

Newsletter



Hong Kong Toastmasters Club

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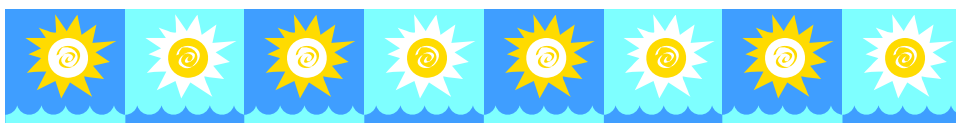
“Romance with Hong Kong Toastmasters Club ” by Francis Lam

How would you celebrate your first anniversary with your loved one? Reserving a candle light dinner? Buying her a 24-carat diamond ring? Making him the sweetest anniversary cake? I have joined the Hong Kong Toastmaster Club for a year; I celebrate it with Certificates of Participation and Appreciation for being a contestant and also a judge in the In-House International Speech and Table Topic Contests 2007. Besides that, also the precious experience I have got since joining the Hong Kong Toastmaster Club last April.

Romance usually starts with doubts, mine is no different. Though the function of the Toastmaster Club on improving Public Speaking was crystal clear and the objective matched perfectly with my aim, I was not sure if I could walk the path towards it. “Can I squeeze time for the Meetings?”, “How to get started?”, “What exactly is the culture of the Club? Can I survive?”..., there were so many uncertainties in front of me. The doubts never stopped and they lasted for a year! I had visited a number of Toastmaster Clubs with the hope to settle the queries. Finally, I found that all those uncertainties were just excuses I had made up. I knew that I had to take a step out of my comfort zone if I really wanted to make a breakthrough in Public Speaking. I am so glad that I have chosen the Hong Kong Toastmasters to be the cocoon where I could develop myself at my own pace.

Romance should be passionate and fantastic, but I know it never happens in a river of silence. I believe a whirl of continuous attempts would color my romance with the Club. In the last twelve months, I have tried a number of different roles in the Meetings. Apart from being a Prepared and Impromptu Speech Speaker; I have also been a Time Keeper, Ah Counter, Toastmaster of Evening, Joke Master, Table Topic Master and Evaluator. I hunger for feedback after completing each role, and I am always fed well. The feedback can be as formal as a thorough verbal evaluation, a little leaf of green note or a piece of encouraging email; it can also be as casual as a handshake, a smile or even a nod of recognition. As some other pupas in their pupal stage of development, I could feel the improvement of myself with the advice and support from the Club. The changes vary from choice of topic, structure of speech, use of vocabulary and body language; most importantly, I become more aware of the pet phrases and unnecessary sounds I produce when speaking.

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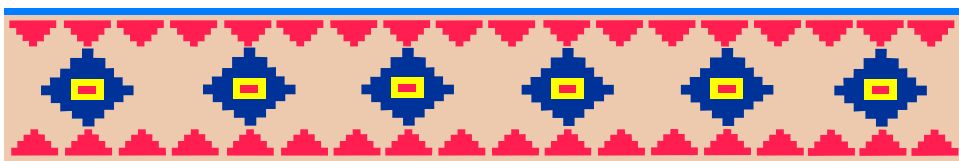


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Romance should be exiting and adventurous as well if we want to keep it alive all the time. To activate the advancement on Public Speaking, I joined the In-House International Speech and Table Topic Contests in March. I had to overcome a lot of struggles and worries before I made up my mind to be a contestant. Joining both contests was not my original plan; my courage was just big enough to support me to be a prepared Speech contestant. But I had only finished project 5 weeks before the contest, which meant I was not yet qualified for the International Speech Contest. I registered for the Table Topic Contest instead. However, impromptu speech has never been my strength. The anxiety pushed me to visit the different Clubs to seek chances for practicing impromptu Speeches. The experience was unexpectedly amazing! Though I had visited some Clubs before joining the membership, I found something new from the Clubs months afterwards. I became more interested in the various cultures of the Clubs, the trivial but interesting differences in the Meetings, the distinctive character of Members, etc. The visits to different Clubs offered me more practice on impromptu speaking; I also grasped the opportunity to qualify myself for the In-House International Speech Contest by presenting my project 6 Speech in my visits. The forays enabled me to attend both contests; they also gave me the second bite of the cherry by acting as an external judge of the contests for the South Horizons Toastmasters Club. The experience of visiting different Clubs widens my scope of view on Toastmaster Clubs of Hong Kong, which in turn arouses my interest to the Clubs overseas. I visited the Toastmaster Club in Chengdu in March.

I believe my relationship with Toastmasters International will not be a holiday romance, it is beautiful and is going to last! Joining the Hong Kong Toastmasters Club is a revolution in my development of Public Speaking; it gives me new inspiration to life as well! I am now more sensitive to the environment, to people and even the world; because I know everything can be a great topic for my Speech! To get the most from the Organization, I think a member has to be active in taking up challenges, seizing the initiative to speak on stage instead of watching behind the curtain. It is true that we can still learn a lot as an observer, but practical experience is vital for improving speaking skills. Besides, we should also broaden our understanding of Toastmaster Clubs. We surely should commit ourselves to our parent Club which is a cradle of our growth, but we should also open our eyes to some others if we want to view a full picture of Toastmasters International. We would find out it improves not just our Public Speaking, but also leadership and communication skills.

Keep a romantic spirit, sentiment, emotion, or desire in the journey of public speaking with Toastmaster Clubs, I am sure we all can romance our trip to an exotic destiny.



Time indeed flies. It is like vapour, it vanishes in thin air without a trace. Soon my Term will come to an end but, at the same time; I am feeling excited about our Club, about our Members and about everything that is going on in our Club. I found my momentum because of the energy and vibrancy that our Members exude in our Meetings.

At the last couple of Meetings, in fact; more noticeably at our last Meeting on 2 May 2007, I walked into our usual meeting room and found a crowd busy chatting and the feeling was one of warmth and friendliness. Not only that, I have found a number of long absent Members. That was delightful! Indeed, a few Members echoed the same view. Throughout our Meeting, there were unexpected jokes from various Speakers and I could hear laughter all around throughout the Meeting. The new Members' induction was as good as it could be but we also inducted a new Member who has signed up for being a Member for less than 2 hours. That, I thought, was wonderful because we did not stand on ceremony and it was impromptu which added a new dynamic to our Club. On top of that, we took a few shots of all the Members present on that evening. The togetherness of our Members was evident in the remaining part of the Meeting since we were, as far as I could see and felt, comfortable with each other and felt more at home.

I remember my own vision at the beginning of my term. I had found our Club vulnerable in that we might have an issue of sustainability in that we have a group of seasoned and long time Members, but the percentage of which was far outweighed by the number of new Members. There was a huge gap. At this time last year, it was indeed uneasy to find Members who were reaching beyond level 4 or more. Most Members were at the initial levels of Speeches. Now I find we have a number of Members who are reaching level 7 and beyond in Public Speaking. Now, I do firmly believe that we have sufficient manpower in term of mentors to look after our newer generation. This is indeed my dream and I am glad it is in the process of becoming a realization.

I heard Members/guests commenting at the last couple of Meetings that they have found our speech quality high and have enjoyed our Meetings. I do believe that this has everything to do with Members themselves. However, our Executive Committee has been, and still is, devoted and committed in making things happen. We have organized a number of activities on improving and enhancing our speech making skills. I do believe that these activities have paid off and we are seeing the results from them.

There are a number of other delightful things to share with you but I do not want to bore you right now but save them for our next issue. In the meantime, you may want to consider joining us for our Dinner meeting on 26 June 2007. Together, we will create more!

Members' News!!

Member's News

1. **IMPORTANT: Moving of Meeting Venue:** From **March, 2007** onward, we have moved back to the Japanese Club at their new venue at Palibury Plaza, 18F & 19F, 68 Yee Woo Street, Causeway Bay. (Causeway bay MTR Exit F, about 4 minutes walk along Jardine's Crescent) The new location is right next to the Regal Hotel.
2. On May 6, 2007, David Mooijaart and Marijn was married and held a wedding party at their house in Discovery Bay. Congratulations! See below the happy faces!!



Sunny Leung

Sunny's birthday is on 4th January. He is single (he said he is tired of being in this status for so long!). He is doing Trading stuff and selling stuff to everywhere. He likes chatting (bluff water...), meeting different buddies, traveling, taking photographs, singing, learning languages, reading (except porn books and gossip magazine), sitting in the toilet and thinking over different stuff, hanging around the pub and nightclub.....last but not the least: going to the Toastmasters Club! He joined the HK Toastmasters in order to meet interesting people like us, to improve presentation skills as well as his English capability, and to learn some experience from doing some jobs in the Club. Like other members, his objective is to improve his overall communication skills. His expectation is: Strive for excellence!!



Diana Lee

Diana's birthday is on 18th July. She is single and working for The Bank of East Asia as Marketing Communications Officer. She likes hiking, running, singing, reading, playing MSN and Gym, watching movies and drama and clubbing. She joins the HK Toastmasters in order to polish her English speaking skills. Her objectives in the Toastmasters journey is to deliver speeches and attend events regularly, so

that eventually she will not be afraid of speaking English for negotiations, interviews, public speaking, casual chat or other occasions any more! She expects the HK Toastmasters to organise high quality Meetings and events for Members. She would appreciate if some Public Speaking classes would be offered.

Past Events!

1. It's always our intention to praise the best Speakers at our Regular Meetings. **Let's give a round of applause to our best Speakers at the following meetings!!**

Meeting Date	Best Prepared Speech Speaker	Best Evaluator	Best Table Topics Speaker
April 30, 2007	Asta Lee	Monica Romeo & Arthur Ting	Allen Wan
May 7, 2007	Monica Romeo	Maria (a visiting Rotarian from Canada)	David Mooijaart

2. **On May 7, 2007, we inducted 8 members into our Club. From left to right - Back-row: Diana Lee, Allen Wan, Paul Wong, Clement Lui, Sunny Leung and David Mooijaart (VPM). Front-row: Elsa Law (President), Nadia Yu, Clara Chan and Dane Cantwell.**



Past Events! continued...

2. Continued from page 6..... Group photo after the Inauguration Ceremony!



Upcoming Events!

1. Dinner Meeting – June 25, 2007

Time: 7:00 - 10:30 p.m.

Venue: Wooden Table, 1/F, AT Tower, 180 Electric Road, North Point. MTR: Fortress Hill (3 minutes walk from the MTR and is opposite to the AIA Tower)

Fee: \$100 for member and \$150 non-member (3 course meal with desserts and drinks)

Register with Teresa SM Lee at 9707-7198 or e-mail: tsmlee@netvigator.com

Payment method: Direct deposit to HSBC account # 600-635-213-002 Please fax slip to # : 2309-1733

2. TI District Semi-Annual Convention – November 16-18, 2007

Fee: S\$298.18 (buy 10 get the 11th free)

For more details: please visit <http://www.district80convention.org/> or contact Patricia Lum: plum@pacificn.net.sg or Edward Ma: edwardma@singnet.sg

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