

INSTALLATION OF INNER WHEEL DISTRICT 331 CHAIRMAN DATIN GILLIAN LEE

(By DC Dtn Gillian Lee and PNR Rokiah Staun)



After a week of torrential rain, the morning of 25th July 2020 dawned bright and clear... a beautiful day befitting the Installation of Datin Gillian Lee as the 9th District Chairman of Inner Wheel District 331.

As a result of the Coronavirus outbreak in Malaysia, a Movement Control Order was implemented in mid-March 2020. After slightly more than 3 months, the relaxation of a few of the stringent Standard Operating Procedures in July 2020, brought much relief to many. In particular, Malaysians were permitted to organise and

attend social events, barring a limit to the number of attendees in relation to the size of the venue. In view of this, and bearing in mind the solemnity of the occasion, Incoming DC Gillian discussed with PNR Rokiah the possibility of having a simple, yet dignified physical cum virtual Installation Ceremony. With PNR Rokiah on board, plans were swiftly put into action! Scripts were drafted, and with the assistance of PDC Daisy Chong and President Gina Yaakub from IWCKK, and the extremely efficient Banquet team from the Palace Hotel in Kota Kinabalu, everything came to fruition within a week!!

Unbeknownst to many though, the Installation Ceremony almost did not happen, as logistic issues saw the District Chairman regalia sent by Outgoing DC Shirin Ghadiali in early July, going “AWOL” during its “long” journey from Singapore to Kota Kinabalu via Kuala Lumpur. Happily, the parcel was eventually located and safely delivered.

On the day of the Installation, the guests arrived at the venue to find the Standard Operating Procedures in place. Chairs were strategically placed in compliance with approved social distancing measures, and everyone present was reminded to have their masks on unless they had a presentation to make or an address to give. It would have been lovely had more Inner Wheel members been able to witness the Installation, but with only 17 guests allowed, it was “full house” that morning with 2 Rotarians, 2 representatives from IWC Kinabalu Rafflesia and 13 members from IWC Kota Kinabalu (IWCKK) in attendance.

The Installation Ceremony commenced with PNR Rokiah striking the District bell at 10.30am. This was followed by her welcome speech, the lighting of the Candle of Friendship by IIW PBD Datuk Nancy Ho, the reading of the said poem by IWCKK member Amira Iskandar, and the three toasts given to the Yang DiPertuan Agong (King) of Malaysia, the Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri (Governor) of the State of Sabah and International Inner Wheel, by PNR Rokiah Staun, Incoming DC Datin Gillian Lee and IIW PBD Datuk Nancy Ho respectively.

IIW PBD Datuk Nancy, who was Outgoing DC Shirin’s representative that morning, then read the 2019-2020 District Chairman’s address, after which she was invited to make her way to the opposite side of the room to “await the receipt” of the District Chairman’s regalia. PNR Rokiah then introduced Incoming DC Datin Gillian. Right on cue, and to everyone’s surprise, Outgoing DC Shirin suddenly appeared onscreen in a video presentation declaring, “ ... and now, with all my good wishes and its responsibilities, I hand (this regalia) over to your next District Chairman, Datin Gillian Lee”. With the regalia in hand, IIW

PBD Datuk Nancy proceeded to install Datin Gillian Lee as the 9th District Chairman of Inner Wheel District 331.

After much applause from the audience and the presentation of bouquets from several well wishes, newly installed District Chairman Datin Gillian gave her maiden speech where she touched on her vision for the coming year, introduced her District Executive Committee members and acknowledged the presence of PP Margaret Chin and PP Datin Rubina Pung from IWCKK, who introduced her to Inner Wheel some 10 years ago.

The Ceremony came to a close with the extinguishing of the Candle of Friendship by PDC Daisy and a photo session with all the guests. Everyone then adjourned to the in-house restaurant, reminiscing about the morning's celebration over a delicious brunch and good fellowship.

Although the Installation Ceremony was a simple one, beautiful memories of that unique Installation will surely be etched in the hearts and minds of not only District Chairman Datin Gillian, but also of those present there that morning. Even in the face of adversity brought about by the Coronavirus pandemic, the ladies of Inner Wheel District 331 have once again risen to the challenge as they forge ahead to **Lead the Change!**