

ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE TRAINING, KOTA KINABALU, 28 APRIL 2012

Rotary Club Leaders in Sabah & Brunei attend Rotary Leadership Institute Training

District Governor Haji Zainie Abdul Aucasa of Rotary International District 3310 convened a high impact leadership training for more than thirty (30) Rotary Club Leaders from across Sabah and Brunei at the Sabah Golf & Country Club on Saturday 28th April, 2012. I am proud and happy for such overwhelming response to the Rotary Leadership Institute and this shows Rotarians are prepared to improve and expand their Rotary knowledge and leadership skills in order to serve the communities, said the District Governor Hj. Zainie.

This Rotary Leadership Institute Part 2 & Part 3 leadership training is being conducted in Malaysia for the very first time and all the participants said that they have benefitted tremendously from it.

Led by Past District Governor Edward Sung Burongoh, this leadership training was conducted by RLI Faculty Trainers District Governor Elect Lee Kong Hwee from Pontian, Past District Governor Fong Hoe Beng & Past President Leslie Sim from Singapore and Past President Dr. John Chan from Kuching.

The RLI leadership training is a structured programme of the Rotary Leadership Institute consisting of 3 parts. Selected Rotary Leaders are required to attend all three parts followed by a final Faculty training in order to graduate and conferred as Faculty Members.

Organising Chairman, Past President Philip Chong from the Rotary Club of Likas Bay said that the Rotary Leadership Institute is fully endorsed by Rotary International and it is very much in line with the philosophy that the good humanitarian works of Rotary begins with good leaders.

PP Philip Chong
Organising Chairman
Rotary Club of Likas Bay



District Governor Hj. Zainie Abdul Aucasa delivering keynote address at the Opening Ceremony of RLI



Past District Governor Fong Hoe Beng facilitating at the RLI



(Top and bottom: Group A and Group B participants doing case study exercise.)



Group A Participants listening attentively to Past President Leslie Sim



Group photos.....(seated from L-R) Rotary Club of Likas Bay President K.P. Lu, PP Dr. John Chan, PDG Fong Hoe Beng, PP Philip Chong, DG Hj. Zainie Abdula Aucasa, PDG Edward S Burongoh, DGE Lee Kong Hwee & PP Leslie Sim

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT & FUND RAISING, ROTARY CLUB OF TAWAU, 24 FEB. 2012

Chartering of First University based Rotaract Club in Sabah by Rotary Club of Likas Bay

On 28 April 2012, the sponsoring club the Rotary Club of Likas Bay has created history by chartering the first university based Rotaract Club in Sabah! This is the second Rotaract Club chartered by the Rotary Club of Likas Bay. The first is the Rotaract Club of Likas Bay.

The Chartering and Installation Ceremony was graced by District Governor of District 3310 DG Haji Zainie Aucasa witnessed by YBhg. Brig.Gen.Prof. Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Kamaruzaman Hj. Ampong, the Vice Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sabah and the President of the sponsoring club, Rotary Club of Likas Bay KP Lu. Also present were Formation of Rotaract Club of UMS Special Committee Advisor PP Philip Chong, Formation of Rotaract Club of UMS Special Committee Organising Chair Rtn Gwen Vu, New Generations Service Director Rtn Juliana Tokuzip, UMS Lecturer Advisor Dr. Janie Liew-Tsonis, District New Generation Service Chair PP Leslie Sim, Past District Governors, Incoming District Governor, District representatives, Rotarians and spouses, UMS lecturers and Rotaractors from various clubs.

The Rotaract Club of UMS new board of directors was led by Charter President Nicholas Tay. There are currently 90 charter members in the club, one of the most sought after club in UMS. Even before the Chartering ceremony, the Rotaractors from UMS had already participated in a number of Rotary activities and just a week before the Chartering Night organised a talk on "Softskills" participated by more than 200 UMS students.

With such enthusiasm shown by the Rotaractors from UMS, in his keynote address, District Governor Haji Zainie threw a challenge to the newly chartered Rotaract Club of UMS to organise an entrepreneurial competition among its 90 charter members. The winner would be awarded with RM3,000 cash as seed money to start his or her business venture. In response, the Vice Chancellor of UMS Brig.Gen.Prof. Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Kamaruzaman Hj. Ampong fully supported the challenge by granting another RM3,000 to the Rotaract Club of UMS.

The District Governor also noted that the Rotaract Club of UMS is poised to achieve the three main Rotaract objectives which are (i) to develop professional and leadership skills, (ii) to emphasize respect for the rights of others, based on the recognition of the worth of each individual, to promote ethical standards and the dignity of all useful occupation and (iii) to provide opportunities for young people to address the needs and concerns of the community and the world.

President KP Lu of the Sponsoring Club of Likas Bay in his message said that he believed that in the years to come, there would be a substantial increase in the membership of Rotary in Sabah and Malaysia when all these fine young Rotaractors from UMS graduated, joined the workforce and become leaders in their own field.

Prepared by

Rtn. Gwendolen Vu, Chairperson

Special Committee for the Formation of the Rotaract Club of UMS



Handing over of Charter Certificate to Charter President Nicholas Tay and unveiling of the Club logo witnessed by President K P Lu and VC Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Kamaruzaman Hj. Ampong.



The Charter members.



Charter President Nicholas Tay introducing his Board of Directors.



One for the album..



The head table.



Celebrating the momentous moments...



Rotaractors showing moment of happiness



DG Hj. Zainie and DFL Kaliamah holding the guests list, flanked by UMS Rotaractors (left) & Pres. K.P. Lu & PP Philip Chong (right)

THE PRESIDENTIAL “HOTSEAT” - A YEAR IN REVIEW



When I was first approached by DG Zainie to write a piece about my year as President, I was not really sure what I could say. But after a short while I realized that there is a lot you can pass on to others about your time in the “hot seat”. So, where to start.....(at the beginning of course!).

I had been a member of RC of Bukit Timah for around 7 years when I was put forward as PE, and with us being a small club (16-20 members at the time), most of the members have already had their turn as President. Each year I would be asked “are you able to stand as PE?”, and I would answer: “No thanks, I am not sure how long I will be staying in Singapore, and I travel a lot”. Then I made the fatal mistake of being away for the AGM – after returning from overseas I had been voted in as PE for Rotary yr 2010-11! What could I do? I sat back and rationalized it, “How hard could it be?” “It’s 18 months away – a lot can happen by then”, and accepted the situation. There is a famous quote by Shakespeare: “*Be not afraid of greatness: some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon ‘em.*” – I was definitely in the latter group in this case!

Time passed, and then around the end of 2010 (6 months before my term) things started to heat up – the emails started! There was a constant barrage of emails regarding the 2010 PETs/DA. Then all the books/materials arrived from the AG, and then PETs – hey, I still had 4 months before I was in the chair, what was going on here?

The realization then hit me – I better start some planning, and lots of reading (this wasn’t going away). My time of ‘PE innocence’ was gone! I dutifully attended PETs, and must admit I found the whole process somewhat daunting – there was so much to learn and absorb, it was overwhelming, but there was fantastic fellowship with the other PE classmates.

Now, at the time I was given several pieces of advice by the incumbent President, and two of these are important for me to pass on:

1. Don’t forget to buy a set of pins for your incoming BOD (and a gift for your PE)
2. Set up a new separate email account for your time as President (this should ideally be done well before the PETs, before your email address is distributed to District and RI as the incoming President) – if you don’t do this, you will receive heaps of spam email to your normal email address!

When I got back from PETs there was a lot to keep me busy: Joint Board Meeting; planning the year ahead (meeting program, community projects, etc); organizing the installation. Then there was trying to get everyone financial (yes – some Rotarians can be quite slack in making their payments), and then making some hard decisions to clear out ‘deadwood’.

Then, before I knew it, I was in the chair, presiding over the Club. When you are in the role, it’s amazing how Members will look for your guidance on a whole range of things you haven’t had to think about before: some straight forward, some not so. At times I thought I needed the ‘wisdom of Solomon’ (wanting to make the best decision for everyone on everything) and the ‘patience of Job’ (and by rights I am not the most patient person!). But I hung in there – remembering that all of us Rotarians are doing this as our own time, receiving no payment, and we do it because we can make a difference in the World – so I decided to, as they say in those motivational emails, “Don’t fret the small stuff”!

After only a short time in office we had the DG’s visit to our Club, and one of the best attendances for a very long time – why couldn’t we do that every week?

One thing I forgot to mention earlier, is that our Club had been selected to participate in one of the three RI Pilot Programs starting July 2011 (over 3-yrs) – ours being “Innovation & Flexibility”, which we applied for with the express intent of setting up a new class of membership to try to attract young people to become Rotarians.

This meant that for the first six months of the Rotary year we were extremely busy with our major International project (our signature project for the year) and also trying to set up and get agreement on this “new” class of membership under the Innovation & Flexibility Pilot (we called it i-Member, with “i” for innovation). It took a large number of emails, drafts, and revisions to then setup what Members could accept as a reasonable basis for this new class of membership, and after 4.5 months of going around and around we had a version ready for an extraordinary meeting - and it was then approved. Then within the next month we set up a meeting with a number of people we felt would be interested in this new “i-Member” class of membership and invited around 10 of them to our meetings, and floated the concept with them. These were mostly people who had been involved with our main project for the last two years through the Gone Cyclin’ Initiative (bottom line was 4 people instantly saw a benefit and agreed to become Rotarians that night, and within another 4 weeks we had attracted another 4 of the people). So we now had 8 new i-Members, all under 30yrs of age, who wanted to join Rotary. We inducted these 8 young i-Members as Rotarians in February, and it was a great feeling to be able to do so, and increase our club membership in one night from 17 to 25! (I mentioned a little about the new i-Member class of membership at the DA at the membership plenary session, but if you would like to find out more, please contact me.)

Having returned from my second PETs (that’s right – I’m staying on as President for 2011-12), I must admit it was much easier the second time around. But I know what you are thinking – why stand for two years as President? My answer – WHY NOT! (I wanted to maintain some consistency during the Pilot program, and it’s not such a bad idea in the first place – would we elect politicians for one-year terms?)

So what have I learned in the last 10 months as a President of a Rotary Club:

- You can’t please everyone all the time!
- “Don’t fret the small stuff”!
- Maintain contact with members who are not active – the more they drift away without contact, the harder it is to get them back into active service.
- Try to do things that are different, “think outside the box” as they say, be “innovative” (and I mean really different, not the typical Rotary way of incremental ‘different’) – the famous author of the classic fiction book “2001 – A Space Odyssey” (which later became an iconic film in the 1970’s) Arthur C Clarke said “*The only way of discovering the limits of the possible is to venture a little way past them into the impossible.*”
- But above all, HAVE FUN!

André du Plessis
President RC of Bukit Timah

MY EXPERIENCE AS PRESIDENT OF R C OF MUAR



I joined Rotary Club of Muar 3 years ago when PDG Jayasingam invited me to revive the club together with other new members. Rotary Club of Muar was in the stage of being axed as it only had 4 members for the past 2 years.

My Rotary experience started when I join my school's Interact Club when I was 16 years old. But, I have been a Rotarian in heart for the past 34 years although I will 35 years old this May. You know why? My late father was a Rotarian and he inspired me to be one. He became the President of RC Muar in 1980/81 and helped the local community as much as he can.

In the first meeting to the revive RC Muar, I was elected as the President Elect. Before I realized it, it was my turn to be President. I was given a huge task to bring up the club's membership, public image and community projects.

Thankfully, I had a good supportive group of Rotarians in my club that helped me to bring the club to what it is today. In the name of continuity, Rotary Club of Muar has again requested that I continue for another year from the desks of the President to complete projects undertaken.

Our club membership has increased to 25 members and hopefully to 30 before 30th June this year. We had a massive 8 Rotarians induction at last year's Installation.

We have done many projects to serve the community. We have planted 2121 trees in the past 2 years and planning to plant another 1212 trees this 12th December 2012. We have donated about 20,000 dictionaries to the students of primary schools in Muar and Ledang, Johor with the help of our sister club RC USJ. We will be getting in a week or 2 RM50,000 from CIMB Foundation to buy lenses for patient undergoing cataract operation in Hospital Muar.

During all the projects, we were able to increase the awareness of Rotary to the public of Muar.

We in Muar always have a great time during our meetings and the fellowship afterwards. Just ask DG Zainie. We in Muar truly enjoyed his company and not forgetting the wonderful fellowship of DFL Hajjah Kalimah..

What a great Rotary year it has been. I have learned a lot through Rotary.

I would like to thank the PDGs, Past Presidents, Rotarians and their family, and everybody else for the support given to Rotary Club of Muar generally and to me personally in order to make good our promise in Rotary to improve the community around us and to improve ourselves as better people.

The reigns of the President moves along every year but the true reign is that of Rotary. The great wheel of Rotary lives on long after us and it reminds the whole wide world out there that we truly care.

As I look forward to serving these great wheels of service in the years to come. Let's all look forward to a fun-filled and meaningful service to mankind.

Yours in Rotary
Dr Senthil Doraisamy
President 2010-12
Rotary Club Muar

