



Rotary crossroads

e-bulletin published by Rotary Club of Singapore

Proud of our Heritage, Committed to our Future

Chartered 6th June 1930

5 September 2016

Volume 53 Issue No. 9

Lifetime Achievement Award Winner for Best Bulletin in District 3310



September – “Basic Education & Literacy Month”

1 IN FOCUS

This is “Basic Education & Literacy Month”

3 PHOTO ALBUM

ISC Meeting –
18.8.16

4 LAST WEEK

Report on Wed, 31
August 2016 Meeting

7 MARK YOUR DIARY

What’s ahead? Don’t miss
the forthcoming events and
Birthday / Anniversary
celebrants and more...

In Focus

THIS IS “BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY MONTH”

By: Honorary Member (HM) PP Raymon Huang



HM PP Raymon Huang

Way back when, when I first went to an English school in Singapore (I had studied Dutch in Indonesia), it was drummed into me the importance of the “3 R’s”: “Readin’, ‘Riting & ‘Rithmetic”. The “3 R’s” formed the foundation of education – basic education. A proficiency in the “3 R’s” leads to literacy. When you are absolutely a top notch literate person, the world is your oyster. Many doors are open to you.

Now, at the ripe old age of 90, I do a fair bit of reminiscing – looking back at those days gone by: a mix-bag of good days and of roughshod days. The good and happy days were the school days. Even if “education” was those days largely different from what it is today. It has today gone beyond the realms of the imagination. The old “impossibles” are not only possible, but more. So we get and have people – so many – who are so educated, so knowledgeable, so innovative.

Having said that, however, it is a fact – a sad fact – that in so many places out there in the world, there are literally still millions who do not have even basic education, let alone literacy. They cannot read, write or count. It is so difficult to imagine this to be the case, considering the level of education the world has attained. And the new technologies are so available, so accessible.

Is Rotary concerned over this? Are we Rotarians concerned? Silly questions, you might say. Of course, Rotary is. We all are.

Indeed, Rotary and Rotarians have long been in the deep end in this effort in getting education to the “educatedless” – for as long as we can remember. We have constantly been addressing the situation, always mindful of it. The problem resonates well with Rotary’s cardinal aim “to do good in the world” and to help peoples have better lives.

So what do we do in this much-needed effort?

Today, when we speak of “education”, the discourse can lead to wholly uncharted territories: into worlds beyond the imagination. Why then, are we still addressing the question of “basic education”?

Have a look at these statistics on the subject. The answer is there.

- Latest estimates: Worldwide, 67 million children have no access to education. More than 775 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate.

Compiled by the UN. Must be correct.

Impossible? Sounds so. Unimaginable? – true. But it is nevertheless true. The figures speak for themselves.



In Focus

Thus, Rotary and Rotarians, with their vast educational, literacy, and material resources at their command, do go headlong into trying to alleviate the problem. In these Good Samaritan efforts, the execution and implementation of well-intended programmes are not always smooth-going. In many places, such efforts are fraught with obstacles and danger. In Afghanistan, for example, this is the case. It is so too in many parts of Africa. There are many stirring stories of such sterling silver efforts.



Razia Jan (far right)

Photo Credit: Photo courtesy of Razia's Ray of Hope Foundation

Take the case of Rotarian Razia Jan – an American Rotarian. In 2008 she returned to her native Afghanistan to build a school for girls – not a good idea at that time, as the area comprising seven communities was Taliban controlled. Learning for girls was forbidden. Her plan was fraught with real danger. She was confronted by angry men who threatened violence and harm. But she was undeterred. She completed and started her school for girls. It was documented that in that year alone, some 150 teachers, students and employees of schools were killed. Rotarian Razia Jan said, “I wanted to let the girls have education, literacy, and to break the poverty cycle...”

And what a difference the school made. The girls had the education they needed. A father, so elated and proud of his daughter, went to see Razia and said, “My girl can write my name, but I can’t.” Indeed, the girls became more independent. They began to speak for themselves. They would share their views and opinions openly. They would not have been able to do all that before.

To Jan, she felt she had helped the girls to take the first steps of journey of a thousand miles, with literacy, further education, college, technology, and life opportunities galore as destinations. In her words: “A more promising future...”

Quite incredible. Most inspiring. What an example of “Service Above Self”. Yet, this is but one instance of many such stirring stories of Rotarians extending a helping hand. They are documented in Rotary publications such as *The Rotarian*.

Rotary’s concern over basic education and literacy is an established fact. R I reminds Rotarians of this all the time, except that fortunate ones like us ever so often take the matter for granted. We do. So, once again, R I wants to jolt us out of our complacency.

It is designating the month of September as “BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY MONTH”.

The special purpose in designating certain months as “special Months” is (I quote), “...to elevate the awareness among Rotarians of the excellent programmes of service provided by Rotary.” Each specially designated “Month” is a special clarion call.

Our response? Well, the ball is at our feet!

Ref: *The Rotarian*.



Photo Album of the International Service Committee (ISC) Meeting on 18.8.16



ISC Members with their guests



ISC Chair Mark Wang (left) & Secretary Debasree Chakrabarti



Rtns Alex Lega (left) with Josep Joseph Chia



All in favour!



Rtn Mark with Satellite Club members



The ladies of Rotary



Last Week

Last Week – Report on the Wednesday Meeting – 31 August 2016

OPENING REMARKS

President Garry welcomed guests and Speaker, Mr Jeremy Han to the Meeting.

WELCOME OF GUESTS & VISITING ROTARIAN

President Garry called upon Rtn Brigitte Holtschneider who welcomed the following guests of members and visiting Rotarian:

Guests:

Ms Chiara Holtschneider
Ms Emilia
Ms Ketki Sen
Dr Chan Siew Luen

Visiting Rotarian:

President Larry Hirsch – Perth



From left: Pres Larry Hirsch, Rtn Brigitte & Pres Garry

TOAST

Rtn Brigitte invited President Larry Hirsch to address the Club. President Larry was pleased to be able to attend the meeting in order to renew the Perth/Singapore Sister Club agreement. He advised that his club was the leading Rotary Club in Perth and spoke of the club's many projects in areas such as domestic violence, drug abuse and other worthy projects undertaken by approximately 100 members. President Larry extended a warm invitation to members to visit him for a reciprocal lunch whilst in Perth.

Rtn Brigitte called on members to raise a toast to sister club, Rotary Club of Perth coupled with the toast to Rotary International.

PRESENTATION OF PAUL HARRIS FELLOW (PHF) RECOGNITIONS



From left: Rtn Hassan Moosa receives his PHF certificate and pin from Pres Garry, whilst Rtn Terry Lobaton receives a PHF+8 pin



ROTARACT CLUB OF TEMASEK INSTALLATION

President Garry informed members of the Temasek Rotaract Club's installation which would be held on Friday, 2 September at the Tanglin Community Club at Whitley Road. He also thanked PP J K Ong for accepting the role of Guest of Honour, on his behalf as he would be participating in the "Help The Children" project in Malang.

VOCATIONAL AND SISTER CLUB VISIT

Once again, President Garry reminded members of the vocational visit to Royal Selangor from **Saturday 10 to Sunday 11 September 2016** by luxury coach to Kuala Lumpur.

President Garry added that to-date only 4 persons were attending the black tie event of sister club, Rotary Club of Kuala Lumpur DiRaja's Installation.

For confirmation, additional information or clarification, please contact any of the following coordinators below:

1. Vocational visit support: Director of Vocational, Rtn Bala (9021 8506)
2. Vocational visit support: Rtn Mee Lee (9066 4752)
3. International Service : PP Jimmy Ooi (9844 6007)

INVITATIONS TO ROTARY CONFERENCES – Mark Your Diary!

28th Pan Borneo Conference

9 – 11 December 2016

Venue: Pullman Miri Waterfront Hotel, Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia. Registration forms are available from Secretariat.

Rotary Conference in Bhutan

16 – 19 February 2017

Conference in Thimphu, Bhutan's capital city

20 – 24 February 2017

Medical Mission & Project Site Visit in Nepal

Contact Project Leaders: Rtns See Mee Lee, VP Jasbir Koh or PP Jimmy Ooi for further details.

RENEWAL OF SISTER CLUB AGREEMENT BETWEEN PERTH/SINGAPORE CLUBS



President Larry signing the sister club agreement as Pres Garry looks on



Sister Club Agreements duly executed and witnessed by ISC Secretary Rtn Debasree Chakrabarti



Speaker: Mr Jeremy Han, Vice Chair & Founding Member of TBN Asia

Topic: *“What is Transformational Business Network Asia, and Can Poverty be Eradicated through Business?”*



VSC Dir Rtn Bala Venkatesan

President Garry invited Vocational Service Director Rtn Bala Venkatesan to introduce the Speaker, Mr Jeremy Han, a former member of the Club. Rtn Bala noted that Jeremy is one of the founding members of Transformational Business Network Asia, a part of Transformational Business Network in UK, an organisation that focuses on eradicating poverty through enterprise. He was formerly an educator, and is currently the Director of Corporate Strategy with the Adam Khoo Learning Technologies Group, besides the role he plays in TBN Asia.

Before making his presentation, Jeremy explained that he left the Club due to his involvement with TBN Asia as it was then a start-up venture, however, he added that he remained closely linked to members and the Club.

Jeremy highlighted TBN's Vision to fight poverty through enterprise with its Mission to empower the poor, alleviate poverty by scaling sustainable social enterprise and impact businesses through patient capital. He gave a brief background information on TBN Global and advised that in 2014 TBN Asia was registered as a company, in order to create a platform for foundations, philanthropists, impact funds, corporations, entrepreneurs and individuals



Speaker Mr Jeremy Han with Pres Garry



Rtn Hassan Moosa (right) presents the Club's gifts to Mr Jeremy Han

professionals to invest their time, talents and treasures in business enterprises to bring social impact/ transformations to local communities. Jeremy recounted some of TBN's successful projects such as the Kazuko Lodge in South Africa, the Batam Appsani low cost toilet project, as well as the Agape Connect (a call centre) project in Singapore which help prison inmates with remaining sentences of 12 to 24 months to re-build self-esteem and confidence, and upon their release to integrate back to society and the marketplace and reduce recidivism. Jeremy shared how members could get involved – through participation of their exploration trips to Batam and Bandung, Indonesia. He further called for support for TBN's Conference to be held from 6 – 7 September, which members would receive a special registration discount. President call upon Rtn Hassan Moosa who extended the Club's vote of thanks.



Mark Your Diary

Birthday Celebrants

RC sends Birthday greetings to celebrants this week:

8 September – Horst Hagemann

9 September – Joseph Chia & Hassan Moosa

This Meeting

7 September 2016

Reception Desk duty: Omkar Shrestha, Dr Albert Wee

Sunshine Box duty: Paul Phua, Noshir Mistri

Speaker: Mr Nicholas Ng, Co-Founder, The Food Bank Singapore

Topic: *The Food Bank Singapore*

Next Meeting

14 September 2016

Reception Desk duty: Shamin Vaswani, See Mee Lee

Sunshine Box duty: PP Jimmy Ooi, Hiro Miyauchi

Speaker: Ms Debbie Tang, Senior Manager, Youth Corps Singapore

Topic: *Youth Corps Singapore*

Anniversary Celebrants

RC sends best wishes to Wedding Anniversary celebrants this week:

7 September – Joseph & Maria Chia

9 September – Reinhard & Sabine Klemmer

International Service Meeting

International Service Committee Meeting will be held as follows:

Date: Thursday, 15 September

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: To be advised

Hosts: PP Dr Yap Lip Kee, Rtms T K Chew, Bertrand De Mil, Keizo Fujitake & PP Mansoor Hassanbhai

Vocational Service Meeting

Vocational Service Committee Meeting will be held as follows:

Date: Thursday, 8 September

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Eagles/Lookout, Singapore Island Country Club, (Thomson Road), 180 Island Club Road, S 578774

Host: Rtms Jayant Gadgil, Yong Poh Shin, Alex Lega

Queries, comments and articles request can be sent to rtynfo@rotary.org.sg

Coming Rotary Events

August

Membership and Extension Month

September

Basic Education and Literacy Month

2-4 September – Overseas Mission Help the Children 2016 Project Launch – Malang & Batu, Indonesia

9-11 September – Vocational visit to Royal Selangor, Kuala Lumpur

10 September – Sister Club, RC Kuala Lumpur Diraja's Installation Dinner

October

Economic and Community Development Month

18 October – 2nd Club Assembly

19 October – District Governor Michael Yee's Official Visit

November

Rotary Foundation Month

23 November – The Entrepreneur of the Year Award Presentation Ceremony

December

Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

9-11 December – 28th Pan Borneo Conference, Miri Sarawak





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?

The Guide to Daily Living

Before doing the things we want to do, consider first, the Precepts 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.

**ROTARY
SERVING
HUMANITY**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016/2017

President

Garry Taylor

Immediate Past President

Alan Tan Gim Guan

President Elect

Keith Harrison

Vice President

Dr Hoon Sing Keow

Vice President

Jasbir Koh

Hon. Secretary

Louis Lim Hee Thuang

Hon. Treasurer

PE Keith Harrison

Directors

Chair, Community Service

Stacy McCarthy

Chair, Vocational Service

Balasubramanian Venkatesan

Chair, International Service

Mark Wang Yat-Yee

Chair, New Generations Service

Adnan Ansari

Director without portfolio

Dr Ruediger Ackermann

