

ELECTRICITY FOR LIFE 2017

4 – 6 October 2017

A Sarawak Heart Foundation Initiative in collaboration with Sarawak State Health Department, Sarawak Heart Centre and Medtronic Malaysia

Electricity for Life 2017 kicked off on 4 October 2017 in providing electrocardiogram (ECG) education to medical officers and medical staff at district hospitals in the central sector of Sarawak. The programme is an initiative by Sarawak Heart Foundation in collaboration with Sarawak State Health Department, Sarawak Heart Centre and Medtronic Malaysia which was launched in 2015. Since then, it has covered areas in northern and southern Sarawak.

This year, with the guidance of Dr Alan Fong, the team decided to conduct the ECG training programme in the central sector of Sarawak covering Dalat Hospital, Mukah Hospital, KK Balingian and Bintulu Hospital. We had the support from Sarawak State Health Department who provided land transport from one hospital to another. Dr Nelson Yong and his team from Sarawak State Health Department helped to coordinate with the respective hospitals and Medtronic Malaysia provided for the other logistic components of the project.

The travel team consisted of Mr. Eldon Chuo King Juin (Medtronic International, Malaysia) and me. We started our journey from Kuching travelling by air to Mukah Division on 4 October.

ECG training sessions were undertaken at various hospitals and the travel team was impressed with the enthusiastic response from the multidisciplinary audience from each hospital, and also the hospitality of the staff, in particular, the hospital directors, Head of Medical Department and also MA in Charge.

Dalat Hospital	Hospital Director, Dr Voon Kashin
Mukah Hospital	Hospital Director, Dr Bernadette Syonnia Bt Jaru Sawat
KK Balingian	MA in charge, MA Ian Mohd Hafiz
Bintulu Hospital	HOD Medical, Dr Tonni Sia



Hospital Dalat



Hospital Dalat



Hospital Mukah



KK Balingian



Hospital Bintulu

The journey from Mukah to Bintulu, covering a distance of 217 km, provided us with the opportunity to meet with the staff of district hospitals which we, cardiologists based at the Sarawak Heart Centre, often get referrals from. We also took this chance to explore the facilities in the hospitals and visited patients with heart disease there. This trip was an avenue for us to educate young doctors and house officers, and also draw their interest to joining our Cardiology Department for a career as cardiologists in Malaysia and especially so in Sarawak where there is a shortage.

The three-day trip concluded at Bintulu airport on 6 October at 12 noon. The travel team is grateful for the support from the drivers in Dalat, Mukah and Bintulu Hospital who shepherded us throughout this trip.

We hope that our endeavour in *Electricity for Life* will improve the knowledge of ECG interpretation in the context of various clinical situations, eventually saving more lives and improving patients' clinical outcomes.

*Reported by Dr Ho Kian Hui, Clinical Cardiologist Sarawak Heart Centre,
member of travel team, Electricity for Life 2017*