



Happily arriving at Batam Ferry Central Point
(Time for lunch)



After lunch, on a 15-min journey to the venue
by hotel-provided shuttle service

DIALECT LEADERSHIP TEAM ANNUAL SUMMIT 2019

29 – 30 Nov 2019 in Batam

The Dialect Ministry held its Leadership Summit 2019 at Hotel Best Westin Premier Panbil in Batam from 29 Nov (Fri) to 30 Nov (Sat).

The hotel, which is located away from busy shopping areas, provided a good, tranquil environment for the Dialect Leadership Team (DLT) to quickly settle down for the working summit with R & R.

While waiting for the room keys, the DLT gathered at the roof-top terrace cum business lounge. They had a devotion and singspiration time before commencing their meeting with what seemed to me like a heavy agenda of thoughtful matters concerning the dialect ministry. As it turned out, the meeting

lasted over two hours. Drinks and tidbits were catered by the



hotel – generously, complimentary and unexpectedly.

It was kind of the DLT to welcome Esther Yam and me to the Summit as spouses of DLT members and as long-term

supporters of the dialect ministry. We had the opportunity to witness how seriously the DLT members as servants of God devoted themselves to ministry. Rubbing shoulders with these faithful followers of Christ was spiritually inspirational in intuitive ways. On further reflection, I was amazed at how God had blessed the Dialect ministry for over 2 decades, seeing the ministry grow in strength over the period. It is also recognized that the DLT displays exemplary testimony of team and family unity with couples strongly supportive of each other in committed spiritual service.

The DLT members have been blessed with admirable energy and health to stay their course in sowing love and care, sowing gospel seeds and reaping the fruits. Blessed to be a blessing indeed! Each of them easily averaged 20 years of faithful service, including the 2 DLT members (Alice and Julie) who were unable to take time off for this trip to Batam.

Give thanks to God for His munificent spiritual uplifting upon the DLT and all co-workers in the dialect ministry!

After the DLT concluded their 2-hour-plus meeting, the room keys were distributed. It was close to evening. After refreshing ourselves, we had a great fellowship time concurrent with our BBQ buffet under the stars. It had been a wet afternoon. We appreciated that God showed us His covenant rainbow and stopped the rain just in time for our open-air BBQ dinner beside the beautiful infinity pool with cool air and a great vista of the green and open spaces around the hotel.



Beyond a hearty dinner, we continued our fellowship time in one of the rooms, with conversations conducted only in Hokkien. Those who made slip-ups of switching to English faced the penalty of “fines”. There was a good dose of friendly ribbing coupled with the excitement when the “fines” were piling up for some.

Late into the night, the game ended with no real penalties enforced. I noted with gladness the endeavour by the DLT to

include in the retreat by way of such an entertaining activity a sense of purpose to gently nudge the DLT members to improve their fluency with the dialect.

The rooms were well-appointed for a good night rest. The next morning, after a satisfying local-themed buffet breakfast, we gathered again for another moment of praise and worship.



**Training topic by Rev. Oh (via video):
“Trials and Death 灾难与死亡”**

We sang our hearts out with joy and danced to the Summit theme song “Praise and Dance Unto The Lord (主真好/爱的舞步)”. Then we had a training session with Rev. Oh Beng Kee (via video) on the topic “Trials and Death”. It was a conversational hot topic dealing with the unavoidable facts and realities of life, with many a question asked by sceptics

about our God of love as proclaimed in the Bible. The training, with illumination from the Bible, is very helpful for dialect evangelism.

Soon, it was time to check out of the hotel. We then had a last-minute shopping trip to Batam City Square to buy the famous Ambon & Plum Lapis cake of Indonesia before setting off for ferry departure. We reached Singapore after sunset.



The retreat was a short one, but it undoubtedly enhanced the bonding of the DLT members and encouraged them to continue in their faithful service to the Lord.

Soli Deo Gloria!

John Lee

