



Rotary Crossroads

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... Proud of our past, Committed to our future

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**WORLD PEACE & UNDERSTANDING –
That Most Elusive Commodity**



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In Focus

WORLD PEACE & UNDERSTANDING – That Most Elusive Commodity!

By: Past President Raymon Huang

Ever since its inception in 1905, Rotary's vision and mission have always mainly been focussed on the promotion and establishment of goodwill among people, and world peace and understanding – apart from the other humanitarian, educational, cultural and disease-eradication initiatives.

But that commodity has proven to be the most elusive of all.

Just look around the world – as if the current financial fallout is not bad enough to bring about all kinds of stresses and strains, there are, according to the latest UN count, no less than twenty-two (22) serious hot spots of war, violence, bombings, senseless killings, and mindless acts of terror and destruction of life and property. There is no need to detail or pinpoint the areas or acts. We are blitzed and bombarded with dozens

of daily doses of such graphics and reports. The picture is not pretty.

The global economic collapse which many attribute to a systematic failure caused by casino capitalism mentality of the industrial giants, and the personal greed on a grand scale by the top guys, have compounded all the pain and suffering to an extreme.

Like I said when introducing our Christmas Luncheon Guest Speaker, Rev. Chiang Ming Shun, that if Moses were to come down from Mount Sinai today, the two tablets he is carrying would not be the tablets containing the Ten Commandments, but two large tablets of aspirin!

The question then – Where exactly is the world heading in the face of all these upheavals, and where does Rotary stand in these very challenging times?



“So what we need is a strong resolve. Indeed we must be more than just resolute in this dream to bring about world peace and understanding. Rotary must, and will, press on with greater vigour in this quest.”

- PP Raymon Huang

WORLD PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING – That Most Elusive Commodity...continued

I know that many of us in so many more fortunate parts of the world – Singapore included – are little or quite unaffected by all this warring and violence, and go about our daily lives in relative peace and harmony, even if the financial meltdown does take its toll. But we still work, play and party in peace. A great deal of goodwill exists too.

Rotary has now to renew and redouble its global efforts to promote the much-needed goodwill, peace and understanding in the countries so unfortunately afflicted by so much war and violence, whatever the cause – be it flamed and fanned by tribal, ethnic, religious or nationalistic ambitions and hatred. Whatever the cause, the result is untold suffering and needless pain.

This February month, designated by Rotary International as “World Understanding Month” and “World Understanding and Peace Day” (February 23rd – Rotary’s birthday), will remind and alert all Rotarians everywhere to put greater emphasis on all that we do, to help ensure our efforts contribute to the promotion of goodwill, peace and understanding. It matters not if our individual efforts appear small and insignificant, because in the total picture containing a montage of similar contributions from 1.2 million Rotarians worldwide, the combined contributions could be substantial. Remember the oft-quoted saying that “little drops of water make the mighty oceans”? It

is a long journey – a very long journey. But as the well-known Chinese proverb says, “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” It is those little, nameless, and unremembered acts of kindness and love that generate reactions and responses of gratitude, goodwill, and understanding – echoes of love too.

So when we talk about the eradication of polio, of making children’s dreams come true, Rotary’s efforts are always made in this direction – the promotion of fellowship among friends, friendships in the community, understanding among countries, and peace in the family of nations. We cannot afford to let up on these efforts in the face of all the financial, political, religious and sectarian setbacks so rampant among us – this plaque that hurt so many, many people including, unfortunately, countless children.

So what we need is a strong resolve. Indeed we must be more than just resolute in this dream to bring about world peace and understanding. Rotary must, and will, press on with greater vigour in this quest.

Sometimes though, what we do and what we try to achieve in these times of mounting and daunting difficulties, may sound like a pipe-dream. But we know that dreams do often work – sometimes, yes, even pipe-dreams. However, they won’t work, unless we do. **RC**

Did You Know?



Rotary World Peace Fellows are leaders promoting national and international cooperation, peace, and the successful resolution of conflict throughout their lives, in their careers, and through service activities. Fellows can earn a master’s degree in international relations, public administration, sustainable development, peace studies, and conflict resolution, or a related field, or a professional development certificate in peace and conflict resolution.

Through the Rotary Centers program, The Rotary Foundation and Rotarians can increase their effectiveness in promoting greater tolerance and cooperation among peoples, leading to world understanding and peace.

- Rotary International

Last week

Club happenings on February 11th

- Reported by Bernadette Rayney-Ng

Recognition of PP Murli Chanrai:

President Paliath Mohandas opened the meeting with a warm welcome. He acknowledged PP Murli Chanrai, a leading businessman, and our Club's President in 1993-1994. President Mohan advised that during PP Murli's term, the Club undertook 2 projects – to provide a specially equipped ambulance for the elderly sick of the Society for the Aged Sick and to equip the kitchen of the Dover Park Hospice. He added that this Major Project raised \$100,000. President Mohan further advised that during PP Murli's presidency, the Club achieved an unprecedented 30 World Community Service (WCS) projects.

Welcome of Guests:

Performed by Rtn. Jayant Gadgil:

Guests:

PP Dr. Tham Meng Keat, Mrs. Monica Neff, Ms. Loh Yi Bing, Mr. Stefano Ledda, Mr. Kenya Takizawa

Visiting Rotarians:

Dr. Kees Immink - Rotterdam
Claudio Ledda – Milano San Siro
Emil Neff – Forch/Zurich

Toast:

Hon. Treasurer Rtn. Nirmal Singh invited visiting Rtn. Dr. Kees Immink from Rotary Club of Rotterdam to address the Club. Rtn. Kees, a visiting professor with NTU would be in Singapore for two months. He advised that his club was about the same age and size as our Club.

New Member:

President Mohan inducted a new member, Rtn. Dr. Colin Durkop who was introduced to the Club by his proposer, Rtn. Dr. Tim Philippi. President Mohan recommended that Rtn. Colin join the International Service Committee.

Fellowship Night:

ISC Director, Rtn. Goh Bock Seng invited members to participate in

the Fellowship night on February 17th at 7pm at the Wine Company at Evans Road. He added that this fellowship would enable members to know more about the Nepal and Philippines missions, which would be held from March 7th to 15th 2009. Tickets for the fellowship cost \$50 per person for dinner and wine.

H.E.L.P. Nepal 2009:

President called upon previous member, PP Dr. Tham Meng Keat, a guest of Rtn. Dr. Shahul Hameed, to update members on the HELP Nepal project.

For the benefit of new members, President Mohan advised that PP Meng Keat was the Club's President in 2001/02. During his term, the Club's Major Project comprised of an arts programme for children with autism undertaken by the Very Special Arts Singapore and an assistance project to enhance job opportunities for the disabled with the Handicaps Welfare Association. PP Meng Keat gave a brief historical perspective of the HELP programme, which was spawned in 1990 following Baguio earthquake in the Philippines. He advised that the acronym HELP was for the focal avenues of Health, Education and Livelihood Projects.

He explained that the continual focus on Bandipur, Nepal was due to the existence of good infrastructure and the motivated partner found in the Bandipur Social Development Committee. PP Meng Keat reminded members that the projects undertaken were under the banner of the Club and that this programme had won numerous awards in Rotary as well as internationally and called on members continued support. On behalf of the people of Bandipur, he thanked members for their contributions. **RC**



PP Murli Chanrai



Jayant Gadgil



Nirmal Singh



Goh Bock Seng



L to R: Pres. Mohan, Drs. Colin Durkop & Tim Philippi



L to R: Dr. Shahul Hameed & PP Dr. Tham Meng Keat

Guest corner...

“Blood & Soil – Assimilating the Chinese in Southeast Asia”

Speaker: Mr. Lee Khoon Choy

Reported by Bernadette Rayney–Ng



L to R: Pres. Mohan, Mr. & Mrs. Lee Khoon Choy, PP Raymon Huang

Speaker's Introduction:

PP Raymon Huang was honoured to introduce our Guest Speaker, Mr. Lee Khoon Choy. He was a well-known journalist; a life-long politician and diplomat, a prolific author of 10 books with another 3 to be published soon, a historian, an accomplished water-colourist and a gifted musician.

Mr. Lee joined the People's Action Party in 1959 and became a Member of Parliament for Bukit Panjang that year. He rose to be Parliamentary Secretary, Political Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office, and a Minister.

He became Singapore's Ambassador to Egypt in 1968 and to Indonesia in 1974. He was our Ambassador to Japan and Korea in 1984.

Mr. Lee has been bestowed with many Singapore and international awards. Not too long ago, Mr. Lee exhibited 100 of his paintings in Beijing; soon after that the devastating Szechuan earthquake occurred. He immediately donated 10 of his paintings towards the cause. (A brief video of Mr. Lee's works and awards was presented during the meeting.)

Speaker:

Mr. Lee Mr. Lee gave a brief historical account of the spread of Chinese culture starting with the seven voyages made by the eunuch Admiral Cheng Ho, with visits to many Southeast Asian countries and inter-marriages, which took place in these countries. He gave an account of the assimilation of Chinese in countries such as Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar. He noted that most of the Chinese in these countries have lost their Chinese cultures, although they have Chinese blood.

He also spoke of his concern for the future of the younger generation in Singapore as they were *“not too good in English and very bad in Chinese”*; whilst he added that in 10 years time, the Chinese who were being taught English now, would be proficiently bi-lingual.

Vote of Thanks:

President Mohan warmly thanked Mr. Lee, adding that it was indeed very fortunate for members to have had the opportunity to listen to his talk.

RC

Club Activities

World Understanding & Peace Day Dinner

Date & Time: Monday, February 23rd 2009 at 7.00pm

Venue: Conrad Centennial Hotel

Ticket Cost: \$100 per person

Programme:

The event's theme and focus will be on world understanding and peace in commemoration of Rotary's birthday (an actual cake cutting ceremony will be held). The launch/promotion of the Rotary philatelic stamps will also take place. Mr. William Davis, will be the event's master of ceremony. The semi-finalists of the Miss Singapore/Universe beauty pageant will be present and compete, based on the theme of "Beauties with a Cause".

Please contact the Secretariat at rtyinfo@singnet.com.sg or phone 6737-2504 for tickets.

- Contributed by President Paliath Mohandas

Inter-City Dinner Meeting

In honour of R.I. President D.K. Lee's visit to Singapore, an inter-city dinner meeting will be held, to reach out to all Rotarians from Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia. It is a rare occasion for a current R.I. President to visit Singapore.

PDG Kenneth Chew has confirmed that Minister Mentor, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, will be attending the Dinner and to receive Rotary Award of Honour.

All members are requested to participate.

Date & Time: Friday, March 6th 2009 at 7.30pm

Venue: Grand Ballroom, Grand Hyatt Hotel

Ticket Cost: \$100 per person

Please contact the Secretariat at rtyinfo@singnet.com.sg or phone 6737-2504 for tickets.

- Contributed by President Paliath Mohandas

The Guide to Daily Living

Before doing the things we want to do, consider first, the precept of the guide. Ask ourselves these 4 questions and act upon them:

First : Have I spent some time in self-examination?

Second: Have I spent quality time with my family?

Third : Have I given my best to my work?

Fourth : Have I given some time to someone near and far?

The Guide, in fact, encompasses the 4 parts of the Object of Rotary.

Board of Directors Year 2008-2009

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Director: International Service

Goh Bock Seng

Director: Service to New Generation

Danilo Medic

Bulletin Committee

Keith Callinan

Philip Mason

Faith Vincent

Club Activities...continued

Medical/Dental Mission to Isabela, Philippines

Our Rotary Club will be organizing a medical/dental mission to Isabela, Philippines focussing on

(i) cleft lip and palate surgeries *and*

(ii) medical and dental outreach programme in both Manila and Isabela

In Manila we'll have a one day mission with our sister club, the Rotary Club of Rizal West. In Isabela (northern part of the Philippines) we have volunteer plastic surgeons who will operate on children afflicted with this condition.

We need volunteers (to assist) - no special skills required but a good heart.

We also need donations if you cannot come - per child will cost you only \$90.00.

Dates:

Saturday 7th March 2009	-	we leave for Manila
Sunday 8th March 2009	-	1 day medical mission in Manila
Monday 9th March 2009	-	leave for Isabela
Tuesday 10th March 2009	}	medical mission in Isabela
Wednesday 11th March 2009		
Thursday 12th March 2009		
Friday 13th March 2009		
Saturday 14th March 2009	-	leave for Singapore

Please let our member, Rtn. Perlita Tiro (email perlita@tiro.com.sg or tel. no. 6227-0028) know if you can travel with us – she will be coordinating the flight schedules.

- Contributed by PP Dr. Oliver Hennedige

H.E.L.P. Nepal 2009

The Club will embark once again on a Health, Education and Livelihood Project (H.E.L.P.) for the village of Bandipur in Nepal.

Date: March 7th to 15th 2009

Tentative Itinerary:

March 7th (Saturday): Leave Singapore for Kathmandu by Silk Air. Check in to Dwarika Hotel in Kathmandu

March 8th : Leave for Bandipur by bus. Check in to Resorts Hotel in Bandipur (5 nights)

March 8th to 12th : H.E.L.P. Nepal 2009

March 13th : Leave Bandipur for Kathmandu. Check in to Kwarika Hotel (2 nights)

March 15th (Sunday): Leave Kathamandu for Singapore by Silk Air

For more information, please contact Rtn. Dr. Shahul Hameed (drshahul@pacific.net.sg) or call 6338 2305 (office), 9796 1536 (mobile)

- Contributed by Rtn. Dr. Shahul Hameed

R.I. District 3310 Assembly

Date: April 18th to 19th 2009

Venue: Renaissance Melaka Hotel, Melaka, Malaysia

Registration Fees (On or before February 28th 2009):

Rotarian – RM350.00 Rotary Spouse – RM320.00

President Elect Training Seminar (April 16th – 17th 2009)

Registration Forms are available from the Secretariat.

Did you know?

District Assembly

A district assembly, which may be a multidistrict assembly, shall be held annually, preferably in April or May, to develop Rotary club leaders who have the necessary skills, knowledge, and motivation to: sustain and/or grow their membership base; implement successful projects that address the needs of their communities and communities in other countries; and support the Rotary Foundation through both program participation and financial contributions.

- extracted from the Manual of Procedure (A Reference Manual for Rotary Leaders)

Club Activities...continued

HAVE MANY LAUGHS AND HELP THE NEEDY

BOOK OF HUMOUR & BEST OF HUMOUR

Published by the Rotary Club of Singapore.

Over 1,000 witty and hilarious jokes.

Great entertaining books that will spice up your speech, pick up a party and delight your dinner guests.

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INSTANT FUND RAISING – FAST & EASY – Special rate and arrangement for all Rotary and social Clubs to raise funds for your own charitable projects without any risk.

FRANCHISE – Many Rotary Clubs in various countries are enjoying the franchise of these books by raising funds for their own Clubs' projects. Please email us for details.

All net proceeds will go to charity under World Community Service projects through Rotary Club of Singapore.

ROTARY CLUB OF SINGAPORE

(BOH Trust)

Tel: (65) 6241 9157/ Fax: (65) 6442 1874 (Rtn. Rewa Mirpuri)

EMAIL: rewas@singnet.com.sg

NO JOKE, IT'S JEST FOR CHARITY



Rotary Club Of Singapore

75th Yearbook



\$300
per set of
4 books



To place your order for the Club's 75th Yearbook, email to Community Service Committee Director, Rtn. Indi Tulsi at tulsisin@pacific.net.sg

Proceeds would be channeled to Community Service Committee projects.

Mark your Diary!



- compiled by Bernadette Rayney-Ng

Birthday Celebrants

RC wishes *Happy Birthday* to celebrants:
February 22 – PP Sajjad Akhtar

This week

February 18th 2009

Reception Desk duty: Dr. Shahul Hameed, Kannan Krishnan

Sunshine Box duty: PP Tan Chin Ngiap, Suresh Keerthi

Speaker: Previous Member, Rtn. Dominic Boot

Topic: Facts & Fantasies of Climate Change

Service Committee

Meetings

International Service

Date: Thursday, February 19th

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: 11 Ewart Park, S279744

Hosts: Mohan Vaswani, PP J.M. Jumabhoy, PE Dr. Yap Lip Kee, Rewa Mirpuri

Anniversary Celebrants

RC wishes *Happy Wedding Anniversary* to all celebrants:

February 16 – David Ong & Mei Lin

February 20– Sirish Kumar & Arpita Mathur

Next week

February 25th 2009

Reception Desk duty: Christian Luetkehaus, Vijai Parwani

Sunshine Box duty: Vicki Chan, Etienne Chenevier

Speaker: Ms. Ho Lai Peng, Tan Tock Seng Hospital

Topic: Major Project Presentation

Service Committee

Meetings

Service to New Generations

Date: Thursday, February 26th

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Tanglin Club, Claymore Room (dinner will be served at the Raffles Room)

Host: V.P. Noshir Mistri

February

World Understanding Month

February 17th

Fellowship Night

February 22nd

Batam Orphanage Visit

February 23rd

World Understanding & Peace Day

March

Service to New Generations Month

March 4th – Meeting cancelled in view of the Inter-City Dinner

March 6th

Inter-City Dinner Meeting in honour of R.I. President

March 7th – 15th

H.E.L.P. Nepal 2009

Philippines Mission

March 20th

Assisi Home Patients Cheer

April

Magazine Month

April 9th - 15th

Visit to Sister Clubs in Japan

April 16th - 19th

RI District 3310 Assembly

April 23rd

4th Club Assembly

The Four-way Test

Of the Things we think, say or do:

- ❖ Is it the truth?
- ❖ Is it fair to all concerned?
- ❖ Will it build goodwill and better friendship?
- ❖ Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Humour!

JOB CENTRE



WE DON'T HAVE ANY VACANCIES FOR PEOPLE TO 'PIERCE THE HEART OF A VIRTUOUS MAID WITH THE ARROW OF DESIRE'.. HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WORKING IN A CALL CENTER?