



SARAWAK

BAHÁ'Í NEWSLETTER

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GEDONG Launched Intensive Program of Growth

Mr. Terrence Tinggi Sait

On the 25th of July 2009, Gedong launched their FIRST intensive program of growth (IPG). More than 60 adults, youth and children attended this historic event which was graced by the present of four Members of the National Spiritual Assembly Mr. Dajai Mancha, Mr. Terrence Tinggi Sait, Mdm. Marilyn Lee and Mdm. Kong Ah Fah. Also present were three Auxiliary Board Members Mr. Bunsie, Dr. Shehab and Mr. Kalong together with four Regional Council Bahá'í members.

The friends came from six communities and the Bahá'í Center was full to the brim. In the morning, the two Board members conducted a short refresher training of Anna's presentation. There were seven teaching teams formed, with each team having its own list of contacts with whom they had made appointments for visiting in the evening. The ABM's, NSA and RBC members also accompanied the teaching teams in their very first act of direct teaching.

Prior to the launching ceremony Mr. Dajai Mancha, on behalf of the NSA, was honoured with the opportunity to give a short but motivating talk. He reminded the friends that they were that special one of the fourteen clusters that had launched the intensive program growth (IPG) in Sarawak and one of the 1500 clusters worldwide.



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“Every individual believer - man, woman, youth and child is summoned to this field of action; for it is on the initiative, the resolute will of the individual to teach and to serve, that the success of the entire community depends.”

(Compilations, Unlocking the Power of Action)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

“Have no doubt
of the
receptivity of
your fellow
citizens, from
every segment
of society to the
message of
Bahá'u'lláh...

Arise then
undeterred by
the storms and
trails...

Consecrate
yourselves to
this spiritual
enterprise”

(Extracts from a letter
from the Universal House
of Justice, dated 27
December 2008)



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After dinner, the friends from Kuching were carefully assigned to accompany the different teaching teams to the contacts with whom appointments had been made that night. Friends were requested to gather back at the Bahá'í center at about 9:00pm to share their experiences. After getting back to the center that night it seemed that all were eager and excited to share their experiences. For those friends who were not able to join the teams, they did their part of staying at the center the whole time praying for the success of those out in the field. We were not only spiritually rewarded but also physically as the friends who stayed behind at the center also prepared some delicious porridge on our return. All in the community had played their part in this collective teaching campaign.

Retreat in Serian

Regional Bahá'í Council (South)

30 participants including two Auxiliary Board Members Mr. Kalong and Dr. Shehab, four Regional Bahá'í Council members, Area Growth Committee members, Cluster Coordinators and members of the Local Spiritual Assemblies of Serian cluster attended a retreat held on the 11th of July 2009 at the Serian Public Hall. The day's programme began with a study of the 2009 Ridvan message led by Mr. Kalong Katik. It was then followed by a presentation of the statistics on the growth of their cluster.

After that, Dr. Shehab Phung reminded the attendees to collaborate with the Area Growth Committee (AGC) and he also explained the role of a Local Spiritual Assembly in supporting the AGC in the institute process and the four core activities. He also stressed on the friends to focus on methods of inviting friends and neighbours to participate in the core activities.

The schedule for the teaching campaign in four different localities of Kampung Mayang Tea, Kampung Bugu Mawang, Kampung Ipuh Diyang and Kampung Sumpas Tampek were planned. The outcome was that the present human resources of Kampung Mujat shall assist in forming the core group or the teaching team in each locality.

The Regional Bahá'í Council hopes that through this retreat, the participants will gain more inspiration, confidence and commitment to be of service to the Cause.

AGC-LSA joint meeting of Gedong Cluster

Regional Bahá'í Council (South)

At Kg. Triboh Bahá'í Centre, more than thirty participants including key believers and members of the Local Spiritual Assemblies attended the (pre-IPG) meeting. The meeting was also graced by National Spiritual Assembly members, Madam Marilyn, Auxiliary Board Member Dr. Shehab Phung and two Regional Baha'i Council members, Madam Bari Enkek and Mr. Thomas Nagdan.

The day started with a prayer session followed by a study on the 2009 Ridvan message. The message was studied thoroughly so that the participants can fully digest the meaning and significance of the message. The Area Growth Committee presented the latest statistics regarding the new believers and the progress of the core activities. Despite the minimal growth, the Area Growth Committee seemed more confident to launch the first cycle of the Intensive Programme Growth as previously scheduled (25th July 2009) after studying the message.

Auxillary Board member Dr. Shehab Phung explained the significant role of a Local Spiritual Assembly and the activities they engage in to support the Area Growth Committee in the Institute Process and the Four Core Activities. Through a brief glimpse of Ridvan Message 2008, he also clarified on what the Universal House of Justice had mentioned regarding the Four Core activities we are encouraged to initiate around our neighbourhood. Auxilliary Board member Dr. Shehab Phung also posed a few questions in this regard and the participants were eager to answer from their own current understanding.

At the end of the programme, the friends were much clearer of the do's and don'ts when teaching and when we invite our friends and seekers to the core activities. It was also seen that most were enthusiastic to learn and look forward to the launching of the first Intensive Programme of Growth scheduled for the **25th of July 2009**.

Kuching Animators' Skills Training

By Yee Tsemin

Two Animators' Skills Training was held on the 12th and 19th of July 2009 in Kuching Bahá'í Centre. 27 participants joined the first training and 16 joined the second training organized by our Cluster Junior Youth Coordinator. The skill training was based on Section 19 and 20 from Unit 3 of Ruhi book 5 and a junior youth learning material from the *Spirit of Faith*. It was conducted in two groups according to the language preference which was Bahasa Malaysia and English. We had only managed to complete until lesson 4 during the first skill training, so another one was conducted the following week in order to continue the study and discussion.



Spirit of Faith consists of 7 lessons. The aim was to study the book so that a deeper understanding is formed among the animators. This is with hope that the animators will all be able to convey the underlying messages from the book to the junior youth better. The discussions were lively and encouraging to all. Everyone shared their stories and experiences during the discussions for the enhancement of our understanding of the text.

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At the end of the training course, Dr. Vishnu, who was the facilitator for both of the trainings, hoped that we will be able to have an animators' gathering once a month so that we are able to share our experiences and learn from other animators about the progress of their respective groups.

Personally, I felt it is really great to have animators frequently gather together for a two hour session to discuss about their junior youth's progress, methods used and the approaches in conveying the messages in the books to the junior youth. This would also serve as a "charger" for the animators to continue in their path of service and potential animators could be asked to join this gathering and encouraged to start their own junior youth group.

A Day Session with Counsellor George Soraya

By Clarence Suai Kirak

There was a study session with Counselor George Soraya at Sibu Jaya Bahá'í Centre on the 25th of July 2009. Two Auxiliary Board Members (Mr. Bundan Liban and Madam Annie Tan), all members of the Regional Bahá'í Council (RBC) of Central Sarawak, members of the Area Growth Committee (AGC) of Sibu, Selangau and Mukah and their cluster Institute Coordinators attended the study session.

During the study session with Counselor George, we studied the 2008 and 2009 Ridvan Messages and a letter from the World Centre dated 17th of May 2009 regarding the Nineteen Day Feast. Furthermore, we also discussed about the progress of the Faith and did some planning for the Sibu cluster, Selangau cluster and Mukah cluster.

Likewise, we also discussed about the progress of the Kanowit Cluster, which was scheduled to launch its Intensive Program of Growth by !!!!!!! The friends were informed that the Kanowit Cluster needed more support in terms of human resources in the next three months. This is with hope that Kanowit cluster will be able to prepare itself for the scheduled launch of its very first intensive program of growth.

Apart from that, we also planned to have an institute campaign in Sibu during the upcoming school holidays in order to build up more human resource. We also discussed about the budget for the Central Regional Bahá'í Council (RBC) with Counselor George. Other than that, the participants were urged to inform friends of their respective communities to support the National Bahá'í Fund as the National Fund plays a major role in supporting the activities in all regions of Sarawak.

The study session was a fruitful and an uplifting event. It was decided that similar session be held in three months' time. In the meantime let us offer whatever service we can to increase the human resources and the core activities in the region.

'A' Clusters that had launched Intensive Program of Growth

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| • <u>Kuching:</u>
15th Cycle | • <u>Sebuyau:</u>
6th cycle | • <u>Selangau:</u>
1st Cycle |
| • <u>Bintulu:</u>
12th Cycle | • <u>Bakong:</u>
5th Cycle | • <u>Mukah:</u>
1st Cycle |
| • <u>Serian:</u>
11th Cycle | • <u>Niah:</u>
5th Cycle | • <u>Gedong:</u>
1st Cycle |
| • <u>Miri:</u>
10th cycle | • <u>Simunjan:</u>
3rd cycle | • <u>Limbang:</u>
1st Cycle |
| • <u>Lundu:</u>
9th cycle | • <u>Sibu:</u>
2nd Cycle | |

Bahá'í Teachers' Conference has now been confirmed to be held from the 20th to the 22nd of September 2009 (Sunday through Tuesday) The program is scheduled to start on the 20th at 1:00pm and to end on the 22nd at 1:00pm.

Countdown to Launching of IPG

- Asajaya (05 December 2009)
- Betong (12th December 2009)
- Tatau (December 2009)