

ROTARY CLUB OF KUCHING CENTRAL CONFER VOCATIONAL SERVICE AWARDS TO OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

One of the uniqueness of Rotary is that its memberships are based on vocational classifications.

Based on RI recommended club constitution, a Rotary club is allowed to have 5 members with the same vocational classifications if the total membership of the club is 50 and below (or 10% of total membership if the club's total membership is above 50). This limit is to ensure that the club's membership will comprise a diversity of vocational classifications that represents the community where the club operates. Another reason is to ensure that there are adequate knowledge and skills from the different industries that will play significant contributions in humanitarian services projects undertaken by the Rotary club.

Consistent with past practices, the Rotary Club of Kuching Central looks out for outstanding individuals in the community who have devoted their vocation for the betterment of the society. This year, the club has identified two outstanding individuals who have consistently participated in the Rotary Club Kuching Central Avoidable Blindness projects in the form of cataract operations for the under privilege people of Sarawak.

The recipients are:

1. Dr Intan Gudom (Sarawak state consultant ophthalmologist and Head of Ophthalmology Dept., Sarawak General Hospital, Kuching) and
2. Dr Mohd. Aziz Salowi (ophthalmologist with special interest in cataract, Public Health Ophthalmology and Prevention of Blindness).

Both are attached to the Eye Clinic, Sarawak General Hospital, Kuching.

Dr Intan Gudom and Dr Aziz have immensely made significant contributions to the Sarawak society where they spent their valuable time during the weekend to join the Rotary Club of Kuching Central in providing free cataract operations for the people in Betong, Sri Aman, Serian, Lundu, Sematan and Pulau Brait.

They performed cataract surgeries from 7.30am until 10pm during many weekends without favour and glory only to fulfill their strong desire to lend a hand to the less fortunate members of the society. They helped many people in restoring their eye sights again.

"It is therefore reassuring and fulfilling to see the smiles on the faces of these patients when they were discharged after the successful surgeries", said Dr Intan.

The Rotary Club of Kuching Central has regarded both of them as staunch supporters specifically of the club and of Rotary in general.

It is therefore the fervent wish of the club that Dr Intan and Dr Aziz will continue to work with Rotary and the Rotary Club of Kuching Central specifically to provide cataract operations and other related avoidable blindness projects.

The vocational awards were presented by Rotary International District 3310 Governor Hj Zainie Abdul Aucasa to the recipients witnessed by President Juergen Ertl and Rotarian Alan Poh, the Chairman for Service Projects. "May such noble act and contributions inspire other ophthalmologists and specialists to do good for the community", said Governor Hj Zainie.



DG Hj Zainie presenting the Vocational Award Certificate to Dr Intan Gudom witnessed by President Juergen Ertl (2nd from right), AG Dr Leonard Ng (3rd from left), Service Project Chairman Rtn Alan Poh (left) and IPP Frankie Ong (project sub-committee chairman).

Reported by PP Haji Andre Suharto, Chairman, Public Relations Committee

53 YEARS IN ROTARY

I was born on the 14th November, 1930 and in the Chinese Zodiac Sign-Horse Year. After my Senior Cambridge, I joined the teaching profession for sometime, before joining AIA (American International Assurance Co. Ltd) in 1956. I have been with this Company for 55 years and now hold the position of Senior District Manager.

I was first introduced to the Batu Pahat Rotary Club in 1958. The President of the Club then was Mr. Lee Biow Lim, a bank manager of the now defunct Batu Pahat Bank which later became the Pacific Bank and is now owned by Maybank.

I was a “greenhorn” then when I was introduced to Rotary. Nevertheless, the moment I was inducted, I was made the “Sergeant at Arms” of the Club. For a moment, I thought I had been drafted into some kind of an Army Corp, not knowing that Rotary is a service club! As the years passed and having served in the different avenues of services in Rotary, I began to know more of Rotary history and its contribution to society. Rotarians help to build friendship and encourage peaceful existence internationally among people of different races, cultures and religions. Throughout my years as a member, I have made a lot of friends. Now Rotary is my passion. Being a Rotarian will not necessarily make you rich in the monetary sense but the wealth will often be in the form of having more friends, understanding people and human nature, thus making you a more compassionate and better person.

**By 4 times Past President
Rotary Club of Batu Pahat
Yap Kee Seng, PHF**



MY EXPERIENCE IN INTERACT CLUB



I was born 16 years ago and was given the name Michelle Loh Siu Yin. Interactor Gary Ryan, a senior student in my school introduced me to the Interact Club in 2009. He was the president then. He wanted me to take over the Interact Club of my school (SMK Taman Pelangi) after he leaves school. He said I had the capability to run the club. He saw the 5 core values of Rotary that are leadership, integrity, fellowship, service and diversity in me. I also received encouragement from my senior assistant of co-curriculum teacher, Mrs GraceYau. She said that it was a golden opportunity for me as I can increase my knowledge about the Interact Club.

The Rotary Club of Puteri Lagoon has approached our school in early 2010, offering to guide and sponsor the Interact Club of SMK Taman Pelangi. Our club was officially chartered on 10th October 2010 and at the moment, we have about 50 members in the club.

The Rotary District Governor 2011-2012, DG Haji Zainie has given me this golden opportunity to write in his Governor's Newsletter and I am honoured to do so. When I first joined the Interact Club, Rotarian Lim Chin Leong has invited me to attend the RYLA. It was my very first RYLA and I asked one of my close friends, Interactor Michael Naveen to come along. At RYLA, I learned a lot about Rotary such as serving the community, leading by example, service above self, changing lives, creating new opportunities and promoting peace and love. Meeting new friends at RYLA was the most amazing experience. The best part was, at RYLA you'll never feel alone.

After RYLA, I was invited to help out at a Car Wash Project organised by the Rotaract Club of Johor Bahru. Our Interactors have also participated in the Dengue Awareness Seminar, Vocational Visit to Johor Specialist Hospital, gotong royongs at Taman Melodies, Taman Sentosa and Taman Pelangi.

Our Interact Club has received awards for the Best Notice Board and Most Active Club in the school whereas I received the Most Active Student in the Club. I've also attended the Interact Officers and Teacher Advisor Training Seminar organised by Rotary Club of Johor Bahru. After all the Board of Directors have gone through the training, we have organized our club's very first Installation and International Understanding Day on 10th Sept 2011.

The most recent activity I have participated in was the International RYLA. It was the first International Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and I was honoured to have attended it. Not only have I met new friends after joining the Interact Club but I've also improved my academic performance. As the President of Interact Club Of SMK Taman Pelangi, I am proud of my achievement. My parents are proud of me and I'm grateful that they have supported me all this while. I will do my best to bring the club to greater heights.

Michelle Loh,
President 2011 - 2012
Rotaract Club of SMK Taman Pelangi.





OUR ROTARY EXPERIENCE A JOURNEY OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY



I joined the Rotary Club of Kota Kinabalu in 1990, some 22 years ago.

I have been given the opportunity to serve as President many times but I was not able to take up the responsibility until 2011. Being the President of Rotary Club of Kota Kinabalu is both an honour and a huge responsibility! It is an honour as our Club is the oldest Rotary club in Sabah and we will be celebrating our 60th Anniversary this year. It is also a pressure to serve in a Club which has high standards, good track records, vibrant and has a diversified membership of 64 consisting of the current District Governor, Past District Governor, many Past Presidents, Senior and Active members.

I am glad I was able to prepare and plan well before I took over the Presidency. Our Club's first project (Avoidable Blindness Campaign) was on the 3 July 2011, only 3 days after having taken office even though I was not installed yet. There was hardly time to warm my seat! All my Club's Past Presidents and members are very supportive and with their combined involvement (thanks to the Club Leadership Plan), our Club is able to do much more for the community. Our Club's teamwork is commendable. My term is special as I have the District Governor, Haji Zainie Aucasa who is from our own Club and I am able to know the District's heartbeat through him. I received double blessings as I have my Club's Past Presidents to guide me and a dynamic District Governor to motivate me !

I am enjoying myself as many good sizeable programs have been carried out successfully for each avenue of service notably The Avoidable Blindness Campaign, Rotary Community Corps, Vienna Boys Choir, District Conference, Secondary Schools Band Concert and now our 60th Anniversary celebration. This is possible only because my Board of Directors and Chairmen are self starters, open, proactive, objective in making decisions, willing to go the extra mile and cross over to other avenues of service to assist one another. Being a President, I have the privilege of getting to know the depth of our members hearts, understand one another better and help build better relationship and friendship.

There is never a dull moment as our Club has healthy fellowship and good activities. Some feel uneasy when we do not have Rotary meetings. This was felt by some members as we have a number of holidays on Mondays in 2011 and our Club has to cancel the meetings in view of the holidays.

"First Lady....." that's what some Rotarians or fellow anns will call me. I have always wondered what it would feel like to be called that. Will it bring a shudder down my spine or will it give a feeling of honour? Surprisingly, the shudder never was felt. But the honor that comes with respect is felt instead.

From the start of my husband's presidency until now, I am glad to have made more than just casual acquaintances in particularly with our lovely anns, as compared to the 21 years which I've only attended a minimal amount of events. Helping to organise a ladies choir; making phone calls and sending smses have helped greatly in knowing our anns, at least, by their names. Here, I would like to express my appreciation to all those who have helped to sing even if it is only for one time. I must say, you ladies are an exuberant lot! We can have as many as 7 people talking at the same time during announcement times! It was a great joy and privilege to have served you and alongside my dear charming anns! Bravo to you!

One thing that I would have liked to do more was to join in on Rotary projects in the weekends. But because I have to submit to a higher calling of serving as a pastor in my church on weekends, I was not able to join you in person, but many a times, I had joined you in spirit and good wishes.

I like to end with some words for future First Ladies, and that is, enjoy it while it lasts, after all it is only for a year... for the purpose of doing good to the community around us or even more importantly is to support our better halves. That, by itself is already an honourable calling that is given to us in life as a Rotarian's wife.

God's blessings always,

Lawrence and Margaret Thien
Rotary Club of Kota Kinabalu.