



# **ROTARY INTERNATIONAL NIGHT**

## **ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3310**

(Singapore, Brunei, Sabah, Sarawak, Labuan F.T., Melaka & Johor)



*'A celebration to welcome the arrival of  
Rotary Centennial bell in commemoration of 100 years of Rotary'*

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **10 MARCH 2004**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **AN INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION BY ROTARY CLUBS IN KUCHING**

*KUCHING, Wednesday:*– It was on 23 February 1905, nearly 100 years ago, when Rotary was formed as a small service club in Illinois, Chicago, USA, by founder Paul Harris. Today, Rotary represents the first non-profit organisation in the world where business and professional people are united worldwide to provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all businesses and help build goodwill & peace throughout the world.

This evening occasion represents one of the many series of activities undertaken by many Rotary clubs in the world towards celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> year of Rotary existence, the Rotary Centennial. There is no other better place than to celebrate this Rotary International Night at the former Old Court House, one of the many historical buildings in Kuching, which has been excellently refurbished, an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism Sarawak.

The celebration was launched by the Sarawak Minister of Tourism, YB. Dato Sri Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Abang Haji Openg in the presence of the Rotary International District 3310 Governor David Tong & First Lady Irene, Consul Generals of the People's Republic of China and Negara Brunei Darusalam,



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Honorary Consuls representing New Zealand, France, Denmark and Office of the Honorary British Representative at Kuching; Rotary Student Exchange from Brazil; Gap students from the United Kingdom who are currently teaching English at Chung Hua Middle School No. 4; visiting Rotarians from Bintulu, Miri, Johor Bahru, Singapore and Kota Kinabalu.

Many guests arrived in various costumes which are peculiar to their country of origin and there were also national flags of Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brazil, Great Britain, People's Republic of China, Phillipines, New Zealand, France and Denmark hung across the room.

The evening was also filled with the spectacular Oleg Tambulilingan, a Balinese dance performed by Ms. Sri Susilowati, a bio-medical sciences professional, and her daughter, Arsita Nurannisa. There were also the Chinese, Mongolian and Phillipinno dances and demonstration on Kimono wearing by Mdm. Sakai, a Japanese. Various types of international dishes were also served.

The Rotary International (RI) Night also coincides with the arrival of Rotary Centennial bell, one of 5 such bells that are circulated to clubs in every Rotary country, starting at the Rotary International Convention in Brisbane, Australia, in June 2003. The bells' journeys will symbolize the internationality of Rotary as they crisscross the globe. One of the Rotary Centennial bells was displayed during the celebration.

This particular bell started its journey since 1 July 2003 starting from Melbourne (Australia), Wellington (NZ), Suva (Fiji), Apia (Samoa), Nuku'Alofa (Tonga),



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Honiara (Solomon Island), Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea), Palau, Pohnpei (Micronesia), Tokyo (Japan), Seoul (Korea), Manila (Phillipines), Jakarta (Indonesia), Kota Kinabalu (Sabah), Kuching and then to Johor Bahru before going to other parts of the world. The bells' journeys will end in Chicago in June 2005 when they ring in the start of the Centennial Rotary International Convention. ([www.rotary.org/centennial](http://www.rotary.org/centennial)).

The Rotary International Night was organized by 5 Rotary Clubs that are located in Kuching namely the R.C. of Kuching, Kuching Central, Kuching South, Kuching Jaya and Petra Jaya.

### ***About Rotary International*** ([www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)):

Rotary International is the first non-profit making organization in the world where **business** and **professional people** are united worldwide to provide **humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations** and **promote peace and goodwill in the world**. It was established in 1905. In 1985, Rotary International initiated the PolioPlus Campaign, a major worldwide project to eradicate Polio from the face of the earth by 2005, Rotary Centennial Year. One of the partners in this project is the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, founded by Bill Gates, the Chief Software Architect of Microsoft. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation committed to match dollar to dollar for every dollar committed to PolioPlus campaign up to a maximum of US\$25 million.

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