



# Rotary Crossroads

An e-bulletin published by Rotary Club of Singapore  
... Proud of our past, Committed to our future

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## Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

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# In Focus

## WE ARE 80! – A Time For Celebration!

- By PP Raymon Huang

Bring out the trumpets! Let the choirs sing! We are 80 years old! That is no mean age for a service Club – in fact, that is indeed quite an age to be in. Well, I should know, as I am some four years older than our Club. Apart from the slight age difference, there is a wide gap in terms of robustness – for while the Club grows stronger as it ages, my situation goes in the other direction; and this gap widens with each passing year!

There was a time when we were known as “an old men’s Club”! And that because of that our basic thinking and approach to Rotary and Rotary-related matters were becoming outmoded; that we were too overly traditional, some said, and that our meetings were often dull despite a very good speaker programme. In short, with age we were not in keeping with the times. Not so. Often, the older an institution gets, the more revered it becomes – with many established Clubs too. Indeed, our Club is often looked upon as a model for many Rotary Clubs in the District to follow; our operations and programmes examples to emulate. It is true too, as the saying goes –

some of the finest wines are contained in old vessels; and some of the finest tunes are played on old fiddles!

Many of the older Rotarians would know how our Club began 80 years ago, almost exactly to the day – how, as documented by PDG Dr. Philbert Chin, “the Rotary spark was kindled in Singapore on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 1930”, when some 75 of Singapore’s leading lights, comprising no less than 22 different nationalities got together at Raffles Hotel to found the very first Rotary movement here. These prominent personalities who spearheaded the formation of the Rotary Club of Singapore were persons of substance and considerable influence. They were men of vision with an intense desire to serve society. They included names like James Davidson, Lim Bock Kee, Roland Braddell, Lim Han Hoe, and many other absolute VIPs of the day. Dato Sir Roland Braddell became the founder President. (Most of us know “Braddell Road” – named after him). Six months later the Club received its Charter – No. 3360 in Rotary International’s roll. Membership doubled within a few



*“In this celebration of our Club’s 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, I am sure congratulations and jubilation are in order, not because of our many achievements and undoubted successes in the canvas of voluntary social service, but because of the relentless way our Club pursues and executes, without abate, its basic tenet of service unto others.”*

- PP Raymon Huang

## WE ARE 80! – A Time For Celebration...continued

years, despite a rather strict and stringent admission process. The Club became one of the most cosmopolitan clubs in the world. It indeed reflected (still does) Singapore's multi-racial society.

Our Club's service to the community and society – not just locally – continued unabated all these years, with the interruption occurring only during the 1942-45 years of the Japanese Occupation. Even then, the Rotary embers continued to glow within Changi Prison. Immediately after the end of World War II in 1945, the Club re-started with a membership of just 42. Soon enough the Rotary flames of service fanned across the Causeway. The rest, as they say, is history.

We have spawned and "mothered" many Rotary Clubs since – the Rotary Club of Johore Bahru (1952), the Rotary Club of Singapore West (1960), the Rotary Club of Singapore East (1963), among the early ones. Many other "motherings" followed over the years. And Rotaract and Interact Clubs too.

Our history is long; our record of service above self solid and substantial; our achievements are numerous; our contribution to the community and society wide-ranging and effective – both at home and abroad. We could safely

say that in the District our contribution to the Rotary effort is second to none. But we do not sit back and bask in the glory and smile smugly with contentment; we do not rest on our laurels. We continue to pursue and push on with our basic and fundamental philosophy of "Service Above Self". For that is what Rotary is all about.

Our official organ – our Club bulletin – now called "Crossroads", was in original form called "The RODA" (or "the wheel" in Malay), signifying the Rotary wheel – the movement's official emblem.

In this celebration of our Club's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, I am sure congratulations and jubilation are in order, not because of our many achievements and undoubted successes in the canvas of voluntary social service, but because of the relentless way our Club pursues and executes, without abate, its basic tenet of service unto others.

Let me end with my favourite quote – words that came from the lips of the late Dr. Goh Keng Swee, Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister – *"It should not be regarded as a pinnacle, but rather as a platform from which to scale greater heights."* We will surely do that, without doubt.

**HAPPY 80<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY!**  
**ROTARY CLUB OF SINGAPORE**

### Did You Know?

**The Rotary Club of Singapore's first Major Project was...**

**The award of four Rotary Scholarships for Law, Medicine, Economics and Engineering covering a five-year period tenable at Cambridge University, Oxford University or London University, in Britain, was the first major project.**

**These scholarships were very much the talk of the town for, at that time, scholarships for local students to go abroad for higher learning were scarce. In fact, at the time, the only scholarship of this calibre was the Queen's Scholarship.**

- extract from  
*Sixty Years of Service*

# Last week

## Club happenings on June 2<sup>nd</sup>

- Reported by Bernadette Rayney-Ng

### Opening Remarks:

Sergeant-at-Arms, Rtn. Gerard Abeyawardena invited President Dr. Yap Lip Kee to chair the meeting, and advised members that he would be approaching them to purchase tickets for the Installation Dinner on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

President Lip Kee started the meeting with his thanks to Honorary Secretary Tapan Rao for chairing the last meeting in his absence. He also warmly welcomed the Guest Speaker, Mr. Tan Yinglan.

### Welcome of Guests:

Duty of welcoming guests of members and visiting Rotarians fell to Rtn. Dinesh Sharma:

### Guest:

Ms. Aperna Agarwal

### Visiting Rotarians:

Kaishiro Kato – Yokohama Midori, Japan

Alan Midgley – Southampton, UK

### Toast:

Rtn. Keizo Fujitake called upon Visiting Rotarian Kaishiro Kato to say a few words about his club, which has 49 members and a history of 40 years. Rtn. Kaishiro was very pleased to be able to visit the Club. He advised that his club held its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in March and was now focusing on its coming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

Rtn. Keizo invited members to join him in raising a toast to the Rotary Club of Yokohama Midori coupled with the toast to Rotary International.

### Change in the Committee

#### Meeting Dates:

Rtn. Tapan advised that the Community Service Committee Meeting would be held on June 17<sup>th</sup> at 5.45pm at Modesto's Elizabeth. He added that Vocational Service Committee meeting would also be holding its meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup> at a venue and time to be confirmed.

#### Club T-shirts:

Director Rtn. Indi Tulsi, sporting the Club's new t-shirt, advised that the Vocational Service Committee had 14 such t-shirts for sale at \$35.00 each. He added that 500 pieces of these t-shirts were on order. Rtn. Indi called on members to purchase the t-shirts so that the committee would achieve a surplus from the sale of the Club's mugs and t-shirts.

#### Major Project 2009/2010:

President Lip Kee reminded members of the Club's Major Project, a charity screening of the "Toy Story 3" would be held on Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm at the Lido Theatre. He advised that members would receive 4 complimentary tickets, and additional tickets would cost \$50 each. President Lip Kee requested members to invite their friends who would contribute towards the Club's Major Project.

#### Installation Dinner:

Vice President Jimmy Ooi reminded members of the coming Installation Dinner which would be held on Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at the Mandarin Ballroom. Tickets were now available, and he called on members to attend this very good evening of fellowship. **RC**



Dinesh Sharma



Keizo Fujitake



Indi Tulsi



Jimmy Ooi

# Guest corner...

## *“Role of Venture Capital in Charities”*

**Speaker: Mr. Tan Yinglan**

- Reported by Bernadette Rayney-Ng

### **Speaker's Introduction:**



**Rtn. Joseph Chia** introduced our Guest Speaker, **Mr. Tan Yinglan** who was an Interactor from Hwa Chong Interact Club, and in fact, spoke to the Club 12 years ago on the Interact projects in Cambodia. Mr. Tan was the first director of 3i Venturelab China, a joint-venture between private equity firm 3i (LSE:III) and INSEAD, one of the world's leading business schools. He has also served on the boards of growth ventures in Asia and a U.S. private-equity fund of funds. He teaches modules on Entrepreneurial Finance and Entrepreneurial Management at Singapore Management University. Educated at Harvard, Stanford and Carnegie Mellon, Mr. Tan now works with the Singapore Government to enhance the venture capital and entrepreneurship landscape in Singapore. He is the Head of Projects at National Research Foundation at the Prime Minister's Office.

### **Speaker:**

Mr. Tan showed a short video on how the allocated funds in charities and philanthropic projects were

actively sought by investors who looked for social impact. He noted that venture philanthropy was one of the many creative sources of private funding for charities. He



described venture capitalists approach and venture philanthropy and gave examples of case studies, such as the Bama, Guangxi, China “Town of longevity” project.

### **Vote of Thanks:**

In his vote of thanks to Mr. Tan, **Rtn. Jamshid Medora** noted that it was heart-warming to learn that governments were looking into sustainable charities. He added that businessmen looked for returns on their money, but here, he added, returns were on social benefits, similar to Rotary's Paul Harris Fellows' contributions bringing benefits to the poor. **RC**

# Club Activities

## The Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2010



**Are you the One?**

Rotary Club of Singapore and ASME officially launched The Entrepreneur of the Year Award (EYA) 2010 on May 20<sup>th</sup> 2010.

Submission of entries for the Award is now officially open. Entrepreneurs who seek a firm endorsement of their achievements are strongly encouraged to come forth to participate.

Submissions should reach the Award Secretariat by 12 noon on Tuesday, July 6<sup>th</sup> 2010.

For more information about the Award, you may contact the ASME Award Secretariat at 6513 0371/ 352 / 356 or [eya.secretariat@asme.org.sg](mailto:eya.secretariat@asme.org.sg).

## Installation Dinner

The Club's installation of incoming President P Balachandran and his Board of Directors will take place on:

**Date:** Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 7.00pm

**Guest of Honour:** President S R Nathan of the Republic of Singapore

**Location:** Mandarin Orchard Ballroom

**Price:** \$125.00 per ticket

Please contact the Secretariat at tel. no. 67372504 or email [rtynfo@singnet.com.sg](mailto:rtynfo@singnet.com.sg) to reserve your tables for the Installation Dinner.

Members are requested to support the Installation and to place advertisements in the souvenir magazine. Advertisement rates are:

Full page	- \$1,000	Half page	- \$600
Inside Front Cover	- \$3,000	Inside Back Cover	- \$3,000
Premium Back Cover	- \$5,000		

For further details, please contact Rtn. Xavier Sanjiman at email [xavier@dezainwerkz.com](mailto:xavier@dezainwerkz.com).

## 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 2009-2010

### President

Dr. Yap Lip Kee

### Imm. Past President

Paliath Mohandas

### President Elect

P. Balachandran

### Vice Presidents

Dr. Shahul Hameed

Jimmy Ooi

### Hon. Secretary

Tapan Rao

### Hon. Treasurer

Nirmal Singh

### Directors

Colin Miles

Tan Kwang Kai

### Director: Community Service

Goh Bock Seng

### Director: Vocational Service

Inderjit Tulsi

### Director: International Service

Claudia Huegel

### Director: Service to New Generation

Ashwani Sarwal

## Bulletin Committee

Uttam Kripalani

Colin Miles

Dr. Albert Wee

# Mark your Diary!



- compiled by Bernadette Rayney-Ng

## Birthday Celebrants

RC wishes *Happy Birthday* to celebrants:

**June 8** – PP Stan Low

**June 11** – PP Dr. Oliver Hennedige

**June 13** – PP Dr. Yeoh Seang Aun

## This week

June 9<sup>th</sup> 2010

**Reception Desk duty:** PP Murli Chanrai, Kavita Butalia

**Sunshine Box duty:** Jamshid Medora, S Mali

**Speaker:** Mr. Low Hock Meng, Executive Director, Singapore Productivity Association

**Topic:** "Business for Families"

## Service Committee Meetings

### Community Service

**Date:** Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 5.45 pm

**Venue:** Modesto's Elizabeth, 24 Mt Elizabeth #01-05 The Elizabeth Hotel, S228518

## Anniversary Celebrants

RC wishes *Happy Wedding Anniversary* to all celebrants:

**June 9** – Dr. T.K. Neo & Siok Heang

**June 10** – Hon. Secretary Tapan & Prabha Rao

**June 13** – Mali & Lakshmi Malaippan

## Next week

June 16<sup>th</sup> 2010

**Reception Desk duty:** Joseph Chia, Robert Craiu

**Sunshine Box duty:** IPP Paliath Mohandas, Noshir Mistri

**Speaker:** Dr Michael Quah Cheng-Guan, Principal Fellow & Chief Scientist, Energy Studies Institute, Singapore

**Topic:** "Energy Security, Environmental Sustainability, Economic Development: Balancing the Triangle"

## Service Committee Meetings

### Vocational Service

**Date:** Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** The meeting will start after the movie at Lido

**Venue:** The Tanglin Club, The Tangles, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

## June

### Rotary Fellowships Month

#### June 6<sup>th</sup>

80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rotary in Singapore Dinner

#### June 12<sup>th</sup>

Monthly Visit to the Assisi Home

#### June 25<sup>th</sup>

Installation Dinner

#### June 26<sup>th</sup>

Monthly Visit to the Society for the Aged Sick

#### June 30<sup>th</sup>

Meeting Cancelled in view of the Installation held on June 25<sup>th</sup>

## July

#### July 6<sup>th</sup>

Closing date for submissions of The Entrepreneur of the Year 2010 Award

#### June 7<sup>th</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> Club Assembly for Rotary year 2010/2011

## 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?

## News from previous member, Rtn. Daniel Roche...

*Greetings from Palestine! As a former Rotarian of the Singapore Club, I have the great pleasure to inform you that the Rotary Club of Ramallah – Palestine will be chartered May 29<sup>th</sup> 2010 in the presence of RI President John Kenny.*

*After 14 years of efforts to accept Palestine in Rotary, it is an immense achievement for Palestine to have settled up the Rotary club of Ramallah, and such a great event explains the presence of the highest official in Rotary to be at the charter night in Palestine in addition to the many friends from US and Jordan who will be traveling to Ramallah to share our joys in starting a much needed and long overdue Rotary Club in Palestine.*

*It took 14 years to accept Palestine in Rotary and such achievement was made possible thanks to the incommensurable efforts of Club President Nader Dajani and Committee.*

Rotarian Daniel Roche, Rotary Club Ramallah – Palestine