will take place at Bayview Beach Resort, Penang, 16-18 May. PP Nelson Loong of Rotary Club of Johor Centennial is the Organizing Chair. Please encourage your members, spouses, and families to attend. You can look forward to a great and enjoyable program for you, your spouses, and your families while having a wonderful weekend at Penang, a popular tourist destination. Lay over a day or two if you can and enjoy Penang's famous beaches and street food with your families.

RI President Ron Burton's Representative will be PDG Bear Lin Chun-Chao from RI District 3500, Taiwan. He will be accompanied by his wife Shu Chin. PDG Lin will give us inspirational addresses during the conference and the Governor's Banquet. He will also give us an update on the state of Rotary worldwide.

Past RI President Kalyan Banerjee will deliver the 2014 Governor's Lecture on Values. Learn how a Rotarian can imbibe Rotary's core values of service, fellowship, diversity, integrity, and leadership into their personal and professional lives, dignifying their occupations, and rendering *Service Above Self* to the community through the Avenue of Vocational Service.

David Bender, Director of International Fundraising, The Rotary Foundation, is traveling all the way from Rotary International Headquarters, Evanston, USA, to join us at the District Conference. He will present to us the latest updates on The Rotary Foundation and share with us the various ways we could give to the Foundation.

It is often said that the District Conference is the Governor's showcase. I will present my "District Progress Report" and highlight the achievements that we, as a First Class Team, had been able to accomplish during the year. I must emphasize that it is entirely through your wholehearted and dedicated support and superb teamwork that has made our year a tremendous success. Nobody can do it alone but together we did it – and I thank you for that.

I will also be presenting all the 2013-14 Rotary International, District, and Governor's Awards to deserving clubs and individuals. The awards presentation has always been the highlight of the Governor's Banquet. I know many of you will be looking forward to find out who the award recipients are and whether your club has scooped any awards. The more ambitious clubs will even be looking forward to receiving multiple awards. I hope you will be there to receive the awards in person and on behalf of your clubs.

This year, I am giving a special award to the most supportive Rotary Spouse, who is an integral member of the Family of Rotary. I believe that our Rotary Spouses deserve recognition as much as Rotarians for their innumerable silent sacrifices and the support without which a Rotarian's work would be hampered or incomplete. Please submit your nominations for this important new district award. I will present the award at the District Conference.

If you feel, as I do, that we have had a good year, make it a point to be in Penang to celebrate with me. Let us make this a big party. Let us end the year with a flourish and a splash. Let us make this a fun and happy occasion for ourselves, our spouses, and our families. Let us make this District Conference Bigger ... BETTER ... **BOLDER!** You can get more information on the District Conference and conveniently register online by visiting www.rotarydistrict3310.com/23rdcdc/.

I am happy to note that more than 50 percent of clubs have submitted and qualified for the 2013-14 Presidential Citation. Of these, half of them achieved the Presidential Citation with Distinction. This is a remarkable achievement. Congratulations!

That said, it would have been much more satisfying if more clubs had attempted to qualify for the Presidential Citation. As I have explained before, this is not a competition but an excellent assessment of your club's performance and accomplishments. If you have achieved your goals, why not reward your club members with the Presidential Citation, bearing in mind that without them you could do nothing?

"Waves of Hope Swimathon 2013," a project of Rotaract Club of National University of Singapore, has been selected as the Asia Pacific Regional Winner in the 2013 Rotaract Outstanding Project Award. Congratulations to these outstanding Rotaractors!

I am delighted to announce that Rotary International has selected Rotary Club of Singapore for the "Be a Vibrant Club" Award. Their story will be featured in an RI "Be a Vibrant Club" brochure that will be officially released during the 2014 RI Convention in Sydney, Australia. The feature is on Southeast Asian clubs. Quite a number of clubs in our district also qualify for this award but, as the saying goes, there can be only one winner. Well done, Rotary Club of Singapore, we are all proud of you!

I will be attending the 2014 RI Convention in Sydney. I am very happy to learn that a great number of you will also be there with me. For those who have not yet registered it is still not too late. Come, experience what excitement Down Under can really offer you. Join us and let your hair down (Down Under!).

In the past months I have been receiving very encouraging feedback from you through email. Please continue writing to me. Let me know what you think has gone right or wrong or whether certain things could be improved. Give me your honest feedback. Other than praises, I also welcome constructive comments.

With the remaining time in our fast vanishing term of office, let us soldier on and let us continue to **Engage Rotary, Change *More* Lives!**

Chew Ghim Bok
District Governor 2013-14