



e•voice

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CLUB OF BANGSAR

SURIA BANGSAR SOUTH: A New Feather in The Cap

Suria Bangsar South & Single Mums

Funds Raised in 2010

“2010 SPORTS TO THE FUTURE” DAY

What's Up at Janda Baik 2010

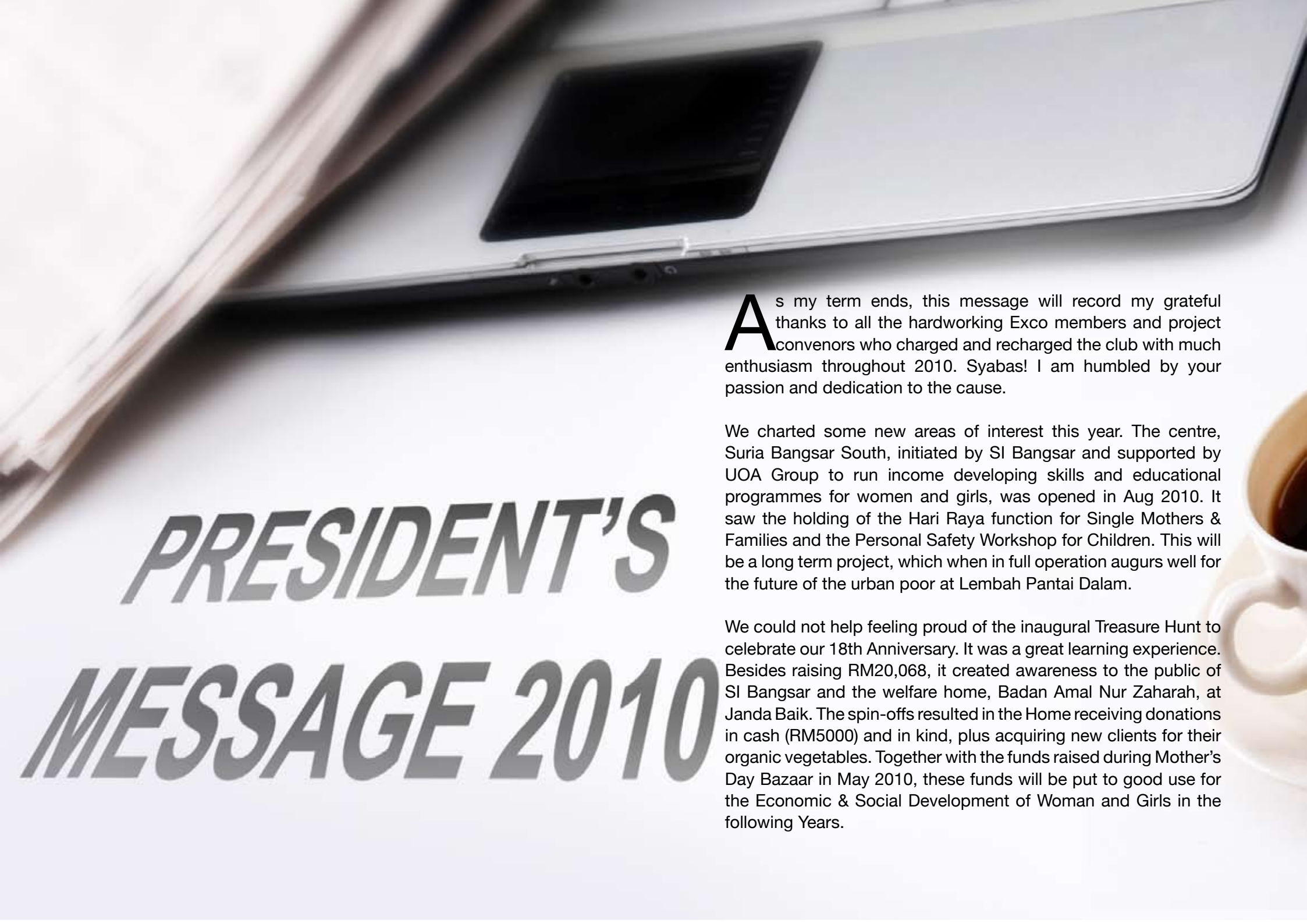
Mother's Day 2010

We have gone INTERNATIONAL!

Paediatric Leukemia

3 Clubs 1 Journey

10



As my term ends, this message will record my grateful thanks to all the hardworking Exco members and project convenors who charged and recharged the club with much enthusiasm throughout 2010. Syabas! I am humbled by your passion and dedication to the cause.

We charted some new areas of interest this year. The centre, Suria Bangsar South, initiated by SI Bangsar and supported by UOA Group to run income developing skills and educational programmes for women and girls, was opened in Aug 2010. It saw the holding of the Hari Raya function for Single Mothers & Families and the Personal Safety Workshop for Children. This will be a long term project, which when in full operation augurs well for the future of the urban poor at Lembah Pantai Dalam.

We could not help feeling proud of the inaugural Treasure Hunt to celebrate our 18th Anniversary. It was a great learning experience. Besides raising RM20,068, it created awareness to the public of SI Bangsar and the welfare home, Badan Amal Nur Zaharah, at Janda Baik. The spin-offs resulted in the Home receiving donations in cash (RM5000) and in kind, plus acquiring new clients for their organic vegetables. Together with the funds raised during Mother's Day Bazaar in May 2010, these funds will be put to good use for the Economic & Social Development of Woman and Girls in the following Years.

PRESIDENT'S

MESSAGE 2010

I hope that under the new President in 2011, older and still relevant projects will enjoy a resurgence of energy with new blood and new ideas.

Another new project which has great potential is the Human Trafficking Powerpoint and Training Manual started in 2010. I was impressed to view the awesome pilot prepared by Pei Li. This will widen the scope of the Halt Violence Project, which is now concerned with running Personal Safety for Children Workshops and Training-of-Trainers. A highlight here was the translation into Spanish and export of the Personal Safety Project to Guatemala. An SI member from Perth came for training and helped disseminate this project to the children there. This development came about from the showcase of this award winning project at the SISWP Conference of Clubs at the Gold Coast in April 2010.

We started our Facebook in 2010 and hope to explore more uses from it.

I hope that under the new President in 2011, older and still relevant projects will enjoy a resurgence of energy with new blood and new ideas.

In carrying out our projects, we do not forget FUN! The many meals we shared together be it breakfast or dinner or just a cup of coffee when discussing proposals or working on projects helped to bring members together.

Once again, thank you for your wonderful support and friendship during my term as President. And may SICB continue to thrive upwards. Peace to all.

Sehu Chai Kee
President's Message 2010



Editor's note

better late than never!

It has taken much effort and the commitment of a number of people to come up with this issue of the e-Voice but here we are, finally. What has not, however, taken a back seat is the work and multitude of events that have been carried out by so many and these are, I hope, sufficiently covered in this issue.

I feel privileged to be associated with SI Bangsar where a wonderful sisterhood has grown to include both 'old' and new members. Much of the credit must go to a number of the 'older' ladies whose energies, dedication and time has been freely and willingly given. To them our thanks. There is as such a great sense of camaraderie and a spirit of muhibbah or goodwill at SI Bangsar. While differences of opinion often surface during discussions, everyone is generally fired up with much vigour and enthusiasm in shouldering their respective duties at the end of the day. The key to this harmonious atmosphere is evidently "respect" or a "willingness" to show consideration and appreciation for one another.

Democracy also remains very much alive at SI Bangsar. A very warm welcome to our new president, Puan Rohaya who will be helming the post for the next two years from 2011-2012.

We have a Treasure Hunt in October 2011 which promises to be interesting enough with a variety of prizes to be won. We wish the organising team success in this endeavour and at the same time thank the sponsors who have so generously donated prizes for the event. We encourage and look forward to as many volunteers as possible.

To all, Happy Reading and any errors or omissions are entirely unintentional.

Salam 1 SICB...

**Editors: Noor Laila Othman (ella)
& Sehu Chai Kee**

Office Bearers 2010

PRESIDENT
IMM. PAST PRESIDENT
PRESIDENT ELECT
HON. SECRETARY
HON. TREASURER
PROGRAMME
PUBLICITY
MEMBERSHIP
COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE

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Noraini Mohd Nor
Rohayah Ahmad
Datin Leong Swee Han
Sim Chan
Doris Lim Swee Lian
Nazeen Koonda
Helena Cheah
Beh Suat Pheng
Dr Chang Lee Hoon

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Education
Fund-raising
Social
Friendship Link
Environment
Constitution
Social & Economic
SPECIAL PROJECTS
HIV/AIDS
Janda Baik
Halt Violence
Human Trafficking
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Lam Swee Theam
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Indrawathi Selvarajah
Datok Normah Aris
Agnes Tan
Jaya Nair
Welyne Jehom

Jessika Luther
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Rohayah Ahmad
Yeo Pei Li
Agnes Tan & Carol Chan

CLUB REPRESENTATIVES TO SIROM

Sehu Chai Kee
Datin Leong Swee Han

PROXIES

Rohayah Ahmad
Noraini Mohd Nor



Funds Raised In 2010

DONORS

AMOUNT CAUSE

DONATION FROM SI KYOTO-TOKA	RM 1,798.00	GOAT REARING PROJECT, JANDA BAIK
UOA GROUP	RM 156,694.58	RENOVATIONS OF SURIA BANGSAR SOUTH
UOA GROUP	RM 5,000.00	START-UP FOR SURIA BANGSAR SOUTH
UOA GROUP	RM 2,500.00	HARI RAYA FOR SINGLE MOTHERS & FAMILIES
DONATION FROM JENNY CHUNG	RM 2,022.00	SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
TREASURE HUNT	RM 20,068.40	SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
MOTHER'S DAY BAZAAR	RM 6,962.50	SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
MUSICAL ON STAGE PRODUCTION	RM 2,400.00	SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DONATION FROM PENUMBRA	RM 2,000.00	HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROJECT
DEUTSCHE BANK	RM 12,483.00	SPORTS EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES FOR NUR ZAHARAH CENTRE
DONATION FROM ALUPANORAMA	RM 5,000.00	SCHOOL/SPORTS SHOES ETC FOR NUR ZAHARAH CENTRE
METALS SDN BHD		
SI SHAH ALAM	RM 579.00	3 Clubs 1 Heart initiative

TOTAL

RM217,507.48

RM217,507.48

RM217,507.48





SURIA BANGSAR SOUTH

A community project by Seroptimist International Club of Bangsar and sponsored by UOA Group

SURIA BANGSAR SOUTH: A New Feather in The Cap

Resource Centre & Programmes For Women and Girls

AIMS OF SURIA BANGSAR SOUTH:

To empower the disadvantaged women/girls:

- With skills and knowledge
- To be economically independent, and
- To have a sustainable income.

Having successfully acquired the experience of setting up a resource centre at Janda Baik for the underprivileged rural students in 2008, SICB set to replicate this project for the urban poor.

Brainstorming was done with our Education Convenor Swee Theam to prepare a paper on ready standby while doing recce of urban communities and looking for a corporate partner to share our vision and support our ambitious project on Equity & Equality. The

opportunity came up when I found out about a lunch my husband was attending with a developer. I gate crashed and handed over the proposal and a CD of our resource centre at Janda Baik to the Chairman.

Following that fateful day, many discussions were held with the proactive corporate executives, culminating in the generosity of the developer, UOA Group, undertaking the renovations and supporting all programmes at the centre to make our dream possible.

Our Dream became Their Dream. Suria Bangsar South at Kampung Kerinchi was born.



It was agreed that the UOA Group fund and we manage the centre to:

- provide educational and high value activities for the children in the area to inculcate social and learning skills as well as academic excellence
- provide opportunities for women, particularly single mothers and women from urban disadvantaged families, to acquire and develop skills to make themselves employable and to improve home management

The centre at the ground floor of the low cost flats opened without fanfare in August 2010 with the employment of a temporary college student for 4 hours each day for 5 days per week. It was getting to know the community and the community to know us during the 2010 period. Flyers were sent out to publicise the centre and the activities.

The Eid festival was celebrated with the Single Mothers in the area to make known to them the activities of Suria Bangsar South. UOA and Dorsett Regency Hotel, Kuala Lumpur were sponsors of the event, presenting them with cash and goody bags.

This was followed by a Personal Safety Workshop for 16 children in November 2010.

2011 will be an active year as more activities are planned to bring the women and girls to the centre. A permanent staff is required to keep the centre open regularly for longer hours. Tuition will be run for the examination years to assist the girls to improve their performance in the public examinations. To draw the young girls to the centre, simple skills will be taught from sewing, beading to bag making. Each month a workshop will be held on varied topics such as Career Guidance, AIDS Education, Parenting Skills, English Enrichment. Human Trafficking and self-improvement will be conducted.

Suria Bangsar South will provide a long-term positive impact on the educational initiatives that have been undertaken by SICB. It will improve the education and quality of life of the less fortunate children and women in the urban commune of Kampung Kerinchi. This is in line with the SI Long Term Project of Education & Leadership. This collaborative initiative of SICB with the social corporate responsibility of the private sectors to set up the Resource Centre will serve as a model and reference for other NGOs and corporate collaborations in serving the local communities..

Sehu Chai Kee



SURIA BANGSAR SOUTH and SINGLE MUMS



Suria Bangsar South & Single Mums



A display of up-coming programs for the women and girls at the event.



Swee Theam, Rohayah and Chai Kee were happy to see a well received joyful event.

One of SI Bangsar's new born projects, Suria Bangsar South, opened its door on 9th October 2010 to welcome residents from the community. A group of 60 single mothers and their families from the low cost flats in Bukit Kerinchi were invited to the Hari Raya celebration sponsored by UOA.

The guests feasted on popular Hari Raya fare.

Suria Bangsar South will offer educational support and skill development programmes for the women and girls living in the urban low cost flats.

Hopefully, this initiative of SICB and the UOA Group, will successfully provide support to the women and girls through education and skills development programmes which will subsequently improve their overall standard of living.

Sim Chan



The guests feasted on popular Hari Raya Fare



Single mothers received Duit Raya and Hampers courtesy of UOA Group and Dorset Regency Hotel Kuala Lumpur



Rohayah and Jessika talked to a single mother who has 5 children. Her husband left her when she was a few months pregnant.



SURIA BANGSAR SOUTH and SINGLE MUMS





SURIA BANGSAR SOUTH and SINGLE MUMS





CHILDREN'S PERSONAL SAFETY



A Children Personal Safety Workshop

“A Children Personal Safety Workshop was organised at Suria Bangsar South, our community centre in Kg. Kerinchi for 16 children aged 5 - 13 years old. The children are mostly from the urban poor population living in low cost flats in Kg Kerinchi area. In 4 groups, they were taught the 5 Golden rules of personal safety interactively through fun games, poems, songs and colouring session.



The children were taught self protection and safety at home, in school and in their neighborhood whilst building their self-esteem.



The workshop was conducted manually due to an unfortunate technical problem as the notebook was not compatible with the powerpoint. This slight glitch did not however dampen our spirits to proceed with workshop. The children were taught self protection and safety at home, in school and in their neighborhood whilst building their self-esteem. They were also taught to make good choices in different situations - in light of the increase in child abuse cases. Participation was high in view of incentives given for right (and wrong) answers and each child took back a yellow recycle bag and colour pencils. As a finishing touch, the children did hand printing on the yellow bags to mark the end of their learning session and the beginning of their learning awareness."

PERATURAN

1. TAG NAMA
2. DIAM
3. Berdisplin
4. HORMAT-MENGHORMATI
5. BERKERJASAMA
6. TIDAK MEMBUAT BISING
7. TEPATI MASA

CHILDREN'S PERSONAL SAFETY



Social & Economic Development

2010 was THE year during which SI Bangsar carried out various activities to raise funds to focus in promoting this area of Social & Economic Development of disadvantaged women and girls. We expect the projects to take off in 2011. This is in line with Equity & Equality as knowledgeable and skilled women and girls will be empowered to stand tall in their own right and be able to support their family.

Besides **Treasure Hunt** and **Mother's Day Bazaar** in the following articles, we received donations from part of the proceeds of Singing Market - The Musical.

Plans were germinated in 2010 with the Malaysian Institute of Arts to hold a musical concert in May 2011 to build up a strong fund for this cause.



Mother's Day 2010

Soroptimists are “women at their best helping other women to be at their best.”

From 6 to 9 May 2010, SI Bangsar participated at the Mother's Day Bazaar at Jaya 33, Petaling Jaya. The booth space was given us free of charge by a former SI Bangsar President. We distributed flyers on SI Bangsar and on our cause for the day, and sold interesting gifts, clothes, eye-catching slippers, second-hand books and home-cooked food – bak chang, noodles, acar, exotic cakes, artisan bread. Kim Fong from SI Petaling Jaya helped us to contact a generous donor, who supplied us tulips from Netherland. The stuff especially the tulips sold like hot cakes.

Members and friends of SI Bangsar took turn to man the booth over the 4 day period from 10.30 am to 9 pm daily. It was hard work but worth all the effort. It was more an effort to create awareness about SI to the public with salesmanship at retailing a step behind.

The net proceeds of RM6962.50 raised went to build up funds to run courses and programmes for disadvantaged women and girls on income-generating skills for the coming years.

Sehu Chai Kee



Treasure Hunt with a Heart

SI Bangsar celebrated its 18th Anniversary on 23 Oct 2010. Instead of the usual dinner, it was decided that we do something that we had not done before. It was a challenge our intrepid members could not resist.

Thus on 31 Oct, we had the motorized Charity Treasure Hunt to commemorate our 18th Anniversary. The theme was **“Hunt With A Heart”**, with the net profit going to our 2011 project to assist disadvantaged women and girls in acquiring income-generating skills.

Led by Helena Cheah as Organizing Chairperson and her team, work started about 2 months before the actual event. Efforts were focused on sourcing for the professional Hunt Organiser to set the route and questions (tulips), corporate sponsors for the tons of gifts for the goody bags and the inevitable cash contribution for the top prizes to make the Hunt attractive. That was



TREASURE HUNT WITH A HEART

settled with help from one and all, from generous individuals to responsible corporate bodies and of course from dedicated members. Members worked hard in packing the goody bags with attractive sponsored items the day before the event. It was an ache-causing process as the resultant sore backs and arms could testify to that.

The worrying part was to get enough participating cars to justify our efforts and to justify to our generous sponsors. The last two weeks got Helena and me burning the phone line on many appeals to our own members, various SI clubs and friends to bring in the cars. Our inserts in the newspapers helped in bringing the professional hunters. All in all, we got a whopping 40 cars and that took a load off our chest.

The day dawned bright and sunny. The Hunt was scheduled to start at 9 am with a joint flag-off by SI Bangsar's President and Etiqa senior manager.

Our co branding partner, Etiqa Insurance & Takaful, was most helpful in arranging our start-off venue at Dataran Maybank, in preparing and

printing the Hunt stickers, contributing cash, gifts and manpower to unload the heavy goody bags. They crowned it with a surprise hot breakfast for every participant and helper.

The route, which normally takes 50 minutes to reach, took about 6 hours for all the questions to be answered. All the excitement of the Hunt culminated at the destination by 3 pm. And what an appropriate choice of destination – our very own project – the welfare centre for 13 boys and 30 girls, the Nur Zaharah Welfare Centre at Janda Baik.

In organizing this Treasure Hunt, not only did we raise funds for a project, but we also saw spill-over effects. The public and corporate sponsors became aware of SI and SI Bangsar, and one of SI Bangsar's many projects, the Nur Zaharah Welfare Centre.

The Nur Zaharah Welfare Centre gained :

- publicity for their organic vegetables, which are delivered weekly right at the customers' doorstep, and donation in cash and kind.
- How much did we raise from all the hard work? A worthwhile RM20,068.40 to move women and girls towards economic independence. And most important, we had FUN!





TREASURE HUNT WITH A HEART



TREASURE HUNT WITH A HEART





TREASURE HUNT WITH A HEART

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SICB's first shot on combating **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Human Trafficking Workshop at SM Wesley Methodist, Kuala Lumpur

Facilitator : Yeo Pei Li

Assisted by: Sehu Chai Kee and Sim Chan

Date: Monday, 15 Nov 2010

Time 10.30 to 12.30pm

About 600 students from the school's Form 1 – 4 attended the workshop which was SI Bangsars pilot workshop after taking up this project. Pei Li, our member, who was the main speaker for the workshop, came under both the umbrella of SI Bangsar and National Council of Women Organisations (NCWO) using NCWO materials, which she further developed. After the workshop, SI Bangsar will develop a training manual for our future programme to create awareness of the danger of Human Trafficking and to avoid the pitfalls of being trapped.

Sim Chan





We have gone International!

Our project, Training of Trainer of the Personal Safety Workshop for Children, won a SISWP Federation Best Practice Award under Programme Focus Objective 2 - End Human Trafficking and All Forms of Violence against Women & Girls - in 2009. During the April 2010 Biennial Conference of Clubs in Gold Coast, Queensland, SI Bangsar was given the honour of showcasing this award winning programme. Our President Chai Kee gave an rousing presentation that attracted several commendations on such a wonderful project.



One of the SI participants, Mahiya Norton from SI Fremantle, Australia, expressed keen interest to be trained. Besides being an SI member, Mahiya started Amigos de Australianos y Zelandeses Inc. a non-government organization that took root in San Pablo, serving the poor around beautiful Lake Atitlan in the heart of Guatemala's volcanic highlands.

After a flurry of emails, Mahiya came to Malaysia on her own capacity and SI Bangsar specially arranged a one-to-one Training of Trainer on the Personal Safety workshop. After the training and exchange of ideas, we proudly gave her the power point presentation for translation to Spanish. Based on the Spanish version, she then trained 2 trainers i.e. 2 teachers – Pedro and Juanita - to run the workshop for schools in San Pablo, Guatemala.

The first workshop in July 2010 for 20 schoolchildren was a huge success with subsequent workshops being conducted till end of December. By then it reached out to about 2000 children. She reported that the children had a great time and by the end of the workshop had practically screamed out names of private parts compared with looking embarrassed at the beginning of the workshop.

SI Bangsar had really gone a long way with this project, creating awareness and empowering the young on their own personal safety. Who would have thought that when once it was a taboo to even mention the private parts of one's body, it is now important to ensure that children know the proper names of their body parts and how to protect themselves from sexual abuse.

Rohayah Ahmad



“2010 SPORTS TO THE FUTURE” DAY

SICB and Deutsche Bank (Malaysia) Berhad have worked together consistently and effectively over the years for the betterment of the orang asli (aborigines) and the disadvantaged children at Badan Amal Nur Zaharah at Janda Baik. The academic side of the children at Nur Zaharah Welfare Centre had been the focus over the past three years with the provision of tuition and the development of the Resource Centre and Computer Room.

For 2010, we moved one step further. SICB proposed to our project partner to provide a rounded development for the 42 children including 29 girls, focusing on the provision of both indoor and outdoor sports facilities to cater for their physical and social development.



GOALS

- To inculcate interest in sports activities
- To develop sports skill
- To promote team spirit and team building
- To develop sporting spirit and sportsmanlike competitiveness
- To reap the resultant health benefits

A sum of Euro3000 or RM12,483 was donated by Deutsche Bank for SICB to coordinate the event i.e. to provide both indoor and outdoor sports facilities. We saw to the preparation of the courts and facilities and purchase of sports equipment for netball, badminton, futsal, table tennis and indoor board games and help organise the launch for 100 persons at Badan Amal Nur Zaharah.

On 27 November 2010, we launched the special day. The morning started with netball and futsal matches between the residents of Nur Zaharah Welfare Centre and away teams of Deutsche Bank staff. These were followed by Telematches.

After all the excitement of cheering, prizes were given out to the winning teams. Tshirts donated by the bank were distributed to each and every one of the children. Lunch was served.

The students were encouraged to hold matches with the local groups in the area to promote integration into the community.

You guessed right, the away teams lost all the matches. Nur Zaharah Welfare Centre children were the overall champions!

Sehu Chai Kee

What's Up at Janda Baik in 2010

Nur Zaharah Welfare Centre - Resource Centre

The Phase II of Resource Centre at Nur Zaharah Welfare Centre saw the setting up of computer room at the Girls' Wing. The painting of the computer room was done by Noraini, Aureen, Ian and some girls from Nur Zaharah Welfare Centre. Five new computers were installed with fund supported by Deutsche Bank (M) Berhad whilst the computer tables and chairs were donated by a furniture manufacturer.

English Camp

SI Bangsar collaborated with SI Damansara on 10 April 2010 to organise an English camp for the students (Standard 1 to Form 5) in Janda Baik - comprising students from Nur Zaharah Welfare Centre, Orang Asli (aborigines) and local village Malay students. The English Camp was attended by 101 students, 18 facilitator, 17 SI Damansara ladies and family members, SI Bangsar members and friend. SI Bangsar, in

charge of getting students to participate, sponsored the meals for the participants.

Visit to SI Bangsar's Janda Baik Project by Univeristy of Malaya students

Forty seven students from University of Malaya visited our Janda Baik projects on 10 April, 2010. Headed by one of our members and their lecturer, Dr Weylne, the students were briefed on the projects by Noraini Mohd Nor.



Organic Farming by Nur Zaharah Welfare Centre

The Compassion Goes Green project, started in 2009 in collaboration with Deutsche Bank (M) Berhad, continued to flourish. Under the guidance of Yahaya, Nur Zaharah's manager, they have started to sell their produce to private homes in Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya on a regular basis. As a result of this project, Nur Zaharah is able to partially support the running of the centre.

Orang Asli Goat Project

In 2010, the Orang Asli goat breeders encountered similar problem that they faced in 2009. It was unfortunate that due to the rainy season, many of the goats died. Imak was left with three goats, Ida (Imak's daughter) three goats and Pak Ram and wife, Ani four goats.

Seri

Seri, SICB's adopted Orang Asli girl, is now 9 years old and studying in Standard 3 at the local primary school. SI Bangsar continues to support her with monthly RM60 worth of grocery items.

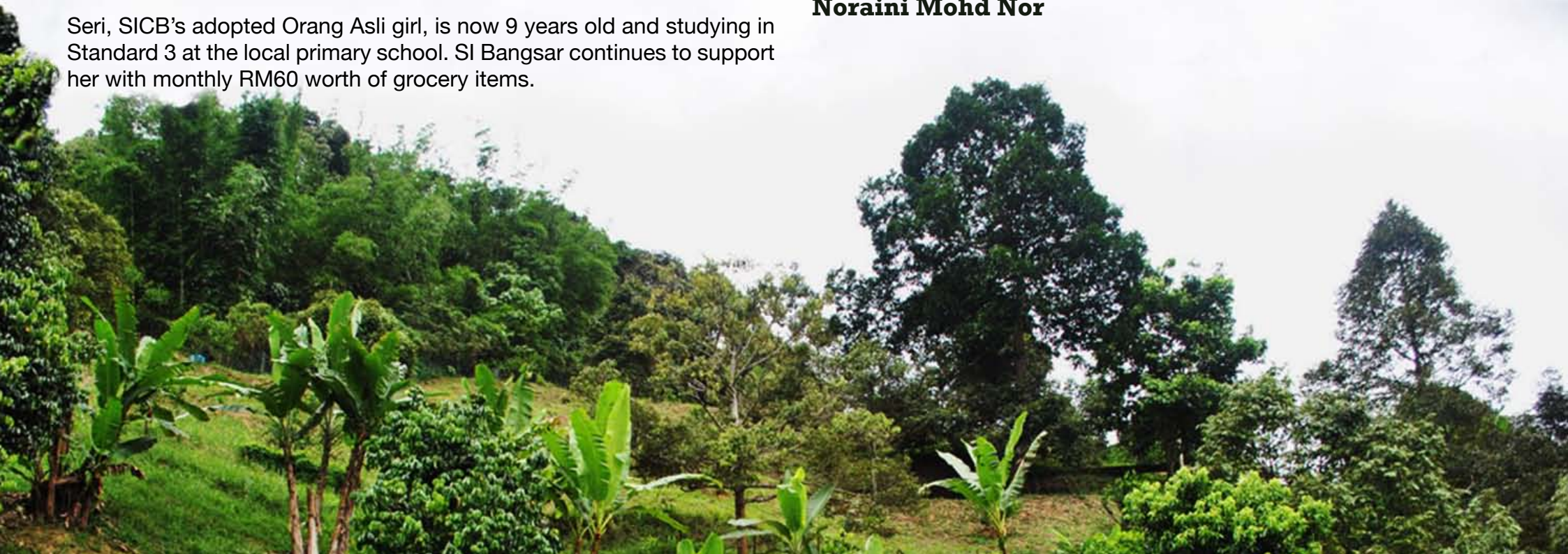
Dewi's Graduation Ceremony

Dewi, an Orang Asli girl from Janda Baik, completed her beautician course at Beaubelle Aesthetic Centre. SI Bangsar supported her living expenses during the duration of the course.

She not only received her certificate of attendance but also bagged a prestigious Certificate of Outstanding Performance - in recognition of her outstanding performance in carrying out the duties of a professional beautician from the Minister of Human Resources. Noraini attended the graduation ceremony on 19 April 2010 at Tropicana Golf Club to share her joy.

Dewi is the first Orang Asli girl from her village to have successfully completed a professionally trained and skilled programme. Dewi is now working as a qualified beautician.

Noraini Mohd Nor



Paediatric Leukemia

In fulfilling the wishes of the donors to SI Bangsar Paediatric Leukaemia Fund, SI Bangsar continues to support referred cases from hospital welfare officers, specifically University Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC). From year 2010 till January 2011, SI Bangsar has funded three young patients who required Erwinase Asparaginase (E-ASPA) drugs as part of the treatment of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. They are:

Joy Chai Xin Jie

Joy is a 2 year-old girl from Lawas, Sarawak. She is the only child in her family. Her father, Chai Seng Hui, is a taxi driver, earning an estimated income of RM1,500 per month, whilst her mother, Josephine Leku Sia is a home maker. Prior to her treatment at UMMC, her parents had to sell their house to pay for Joy's treatment at Subang Jaya Medical Centre (SJMC, a private hospital), costing RM180,000. Currently they are staying with Joy's paternal grandparents. Her father is the sole bread winner and also supporting her elderly grandparents, who are suffering from high blood pressure and diabetics (DM). Joy has completed the chemotherapy using E-ASPA and is now progressing well and waiting for a donor to do the unrelated cord blood transplantation. The transplantation procedure will proceed as soon as she gets the matched cord blood. Total financial support given by SI Bangsar is RM29,400.00.

Charles Yong Zhuo Xi

Charles is a 4 year-old boy from Tanjung Sepat, Selangor. He is second in family of three. His family lives with his grandmother. His father, Yong Joo Keong, is an accounts manager (working on weekly basis) for 6 companies with an income of RM2400

per month. His mother, Tan Mooi Tieng, is a home maker. Since Charles's illness, two companies had stopped his service due to decline in his performance. Mr Yong was compelled to take leave to take care of Charles, and subsequently his income dropped to less than RM1800 per month. Prior to Charles's treatment at UMMC, his parents had spent RM22,000 to finance his treatment at SJMC and sold their family's car. Total financial aid given by SI Bangsar is RM26,950.00

Charles is now undergoing his last chemotherapy of E-ASPA and is progressing well.

Khiw Chai Yan

Chai Yan is a 6 year-old girl from Cheras, Kuala Lumpur. She is the youngest in family of three. Her father, Khiw Yan Sheng, is salesman selling Chinese medicine with an income of RM2,600.00 per month. Her mother, Tan Wai Yee, is a home maker. They are living with her paternal grandfather in a City Hall low-cost flat. Her father is the sole-bread winner and is also supporting her elderly grandparents.

This active, cheerful and talkative girl has completed her interim chemotherapy of E-ASPA. Due to her high risk condition, she has been advised by her doctor to do the matched sibling donor bone marrow (as matched bone marrow with her eldest sister, 9 year old) in mid April 2011. Before undergoing the transplantation procedures, she has to undergo a total body irradiation at Sime Darby Medical Centre (a private hospital). Total financial aid given by SI Bangsar comes to RM 28,296.00.

Chu Yan Si

Apart from the three new cases, we are pleased to report that Chu Yan Si, the recipient of the fund in 2009, is doing well. She turns 4 years old in 2011 and has started going to pre-school. Her mother now works to help support the family while her grandmother takes care of Yan Si.

Written by:

Dr Chang Lee Hoon

THE LONG FLIGHT: 16 HOUR JOURNEY TO GOLD COAST

14th of April, 2010, I kissed my two 4 legged sons goodbye and hopped into the cab to pick Swee Han, who was my roomie in Gold Coast, Australia. Together, we landed at Sepang LCCT at about 6.30 pm. Our flight was scheduled at 9.25pm. We got ourselves checked in and walked around as it was still early.

Finally, it was time for us to board the plane. Feeling very excited as all in all there were 15 of us. Besides KLites, we had our sister clubs of Penang, Ipoh and Johore. Some were seated in the premium class, so we took advantage of that by popping in and out of that compartment.

We were in mid air for about 2 hours and someone pointed out from looking at the map that we were heading back to Kuala Lumpur. In response to his query, the stewardess replied that the reading was faulty. There were further queries regarding why we were heading in the direction AWAY from our destination.

Finally, the captain announced that he had bad news for us. We were heading home as the plane had developed a engine problem. This was considered a major problem and there was no way the plane could land in Gold Coast. We flew for another two hours above the island of Indonesia in order to exhaust the fuel before landing in KLIA.

I heard cries, prayers and chanting in the plane. I was stable as I had just gone through a traumatic robbery experience two weeks ago and this incident did not really shake me up. I was certain that we were in the good hands of the experienced pilots. Finally, we landed in Sepang LCCT on the emergency runway with a loud thud as though the engine was about to burst.

Instantly there was this huge relief shown on the face of everyone and suddenly a roaring applause erupted from the passengers. It was a



safe landing, thank God! The plane taxied for a while until it was towed to the LCCT terminal with us still inside. The incident was similar to watching a drama on television with the flashing emergency lights of the fire-trucks and ambulances dramatically, but this time we were the actors in a troubled plane. It was real and nerve-wrecking for most. Some vowed not to travel in that airline again and one member took off wisely for home to recover from the trauma.

Reaching the terminal at about 2am, 15th of April, we were greeted with a bottle of mineral water each and told to wait for the next available flight, which was scheduled at 9.25 pm the following day. This was when our high powered SI ladies came to the fore-front and displayed their skills in negotiation and assertiveness with great professionalism. They demanded that we be flown to Gold Coast that morning itself to enable us to attend the all important Conference of Clubs on time and to be able to cast our votes for our Malaysian candidate.

Any delay might jeopardize our Malaysian nominee in the election and Malaysia would lose its standing in the eyes of the world. Wow it was “diplomacy” to the highest hilt.

After a couple of hours, at about 4.30am, we were put on to the rescue flight to Gold Coast with free flow of food and drinks for the whole journey, thanks to our talented SI ladies!

Then, “Ding Dong” it was the captain requesting for a doctor on board to attend to a passenger with high fever. Dr Shuba, President of SI Penang attended to the call. What?? H1N1?? Oh no! Not another drama and possible quarantine!!

We finally arrived at Gold Coast at about 5pm, after 16 hours from initial take-off, checked in, showered, had dinner and then straight to bed. Sadly I missed my Programme of Service meeting for that day. But thank God, we live to tell the tale.

Helena Cheah

THE LONG FLIGHT



3 Clubs 1 Journey



"We are itching!" Well after our return from Ozland, we put paid to good social behavior. Blame it on the sand flies of Fraser Island, the largest sand island in the world, off Hervey Bay.

The travelling team, comprising four from SI Bangsar (Doris, Agnes, Pheng and I), Pushpa from SI Damansara and Nicole from SI Seremban, made good and bad company. You will find out soon enough what I mean.

We flew safely into Gold Coast on 5 April and then took off to Cairns to start our driving journey, heading south by road back to Gold Coast for the Conference of Clubs from 15 to 18 April. The Great Barrier Reef beckoned for what is a trip to Queensland without paying homage to GBR. The weather turned grey and wet, the sea was choppy and stomachs churned in protest. Considering such adverse conditions, none of us threw up. One point up so far.

The only mermaid snorkeled while two clung to the side of the platform as their way of snorkeling. The rest undertook their own pursuits without going into the sea but got thoroughly wet all the same. That was Day 1. The consortium started thinking of getting a property in Cairns to return to the GBR again.

Then to Kuranda, a hill station reminding us of Fraser Hill. Did we want to walk the tropical forest? No, we got that back home. Did we want to see snakes? No, we got that back home. We needed to kill time to fit the skyway schedule. The walk was free while serpents were not. So we walked. We had a lovely lunch at a restaurant where we charmed the Italian boss while he charmed our pockets. And we did extension work for SI Australia on 2 Kenyan beauties sharing our table.

The three drivers and three navigators plus the GPS made good headway each day. We stopped over at Townsville for a couple of nights. Lorna Mead and Ray invited us to their cosy home with a splendid view of the ocean. Her fruit cake was scrumptious. We had dinner with the Townsville ladies and men. Our consortium considered getting a property in this Pleasantville facing the Esplanade. We posed in many ways in front of the Soroptimist sculpture at Soroptimist Park.

We brought our Toyota Torago over to Magnetic Island and the rare few among us had our fill of petting parrot, wombat, lizards, crocodile, koala, and python. It was hot and humid just like home.

To Airlie Bay we went. A happening place for backpackers and what did we do.? We strolled and enjoyed seafood and behaved like dirt rich tycoons surveying properties facing the sea. We decided to postpone any investment and moved south to Hervey Bay, three and a half hours away.

Thanks to our supremo in trip planning, we had a comfortable self-serviced apartment at Akama

What kept us going during the long drive was the camaraderie of bantering, that kept us alert, and the many navigators.



Resort where the “dancing girls” could do their practice for the Friendship Nite at the Conference of Clubs. The best was yet to come. We were directed to the nearby Harbour Club for dinner. The seafood and beef roast were superb. But what really won us completely over was the free flow of drinks - cappuccino, hot chocolate, coffee, tea and what have you. The Consortium more or less dug their feet in to purchase a retirement home here. There is a casino at the club. Bingo and dancing to a Country & Western band are common fare each week.

That was where we got all the sand flies on a day outing over to Fraser Island, going bumpity bump on sandy tracks with large potholes. It was cool, waddling in a clear stream, and soaking ourselves in Mackenzie Lake had made us 10 years younger as the belief went. Maybe that explained the itch that refused to go away.

We bid goodbye sadly to our free flow of drinks for a long drive to Brisbane. We did make a pit stop at Buderim to indulge in ginger retail therapy. Having tapas and Viennese coffee at an Austrian restaurant (Backofen) in this small place, we came across the chef who once owned Backofen in Ampang.

The end of the tunnel was having tea at Versace Hotel at Brisbane. The oohs and ahs and free wifi. Then it was journey's end at Gold Coast for serious SI matters to save the world.

We never spoke so much Bahasa Malaysia back home. In the car, we conducted our business meetings on our trip accounts in our national language. Agnes was voted the next Finance Minister of Malaysia. We learned to sing a Tamil song from non Tamil Nicole. The catchy melody had this habit of seeping

into our subconscious daily. Pushpa shared the extraordinary Hokkien language she once learnt from her Hokkien speaking students. I tried, I mean I sipped, all kinds of beer throughout the journey of revelation, courtesy of our young chick from Seremban.

What kept us going during the long drive was the camaraderie of bantering, that kept us alert, and the many navigators. At all time we had one driver, an e-Navigator, one official navigator and 4 fast-talking backseat navigators. Imagine the drivers working under such extenuating conditions, and we must thank the concerned groups that offered free driver coffee by the highway for maintaining our sanity, and keeping our friendship intact.

Did we bond? Yes we did. We also bought half of Queensland.

When's our next trip, Doris?

Sehu Chai Kee





Townsville

In April, as a prelude to the SISWP Conference of Clubs, 6 Soroptimists decided to go on a Queensland Adventure. Four members of SI Bangsar, Doris Lim, Agnes Tan, Sehu Chai Kee and I, were joined by Nicole Tan of SI Seremban and Pushpa Mahalingam of SI Damansara.

After a rainy trip to the Great Barrier Reef and three nights in Cairns, we arrived at Townsville on 8th April in our rented MPV and checked into our two-bedroom apartment. Almost immediately after that there was a knock on the door and, lo and behold, there stood Lorna Mead, husband Ray and Judy Hunter, President of SI Townsville Inc. What a welcome!

Townsville is the home of Lorna Mead, Past President SISWP. Lorna was a regular visitor to Malaysia, first as SISWP Extension Convenor and then as P-E and President. Lorna was the one who prompted SICB to take up Seri's case. There are 3 clubs in Townsville – Townsville Breakwater, Townsville Focus After Five and Townsville Inc.

Lorna recommended that we go to Rockpool Seafood Café and Bar for seafood where we had a scrumptious meal.

The next day was time to play tourist. We hopped on to the ferry for Magnetic Island and went “up close and personal” with Australia's animals, koalas, cockatoo, little alligators, wombats, etc. We then visited Horseshoe Bay which was very beautiful and worth the steep climb which only Nicole and I completed. Next was a visit to Soroptimist Park which was SI Townsville's pride and joy. Very nice indeed.

After that we headed for Castle Hill which is in the middle of

Townsville. Doris, Chai Kee, Nicole and I decided to climb right to the top whilst Pushpa and Agnes opted to relax near the car park which is halfway up. Tired from a hectic day's outing, we were relieved to be at Lorna's house for tea. Lorna and Ray live in a lovely house on the hill with a fantastic view from the verandah. Lorna's fruit cake was to die for.

That night, we met our Townsville SI sisters and some of their spouses for dinner. We had a great time renewing friendships and making new ones.

After two wonderful days, it was time to say goodbye to Townsville to continue our Queensland adventure.

Beh Suat Pheng





Townsville is the home of Lorna Mead, Past President SISWP. Lorna was a regular visitor to Malaysia.



Congratulations!

1. Congratulations to Helena Cheah of SI Bangsar for being elected one of the 4 SISWP Programme Coordinators under the Programme Team headed by the SISWP Programme Director Robyn Cain for 2010-2012 Biennium.

The Programme Director is assisted by 2 Assistant Federation Programme Directors (AFPD) and 4 Programme Coordinators.

Helena is placed under Zone B together with Di Lockwood as AFPD to coordinate programmes in the expanded sub team zone covering the Regions of New Zealand Central, Western Australia and Tasmania and Clubs of Solomom Islands and Hong Kong (SAR) and the Country of Singapore with 2 Clubs.

SI Bangsar is so proud of you!

You can read more about it in <http://www.siswp.org/Members/Welcome-to-New-Programme-Team.html>

2. Congratulations to Puan Sri Siew Yong Gnanalingam of SI Petaling Jaya for being elected as SISWP PE for 2010-2012 Biennium. This calls for many rounds of yam seng.

3. Congratulations to Dr Indrani Manuel of SI Damansara for being appointed as e-Tis coordinator.

e-Tis is the online newsletters of Soroptimist International.

4. We are also proud of Dato' Anusha Santhirasthipam of SI Petaling Jaya for completing an excellent job as SISWP Constitution Convenor 2008-2010 Biennium which merited a standing ovation at the 2010 Conference of Clubs at Gold Coast.

5. Congratulations to Dato' Anusha Santhirasthipam for being entrusted with the role of International Assistant Programme Director. Quoting SISWP President Yvonne Simpson, "Her role as International Assistant Programme Director with a reviewed job description will capitalize upon the external opportunities which she can bring to this role".

We at SI Bangsar are proud of these outstanding ladies for placing Malaysia prominently on the map of Soroptimist International World.

Sehu Chai Kee





**Reflections on my
SIROM Presidency**



It all started with a highly sensationalized election campaign for President Elect. There were 2 candidates of equal strength and support to choose from.

For the first time in the history of **SIROM** the candidates had to produce their respective CV's for selection. There was so much of talk, preparation, anticipation for: 'Who will be the next PE'. Till the last minute of announcing the successful candidate there was anxiety. Eyes were glued to the ballot box as the scrutineers counted out each vote.

That was how it all began.

The next challenging moment for me was organising the 8th SIROM Biennial Conference. I surveyed various venues: a whole day drive to the various beach resorts in Port Dickson, the sights of Seremban and finally zoomed on to Penang. As it was not possible for the committee members to accompany me, I took the journey alone to view the most realistic venue in terms of facilities and cost to finally settle with Sandy Beach Resort. This held me tensed till the very last minute of the Conference. Thanks to the host club for ensuring the best facilities for the delegates.

As President, my objectives were to strengthen and consolidate clubs in Malaysia through regular visits, organise Training sessions for members and

act as an effective coordinator between Clubs, the Federation and International. The opportunity came knocking at our door step when KL became the venue for the 2009 IBM in April. It enabled many of our Malaysian members to attend the Board Meetings as silent observers and have a glimpse of the 'Big Picture'. That same year we had Federation visitors at our shores again for the charter of SI Sentul. In 2010 we had the then SI President Hanne Jensbo visiting Malaysia to hand the Best Practice Award to SI Penang for their 'Blossom' project. It was a tight schedule for her with SIROM organising meetings to facilitate as many members to meet up with her. The election of Siew Yong as SWP PE was the best connection we have built with the Federation. A big delegation met at the Gold Coast to support her. Malaysian Soroptimists presented a well synchronized 1 Malaysia dance for the Friendship Nite which received favourable feedback from delegates.

Training sessions before each Council Meeting became routine and each sessions saw various topics discussed. These sessions promoted bonding and sharing of projects amongst members. However, the unfortunate point is that some club reps who attended these sessions,

failed to report the proceedings back to their club members. Therefore SIROM did not receive the cumulative positive impact. Some clubs were still in the dark on basic information on Programme writing, on seeking info from website etc though these topics were covered quite extensively at various sessions..

I must mention here that there was tremendous work that went behind the scene before each meeting be it Council meeting, Training sessions, Constitution amendments or EGM. There were many meetings I held one on one at times with members of my EXCO to ensure we were in the same wavelength. These meeting were usually self paid sessions. We never used the SIROM funds. I am fortunate to have had a highly committed team.

My visits to clubs were both exciting and frustrating. I was accompanied by Extension Convenor Pheng on most of my visits to give presentations and recruit members as well. We were highly inspired at question time by the many inquiries. But sad to say, that enthusiasm was not maintained. The first meeting with an interested member from Kuching lifted our hopes, and we were sure we

would charter a club in Kuching in 2010. Alas the members were too immersed in their career and with no strong leader to pool the resources together it drew a blank.

We visited problem clubs. The issue was usually ego problem. The solution seemed so simple. We sit for hours discussing and return satisfied that we resolved the problem. Unfortunately, the same sentiment prevailed. There is dire need of new blood to take over the leadership for a new lease of life for these clubs.

Another issue is the 'ownership' of projects. Presidents hold position for only 2 years. You may have worked your guts out to raise funds and therefore feel your successor might not have the same sentiment towards the project and might misuse the funds. This fear is unfounded. If you had all the accounts in order, well minuted, maintained and audited there's no way the money can disappear. If you have any reservations, you have every right to question the Treasurer. Instead of withholding the monies, release and monitor: that is the trait of a good leader.

It was disturbing to gather some clubs had not kept to the rules of the ROS for years i.e. the annual submission to ROS and well maintained audited accounts. SI Likas failed to do so for years and was therefore closed. So, too, was SI Teruntum. I hope this scenario would never be repeated in future. The only assurance would be for all clubs to submit a copy of their annual returns to the ROS to SIROM for record.

The greatest set back in clubs is lack of proper procedure to handover documents and files to the successor, leaving the next position

holder confused and uncertain. Often, a member is named at random and persuaded/ forced to take over without any briefing or follow up due to a terrible shortage of women power within the club. It happens even at SIROM level. At the last AGM we had to practically force members to take up positions as Member Development and Programme Convenors. Another problem is over representation from one club. This should be avoided in future. There should be a pool of members who can be identified by respective clubs to understudy present position holders for a healthy continuity at both club as well as SIROM level. With SIROM as the fastest growing Region in SWP and with Malaysian Soroptimists taking Federation and International positions, we should encourage new members from each club to move forward whilst the present seniors take the role of mentors to nurture them..

There are various reasons for the lack of initiative from members to hold positions:

1. Reluctance due to family commitments esp. amongst young members.
2. Highly sensitive to adverse comments.
3. No self confidence due to lack of knowledge and ignorance
4. Modest and do not want to be seen as ambitious. Therefore wait for others to recognize and mention name but this fails to happen most times.
5. Personal vendetta and therefore refuse to support a candidate from own club.

It is often the same few people doing the job. There might be various reasons for this. This can be rectified to an extent if there could be careful planning of the project, streamlining members

into active and passive participants. .

Yet at times it can be a situation where some members want to do so many things at the same time. Always remember time and energy is limited. So do what you can within these limits, don't volunteer for all and be Jack of all trades, master of none. Take on responsibilities that you do well and ensure you obtain the targeted victory

2 outstanding events I shall always remember of my Presidency.

a. Food poisoning in Phnom Penh which cost me RM 3000 in an American hospital. It also showed the true spirit of Sisterhood at its best through Suat Pheng who had been a tower of strength throughout my stay.

b. The first EGM for the approval of Soroptimist Malaysia Foundation, which was declared null and void for failing to adhere to the correct procedure. It became a valuable learning experience for me and I have emerged educated on the role play of a SIROM President.

I am glad to have included PE Joanne Yeoh as an active team player from the beginning of my Presidency. I leave with the assurance of a smooth continuity for SIROM.

Datin Indira Naidu
IPP SIROM

Chinese New Year Dinner - 2010





Hari Raya celebration with SICB's Sisters 2010

"This year we decided to have a Raya celebration with our SICB's sisters and Ella has been kind enough to again allow us to celebrate at her house. Maryati and Rohayah arrived a few hours earlier to help Ella to prepare the dishes. They prepared lemang, nasi himpit, rendang and other traditional delicacies to tempt the guests. Whatever dishes put on the table will never rival Ella's special mutton biryani, dhal dish, salad, prawn sambal and chicken curry. Yummy! These homemade traditional dishes are what we had always look forward to.

This year we had a special guest - Dr. Raiza Malhotra from SI Caracas, Venezuela who also attended our monthly General Meeting. Suffice to say that the meeting was somewhat interrupted by the tempting "aroma" from Ella's kitchen and everyone couldn't wait for the meeting to end.







The company was indeed congenial, and the food is great – but of course cooked from the heart! And we're so very productive with the bonding – planning, talking, eating, sharing and moving forward on so many activities. A special thanks to Ella for hosting and tolerating our loud conversations. "Ribuan terima kasih."

by: **Rohayah Ahmad**





WATCH OUT for SI Bangsar's 19th Anniversary Event

HUNT WITH A HEART

SICB CHARITY HUNT
23 OCTOBER 2011



Route : Flagged off at Menara Maybank, Bangsar and
ends at Kuala Selangor, De Palma Hotel.

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Soroptimist International Club of Bangsar

