Outgoing President's Speech at Installation Dinner

Your Royal Highness, ladies and gentlemen,

The Rotary Club of Kuala Lumpur Di Raja has had yet another eventful and hectic year. The Board of Directors worked very hard. Our weekly bulletins went electronic. Our Club won the District award for the best website. At our regular weekly meetings there was more fellowship. Our programme chairman organised good speakers. 7 new members joined our club - they are our hope for the future.

The increased Club subscription stood us in good stead. Being the District Governor's home club we were on our toes. We also had the burden, pleasure and honour of organising the District Conference. With 400 Rotarians and 82 spouses attending, the District Conference went off beyond expectations.

Our vocational service suffered a setback but we pulled off 3 projects. Community service saw a great deal of activity. This Rotary year our club paid a great deal of attention to young people. An event covering 4 avenues of service was organised – the Festival of Music, a talent showcase of traditional instrumental music. The Festival was intended to make our society more cultured. On 23rd February 2004, 160 boys and girls aged between 10 to 23 years played traditional instrumental music in Malay, Chinese, Indian and Sabah Sarawak sections at the City Hall Auditorium. This coincided with the first day of the 100th year of Rotary. The first, rather than the last, day of an auspicious year is celebrated the most in the East. This project won a District Award for best project for Service to New Generations. The finals were graced by Your Royal Highness, and the winning teams went to Singapore to stage a community service concert for more than a 100 elderly and sickly persons at the Home for the Aged Sick in Hougang Avenue 1. This became a twin club project with our sister Rotary Club of Singapore. The proceeds of 7,500 US Dollars went to polio plus, a Rotary International project to eradicate polio from the face of the earth.

Our club continued to distribute wheelchairs to the sick and infirm. We carried out a joint project with the Rotary Club of Ipoh Greentown and helped 16 poor patients with eye problems to get treatment to avoid blindness.We had a feeding programme for 20 children in the Tamil school in Sentul whose parents could not afford to give them lunch before afternoon Science and Maths lessons in English. Scholarships worth RM 18,000 were given to 90 poor children in 5 schools in the low income areas in Kuala Lumpur from our scholarship fund. Our club donated a van for young people with learning difficulties. We donated a 29' television and DVD set to the Sungai Lui village to help the Malay children in the village to learn English through this teaching aid. RM3,000 worth of equipment to each of 5 handicapped children's homes: Rumah Harapan, Cheras Community Centre for disabled children, Tasputra Perkim Rehabilitation centre, Temerloh Disabled Children's Home and the Impian Home for autistic children was given by the club from the Handicapped Children's Welfare Fund. We gave relief aid to flood victims in Baling Kedah and earthquake victims in Bam, Iran.

In international understanding, we have His Excellency Juergen Staks the German Ambassador as an active member of our club. When a German newspaper classified Malaysia as a medium risk country for tourists, His Excellency applied the 4 way test and issued an immediate statement to refute that in the true Rotary spirit. Assistant Governor Deepak Agrawal and his wife Minaxi from the Rotary Club of Rajkot, Gujarat, India were hosted by Rajes and I at our home for 7 days in a Rotary Friendship Exchange programme.
Rotarians from the Rotary Clubs of Bangkok, Singapore, Bombay, Makati in the Philippines, Taipei Southgate, Hatyai Nakarin in Thailand and Raffles City, Singapore visited us to promote international understanding and goodwill. The interact clubs under our sponsorship were all active – some were exceptionally good.

International Understanding days were celebrated by all the schools by staging special events. One interact club did an exchange visit with Northern Thailand. I thank the teacher advisers and principals for their co-operation. Fellowship was celebrated for all major festivals – Hari Raya, Chinese New Year and Deepavali. Service meetings and projects also had fellowship programmes.

Our club’s expenses were spent within budget and a healthy situation is handed over to the next board. I would like to say a Big Thank you to all the Board members, Rotarians, their Anns and friends for the help rendered. Without the help of the other members, the Board and I could not have done any of what was done.

It is now my pleasant duty to pass on the baton of leadership of this prestigious club to our incoming President. Dr Lee Hock Bee was born in Kuala Lumpur. He studied in the St Johns Institution and obtained his medical degree in the University of Malaya. He then proceeded to the United Kingdom where he obtained his qualifications as a specialist in surgery. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh. He was a lecturer in Surgery at the University of Malaya before he became an Associate Professor. He is now practiseing as a general surgeon in the Klang Valley. He is married to Juanita and they have 3 children – daughter Farah and sons Chung Han and Chung Howe. I wish Dr Lee Hock Bee and the incoming Board every success.

Photos from the 77th Installation Banquet
Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Saturday 26 June 2004
Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Kuala Lumpur DiRaja

MC PP Stuart pack dressed as Prof Dumbledore

MCs Rty Ann Jessie Wang and PP Stuart Pack in more traditional attire

Inner Wheel Club of KL members and Rotary Anns in festive mood

Dr Sharmini Chetwode, PP Ramli Ibrahim and Ann Ainol

Mr & Mrs Michael Au-Yeing and Mr Steve Foster

Guests from HSBC Bank Malaysia

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Notices
Farewell Dinner for Rtn. Juergen Staks

There will be a farewell dinner for His Excellency the Ambassador from Republic of Germany to Malaysia Rotarian Juergen Staks & Rotary Ann Monika Staks who will be leaving Malaysia for Rotarian Juergen Staks’s next posting as Ambassador to Zagreb, Croatia.

Details of the fellowship are as follows:
Date : Thursday, 8th July 2004.
Place : President’s Room, Royal Lake Club
Time : 7.30 pm
Cost : RM 50.00 per person for a 4 course Western Dinner

Please contact Rotarian Tony Lu our Incoming Fellowship Director or Incoming President Dr Lee Hock Bee to confirm your attendance. I hope that you will try to attend together with your wife as Mrs Monika Staks will be attending.

Lunch Time Meeting Report Back

No programme of speakers has been arranged for June but instead the ‘slot’ is being used for reports by Club Service Committee directors and other club matters. Here is a summary of the items covered at the meeting of 23rd June.

Matching Grants
The meeting started with a report by PP Dato’ Jimmy Lim on the long outstanding matter of the Matching Grant problems with the RC of Makati, Philippines. These have been resolved and now there is available matching grant up to a total of USD 12,000 for future Presidents of our club.

Installation Dinner Dates
PE Dr. Lee Hock Bee announced the dates of Installation dinner invitations which our club members who are interested should attend. These are:
1. RC Raffles City, Singapore on Friday 2nd July
2. RC Singapore on Saturday 26th June
3. RC Temerloh on 3rd July, and
4. RC Makati on 30th June.

100 Percenters
President Kanesalingam then announced the 100 Percenters of the club and handed out certificates to those who were present. These members were basically the stalwarts of RC KL DiRaja.

Club and Charity Foundation Accounts
Finally, Rtn Francis Chan presented a broad overview of the club accounts which by nature would not have been ready as the accounts have not been closed. Last year’s account will be tabled at an AGM soon. This year the club managed a balanced budget, i.e., all directors kept within the budgets agreed for their committees.

The Installation dinner had a net surplus of RM30000. The Festival of Music too managed a decent surplus. All subscriptions had been paid. The overall charity funds had reduced as the Magnum Rotary Trust fund had taken their funds under their management, leaving the funds at RM3 million. Members’ additional contributions came to approximately RM2800. Collections were made for the Bam earthquake victims and the Baling flood relief.

President Kanesalingam thanked the Treasurer for a job well done and announced that five (5) homes have received donations from the Handicapped Children’s fund. The charity fund also has properties held and that the Selangor Spastics children’s home had more than RM 1 million raised for its building, through PP Hardeep who had the distinct honor of being RC KL DiRaja’s first million dollar President.

At the end, President Kanesalingam provided two good jokes for the members’ pleasure.
01. One hand on wheel, one hand on horn: IPOH driver

02. One hand on wheel, one hand out the window with cigarette: KEPONG driver.

03. One hand on wheel, one finger out window, cutting across all lanes of traffic: KUALA LUMPUR driver.

04. One hand on wheel, one hand on parang, foot solidly on accelerator: JOHOR driver.

05. One hand on wheel, one hand on non-fat double decaf cappuccino, cradling cell phone, brick on accelerator, hands-free on the lap: BANGSAR driver.

06. Both hands on wheel, eyes tight shut, both feet on brake, quivering in terror: FOREIGNER, driving in MALAYSIA.

07. One hand on 12 oz. Double shot latte, one knee on wheel, talking on cellphone, foot on brake, mind on radio game, banging head on steering wheel while stuck in traffic: SUBANG JAYA DRIVER....on the Federal Highway!!!

08. One hand on wheel, one hand on passengers head rest, alternating between both feet being on the accelerator and both feet on brake, throwing rambutans or durian shells out the window: KARAK HIGHWAY .....KUANTAN driver.

09. Four-wheel drive pick-up truck, READY-TO-KILL attitude, rear window stickers read "Make my day", beer cans on floor, wedding ribbon still attached to antenna: CONSTRUCTION SITE ....PUCHONG driver!

10. One hand on the handphone, another hand picking nose, One leg on the dashboard, another leg crossed on the seat with a beer can in the middle turning anywhere he likes, parking anywhere he likes, in fact, driving anywhere he likes. aahh ....this is a heaven for drivers ......welcome to PENANG! 11. Two hands gripping tightly to the wheel, eyes glued on the windscreen, alternately stepping on the accelerator and brakes every 5 seconds. PROBATIONARY DRIVER.

12. Can’t see hands or driver as windows blocked by colourful teddy bears, must be - WOMAN DRIVER!.......

Photographs from the Weekly Meeting

Ms Malaysia-Universe 2004 Andrea Fonseka graced our lunchtime meeting with her presence.

President Kanes presenting a certificate to PP Dato GS Gill for 100% attendance during the year.
Visit to SUNGEI LUI ROTARY COMMUNITY CORPS

On Saturday morning 12th June 2004 Rotarian Yahya Razali, our Fellowship Director, organised 4 car loads of Rotary families to the Sg. Lui Community Corps 23 miles away, where the Rotary Club of Kuala Lumpur DiRaja has a tuition centre to assist Malay children in the small village to learn English.

A 29" LG Television set and a DVD player worth RM 1,140 (discounted prize courtesy of Rtn. Steve Lau) together with RM 200 to purchase a roller stand, was presented by our club to the tuition centre. The TV set is to be used as a teaching aid to help the children to learn English. The organiser Puan Zaharah and the children were very excited and grateful.

Rotarian Steve Lau, his charming Ann Francisca and their daughters, Rotarian Lokman Tun Sardon, his charming Ann Robin and their granddaughter, Rotarian Tony Lu, his charming Ann Kim and his children, Rotarian Freddy Chan, the club's Hon. Secretary, Rotarian Yahya Razali, the club's Fellowship Director, President Kanes and First Lady Rajes attended.

Puan Zaharah prepared delicious nasi lemak and refreshing syrup. The children were exposed to village life and saw peacocks, geese, chicken and other livestock behind the house. Durians, mangosteens and rambutans were in season and served all round. They were all mouth wateringly delicious.

At 12.30 pm the TV set, DVD set guarantee card and RM 200 for the roller stand were presented. It was a family day, with plenty of fellowship and at the same time community service was done in the fine Rotary tradition.

A Sign Off from the Editor

This is the fiftieth and last Berita of this Rotary year. A lot of words and photographs recording the clubs events and activities over that time. We have also tried to add variety with some International and District articles to remind ourselves that we are part of a world wide organisation of some 1.3million members; a truly global organisation. We hope you have enjoyed at least some of it.

Many thanks to the editorial team of PP William Lau, Rtn Chong Soon and Rtn Jalil for their inputs and contributions. Thanks also to our photographers Rtn David Teh and Rtn Willie Tham, who don't just take the photos but prepare the captions and also to the team at Digital Smartland for their willingness and good nature in taking last minute changes and corrections. Finally a big thank you to my co-editor Liz who has done much of the real work.

It only remains for me to thank all of you reading it -if you have- and accepting the move to electronic format. I offer my successor every best wish and for as much support from Members as I have received.

Rtn Peter Hallett

Birthday Boys
None

Anns Birthdays
None

Wedding Anniversaries
Rtn Erik Lidstrom & Maria on 30.06.2004