



Royal guests: Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin (foreground) together with other VIPs at the launching of the Penang Free School Bicentenary Celebrations held at E&O Hotel.



A class of its own: (Left pic from left) Old Free's Sukhinderpal Singh from class 1971, Raymond Loh from class 1975 and Lee Khon Chan from class 1966 admiring the contents of the OFA commemorative book *Fidelis* and (pic above) some of PFS teachers with ex-principal of the school, Kamli Din (sitting, second from right).

PFS kicks off countdown to bicentenary

THE Penang Free School's Bicentenary Celebrations in 2016 kicked off with a gala dinner at the E&O Hotel launched by the Raja of Perlis Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail.

Themed '200 Years Of Excellence', the dinner was attended by some 400 Old Free's (PFS alumni), all suited up wearing the classic school tie in azure blue stripes.

A number of the alumni members returned to Penang from various parts of the world including Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia and United States.

"The bicentenary is a very historical moment and we need to create the awareness to Old Free's all over the world that their alma mater is hitting its 200th year soon," bicentenary committee chairman Datuk Abdul Rafique Abdul Karim said in his speech.

He said among the many programmes that have been arranged from now until Oct 21 include a golf tournament, food fair at the school and a sports carnival next year.

On Oct 21, a grand celebration will be held including the launching of a book and the Bicentenary Scholarship Fund will be set up in 2016.

Abdul Rafique said the school is now being led by three Old Free's — principal Jafli Saad (class of 1976), senior assistant of administration Ho Nean Chan (class of 1978) and senior assistant of student affairs Omar Abdul Rashid (class of 1979).

"We hope the mighty trio will work hard to make sure the grand old lady (PFS) scale greater heights in academics, sports and discipline," he added.

Jafli, who is the 24th principal of the school, said among the plans he has laid out to restore the school to its former glory is implementing the School Key Result Area (SKRA).

The high profile dinner also saw the launch of the Old Free's Association (OFA)'s commemorative coffee table book, aptly titled *Fidelis*.

OFA president M.S. Rajendren said the inauguration of the book would serve as a communication tool for the association to reach out to the Old Free's nationwide.

Raja of Perlis Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail in his speech said the Perlis royalty was proud to be part of the Old Free's.

He hoped the alumni would continue contributing towards the betterment of the country.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin also presented a token of appreciation to the OFA.

His consort Raja Pelempuan of Perlis Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid added to the merry moment by sponsoring a cake during the dinner.

Also present were Raja Puan Muda of Perlis Tuanku Lailatul Shahreen Akashah Khalif, Yang di-Pertua Negri Pulau Pinang Tan Abdul Rahman Abbas and his consort Toh Puan Majmer Shamif, Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng who is also the trustee for the Penang Free School Trust Fund, Penang Assembly Speaker Datuk Abdul Halim Hussain and the president of OFA in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor Datuk Kamli Khalid Aniff and notable old boys Tan Sri Tengku Ahmad Rihauddin Tengku Imaul and Penang Port managing director Datuk Ahmad ibni Hajat.