

AKTIVITI ACS

For Private Circulation Only

July 2003

Mountains and Valleys

This past couple of months has been like a roller coaster here in Asia Community Service.... Some call it the mid year crisis.....

Our work with people with intellectual disabilities and their families is demanding and challenging. Much as we rely on volunteers, we still have to engage full-time staff in order to carry on the work. For the past 6 years, our dedicated and committed team steadily grew to 14 full time staff members.

When we lost 3 staff in one month, it was like a big blow in the face. One left to further her studies in special education, one left to concentrate on her married life, and one for greener pastures. We would like to thank Joanne, Jamilah and Sakuntala for their years of service with us and wish them well.

As like a consolation to our discouragement, we received to our pleasant surprise the Occupation Certificate (OC) after a mere 5 months since the completion of building construction of the Balik Pulau project. This certainly restored my confidence in the local authorities and its system!! The competence is of course due to the diligence and efficiency of the pro bono team of consultants under BYG Architecture.

At the same time, now that the building is completed, we will be losing our ACS founding chairman, Prof Ken Nakazawa as he moves on to Sarawak to begin another similar work for that local community. Prof Ken has provided the vision and direction for the work here in Penang as well as the source of funding due to his connections with Japan. Nevertheless in a way, Penang's loss will be Sarawak's gain.

We are glad to have Ms Gillian Y.K. Teh, a well-known benevolent in Penang and a fellow ACS director, who has consented to take over the helm as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

PERSONNEL

Let me take a brief moment to introduce to you the people currently behind Asia Community Service

The Members of the Board of Directors are

1. Chairman Ms Gillian Y.K. Teh, P.K.T.
2. Assoc Prof Dr Angeline S.B. Cheah
3. Ms Kong Lan Lee
4. Mr Ch'ng Chin Hooi
5. Ms Zurina Hayati Meah
6. Prof Ken Nakazawa
7. Ms Khor Ai-Na

The Members of Staff Team are

1. Ms Khor Ai-Na (Executive)
2. Ms Celine Looi (Adminstration)
3. Ms Lee Soo Hoon (First Step, Minden Heights)
4. Ms Ch'ng Sim Oon (First Step, Minden Heights)
5. Ms Maria Anthony Clovis (First Step, Minden Heights)
6. Ms Loh Siew Har (Step Training, Relau)
7. Ms Denise Khoo (Step Training, Relau)
8. Ms Hasra Othman (Stepping Stone, Balik Pulau)
9. Ms Kang Hooi Keng (Stepping Stone, Balik Pulau)
10. Mr Louis Lo (Stepping Stone, Balik Pulau)

The (full-time) Volunteers are

1. Ms Terri Faust (Speech Therapist / Jom MTL)
2. Ms Akemi Utsumi (Technical Advisor)
3. Ms Khor Soo Kee (Step Training, Relau)
4. Ms Hannah Greensmith (Gap Volunteer)
5. Ms Juliet Edwards (Gap Volunteer)
6. Ms Takae Harada (Step Training, Relau)
7. Mr Kyo Hoshino (Hon. Advisor)

Please continue to give us your support as we pledge our commitment to carry on the work that is ahead of us.

VOLUNTARY HELPERS

In view of the current shortage of staff, let us know if you can assist in any way. We are looking for

Toy Doctors

Toys that are loaned out through our “Jom!” Mobile Toy Library often come back damaged due to wear and tear. If there is handyman out there who is good with their hands, we’d appreciate having the toys “doctored” and repaired. It is just a shame to throw them out as some could just be replacing missing pieces, needing mechanical adjustments etc..

IT Specialists

Can somebody out there help us maintain our computers in good working order? Some of these computers with special gadgets can be sensitive when “mishandled” by the children. Or perhaps there might be someone who is keen to update our website etc.?

Sales Assistant at Functions

Sometimes, we are offered opportunities to display our products (candles, batik, woven products, soap etc..) made by the adult members at charity functions. It can become rather taxing on the staff and members to man these booths over the weekend or evening hours. Let us know if you can spare the time to help in this area.

We would also appreciate it there are some of you who can help us market our products.

Be a Friend

Help us enlarge their circle of friends by befriending our adult members i.e. organise or participate in bungalow stays, monthly sports and recreational events etc...

Come and work and play alongside them – they are a great bunch! We ask for your charity, but they would prefer you give them dignity.

NEW BUILDING

As I have mentioned, we are excited to obtain the O.C. in June for the new building of ACS Stepping Stone Support Centre for Community Living in Pulau Betong, Balik Pulau. We will be busy preparing for the physical move, as well as planning for the opening ceremony.

We managed to raise RM 14,000 from the appeal letters sent out in January. Our heartfelt thanks to those of you who have contributed. However, the amount raised is still way below our shortfall of RM 100,000.

Items Required

In the meantime, we are still looking for sponsorships in order to equip and furnish the place such as shelves, install ventilator turbines, curtain blinds, lawn turfing etc...

Some of the items that we need are a lawn mover, refrigerator, water cooler, water filter, fax machine, microwave oven, television, potted plants etc...

We want to make the place presentable and hope to resume operation by August. The new workplace will have more space to cater for new work such as pottery, batik painting, silk screen printing, besides what we are doing presently i.e. weaving, candle and soap making and cake making. Please drop by for a visit at **No 53 Jalan Baru, Pulau Betong, 11000 Balik Pulau**. Telephone number will remain unchanged at 04 – 8665349.

Sandbox for the Kids

By the way, ACS First Step Centre in Minden Heights is looking for a sponsor to replace their sandbox which has been spoilt.

It would be simply wonderful if the sandbox can come complete with white sand for the children's sand play!!

CHARITY DINNERS

Two charity fund-raising dinners are being planned in August and October this year. We are grateful to both organising groups for their efforts and hope that you will be able to patronise it.

“Tassels and Bows” – A British Colonial Evening

Date: August 23rd 2003
Venue: Eastern & Oriental Hotel
Farquhar Street, Penang
In Aid of: Asia Community Service &
Enyu Counselling Service

For more details,
contact Intact Communications at 04 – 2641912

“Caring Moments, Touching Lives”

Date: October 18th 2003
Venue: Matahari Ballroom
Hotel Equatorial, Penang
In Aid of: Asia Community Service &
Riding for Disabled Association
(Penang branch)

This dinner show, with the main sponsorship from Hotel Equatorial and Venessa Diamonds, will feature performances by Instant Café Theatre (KL) and Essence Dance Group.

For more details, contact ACS at 04 – 6585396.

WORLD PLAY DAY

May 28th was set aside for World Play Day celebrations throughout the world. The reason for promoting World Play Day is to stress on the importance of play, amidst the complexities of our lives nowadays.

Play is not limited to children as one generally assumes. Play is to engage in recreation; amuse oneself; occupy oneself, have fun etc... It can be in the form of games, sports or even hobbies.

All of us have become so engaged in our children's education, in our own work and career, in wanting to excel. World Play Day has been set aside precisely for that simple reason to remind of the need to take time off to play, relax and enjoy each other's company.

ACS held an Inter-Centre Sports and Games Day on May 24th in conjunction with the celebration. More than 70 children and adults with disabilities from a total of 8 various centers and organisations came together with their family members for a series of friendly games held at the grounds of S.K. Sri Relau.

On the whole, it was a great and fun day and the weather was kind.



OUR JOURNEY

When ACS started 7 years ago, Prof Ken always said that ACS is a small organisation with a big dream. His dream has now extended to the people of East Malaysia.

When we think of carrying on the big job (especially in the area of raising funds to sustain the activities) upon his departure, it can become a nightmare for us. But I must constantly remind myself to “be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer”.

ACS depended on foreign funding to get many of its projects started; now we will have to seek more local support to sustain the good work that was started.

Thank you for being a part of our journey through mountains and valleys. We look forward to your continual support.

Warm Regards,

Khor Ai-Na

Director

**Live simply so that
others can simply live.**

A Non-Profit Organisation Providing Services To People With Special Needs, In Particular Reference To Those With Disabilities.

RESPONSE SLIP

- I would like more information / to be a regular volunteer in:
 - First Step Intervention Centre, Minden Heights
 - Step Training Centre, Relau
 - Stepping Stone Work Centre, Balik Pulau
 - "JOM!" Mobile Toy Library
 - Horse Riding
 - Administration / Fund Raising
- I would like to be put on your mailing list
- I would like to make a general donation of RM _____ .
- I would like to donate RM _____ towards the building fund.

Postal Order/Cheque No : _____ Date : _____

(Please make all cheques payable to Asia Community Service)

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel No: _____ (H) _____ (O)



ASIA COMMUNITY SERVICE

C0-23-UP Kompleks Masyarakat Penyayang, Jalan Utama, 10450 Penang.

Email: acspen@po.jaring.my Website: www.asiacommunityservice.org

First Step: 33 Changkat Minden Jalan 3, Gelugor, 11700 Penang.

Phone: 04 – 6585396 Fax: 04 – 6597852

Step Centre: 1-3-9 Kompleks Sri Relau, Pesiaran Bukit Jambul 1, 11900 Pg.

Phone / Fax: 04 – 6462804

Stepping Stone: 53 Jalan Baru, Pulau Betong, Balik Pulau, 11000 Penang.

Phone / Fax: 04 – 8665349

"Jom!" Mobile Toy Library: Mobile Phone 016-4487006

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