



# Report on Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Program (RYLA)

Feb 26 – Mar 01, 2009

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Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an intensive training program for community youth leaders. Young people, chosen for their leadership potential attend a program organized, run and sponsored by Rotary to learn and build leadership skills.

Our theme for this year is “A leader is one who Makes Dreams Real”. The program focused on positive leadership; building self-confidence and self-esteem; elements of community and global citizenship; communication skills in effective leadership; and program-solving and conflict management.

To begin this program, a committee was set up mainly rely on previous Rylarians. Out of 13 members ex-rylarians have 5 sets. They took up mostly of the executive part of work. Special thanks to Ming Wong, Iris Wan, Jovex Chan, BY Wong, Nettie Ng.

Our recruitment began at end of October, 2008, through invitations to all Rotaract Clubs, Interact Clubs, Rotary Clubs in our district, secondary schools, and newspaper. We had 98 application and 77 were accepted including 31 male and 46 female aged 17 to 24.

### Our program:

RYLA program 08-09 consisted of three parts:

#### 1. Orientation;

As requested by some applicants, we managed to break our orientation into two parts so that applicants can fully take part. The result was so great that we had nearly 100 percent attendance with one apology because of accident required medical treatment.

Ice-breaking session, understanding of RYLA, group formation, and group assignment would well prepare our youngster before taking this challenge. At the end of orientation, six groups formed. Group leaders were selected or self nominated. Most importantly, these six groups were given an assignment: to collect background information, data, problems, and etc for building up their group project building a “Dream City”.

#### 2. A 4 days-three nights camp.



The spirit of this camp is to learn, to share, to grow through make dreams real together. With the understanding of our young generation, we set up some challenges to them, namely, mentally challenge, physically

challenge, and socially challenge. Hence, working group prepares different types of programs to achieve those challenges. Lives stories share by outstanding young people awardees, outstanding life fighter and a senior humanitarian worker. Mr. Chong Chan Yau gave us how he went through his life being an underprivileged disabled person and fight significantly to change people’s attitude towards unfairness in Hong Kong and the whole world. We learnt that the motto is never give up and believe you. For Mr. Derek Ko who had only one arm and have concurred many high mountain, sea, deserts and etc. Again, he demonstrated to us that the importance of preparation, goal setting, preservation, diligence and efforts. Those all marks the success of a leader.



Ms. Betty Lau, who gave us a different picture from her last ten years work, presented to us the hopelessness of families who live under disasters. She inspires us that we too can do a lot both in Hong Kong and any other place of the world through voluntary work. Our time, our, thought, our understanding and our effort can make a difference to them.

TACT, our partner company designed several of group games that motivate our youngster in team building and character consolidation. In particular the whole day walk at Luk Wu Ravine. All six groups went on one trip and found their ways from no where. Group members require group efforts to help each other in order to complete the walk. Members were encouraged to share their difficulties, joyfulness, sadness, and etc with their team members.

In High Wall, all 75 attendants were requested to climb a 13 feet high wall within a period of time. This gave this big group a huge challenge and they made it. Trust to others is what matters, we learnt and practiced.



## End Polio Now - Indian Night Fundraising Dinner

**Date :** January 10, 2009 (Saturday)

**Time :** From 7 p.m.

**Venue :** India Club , Hong Kong

An evening of good food, fellowship, and performances of Indian dance, and a standup comedy by hilarious Vivek Mahubani, deemed Hong Kong's Funniest Person 2007.

All proceeds from the evening donated to Rotary International's US\$100 million challenge - PolioPlus.



Backwoods barbeque was one of the most memorable events. I believed not too many campers from the whole group (nearly 100 including helpers and visitors) had such an extra ordinary cooking style. BBW without grills, forks and knives, rick cooking with no rice cooker, not even utensil, bakery with bamboo sticks, and etc. Problem solving, group works, experiencing primitive way of living, attitude testing and changing are slowly went through.

### 3. Group presentation.

Camp fire highlighted the whole camp with group singing and dancing. It demonstrated once again how much friendship had made in such a short period of time. Together we walk, talk, share rooms, climb, eat, shower, run, listen, and etc, the bounding grew. On the final day of the camp, all groups gave their presentation on project Building a "Dream City". Everyone had a chance to present in front of all. The activity allow individual having a chance to speak what they realize the problem of one existing city and how to change it.

### 4. Final interview and selection of Best Rylarian.



The final process is to interview nominees who were recommended by their group leaders and members. DG Albert, Vice Chair lady Chelsia and I, with help by group leaders, we at the end of three hours, selected Ms. Xivera Leung as this year's Best Rylarian and she will representing our District to RYLA International which is going to be held few days before Rotary International at Birmingham, U.K>

Finally, I need to give my sincere thanks to DGN Jason who came to officiate our program, DS Eugene gave me such wonderful support in behind, DG Albert, came all the way back from overseas and sent the last day with us; AG Chee Lung, PP Percy, PP Grace Yen, PDG Tony, Rtn Rita Kwok, RTn Guido Morgenthal, Spencer Leung, PP Derek Robert, PP James Yick and many others. Without your genuine support, this program will never come true