



17th Cycle IPG of Kuching Cluster

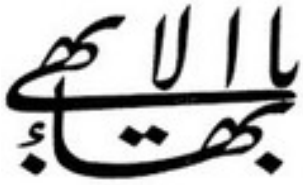
It was a blissful evening for the Kuching Cluster on the night of 4th December 2009. The Kuching Cluster has successfully launched their 17th Cycle of the Intensive Program of Growth. The evening was graced with more than 60 friends who attended the launching which was held at the Kuching Bahá'í Centre. Among those present were 2 Auxiliary Board Members, Mr. Bunsie, and Dr. Shehab Phung. Lucy Nabau, the organizer, with the help of a group of youth, planned and carried out the event specially designed for that glorious evening. There were singing sessions led by the youth and also a few impromptu speeches before the main event.

The expansion phase will be from the 5th to the 13th December which will be a period of nine days. For the 17th cycle, the receptive area identified is Stutong which is situated in the Kuching South. Everyone, especially the youth, are encouraged to join the teaching teams. Those who are unable to join the teaching contributed in their own ways in the campaign by praying, joining the prayer vigil, cooking for friends, providing transportation, and contributing to the fund.



Erelong shalt
thou bear
witness that
His celestial
Teachings,
the very glory
of reality
itself, shall
light up the
skies of the
world.

(Abdu'l-Baha,
Selections from the
Writings of Abdu'l-Baha,
p. 66)



The core activities of study circles, children's classes and devotional meetings have become essential aspects and mutually enhancing achievements lending greater vigour and success to all the other elements of Bahá'í community life.

(The Universal House of Justice, Ridvan 161, 2004)

Coordinator Gathering

Sarawak Bahá'í Institute Board organised a Cluster Institute Coordinator (CIC) gathering on the 24th October 2009 at the Kuching Bahá'í Centre. The gathering was held to gather the Cluster Institute Coordinators from the whole of the Southern Region. Among those who were present were Auxiliary Board Member Mr. Kalong Katik and two representative from the Regional Bahá'í Council who are Mr. Edil and Mr. Kaon. A total of 13 participants joined the discussion.

The programme of the day started with the sharing of reports from the various clusters followed by some learning gained from last year's Institute Campaign. Details of the year end Institute Campaign were discussed and finalized in order for the participants to learn from the previous experiences. The former pioneer programme as well as the Human Resource Conference were also among the topics of discussion during the gathering. The programme ended with a prayer session followed by lunch.

Tutor Refresher Course

Reported by Mr. Jesion Meding

On the 30th to 31st of October 2009, a tutor refresher course was conducted at the Sibujaya Bahá'í Centre for the central region. 15 friends from Sibujaya, Sibujaya, Kanowit and Kapit were present at the training. The aim of this short training was to focus on the practical part of each of the Ruhi Books. One of the sessions is to learn to organize a devotional meeting and also study about the purpose of having devotional meetings according to Universal House of Justice. This has led to the enlightenment among the participants and thus changed their perspective on having devotional meetings. After that, Mr. Jesion Meding conducted a long and insightful discussion on the importance of practical and the significance of the tutors accompanying the participants. He also used slides in order to help to enhance the understanding of the friends. Later, a study on the Ridvan Message 2008 was also conducted during the tutor refresher course. Through the study of the message, each participant understands more about the four core activities.

In addition, there was also a sharing session by Mr. Jeraman Nyaring and Mr. Nabil Tan. They shared about their recent visit to Cambodia which has

(Continued on page 3)

given much inspiration to all the participants. ABM Bundan who was present also gave some inspiring guidance to the tutors. They are now clearer about what they have to do after the course and what they have to do when they return to their own respective clusters. The conclusion of the training was that each cluster will be able to progress with the tutors having a clearer understanding on the institute process and the practical of each of the Ruhi Book.

Selampit Revisited

Auxiliary Board Member Dr. Shehab visited kampong Selampit on the evening of October 11th with the intention of meeting the Area Growth committee, and the key believers there. On arrival there it was soon understood that due to the heavy rain, thunder and lightning, it was not possible to gather all the friends together. Hence, the meeting was postponed to the next weekend which was the 18th of October 2009.

On that beautiful bright sunny day, friends gathered at Kpg Selampit Bahá'í Centre where the Cluster Development Facilitator (CDF) and the other coordinators shared the progress of the four core activities in their clusters. This was followed by a power point presentation by Dr. Shehab on "Coherence" of our actions, thought and communication. The session ended at about 7pm.



Simunjan's Children Classes

On the afternoon of 16th October 2009 I met with the Simunjan Cluster's Children Class Coordinator, Tracy, children class teachers and also the latest graduates of Ruhi Book 3. Our programme started at 2:30pm with an opening prayer. Also present were 15 friends who came from Kampung Sungai Lingkau, Kampung Sekendu and also Kampung Mengeli.

The curriculum which is to be used in the classes was introduced. The different elements of the children classes such as memorization of prayer, study of holy writings, stories, songs, games and colouring and drawing were also briefly discussed. Likewise, we discussed the importance of the children classes, the progress of the classes in their cluster this far and the problems the Kampung are facing.

On the morning of 17th Oct, we started the activities with the training of the children class teachers after a prayer session. Then in the afternoon, we paid a visit to Kampung Sekendu and Kampung Mengeli to identify individuals who have the potential to be children class teachers and at the same time invite children to join the children classes. Our hard work did pay-off as we managed to get 16 children with 3 teachers who are Nora, Anna and Alice in Kampung Sekendu. While we manage to get 9 children and 4 children class teacher who are Abbin, Tibu, Nora and Tumi, in Kampung Mengeli. Intensive trainings will be provided for the 7 new children class teachers in order to become efficient teachers.

8TH INSTITUTIONAL MEETING

By Nabil Tan

On 27th-28th November 2009, the 8th Institutional Meeting was held in Premier Hotel Sibuluan. About 156 friends from all over Sarawak attended the meeting. Among those present was our beloved Counsellor George Soraya, who conducted a study of the Ridvan 2009 message. The message asserts that all "Bahá'í community from now on should change their mind set, every believer has to work together because it is the vision and characteristics of the purpose of the Faith and religion"; reminding us about what our beloved Universal House of Justice wants us to do. This was followed by a report from the National Spiritual Assembly of Sarawak about the progress of the Faith in Sarawak. The report shows that the Faith has been growing and evolving - men and women are both actively engaged in the four core activities. It also shows that the Intensive Progress of Growth all over Sarawak were more successful when there are higher participation of youths and young adults as pioneers and human resources.

Report on overall progress of the Faith in Sarawak by the NSA secretary during the statistic presentation indicated that there is major progress since the recent Kuching Regional Conference held in December 2008. This includes an increase in the number of clusters which have launched their IPG, citing a higher number of believers participating in the institute process as the engine of growth. Currently, there are 14 clusters in Sarawak that has launched their IPG, with 4 more clusters scheduled to be launched before the coming Ridvan. The Regional Bahá'í Council from North, Central and South also shared their reports respectively. There was a report by the National Coordinator, Miss Geriti Katik on the progress of the institution, indicating that Sarawak Bahá'í Institute is currently more mature to educate believers in the sequence of Ruhi courses.

The evening followed with a devotional for the Ascension of Abdul-Baha and also a video on the

Dynamics of Growth from each cluster in Sarawak that has launched their IPG. Miss Ruhiyyih Khanum from Philippines also took this opportunity to share her experiences and the progress of the Junior Youth Programme in two clusters in Philippines - Pinili Cluster and San Jose Cluster. The presentation discusses about strategies and new approaches to start more junior youth gatherings. Dr. Moojan Momen and his wife from United Kingdom, also noted that art is very helpful in the development of the core activities. He indicates that, "the use of art in teaching process will inevitably have a greater effect..." For 15 years in UK, the couple has used arts in the four core activities, children's classes, devotional meeting, junior youth gathering and study circle; successfully using music presentation and choir to attract interests of others.

On the second day, National Spiritual Assembly, Mr. Dajai Mancha gave a talk about the Bahá'í Fund. He highlighted quotes from writing of Baha'u'llah: "giving to the Fund is a gift from Baha'u'llah to Bahá'ís only... a sacred obligation and blessing." NSA had set a target of 1000 regular contributors during the 5 year plan. With 77 Local Spiritual Assemblies contributing, he explained in details about the main monthly expenses which amounts to an average of RM9,000 per month for funding of staffs salary, conferences, courses, training, printing and stationeries, travelling, committee expense and utilities and rental. The Institutional Meeting ended with a workshop on planning until Ridvan 2010 and a compilation of Action Plan.