

INTRODUCING INNER WHEEL DISTRICT 331 CHAIRMAN FOR 2020-2021 – DATIN GILLIAN LEE

As my term ends, I, IWPBD Shirin R. Ghadiali, District 331 Chairman for 2019-2020, have utmost pleasure to introduce my good friend and your District Chairman for 2020-2021, **DATIN GILLIAN LEE**.



DC Datin Gillian Lee, 2020-2021 and
DC Shirin Ghadiali, 2019-2020

A Merdeka Generation Singaporean, Gillian studied in Singapore and England and worked as a Public Accountant in Singapore, London and Malaysia. After a sterling career spanning more than 30 years, she retired as the Audit Director of one of the top 4 International Accounting Firms a few years ago and is now based in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

Having been career centric for the larger part of her life, it was Gillian's encounter with a little girl whose house had been damaged by raging flood waters in a remote area of Sabah, that changed her life. Asking for nothing more than a wooden pencil, it was the happiness that shone from the little girl's eyes when granted her simple wish, that touched Gillian's heart. For, if a pencil can bring such joy to a little child, imagine what our actions can do for those less privileged than ourselves. That was the moment when volunteerism became part of Gillian's life, and since then, she has been by her husband Rtn PP Lee Swi Heng's side... supporting him and Rotary, even as she fulfils her Inner Wheel District and Club duties.

Gillian joined the **Inner Wheel Club of Kota Kinabalu (IWCKK)** in December 2009. In 2012-2013, she served as the Club Treasurer and in 2013-2014, was elected as the President of IWCKK.

Prior to being elected Chairman of Inner Wheel District 331, Gillian has served as District Treasurer (2015-2016), District Secretary (from 2016-2018) and District Vice Chairman (from 2018-2020).

Her major projects as CLUB PRESIDENT were:

i. **THE IWCKK SOLAR PANEL PROJECT**

... where a recipe book of recipes contributed by the ladies of IWCKK and friends of Inner Wheel, were compiled and sold, and the sales proceeds applied to the purchase and installation of solar panels at eight Community Learning Centres or pre-schools, of selected villages in the interior areas of Sabah which had no access to electricity.

ii. **THE THALASSAEMIA AWARENESS CAMPAIGN: "Same Hopes, Same Dreams"**

... which was organised with the aim of creating:

- a) awareness of Thalassaemia among the urban population in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah; and
- b) reaching out to potential employers to provide job and career opportunities for youths with Thalassaemia, who despite their illness have the same hopes and dreams as our children.

As a DISTRICT 331 OFFICER:

a) **THE KOTA BELUD WATER PROJECT**

Gillian was actively involved in this District 331 Joint Club Project to assist villagers in the district of Kota Belud, Sabah with the construction of new wells or the installation of a gravity feed piped water system in their respective villages, following the earthquake of June 2015 in Sabah.

b) **INTERNATIONAL INNER WHEEL (IIW) PROJECT AND POETRY COMPETITION**

At the **2018 IIW Convention in Melbourne, Australia**, Gillian's poem on the **IW District 331 Kota Belud Water Project** was voted as one of the Competition's winners, thus bringing praise and recognition to our relatively small Inner Wheel District 331!

OTHERS:

“FINDING MY RAINBOWS”

Many of you may not be aware that Gillian is a cancer survivor, and that even during her chemotherapy and radiology treatments more than 15 years ago, she was helping other cancer patients to see that there is life after cancer, by chronicling and sharing with them, her journey through her cancer treatments and her thoughts during that challenging period in her life.

The printing of the 3rd Edition of her book “Finding My Rainbows”, which has her story not only in English, but also in Chinese (translated by courtesy of the Rotary Club of Chung-Li West, Taiwan and the Rotary Club of Kinabalu Sutera) and in Bahasa Malaysia (translated by a member from IWCKK), was kindly sponsored by the Inner Wheel Club of Kota Kinabalu. The books have all been handed over to the medical fraternity in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah and are not for sale. Instead, they are given to newly diagnosed breast cancer patients at no charge by the oncologists in Sabah.

According to Gillian, her story would not have reached so many newly diagnosed cancer patients, to give them the **hope** and **encouragement** that they seek, had it not been for the support and help that came her way from unexpected quarters. From the Lions Club of Kota Kinabalu Central which sponsored the printing of the 1st Edition more than 14 years ago, to the Chinese translation done by a Rotary Club from Taiwan, and finally to her own Inner Wheel home club. **Coming Together** was just the beginning, but by **WORKING TOGETHER** they have managed to touch the hearts and lives of many patients, their families and their caregivers!

To Gillian, reaching out and **JOINING HANDS WITH OTHERS** can only be the start of a beautiful journey. For although we may belong to different Inner Wheel clubs... or Districts... or even different Non Profit Organisations, our **Objective** is one and the same, and that is to **SERVE THE COMMUNITY!**

With that in mind, to assist District Chairman Gillian to **LEAD THE CHANGE** in 2020-2021 are her very committed **Executive Committee** members...

	Prabha Rao District Vice Chairman		Dtn Gillian Lee DISTRICT CHAIRMAN		Shirin Ghadiali Imm. Past District Chairman
	Maria Hassanbhai District Secretary				Sarifah Sihah District Treasurer
	Phyllis Fong District Extension Chairman		Jane Lian Labang District ISO		Janet Lim District Editor