



FOMSO affiliate Visit Persatuan Ceylon Taiping 17-07-2011

A journey to visit two affiliates began on a bright Sunday morning headed by President Dato S Kulasegaran along with 4 members namely Mr Gnanarajah, Prof Rajeswaran, Mr Satgunarajah and Mr Magandran along with a guest Dato' G. Vijayananthan, a former EXCO member.



We arrived at the Persatuan Ceylon Taiping at around 11.00 am; President Rathi Mahendran and members of this association warmly welcomed us. We were briefed of their association's plans for the future and the shortcomings, which they are currently facing.



It was brought to our attention that their age-old building is facing extensive termite problems, and the building has been classified as "Heritage". This being the case they have very limited options to

renovate and or upgrade the building for a suitable use of their own or even rent it out to prospective clients.

The other concern was the depleting membership; President Rathi mentioned that most of the younger generation have left the town for greener pastures and have not returned for various reasons. She mentioned that all the current office bearers and most of their members are senior citizens and continued to say that the continuation of this organisation is going to be an uphill task in the future.

The membership growth has almost come to a halt, as there are no new members signing up; this is in a way affecting the associations activities and income.



To renovate the existing building will require quite a substantial amount of funding. The above were the prime concerns of the association, which was addressed by the President Rathi, committee and members who were present.

Having heard all this, President Dato Kulasegaran in his address mentioned that FOMSO would seek the assistance of Roachantra Pest Control Services to carry out immediate remedial work on the affected areas of termites. He was very pleased to note that the association though small in membership, owns a building, which is remarkable, and added to say very few associations have their own building.

Mr Gnanarajah requested President Rathi to come out with a proposed project paper on the building a comprehensive paper comprising the history with some photos along with all relevant information to support the appeal for submission to the State Government for an allocation to carry out restoration and maintenance works. He added by saying, our affiliates in Kluang and Seremban had applied to their respective state government for similar purposes and they



managed to get some allocation. He said no sooner the paper is ready; he will assist to get an appointment with the Menteri Besar of Perak to present this paper in person.

Dato Kula also gave an extensive update on FOMSO's Humanitarian Mission to Sri Lanka to which President Rathi acknowledged receipt of all the humanitarian reports via email, which was sent to her after each trip, was successfully completed. Dato Kula also touched on the assistance FOMSO extended to the large numbers of refugees from Sri Lanka who are still arriving especially in Kuala Lumpur. All FOMSO members present were requested to say a few words on their respective bureau's role in FOMSO and how we could assist the association in our capacities.



At around 1.00 pm the official meeting ended and President Rathi Mahendran thanked the President and members of FOMSO for taking the time to visit them and invited all of us for Lunch at a nearby restaurant. All members present accompanied us for lunch and all of us truly enjoyed the sumptuous lunch. At around 2.00 pm, we departed Taiping to visit another affiliate in Kedah.