

Report on Rotary Inter Districts 3310 & 3300 Seeing Eye to Eye 7th International Conference on "BLINDNESS PREVENTION IN ASEAN: ROTARY'S RESPONSE" held on Saturday 7th October 2017 at Singapore National Eye Centre (SNEC) Auditorium from 0900hrs to 1730hrs

A total of 86 Rotarians and Guests registered for this event.

An additional 27 Interactors from NPSI School and 10 Rotractors from ITE College East boosted the attendance to 123 registered participants.

1) About the Event

This event brought together Rotarians, Lions, Ophthalmologists, eye hospital administrators and eye care professionals in ASEAN and various groups of volunteers.

As a prelude to the conference there was a welcome fellowship on Friday 6th October 2017 which was very well patronized by participants and speakers alike.

2) Conference Day 7th October 2017

i) Our Guest of Honour Minister Grace Fu, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth arrived at 9.00am.

The traditional Rotary Formalities were observed.

ii) District Governor D3310 Datuk Lee Chuen Wan in his address welcomed all participants, speakers and delegates to this annual Conference which always co-insides with "World Sight Day".

iii) In her address Minister Grace Fu spoke of the importance of Eye Care and thanked Rotary and its partners for organizing and spearheading this conference. She also highlighted the key role that SNEC was playing in the field of eye care.

She also observed that our conference blends in well with the concept and objectives of **SG Cares**.

iv) Professor Wong Tien Yin Medical Director SNEC and Chairman Singapore Eye Research Institute delivered the Key Note Address. The theme of his presentation was "**Trends in Eye Diseases in ASEAN: How eye care must evolve in the future**".

Our Guest of Honour took her leave during coffee break.

v) After coffee break former Ambassador Mr K Kesavapany, Governor Singapore International Foundation and President of RC Raffles City spoke on the subject "**ASEAN 50" and Rotary Blindness Prevention making a difference**."

3) **Four Topical presentations on Blindness followed.**

They are on:-

i) **"Preventing Glaucoma Blindness :- Where are we now?"**

By Adjunct Associate Professor Rahat Hussein, Senior Consultant, Glaucoma Department SNEC.

ii) **"Ophthalmic Education: Enhancing Learning with Simulation"**

By Associate Professor Ian Yeo, Deputy Medical Director (Education) SNEC

iii) **"Diabetes Causing Blindness"**

By Dr Pall Singh, Senior Consultant Ophthalmologist, Tun Hussein Onn National Eye Hospital (THONEH) Malaysia.

iv) **"Risk Factors and Microbiology of Infectious Keratitis"**

"Results from the Asian Cornea Infectious Keratitis Study"

By Adjunct Assistant Professor Khor Wei Boon, Consultant, Corneal & External Eye Disease Department SNEC.

4) **Presentation by Rotarians**

Four Rotarians also presented their activities conducted in the area of Blindness Prevention. They were:-

i) PDG Leslie Salehuddin District 3300 RC Gombak spoke on

"Eye Screening Project with "ONE SIGHT FOUNDATION" and other partners".

ii) CP Yim Ken Fei District 3300 RC Damansara West delivered a presentation on **"Gift of Sight ASEAN and Beyond".**

iii) PP Venkatachalam District 3310 RC Pasir Gudang presentation was titled **"The Rotary Eye Center".**

iv) CP Chew Ban Seng District 3310, Rotary E-Club of 3310 presentation was titled **"From Normal to Critical".**

5) **There were two presenters from ASEAN Countries. They were:-**

i) Dr Benjamin Cabrera, from Philippines, President ASEAN Association of Eye Hospitals (AAEH) spoke on the subject:-

"Current Status of Blindness Prevention in Philippines".

ii) Dr Tjahjono D Gondhowiardjo, Consultant Ophthalmologist, Jakarta Eye Center, Council Member AAEH spoke on the topic:-
“Current Status of Blindness Prevention in Indonesia”

6) Other Presentations

i) On a lighter note our first time partner Lion Eric Koh Project LRS/GOS Team Leader, LSSC enlightened members on their **“Lions SaveSight Centre Singapore”**.

ii) Director Elaine Woon of Project Orbis Singapore and member of RC Singapore Heartlands spoke on the work that **ORBIS is doing in the region and globally in the area of Blindness Prevention.**

7) Panel Discussion which lasted one hour

Participants had a field day clearing their doubts and airing their observations and suggestions during the Panel Discussion segment at the end of the Conference.

8) General

i) RRC PDG David Tong then launched THE ASEAN ROTARY CIRCLE on Blindness Prevention a new initiative to bring the message of Blindness Prevention to all corners of ASEAN.

ii) RRC PDG David Tong Chairman District 3310 Blindness Prevention Committee then handed over the Baton for the next year’s Conference to PAG Dato S. Kulasegaran, Chairman District 3300 District Action Group on Blindness Prevention. Next year’s conference will be hosted by RC Butterworth, Penang.

iii) A new partner who joined us at this conference, **PDG Sam Showket from Bangladesh District 3281** confirmed their District’s intention to be a regular partner in this series of annual conference. He promised a sizeable delegation at next year’s conference in Penang. He was also looking forward to host this event in Bangladesh.

Reported by:
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