

Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA)

扶輪青年領袖獎勵計劃

1st Stage 15.12.2001

2nd Stage 22-24.2.2002

3rd Stage 4.5.2002

The RYLA Organizing Committee, which was headed by Chairman PP Dr. Charles Cheng and Youth Generation Co-ordinator PDG Joseph Lee as well as Advisors PP Herbert Lau, DGN Jones Wong, PP Louis Thomas and Host Club President Ramesh Chugani, met on a regular basis to give shape to a perfectly organized RYLA 2001-2002 Camp.

The RYLA 2001-2002 theme, which was chosen to go along with The RI theme of "Mankind is our Business", was "Youth is our Business" and the three-stage programme was well planned.

The First Stage - a fundamental Leadership Orientation Seminar entitled "Leadership in the 21st Century" - was held at the Tower Club on 15th December 2001 (Saturday) to introduce the aims and targets of the RYLA programme. Our guest speaker was Dr. Howard Cheng from the Department of Social Sciences, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, whose presentation was entitled "How Young People Can Nurture Leadership Potential in the New Century"

The Second Stage of the programme was a 3-day, 2-night camp held from 22nd - 24th February 2002 at Adventure Corp. The 3-day programme had been very well planned, with action training and interaction between groups and individuals,

On Day 1, the 39 male and 68 female trainees, together with the 14 volunteers, were picked up by three buses which took us to High Island Training Camp in Sai Kung in time for our scheduled start of 10.30 am. After the welcoming address and RYLA flag hoisting ceremony (which was held every morning), 4 teams were formed, dormitories were allocated and everyone participated in ice-breaking games.



The Training exercises began in earnest after lunch with Training Circuit A (Parts I & II). Since the group was large, it was divided into 2 sections alternating between The Elementary Map Reading/Orienteering Exercise and the Radio Voice Procedures and exercise. There was no doubt that trainers and volunteers alike enjoyed taking part in these exercises.

After an early dinner, there was a night walk followed by a debriefing and review of the day's activities. The first day at Camp had been so full of activities that everyone was quite tired, but happy.

Day 2 began early with a 6.00am Reveille rousing us for the RYLA flag hoisting ceremony and a sightseeing trip to East Sea Coffor Dam, High Island Reservoir, where a "Stretcher" Race was held before heading back to Camp for breakfast and the start of Training Circuit B (Part 1) at 9.00am.

Teams rotated around 4 "stands" - Rock Climbing/ Abseiling; Command Tasks; Drill Practice; and an Introduction to the Obstacle Course - each of which lasted 1 hour.

After lunch, Training Circuit B (Part 11) continued, followed by preparation for the field training and departure at 5.00pm for the field training area where team bases were set up and dinner prepared. That evening they camped outside and since they had to be up early the following morning, probably only slept for about 2 hours.

Day 3 - the teams were collected at 7.00am and were debriefed on the field training prior to breakfast, after

which there were potted sports and an inter-team obstacle course competition. It was obvious through these games, that they learned quite a lot about leadership skills and getting along with other team members.

We were joined during the day, by Rotary District officials who watched the competitions and were very interested to see that the Campsite was the ideal location for such training. The camp ended with an evaluation and closing address. It was evidents from the comments were heard from the Rylarians, that the RYLA camp was quite a success and that they wished that the camp would not end just yet.

During the camp, Rylarians had been asked to choose one leader per team and at the end of the day, each team submitted their leader's name. We had a short discussion with the team leaders as to what would be their next project in order to qualify to win the best Rylarian award and attend the R.I. Convention in Barcelona in June.

The Third Stage of RYLA 2001-2002 will take place at Tower Club on 4th May 2002 at 3.00 pm.

Ramesh Chugani, Host Club President
Rotary Club of Kowloon North

