



RI District 3291

June 8, 2019

PRESIDENT DR ANKUSH BANSAL

CLUB NO 78956

Spectrum

Weekly bulletin of Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata

SECRETARY SUMIT AGARWAL

CHARTERED ON APRIL 30, 2008



VOL 12 NO 49

EDITOR DR ARUNA TANTIA

WEBSITE www.rcslmk.org

India's entry wins the Rotarian photo contest

In this year's photo contest, we received more than 600 entries from 59 countries and geographical areas - from Argentina to Zimbabwe and many places in between. Through your photographs, we traveled to a glacial lagoon in Iceland and a mountainside in Bolivia. We saw Rotarians working on projects and met the people they encountered along the way. Taken together, the photos you sent us create a composite portrait of our world and the ways Rotarians experience it. Our judge, George Steinmetz, brings to the task his decades of experience traveling and photographing the world. Steinmetz shoots from the elevated perspective of a paraglider, where the landscape almost becomes abstract art, so he can appreciate a photo both for its aesthetic qualities and for the story it tells. In addition to the winners and honorable mentions in this issue, you'll see photos from the contest in The Rotarian throughout the year.

First Place: Photographer: Santosh Kale; Rotary Club of Shirol, India; Location: Pandharpur, India



Steinmetz: I love the energy of this picture. It documents the flow of humanity experiencing the Pandharpur Wari pilgrimage and shows the architecture of this Indian site, the vibrancy of its storefronts. I also like that the photographer had the prescience to wait for his subject and took an unconventional approach by shooting the action with a time exposure.

Reflections from a mother on Menstrual Hygiene Day

Ruth Kennedy-Walker, May 28, 2019; Water supply & Sanitation Specialist

I recently returned to work after six months of maternity leave with my second child. Transitioning back to my 'original' role as a Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist at the World Bank, alongside my new role as a Mum, has been a challenging but fun experience! And it has really made me think about some of the connections between both roles.

While I was away, with my days occupied with feeding the baby, trying to get them to sleep and nappy changes, the World Bank released the Human Capital Project and the associated Human Capital Index (HCI). It's a simple yet powerful idea - human capital is a key driver of economic growth, which can end extreme poverty and create more inclusive societies. And when these investments begin in the early years of life and are sustained throughout a person's life, they lay a strong foundation for the growth and competitiveness of nations.



The author with her kids

Learning more about this work, I've been struck by just how essential **water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)** are to building human capital. Having just started the journey into motherhood, I see every day just how essential it is for me and my family. And in my day job, I so often see that other new moms across the world feel exactly the same way. For me - for all of us - it's not only about the economics (although they are clearly important!) but also about the safety, dignity and healthy beginning that WASH brings to children.

Whilst I was pregnant with my children, access to safe WASH meant I could be in the best condition of health to grow a healthy baby. Not everybody in the world is so fortunate. Women exposed to poor sanitary environments were found to be more than twice as likely to experience a preterm birth or other adverse pregnancy outcomes in rural India,[1] and 1.71 times as likely to have a stillbirth in Nepal[2]. At birth and during the post-natal period, simply having access to safe WASH and a clean environment ensured that my children and I had a higher rate of survival. About 11% of maternal deaths worldwide are caused by sepsis, an infection that is directly linked to unhygienic conditions during labor and childbirth.[3] A study in Nepal showed a 41% drop in neonatal fatality through simple handwashing interventions[4]. That means twice as many children survive simply because there is adequate handwashing infrastructure and behaviors. It also ensured I had a safe, comfortable and dignified place to give birth. A place to deal with the post-natal realities, Lochia- a very natural outcome of child birth, and for me like so many other mother's, post-operative wounds.

As my children grow, access to safe WASH ensures they will not be subject to continuous bouts of diarrhea, they can grow fully and not be stunted. It ensures that they can realize their potential, that their cognitive development and physical growth isn't hindered and that their bodies can absorb the vital nutrients that they need to function.

It means that my children are not scared to walk to or use the toilet, they do not fear that they will fall in. They and I do not fear for their lives, each day when they go to school or use public toilets. The recent news of two 5-year-old children falling into their school toilet and dying in South Africa really resonated with me. The heartache and pain of losing a child in such a horrible way, as quoted from one of the children's mothers "You send your happy, healthy kid to school one day, and they never come back." [5]

As children grow, access to safe WASH will ensure they receive a quality education. The links between WASH and education may not immediately appear obvious, but they are incredibly important. Access to WASH means my children won't miss days from school to fetch water. It means they won't need to hold their bladder and bowels because they don't have a toilet. And it means my daughter can menstruate with dignity. She and all the girls around her can go through what every woman around the world naturally goes through each month in a safe, private and clean environment. Menstruation really matters. After all, every woman menstruates and without it we wouldn't have a lifecycle.

Access to safe WASH, means that my children can become the most effective, productive, dignified and fulfilled adults, not blighted by the fact that they did not have access to a basic human right, safe water supply, sanitation and hygiene.

Motherhood is something that defines our common humanity. The joy, the tears, the connection – these are just some of the ties that bind us, no matter where we were born or where we may live. The water supply, sanitation and hygiene our children need to grow and thrive is something I dearly want for mine throughout their lives. And I know every mother in the world will feel exactly the same way about their children. On this Menstrual Hygiene Day, let's take a moment to remember this – and commit to redoubling our efforts for women and children everywhere.



Ruth is a Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist working in the Water Global Practice at the World Bank. She has been working in both Sub-Saharan Africa and West Africa. She also works as part of the Bank's global urban sanitation team supporting projects and developing resources to support teams on sanitation related topics.

She joined the World Bank as a Young Professional in 2015, where she started in the Environment and Natural Resources GP. She is a Civil Engineer by training and has a Masters and PhD in Civil Engineering from Newcastle University, UK.

Connect with the Whiskey D.R.A.M. Fellowship

Posted on June 3, 2019 by Terry and Jaime Moore, Co-Founders of the Whiskey D.R.A.M. Fellowship



One of the most exciting things to do at the International Convention is a visit to the House of Friendship. This is the place to learn about the exciting work Rotarians are doing around the world as well as an opportunity for Rotary Fellowships to gather and showcase their shared interests. The Whiskey D.R.A.M. Fellowship (Whiskey Drinking Rotarians and Members) is one of the newer Fellowships, sanctioned in 2016, with a membership that spans 33 countries to-date. Our objective is to learn more about the Whiskies of the world

including Bourbon, Scotch, Rye, Sour Mash, Moonshine, as well as many others. We offer Whiskey food pairings and information about topics related to the enjoyment of Whiskey so that our own appreciation will be enhanced. We accomplish that by sharing our knowledge and experiences from the many Whiskey experts and savvy Rotarians throughout the world. As a member, you are encouraged to be actively involved in the Fellowship and share your ideas, opinions and Whiskey experiences.

As with other Fellowships, we also support the charitable arm of Rotary with monetary giving. The Whiskey D.R.A.M. Fellowship has chosen clean water initiatives as our charity of choice. We are supporting clean water initiatives as everyone deserves safe drinking water. A portion of the net proceeds of our Fellowship will be given to a Rotarian-led campaign focused on safe drinking water.



If you enjoy Whiskey, making new friends and learning about the nuances of brown liquor, visit us in the House of Friendship for a tasting! Our goal is to create a global Whiskey handshake one Rotarian at a time. For more info, email us or check out our website.



Visit the House of Friendship to learn about other Rotary Fellowships as well, download the Rotary Events app to find Fellowships, then connect with the groups that share your interests.

The Whiskey D.R.A.M. Fellowship is one of more than 80 recognized Rotary Fellowships. Throughout the month of June, we'll be celebrating Rotary Fellowships Month by sharing inspirational services stories from various Rotary Fellowships. We hope these stories inspire you to join or start a Rotary Fellowship.

Cycling to Serve Fellowship

Posted on June 7, 2019 by James Morrison, member of the International Fellowship of Cycling Rotarians, USA/Canada



Rotary International staff and Rotary members participate in the El Tour de Tucson bicycle race in Arizona, USA, to raise money for PolioPlus

In cycling, it's not just about grinding away, perspiration flowing while crossing the finish line to the cheers of supporters. Although that's what happens frequently in Rotary cycling.

It's all about fitness, fellowship and some fundraising along the way. It doesn't matter if your cycling is on the road, mountain, electric-bikes, and / or competitive or just weekend family fun rides.

The International Fellowship of Cycling Rotarian (*Cycling to Serve Fellowship*) is a group dedicated to promoting cycling as an opportunity for fellowship. The objectives of our Fellowship are to develop and promote world-wide friendship through cycling competitively and recreationally; to serve the community locally, nationally and internationally through cycling activities; and to promote international understanding and peace through cycling.



The 33rd Annual El Tour de Tucson had more than 9,000 Rotarian cyclists. Photo by James S Wood

Today more people of all ages are discovering the health and mental benefits of cycling. Let's face it, we all are getting a little older, even if you are a millennial. What better way to stay in shape? Cycling, fellowship and service. It just doesn't get any better.



The 33rd Annual El Tour de Tucson had more than 9,000 Rotarian cyclists. Photo by James S. Wood. Rotary International staff and Rotary members participate in the El Tour de Tucson bicycle race in Arizona, USA, to raise money for PolioPlus.

Edwin Velarde from the Rotary Club of Westlake Village, California, USA lives with type-1 diabetes. He was diagnosed at age 29 and for decades struggled to control his blood glucose. While he was getting ready to be president of his Rotary club in 2012, a good friend gifted

him a bike. In the beginning, he had trouble with this new activity, but persevered and later developed a new nutrition program. Edwin said, "Cycling sparked my life and I have found new energy I never thought existed."

Edwin reduced his insulin by 80%, avoiding thousands of extra injections each year. Now he dedicates his newfound energy to giving back. Since then, his cycling has raised funds for polio and diabetes awareness, by cycling from Busan to the Seoul Convention, from the Rotary International Headquarters in Evanston to the Atlanta Convention, and again to the Toronto Convention. Nicknamed "Epic Edwin" by his friends, he said, "As cycling has been a gift to me, I use my bike as a modest way to give back."

This year, Edwin's 1,200 kilometer EPiC Journey against Diabetes started in London, United Kingdom. He rode his bicycle through the countries of France, Belgium, the Netherlands and finished in Hamburg, Germany in time for the Rotary International Convention. This was Edwin's 4th EPiC Journey to raise awareness about the growing global diabetes epidemic.

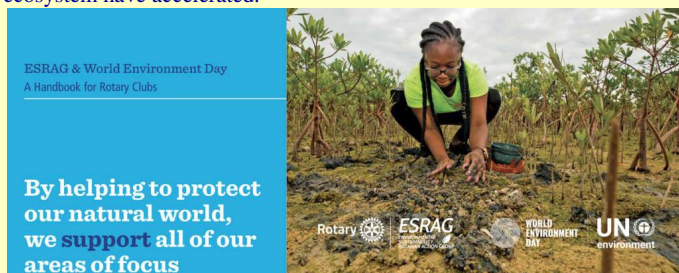
Over 425 million have diabetes around the world. Sadly, 3.8 million deaths are caused by diabetes and high blood glucose each year. Support the work of the *Rotarian Action Group for Diabetes (RAG-Diabetes)* and help address the global diabetes epidemic. Donate to RAG-Diabetes' Give Life Project to provide life-giving insulin and blood glucose management provisions to children and families suffering from type-1 diabetes and some advanced type-2 diabetes, who are living under the poverty line in some of the poorest countries.

Cycling to Serve is one of more than 80 recognized Rotary Fellowships. Throughout the month of June, we'll be celebrating Rotary Fellowships Month by sharing inspirational services stories from various Rotary Fellowships. We hope these stories inspire you to join or start a Rotary Fellowship.

Celebrate World Environment Day

Posted on June 5, 2019 by Karen D. Kendrick-Hands, Past Chair & Director of Projects for the Environmental Sustainability Rotarian Action Group (ESRAG)

It's been almost exactly six years since I connected threats to our environment to the power of Rotarians to be part of the solution. On a late spring day in 2013, I pondered the future of my six month-old granddaughter Claire. What would her world would be like in 60 years? Would she have the same opportunities to enjoy the beauty of nature? Would she enjoy a finely-tuned ecosystem where the pollinating insects arrived just in time to service the apple blossoms, so there would be fruit in the fall? Would she recognize the calls and plumage of the birds who returned to nest and feed their youth who hatched in perfect sync with their insect food supply? In the past six years, human-caused risks to our ecosystem have accelerated.



Still the power of Rotary offers hope. Six years ago, I realized that Rotarians could help solve the evolving humanitarian crisis caused by over-use of resources and too much carbon dioxide in our atmosphere and oceans. Paul Riehemann, Past President of my Rotary Club of Madison in the United States and I shared our passion and urgency with like-minded Rotarians worldwide to form the Environmental Sustainability Rotarian Action Group (ESRAG). As a resource and organizing point for Rotarians, ESRAG helps clubs develop projects to benefit the environment and to develop solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Every year, the UN Environment Program (UNEP) leads the celebration of World Environment Day on 5 June. This year's theme is Beat Air Pollution, and UNEP invited Rotary to join their party.

In response, ESRAG is inviting all Rotary clubs to support World Environment Day by implementing an environmental service project or making a commitment to a project. To help clubs develop projects, we created a handbook with input from UNEP, with resources on environmental projects. Download the handbook here.

We invite each of you and your clubs to celebrate World Environment Day today and honor its spirit every day. Share your completed projects on Rotary Showcase using the environment tag, and let us how we can help you celebrate in 2020, the 50th anniversary of World Environment Day.

“By helping to protect our natural world, we support all of our areas of focus and take action to create positive, lasting change across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.” ESRAG World Environment Day handbook

Each project undertaken is a necessary step towards preserving our planet Earth, and inspiring further action. ESRAG and the UN Environment Program thank you for your participation and commitment, and so does Claire.

Save the date:

In 2020, ESRAG will join others on 5 June to honor the 50th Anniversary of World Environment Day in a pre-RI Convention Presidential Conference in Honolulu, celebrating Rotary's 75-Year Legacy of Humanitarian Cooperation with the United Nations. Plan now to join the celebration.

60% of Delhi Metro now powered by solar energy from Madhya Pradesh

Feature story June 5, 2019



More than half of Delhi Metro now runs on solar power coming from Rewa in MP. This means that 290 trains across 373 kilometers serving 2.6 million passengers in a single day are now green.

The 1,590-acre Ultra Mega Solar Park in Rewa's Gurh tehsil is among the largest single-site solar power plants in the world. And 24 percent of the park's solar energy is being sold directly to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), meeting almost 60 percent of its daytime demand. This will essentially help DMRC not only reduce its dependence on coal, but also save Rs. 793 crore on its energy bill over the next 25 years.

The Madhya Pradesh Power Management Company Ltd, which supplies power to the state electricity distribution companies, will get the remaining 76 per cent of the power produced from the Rewa solar power plant. An innovative scheduling exercise has enabled the solar plant to provide preferential uninterrupted power supply to Delhi Metro first, even on the days without optimum sun availability.

World Bank Group Support

The park, with an installed capacity of 750 megawatt, has been made possible with support from the World Bank and Clean Technology Fund through a US\$ 18 million funding as part of a Shared Infrastructure for Solar Parks Project. The International Finance Corporation was the transaction advisor for the project.

The project will contribute immensely towards India's aim of quadrupling its renewable energy capacity to 175 gigawatts (GW) by 2022, including 100 GW of solar power. The Indian government's plan to ramp up solar power generation is among the largest in the world and will help bring sustainable, clean, climate-friendly electricity to millions.

The park will add 2.5 percent to India's total installed solar capacity. It also aims to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions by 1.3 million tons every year and nearly double the state's capacity to generate solar power.

The World Bank-Clean Technology Fund loan financed shared infrastructure facilities including a transmission evacuation system, which ensures the power generated is immediately evacuated to the grid for distribution. Moreover, the solar power has been developed on an unsubsidized basis, underscoring the World Bank Group's commitment to sustainability.

Role of Private Sector

One of key innovations that stands out in this project is how a modern and transparent electronic competitive bidding process that went on for 33 hours achieved first-year tariffs of as low as Rs. 2.97 per unit. This has essentially brought down the cost of solar power to compete with that of coal-based power.

This was also the first time that international players participated in a state bid.

“For the first time, the price of solar power has been brought down to less than Rs. 3 per unit with the use of a modern and transparent bidding process,” said Junaid Ahmad, World Bank Country Director in India, adding, “We hope this will further open up a vibrant market for solar investments in India.”

The World Bank Group's involvement in the project has helped in further leveraging private-sector investment worth USD 575 million in solar photovoltaic assets.

The project has demonstrated important economies of scale in solar generation, pushed down transaction costs for private players, and increased efficiency while further reducing unit costs of solar power.

“The World Bank investment in the solar park in Rewa has helped boost market confidence in the Indian solar sector in a major way. The park has managed to catalyze commercial funding, contributing towards India's ambitious target of installing 100 GW of solar power capacity by 2022,” said Surbhi Goyal, Senior Energy Specialist and World Bank's Task Team Leader for the project.

The model of the Rewa Solar Power Project has been included in Prime Minister's Book of Innovation 2017 and awarded World Bank Group's President award for Innovation and Excellence.

The World Bank Group is now collectively working on replicating the success of the Rewa Solar Park in other such parks in Madhya Pradesh and possibly in Odisha.

“The park has managed to catalyze commercial funding, contributing towards India's target of installing 100 GW of solar power capacity by 2022” Surbhi Goyal, Senior Energy Specialist

Birthdays of Rotary members in June 2019

Siddhartha Sadhan Bose, past Governor on June 21, 2019

Nayantara Palchoudhury, past Governor on June 24, 2019

Anniversaries of Rotary members & spouses in June 2019

Sp Sharmila & PDG Siddhartha S Bose on June 3, 2019

Spouse Sushma & PP Uma Shankar Agarwal on June 20, 2019

Sp Lalita & PDG Kamal Seth on June 30, 2019

Sp Sweeta & Dr Rajesh Goel on June 30, 2019

June is Rotary Fellowship month

UNWIND

In a Laundromat: Automatic Washing Machines: Please remove all your clothes when the light goes out

TAILPIECE

“Whatever happened is the thing that could have happened”.

Nothing, absolutely nothing, we experienced could have been any other way. Not even the least important detail. There is no “If only I had done that differently, it would've been different”. No. What happened is the only thing that could have taken place and has taken place for us to learn our lesson to move forward. Every single life situation we encounter is absolutely perfect, even when it defies our understanding and our ego.