District 116 Aerial View.

*By: Nirmala Raghuraman, DTM.*

Be it an aerial view or wide-angle view District 116 stands out to me. The best View comes from the Hardest Climb.

The entire toastmaster’s fraternity views us as a role model, trend setter and are surprised to see our milestone achievements. We are so proud being No.1 in the world. Rajeswar Sundaresan, DTM started the Legacy and it was carried forward by DTM Raghavan Menon. We are so grateful for these two leaders for empowering us and showing us the good path.

Viewing anything from Aerial view is clearer. Rather than seeing with a naked eye, viewing our District from the Global perspective makes me prouder that I am part of District 116.

Year 2017. I received a call from DTM Virendranath asking for my support for forming a new District 20 and going for the expansion of more divisions for which I cheerfully agreed and visualized the growing number of divisions, clubs and members. When he asked whether I will agree for this novel, I immediately said, why not? The rest was history.

That small spark turned into 4 Divisions and emerged as our own District116P. Colorful butterflies in form of clubs and divisions were in front of my eyes.

Toastmasters from Qatar need not have to travel to various destinations for District contest. We can have our own District contest, instead and we can invite other toastmasters and champions from around the world to our District. This feeling itself was fantastic. I remember witnessing the parliamentary procedures I’ve attended in Dubai District Convention and it was like a festival. Now we can have our own District Elections and Conventions. That was a blast from past.

May 2018. DTM Rajeswar Sundaresan stood for Election in Bahrain and I was there. I saw him canvassing, distributing brochures and posing near the banner with many toastmasters around the world. I have seen him as a keynote speaker many times and he was witty as always. He won the majority votes and we were so proud of him.

DTM Rajeswar ‘s Theme for 2018-2019

Passion, Progress and Performance

1. Passion Focused on

* Own your Club and take ownership.
* Call for Large Events.

B. Performance focused on guiding the clubs.

C. Progressing towards 100% achievement of Club

Distinguished status and the District achieved 103.5%.

Success Formula

1. One Goal: Irrespective of Region that is becoming No.1 in the world. Know your Destination.
2. Execute the ideas, market the ideas and reach it to the members.
3. Focus on group involvement rather than individual achievement.
4. Philosophy behind success was “give more and talk less.”
5. Look at positivity and promote positivity.
6. Trust to trust.
7. Have long term vision.

I’ve never knew he will lift our District 116P to the top of Toastmasters fraternity. I never knew he had such big aspirations. Under his Leadership, District 116P became number one in the World and he was holding our banner and walking so proudly in World Convention which was unbelievable. I heard his success stories, strategies, plans and secret of success in all his interviews.

Year 2019-2020

DTM Raghavan Menon followed the Leader, DTM Rajeswar Sundaresan. He incorporated his PQD experiences and followed his style. He amazed everyone with No.1 title for District 116.

DTM Raghavan Menon’s Theme for the District was

“Dream It, Believe It, Achieve It.’

Secret of Success

1. Build new clubs and make all your clubs Distinguished.
2. Follow the Hierarchy and Respect the leaders.
3. Five years strategy plan for success.
4. Change in mindset resulted in Success.
5. Positive outlook among the Toastmasters and Gaveliers despite pandemic taking over
6. Leadership lectures and communication coaching motivated the members.
7. Macro management for training the ExCom, clubs, club contests were given.
8. Switching on to online meetings and appointment of online meeting guides helped.
9. Crisis management and situation analysis helped District achieve success.

Dreaming something needs a clear goal, believing into something needs confidence and achieving something needs a lot of focus and willingness to work with vigor. DTM Raghavan Menon and his team could achieve all this through collective effort. He shared his wisdom and achieved his dream of becoming the World’s No. 1. He said, “success will motivate success and hope our district will achieve World No.1 status in 2020 again. Ours will be a Hat-trick Victory .“

Year 2020. Current District Director is DTM Thayalan K.

He got a new theme for the District116. “Empower, Enrich, Engage.” He wants to engage all toastmasters in different activities. Now our District is more vibrant, more active and toastmasters are more enthusiastic.

Now, District 116 is unique in many ways. Be it a Debate club, Laughter yoga club, Ladies alone club, Corporate clubs, Engineers clubs, Charted Accountants club, Language based clubs, Impromptu clubs etc. Even schoolteachers, Students, bankers and hospital staff formed clubs. Each day more clubs and more toastmaster members are increasing in our District. Our District has vibrant PR team who manages the social media excellently. Our fliers, news bulletins, milestone achievements, articles which are released in newspapers and Toastmaster websites, are appreciated globally. I am so amazed to see how District 116 has grown in Region11 with huge name and fame.

I urge all Toastmasters of District116 to be consistent and sustain the Legacy in the coming years and stand tall in Region 11. All the best.