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Visit to Peninsular Malaysia. Accompanied by Sector Leader, Br. Anthony Rogers, I visited the communities in West Malaysia from 24 September to 3 October. This is the second part of my 2012 Canonical Visit to the Sector of Malaysia as I did East Malaysia in August following the 6th LEAD Council meeting (*LEAD Story 58*).

First stop was St. Xavier's Institution in Penang where I attended the school's annual Speech Day on the 25th. Other than honoring students who excelled during the year SXI also gave a special coin commemorating the school's 160th year to men and women who have helped SXI in the recent past. I had time to interview the two Brothers at SXI namely: Br. Karl Wolff and Br. Stephen Ooi. Both Brothers are retired although Br. Karl still maintains an active presence in the school. Next stop was Tai Ping where we have St. George's Institution. Though there are no more full time Brothers working at SGI we still maintain contact with the school and especially with the Old Boys Association. I met with the alumni informally on the 26th and, together with Br. Anthony, had a short session with Form 6 students the next day.

On the 27th we drove to La Salle Center, Ipoh (about an hour's drive). In La Salle Center are two Brothers, Br. Vincent Corkery and Br. Matthew Bay. They have one Lasallian

Partner, Isaac, who they build community with and who is practically part of the community. After the interviews on the 28th I met with the two Brothers and Isaac and brought them out for dinner. The 29th was the big day for St. Michael's Institution as it was their Centenary Dinner organized by the Old Boys Association. There were a total of 310 tables set up on the grounds under several tents. All in all there were 3,000+ alumni who came to the dinner, some of whom flew in just for the occasion. It was a wonderful and heartwarming sight.



Centennial Dinner at St. Michael's Institution.

On the 30th Br. Anthony and I drove to Petaling Jaya. On the way we passed through the ultra modern seat of government, Putra Jaya. On the first day of October I interviewed seven Brothers from three communities in the Klang Region: Br. Ambrose Loke and Br.

Michael Kum from St. Francis in Malacca, Br. Andrew Loke, Br. Matthew Liew and Br. Lucian Ng from St. John's Institution in Kuala Lumpur and Br. Felix Donohue and Br. Augustine Julian from the Provincialate in PJ. I met with the seven Brothers after and then the Sector Council had a dialogue with them. We capped the day's activities with a dinner at a Chinese restaurant. I also had a surprise visit from the Archbishop of Kuala Lumpur, Arch. Murphy Pakiam. The Sector Council met on the 2nd and I flew out on the 3rd.

I wish to thank Br. Anthony Rogers for making all the arrangements and for joining me in the visits to all the communities. My gratitude also to all the Brothers of West Malaysia. To all of you: Terimah Kasih!

100 Years of Green and White at St. Michael's Institution.

The Old Michaelian Association hosted the Centennial Dinner on the school field of St. Michael's Institution, Ipoh, Malaysia, last 29 September. A crowd of 3,000 Michaelians came back to their glorious alma mater to celebrate as one the 100 years of Green and White!

The event kicked off with an exhibition in the Scout Den and school hall by the various uniformed units. The Holy Mass of the Archangels was celebrated at the newly refurbished school chapel presided by the Rt. Rev. Sebastian Francis, Bishop of Penang, together with Msgr. Rev. Michael Cheah, an old boy, and 8 other priests. St. Michael's Institution was founded on December 4, 1912.



100 Years of Green & White!

Details and photos courtesy of Mr. Alexander Leo Morris (Malaysia). Other details on the Centennial Dinner can be accessed through his website: <http://www.morrisalex.com/> and photos can be downloaded from his SkyDrive: <http://sdrv.ms/M1yTgs>

Their Dream Is Our Dream: 80 Years of Lasallian Presence in Japan. “October 22, 1932 is an important date for the Brothers of Japan! 80 years ago, the Institute of the La Salle Brothers officially entered Japan. There had been some efforts from the Center of the Institute in 1888 - 89 to open a school but they remained unsuccessful. Moreover, a La Salle Brother had died in Japan in 1887, but he was a Brother of Hong Kong, coming to Japan for treatment. Unfortunately, he died in Kobe on his way to Yokohama.

“But in 1932, four Brothers from French speaking Canada (Montreal) came to Hakodate in northern Japan, at the invitation of the Canadian Dominican Fathers responsible of the Catholic Church in that region in order to open a Catholic school for boys in that city. In 1934, a nice and wide piece of land was bought and plans were discussed. Unfortunately for various social reasons, to open a school was impossible, and the Brothers transferred to Sendai in 1936. A small language school was opened there, but soon, in 1936 and 1940, two of the Brothers were sent to different cities in Manchuria (China) joining other Brothers coming directly from Canada to teach in seminaries held by French or Canadian missionaries. A third Brother of the four was sent with the first Japanese postulant to Indochina, for his novitiate, and remained in Kuala Lumpur so he could come back with him at the end of the novitiate in 1941. But in 1941, war began in South East Asia.



“The foreign missionaries were incarcerated in concentration camps, either in Japan or Manchuria from December 1941 to August 1945. One of the two Brothers in Manchuria died in 1943 in the concentration camp. As for the Brother in Malaysia, he was not allowed to go back to Japan till after the war. Those four years were, for all, very difficult ones. After a few months of rest in Canada, the three Brothers came back to Japan with other Brothers and, from 1946, work began for a fresh start. First, an orphanage in Sendai in 1948 came up, then a school in the south of Japan, Kagoshima, in 1950. It was followed by a Brothers’ House in Tokyo, with an attached university students dormitory, which later were transferred to Hino, a suburb of Tokyo. And, at last, the desired school of Hakodate could open in 1960, after 28 years of waiting. Among those 28 years, 10 years were needed for the land, bought before the war, to be given back to the Brothers. And with God’ grace, organized by our Alumni, the school celebrated, in 2010, its golden jubilee.



The First Four Brothers: (from Left to Right) Br. Marcel, Br. Laurent, Br. Daniel, and Br. Liguori

“This year’s anniversary celebration involved the whole Lasallian Family of Japan. The Alumni of Hakodate invited the Brothers of Hakodate, Kagoshima and Sendai, as well as the Alumni of Kagoshima to Hakodate, to come for the celebration. This was on August 25. Beautiful event, very well organized again by the Alumni, with exhibitions, ceremony, lecture about the first 30 years of the lasallian world, Lasallian goods, photos, official dinner, etc.

“On that occasion, four special commitments were made by the Alumni:

- 1) Translation into Japanese of two books about the lasallian history of Japan written by Canadian missionary Brothers.
- 2) Reprint (4,000 copies) of the booklet written by a Brother about the first years of the La Salle Brothers in Japan.
- 3) Formation of the complete list of the Brothers, who, during those 80 years, worked in Japan, and when and where, and if they are still alive.
- 4) Special ceremony for the inclusion of ashes of the first four Brothers into the La Salle Brothers’ tomb and monument, at the Hakodate cemetery, and of two others, comprising those of the Hong Kong Brother buried in Kobe.

“The Brothers in Japan and Manchuria became a sub-district of Montreal in 1941 and that structure lasted till 1992, when it became a Delegation under the direct responsibility of our Brother Superior General. And last year, in 2011, we became one of the seven sectors of the LEAD District. The Canadian Brothers had come first to Japan, then for almost 30 years, the Brothers of Mexico are also working here and are now in all the posts of responsibility.

“During those 80 years, we were greatly blessed with twelve Japanese vocations and the generous dedication and cooperation of the Japanese people, especially our staff, the Old Boys and the parents of our students. Truly we can say that they were and are the solid columns of the Lasallian institutions. This year is a time of gratitude to our first four Brothers, to the Japanese people, to Saint De La Salle and to God!” (Br. André Labelle FSC)



International Lasallian Youth Meeting 2013 and World Youth Day 2013.

“Lasallians are preparing to gather in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for next summer’s World Youth Day (WYD) and International Lasallian Youth Gathering (ILYG). WYD runs from July 23 - 28, 2013. Prior to that gathering, the Lasallian District of Brazil-Chile will welcome young Lasallians, ages 16-35, to the ILYG from July 20-22, 2013. It will be held at La Salle Niteroi, a school outside Rio de Janeiro. Participants can stay overnight at La Salle Niteroi for the duration of both gatherings.” (Lasalle.org: <http://www.lasalle.org/en/2012/09/brazil-preparations-underway-for-lasallian-gathering-at-world-youth-day-2013/>)

Details on the International Lasallian Youth Meeting can be accessed through their website: <http://www.lasalle.net.br/dev/eijl/en/index.php>

Information about the World Youth Day is available at <http://www.rio2013.com/en>

Fraternally,

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Hong Kong

