

**Toastmasters International**



Pat Johnson, DTM,  
2nd Vice President  
Toastmasters International

## Huge CONGRATULATIONS to the Number 1 District in the World!

Hello Balraj and my many friends within District 82,

Achieving Number One in the World for the second year in a row is an amazing accomplishment. But you are so worthy of this distinction! I saw a very high quality of Toastmaster program while visiting with you in Colombo at Ovation 09. Enjoy the success! Success like this is not easily achieved but requires the efforts of every member in the District - effort to ensure that clubs are strong and vibrant, effort to ensure that the education program is followed, effort to ensure that new clubs are chartered and mentored, effort to encourage those clubs that are slipping slightly in membership or quality, and effort to ensure that leaders are continually being developed for the sustainability of the District well into your future. This you have done with distinction!



A few very short years ago, a team from India and Sri Lanka started a conversation with me at International Convention about the possibility of me visiting in the future. It seemed like a remote possibility and a very long time off into the future. But it happened! It happened because of the commitment and determination of your District leaders. They never let go of that vision and thus, it came to be. This is just what they have demonstrated with the vision they had for your District to once again be the best in the world! It happened because everyone was willing to do what needed to be done! I am thrilled to have been able to visit District 82, enjoy your outstanding hospitality and warmth of friendship, witness the Toastmasters growth within District 82, and celebrate some of your achievements. It was a thrill for me from the moment I first received the invitation until I arrived back home in Canada.

I extend a warm appreciation for the many kindnesses shown me during my visit to your fabulous District 82. A very special thank you to Balraj and Saru, Yusuf and Asu, as well as Saleem and his family for hosting me in your homes. This was one of the highlights of my trip and I thoroughly enjoyed my visit. I loved meeting each one of you as well as having the opportunity to spread the news regarding the Toastmasters program within your business communities.

Now let me share with you some of the highlights for me during Ovation 09.

It was fabulous to have so many members make the journey from India to join us in Sri Lanka for Ovation 09. The attendance at the conference was amazing and it gave me such a vivid picture of the enthusiasm, commitment and depth of leadership that exists in District 82. I am full of anticipation

as I look to the future of your amazing District.

The overall organization and effort put forth by Yusuf and his large team was phenomenal. This production, from the amazing Opening Ceremonies, beach party extraordinaire, enlightening education sessions, nail-biting speech contest, scrumptious teas and meals, Citation and C&L Award recipients, all the way to the Closing Ceremonies, was superbly done. Every detail was looked after and every need anticipated during the entire event. And it was a mere bonus that it was hosted in the gorgeous Mount Lavinia Hotel. What a production! Congratulations to everyone who spent time and effort making this event an outstanding reality! There were many people behind the scenes who provided outstanding service as well. Thank you so much for your selfless service. It was an event that District 82 can be very proud of.

Your business meeting was smoothly run and I have passed a few minor suggestions to Deepak Menon, District Governor for your 2009/10 year. There was also some feedback on the Nominating Committee role and how this may be reviewed and revised in the future. As a new District, you are very well informed and do an admirable job.

I was thrilled to receive a copy of the winning Club Newsletter from Kumaran which I carried back to North America and forwarded on to World Headquarters. Congratulations on an outstanding product. You can be very proud of this newsletter publication.

I was so very impressed with the superb effort every single person put forward to make Ovation 09 such a success. And as Ovation 09 was a huge success, so was your entire year as a President's Distinguished District!

I am always happy when, as a visiting Officer, I am kept busy with corporate visits and I thank everyone who worked diligently to make those happen. There are many hours necessary in preparation to have visits arranged and to take place. Thank you for making this effort! I also very much appreciate the honour of being asked to attend a Speechcraft Graduation that was outstanding and a Charter Party for your newest club! Everything was so very well organized and carried out!

I thank everyone for the special three days that we spent in the Hill Country together. Those are days that I will remember for many years to come. Walking, talking, laughing, playing badminton, making new friendships. It was a very memorable three days and I am grateful that I had the opportunity to be part of that adventure.

Also, thank you to the entire District 82 membership and especially your leadership team for the amazing gifts given to me during the Closing Ceremony. I will wear the citrine pendant often and enjoy it each time it hangs around my neck. The elephant also serves as a beautiful daily reminder of the time and experiences we shared together. Thank you for your graciousness!

Congratulations again on your outstanding achievement and I hope our paths cross again in the very near future. In my heart is a very special spot for District 82 and the people I met while in Sri Lanka.

Thank you for your commitment to excellence and it was fantastic to Dance on the Rainbow with you!

Sincerely,

Pat

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**Congratulations to the Number 1 District in the World - District 82!**