
The Oasis Post

Volume VIII – November 2007

Newsletter of Oasis Toastmasters Club



Letter from the Oasis Post Editorial Group

Dear Oasians,

Welcome to the first issue of Oasis Post in our new term 2007/08.

In mid-November, there will be an election of District Council. It will be slightly different from those elections of previous years in the sense that plenty of young candidates, the potential district leaders, are young and ambitious. No matter they win or not, they already brought “fresh air” to our always vibrant city.

Oasis Toastmasters Club is just like Hong Kong--full of energy! Our new President, Ivy Cheung, is also a young and energetic lady. She is a seasoned toastmaster with lots of public speaking as well as “contest” experience. Under her leadership, I am sure we can experience, as Ivy wrote in her “Words from the President”, different breakthroughs in our club.

Our new member, William Tam experienced his first breakthrough in Oasis too. Having joined Oasis just a few months, he took courage to participate in our In-House Humorous Speech Contest. He found the contest memorable. Want to know why? Just read his article.

Apart from contests, we have also organized plenty of workshops and speakathons. Other than delivering “regular” speeches, we thought out of the box and organized a “Standup Comedy” competition. I will never forget this fantastic meeting, which is full of laughter and joy. Once again, I realize Oasians are such a group of creative people! You missed the event? Nevermind, just read the article written by Pan.

Many Oasians have also experienced breakthroughs in their lives. Our former Treasurer, Anne Au will get married at the end of this month. Our editorial group member, James Brown, also got married. I changed to a new and challenging job. We all need breakthroughs. Sometimes changes may mean loss of something you treasure. But afterall, who knows? We need courage to sail into a new stage in our life. Toastmastering is definitely your platform. By joining Toastmasters, you can certainly gain more than you expect.

Nadine Wong
Chief Editor, Oasis Post
November, 2007

Inside this issue ...

Letter from the Oasis Post Editorial Group

“Word from the President” – by Ivy Cheung

“Hurrah for my first humorous speech!” – by William Tam

“Stand for Standup Comedy” – by Pan Wong

A New Team that Pledges to serve all Oasians

Words from our Members

New Member Corner

Oasis Family News

President

Ivy Cheung (Contact: 94744164)

Oasis Post Editorial Group

Nadine Wong
Raymond Luk
James Brown
Eleanor Pang

Oasis Meeting

Every 2nd & 4th Monday, from 7 pm to 9pm, Rm 1105 HK Scout Centre, Austin Road, Kowloon.

E-mail

info@oasistoastmasters.org.hk

Oasis Blog

<http://oasistm.blogspot.com/>

Oasis Website

<http://oasistoastmasters.org.hk/>

Words from the President

Dear Members,

Inheriting from the great legacy of the predecessors: the best Club in the division, talented members and dedicated group of people, how lucky I am being put in the role as the President.

Taking this role is actually to challenge myself sailing into a new stage of my participation in Toastmasters community, I therefore would like to share this vision with all members that we, Oasians, are Altogether Sailing Into A New Stage. I have already witnessed different breakthroughs of various individuals, including their obtaining the title of Competent Communicator, involvements in various contests, taking leadership role in events, aiming new, and sailing high tides.

What's more satisfactory than that we could step out of the self we used to be, test out innovative ideas, re-invent ourselves, and quest for a better self.

Reviewing from the past few months, apart from chapter meetings, the rich program list evidenced the thorough thoughts and dedication of the team and the variety interests of the talented members:

Humorous Speech Workshop;
Evaluation Workshop;
Image-Color Workshop;
Astrology Workshop;
Advanced Communicator Workshop;
Halloween Joint-Club Theme Meeting;
Stand-up Comedy Contest Speakathon; and
Humorous and Evaluation Speech In-house Contest



My applause to the speakers and role takers who have made our Oasis Club such a lively place, and have created every opportunity for us to explore our potential and interests.

Let's set sail for new stage for the Club and for each one of us in our journey in Toastmastering.

Ivy Cheung
President (2007-2008)

Hurrah for my first humorous speech!

On 10 September 2007, I participated in Oasis' In-House Humorous Speech Contest and chose the title of "A Charming Aunt Susie" for my presentation. Although I didn't win the championship, I was contented with my performance in that night. Afterall, it was my maiden speech given in Oasis.

Take Up the Great Challenges

I remembered how I decided to join the contest. While I was still a new member in July, Tony Cheung encouraged me to join the humorous speech contest for personal growth in communications and leadership. I said to myself, "Since I have joined the club, why not try to reach for an exciting goal?" So, I immediately enrolled for the contest on that night. On my way home, however, a voice spoke to me deep inside my heart, "You have not given a public speech for ages. It can be a big challenge for you to make a humorous speech for 7 minutes in front of an audience." 'Well, I want to polish my English....' "But, do you still remember what happened when you first made an unprepared speech in a Table Topic Session? You looked a bit shaky on your feet." I was a bit worried and asked myself, 'Will this happen again?'

To reduce stage fright, I spent a week drawing up a script and practising it for more than twenty times. I recorded my own speech. I listened attentively to it and tried to find rooms for improvement. I even invited my friends to watch my rehearsals and give me comments. At last, I was satisfied with my final script and believed that it would be appealing to the audience. My previous cue cards were already curled up and they sat quietly in the corner of my bedroom. I giggled to myself and imagined that the audience would be laughing whilst listening to my great speech.

Become a Contest Lover

On the day of the humorous speech contest, my good friend Ben came to support me. It was my pleasure, but this also gave me a little bit of pressure. During the first few moments on the stage, I felt nervous because I kept on reminding myself not to make a mistake in front of Ben and the audience. Then, I tried to soothe myself and started my speech in a clear and loud voice. I smiled and set my eyesight at the audience. At last, I finished my speech smoothly. The audience seemed to have enjoyed my speech very much. "I can't imagine that you would deliver such a speech so fluently!" Ben exclaimed.

The contest gave me a great opportunity to stand up on the stage again. I found that I could deliver a good speech in front of the audience, like other contestants. My confidence in public speech has been regained. Later, Teresa invited me to give a 3- minute speech at the New Asia Toastmasters Club. I graciously accepted her offer and said to myself, 'I can now manage a 7-minute speech, why not a 3-minute speech.'

For me, the contest is just a good start in my Toastmastering journey. To become a seasoned speaker, I shall continue to seek opportunities for practising. If there is a speech contest, please let me know. I am willing to learn.....

William Tam

Stand for Standup Comedy!

Since our new term started, our VPEs have worked like the “Programme Department” in TVB, to work out new contents for our meeting in the coming term. Well, humor is our tradition in Oasis. But sometimes the humorous speech contest is too systematic and formal. Well, how about bringing in “Standup Comedy” into Oasis, the standup comedy that we usually see in Cantonese version?

“Welcome to our Standup Comedy in Toastmasters Meeting! Let’s welcome our speaker Mr. Wong Chi.....”Are you expecting Mr. Wong Chi Wah, the most well-known standup comedian in HK to join our Toastmasters Meeting? It would be fun! However, it’s a pity that he has not yet joined Oasis!

Full House of Laughter

You need not get disappointed because laughter scattered everywhere like fallen leaves in autumn after our standup comedy competition in our Speakerthon in 18 August.

Unlike the humorous speech with an opening, body and conclusion, a standup comedy has no definite structure. One may talk about a topic, with several lines, or different issues around that topic, which can MAKE AUDIENCE LAUGH. That’s standup comedy!

Without any training, most of our talented members talked about those issues that they were most familiar with and used their imagination to talk. Our lovely lady Betty talked about the differences between dating (heaven) and marriage (hell), which discourage single-and-available handsome gentleman like me from marriage; Steve Yu, who knew lots of people in Toastmasters, used A-Z to link them up all; Jacky Lai shared with us the different point of views between men and women, for example, say his girl friend wanted him to be constructive, and Jacky himself regard ‘building a huge army--- in Net game’ was constructive enough. In Jacky’s eyes, his girlfriend could be further constructive by doing some construction, including but not limited to, plastic surgery. He just made us want to meet his girl friend in person.

My Own Painful Experience

Other members also shared their personal experience. I shared my painful experience as a left-handed person living in a right-handed-dominating world. I felt so LEFT out, because others are always RIGHT. I was not right. I did nothing wrong but people thought I was not correct.

Tony Chan, who turned himself lately from a professional surgeon to a 100% slave in his jail – I mean his home—from the minute that his wife got pregnant. He certainly deserved a prize of courage for his boldness in giving us this speech, because his ~~Master~~ wife was one of the audience. What could be even worse than a 100% slave when Tony went back to home that day? Who knows? It’s not surprising at all! He stopped showing up in coming regular club meetings..... Our another Tony ‘Cheung’ shared his experience which 50% of the audience could never imagine, while the remaining half would find it routine --- what happened everyday

in the male lavatory. Tony just demonstrated how the KISS (Keep it simple and short) theory worked because such a day-to-day topic generated the most laughter.

Pan Wong
VP Education



*Winners of the Standup Comedy Contest
Jamie Gong, Tong Chan, Tony Cheung, KF Tam, Jacky Lai, Ivy Cheung and Katy Mok
(From left to right)*

A New Team that pledges to Serve all Oasians

Without the dedicated effort of our Oasian Executive-committee group, we certainly could not have helped our members to attain their goals in their Toastmastering journey. Without our VPs Education, our meeting surely could not have run so smoothly. Members might not have had enough time-slots for speeches. Without our VPs Public Relations, we might not have had a great deal of joint meetings and social functions that we all enjoy so much.

In early July, a new team was formed under the leadership of our new President, Ivy. We pledged to work closely towards our goal — to assist our members to make progress in their public speaking and communication skills in a harmonious and friendly environment...

[Oasis Inauguration Ceremony on 9-July-2007](#)



Our new executive committee members were so happy to take the roles to serve our Oasians. Our past President, Teresa Lee, now becomes our Area Governor, was delighted to announce the birth of the new team.

Words from Our Members

Our bright member, Katy Mok had experienced her first time in Oasis. She was crowned the champion in our In-House Humorous Contest. Katy would like to say a few words to us.

Dear Oasians,

It was such a blessed journey to have participated in this humorous speech contest. Thanks so much for your support, encouragement and faith in me!

Though I only came second in the area contest, but the whole contest experience has given me a big leap in my presentation skills. I've come to my senses that, being a good speaker= keeping up with your fitness, positive attitude, perseverance, persistence and determination. Wow...just so wonderful!

Most importantly, million thanks to my mentor Teresa who had given me unlimited support and 2 hairy crabs. Also, great thanks to Pan, Dickson, Ivy and Alex for offering me valuable advice. My performance was indeed a collaborative work of all of you!

Quoted from my favorite movie– Dead Poets Society, I hope that each of us can 'Seize the Day in Oasis and Make your Life Extraordinary!' Oasis is indeed a philosopher's stone for you to uncover your potential!

Cheers,
Katy

1st Runner Up, Area H5 Humorous Speech Contest 2007

Champion of Oasis Toastmasters Club Humorous Speech Contest 2007



Katy is always an active and energetic lady. She is so committed to Oasis events. We all witness her progress and how she breaks through in her toastmastering journey. Congratulations, Katy!

New Member Corner

Oasis is like a magnet that lures new members from time to time. Derek joined our family a few months ago. With these 2 months, he already delivered his first two speeches. His great speaking skills, his confidence and his sincerity amazed us! Here are some words from Derek:

Sharing from our new member, Derek

Last Saturday was a wonderful kickoff for new member like me. I actually felt like “shooting two birds with one stone”. On one hand, learned a lot from the champion speakers and on the other hand, took part in the contest as a ballot counter. Thanks Teresa for giving me a chance to participate.

The reasons that drive me to become an Oasian are the passion to achieve excellence and the hospitality that I find from all of you. I am eager to start my projects and be evaluated. Hopefully I can develop the same in my journey of Toastmaster.

Derek Wong

Oasis Family News

Anne Au is getting married!!

Oasis always has good news. Alex Chea, James Brown and Nadine Wong got married this year. Next comes to our graceful Anne Au. Let's wish her and her loved one a new and happy chapter thereafter. Let's see what Anne's has to say to us.

Dear all,

I'm glad to tell you that I'm getting married this year. :D Some of you may already know about it from my facebook .P

I would have wedding banquet on 24 November, 2007. I really want to invite all of you to come however I'm sorry that I am not able to do so, as there's limited seat in the Chinese restaurant and I got loads of relatives. :(

I do want to share my happiness with you all. So I would like to give you the "cake card" in the regular meeting on 12 November.

Anne

Anne is such a kind and sweet lady that she brought plenty of Chinese cakes to our Oasians. The cakes were so delicious that we enjoyed much. Of course, we enjoyed Anne's sweet smile most. May we wish Anne a very happy life with her husband in the future!



Anne and her husband in their happiest moment

End