



**RYLA 2010-2011, RID 3450**

## **RYLA Report**

16<sup>th</sup> February 2011

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an intensive training program for the future 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 was “**Build the Future, Bridge the Cultures**”. 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, an organizing committee was set up mainly relying on former RYLA participants. Out of 30 members 20 were ex-RYLarians. They took up mostly of the executive work. Special thanks to Chief Trainer Ming Wong; Team Facilitators - Yasir Naveed, Vivian Yeung, Xaviera Leung, Sophia Lam, Anita Chan, June Chan, Nicole Huang, Jade Chan, Jovex Chan and BY Wong; Program Officers - Platteen Tsang, Max Lam, Janice Lee, Ashley Lee, Elle Chui, Nicholas Chiang, Victoria Poon, Man Yi Wong, Stanley Siu, Flora Pau, Simon Ko, Amy Wat and Isaac Yeung; Resources Manager Natalie Yuen and Administrator Kaka Lau.

Our recruitment began on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2010, through invitations to all Rotaract Clubs, Interact Clubs, Rotary Clubs in our district, universities, secondary schools, the official RYLA website and Facebook pages. We received 150 applications and 95 were accepted aged between 17 and 25.

### **The Program**

#### **Orientation Day**

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2011 (Saturday)

Venue: Hong Kong Air Cadet Corps - Piper's Hill Adventure Activities Base

Program: RYLA Orientation, Teambuilding, Life Experience.



The orientation day was successful with all necessary information given to participants. Strong team bonding was built into the ice-breaking and teambuilding sessions. 72 participants from Hong Kong and Macao took part and 6 teams were formed.

## RYLA Camp

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2011 (Thursday - Sunday)

Venue: Breakthrough Youth Village

Program: Development programs, indoor and outdoor challenges in experiential settings to foster participants' leadership competence, teamwork and communication skills, social responsibility and personal commitment.

10 Feb - Day 1 "Commit Yourself"	11 Feb - Day 2 "Journey to Self Enhancement"	12 Feb - Day 3 "Bridge the Cultures"	13 Feb - Day 4 "Build Your Future"	
07:00-08:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical Wellness Training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical Wellness Training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical Wellness Training</li> </ul>	
08:00-09:00	"+Oil RYLarians!"* / Breakfast (Except day 1)			
09:00-13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opening Ceremony</li> <li>Grounding &amp; Tone-Setting</li> <li>Ice-breaking &amp; Teambuilding</li> <li>Safety briefing on ropes course</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RYLA Episode I</li> <li>Inspiration Talk Topic: "I Can Make a Change" by Nelson Yip</li> <li>Life Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RYLA Episode II</li> <li>The Ring of Life</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RYLA Episode III</li> <li>The RYLA Chef</li> <li>Closing Ceremony</li> </ul>
13:00-14:00	"+Oil RYLarians!" / Lunch			
14:00-18:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team Challenge</li> <li>1. Ropes Course</li> <li>2. The Synergy Team I</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Journey to Self Enhancement: Land Expedition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Synergy Race</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consolidation &amp; Final Round-up</li> <li>RYLarian Sharing</li> <li>Best RYLarian Interview</li> </ul>
18:00-19:00	"+Oil RYLarians!" / Dinner (Except day 4; Packed dinner served on day 2)			
19:00-22:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Synergy Team II</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land Expedition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RYLA Night Show</li> </ul>	

\*"+Oil RYLarians!": Two participants in each team give encouragements and cheer up to everyone. "+Oil" is a popular slang in Hong Kong with the meaning of "keep it up".

Programs on Day 1 focused on setting individual and team goals, and building up personal commitment in taking part in the RYLA camp. Teambuilding programs with the topics in trust building, communication, cooperation, win-win mindset and synergy in problem solving were covered. Team bonding was strengthened at the end of Day 1.



The theme for Day 2 was "Journey to Self Enhancement". With the input from our guest speaker, Mr. Nelson Yip, on the topic of "I Can Make A Change", participants were inspired to initiate a change in their inner self. Followed by Life Education on the topic of earth conservation, a simulation game to save the victims from

flooding vividly delivered the message on how to create a better world. In the afternoon and until evening teams experienced a land expedition where the power of team cohesion was unleashed and the level of team spirit was pushed to a new height. Solo walking in the dark during the land expedition served as a catalyst for inner self reflection for the day.



On Day 3 all teams had gone through two major projects – the “Ring of Life” where teams used artworks to interpret the 6 virtues in leadership: Benevolence (仁), Righteousness (義), Politeness (禮), Wisdom (智), Honesty (信) and Duty (孝). The interpretations by our RYLArrians were impressive and encouraging. In the afternoon the “Bridge the Cultures” dimension expanded to food cultures. Teams received a country name together with a famous dish of that country. They had to find out what the dish was and how to cook it. All six teams spent their small budgets and the time needed to get the ingredients. Throughout the activity team management skills were observed. The RYLA Night Show, in the format of a campfire, though without a real fire, was held for celebration. Our RYLArrians were talented and creative in performing in other cultures.



On the last day teams prepared the dishes for our judging panel made up of Rotarians and distinguished guests. Our judges were amazed that with limited time and resources each team was able to produce high quality dishes and also demonstrated a high level of team cooperation that impressed all the guests.

The camp ended in high note.



Overall, the RYLA camp was very well received by our RYLarians and a high level of RYLA spirit and team bonding was successfully created. Of the 72 participants, 67, of whom 52 came from Hong Kong, 7 from Macao, 6 from Mongolia and 2 from Guangzhou, received the Certificate of Recognition after completing every requirement of the program.

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