

My Visits

Kota Kinabalu

Time flies! A month had passed since I took office as District Chairman and I started my visit to the clubs in Sabah and Sarawak on 29 July.

Board Director Datin Pearl and NR Rokiah were at the airport with District Secretary Gillian, IPDC Viola, President Yvonne and in-coming President Cecilia and Dr Anne. I was delighted and excited.



I attended the 63rd Installation of Inner Wheel Club of Kota Kinabalu on 30th July, witnessing the installation of President Cecilia Amid by her predecessor Past President Yvonne Yeo.

It was an elaborate and grand ceremony done meticulously with attending Rotarians and Media.



National Representative Rokiah Staun was the Guest-of-Honour. In her speech, she stressed the need to spread the Inner Wheel spirit. She said there are many potential members in KK and invited them to form a new club.

Sandakan

The first leg of my Clubs' visit was to IWC Sandakan. I was overwhelmed by their warmth and hospitality where they, especially IPDC Viola, attended to me every moment despite their busy personal schedules. I saw the close family spirit of the club where participation in fellowship is highly promoted. In their meeting with me, more than twenty members were present enjoying the get-together. The club has a unique way of organizing their activities where a nominated team is responsible for the activities of the month.



One of the projects was with children with thalassemia at the Duchess of Kent Hospital. As most of them are from the lower income group, they donated thalassemia infusion sets for subcutaneous administration.

Miri

My next stop was IWC Miri.



The Club's President is Ms Annie Tan.



The members were lively and high-spirited and put up a dance item for me. There were so much fun and laughter. I had the pleasure of inducting two new members Parveen Kaur and Amy Lagang during this trip.

Parveen was the club's auditor previously and Amy is a dance instructress.

Florence Enau planned our itinerary and I was even guest in her cozy house.



We went to the Autistic Centre in Piasau the next morning and presented a cheque to help the operations of the Centre. Next we went to the Kidney Dialysis Centre where both Deputy NR Nany and I were shown the Accuvein scanners donated by their Club in March this year followed by a visit to the nearby Sunflower Centre.

It was Trinnah's idea to obtain scanners for the Dialysis Centre. I felt this was a noble idea.

Sibu

I was very touched when I saw Datin Lau Dai Hee at the airport. She is a charter member in her eighties. I am truly privileged to be received by her.



President Alice Lim said Sibu is a small town but there seems to have so many things to do and places to see.

We were treated to the famous Fuzhou mee sua. I enjoyed a whole bowl!

The Sibu Heritage Centre is a little wonderful gem in the town centre. It is an eye opener for me and for a first timer to Sibu, I gather some knowledge about its history.



The ever gracious Datin Puan Sri Pauline returned from a trip overseas to join us in presenting a cheque to the Methodist Orphanage.

Kuching

This was my last stop. Ms Jane Labang was there waiting for Nany and I at the airport.



It was a 45 minutes' drive to the Installation ceremony at the D'sea Restaurant, Damail Craft and Event Centre in the evening.



The ceremony was solemn with candle-lighting, toasts and speeches by the President, District Chairman and Deputy National Representative. President Cheryl pledged to continue with worthwhile projects with one of them being cosmetic surgery for 6-year-old Faby who had congenital nevus in the face. The father of little Faby was also present to relate a first-person account of her childhood.

I am told that Jenny is constantly searching for worthwhile projects to recommend to the Club.

Jane was hopeful Faby will take part in a beauty contest one day and she cheered her with a song "you light up my life" at the end of the ceremony.



Kuching Club is young and inexperienced but it has the most detailed and proper way of conducting a meeting. It was the only club that lights the candle of friendship at the meeting. One of the members even travelled one and a half hour for the meeting - a sheer dedication and commitment!

I wrapped up the visit in 10 days and though tiring, it was a learning experience.

I am thankful I was given this opportunity and I sincerely hope our members will step forward to serve and aspire greater heights in Inner Wheel.

Lucia,
District Chairman