

Headline **Association faces challenges in anti-TB fight**
 Date **11 Feb 2010**
 MediaTitle **Borneo Post (Kuching)**
 Section **Home**
 Journalist **N/A**
 Frequency **Daily (EM)**
 Circ / Read **57,529 / 166,173**

Language **English**
 Page No **12**
 Article Size **230 cm²**
 Color **Black/white**
 ADValue **1,324**
 PRValue **3,973**



Association faces challenges in anti-TB fight

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KUCHING: Present day's ever changing trend has led the Anti Tuberculosis Association of Sarawak (ATAS) to face a lot of challenges in the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis (TB).

Therefore TB cases are increasing in Sarawak year by year, revealed ATAS president Datin Louise Lucha Kanyan when met at a Chinese New Year hamper presentation for the benefit of 50 TB patients, held at the ATAS Clinic at Jalan Masjid, here yesterday.

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Datin Louise Lucha Kanyan, ATAS president

making it difficult for us to fight it," she said.

Louise added that one of the association's main objectives is to create awareness and give out information about TB among the general public.

"During my time of involvement, I believe that ATAS have successfully played their role in creating awareness, prevention and eradication of this disease.

"I hope that we will be able to widen this effort to related diseases in the near future, and combine forces with non-government organisations as well as units from the Health Department," she said.

ATAS was founded by a group of voluntary social workers on April 2, 1951 and registered on Nov 1, 1955.

Its first patron was the then-Sarawak Governor Sir Anthony Abell.

The ATAS Clinic, which was completed on March 17, 1953, was originally named the Wee Kheng Chiang Clinic after the donor who

contributed RM50,000 towards the building fund.

Over the years, ATAS have organised various activities such as charity shows, physical training, lottery draws, and sales of Christmas seals.

They have also initiated an anti-spitting campaign, with posters distributed to all hospitals and coffee shops.

The posters warned of the dangers of spreading TB through the obnoxious practice of spitting.

ATAS said it also faced shortage of fund to provide assistance to TB patients.

However it welcomes all donations.

The CNY hampers, containing nutritious food, were sponsored by the association.



HAPPY CNY: Louise (second left) shaking hands with a TB patient during the hamper presentation ceremony.