

# Electricity for Life – A Sarawak Heart Foundation Initiative

In partnership with:

Sarawak State Health Department, Sarawak General Hospital Heart Centre  
Sarawak Energy Bhd & Medtronic International (Malaysia)

5 October to 7 October 2015

Following the recent World Heart Day 2015 on 29 September 2015, the Sarawak Heart Foundation, together with the partners above, undertook the “Electricity for Life” Initiative. This initiative to undertake a series of training sessions on electrocardiography (ECGs) at some district hospitals in Sarawak. The main aim was to provide clinical ECG training at those hospitals, especially for the nurses and medical assistants, who often are the first point of clinical contact for the patients.

This idea was conceived earlier this year, and preparations were made to ensure sufficient logistic support for the special electric cars provided by Sarawak Energy Berhad to transport the team over 500 kilometres from Kuching to Kanowit over 3 days, and stopping at 7 hospitals – Serian, Simunjan, Sri Aman, Betong, Saratok, Sarikei and Kanowit.

The travel team was assembled, and undertook a detailed briefing a month prior to the flag-off date. The members of the travel team were Mr Vincent Voon (Engineer, Sarawak Energy Berhad), Mr Fong Woei Hann (Medtronic International, Malaysia), Dr Gary Kang (Kang Family Clinic, Kuching City Mall) and myself.

On Monday 5 October, there was a short briefing by YBhg Senator Datuk Prof Dr Sim Kui Hian (Visiting Senior Consultant Cardiologist and Trustee SHF) at Sarawak General Hospital Heart Centre (SGHHC). After that, the travel team were flagged off by YBhg Dato Anne Teng (Trustee SHF), Mr Eric Lim (Trustee SHF) and Dr Ong Tiong Kiam (Head, Department of Cardiology, SGHHC). <Pics below>.



(YB Senator Datuk Prof Dr Sim at the pre-launch briefing)

ECG training sessions were undertaken at the various hospitals below, and the travel team were grateful for the enthusiastic response from the multidisciplinary audience at each hospital, and the hospitality from the hospital staff, and in particular, the named hospital directors below.

Serian	Dr Maria bt Mesran
Simunjan	Dr Noraziela Bt Morney
Sri Aman	Dr Hjh Hayati Jaafar
Betong	Dr Shahril Yong b Abdullah
Saratok	Dr Claire Ak Abeng
Sarikei	Dr Tey Siew Chang
Kanowit	Dr Alex Kim Ren Jye (represented by Dr Lee Liang Hoong)

The pictures taken the named hospitals are as below:



Day 1 (Serian, Simunjan, Sri Aman)



Day 2 (Betong, Saratok, Sarikei)



Day 3 (Kanowit)

The 500 kilometre journey in the main trunk road (mainly single lane) from Kuching to Kanowit and provided first-hand experience for the travel team, both in the context of the distance between each hospital and also of the hospital facilities themselves. There was also opportunity to meet up colleagues of the hospitals in person, some of whom only previously communicated by phone or email. Whilst there are challenges in the healthcare delivery for patients in Sarawak, a combination of improving transport infrastructure, human resource development and capital equipment acquisition at the healthcare facilities, and a closer collaboration between all relevant parties such that that demonstrated by this Initiative, gives renewed optimism in this ecosystem.

The Electricity for Life Initiative came to a safe conclusion this afternoon, 7 October 2015 at Sibul Airport. The travel team are grateful for the supporting team from Sarawak Energy Berhad, especially En Awang, Zulfika and Gerald <pic below> , who carefully shepherded us throughout this trip.



For this 3-days' Initiative, we hope that this endeavour will improve the knowledge of ECG interpretation in the context of various clinical situations, eventually saving more lives and improving patient clinical outcomes.

Report by:

Dr Alan Fong, Consultant Cardiologist, Sarawak General Hospital Heart Centre; on behalf of the travel team for the Electricity for Life Initiative.

