

## In What Shape Do You Wish To Be?

Our theme for the recently concluded term 2007/2008 was "Shaping Our Aspirations and Results". Alas! Did we end with a good shape or odd shape? District 51 managed to finish the term with more than 300 clubs and positioned itself at the top 6 notches in the World as Presidents' Distinguished District for 11 times now.

A special mention shall go to Division P for its excellent achievement in chartering 7 new clubs. A number of them came on board as baby clubs catching the boat at the nick of time on 30 June 2008, just before the deadline. I browsed through to trace the journey that I had traveled for the entire term, from July 2007 to June 2008. Indeed, I was happy being an ordinary member of the club. I did not hold any position either in District or Club level. However, I kept myself occupied by getting thoroughly involved in club activities such as conducting demonstration meetings for new clubs, club mentoring and helping others in Toastmasters.

Wow! At the end of the term when I checked my Gmail dedicated for Toastmasters purpose - there were almost 1,500 compliments received. That is excluding short compliments such as "Noted", "Thanks", "Good Job", "See You Soon" and "Well Done". That has certainly made me on top of the world and aptly categorized myself in a good shape.

Since the beginning of the term, I was given the opportunity to be a Club Sponsor together with the Division P Governor. The new club, MCOBA Toastmasters Club, was recorded as the first club chartered in District 51 for the term. The club members are from the alumni of Malay College Kuala Kangsar ("MCKK"). The spoken English of the MCKK Old Boys is excellent. As the Club Mentor, my primary focus is sharing knowledge, wisdom and experience in the Toastmasters program. The members are enthusiastic lots. On several occasions as many as 10 project speakers scrambled to deliver their speeches in one meeting. Indeed, they have the vision to produce as many Competent Communicators as possible for their Distinguished Club Program points.

Being a Club Mentor could be just a title, but to be a dedicated Club Mentor there is much more work to do. On each meeting day, I struggled to get evaluators and role players besides guiding the new members step by step as espoused in the Toastmasters program. Mentoring task is not something that we can do alone. Henceforth, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank the Toastmasters members from Divisions B, C, W and P, who have been more than willing to join me to guide the new clubs. I can still remember MCOBA Toastmasters Club even held meeting on 1st January 2008. To make it more memorable, I was the evaluator to a visitor from Saudi Arabia. I came out of it and told myself, there are more things to be learned by everyone. Yours truly included.

Half-way through the term, I was requested by another new club to be its Club Mentor. All along, I knew the 'costs' involved in such an undertaking. I would be physically and mentally exhausted at the end of a working day, and then a club to be taken care of. Wow, it was such a difficult decision to make. Furthermore, its meeting day fell on the same day as my home club's. However, the dynamic momentum on the premise of spirit to move forward got the better of me. I took the right decision and accepted the task.

Everything seems sunny and rosy. But by way of nature, odd shape does happen in all scenarios. The difference is just how severe the odd is? My home club took a bad turn during the 2nd semi-annual renewal period. We experienced a drastic drop in membership count, from 22 down to 6 members. Against all odds, collectively we were determined not to submit a single digit return for the renewal. Within a short time frame of one month, we did the miracle (by our

standard that is) and the term ended with 11 members count. Perhaps it is not the kind of shape we wanted - though not wholesome but it is not odd either.

True to universal adage: No insignificant help is considered small. Helps are always welcome with open arms. We wish to put on record that, on the very last day of the term, Division P Governor and I had sponsored yet another new club. Malaysia Information Department Toastmasters Club is the first in-house club in Government Department for Division P. What a coincidence: We concluded the term in a style befitting the call to "Soar like an Eagle". We would not know how high we can fly for sure, unless we try.

By: Mandy ACG, CL



Together we make the different.



The Rising Star.



Simply the Best!



Inspire the Odd!