



Rotary Crossroads

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... Proud of our past, Committed to our future

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Gift of Sight Cambodia 2009

Inside this Issue

2 In Focus

Gift of Sight Cambodia
2009 - By Director Rtn.
Colin Miles

4 Club Activities

Announcements on
various Club activities
and fellowships

5 Mark Your Diary

What's ahead? Don't miss the
forthcoming events and
Birthday / Anniversary
celebrants and more

In Focus

Gift of Sight Mission Cambodia 2009

- By Director Rtn. Colin Miles

Personally speaking, it was my 12th visit to Cambodia in nearly ten years of travelling there. Rotary is responsible for that, and I will be forever grateful. Why?

Because when you get involved in delivering medical care and humanitarian aid to people who are so desperately poor that they can't afford the \$2 it takes to ride 50KM to the hospital for an cataract operation that will restore their sight (let alone pay for it) you know that Rotary makes a huge, life changing difference, not just theoretically, but personally, individually and with dignity for the patient.

This is what continues to bind me to the Gift of Sight (GoS) and to Cambodia. Doubtless the country has improved much in the last two years, with new buildings springing

up and mobile phones appearing everywhere. Stability, of whatever form, helps prosperity. BUT it remains a forgotten country, our sympathies it seems have subsided and yet, I strongly feel the continuation of our GoS is an imperative we can't just drop. Rtn.



Happy patients awaiting surgery!

Dr YS Lau is still revered in this country for the work he initiated and drove forward. I try to maintain that work and we have got even closer to the National Eye Care program through our work with Dr Do Seiha. Thanks to the donations received, and assistance of my staff, our team of three (myself and my i-POP colleagues Lisa Wu and Dylan Castagne) felt like we represented at least 150 people on every occasion we dispensed aid.

Our surgeon from India Dr Pramod has again performed wonderfully (100 surgeries under the new daily limit of 25 operations per day) and



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- Director Rtn. Colin Miles

Gift of Sight Mission Cambodia 2009...continued

we have a unique branded Rotary Eye Center in Pursat the north of Cambodia that provides important solace. Example: A young worker who had been blinded by masonry chips from stone blasting without goggles (who can afford goggles?) ask sheepishly if the doctor could remove his eye because his villagers said it would affect the other eye. No said the foreign doctor. End of discussion. No need to remove the eye due to folk tales.

It's very hard to contain your emotion when young mothers with blind babies come to the camp looking for a miracle cure, only to be told that not much can be done for congenital glaucoma, and what little can be done is 300km away in Siem Reap...I still shudder at the despair. Yes, our hearts were broken many times, we met so many unfortunate people, who with just a little help can break the poverty cycle, or surmount blindness -- and step into a world of honest work and accomplishment. NGOs are working hard on this front and especially to protect children from unscrupulous people.

Rotary Club of Singapore members and the ISC has supported a wonderful Mission, raised money to support people who have no hope or respite coming from anywhere else. We should be proud of all that has been achieved, but we should do more, can do more. And hopefully, next year, will do more.

RC

Photographs of the Mission...



Operated child with his grateful father



At the children's ward



Dr Pramod in expert surgical action



Smiling in the slum, HIV daughter



Cambodian home in the slums



Children scavenging in the streets

Club Activities

Visit to Pantai Asuhan Betesda (Batam) Orphanage



The children enjoying their Christmas goodies

On December 26th, I led a group of 16 volunteers to bring Christmas cheer and joy to the orphans there. We spent the whole afternoon organizing games for the 32 children. There was lots of food and fun for them and every child was also given a Christmas gift. All the volunteers were given a special treat at the end when the children sang a couple of songs for us, both in English and Bahasa Indonesia. This was truly amazing as many of the children, before they were brought to the

orphanage, were unable to even speak Bahasa Indonesia. They were only able to speak their native dialect. It is through the opportunity to go to school that they were able to learn the languages. The support for these children to go to school is truly invaluable. Before we left, the volunteers were brought round to see their living premises. To show my appreciation, I gave the volunteers a seafood dinner treat before we left Batam. We arrived back in Singapore at 930pm. The volunteers, though tired, were filled with great joy for this opportunity to be a blessing to these orphans.

Don't forget our next visit on Saturday, 16 January 2010

Please email or call Rtn Paul Phua @ email pjholdin@singnet.com.sg/ mobile No. 9337 0277 or Rtn T K Chew @ email tkchew@econ.com.sg /mobile No. 9826 3266 to confirm your attendance and we will do all the arrangements.

Family Members are most welcome to participate in this project.

Full information needed by 10th January 2010 which should include:

Passport No.; Expiry date; DOB; Name and mobile no.

It will be a day trip leaving Harbor Front @ 8.45am and returning in the evening by ferry at about 5.30pm.

Ferry time will be about 1hour.

The estimated cost per person is about SD100 which includes to & fro ferry tickets, port taxes, sea food lunch & aircon bus to bring us around.

For those who wish to stay for the weekend at Turi beach resorts, we can assist in making the arrangements.

- contributed by Rtn. T.K. Chew

The Guide to Daily Living

Before doing the things we want to do, consider first, the precept of the guide. Ask ourselves these 4 questions and act upon them:

First : Have I spent some time in self-examination?

Second: Have I spent quality time with my family?

Third : Have I given my best to my work?

Fourth : Have I given some time to someone near and far?

The Guide, in fact, encompasses the 4 parts of the Object of Rotary.

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Mark your Diary!



- compiled by Bernadette Rayney-Ng

Birthday Celebrants

RC wishes *Happy Birthday* to celebrants this week:

January 4 – PP Alfred Wong & PE P Balachandran

January 5 – Erich Vosshage

January 7 – Danilo Medic & Erwin Angerbauer

January 8 – PP Peter Tan & Director Indi Tulsi

January 9 – Suresh Hathiramani & Kawata Nobuhiro

This week

January 6th 2010

Reception Desk duty: Dr. M.C. Tong, Carlo van den Akker

Sunshine Box duty: Noshir Mistri, Jamshid Medora

Speaker: Mr. Keon Chee, Senior Executive with Heritage Trust Group

Topic: "Islamic Finance – Why It Makes Sense"

Service Committee Meetings

Community Service

No Meeting in view of the Club Assembly on January 21st 2010.

Anniversary Celebrants

RC wishes *Happy Wedding Anniversary* to all celebrants:

January 6 – K K Tan & Gwen

Next week

January 13th 2010

Reception Desk duty: Dr. Albert Wee, Wilson Widjaja

Sunshine Box duty: Moshood Olaniyan, IPP Paliath Mohandas

Speaker: Ms. Elena Arabadjieva

Topic: To be advised

Service Committee Meetings

Vocational Service

No Meeting in view of the Club Assembly on January 21st 2010.

January

Rotary Awareness Month

January 21st

3rd Club Assembly at Tanglin Club

February

World Understanding Month

February 17th

Meeting cancelled in view of Chinese New Year holidays

February 23rd

World Understanding & Peace Day

February 24th

Meeting cancelled in lieu of World Understanding & Peace Day meeting

March

Service to New Generations Month

April

Magazine Month

The Four-way Test

Of the Things we think, say or do:

- ❖ Is it the truth?
- ❖ Is it fair to all concerned?
- ❖ Will it build goodwill and better friendship?
- ❖ Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

The Editorial Board wish all Members



A HAPPY NEW YEAR!