

In July 2007, the fleet of Division S clubs set sail for a voyage of learning-by-doing and self-discovery. Some had a head start – they had crewmen who were experienced “old salts” – while some had to depend on rookies, but all of them faced the same goals and similar challenges.

After a year at sea braving challenges of the Toastmasters oceans – hurricanes of education goals complacency, typhoons of membership loss, and tsunamis of substandard meeting quality – the fleet reached its destination. Some ships ended up with battered bows and sagging sails, some had missing crewmen, and some even had difficulty staying afloat. Nevertheless, it had been worthwhile journey. Each club would have its own share of adventures and discoveries, as well as tales and treasures.

Thanks to the combined efforts of the members, clubs, area governors, and division council, Division S managed to excel and emerged as Division of the Year for District 51. Thank you for being the best you can be, and making Division S soar with flying colours. Appreciation also goes to IPDG KK Chee, DTM, PDG Siva, DTM and other senior leaders for being mighty lighthouses that guided our fleet and helped us avoid crashing and smashing into the rough rocks of tough times.

When I joined Toastmasters in 2002, I had not the faintest idea that I would one day serve as Division Governor overseeing 30 clubs. “Leadership” sounded like a big “ship”, and appeared to be only meant for the elite few. Other the years, I served as a club officer, area governor, club mentor, and district education committee member. I became more convinced that the often underrated leadership component of the Toastmasters program really works, and took up the challenge to lead.

Fellow Toastmasters, if you have not served in any leadership position, Toastmasters is indeed the best platform for you to practice leadership skills. Anyone can be a leader! Even if you have served before, go and give other leadership roles and office positions a try, because learning is a continuous experience. Every term has its unique challenges, and every team has its unique group dynamics.

To all the current Division Governors, as Admirals of your respective fleets of clubs, I bid you good tidings and may you continue to strive to be the best you can be, to serve clubs and members. Remember that the wind is always there; all you need to do is to adjust the sails properly. In addition to that, here are a few useful things that I have learned.

- Be familiar with TI administrative processes and guidelines.
- Maintain regular communication with division, area and club levels.
- Be there – sometimes your presence can help boost the confidence of clubs.
- Stay focused on the division goals – it is easy to be distracted by other activities.
- When in doubt, always refer to the Values of Toastmasters for guidance.
- Reach out for help – past leaders, neighbouring divisions, or even new members, can be very helpful.

Our journey does not end here, for learning-by-doing is a life-long voyage. Thank you once again for a SOARing term, and may you have the COURAGE TO CONQUER even more challenges in your quests to improve communication and leadership skills!



*Receiving the Division Governor of the Year award
at the District 51 Semi-Annual Convention in Bali*