

# The Malaysian Apexian

Citizenship | Service | Fellowship

## 42 years and going strong

Our own favourite Apexian from Penang, Lifer Victor Corbett, reminisces his 42 years of tireless service and fellowship as an Apexian.

## The grandsire speaks!!!!

LG Dato' Gnanaraja, the Grandsire of Apex Malaysia, details and shares many things that he never did before in this heart to heart dialogue. Tune in for more interesting information

## Why Task Force?

Apexian Jesse Mah of PJ speaks on behalf of the Task Force in this strongly worded message focusing on change, relevance, guidance and a hard look at reality. APEX TASK FORCE - the new chapter in Apex.

## Target 1 Million

New ETF Chairman lays down his target and vision for ETF under his leadership. Will he achieve it? Lets keep our fingers crossed!!

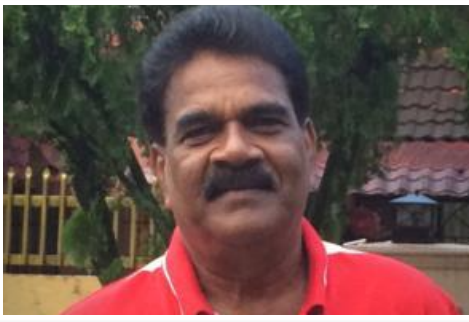


## The Editor Speaks (again...)

Hello GUYS!!!! It's good to be back again as promised in the earlier edition.

The second half of this term has been an extremely eventful one for Apex in general and to me in specific. During the mid-term in Taiping, hosted by Apex Penang, our National President Sritharan announced his intention to set-up an Apex Task Force to focus on expansion and also revival of weak and struggling clubs. Upon announcing it, the NP requested me to be the chairman and form a team that would be able to contribute greatly to this cause. I discussed with NP and hand picked Jesse Mah of PJ and A.S. Naidu of KL to be invited for a meeting. In that meeting, we knew they were the right candidates to join the Task Force (TF) team. I would like to





## Gone too soon but NEVER forgotten...

Apexian Appana was born on January 11, 1956, in Bagan Datoh, Perak. Although he had little formal education, Appana grew up in a family that believed in the importance of books and learning. Throughout his 63 years of life journey, he met many hurdles despite that he always maintains positivity and never lack in cheerfulness. He is known as a loving husband, caring son, responsible father, playful grandfather and helpful friend.

The son of an estate laborer grew up to become a successful businessmen. He later dedicated his life to Philanthropic endeavours in his early 30's. In his life he made many wise choices and one of them is joining Apex in 1990. In his 29 years in Apex, Appana served the community diligently and was elected President of his club numerous times.

After a short battle with cancer, he returned to the realms of God on 17th July, 2019.

thank them for being in this team and contributing immensely in the success of the Task Force despite it only being 5 months old.

Apart from the TF, another major milestone recorded this year is the successful Community Service Project led by NP Sri and IPNP Giri who have been assuming the role of National Service Director since the elected Director resigned from her position last year due to work commitments. Sri and Giri mooted the idea of donating a dialysis machine to a dialysis centre in Kuala Selangor and their proposal received overwhelming support from most clubs in Malaysia. The clubs put their hands together to raise sufficient money to donate this machine. A detailed report on this can be found in this magazine.

The last few months have been both hectic and enjoyable as I traveled heavily on Apex duties. I visited many clubs and had the privilege to stand in for the NP to preside over installation ceremonies 4 clubs namely Kuantan, Melaka, Ipoh and Bandar Syed Putra. I have to say that the fellowship in these meetings and travels was the only thing that kept me going. However, it is sad to note that one of my favourite Apexian, the Late Appana, who was always a companion in most fellowships succumbed to the painful pancreatic cancer. His untimely demise has definitely left a huge lacuna not just to Apex KL but to the entire fraternity in general. Appana, we will miss you !!

I would like to take this opportunity to record my since gratitude to Life Governor Dato' A Gnanarajah, Lifer Thavanesan, ETF Chairman Edward Mai, ETF Secretary TT Singham, Apex PJ President Jesse Mah, Lifer Victor Corbett, IPNP Giri and Apexian Vinod Appana for their article contributions. Also, I would like to thank the Clubs that responded to my request to send pictures and narratives of their service projects and fellowship events. And last but not least, I would like to thank NP Sri once again for penning his greetings and constantly supporting me to produce this magazine.

Signing off for the last time as your editor,

**Ravin Karunanidhi**

## NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD



Congratulations on the second edition of the Malaysian Apexian! Judging by the success of the first edition, I am very sure the subsequent editions will receive good support from the members.

Convention 2019 Kajang, the 44<sup>th</sup> National Convention of Apex Malaysia will be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> August 2019. For the first time, we have recorded full registration of about 160 participants from both local and international delegates. Kudos to Apex Club of Kajang and to those who have contributed for the

success of this convention in one way or another.

We are seeing a trend in increased membership from Central Clubs which is a good sign for future development of Apex. The Malaysian Apexian will be the guiding star for the new young members as to how they may contribute and grow within Apex.

Apex Malaysia will be undergoing some form of transformation with the introduction of the Apex Schooling Project which we wish to carry out by the end of this year. It will give some guidance and direction for the young member as to what to expect from Apex.

Lastly, warm welcome to all foreign participants and our local members to have a good Apex style fellowship and Business session.

*Let's Rise Up Together to Rebuild Apex*

Thank you.

Yours in Apex,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sritharan'.

(SRITHARAN KUNJAMBOO)  
National President (2018/2019)  
National Association of Apex Clubs of Malaysia

# My 42 Years Journey in Apex

-By Lifer Victor Corbett



I love Apex. Apex is in my blood and my passion to uphold the ideals of Apex make me a more matured and responsible person. I joined the Apex Club of Ipoh in 1977 at the age of 21. I was introduced into Apex by my Brother in Law, Life Member Apexian



**Receiving my Lifer Badge from AG Suresh**

Andrew Ang who was then the Club President. In those

days the Apex Club of Ipoh had their dinner meetings on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the Month at the Royal Ipoh Club. I was considered a young 'chicko' and most of the members very much older than me. It was my association with them that I considered myself maturing faster than the other people in my age group. My draw into the Apex Movement was due to the warmth and fellowship and the dedication of the



**Great fellowship with a fellow great Apexian**

members. The Apexians in Ipoh were a nice & lively group of guys and so were the other Apexians from other Clubs. Subsequently due to a change in my career, I moved to Penang in 1981 & joined the Apex Club of Penang.

The year 1977 was an important year in the history of the Apex Club of Ipoh as the Club had the opportunity to host the 'Tin Ore Convention and the venue was the 'Kings Hotel in Tambun Road. The National

President at that time was Apexian Seow Chye Hiap. There were many visitors from Australia & Singapore.

It was a very enjoyable and memorable occasion.



**The women that complete my life**

Why I joined Apex? I like to serve the community and to meet people from all walks of life. I did not join the Club to improve my business or solicit for clients.

I wish to quote to you the sayings of the late John F. Kennedy President of the United States of America :

'Do not ask what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country'

The greatest thrill a person gets is when we visit a Children's home or a Senior Citizens home for a service project. The look of the excited and happy faces of the people in the homes is the reward that is bestowed on us. We do not expect anything else.

Through Apex I have met people from many countries and learned about their culture. I have had fellowship with members in Australia, India, New Zealand & Singapore when I visited those countries and was showered with great hospitality. Apex is a fellowship of many cultures. With this exposure a person becomes more learned. I am now in my 34 th year in Apex. I had a great time and many of the Apexians are my good friends.

One of my greatest thrills in my Apex career was when I was elected National President for 2011 /2012. I enjoyed myself very much. I was going to go for second year but unfortunately I went for a major operation and I had to slow down. I have been the President of Apex Club of Penang 5 times and was given Life Membership at the Mid Term meeting in Taiping on 2nd March 2019 due to my service to the club.

I am married to Apex and it is because of Apex that I got married to my lovely wife Leeza because I was introduced to her by her sister Lulu in 1987 who was in our then sister Club XEPA which is a ladies only Club and a brainchild of Apex Penang. XEPA subsequently merged with Apex in 1995 to form a single Club.

I am willing to tell more stories but unfortunately the Editor has not given me more space and doesn't want to give me extra \$\$\$\$. So come over for Penang Dinner meetings for more stories from me.

## My RM1 Million Target

- ETF Chairman Edward Mai's aspiration



When the Apex Education Trust Fund was set up in 1983, it had set for itself a target of RM500,000. By sheer perseverance that target was breached, and by June 2018, it had accumulated a sum that was in excess of RM 620,000.

The same year, the old committee stood down, making way for a new committee to take over the administration of the Fund. Not to be outdone, the new committee set itself a new target. It hoped to take the fund to a new level...to touch the magic number of One Million Ringgit.

Indeed, the new committee has been working overtime to achieve that target. It is not an insurmountable target! It can, and will, be achieved. Instead of depending totally on the clubs within the Association to play a role in raising funds, which would be near impossible, given the premise that the clubs themselves are facing difficulties in raising funds for their own activities, the new committee took upon itself to undertake the job by itself.

At the off-set, the committee sought to seek the help of prominent well-wishers who were more than willing to chip-in with funds raised through their own efforts.

With all the goodwill that was simply waiting to be tapped, the ETF committee, within its first year since taking over the reins of the Fund, managed to increase its coffers by 33% during the 2018/2019 financial year.

Riding on these achievements, the ETF is planning to make several changes to further boost its role and effectiveness for the benefit of the association, and by extension, the community at large.

Foremost in its plans for improving the functions of the ETF, is to move away from giving out bursaries to schools students and concentrate on hardworking youths from poor backgrounds and set them on the road to success in acquiring higher education with financial assistance in the form of loans or outright grants.

This will be strictly for students who are unsuccessful in obtaining scholarships from the government or other institutions.

Though Article 2 of the AETF Bye-laws stipulate that the ETF shall provide assistance to clubs in the form of bursaries, loans, book aid, among other things, the current ETF committee is of the opinion that it be committed to giving out scholarships as its primary objective.

The ETF aspires to continue to manage the fund professionally. Indeed, the ETF will be transparent at all times, in all its workings, and carry out its role within the Association with dignity and integrity.

## The Grandsire of Apex Malaysia Speaks!!

In my 8 years journey in Apex Malaysia, I have come across many tall (in deed and character not height) individuals within Apex. But if I have to choose 1 that stands out, then that person will have to be LG Dato' A Gnanarajah. His contacts presence in all Apex functions and especially Mid Terms and AGMs despite his advanced age, his signature voice tone while addressing a crowd and impeccable mannerism sets him apart from others. With this in mind, I thought that it would be great to interview LG Gnanarajah so that his thoughts and experience could be a source an inspiration to young Apexians and aspiring Apexians.

### **Q; LG Gnana, how and what made you join Apex?**

I first came to know about Apex 61 years ago. I was then a young man in my early twenties. I had just completed my Normal Class training as a qualified English school teacher in Seremban. I was invited to an Apex meeting at the Century Hotel and I was impressed by the way the meeting was conducted. The club discussed many service projects and the members were friendly and the fellowship very warm. In those days the mode of transport were bicycles and scooters. I myself had a Raleigh bicycle and then a Lambreta scooter and still later a Mini Austin. Seremban being a small place, we always bumped into each other every nook and corner. As a teacher I had a fair bit of time on my hands and I looked forward to the fortnightly meetings of the Club. Not long after joining the Club I got elected to be the President. It was then a strong Club and in order to achieve Charter we had to work very hard and keep all records of meetings and service hours. I was very fortunate to be the Charter President of the Seremban Club. The then Zone 4 President presented the Charter to me from Western Australia Apexian Bill Dickson. The Charter Night was held at the King George the V School Hall and was attended by about 300 distinguished guests, Apexians and friends including his Royal Highness the Yang Di Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan and the Australian High Commissioner in Malaysia.

### **Q. Tell me more of your memories of your time in Apex...**

I have very happy and fond memories of Apex. My involvement with Apex was an eye-opener and gave me an opportunity to meet many people. We teamed up to channel our collective energies to assist the needy and the deserving in our community. This gave us a great deal of satisfaction. In those days we in fact carried out physical work during weekends as service work and it was thoroughly enjoyable. We undertook a large number of service projects at that time. In December 1962 I tendered my resignation as a teacher in KGV and left by boat for the United Kingdom to read law at Lincoln's Inn. I was then 27 years old. My entire lifestyle in London changed. I committed myself to my books and worked very hard and was called to the English Bar on the 20th of July 1965. On my return I read in the Chambers of R.R. Chelliah for a year, practised for 2 years with Dato Athi Nahappan and then joined the City Hall of Kuala Lumpur in 1968.

I joined the Apex Club of Petaling Jaya and became President of the Club. My association with Apex P.J. was another great and memorable experience. Whilst a member of Apex P.J. I was

elected District Governor of District 5, Zone 4; Regional President of Malaysia / Singapore and thereafter as the 1st National President of Apex Malaysia. The Apex Education Trust Fund was launched and I was elected Chairman of the Fund. I also had the opportunity to travel to Perth , Sydney and also to Nice in France to attend WOCO. The trip to Nice was attended by a large number of Apexians from Malaysia. Life Governor P.K. Singham, Apexian Tan Kok Ming, Apexian Stanley Nathan, Apexian Pulendran and myself hired a car in Paris and drove for 2 weeks visiting Lourdes, Barcelona, Nice, Monaco, Genoa, Florence, Rome, Vatican City, Lucerne, Germany, Luxembourg , Brussels and Ostend. From Ostend we crossed the English Channel and went across to Dover and then to London for a week. We had the time of our lives on this memorable trip.

***Q. Can you please me about your career. And is there anyone in particular that you would like to single out for your successful career?***

I have had a very busy life but I'm not sure if that also means a successful one as I don't know how one measures success. Some would measure success by material terms, others may look upon it differently. But as far as I'm concerned, I had a very fulfilling career. I spent 9 years as a teacher and more than 24 years with City Hall Kuala Lumpur. Financially working for the Government was not rewarded but I thoroughly enjoyed my stint as a teacher and my work as the Legal Advisor to the Mayor of the City of Kuala Lumpur. The culmination of my long stay in City Hall was the publication and launching of my book entitled 'Laws of City Hall Kuala Lumpur with Cases and Commentaries' in 4 Volumes. The book was launched by the Mayor of the City of Kuala Lumpur on the 28th of December 1992, just 3 days before I left the City Hall. The production of a book of this nature and size had never been undertaken before. The book itself, which is being marketed by International Law Books Services, was well received and I feel proud of what I had achieved. It took many years of hard work and sleepless nights and almost got abandoned along the way.

Your next question if there is anyone in particular that I would like single out puzzled me for a while. I can't attribute it to my own handwork because everyone works hard. Then I remembered the saying 'behind every successful man stands a woman telling him that he is wrong'. Many years ago these words were engraved in gold on a wall plate and hung in the living room of my house. It irritated me so much that one day I actually smashed it. To me, I felt it should have read 'behind every successful man stands a woman telling him that he is right and wonderful'. Today many years later I must give that fine woman full credit for all my success. She was a pillar of strength and a tremendous source of inspiration. They say a woman's instinct is better than a man's brains and I cannot help but agree with this statement. I was so involved in so many things that I even neglected buying a house until about the time of my retirement and she was responsible for it. When I look back I now feel I have been extremely unfair to her. Even after my marriage I was so very active in my job and in Apex, holding such responsible positions club President, District Governor, Regional President, 1st National President, Chairman of ETF, Chairman of Apex Constitutional Committee and 1st Chairman of Apex Council. Holding such positions necessitated my traveling extensively throughout the country and even overseas. This meant leaving my wife and children to fend for themselves. In fact, when I first met her I was a teacher and it was she who inspired me to be a lawyer and helped me in more ways than one. My purpose in mentioning this seemingly little

episode is to remind every married Apexian to always bear in mind that there is a lonely woman and home anxiously waiting for him to return home safely. She and the children should never be neglected. In a nutshell, I would attribute all my success to my wife.

***Q. What is lacking in current generation Apexians?***

This is a difficult question. Maybe the life-style of young men have changed over the years. maybe the affluence of the parents and their children have resulted in pursuits other than a desire to be of service to the less fortunate in the community Maybe youths do not realise or are not aware or are indifferent to the needs and wants of the large number of people out there who need support and assistance for their very survival. Maybe they feeling that it is not their responsibility but that of the Government. Maybe there are other more interesting attractions. Essentially to be a member of any service club one must have deep-rooted inherent desire to appreciate firstly what they themselves have achieved in the community they live and then spontaneously come forward to give some of their time, energy and of course spend a little bit of their money to happy team up with the other members to collectively channel their efforts to help the needy, deserving and the less fortunate in the community where they live. There can be no greater happiness and satisfaction in this world other than being able to serve humanity. I believe and believe strongly that the more you give / serve the more you will receive.

***Q. Why are we not able to recruit new members?***

I think we have not tried hard enough. I am convinced that if all of us put our hearts and minds to recruiting new members especially now that we have opened membership to all men and women of all ages and we explain clearly the Ideals and Objects of Apex to all our friends, relations and business associates and invite them to Apex meetings and ensure that these meetings are conducted with style and decorum people will respond. People like to attend a meeting with a proper Agenda, a proper and effective Chairman discussing topics of interest, which are productive and useful. Sometimes I honestly feel that the so-called 'fine session' should be scrapped. More of than not the fine session is used to wash dirty linen in public which I personally think is bad. I have noticed over the years that during fine sessions what is done is highlighting the 'wrongs' and 'weakness' of a member or a Club and that again gives a very bad impression and leaves a bad taste in the mouths of our guests. Some fines are also so stupid, so humiliating and so embarrassing that it can spoil the spirit of the person fined and consequently the mood of the meeting. Often there is 'retaliation' and the retaliator becomes a gladiator and often gets nastier. Is that what we want? Is that what we call a fine session? Sometimes the fine session gets long drawn and becomes a fund-raising session at the expense of Apexians. Anyway, I do not wish to dwell on this subject any more lest I step on the toes of some people who may think that I am crazy but I would like clubs to take this matter up and discuss it openly without fear or favour and assertion whether or not I am making any sense in what I have said.

***Q. Do you think Apex is still relevant to Malaysia and its communities?***

I certainly think so. There is so much that can be done and should be done. The Ideals and Objects of Apex have stood the test of time. There is nothing bad about Apex. It is non-political

and non-sectarian. It encourages friendship and fellowship and strives to make every Apexian a good and better man. To me its relevance is unquestionable. The success of a Club depends on having active, live and involved membership. The role the Club can play in the community depends on the effectiveness, dedication, commitment and participation of each and every member.

***Q. What is your view on the cancellation of our membership with WOCO?***

This was expected from day one. I feel a little sad but a little sadness is nothing when compared to the much greater and larger benefits that Apex Malaysia will derive and achieve. After all what did we benefit from WOCO? Nothing much to crow about. We will save our per-capita payments anyway. I agree we must have some international exposure of some sort and we have that with Apex Global now although it is not the same but an international exposure nevertheless.

***Q. In what other organisations are you involved?***

1. I am the President of Persatuan Perkhidmatan Masyarakat Ceylonese Selangor & Wilayah Persekutuan (PERMA), a Ceylonese Community Service Organisation comprising largely of ladies.
2. I am the Deputy President of Federation of Malaysian Sri Lankan Organisations (FOMSO)
3. Committee Member of PERKASA - Association for Retired Senior Officers of City Hall Kuala Lumpur
4. I am active member of Apex 40 Kuala Lumpur
5. I am a member and former Worshipful Master of Makepeace Lodge in Kuala Lumpur.

***Q. Finally LG, what is your advice to current Apexians and how could we improve our membership?***

My advice to current Apexians is to get involved in Apex and enjoy Apex. Apex is a dynamic organisation for dynamic men and women with an inherent desire to serve the needy, the deserving and the less fortunate in the community. At the same time you will also enlarge your inner circle of friends and in the process you will enrich your own personality.

To improve membership make your meetings pleasant and productive. There should always be discipline and decorum. Everything must be pre-planned. The Agenda for the evening should be strictly followed and there should be no waste of time. Time these days is a rare commodity that should be utilised to the fullest. The Chairman should be fully prepared and should be able to lead the group effective and sensibly. There should be no sub-committee meetings within a meeting. Everyone should address the Chair. Meetings should be made interesting and members should be invited to participate. The absolute key to membership is a lively programme. Maybe we should appoint a Dinner-meeting critic for each meeting to sum up

and give his views of the conduct of the meeting at the end of each meeting so that we can improve ourselves. Invite you friends and business associates to come and attend Apex meetings. They may not even have heard about Apex. Make them feel welcome and wanted. Talk to them and keep in touch with them after the meeting by extending them Dinner Notices and keeping in touch with them over the phone. Supply members with the names, addresses, and phone numbers of all new members so that members can communicate with each other. Probably this information can be put in the next Dinner Notice.

Ravin, thank yo very much for taking your time and considering me for this interview. I hope that I have disseminated and shared as much as I could. It is not easy to summarise my memories and thoughts of 61 years . My kindest regards and very best wishes to one and all.



## DID YOU KNOW???

LG Dato' Gnanarajah has been married to Datin Rasamanohari (better known as Radha) since 1965. He has credited her on numerous occasions as the main drive behind his success and long standing legal career. In fact, it was she who encouraged LG Gnana who was a school teacher to pursue a career as Lawyer. He is rarely seen in public without the presence of the ever smiling Datin Radha. They are blessed with 2 daughters, Sumitha and Geeta, as a result of their marriage.

# National Community Service Project

centre in Kuala Selangor managed by St Johns Ambulance Malaysia (SJAM).

Why did we choose this programme? It is to be noted that almost 7000 people are diagnosed with renal failure annually and unfortunately most of them are of the lower income bracket. Most patients are unable to afford the high cost of treatment and depend on the highly subsidized treatments offered by the centres run by SJAM. It is with this in mind that the National Board decided to donate a machine to be placed at the



**NP Sri explaining to Hon Minister on our projects and activities**

The National Board in its first meeting after 2018 National Convention discussed many things and of course service projects was one of the most hotly debated matters apart from membership expansion. After much deliberation and research it was decided around November 2018 that we would sponsor a dialysis machine for a dialysis



**Hon Minister being briefed on the usage of the dialysis machine**

Pusat Dialisis SJAM Kuala Selangor.

Upon announcing this project around December, we requested all clubs to assist in raising funds to make this dream a reality. We were fortunate to receive contributions from most Apex Clubs in Malaysia, Apex Australia, Global Chairman Eshwar, friends, supporters and good Samaritans. After a couple of months of fund raising, we achieved the RM40,000.00 target which is the amount needed to purchase the machine. The machine procured was of Nipro brand as all machines there are of the same brand and it would be easier for



**Presentation of mock dialysis machine**

service and purchasing of consumables and nurses in the centre are trained to administer it.

Jaya to Kuala Selangor to ease transportation and logistics for the day. In fact, the idea of traveling together also made everyone excited and helped build momentum and mood of all Apexians.



**Team PJ proudly posing by the roll of honour displaying our donation**

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of April the machine was officially handed over to SJAM dialysis centre and this event was graced by the sitting MP, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, who is also the Minister of Health. SJAM was represented by its president YBhg Dato' Lai See Ming and his officers.

It was a good day as far as sponsor is concerned as he Honourable Minister pledged RM10,000.00 to purchase a new machine, his parliamentary office bared the cost for tents and food and a prominent businessman sponsored over 70 t-shirts to be given to all attendees.

Overall, it was a great event with fantastic results with many people who attended on



**On the bus ride to the programme**



**With my beautiful daughters and PNP Tim**

that day got to know Apex. Not only did we render altruistic service to the people in the community, but this particular service also helped to promote our association to the public.

Thank you !

**Venkata Giri Naidu**

Immediate Past National President  
National Association of Apex Malaysia  
2018/2019

## The Philippines - Revisited

When I was asked to write a piece about my frequent visits to the Philippines and my links with the many Filipino friends I have made over the years through Apex, I wasn't any surprised. People notice, don't they, of your movements. But then again, there are any number of Apexians from Malaysia who have links in, not only the Philippines but in other Apex nations as well.

When I first joined Apex way back in 1976, I was immersed only with doing service to the local community. This, to me, was what attracted me to Apex in the first place....doing altruistic service to the needy. That is only part of the Third Ideal of Apex. The Third Ideal also enjoins one to form enduring friendship. This then leads us to promoting international understanding and friendship! The Fourth Ideal.



**Signing twinning agreement between Apex Club of Malacca Central and Apex Club of San Pablo**

See how it is all linked?

So, we in Apex are also instrumental in creating a global village, perhaps through Apex Global, which certainly is THE vehicle to do that.

Now, coming back to the subject matter!

While, during my early days with Apex, we did have Apexians from other countries coming over to Malaysia on occasions...not just during conventions, as is the practise now...the friendship made during such visits, somehow or rather are only fleeting.

But all that changed in 2008!

On a visit to rekindle friendships made with Malaysian Apexians, this wiry Filipino Apexian, whom I had never met before, except through the Internet, comes a-calling, with his family in-tow.

Remember! In 2008, we did not have *WhatsApp* or *Facebook*.

The first meeting was at a run-down hotel in the Malaysian coastal resort of Port Dickson, on a balmy Sunday afternoon, thirsting for Malaysian beer! No! It was not a meeting made in heaven! That would be telling, wouldn't it! But hey! We both had our wives along! Anyway, he's not my type!

But kick-off, the friendship did. My first Filipino Apexian friend! Truly, this gentleman from the Apex Club of San Pablo, in the Philippines, emulates the Fourth Ideal of Apex.

This friendship has since grown from strength to strength, through communication and personal visits to each others' homes. What more, through this gentleman I can count on any number of Filipino Apexians as my friends.

You may ask, why Filipinos? Just one word sums it up. Fellowship! Or as the Filipinos would say, *pakikisama!* It starts and ends in the Philippines!

And this fellowship, nurturing a lasting friendship, has brought two clubs, one in Malaysia and the other in the Philippines, together in a twinning programme that takes the Fourth Ideal of Apex to the next level of international understanding and friendship.

Something that started with the meeting of two Apexians in the resort town of Port Dickson in 2008 had culminated with the twinning of the Apex Club of Malacca Central with the Apex Club of San Pablo.

From thereon, annual visits to the Philippines, usually to partake in the national conventions of Apex Philippines, has spread the net of friendship even further, engulfing more and more people who I can call friends. Friends who make you feel welcome whenever you visit them. Friends to whom fellowship is second nature.

This truly is the essence of international understanding and friendship as espoused by the Ideals of Apex.

*Apexian T.T. Singam*

*Apex Club of Malacca Central  
Malaysia*

## International Relations, Global & WOCO



International Relations is the 4<sup>th</sup> Ideal of Apex but the most important singular Ideal is, to make service the basis of all enterprise.

My journey in Apex can be traced back to 1989 when I actively participated in the club's service project to assist baby Azrul, with a heart saving operation in Singapore. It was my first exposure to service and International Relations, wherein Apex Singapore gave us a helping hand in seeing this project through. This co-operation by Singapore opened my eyes to what International Relations was all about even though only a few years prior to that and before I became a

member of Apex, Klang had already embarked and completed the Klang Special School with Apex Australia's assistance.

From this I came to understand the tremendous spirit that exist in young people around the world who were willing to help and support their fellow mankind in any part of the world, to render altruist service. In short, international relations and service is a powerful tool that can be tapped to attract young people to service clubs as it gives them a platform to render service, anyway in the world. In the past Apex Malaysia was affiliated to a truly global body known as WOCO or World Young Man's Service Clubs, which had national associations in the group from all the continents that rendered and carried out service projects around the world. There was Active 20/30 of America's, Round Tablers of Europe, Africa and Asia, JC's of Japan, Kinsman Clubs of Canada and Apex in the Asia Pacific Region. Woco strongly maintained, quite rightly a strict age limit for membership and today I believe they boast a membership of 30,000 members worldwide. Except for Apex Bangladesh, the rest of the Apex National Associations are not represented in Woco now, primarily for two reasons. Firstly the age limit criteria and secondly the per capita contribution to WOCO.\*\*

The reason for writing this article is to remind Apex Global, that the principle reasons why it was formed, was for it to make a return to WOCO representing all the Apex National Association as one. Although this would have entailed amending the National Constitutions to include an age limit, if we wanted to fully participate in WOCO or to be an associate, without an age limit condition. As cross border travel is now becoming easily accessible to young people WOCO will be an ideal platform for them to render service and make friends at the same time. Apex Global should seriously visit this and make the necessary enquiries to participate in WOCO activities as this would be a great tool to attract and encourage young people to join Apex.

### LIFER K. Thavanesan

\*\* Due to space constrain, a detailed discussion of WOCO, Apex Global and ASPAC will not be possible in this article.

## TASK FORCE .. The New Chapter In Apex



Upon my return to Apex, it was great to see so many familiar faces and yes, I felt so at home with all these fellow Apexians.

What has happen to Apex Club of Petaling Jaya over the last 11 months was amazing and a successful term. It did not happen by coincidence but it was planned and carried out well according to the plan with my club members.

While we were happy with the transformation of Apex Club of Petaling Jaya, I noticed many clubs in the country was struggling and some even put a brave front to show they were ok, although it was the reverse.

It was in mid March 2019 that I had a call from our National President Sritharan. We discussed about Apex in general and the current state of most clubs. He wanted to establish a Task Force to look into reviving clubs that are struggling and invited me to join a meeting which was being organised and see what we can do and contribute towards re-building Apex in Malaysia.

At the beginning of April 2019, I was invited to the Task Force (TF) meeting and was introduced to the team consisting of the National Vice President Apexian Ravin (Chairman of TF) and Apexian AS Naidu. Nat President Sritharan was in the team as the Advisor of Task Force. We discussed in great length on what TF can do and contribute towards re-building Apex and the clubs in Malaysia.

The task of reviving Apex Ipoh Kinta and Kuantan was hard work and it eventually started to show signs of progress. We knew what we were doing is correct and possible.

I am so glad that I have kept my promise to my dear friend Apexian K. Ramanaidoo, to help revive his club in Kuantan.

The progress of this 2 clubs are reported in our TF Chairman's circular.

Over the years, membership has declined and clubs have not been committed to bringing in new members and the lack of good service projects were not seen by the community.

One of the reasons of the decline in Apex is that some senior members (with clout) in their respective clubs are sceptical to changes with time. Methods of managing a club was successful then, is not now and out dated with the current time. Some are just

happy to see the club be as it is, year in, year out. If we don't wake up and arrest these problems, we will continue to decline further.

We must work towards having a multi racial members in clubs as a one race club will not be attractive to the community in general. All clubs must embark on a membership drive several times a year to attract the new prospects to join Apex. Targeting prospects from the age of 25 - 50 years old.

Re-building Apex is one of the objective of TF. We need to get back to basics and have the clubs managed with proper and interesting monthly Dinner Meetings. It must be held in a place that is of quality so that when guests are invited to our Dinner Meetings, they see the prestige of our club's image. Many clubs have claimed to have Dinner Meetings every month, which we all know the truth.. Let's be honest with ourselves and take pride in what we do for Apex.

TF will continue to help clubs that will come forth and seek assistance to revive their clubs but at the end, its the commitment and responsibility of the club members to ensure it continues to grow and have effective service projects.

TF has taken the initiative to print out Apex brochures/flyers which has been distributed to most clubs to use whenever they have their Service Projects and Apex Public Awareness Campaigns. Clubs that has not received these flyers, it will be handed to them during the National Convention at Subang Jaya.

TF will continue to look towards reviving clubs that is in need of and establishing new clubs in the country.

TF is in the midst of organising APEX SCHOOLING to educate new and young members on the duties and responsibilities towards Apex and why they have joined this community service club. This seminar will be held in this new term and I am sure, it will better equip our new members with Apex knowledge.

I believe having this Apex Task Force team with the right candidates, we will see progress and growth in Apex in the near future.

I would like to thank our TF Chairman Ravin for allowing me to have penned a few words about Apex Task Force and our objectives to revive Apex in Malaysia.

To all senior members in APEX ...

**YOU ARE NOT THE FUTURE** ... but you are responsible to ensure there is a future in Apex for the younger generation !!!

regards,

Apexian Jesse Mah

Apex Club of Petaling Jaya

## And some pictorial report.....



The members of Apex Club of Kuala Lumpur and Klang jointly with Guru Seva Association and Lions Club of North KL painted the residence the senior citizens home, Rumah Kebajikan Sri Sayang, Ulu Yam. To mark the day and service, the members of Apex KL and Klang planted 7 fruit trees within the compound for the Home.

Apex Kuala Lumpur donated new sofa set to Juara Home, Petaling Jaya





Apexian Saras of Apex Kuala Lumpur participating in their club's blood donation drive

Type to enter textThe club donated 13 sets UPSR workbooks (5 books each set) and 4 football to SJK (T)



The club distributed some books to Vivekanda Secondary School, Brickfields and some of these books were donated by AG Suresh.



The 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bursary Presentation was held on 16 March 2019 at SMK Pendidikan Khas, Setapak, Kuala Lumpur together with . As usual the club organised public speaking competition to encourage and develop the student’s communication skills during this bursary. A total of 21 bursaries been awarded to the students from different secondary schools in the Klang Valley which amounted to RM 9,250.00

Bursary presentation for students of SRJK (c) Liat Choon





Bursary presentation in SK Seaport



Bursary presentation in SJK(T) Seafield



Single Parent's Home Sg Siput charity dinner



Apex Club Joint Dinner Meeting organised by Apex PJ and Apex Klang

Apex PJ steamboat fellowship with HCK inmates



Gotong-royong in HCK home





Charity Jam session 2019 in Holiday Villa, Subang

Apex Kuantan Dinner Meeting  
which drew a very large crowd



Apex Kuantan's installation dinner



Kuantan's Bloody Donation drive which was featured in local newspaper

Apex Klang participated in soup kitchen for homeless in Jalan Masjid India, Kuala Lumpur



Apex Klang organised a Medical and Legal Camp together with Teddy's Mobile Clinic and Selangor bar Legal Aid