

The 4th South Asia Rally Report

The 4th South Asia Rally took place in our shores on the 19th March 2017. It was a one day event which was held at the Vertical Hotel & Nexus Convention Centre in Bangsar South City, Kuala Lumpur.

The rally saw participants from almost all South Asia countries with Innerwheel clubs like India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan,

Nepal, Singapore & host country Malaysia. Participants who attended the rally totalled 545 while we had over 600 people who attended the banquet dinner on the same night.



Dr Kapila Gupta - VP of the IIW presided as Guest of Honour and sashayed in to Summit Ballroom at Vertical Hotel to the beating of a multitude of drums accompanied by Chief Guest DC Parimala Satheesan. The ballroom was filled with excited participants from all over South Asia and the atmosphere was very festive. The corridors outside the ballroom was lined with stalls of different nature, selling all kinds of goods and

services.

The highlight of the morning was the keynote speaker Dr Suresh Govind with his 'Women- the most powerful influence in the world' who completely floored the five hundred odd ladies and had them in stitches.



The Inner Wheel Chat Show was another program that saw participation of some very senior and knowledgeable IW ladies describing their journey in IW and was very ably compered by Indian Association President Ms Prabha Raghunandan. It was also an interactive session as it saw participation from the floor as well. Every participant was treated to a



sumptuous lunch comprising of dishes from every continent. Participants were also treated to foot massages by masseuse from the Malaysian Association for the Blind. Yet another enlightening talk was delivered by Tan Sri Prof Dr Sharifah Hapsah on Gender Equality and the role of NCWO in Malaysia. Participants were then given the option to take part in various competitions organised by the host country e.g. Mini Treasure Hunt, Wefie Competition, Charades etc. All these received good response from the participants.

In the evening the doors of the Nexus Convention Centre opened to the prancing lion dancers who accompanied VP Kapila Gupta & DC Parimala Satheesan and entourage to the Banquet Night. Guests were treated to a wide range of performances which were cultural and very exciting in nature. Performers from the Jabatan Kesenian & Kebudayaan Negara (sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism) gave 3 excellent performances that left the audience in awe. There were also performances from the famous Sand Artist who did a beautiful depiction of the SAR. The face changing act which is actually a very old Chinese art form was also performed to that packed audience.



Guests were feasted to a sit down 8 course Chinese dinner and the night ended with a thank you note from the organising chairperson Shanti Menon.

Unlike all other South Asia Rallies, there was a slight change in this one held in Kuala Lumpur. The next SAR host was identified and the candle of friendship was ceremonially handed over by Chief Guest DC Parimala Satheesan to IWPBD Dilruba Ahmed of Bangladesh. The 5th SAR will be hosted by Bangladesh in 2020.

This event received the support of the Ministry of Tourism Malaysia who very graciously contributed towards the Banquet Night entertainment and F&B. Many other individuals, establishments and groups supported this event by way of financial contribution, services and advertisement. IW Dist 330 would like to record its deepest appreciation to all concerned.