



Rotary

Spectrum



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Rotaract Club of Islamabad Chittagong, Bangladesh commemorates মহান শহীদ দিবস (Martyrs' Day) on the International Mother Language Day

February 21, 2019 by Asif Abdul Mannan



Today marks an historical event for the whole country as well as the whole world for we as a nation became the only country to orchestrate a language movement in which so many people sacrificed their lives for our mother tongue "Bangla", marking the day as a day of supreme sacrifice among the entire history of the world.

To commemorate this iconic event and to pay homage to the language movement martyrs, the Rotary and Rotaract Clubs of Islamabad observed "International Mother Language Day" in the premises of the Rotary school venue today from 10 o'clock in the morning.

President Rtn. Md. Mahfuzur Rahman, President Elect Rtn. Altaf Mohammad Hannan, Rtn. PHF & PP Dr. Wahid Al Mamun, Rtn. PHF Borhan Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury were present and gave their valuable speech on the importance of this significant day. Rotarian First Lady was also present for the first time to inspire us with her valuable time and speech.

Rotaract President Elect Engr. Abdul Mannan Asif and Secretary Md. Fazle Rabby Sinan conducted the whole proceedings with the help of other presented rotaractors.

Most importantly our school kids and teachers were present and three types of competitions were arranged for the kids which were singing, poem recitation and Bangla alphabet recollection. All the Rotarians handed over the prizes among the winners.

Building peace through Rotary service

Posted on February 20, 2019 on [rotaryservice](http://rotaryservice.org) by Soomin Kim, Rotary International Staff

Most of the members the Rotary Club of Ulsan Jayu (meaning freedom in Korean) are refugees emigrants from North Korea. Many risked their lives emigrating in pursuit of greater opportunities and are still struggling to adapt to South Korean society. Through the humanitarian service work of South Korean Rotary clubs, immigrants are healing and increasing their sense of belonging and pride as productive citizens of society. Club President Ju-Eun Seok shares her journey and the role Rotary plays in her life.

Soomin Kim: What hardships did you overcome before coming to Korea?

Ju-Eun Seok: I left North Korea in 1997 and crossed the Yalu River with my high school friends. I married a local farmer in Liaoning Province, China and lived there for 6 years. In 2003, I was finally able to arrive to the Republic of Korea.

Life in China had always been anxious and tough because of the fear that I might get discovered and forced to return to North Korea. My husband and I had to frequently flee during the night to avoid the crackdowns by Chinese officials.

SM: Tell me about your difficulties in the settlement process.

JS: I thought people in South Korea would be similar to the people of North Korea since we share the same language, history, culture, customs, and more. But I was wrong. I found myself in a different society run by a system I had never experienced, I was confused and frustrated. Language was especially difficult, as I could not understand what people were saying; they used unfamiliar capitalism terms such as "stock market" or "investment" and English words had become integrated into everyday conversation.

In addition to the communication barrier, I did not have any connection to this new country except my refugee friends, who like me, did not have any knowledge of the country. I had to learn and solve every problem I faced on my own.



Members of the Rotary Club of Ulsan Jayu

SM: How did you connect with Rotary?

JS: Over the last 15 years, I received support from people I met along the way. Without their help and encouragement, I would not be here today. Several years ago, in order to give back to the community, I started to volunteer along with my refugee friends for a local facility for children.

In 2016, then District 3721 Governor, Hae-sang Choi, who is a member of the National Unification Advisory Council and has worked to support North Korean refugees, suggested to charter a new Rotary club with my fellow refugee friends. He said, "You don't have any connections to this society, but Rotary can be your starting point to build relationships with the community. You can feel a sense of belonging and learn the joys of helping others."

He arranged for the Rotary Club of Ulsan Dadeok to mentor us in the process of starting a club. Thanks to Past District Governor Choi and our Rotarian friends from Rotary Club of Ulsan Dadeok, our club was chartered in July 2016 and my Rotary journey started.

SM: How has Rotary impact your life and the lives of fellow club members?

JS: The very first reason our members started service activities at the children's center was because many members had to separate with their families in the process of escaping North Korea.

Every last Saturday of the month, we visit the facility to spend time with the children and babies and help clean the facility. These moments are a healing time for our own souls too.

Also, we assist the resettlement of North Korean refugees moving into this region and link them to various services such as employment, medical care, legal services and education utilizing Rotary's connections.



Picture Courtesy of Rotary Korea



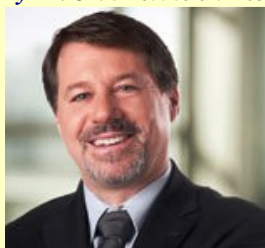
Picture Courtesy of Rotary Korea

SM: What is your plan for your club?

JS: Recently, two new members who are not refugees joined our club. I think it's a positive sign that we are making great progress. I want our club to become vibrant just like any other club, with diverse members and diverse projects. However, our first priority is to help new refugees moving into our area resettle and to show South Korean people, as well as the world at large, that we North Koreans are also people who love peace and service for others. We, as Rotary members, want to eliminate prejudice and misconceptions about North Korean people, and wish to contribute to the relief of tension between the two Koreas.

Measles anywhere is a threat to kids everywhere

By Dr. Orin Levine on February 8, 2019



About the author: Dr. Orin Levine is the Director of Vaccine Delivery at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He leads the Gates Foundation's efforts to accelerate the introduction of new vaccines and related technologies to increase access to immunization in poor countries. The views expressed in this piece are those of the author

What would you wait in line for - a concert ticket, a slice of pizza? How about a vaccine? For many parents around the world, ensuring

their kids are protected from debilitating and devastating illnesses requires them to travel long distances and wait, sometimes for many hours, to get their kids immunized.

As an epidemiologist and the director of the Vaccine Delivery team at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, I see a lot of these parents. On one trip to Nigeria, I met a woman at a remote health clinic. She had walked for miles with her malnourished 17-month-old son to get him a measles vaccine and nutritional supplements. When she finally arrived, she insisted that she would not leave until her son got the measles shot. I waited with her and watched until the boy was successfully immunized, all the while marveling at the act of a mother's love that brought this boy to this clinic.

Last week, Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency in response to a growing measles outbreak in Washington State. There have been 50 measles cases so far — including one in King County where I live with my wife and two teenage daughters. This, along with outbreaks in New York State and cases in eight other states, has had me thinking more about the Nigerian mother I met and the millions more like her. Because unlike measles outbreaks in Nigeria, our homegrown outbreaks in the U.S. aren't caused by lack of access to a vaccine, but because parents in this country are choosing not to get their kids vaccinated.



A Nigerian woman who walked for miles with her malnourished son to get him a measles vaccine and nutritional supplements

By Dr. Orin Levine

These outbreaks are scary for kids and parents. They're also frustrating because they're entirely preventable. Vaccines are a marvel of modern medicine. They are proven safe and effective. Before the measles vaccine was introduced in the U.S. in 1963, an average of 400,000 cases were reported each year. Because of widespread vaccination in the U.S., those numbers dropped dramatically and, in 2017, there were only 120 cases. But, as more kids go unvaccinated, outbreaks are inevitable. One particularly sobering statistic is that there are 96 countries in the world with higher measles vaccine coverage than the U.S. — many of which are low-income countries.

Deciding to vaccinate your child is not just an individual choice, it's a collective responsibility. The more vaccinated people there are in a community, the more protection they offer to vulnerable populations — like babies who are too young to get vaccinated or people with weak immune systems. The last person to die of measles in Washington State was a woman with a weakened immune system that would have limited the vaccine's ability to protect her directly. She needed protection from the herd of vaccinated people around her and unfortunately that herd wasn't strong enough.

When immunization coverage drops, everyone is more vulnerable. In today's interconnected world, it's easy for an international traveler to bring back a disease like measles that can then spread in our communities — the reason for the three current outbreaks in the U.S. That's why outbreaks of infectious diseases anywhere are a threat to us everywhere. The good news is we can stop outbreaks.

How? First, by following the advice of trusted doctors and experts, who spend their careers researching the safety and efficacy of vaccines. As a trained scientist, I can point to countless studies that illustrate how the benefits of vaccination far outweigh the risks. I can give you figures on how over 90 percent of children who get the shot

are protected from measles. And I can share facts that show side effects from vaccines, like pain and fever, are exceedingly rare. But, most importantly, I can tell you with certainty that getting a vaccine is the best way to be protected from dangerous, debilitating and potentially deadly diseases.



Dr. Orin Levine (center) and a delegation from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation traveled to the Tarauni Local Government Area in Nigeria to visit the cold storage facility and see vaccine stock. Courtesy of Gates Foundation

However, we know that facts alone aren't enough to change our minds. If they were, I'd never skip a day at the gym or eat a cheeseburger instead of a salad. Open dialogue with people you trust is key to helping us prevent further outbreaks. Now, more than ever, people need to share their stories about why they vaccinate their children and get vaccinated themselves and listen to the concerns of those who don't. The more we engage each other in a conversation that respects one another's views, the more likely we are to advance the conversation.

Though the woman I met in Nigeria and the parents I talk to in my own community have different experiences and circumstances, some things are universal. As parents, as community members, as doctors and teachers and caregivers, we all want the same thing: to make sure every child has a shot at a healthy future. We all have an important role to play in making that happen.

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We didn't see this coming

By Bill and Melinda Gates, February 12, 2019

How would you describe 2018? Was it what you expected?



We'd probably say no. From especially devastating natural disasters on the one hand to record numbers of women campaigning for office on the other, 2018 felt to us like a series of surprises. The world looking backward from today is very different from what we pictured a couple years ago looking forward.

A benefit of surprises is that they're often a prod to action. It can gnaw at people to realize that the realities of the world don't match their expectations for it. Some surprises help people see that the status quo needs to change. Some surprises underscore that transformation is happening already.

Twenty-five years ago, we read an article that said hundreds of thousands of kids in poor countries were dying from diarrhea. That

surprise helped crystallize our values. We believe in a world where innovation is for everyone, where no child dies from a disease it's possible to prevent. But what we saw was a world still shaped by inequity. That discovery was one of the most important steps in our journey to philanthropy. We were surprised, then we were outraged, then we were activated.

There have been good surprises, too. When we first started learning about malaria, we thought the world would never make real headway on the disease until someone invented a long-acting vaccine. But thanks to bed nets and other measures, malaria deaths are down 42 percent since 2000.

In this year's annual letter, we're highlighting nine more things that have surprised us along this journey. Some worry us. Others inspire us. All of them are prodding us to action. We hope they do the same for you, because that's how the world gets better.

SURPRISE #1 Africa is the youngest continent. Its median age is the lowest in the world.

Bill: The world keeps getting older, but Africa stays (nearly) the same age. It sounds confusing, but it makes sense when you break it down. The global median age is on the rise. In every part of the world, people are living longer. As more children survive to adulthood, women are having fewer kids than ever before. The result is a global population that's creeping slowly toward middle age.

Except in Africa, the median age there is just 18. In North America, it is 35. And the number of young Africans is expected to rise in the decades to come.

There are a lot of reasons for this. One is that the annual number of births is going up in the poorest parts of sub-Saharan Africa, even as it goes down in other parts of Africa. This can be either an asset or a source of instability. Melinda and I believe that the right investments will unlock the continent's enormous potential. Young Africans will shape the future of not only their own communities but the entire world.

Melinda: When economists describe the conditions under which countries prosper, one of the factors they stress is "human capital," which is another way of saying that the future depends on young people's access to high-quality health and education services. Health and education are the twin engines of economic growth.

If sub-Saharan Africa commits to investing in its young people, the region could double its share of the global labor force by 2050, unlocking a better life for hundreds of millions of people.

Girls' education, especially, is among the most powerful forces on the planet. Educated girls are healthier. They are wealthier. (If all girls received 12 years of high-quality education, women's lifetime earnings would increase by as much as \$30 trillion, which is bigger than the entire U.S. economy.) And their families benefit, too. The more education a woman has, the better equipped she is to raise healthy children. In fact, UNESCO estimates that if all women in low- and middle-income countries finished secondary school, child mortality in those countries would fall by about half.



Elementary student, Solwezi District, Zambia

A healthy, educated, and empowered African youth boom that lifts girls instead of leaving them behind would be the best indicator of progress I can imagine.

SURPRISE #2 DNA tests can find serial killers and could also help prevent premature birth. Scientists have discovered a potential link between pre-term labor and certain genes.

Bill: When police used genetic test results to catch the Golden State Killer last year, the story made headlines around the world. But it's not the only discovery to come out of at-home DNA tests. By looking at more than 40,000 samples voluntarily submitted by **23andMe** users, scientists discovered a potential link between pre-term labor and six genes, including one that regulates how the body uses mineral, called selenium.

Some people have a gene that prevents them from processing selenium properly. The **23andMe** study (which our foundation helped fund) found that expectant mothers, who carry that gene were more likely to give birth early. This suggests that selenium plays a role in determining when a woman begins labor.

Understanding what causes prematurity is hugely important. Fifteen million babies are born premature every year, making it the leading cause of death in children under age five. Pre-term birth affects mothers in every part of the world—although some groups experience it at a higher rate (which Melinda will talk about), and premature babies in low-income countries are much more likely to die than ones in richer countries.

Researchers won't know until later this year how exactly the mineral affects preterm birth risk. But if the link proves substantial, selenium could one day be a cheap and easy solution to help women extend their pregnancy to full term.

This connection is one of several breakthroughs we've made in recent years. Better tools and more data sharing mean that we're finally starting to understand what causes babies to be born early—and what we can do to keep them in the womb longer. I'm particularly excited by the simple blood test for prematurity being developed by a team at Stanford. It can tell a woman how soon she'll give birth, so she can work with her doctor to minimize risks.

Melinda: Despite all the promising discoveries Bill just described, what's just as amazing to me is how little we know about prematurity. I can't think of anything else that affects 10 percent of people in every part of the world but gets so little attention.

For the vast majority of preterm births, we can't identify the cause, nor do we know why some groups of women are more prone to delivering their babies early. For example, it's a mystery why taller women have longer pregnancies. And in the U.S., it's a mystery why African-American women deliver prematurely more often than women who emigrate here from African countries. One theory is socio-cultural that the racism and discrimination African-American women have faced their whole lives leads to stress that damages their health. Another is that the mix of micro-organisms in women's bodies may be different when they are raised here. We just don't know.

One thing we do know: Prematurity is not binary. It matters a lot how early a baby is born; a baby born at 36 weeks is much better off than a baby born at 34 weeks. Our goal should not be to prevent prematurity categorically, which may be impossible anyway. Instead, it should be to extend pregnancies closer to full term for everyone. And we're finally starting to fill the gaps in our knowledge about how to do so.

Birthdays of Rotary members in February, 2019

Sumit Agarwal on February 5, 2019

Utpal Majumdar, past Governor on February 17, 2019

Anniversaries of Rotary members in February, 2019

Spouse Koneenica & Surajit Hari on February 4, 2019

Dr Saktirupa & Spouse Dr Suranjan Chakraborty on February 5, 2019

Sp Neelam & PDG Vijay S Bhandari on February 14, 2019

Sp Suman & PDG Rajkumar Rajgharia on February 19, 2019

Spouse Rashi & PDG Sekhar Mehta on February 19, 2019

Sp Sipra & PDG Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury on February 19, 2019

Spouse Renu & PP Ranjan Kuthari on February 20, 2019

PP Kusum Chamaria & Spouse Krishna on February 24, 2019

Spouse Rani & PP BI Ajitsaria on February 28, 2019

February is Peace and Conflict prevention Month

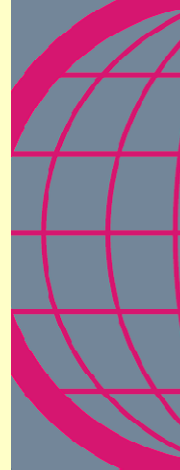
Upcoming club's community service programs

On Sunday, February 24, 2019: Distribution of 25 Cycle Vans at RCC Vateguri Janakalyan Sangha, Amta, Howrah District

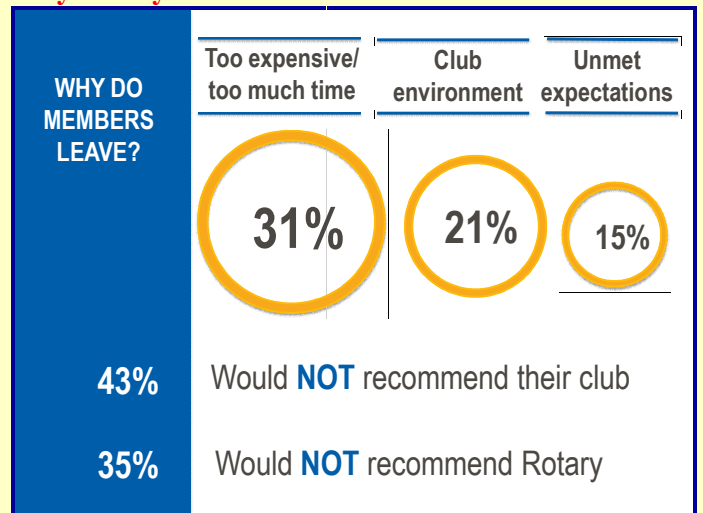
On Saturday, March 2, 2019: Chartering Celebration of Rotaract Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan

Rotaract Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan gets recognition

On Wednesday, February 13, 2019, RI President has recognized RCLSMK sponsored Rotaract Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan



Why Rotary members leave



Source: RI Membership Slides, January, 2019

UNWIND

A couple was having a heated discussion about family finances. Finally the husband exploded, 'If it weren't for my money, the house wouldn't be here!'

The wife replied, 'My dear, if it weren't for your money, I wouldn't be here.'

TAILPIECE

"In its extremes of power and responsibility, the US presidency is probably the most talked about and least understood office in the world. Presidents are elected to accomplish big things, but they spend most of their time focusing on problems that do not serve — and frequently contradict — their larger agendas. They command the most powerful military in the world, but they repeatedly confront the frustrating limits of what they can achieve by force ... Presidents are elected by the people, but they spend most of their time in office cut off from any unscripted contact with ordinary citizens. Their power is awesome and pathetic at the same time. Even the most capable modern presidents are doomed to fail, and limiting the failure and achieving some good along the way has become the best we can expect."
Jeremi Suri, historian