

RI NIGHT CELEBRATION IN KUCHING A SUCCESS

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he Rotary International Night celebrations that was held in the evening of 10 March 2004 in Kuching, was concluded with resounding success.

Guests started arriving at 7pm and they mingled around the hall (it was not a sit down dinner but instead a cocktail set up) getting to know one another. Piped music from Cuba, Morocco, Puerto Rico, Caribbean, Javanese Bossanova were played. Flags of Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Negara Brunei Darussalam, Brazil, Great Britain, People's Republic of China, Phillipines, New Zealand, France and Denmark were hung throughout the ceiling across the hall. The hall and its surrounding vicinities were also decorated with floating RI Centennial balloons sponsored by President David Chan of the R.C. of Kuching.

The venue was more than appropriate for the occasion. It was held at the former Old Court House, a colonial building complex that has been refurbished and turned into Sarawak Tourism Complex. Some resemblance to the Chymes in Singapore.

Many attendees were sporting enough to wear interesting costumes. Several guests were seen wearing the Japanese Kimono (incl. AG John



Louise Yong in his Chinese shirt, Kelabit head gear and Malay Sarong with wife & Datin Gabriel William of Kinabalu Sutera.

King and Mdm Sakai, President of R.C. Kuching Jaya), a few with Baju Melayu, Bidayuh, Javanese wedding costume (by PP Andre Suharto), Balinese, Cheongsam, Mao's jacket (china) etc. MC PP. Dr. Samuel Kiyui was dressed up in a Bidayuh warrior gear! ***While Rtn Louise Yong was wearing a mix of Chinese shirt with the Malay sarong and the Kelabit head gear....a bit of everything! Very creative indeed! Rtn Thomas Ngu was in his purplish Mao's silk jacket. Joyce (spouse of PP Samuel Kiyui was in an Indian Sari).***

The Minister of Tourism, Dato Sri Abang Hj Abdul Rahman Zohari and his wife arrived at 7.45pm and were welcomed by organising chairman (OC) Rtn Josephine Chiew and DG David Tong and First Lady Irene as well as Presidents of the 5 clubs in Kuching and AG John King. OC, DG and the Minister delivered their speeches to around 250 people. The Minister donated RM5000 to sponsor the event. It was a nice surprise indeed! Immediately after the Minister delivered his address, he cut released the floating balloons to reveal the hidden Rotary Centennial bell. He hit the bell to launch the RI Night celebration followed by OC Josephine, ***DG David Tong***, AG John King, and presidents of the 5 Rotary host clubs in Kuching.



YB Dato Sri Abang Hj Abdul Rahman Zohari, Minister of Tourism, giving his address.



The Minister trying to release the balloons to reveal the Rotary Centennial Bell.



President Sylvester hitting the Centennial Bell.

Excellencies of the Consulate General of the People's Republic of CHINA and Negara Brunei Darussalam were present with their respective spouses. Honorary Consuls representing New Zealand, Denmark, France and UK also attended the celebration. Rotary Student Exchange from Brazil; PDG Datuk Stephen Wan Ullok & Datin; PDG Abang Haji Nawawi & spouse; Gap students from the United Kingdom who are currently teaching English at Chung Hua Middle School No. 4; *visiting Rotarians such as AG Jeremy Tiong (R.C. of Bintulu), YB Lee Kim Shin (honorary member of R.C. of Miri), PE Mok Tai Dwan (R.C. of Johor Bahru) and Datuk Gabriel William & wife (R.C. of Kinabalu Sutera) were also present.*

President Sylvester flanked by PP Dr Samuel Kiyui in a Bidayuh Warrior gear and PP Andre Suharto in a Javanese wedding costume.



There were Iban, Malay, Balinese (Indonesian), Chinese and Mongolian dances. The Oleg Tambulilingan Balinese dance was spectacularly refined and the costumes was beautiful. There was also a Kimono wearing demonstration with attendees willingly offering themselves to be used as the model. Thanks to Jenny (spouse of AG John King) and Rtn Salleh

of Petra Jaya club. *A variety of international dishes were served including the famous Indonesian Gado-Gado donated by the R.C. Kuching Central.*

Winners of the best female & male costumes were announced and prizes were given each by Datin Sri Hajah Juma'ani Binti Tun Tuanku Haji Bujang (spouse to the Minister) and First Lady Irene to Constance and PP Andre Suharto respectively. Prizes were kindly sponsored by advisor to the committee, PP. Dr. Lee Hua Seng of the R.C. of Kuching.

The celebration ended with the handing over of the Rotary Centennial bell from the 5 club presidents in Kuching to PE Mok Tai Dwan of the R.C. of Johor Bahru witnessed by DG David Tong.

The event was very well covered by the press (representing 5 local news media) and Radio Television Malaysia (RTM). Thank you to Rtn Salleh for helping to call in RTM.



DG David Tong presenting a memento to Dato Sri Abang Hj Abdul Rahman Zohari.



Datin Hajah Juma'ani (spouse to the Minister) presenting the prize to the winner of the Best Dressed Female Costume goes to Constance, spouse to Rtn Augustine Wong.

The news was published on Friday, 12 March 2004 in the Sarawak Tribune, Borneo Post, Sin Chew Jit Poh, International Times and See Hua Daily News. Sarawak Tribune published many colour photos of the events on Saturday, 13 March 2004.

Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end. Hence the function ended at 10pm.

Many thanks to DG David Tong and First Lady Irene for having come all the way to join us. They were in KK to attend a similar celebration last week on 6 March 2004.