



NEWSLETTER

ELECTED OFFICERS ATTEND DISTRICT TRAINING ASSEMBLY IN SEREMBAN



President Elect Hery and Secretary Elect Gudrun attended the 80th RI District Training Assembly in Seremban which took place from 25th to 27th April



President Elect Hery and District Governor Kirenjit Kaur



PEs from Group 1 headed by Assistant Governor BH Lee, Left to Right:
PE Hery - Langkawi, PE Sim - Kulim , AG BH Lee, PE Dr Bernard - Sungai Petani, PE Belinda - Alor Star

President Elect Hery and Secretary Elect Gudrun travelled together by car to attend District 3300's 80th Rotary International Training Assembly held from 25th to 27th April at the Royale Bintang Resort and Spa in Seremban. Your correspondent interviewed PE Hery upon their return to learn a little about the event and their experiences.

The main aim of the Assembly was to train incoming 2014-2015 officers. PE Hery explained that the basic administration requirements were clearly set out in the club officers' 'kit' which included a booklet listing their duties. However, the Assembly looked beyond good administration, as illustrated by the lively keynote speech given by Rotary International Director P T Prabhakar from Madras which focused on leadership. Apart from the plenary sessions, our two incoming leaders attended various training workshops which covered topics such as the club bulletin, youth exchange, and how to deal with the media.

You'll be pleased to hear that not all their time was spent on serious study. The ice-breaking Fellowship Dinner on their first evening had a Hawaiian theme, but Hery did not divulge whether they really did wear coconuts and grass skirts! On the second evening, prior to the District Governor's Dinner, the assembled Rotarians were treated to a laughter therapy session. Apparently laughter, even fake laughter, releases stress-busting endorphins which make you feel happy and relaxed. During that dinner DG Datuk Dr Mohinder Singh introduced the Incoming District Governor, Kirenjit Kaur, and installed her as the new DG. She is the first woman to hold the top job since Rotary started in our district 85 years ago. It seems appropriate that RCL has also elected a woman to our top job, although it took us just one year, not 85.

Finally, PE Hery said she and Gudrun benefitted in a variety of ways over and beyond the training they received. The Assembly gave them a much better understanding of Rotary in a global sense; it gave them an excellent opportunity to network with Past Presidents, with District Governors, and with other Rotarians; and they thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship and social side of the gathering.

MAINTAINING THE MANGROVE MOMENTUM

Mid-month, David, Bas and Preethi met with LADA to follow up the first stage of our successful Kilim Karst Mangrove Clean Up Project. David's subsequent letter to LADA noted that: about 1500 volunteers participated; about 4 tons of rubbish were collected; 77 boats were used; RCL contributed RM40,000; and LADA contributed RM20,000. The collaborative nature of the project, which saw RCL working with LADA and with NGOs, including FLAG, was key to its success: the whole really was greater than the sum of the parts!

David reiterated that the main purpose of the ongoing clean-up project is to raise awareness of the damage done to the environment by irresponsible dumping of waste, especially plastic containers and plastic bags. To counter the lack of awareness he highlighted the need for continuing education through schools, colleges and work-places.

RCL hopes to form a steering committee with LADA to work towards making "*Langkawi, the cleanest, greenest island on the planet!*" Early initiatives proposed by RCL include: a 'no plastic-bag day' in each of Langkawi's main supermarkets, promoting the use of re-usable shopping bags, and the installation of 30 attractive sign boards in the Kilim Karst Geopark with clear and simple messages exhorting passersby not to litter and to stick to the 5 knot speed limit.

Photos:

Top: LADA CEO, YBhg. Tan Sri Khalid Ramli with Rtms Sunil, Gerard and Sachie, and Maria and others.

Centre and Bottom: Photos submitted for the competition by a 15-year old MRSM student. We have also received an essay from a 17-year old home-schooled student.



TUBA SCHOOL VISIT - thanks to Marcel and Julie for this article and photos



On April 23, 2014, Rotary members from Langkawi, Julie and Marcel, along with Mr. Jackson from an Australian Rotary youth club, visited the Rotary-adopted high school on Tuba Island during the English Activities Day.

The school gave the Rotary members a very warm reception. This welcome continued throughout the day as they met staff and students, were shown around the school, and were given a tour of the island.

The special activity day was organized by the English department and succeeded in involving parents, teachers and students in dynamic interactive activities to encourage speaking, reading and writing in English.

Selected groups of students rotated from one activity to another with the assistance of teachers and volunteers and had a great time. The other students were given word find puzzles. Julie also led story telling with the girls during the mid-day break.

The school was very thankful for the 300 Ringgits offered by Rotary to cover for prizes for the word find and other activities. A book for the library was given to commemorate the visit.

The school renewed its wish to host occasional native English speakers. Consequently, Julie committed to participate in a few sessions.

RCL was also invited to give a short presentation on Education day at the district office on Langkawi Island on May 16, 2013.



As Salam Orphanage

The Charity Club of Langkawi told us about some desks, chairs, and notice boards that were available in Kuah. Thanks to Rtn Suresh these were collected and delivered to the orphanage during last month. We still hope to provide them with more learning and recreation resources, so if you know of any surplus computers, appropriate books or games equipment, please remember As Salam.

Calendar for May

Meetings each Monday evening at the Frangpani Hotel, Pantai Tengah. Meet at 7pm for a sunset fellowship meal; meeting starts at 8pm.

To make a presentation please contact our secretary Sachie: Tel: 0124215587

To contribute articles or announce events please contact Hery deHaan at herydehaan@hotmail.com or 0147456338 or 049551025