



Spectrum



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RYLA in Madagascar unites cultures

Posted on July 15, 2019 by Soovan Sharma Dookhoo, president of the Rotaract Club of Riviere Du Rempart, Mauritius



Soovan Sharma Dookhoo, lower left, with other participants in the RYLA sponsored by District 9220 in Madagascar

Attending a Rotary Youth Leadership Awards event hosted by District 9220 in Madagascar has been one of my most cherished experiences both from a leadership and a cultural standpoint. I joined members of Rotaract from Mauritius, marching as one, as we eagerly boarded a flight to the longest island in the Indian Ocean. From my first day in Madagascar, I was surrounded by a completely different culture. It was a joy simply going through the streets, and taking in all of the scenery and action.



Enjoying the local culture in Madagascar

Any event that includes young people from Comoros, Djibouti, Reunion, Rodrigues, Seychelles and Mauritius is going to be a profound blend of culture and synergy of ideas. We were all proud to be part of the Rotary network. Rotary Youth Leadership Awards forges an even deeper bond between Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors and their guests. Regardless of what country you are from, there is Rotary and Rotaract. And Service Above Self unites us all.

I remain proud of my country. But I shall now look toward other nationalities with compassion and a desire to safeguard humanitarian rights.

If you visit Madagascar, I encourage you to taste the mystical dishes made from their flour, including pastries, bread and pizza. Madagascar is an ideal place to visit for adventurous people willing to try new things. Dare to embark in the Malagasy taxi, experience the busy streets and feel the boost of energy from the population. The capital Antananarivo is always welcoming be it dawn or dusk. There is always someone you can talk to.

I am eager to conduct joint projects with the Rotaract Club of Hina, our twin club, who I got to know better during the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards. We share the same goals and the same youthful aspirations. Our generation has the same objective of securing a sound future for our respective islands.

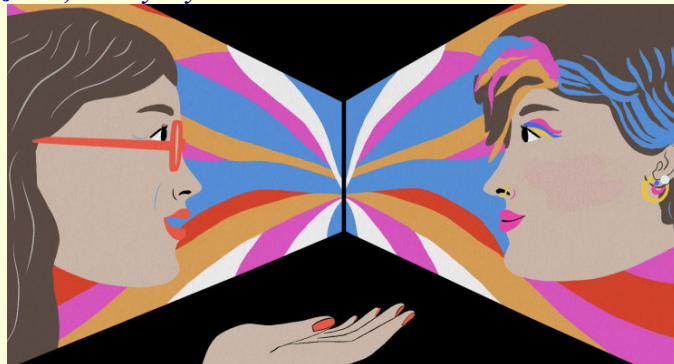


Those who venture into a Malagasy taxi experience the excitement and energy of the busy streets

Madagascar: thank you for your hospitality. And I thank the oldest Rotary club of Madagascar for organizing an amazing Rotary Youth Leadership Awards. I am looking forward to more adventures.

“What I wish I’d known when I started my career”: 11 innovators tell us

Jul 11, 2019 by Taylor Trudon



Franziska Barczyk

Everyone likes to talk about their victories. But what about the hurdles they overcame to achieve them?

Below, 11 TED Fellows open up.

When we see CEOs, founders, influencers and other people highlighted in our daily scrolls on our devices, the individuals almost always look polished. They're poised and confident, and they most surely achieve inbox zero at the end of every day. Yet what is rarely captured is the less photogenic stuff - the steady grind, the setbacks and sacrifices - that come on the way to success.

Whether you're a recent grad navigating the job search or you've already earned an office (or, at least, a corner cubicle), rest assured that everyone deals with uncertainty and difficulty. And that includes the TED Fellows, who are innovators and emerging leaders in their respective disciplines. Here, they open up about the fumbles and stumbles we usually don't see - and find out what they wish they knew when they were starting out.

1. Think about your next project or idea now - not later.

“Well, I wish I knew more about how to build a space telescope. So I'm a professor now, and as a professor, you can set your own agenda and work on your own projects. I wish I had spent time earlier in my career thinking more about what projects I wanted to do and what I liked.

Previously, I was working on stuff that I liked but were other people's ideas. The process of coming up with your own questions about the universe happens, but it takes time to get it to that way of thinking. Doing it earlier would've been better, which is now the advice I give to post-docs: 'Start thinking about what it is you want to do next.'"

- Erika Hamden, astrophysicist

2. Don't be scared to fail or ask questions.

"I wish knew that it was OK to ask questions and that it's OK to fail. By failing and asking questions - that's actually exactly what you're supposed to be doing in grad school. Your professors are waiting for you to come to them with questions or to say that you're not doing well. I think things would be a lot easier if I knew that up front.

We all have this idea that we're the only ones who feel that way. And that is literally part of the training in grad school, to overcome your fear that maybe you don't belong there or you're afraid to ask questions. But that's what scientists do. They ask each other questions, and they don't know the answers. It's OK to fail, but you can short-circuit failure by asking for help."

- Lauren Sallan, paleobiologist

3. Negotiation is power.

"I wish I knew about negotiation - that between saying 'yes' or 'no' to something in my career, there will be room to explore and arrive at an ideal outcome through negotiation. I wish I knew that learning to negotiate is not an inherent talent, but it's about accessing and receiving tools that build personal capability. I wish I knew more about owning 'yes's and 'no's and that 'yes' comes with responsibility and knowing your limits. I wish I knew that I might have to say 'no' to things in my career, too, and make choices, and that might come with experiencing loss.

Negotiation is agency. It's about gently stepping into my own power. I am still learning this. It takes time and it's based on life experiences, but I do wish I had the seeds for it when I was first starting out."

- Jasmeen Patheja, artist and activist

4. Find an advocate.

"I thought if I worked really, really hard and proved myself that I would be rewarded. That's not really how things work. It's usually who you know and who is advocating for you. In my experience, it's usually not a meritocracy.

People will push back and say, 'You've reached the height of your career as a deputy chief,' but I did it by jumping through way more hoops than way less qualified men did. I believe if my gender were different, I would've had a much easier time in my career. I'm advocating for women to become police officers, but I never want to lie to them. It will be difficult, but it's worth it because the more women that come into policing, we can change the culture."

- Ivonne Roman, police captain

5. Although you may look different from your peers, you have just as much value.

"I wish I had known how difficult this was going to be. Mine is a profession without many indigenous people. In Zimbabwe and in most countries in Africa, the conservation field - especially wildlife conservation - is predominantly white. You'll go to a meeting about lions or something like that, and you're the only black person there or there are just a few of you. Sometimes you just feel so alone. Whenever this happens, I always remind myself that the reason I am in the meeting is because I have an important role to play and I will do my best to contribute.

I would say to someone who is starting a career in whatever field and experiencing something similar that they should focus on why they are there and the bigger picture, not on how they look - including the color of their skin - relative to other people around them. It is crucial to focus on the similarities and the goal that brought you together, and not on the differences. We should always keep in mind the contributions we can make and the impact and difference we can bring. And, most importantly, we should never be afraid of speaking up."

- Moreangels Mbizah, lion conservationist

6. Look past your doubts.

"It's tempting to say a lot of things, but I know it's not true. If I knew how challenging it is, I wouldn't have started. In a way, it's better not

to know. I wish I knew I could lean on myself and my capabilities to grow and learn, to go beyond the doubts of myself and others, [to believe] that I can lead my own company.

The other day my company was meeting with these examiners for a grant that I was applying for. It was a four-hour presentation that I did for someone who has supported us for a few years. At the end, an examiner - in front of the entire team - doubted if I should be the CEO of the company. This is something that wouldn't have been said if I weren't a woman. It's important to support women like me and others in order to grow. Anything that can be done to support female-headed start-ups and help women succeed is really valuable."

- Adital Ela, sustainability designer

7. You need to come up with your own definition of success.

"It's hard for me to think of myself as a 'successful woman in the workplace.' But then I realize that's what I wish I knew: You define your success. There are no accomplishments that will satisfy you and make you feel like you've arrived.

I always strive for more, because that's how my brain is wired. You need to learn to look at what you have accomplished and perceive it as a success, even if you still feel the same impulse to do better and do more. The measure of your success is you. It's not the recognition you may get, a position you may hold, or how much money you might make."

- Federica Bianco, urban astrophysicist

8. Success will come and go, and that's OK.

"I wish I knew that success isn't a goal; it's more of a stage or a feeling. You become successful, then you don't. Then you do again. It's not permanent, and there's no shame in it fizzling away, then making a reappearance. In fact, that is the norm. My career did change, but what impacts my vision more is how much my understanding and awareness of the surrounding elements shapes how I perceive it."

- Eman Mohammed, photojournalist

9. It's not just the big leaps that count.

"I wish I knew about the power of small steps making big changes. Any ambitious goal is broken down into small steps, and sometimes you need to take the first step to see the next step. Sometimes you even need to take a step back - for example, taking a lesser paying job that will help you grow as a professional and have more opportunities."

- Olga Yurkova, journalist and editor

10. Dreams take their own time.

"Dreams fuelled by a desire to do good have a way of breaking through, like a seed bursting out and finding cracks in the concrete to reach the light. There are no deadlines to materialize dreams. They take their own time and shape, so relax and focus only on doing the deep work, nothing else.

Also, you cannot see the wider possibilities of your work yet. There is so much to discover. Do not limit yourself by having concrete goals. Enjoy the process of discovery."

- Anita Doron, filmmaker

11. You can always start a new journey.

"I started [working in film] so late. I was 26. It's a career that in developed countries, kids who were in elementary school, middle school, high school had more experience than a person like me [who grew up in China]. I didn't know how to use a camera when I was 26, and a 6-year-old or a 16-year-old was more tech savvy than me. For a while, I had a sense of not knowing if this was even possible to be a career. I wish I knew that it is possible.

If there's someone like me who is intimidated to pursue [a career like mine], I would tell them that it's not too late to start. My hope is to always remind myself that. If one day I don't want to do this anymore and I want to quit, that I'll have the courage to start something new again whether I'm 50 or 60 - to take a new journey if I find something else that I like."

- Nanfu Wang, documentary filmmaker

ShelterBox and Rotary work together in Malawi
Posted on July 17, 2019 by Jim Robinson, Humanitarian Diplomacy and Rotary Liaison at ShelterBox

At ShelterBox we are incredibly proud of our partnership with Rotary. As project partners in disaster relief since 2012, we have worked together since our inception in 2000. Around 90% of our responses

feature engagement with and support from Rotary members on the ground, right across the globe.

Rotarians, as People of Action, support our work providing shelter to those who most need it in many ways from raising awareness and funds, to the first-hand knowledge Rotarians have of the communities we look to support. Rotarians have supported ShelterBox responses with introductions, logistical assistance such as warehousing, transport and vital links to communities.

I want to tell the story of our partnership through the recent response to Cyclone Idai in Malawi. At the core of how ShelterBox operates is the principle of partnership – for an effective and timely response, it is crucial. Responding in Malawi was built on this principle.

Arriving in country, ShelterBox team members met with District 9210's Governor Hutch Mthinda in Lilongwe and alongside national level meetings with the Government Disaster Management Agency (DODMA) and Habitat for Humanity Malawi, began to develop both the relationships and strategy to best respond to the havoc wrought by Cyclone Idai in the southern districts of Malawi.

Transferring south to Blantyre, we received a warm welcome from the Rotary Club of Limbe. President Eric Chinkanda welcomed us as his guests and conversations began. After giving a short introduction to the larger club, our focus turned to an initial meeting with the Disaster Response Committee, charged with coordinating the Rotary members' response to Cyclone Idai in Malawi.



President Eric Chinkanda, RC Limbe (centre) with ShelterBox Response Team (Mick Dunn and Sonja Hughes)

One of the early objectives for ShelterBox teams is to understand what has happened and where, and who are the most affected communities. As we do this, we can begin to form a picture of where our assistance can be most effective and appropriate. Early conversations with partners enable each of us to understand priorities. With the Rotary Club of Limbe raising funds to carry out a food distribution, we explored ways to support them by connecting them with relevant government and humanitarian actors.

President Eric says,

"I was, as leader of our District Disaster Relief Team, supported by ShelterBox in their early contacts with DODMA, which provided us situation analysis and needs assessment reports. We were able to move forward speedily with the food aid. Between ShelterBox and Rotary, we worked together and agreed on which team had to handle specific assignments. We scored pretty good successes through this understanding of specialization."

In practice, this meant that we kept on talking, sharing information, contacts, experiences, challenges and successes. For ShelterBox, having trusted partners to help us understand the local context amid a fast-paced response environment is invaluable. What we learnt, we fed back to the Rotarians:

"I enjoyed the working relationships which ensued with the entire team from ShelterBox. I was kept informed of developments and progress which was being made by ShelterBox, which in turn shared with Governor Hutch and the District Disaster Relief Committee at my end." – Eric Chinkanda

Blantyre-based Rotarian Jason Blanchard joined the ShelterBox distributions, part of our efforts to help nearly 10,000 people by providing 1,996 households with emergency shelter and other essential items alongside training to the communities. Our initial community monitoring has shown these items are providing essential support as families move out of the emergency phase and continue towards recovery.



Throughout our response in Malawi, we also worked closely with Habitat for Humanity Malawi, World Food Program, Malawian Red Cross Society and local government. Coordination and collaboration were vital at every stage – from logistical considerations enabling aid to be brought into the country, to identification of communities requiring assistance, the distribution of shelter materials, understanding and evaluating the impact of our aid and the processes of delivery. Good channels of communication, built on integrity, enable us all to better serve those in need.



By developing the relationship between our organisations, we can continue to learn from one another and will be even better placed to work together again should the need arise. District Governor Hutch Mthinda captured this sentiment in comments to us,



"On behalf of District 9210, I would like to thank ShelterBox for coming to our rescue. We value your relief work during the Cyclone Disaster and we trust that you will continue to partner with us in future disaster response programs in our district." Hutch Mthinda
It would be our privilege to do so.

What's all the buzz about bees?

Posted on July 18, 2019 by Henrik Thiele, Rotaract Club of Paderborn, & president of the Rotaract Germany Committee



German Rotaractors build hotels for wild bees as part of the BeeAlive project

Recently, Rotaract clubs throughout Germany were looking for a signature project and decided to concentrate on the environment. After watching a Swiss documentary on bees, *"More than honey,"* one Rotaractor became passionate about focusing our attention on protecting these little superheroes. Did you know, for instance, that wild bees are responsible for pollinating more than 80 percent of our crops and wild plants? We can't survive without them.

Most of the dangers to bees are man-made. Climate change, monotonous agricultural landscapes, and pesticides are just a few of the many reasons why our little yellow friends are dying in ever-increasing numbers.

With the project *"BeeAlive"* German Rotaractors began to support wild bees by building bee hotels, educating people about the threat to the bee population, and sowing wildflower meadows. All German Rotaract clubs participated, starting with the most northern club of Flensburg, which visited a beekeeper with their sponsor Rotary club. The southern-most Rotaract club in Germany, Kempten Allgäu, planted a meadow of more than 32,000 sq feet for bees to pollinate. The Bundessozialaktion (BuSo) project, as it is called in German, is divided into three parts:

Inform

All the Rotaract clubs in Germany worked together to educate the population about bee mortality and the associated consequences for our environment, organizing theme days and informational events. We found many opportunities to cooperate with beekeepers' associations and nature conservation associations. Efforts ranged from the Rotaract Club of Berlin organizing an online presentation that was promoted across the country, by Dr. Kaspar Bienefeld, scientist and professor in the field of insects and bees at the Humboldt University, Berlin, to the Rotaract Club of Rheda Wiedenbrück holding a local fair.

Fundraising

Many of the projects are costly. Therefore, fundraising is an integral part of our efforts. The Rotaract Club of Duisburg-Niederrhein organized a Bee-Pong tournament, raising over \$1,000 and the Rotaract Club of Paderborn hosted a Pub Quiz on the topic of bees. Clubs also got creative by selling homemade products, from beeswax chapsticks by the Bad Wörishofen-Mindelheim Club to bee-hotels (Herne-Wanne Eickel). Many organizations do great work with our fundraising, like the NaBu; the German Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union, or the local beekeepers associations.

Hands-on

By building bee hotels and diversifying local beds, we make room for wildflowers and create a better environment for insects. Over 100,000

square feet of meadows were planted by clubs in District 1841 and by the Rotaract clubs of Lemgo-Lippe and AC Landshut-Trausnitz. In many of these, Rotaractors, Rotarians, family and friends joined.

Building a few thousand hotels, we were already able to surpass our goal of 500. The reason is simple. All you need for a hotel is a wooden frame for the outside, hardwood with holes drilled into it, and hollowed out bamboo for the inside. The best part is that you can put up a plaque reading *"Made by Rotary/Rotaract"* and you have the perfect ambassador for Rotary in your local community.

All in all, we hope to make the world a better place by raising awareness of this important issue and working to solve the problem in our local communities. But this is not an issue that can be solved locally. It is a global problem and we need to make a global impact.

Join us in our efforts. Post your actions under the hashtag #beealive and contact us at: soziales@rotaract.de

Birthdays of Rotary members in July 2019

Ranjan Kuthari on July 9, 2019

Dr Om Tantia on July 10, 2019

Pravat Krishna Rohatgi, past Governor on July 14, 2019

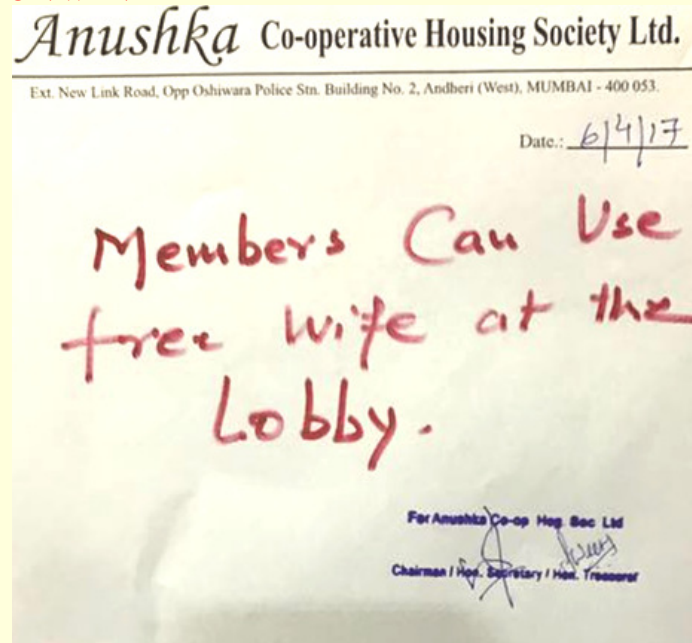
Amitava Mookerjee, past Governor on July 19, 2019

Anniversaries of Rotary members & spouses in July 2019

Spouse Rinki & Anirban Majum on July 3, 2019

Spouse Lakshmi & PP Siddhartha Tantia on July 3, 2019

UNWIND



TAILPIECE



"If your eyes are positive, you will love the world. But if your tongue is positive, the world will love you."