

# 1<sup>st</sup> INNER WHEEL DISTRICT 331 FRIENDSHIP RALLY



*A "Berambek" Weekend of Friendship and Fun!*

**30<sup>th</sup> September & 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022**  
**Grand Margherita Hotel**  
**Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia**

The idea for Inner Wheel District 331 to organise a Friendship Rally was first mooted by IPDC Gillian Lee during her term as District Chairman in 2020-2021. Unfortunately, although unanimously agreed by the District Executive Committee members and members of the Host Club, the Inner Wheel Club of Kuching, this eagerly anticipated event came to a standstill with the onset of the global Coronavirus pandemic. As everyone hunkered down in the safety of their homes and dealt with the pandemic as best they could, the Organising Committee remained hopeful that the Rally will materialise. And so it did on the 30<sup>th</sup> September and 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022, after two postponements as a result of the lockdowns, stringent SOPs with regard to social gatherings, and the limitation of flights between the Malaysian Borneo states of Sabah and Sarawak, Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore.

The Rally was to celebrate not only the camaraderie built up among the members of the District 331 Clubs of Malaysian Borneo and Singapore over the last 10 years, but also the long-standing bond of friendship with the members from District 330. Unfortunately, 2½ years of avoiding social gatherings, left many members wary of attending the Rally.

However, to everyone's surprise, and to the delight of the Organising Committee, the Rally was a huge success despite the slightly lower than anticipated turnout. Every session saw the members mingling together as one... either renewing their friendship or making new ones... singing, dancing, laughing, helping each other out during the beading workshop and interacting as if they have never been apart.

"Berambek", which in the Sarawakian language means "A Gathering to Strengthen Ties", could not have been a more appropriate theme for that weekend!



*Welcome to Kuching! IIWPD Datin Seetha and Alamelu at the Rally Registration Desk*

The highlights included:

- the Fellowship Night with local "hawker" style delights to tempt even the fussiest of taste-buds;
- General Sessions on
  - "Home Care for the Elderly with Dementia"
  - "Recycling - Creating A Better World for All"
- Video Presentation of 2 recent Inner Wheel District Coordinated Projects for Clubs in District 331
  - "Gift of Water, Gift of Life" – A Water Project for the community of Kampung Palak Darat, Pulau Banggi, Sabah
  - "The Pink Fire Squad" – The Fire Extinguisher Project for Longhouses in Sarawak
- "The History of Beads in the Orang Ulu Community" and a Beading Workshop
- Dinner at the Sarawak Cultural Village, with participants and guests savouring the local cuisine of the indigenous communities of Sarawak
- The Musical Drama "Putri Santubong, The Warrior Princess" – a story of loyalties and sacrifices, and good triumphing over evil.

And after 2 days of amazing fellowship, the Rally came to a close with everyone joining hands as they sang "Auld Lang Syne" to a video presentation of memories made by District 331 members over the last 10 years.

Till we meet again, **THANK YOU** for your friendship and we look forward to creating more sweet memories in the years to come!