

District Governor Elect Philip Chong and Wife Len Nyuk

Summary report of International Assembly (IA) at San Diego from 18-24 January, 2015

Dear DG Andre, PDGs, Incoming Governors and fellow Rotarians

Len Nyuk and I have completed our trainings at San Diego from 18-24 January, 2015.

Our journey throughout the one week of the International Assembly at San Diego was very exciting and rewarding. As the incoming Governor, I'd like to take you through a brief tour of what we experienced by making summary report of the events and trainings that were held during the Rotary International Assembly 2015.

Friday 16 January

We left home for Taipei on Airasia 6.00am flight to join our classmate incoming Governors and their Rotary spouses from the 7 Districts in Taiwan. We all travelled to USA on the same day late afternoon, arriving Tom Bradley International Airport, Los Angeles 12.30 pm local time. From the airport, we all took a 24 seater coach to San Diego. The journey took two and a half hours, arriving around 6.00pm at Manchester Grand Hyatt hotel, the venue for the International Assembly. We had dinner and fellowship at their Seafood restaurant. We were exhausted after having spent more than 35 hours for the journey and slept early.



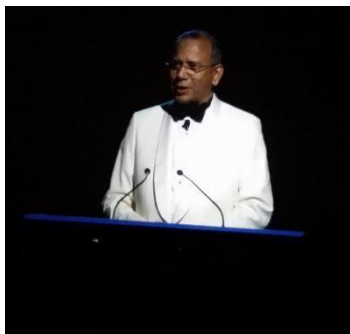
Saturday 17 January

Together with the Taiwanese Governors and spouses and also Bangladesh Governor Showket & wife we went to a famous 50 year old sea world in San Diego and enjoyed performances of sea lions.. The tour ended at 3.00 pm and we all went back to the hotel. Len Nyuk and I joined the Taiwanese group of Governors for a tour of the hotel meeting venue and breakout training rooms led by RIDE Fredrick Lin for the Taiwan group at 5.00pm. After completing the tour, we gathered for fellowship dinner at the nearby Cheese Cake Factory. I fell sick; vomiting and fever during the night.



Sunday 18 January

We started our day quite early for registration at 11.00 am. I wasn't feeling well and have taken some medicine. We collected our training manuals, name tags and kits and went for lunch. Then rest in the afternoon and at 6.00 pm attended the Opening Ceremony. It was a grand Opening Ceremony at the Seaport Ballroom that housed more than 2,000 delegates. The flag parade was fantastic with 200 over countries represented. The incoming RI President K.R. Ravindran unveiled the new RI Theme: **Be a Gift to the World** and followed with a very motivating and inspiring speech. It was indeed a very meaningful and motivating theme. It empowers and encourages us Rotarians the world over to use the blessings that we all possess to serve the communities in making the world a better place to live in. We all felt connected and engaged with this new theme.



The Opening ceremony ended with a good dinner and fellowship. Every dinner table was hosted either by a PRIP, current or incoming RI Director, Trustee or trainer. This is similar to what our district has been practising the last 5 years. It gives the opportunity for leaders to mingle and get to know their Rotarians better.

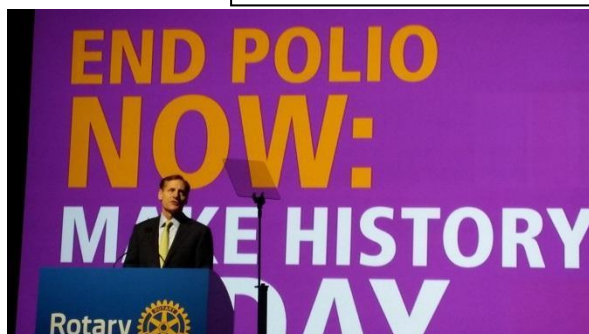
I was not feeling well and vomiting and fever continued during the night. I took some medication and prayed that I can get well for the trainings.

Monday 19 January

The one week intensive training started on Monday 19 January. I was feeling so excited and got up early to prepare for our trainings. I met many incoming Governors and their charming spouses at breakfast which lasted till 7.50 am. Len Nyuk and I were separated to attend our classes by 8.20 am. As I entered the training room, I met and got to know the trainer and RI staff Chonticha Yuari. We exchanged greetings, gifts and name cards. The incoming RI President Ravi ndran gave all the 538 incoming Governors a beautiful bag, theme tie and scarf for spouses and the theme tag. The beautiful goodies bags were placed at our allocated seats on the first training session.



First training session....Idea Exchange:The Rotary Roadmap



The day went on with the busy schedule; general sessions, and breakout sessions, idea exchange and sharing of experiences with fellow incoming governors from different parts of the world.

Luckily, I was able to attend all the sessions and did not miss any class in spite my illness. It was indeed a long day for Len Nyuk and me, but we enjoyed the trainings thoroughly.

Tuesday 20 January

We got up as early as 5.00am to prepare ourselves for another busy day of training. Again, we were seated separately like the first day of our training for both Plenary and Idea Exchange sessions. The participants were given different seats for plenary sessions and also assigned to different training room. This was great as otherwise many incoming governors will miss the opportunity to meet each other.



**With
Incoming
DG Siti
Zubaidah
D3300**



Lunch with RI President K.R. Ravindran 2015-2016 & Past RI President Sakuji Tanaka

We participated in the Cultural Exchange program. A booth was given for us to display our local products. We have brought along local handcraft souvenirs and tour brochures from the Sabah Tourism Board . Incoming Governor Siti Zubaidah from D3300 brought some Malaysia flavoured tit bits. Unfortunately, I could not help Len Nyuk to man the booth as I was attending classes in the afternoon. So, she had to do it by herself. Altogether, there were more than thirty exhibition booths from different countries all over the world (mainly from Zone 6B, 7A, 10B and other zones).



This evening was the Grand March for all Incoming Governors and their spouses. We all dressed up in our respective countries costume s. Len Nyuk wore a Malay Kebaya dress and I was sporting a local batik shirt. I have prepared flags for Singapore, Brunei, and Malaysia to represent our District 3310 for the parade. I was facing the same dilemma experienced by our DG Andre Suharto with the placard arranged by RI, stating Singapore only without mentioning Brunei and Malaysia. I have actually written to RI staff Chonticha Yuari before my departure to San Diego requesting the correct placard be provided for this year International Assembly. Unfortunately, the officer in-charge couldn't make it for us.



It was a splendidly breath taking display of colours when the incoming governors and spouses marched into the Ballroom passing through the RI VIPs and delegates. We enjoyed the grand evening thoroughly. The evening ended at around 10.30pm

Wednesday 21 January

Today I fully recovered from illness. Our trainings ended after lunch. It was free and easy for all of us in the afternoon and evening. Some incoming governors and spouses joined the host family program by local Rotarian. Len Nyuk went with the Taiwanese Incoming Governors' spouses and others for shopping at nearby places. I have decided to join the optional program for technology lab from 2.30 pm onwards. I learned a lot on the online tools in Rotary Club Central and New Invoice Process.



The hotel internet service was inaccessible for the last 2 days due to technical problems and was only resolved last night. However, today, the inaccessibility problem cropped up again during the afternoon Technology Lab session. I was frustrated by this lack of internet service. Nevertheless, I managed to post some pictures and sent a short message to PP Brown Pereira for onward circulation to our district egroup.

The evening ended with a sumptuous dinner hosted by PDG Dr. Arasu and spouse together with incoming governor Siti Zubaidah from District 3300 at a famous Royal India Restaurant in San Diego downtown.

Thursday 22 January

The day started with a General session 7 on Rotary's Global Service and followed by Idea Exchange: Securing Our Foundation's Future, Spouse Panel: Area of Focus and ended with General session 8 : Life Changing Service and Ideas Exchange: Using Global Grants to Make a Bigger Impact.



In the evening, we had buffet dinner followed by a Festival Night at the Seaport Ballroom. Again, we were all dressed in our countries beautiful costumes. It was a fun-filled evening.

Friday 23 January

The 1 week of intensive training went off very fast without realising this Friday was our last day of the 2015 International Assembly. As usual, Len Nyuk and I got up very early to prepare for the day. For the first time, we sat together for the General Sessions and Idea Exchange sessions.



The Closing Ceremony was filled with inspiring speeches and performances by promotion teams for the 2015 San Paulo Convention this coming June 6-9 and also for the 2016 Seoul Convention .

Saturday 24 January

We packed our luggage and checked out from Manchester Grand Hotel by 10.00 am. Together with the Taiwanese Incoming Governors and spouses, we had lunch at Seaport Village before leaving San Diego for Los Angeles airport . On the way, we stopped for shopping and dinner before taking our flight by China Airline at 10.30pm.



Group photo with Taiwan Incoming Governors & spouses before leaving Manchester Grand Hyatt



Manchester Grand Hyatt, San Diego





Home Sweet Home! “ Be the Gift to The World”

Monday 26 January

After having travelled more than 10,000 kilometres , we finally arrived at Tao Yuan International airport Taipei at 5.50 am on 26 January for connecting flight back home. We arrived Kota Kinabalu at 1.15 pm.



Arrived at Tao Yuan International Airport Taipei with classmate Incoming Governors & their spouses from Taiwan

In summary, the training programs were intensive and innovative starting from 8.30 am till 5.00-5.30 pm (certain days) and followed by fellowship dinners, Grand March during Governors Ball Dinner, Cultural exchange. I have learned new resources which I will share during the coming DTTS (28 Feb) PETS, SETS, TETS & DISTAS (26-29 March).

It was indeed long program each day, feeling tired/exhausted but very inspired and motivated when listening to all the inspiring good speakers at the general sessions. We also exchanged our experiences with classmate incoming governors from different parts of the world. Len Nyuk has enjoyed the spouse training programs too. It was really an eye opener for us when we felt the internationality of Rotary whereby 538 incoming District Governors and spouses from 200 over countries gathered for a common goals; that is to learn how to serve the communities better.

My apologies for being unable to do much postings of International Assembly (IA) news to all of you in real time because I fell sick since arrived, perhaps due to change to weather and also the long flight. The internet at the Hotel was not functioning properly too.

In all it was an exciting prelude to what we can expect in the year ahead. There's much to learn, much to share, so much to do, together. I look forward to meet each and every one of you; to join hands to serve communities, build friendships and “Be a Gift to the World!”