



SARAWAK

BAHÁ'Í NEWSLETTER

www.sarawakbahai.org

Month of 'Nur (Light) BE 166

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Message from the NSA of the Baha'is of Sarawak.

Dear beloved friends, Allah'u'Abha!

We are glad to announce that our 12th National Convention was successfully held at Penview Hotel recently in Kuching. The names of the newly elected Assembly Members were already announced in the earlier issue of our newsletter (Azamat). We are very happy indeed to see new faces among the delegates who are young adults and a milestone where young people are ready to shoulder their responsibilities as followers of the Blessed Beauty.

Many matters were discussed during the Convention, resulting in a fruitful consultation mainly focusing on the framework of the Five Year Plan. One of the main topics being deliberated on is the critical condition of the National Fund. Contribution from the friends had dropped for the past few months. Our activities had multiplied and our expenditure too had increased. We are sure that the delegates who are equally concerned had brought this message back to their communities respectively. It is our hope that the friends will arise to answer the call for 1000 contributors as targeted by The National Spiritual Assembly a reality and contribute regularly to support the life blood of the Cause. We also call upon the friends to study the Ridvan Message thoroughly in their communities.

The Guardian had referred to us as ***"the community of the blissful, a community aware of the vast potentialities with which it has been endowed and conscious of the role it is destined to play in rebuilding a broken world. Let us not falter in accomplishing our ambitious goals as the Universal House of Justice has assured us their heartfelt prayer at the Sacred Threshold for those who labour so diligently and sacrificially in the forefront of the teaching work."***

With loving Baha'i greetings,

National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahai's of Sarawak.

This National
Spiritual
Assembly...
obviously
assumes grave
responsibilities,
for it has to
exercise full
authority over
all the local
Assemblies in its
province, and
will have to
direct the
activities of the
friends, guard
vigorously the
Cause of God,
and control and
supervise the
affairs of the
Movement in
general.

(Compilations,
The Compilation of
Compilations vol II, p.
85)



When once a few bold, self-sacrificing individuals have arisen to serve, their example will no doubt encourage other timid, would-be pioneers to follow in their footsteps

(Compilations, The Compilation of Compilations vol II, p. 222)

PIONEER GATHERINGS IN SOUTHERN AND NORTHERN REGION

Sarawak Baha’I Institute Board

There was a pioneer gathering held in Asajaya on the 9th of April 2009 with only 8 participants as the rest of the pioneers left earlier than scheduled. There was another



similar gathering held in Miri’s Baha’i Centre with 8 attendees. They discussed about the challenges, outcomes, factors that contribute to the success of the pioneer programmes, as well as further suggestions for similar programmes. They also discussed about the services that they shall render after the end of the pioneer programme. Although their services in the appointed cluster had ended, they are still in touch with the friends in the respective areas.

The Sarawak Baha’i Institute (SBI) also strives to keep in touch with the pioneers in order to monitor their progress and the services that they are rendering. Some of the pioneers are now tutoring study groups, teaching children classes and actively involved in the teaching activities in their community. However, a handful of them have not started any core activities due to various reasons.

Many of the pioneers are awaiting for the status of their applications to institutions of higher learning. Some of them achieved excellent results in the public examinations and wished to become teachers. This is with



hope that they will be able to assist in organizing junior youth spiritual empowerment programmes in schools. Likewise, some pioneers applied for Mukah’s Politeknik so that they are able to continue rendering

their services in the central region of Sarawak. May we all pray for their success!

Kuching Cluster:



Kuching cluster launched their 15th Intensive Program of Growth . This was preceded by Institutional meeting, meeting of Area Growth Committee with the Local Spiritual Assemblies where the plan for the next cycle was presented to all the 7 assemblies in this cluster. After that was the reflection meeting for the whole community. This reflection meeting was well attended with over 50 participants and it was a joyful celebration of all our past accomplishments as well as serious consultation and planning for our next cycle.

We launched our 15th cycle on the 15th of May 2009 and this was also well attended by over 50 participants. The program included presentation of our new targets , encouraging words by our two residing Auxillary Board members Mr. Bunsie Tunton & Dr. Shehab Phung. In addition to this, each Local Spiritual Assembly was given a ten minute time slot to come up with some presentation regarding the core activities. This was a wonderful fun time for all since five of the seven communities of this cluster came up with some presentation. This activity saw a mix of the older generation Baha'is, youth and junior youth and children come together and present and have fun and enjoyment together.

A 24 hour prayer vigil was organized for the success of this teaching campaign.

National Fund

“ There should be a continual flow of funds to the national treasury of the National Spiritual Assembly, if that body wishes to properly administer the manifold and ever-increasing activities of the Faith. Every Baha’I, no matter how poor, must realize what a grave responsibility he has to shoulder in this connection, and should have confidence that his spiritual progress as a believer in the World Order of Baha’u’llah will largely depend upon the measure in which he proves, in deeds, his readiness to support materially the divine institutions of His Faith.

-From a letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi

Bank directly into the following account of the Soiritual Assembly of the Baha’is of Sarawak:

- Maybank, Padungan Branch
(A/C No.)

Auntomatic Payment/ direct debit facility by local banks: Friends may arrange with their bank to send monthly contributions directly into the bank account of the National Spiritual Assembly.

For the above, contributors **MUST** fax/send the bank in slips as soon as possible followed by a phone call from the sender.



Call for Pioneers!

The National Assembly of Indonesia is in dire need for a short-term pioneers to Medan, a priority cluster in North Sumatra, Indonesia.

The candidate should be actively involved in the institute process, experienced in teaching children classes and animating junior youth gatherings and preferably able in performing arts. Accommodation shall be provided by the Local Spiritual Assembly of Medan.

Announcement!

**“Baha’I School
Teachers Conference”**

It is to be held from the 27th to the 29th of August 2009. All teachers or those undergoing teachers training are encouraged to avail themselves of this opportunity. Details of this conference will be informed as soon as possible.

HELP SUPPORT OUR NEWSLETTER!

“Sarawak Baha’i Newsletter” is looking for reports & photos of all core activities.

The National Spiritual Assembly often finds itself in need of reports and images depicting the activities of the Sarawakian Baha’i community in relation to the needs of the Plan. These include pictures of devotional gatherings, reflection meetings, children classes, junior youth gatherings, study circles, Intensive Program of Growth activities.

Share your story!

What insights are you gaining from the institute courses? How have home visits influenced you and your community? What are you learning about inviting and taking seekers through the institute courses? How are the core activities moving your cluster forward? We want to share your stories so others may learn from your efforts.

Pictures and reports can be emailed to:

sarawakbahainewsletter@gmail.com



The future has always belonged to youth, and now more than ever before, in order to ensure the fulfilment of Bahá'u'lláh's plans for this planet, the youth must labour and pioneer.

(Shoghi Effendi, *The Light of Divine Guidance* v II, p. 104)