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# INTRODUCTION

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## **Datuk Zainie Abdul Aucasa**

Past District Governor  
2011-2012

Chairman  
District 3310 Rotary Foundation Committee  
2016-2019

After having successfully published my first coffee table book ROTARY IN BORNEO, a pictorial history in conjunction with the 80th anniversary of Rotary in Borneo, my habit of publishing a book is back again. This time round is about Rotary Foundation, its activities and my involvement as the Chairman of the District Rotary Foundation committee from 2016 to 2019.

My three years tenure commenced in the year when The Rotary Foundation celebrated its 100th year anniversary, the Rotary year 2016-2017. I thought in this auspicious year in the milestone of The Rotary Foundation, it was only opportune that a book be published to remember the Foundation and its involvement in our District. It is also to mark the beginning of a new era of the Foundation with us. The book was officially launched by RI President John F. Germ at the 2016-2017 Joint District Conference held in Bangkok. He whispered to me to make sure he gets a copy when the book is eventually published. This we shall do.

After giving it so much thought, I eventually

came out with the title of this book “THE ROTARY FOUNDATION AND ITS ACTIVITIES IN DISTRICT 3310”. I thought that as we celebrate and look forward to a better future for Rotary, it would be good to look back at the past years and the roles the District played in supporting the causes and objectives of The Rotary Foundation. To recognise the roles played by our fellow Rotarians, their contributions and the many achievements over the years. And, the immense benefits that our communities derived from the many projects funded through the grants mechanism of The Rotary Foundation. I hope the book is able to achieve this.

Our association with The Rotary Foundation began 27 years ago when in 1st July, 1991 District 3310 became a Rotary District on its own separated from District 330. Our first District Governor was the late PDG Dr. Robert Loh Choo Kiat who together with the District Rotary Foundation Committee chair (DRFC) at that time PP Gerald Minjoot, prepared the ground works for the activities of The Rotary Foundation in our District. This became the

aspiration which subsequent committees over the years planned and carried out the many projects and activities of the Foundation for the benefit of our communities.

This book, The Rotary Foundation and its activities in District 3310, is a major exercise to record as much as possible, the many activities and events related to the Foundation and to recognise the many people whose contributions, commitments and dedication made those activities and events possible.

CHAPTER 1 is about The Rotary Foundation and our District 3310 showing those Rotarians who had served The Rotary Foundation through its various districts' committees. It also showcases those Rotarians who have served The Rotary Foundation beyond our District. Presently, these information can only be found in the respective year's district directories which many of us do not have in our procession more so those who are new. It was while going through all these directories that I discovered that PP Gerald Minjoot was the first DRFC of our District. He was the only DRFC who was not a PDG at that time of holding the post. Subsequent DRFCs were all PDGs.

Rotary Foundation depends on the generous contributions of Rotarians and friends of Rotary to enable it to do good to the world. CHAPTER 2 recognises those who have contributed to The Rotary Foundation in the form of Arch Klump, Major Donor, Paul Harris Fellow, other major gifts and by joining the Paul Harris Society.

This CHAPTER 3, a report by PP Vicky Soo, the District Paul Harris Fellow Society (PHF) Coordinator, shows the current status of the Society. It has grown in strength from the year it was chartered in 2015-2016 during the Governorship of PDG Philip Chong.

CHAPTER 4 shows the performance of our District in term of our contributions to The Rotary Foundation over the years. It also shows our performance in relation to

the other Districts in Zone 6B. Despite the economic challenges facing the countries in the District, Rotarians continued to contribute generously to TRF which saw us amongst the top contributing District in Zone 6B.

CHAPTER 5 shows Rotary Foundation awards for those Rotarians who have done exemplary service in pursuing the objectives of The Foundation.

We have Rotarians who have served Rotary Foundation beyond our District at Zone level. This is as shown in CHAPTER 6 where they served as Regional Rotary Foundation Co-ordinator and Assistant Regional Rotary Foundation Co-ordinator.

CHAPTER7 depicts some of the Matching Grants and District Grants projects undertaken over the years by the clubs which have immensely benefited the community.

Since the introduction of the New Grants Model in the Rotary year 2012-2013, our district has carried out several projects under the Global Grants funding. This is as reported in great detail in the CHAPTER 8.

CHAPTER 9 covers the numerous events and activities carried out by the district in support of the END POLIO NOW (EPN) campaign. It began in 2010-2011 with the EPN Walk from Kuala Lumpur to Singapore and in the following year the inaugural Trans -Borneo Walk from the East Coast town of Sabah, Sandakan, climbed up Mt Kinabalu and walked back all the way to Kota Kinabalu to be in time for the Kota Kinabalu's 21st District Conference. In subsequent years, as the support from Rotarians and the public at large toward the EPN program grew, new activities like bicycle ride, marathons, bazaar, sales of watches, t-shirts & mugs, golfing, swimathon, tree planting, car wash & wegmeal were introduced.

CHAPTER 10 is about the World Polio Day, a day to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, who led the first team to develop the poliovirus

vaccine. As far as records show, our district first celebrated World Polio Day in the Rotary year 2017-2018 hosted by the E-Club of 3310. It became more popular in the following year when more regions organised it.

The Rotary Foundation Seminar is an annual event in the calendar of our District. Despite being described as boring and 'seminar of dry subjects', reports and pictures of recent seminars shown in CHAPTER 11 shows otherwise.

The Group Study Exchange (GSE) program was one of the most active programs of The Rotary Foundation in our district. CHAPTER 12 includes a report from PP John Ng, the District GSE Committee Chairman for 3 consecutive years from 2010-2013. It gives a comprehensive yet interesting insights of the program.

In CHAPTER 13 relates the background history to the introduction of the Vocational Training Team (VTT) program in our district in 2014-2015. It also includes a report by PP Emily Chong, the District VTT Chair for the Rotary year 2015-2016 of the first VTT from Japan and of the return visit to Tokyo by the District 3310 team.

Our district has been hosting and sponsoring few Rotary Peace Scholars over the years. CHAPTER 14 relates a report by PP Frankie Ong, District Chair of a successful Rotary Peace Scholar program in 2017-2018.

CHAPTER 15 brings to you a report by PP Mathew Yong, District Chair for the USD 200 Million Challenge committee, a partnership project between Rotary and the Bill & Melinda Gates to provide additional funding for the eradication of Polio. Although, this challenge has ended in 2011-2012, I thought it is a good idea to have it recorded here in view of the significance of the project.

I wish to thank every Rotarian, all Rotary clubs and friends of Rotary who have over the years supported The Rotary Foundation

either as participants, organisers, host clubs, supporters or generous contributors. I am very fortunate and blessed to have with me committee members who are totally dedicated, committed and passionate to their tasks. It was wonderful serving with all of them, together making what seemed impossible turn into reality. I also wish to put on record my thanks and appreciation to PDG Michael Yee, PDG Datuk Lee Chuen Wan and DG Henry Tan for the invaluable advice and guidance given to my team and I.

Being the Chair for the District Rotary Foundation Committee, undertaking this task has given my team and I the satisfaction of having accomplished something fruitful and meaningful for our Rotary District. As you will notice, there are shortcomings and inadequacies in this book mainly due unavailability of records. My sincere apologies for this. Hopefully, with more research and availability of the required information, future publications will be more complete.

It is the hope that this book will serve as one of the reference materials for those who wish to know more about The Rotary Foundation and its activities in our District.

**It is my gift to all of you.**