

DG'S VISIT TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF LUYANG ON 20TH OCTOBER 2011



Serious looking Rotarians hard at work.



Views of the Rotarians who were present at the meeting.



Lady Rotarians and spouses posing with DG Haji Zainie and First Lady Hajjah Kalimah.



President Lim Chee Dean accepting a gift from DG Haji Zainie.



A group photo for the album.

WORLD SIGHT DAY, KOTA KINABALU ON 15TH OCTOBER 2011



DG Haji Zainie at the entrance to the exhibition hall for the celebration of World Sight Day.



DG Haji Zainie with PP Dtk Lee Chuen Wan and other Rotarians at the opening ceremony of World Sight Day.



DG Haji Zainie and First Lady Hajjah Kalimah with members of the RC of Kota Kinabalu and family.



President KP Lu and PP S K Wong of Likas Bay at the World Sight Day.



District First Lady Hajjah Kalimah enjoying a light moment at the World Sight Day.

ROTARY FOUNDATION SEMINAR, KOTA KINABALU ON 8TH OCTOBER 2011



Organising Chairman PPKent Chau with his welcoming address.



A segment of the participants.



Some happy participants from the R C of Kinabalu Sutera.



AG Eddie Chung



PDG Abang Nawawi



Members of the Panel.



Some of the participants who remained till the end.



PP Alice Kunjan PP Dik Junior Pang PPLeong Chee Woh





ROTARY IS A JOURNEY

By Raymon T H Huang
Rotary Club of Singapore

We have our beginnings, and we have our ends. That is life. It begins and it ends. It is a journey, and each journey is different.

What is really important is not really the beginning as such – even if this is usually a much-celebrated event – nor the end, which is, naturally a moment of grief. What is really important is what happens, what takes place, what transpires, in between. It is this “in-between” that shapes us to be what we are in life and to do what we do.

So it is in Rotary. Our Rotary life – beginning with the induction – starts from that moment, filled with great enthusiasm and expectation, and noble intentions and eagerness to serve. The “end” varies a great deal. Like life itself, what really matters is what really happens in between. Because Rotary too is a journey, and a journey is a track from Point A to Point B. What we do as Rotarians during that journey – that “in-between” – shapes our life as a member of this great organisation.

Therein lies the similarity between life itself and Rotary life. Both are journeys – journeys of events, happenings, encounters of all kinds and manner, and of experiences big and small.

DG Zainie will testify to this, In his Rotary journey to various parts of the Rotary District he oversees, he will no doubt see and encounter experiences that are similar to those he encounters in life – the many different terrains and landscapes. Happily, I am sure, most of them are good and easy. Yet others will be less comfortable. His response and reaction will at times require him to be more selective in approach and his words more diplomatic, but always encouraging. All this would be part and parcel of his Rotary journey as District Governor.

For many younger Rotarians, Rotary can be both an attraction and a distraction. During the often hectic and sometimes halcyon days of their lives when they are trying to juggle between the immediate need to establish themselves or raise a family, and wanting to extend a helping hand to those in need, Rotary can be a difficult decision. There will be that “battle of wills” experienced – of an unwillingness to leave the comfort zone and the willingness to act out that innate spirit of charity that exists in many of us. There is too, that ever-present conflict between want and need: this applies to both life itself and Rotary. In both life and Rotary work there are always valleys, ravines and rivers to cross, as well as those peaks we have scaled and attaining pinnacles of success. In our Rotary journey of selfless service, we know it is not always across fields of flowers and pretty plains.

So we see the parallels. In both experiences, difficulties sometimes get you down, deeming your efforts as “failures”. I like what a prominent philosopher encouragingly said, “...failures are successes you have not achieved ...” At the other end of the spectrum, success often elates us to a point of completeness and complacency. But we know that a journey is seldom, if ever, really complete, because we know there is always that something beyond. Moreover, as someone correctly pointed out, “...success is sometimes the result of a fortuitous mis-step!”

The words of one of Singapore’s great founding fathers put it in the right perspective when he said, “We should not take success as a pinnacle, but rather as a platform from which to scale greater heights.” This is so true when applied to our work in Rotary, where a journey is never complete. This is actually what makes Rotary what it is today – a living organisation that puts into practice the spirit of “Service Above Self” on and on.

DG Zainie, in making special reference to this Rotary year’s theme of “Reach Within To Embrace Humanity”, says, “the ‘Reach Within’ begins at each Club ... and share resources within our District, and across regions, nations and continents.” That, indeed, is some Rotary journey.

And R I President Kalyan Banerjee rightly said, “All of us in Rotary are looking to change the world We believe the future can be better than the past.” That, indeed, would need some Rotary journey to accomplish.

That, indeed, is our resolve – to transform the world through the ideals of Rotary service. Knowing the world as it is today, it would be quite an undertaking – an effort that requires all Rotarians to put their shoulders to the Rotary wheel. It will be a Rotary journey that will be long, needing us to add, not just years to our life, but life to our years.

Community Project for Urban Poor Oct 8th 2011

Swinburne Rotaract Club

The Swinburne Rotaract Club organized a Community Project for Urban Poor at Sg. Apong on 8th October 2011. The project was a huge success with the participation of the members and with the support of Rotary Club of Kuching Central and Society of Kuching Urban Poor. The club was assigned to repair one of the houses in Sg. Apong as their project and planned to move on to other houses in the future.

Col (Rtd) Fabian Wong, the secretary of Society of Kuching Urban Poor was initially invited to discuss about the urban poor citizens in the Kuching area as the club wanted to do something different for their community service project rather than just visiting homes and buying food for the needy. The club members paid a visit to Sg. Apong to decide on the houses that need immediate attention. In the end, Mdm Sim Ah Siok's house was chosen by the club as her house seemed to be in the worst condition compared to other houses.

Madam Sim, a mother of six was struggling to live in a small house with a dilapidated and leaky roof. Due to this leaky roof, the family could not get electricity supply from SESCO, hence they had to use a car battery which was only able to light up a fluorescent lamp each day. Her husband recently met an accident in his work place and was bedridden. Her eldest son is the only one working to feed the whole family. The rest of the children are still of schooling age. They needed lighting in their house for the children to study, especially the son who will be sitting for his SPM examination.

Swinburne Rotaract Club had decided to get the roof fixed and to clean up her lawn and provide her extra space for her to set up a vegetable garden to enable her to earn some extra income. She seemed to be keen in gardening as there are quite a number of vegetables and fruit trees around her house. The club carried out a fund raising project by doing a movie marathon in the university for this project and raised approximately RM2,500 from the activity. The money was allocated only for the Sg. Apong project.

A day before the Project, a number of roofing experts helped the club to fix the roof and completed the work on the day itself due to good weather. The club spent RM1,245 for fixing the roof and kept the balance for purchasing soils, seeds, bricks, and other necessities.

On the Saturday morning, about 30 members of Swinburne Rotaract Club gathered at Sg. Apong with the help of some local members who helped to carpool the members including the Club Advisor, Mr Fadzli. The local members also brought tools such as hoes, hammers, and shovels to save on the cost. The day started with briefing of the Organizing Chairperson, Shangkar Ganesh explaining and delegating the task among them. The groups were then divided into two groups. One of the group are delegated to clean up Mdm Sim's front lawn and move the barrier which was used to prevent flood a further distance so that she can utilize more space to do her gardening. The other team led by Daryl Lim, a new member who was keen to build a mini garden for her so that Mdm Sim will be able to put her delicate vegetables to prevent them from being damaged by bad weather. All the members were passionate in community service as they worked even though it was drizzling. Mr Fabian Wong also attended and helped the club to clean the lawn.

After a simple lunch, the project continued and was duly completed by 5.00 p.m.

The President of Swinburne Rotaract Club, Nur Nasuha performed the final touch on the Mini Garden to officially complete our project. At the completion of the project, Mdm Sim now enjoys a proper roof as well as a wider garden and mini-garden. The project was keenly supported by the Rotary Club of Kuching Central, the Society of Kuching Urban Poor and the Club Advisor, Mr Fadzli Amin. The club spent a total of RM 1800 for the project and the remaining fund was given to the club.

