



# The Brunei Speakers' Club

## *Cheese & Toast*

**"Inspire to Greater Heights"** Club No: 6376/51

Volume 1, Issue 5

December 2004

### **Greetings:**

*Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year* to all our members and friends!



Our last meeting is on **21<sup>st</sup> December 2004**, to be held at *Royal Brunei Golf & Country Club* and we will resume our meetings on **4<sup>th</sup> January 2005**. Happy holidays!

### **Recognition:**



Congratulations to our latest **Competent Toastmaster (CTM) Ridwan Siddiq!** On 2 November 2004, Ridwan reminded us to never give up with his speech titled "Light A Candle". Well done, Ridwan!

*Ridwan receiving his CTM pin from President Rozana*

### **Workshop: Roles & Responsibilities**

The second workshop for The Brunei Speakers' Toastmaster started at 10.15am on 20 November 2004 at Seameo Voctech to discuss our Toastmasters meeting roles and responsibilities. 11 members attended. Ridwan Siddiq, CTM was the Toastmaster of the Morning while Dr Melanie Chin, ATM-B, conducted the discussion on the roles and responsibilities of the role players.

Melanie started off with the Sergeant At Arms, who was also the seventh ranking club officer, then moved on to the role of the Toastmaster. It was emphasized that the other role of the Toastmaster was to prepare introductions for each speaker, as a proper introduction was important to the success of the speakers' presentation. For the Grammarian, it was recommended that the word of the day be an adjective or adverb since they were more adaptable than nouns or verbs. It should be a word that would help members to increase their vocabulary and a word that could be incorporated easily into everyday conversation.

The Table Topic Master was to prepare several topics to a theme, or if no theme chosen, a wide selection of topics. Selected topics should inspire the speakers without being too long or complicated. It was also the responsibility of the Table Topic Master to watch his time allocation and adjust the number of questions to end his segment on time. We also discussed the role of the Table Topic Evaluator, Ah Counter and Who Said What, Timer, Speakers, Evaluators, General Evaluator, presenters of the Thought and Tip of the Day and even touched on the responsibilities of the Treasurer, President and Vice President Education.

During the meeting, Clovis Lai commented that Geoff was a good General Evaluator and that we should learn from him.

In the second session, Ridwan went through the Communication and Leadership Manual so that each member understood the speech objectives. He reminded that the speakers needed to prepare the speeches according to the speech objectives. He urged and encouraged the members to practice and rehearse before presenting their manual speech in order to give an effective speech.

*Note: A full summary of the Meeting Roles and Responsibilities and Introducing a Speaker was put up at The Brunei Speakers Club Yahoo!Groups site.*

Contributed by: TM **Lim Siok Kuen**

### **Our Mission:**

**To create a mutually supportive environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth!**

**The Brunei Speakers' Club meets every Tuesday from 7.15pm – 9.30pm at Seameo-Voctech, Jalan Pasar Baharu, Gadong. Call President Rozana Yunos at +673 8775191 for more information.**

## ***District 51 Semi-Annual Convention, Kuala Lumpur: A Passionate Weekend in KL!***



*From L-R: Poh Kim Siong, DTM, David Brooks, DTM, Darren Lacroix, DTM, Johnny Uy, DTM with Rozana, Ron Tang, ATMB of KK TMC, Geoff and Melanie*



*Winner of Best Dressed t KL2004, Geoff Andrew, DTM*

Why would more than 600 people wish to venture from various parts of Asia to Kuala Lumpur for a weekend of talk, talk, talk and more talk?

The only rational answer is if they are all Toastmasters wanting to share 3 days of enjoyment and learning with friends – old and new. They came from Hong Kong, Macao, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, East and West Malaysia, and – of course – from Brunei; not to mention VIP guests from Philippines, Australia, Canada and USA.

The event which attracted such enthusiastic support was the Semi-Annual Convention for Districts 51 and 80 of Toastmasters International, a twice per year extravaganza of dining, partying, education and recognition in almost equal measure.

The opportunity to listen to not one, but two, World Champions of Public Speaking was a privilege and a pleasure. 1990 Champion David Brooks, in particular, was both entertaining and instructive in dissecting 15 previous World Championship speeches to identify the characteristics of truly effective communications. Despite a few technical glitches, David was able to analyse and share his insights into the effective use of speech openings, body language, word usage, vocal variety and overall speech delivery. No wonder that he has been acknowledged as Mentor to no less than five other World Champions, including our second VIP guest, 2001 Champion Darren LaCroix.

Darren shared his experience of developing from a very average speaker (his description) to World Champion over a 10 year period of trial and error and emphasised that hard work underlies the success of most Champions. Have YOU ever rehearsed and refined a speech 450 times before being satisfied that it was ready for delivery? No – well maybe that is why none of us ever became World Champion in 2001. Because Darren did!

Both David and Darren are now successful professional speakers and make available some of their techniques, tips and experience via CDs, tapes and books. Rozana has purchased a set of David's materials for Club use, so please take the time to learn from a true MC (that is, Master of Communication).

Of course, we were all interested to listen to and test our own evaluation / judging skills in the two Contests which brought together the Divisional Champions from the region. Two old friends of mine from KL were declared the winners of the District 51 Evaluation Contest (Dominic Joseph, who beat Division K's Azlina Abdul Jalil into second place) and Humorous Speech Contest (Stephen Fernando, who defeated KK's Kevin Lim who placed third). But, almost without exception, the standard of presentation was extremely high. Stephen Fernando, in particular, had the audience "rolling with laughter" from the first seconds of his speech, but still managed to deliver a message to make his speech meaningful to the audience.

Brunei Speakers Club was in the limelight on several occasions – Rozana collecting a golden gavel to recognise the Club's achievement of "Select Distinguished Club" during Genevieve's term of office; a Certificate and badge was also received on Clovis's behalf for Area K6 being declared a "Distinguished Area" for 2003-4; Melanie was accorded the honour of carrying the Brunei flag at the traditional Flag Procession at the Opening Ceremony; and a certain member of the Club was adjudged to be "The Best Dressed Male" at the Welcome Night Dinner – although this can be solely attributed to the selection of his attire of Baju Melayu and Kain Sinjang, which was the result of expert fashion advice from Rozana, Melanie and Alicia! The four Club representatives also prepared for a Cultural Booth competition on behalf of Brunei.

Next in the calendar: the District Convention in Jakarta from 20-22 May 2005 – we believe that Genevieve, Clovis, Chui Hian and Siok Kuen will also be attending, so why not add your name to the list and perhaps make Brunei the best-supported overseas Club at the Convention? You may return with a need to catch up on sleep, but you will certainly have benefitted from the educational experience and definitely from the joy of mixing with probably 800 fellow Toastmasters.

Contributed by: **Geoff Andrew, DTM**