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# THE WATERFRONT

Club website: [www.kuchingcentralrotary.org](http://www.kuchingcentralrotary.org)

THIS IS THE WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE *ROTARY CLUB OF KUCHING CENTRAL*, KUCHING, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA; ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3310; CHARTERED ON 23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 1986.

WEEKLY LUNCHEON MEETING AT 1PM EVERY SATURDAY (EXCEPT PUBLIC HOLIDAYS) AT THE RIVERSIDE MAJESTIC HOTEL, KUCHING, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA

## PAST RI PRESIDENT BHICHAIRATTAKUL DELIVERED OPENING ADDRESS AT 13<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT CONFERENCE

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The 13<sup>th</sup> District Conference which was held from 9-11 Jan. 2004 in Singapore has the privilege of having RI President personal representative, Past RI President Bhichai

Rattakul as the guest of honour. He delivered an inspiring opening address where he encouraged Rotarians to reconsider having to have their weekly meetings in expensive hotels and spending lots of money when some of the money can be channeled towards the less fortunate members of the society. His Excellency Bhichai Rattakul also mentioned of the need to have younger Rotarians to join District events so that they can go forth to serve with the increase knowledge of Rotary that they can gain from attending such events. If this matter is not addressed early, the District will run the risk of having only the Past District Governors (PDGs) as the majority of the attendees in future District events. As expected, Bhichai spoke with eloquence, sincerity and down-to-earth manner that he was able to inspire many of us who attended the opening ceremony. To the surprise of many, His Excellency stayed until the conference ended on 11 Jan. 2004 where he delivered his closing remarks. He is a true Rotarian in heart and in soul for he is not bothered with protocols and was always obliging to meet the requests of many of us who wanted a snapshot with him that he missed his tea breaks. This is the man that many of us in the District must learn.



The 11 members of our club led by President Sylvester having a moment with His Excellency Bhichai Rattakul.

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DG David Tong and First Lady Irene with President Sylvester and Agnes at the end of the Governor's Banquet at the 13<sup>th</sup> District Conference in Singapore.



The Kuching Central Rotary Family with DG David Tong at the Governor's Banquet held in the evening of 10 Jan 2004 at the Ocean Ballroom, Pan Pacific Hotel, Singapore (not in the photo were PP Hj Odita Ibrahim, Lim Keng Yaw & Steve Ng (who had to return home for emergency reason).

## WHY SO FEW MUSLIMS JOIN ROTARY?



PDG Dato' Hj Mustapha Ma and Datin Mariam at the Governor's Banquet with PP Andre Suharto. The dinner was held at the Ocean Ballroom of Pan Pacific Hotel Singapore.

One of the topics that was presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> District Conference was the subject of the small number of Muslims in Rotary. The paper was presented by PDG Dato' Hj. Mustapha Ma, a 7<sup>th</sup> generation Chinese Muslim and who at one time was our District Governor in 1986/1987 when our club was chartered. He visited Kuching a few times then.

There a number of reasons why, in his opinions, so few Muslims join Rotary and they are:

1. Perception of Rotary being a Zionist.
2. Rotary's income is not 'halal'
3. Rotary's activities do not take into consideration time for the Muslims to perform their 5 times daily prayers and the Holy month of Ramadhan.
4. Rotary's projects are largely confined to non-Muslims and hence only the non-Muslims benefited from it.

There are many other reasons but the above are the main ones. PDG Dato Hj Mustapha Ma is a good speaker and he is the right person to present the subject.

### **PP. ABEL CHIENG RECEIVED RECOGNITION FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE ORGANISATION OF THE ROTARY FOUNDATION SEMINAR IN SEPT 2003**

On the evening of 10 Jan. 2004 at the Governor's Banquet held in conjunction with the 13<sup>th</sup> District Conference, PP Abel Chieng, was recognized for undertaking the Chairmanship of the Rotary Foundation seminar. On hand To present the recognition was H.E. Dr. Thakur Phanit, Ambassador of Thailand to Singapore.



## WELCOMING THE GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE (GSE) FROM CANADA

Every year, the district conducts a group study exchange (GSE) program for a team of outstanding non-Rotarian business and professional persons to travel between paired Rotary Districts in different countries. Teams will typically spend four to six weeks abroad where they experience vocational activities within their respective fields, become immersed in cultural experiences through the sites and histories of the hosting District, gain fellowship opportunities with host families and members of the community and work with Rotarians at club meetings and various Rotary activities.

This year, our district will be hosting a five-member team from district 7070 (Ontario, Canada). The team led by Rtn. Dr. Paul Truelove comprises of Sharlene (a guidance counselor), Susan (a nurse in a home for the elderly), Timothy (sales/account management) and Michael (an environmental consultant). They arrived in Kuching on 12 Jan 2004 and will be here till 19<sup>th</sup> January 2004.

The team has expressed interest (if possible) in visiting any of the followings:

- Visit to a home for the elderly or palliative care centre
- Witness any religious/cultural festival that may occur on the day of their visit
- Visit to any North American companies in the region
- Visit any environmental projects
- Visit to museum/wildlife reserves / longhouses or places of touristic interest

Some of us had the pleasure of meeting the GSE team while attending the 13<sup>th</sup> District Conference in Singapore. They will be kept busy while in Kuching to be taken care by the Rotary Clubs in Kuching. Our Club will be hosting a dinner for them on 17 Jan 2004 evening at 7.30pm at the Sarawak Club Audio Visual Room. The team will leave Kuching on 19 Jan. 2004.



Rtn Dr. Paul Truelove, the team leader, introducing his team at the Governor's Banquet during the 13<sup>th</sup> District Conference that was held in Singapore. Seen at the background standing from left to right are Timothy, Sharlene, Susan and Michael.

## Welcome to Rtn Dr. Paul and the GSE team members!!

Student Youth Xchange from Brazil performing the 'Bollywood' dance. See on the left is the son of PP Bobby



11 delegates from Kuching Central led by President Sylvester. The biggest delegate from outside Singapore for clubs whose membership is bigger than 25.



PE Aw Tai Hui & his boss!



This President is taking the 'break' as a second honeymoon!



Former First Lady Dawn surrounded with the beauties from Kuching Central.

## **WHAT'S ON-** IN THE ROTARY CALENDAR?

	<b>WHAT</b>	<b>WHERE</b>	<b>WHEN</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>
1	<i>Pot Luck dinner with GSE Team</i>	<i>PP Polycarp's residence</i>	<i>15Jan'04 @ 6.30pm</i>	<i>PP. Polycarp Teo Sebom</i>
2	<i>A trip to Bako National Park with the GSE team</i>	<i>Meet at Telang Usan Hotel</i>	<i>16Jan'04 @ 8am</i>	<i>PP. Polycarp Teo Sebom</i>
3	<i>Exploring Kuching city with GSE team</i>	<i>Meet at Telang Usan Hotel</i>	<i>17 Jan'04 @ 9.45am</i>	<i>PP. Polycarp Teo Sebom</i>
4	Dinner to welcome the GSE team from CANADA by R.C. of Kuching Central	Audio Visual Room, Sarawak Club	17 Jan'04 @7.30pm	PP. Chieng Lee Ching
5	<i>GSE team departs for Johor Bahru</i>	<i>KIA</i>	<i>19 Jan'04 @ 1.35pm MH2695</i>	<i>PP. Polycarp Teo Sebom</i>
6	Submission of District Awards (Category A-service avenues award)	Must be received by District Award Committee	1 Mar'04	Respective service directors
7	Rotary International Nite (in conjunction with the arrival of the Centennial Bell)	Sarawak Tourism Complex (Old court House)	Either 8-10 Mar'04@7.30 pm	PP. Polycarp Teo Sebom
8	District Team Training Seminar (DTTS) (organized by R.C. of Skudai)	Mutiara Hotel Johor Bahru	Mar'04	PP. Andre Suharto
9	Membership Development Seminar (organized by R.C. of Bugis Junction)	Singapore	20 Mar'04	Rtn Thomas Ngu
10	Intercity Meeting (organized by R.C. of Spore West)	Singapore	8 Apr'04	Rtn Thomas Ngu
11	Submission of District Award (category B-membership & attendance)	Must be received by District Award Committee	10 April'04	Rtn. Thomas Ngu
12	14 <sup>th</sup> District Assembly (Hosted by R.C. of Kota Melaka & Singapore)	Renaissance Melaka Hotel	22-25 April'04	<b>Rtn. Thomas Ngu</b>
13	International Avoidable Blindness Conference (Hosted by R.C. Singapore East)	Suntec City, Convention Hall, Singapore	1-2 May'04	PP. Polycarp Teo Sebom
14	2004 Rotary International Convention	Osaka, Japan	23-26 May 2004	PP. Polycarp Teo Sebom
15	2005 Rotary International Convention	Chicago, Illinois, USA	19-22 June 2005	TBA
16	2006 Rotary International Convention	Copenhagen, Denmark & Malmo, Sweden	11-14 June 2006	TBA

**Notes: Events printed in italic bold are new events which have just been included in this issue. TBA= To Be Announced.**