



Rotary

Governor's Newsletter

Voices 3310

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District Governor's Message

WORLD UNDERSTANDING AND PEACE DAY

All over the world today, Rotarians and friends of Rotary are celebrating 23rd February, the 107th birthday anniversary of the first club meeting of Rotary, the Rotary club of Chicago. This birthday of Rotary is called by different names. In some countries the week of 23rd February is celebrated as a "week of Rotary movement". In our District here in Singapore, like in many other Rotary Districts, it is celebrated as a World Understanding and Peace Day. In other parts of our own District, it is celebrated as an International Night. But by whatever name it is being celebrated, this day marks another historical milestone in the history of this great organization of ours.

Over the 107 years Rotary has not only seen the materialistic and economic achievements of the world but also its nightmares of social and human regression. But Rotary not only survives, it also thrives because we are multi-national, we come from different vocations and are the best in our professions. We are from different races and we are from different religions. We are unity in diversity, because in our hearts there is but one common purpose and objective and that is "Service Above Self".

Our mission is to help, develop and to dignify the human race and we do this not by commanding, demanding and punishing but by the sheer act of motivation and persuasion. We do it with a smile and open arms and to whatever we touch, we add values. We have the infrastructure to reach the grassroots level, because we are the grassroots. We are able to survive and establish ourselves and grow in these times of development and conflict because our founders and those great Rotarians before us have great vision and excellent leadership to enable us to serve mankind well.

The programs that we carry on together over these years all over the world is a clear demonstration of the power of Rotary International and the devotion and the generosity of Rotarians in wanting to do more. A famous Doctor once said: "the greater reward for doing is the opportunity to do more".

At this juncture, I wish to thank all those Rotarians, those unsung and unseen heroes at club and District levels who have done so much serve mankind. And, for those Rotarians and friends of Rotary for their support to Rotary Foundation in the forms of Paul Harris Fellows, Major Donors, members of the Arch D. Klumph Society and other forms of giving to enable Rotary International to finance its many community projects worldwide.

In these 107 years of our existence "serving mankind has been and will continue to be our business". Rotary remains dedicated to improving communities, relations between peoples, and world peace and understanding. Today, Rotary is one of the most prestigious, non-governmental organizations in the world.

Everyday we receive appeals, calls and requests from different segments of our society all over the world for help to meet their needs. We are able to answer these calls for help because we are the only non-governmental organization (through the network of our 33,000 Rotary clubs) capable of meeting more than 33,000 different communities worldwide everyday towards improving the lives of these communities, the lives of the people and towards better understanding and world peace.

In 1985, Rotary International together with its partners the World Health Organization, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the UNICEF launched PolioPlus, an ambitious program to immunize the world against the deadly disease polio.

As a result of this partnership, polio cases have dropped by 99% since 1988 and the world stands on the threshold of eradicating the disease. We heard recently of the good news from India...no new cases in the last 12 months! We are told of how successful we are in meeting the USD 200 million challenge by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation well before the deadline of July this year. So happy is the Gates Foundation with Rotary International that another USD 50 million was made available for polio eradication but this time not as a challenge. My fellow Rotarians, with all these recent achievements and those achievements of the past, we have earned ourselves an enviable reputation that we are regarded by many Governments, business entities and non-governmental organizations as desirable partners to do more good things in the world. We have since 1996 been a partner of UNESCO where Rotary is only one of three organizations in the world that has been accorded the status to perform on operational basis with UNESCO worldwide. We need to capitalize on this reputation. Build on it to become stronger and stay relevant for years to come. And, if we do that, instead of describing Rotary as "an organization of 1.2 million Rotarians in 33,000 clubs"... we should be saying, in the not too distant future, that Rotary is an organization of more than 1.5 million Rotarians in over 55,000 clubs... Why not, my Fellow Rotarians? We should all work on achieving this! And I believe we can!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ROTARY INTERNATIONAL.

Hj. Zainie Abdul Aucasa



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Growing up in Kampung Air, it seemed to me that the water village was the microcosm of the world we lived in. Apart from occasional foreys out of the village in the company of our elders, we stayed within shouting distance of our homes. Towards evening, you will hear overworked mothers yelling for their children to return home for dinner.

The village was inhabited by many different races. Bajaus and Chinese form the majority with a small minority of KadazanDusuns and others. By and large, the village is a remarkably harmonious place to live in. There was respect for each other's culture and beliefs and visiting each other was an accepted thing. There was always a big pot of sweet black coffee in our house for the constant stream of neighbours who would drop in throughout the day.

Our house was built halfway along one of the longest bridge in the village, sticking out about a hundred yards from shore to sea. Straddling the land and sea at the beginning of the bridge, there was a handsome wooden house occupied by a senior civil servant who enjoys great prestige. We knew them but seldom associate with them.

At irregular intervals along the bridge, smaller bridges led to houses on either side. Our house was one of the few that was painted in a rather nondescript colour. Right at the end of this long bridge, there were two houses of ill-repute. We were forbidden from venturing that far but we were always conscious of the fact that a motley crowd of men would visit one of the houses at night. Occasionally, there were quarrels and much shouting. Sometimes, there were fights and men would end up in the sea. Yet, everything went on the next day as though nothing had happened. According to my mother, the other house was an opium den that was occasionally raided by policemen.

Still, for us children, it was a great time to be growing up. We created our own games using rubber bands and bottle caps. We visit each other's houses and frequently stay for lunch and the occasional dinner. Dinner was always a special time. We would always take our food out and sit on the bridge as we ate. We would share about our day and throw food scraps to the fishes below us.

None of the families in the village could lay claim to being rich but we knew a sense of contentment that came from having so many friends around us. We shared our joys and sorrows openly.

The fact that every year, we celebrate World Understanding Month implies that the peoples of the world have lost the ability to understand and tolerate each other. I am hopeful that Rotary, through it's community service, will sow the seeds of love and bring about peace and understanding.

"Reach Within to Embrace Humanity"

PP Chio Cheng Leng
Chief Editor.





DG'S VISIT TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF MALACCA 1ST FEBRUARY 2012



Welcome DG Hj. Zainie and DFL Kalimah to Malacca...



Dinner reception. Also present was PDG Datuk Latif.



Presenting Paul Harris medallion and Certificate.



One for the album...till we meet again.



...enjoying the best cendol in town.



Tour of beautiful Malacca.

DG'S VISIT TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOTA MALACCA 2ND FEBRUARY 2012



DG Haji Zainie with AG Sazali.



Meeting with Interactors.



One for the album.



Exchanging of gifts.



Great food and great fellowship!



One for the album with Rotaractors.



Happy moments!

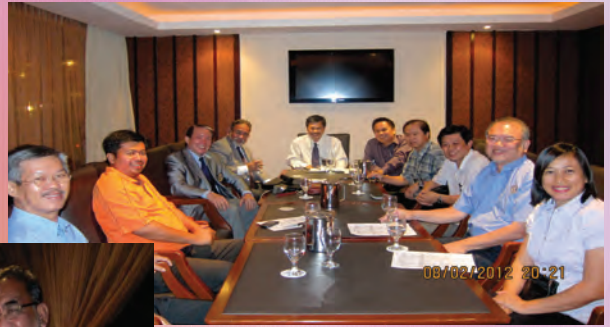


Thank you for everything!

DG'S VISIT TO ROTARY CLUB OF PENAMPANG 8TH FEBRUARY 2012



Meeting with President Michael Tai and his team. Everyone looks serious ...



Now, they all look much happier!



A gift to the President.



Everything looking serious again ...



But all's well that ends well!

DG'S VISIT TO ROTARY CLUB OF MIRI 9TH FEBRUARY 2012



Courtesy call to the Director of Miri General Hospital.



Courtesy call to the Town Mayor.



Exchanging of gifts.



Dinner reception.



Presentation of gifts.



President Michael and his Board of Directors. Also in picture is AG Hubert.



Exchange of gifts.



And one for the DG Haji Zaimie too!



Goodbye till we meet again..Thank you.