



Spectrum



RI District 3291

November 16, 2019

PRESIDENT □ DR SUDHA CHAUDHARY

CLUB NO □ 78956

Weekly bulletin of Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata

SECRETARY □ KUSUM CHAMARIA

CHARTERED ON □ APRIL 30, 2008

VOL 12A □ NO 20

EDITOR □ BL AJITSARIA

WEBSITE □ www.rcslmk.org

Adding environmental sustainability to global grants

Posted on November 13, 2019 by Karen D. Kendrick-Hands, Member of the Rotary Club of Madison, Wisconsin, USA and Director of Communications for the Environmental Sustainability Rotarian Action Group (ESRAG)



Rotarians volunteer at North Branch Channel Sculpture Garden in Evanston. Four Rotarians traveled across the U.S. on the Rollin' with Rotary tour to bring attention to local and international needs. Along the way, they performed random acts of kindness, highlighted Rotary projects and youth activities, and carried out large-scale community service projects. The tour made a stop at Rotary International World Headquarters to promote peace through street meditation, volunteer locally, and dance with community members in Evanston, Illinois, USA.

To be awakened by a morning bird song, enjoy a plastic-free shore, marvel at the migration of Monarch butterflies, be calmed by a forest grove, or quench my thirst with clean water: these simple pleasures are vital to me, necessary to sustain my community, and ensure our future. These are delights that a functioning ecosystem delivers with little thought on our part. These same priceless services are vulnerable to degrading by thoughtless overuse.

We must protect our environment if we are to preserve and extend these simple pleasures for future generations. As RI Past President Ian Riseley encouraged us, "Environmental sustainability ... is and should be everyone's concern." How we relate to our ecosystems should also be subject to the Four Way Test: "Is it fair to all concerned?" "Is it beneficial to all concerned?" Preserving ecosystems and their natural services should inform our 'Service above Self' as Rotarians.

The Environmental Sustainability Rotarian Action Group (ESRAG) is where Rotarians organize and influence project planning throughout Rotary to preserve and protect the environment. ESRAG's members understand that to achieve maximum LASTING progress with any project in any area of focus, environmental sustainability must be the lens through which the project is conceived and implemented.

Through a recent review and update of the six areas of focus, The Rotary Foundation has revised the areas of focus policy statements, effective July 1, 2019 that highlights how environmental components to be designed, implemented and funded through five of the six areas of focus, as indicated by the 'green leaf.'

The policy expands possibilities in the community economic development area. *Global grants may now be used to increase access to renewable energy and energy-efficiency measures to create more sustainable and economically resilient communities.* This creates new opportunities to address energy poverty with clean local energy sources. Global grant funding can empower communities to develop environmental and natural resource conservation skills for economic gain. This approach underscores that 'going green' is an economic engine that creates jobs. Grant can be used to strengthen communities' economic resilience and adaptive capacity in response to environmental and climate-related hazards and natural disasters. Rotarians' global grant applications can now include projects that mitigate, adapt and respond to the climate crisis.

Global grants for peace-building and conflict resolution can be used to address conflicts arising from the management of natural resources, which have become challenging in the face of the climate crisis and a growing human population.

In the area of disease prevention and treatment, projects to prevent and control vector-borne diseases are important. With a warming planet, mosquitoes that carry malaria, yellow fever, dengue and zika are expanding their ranges, breeding faster and have lower levels of seasonal die-off. Swings in precipitation patterns, whether causing flooding from heavy rains, or, ironically, drought, (people respond by storing water in open containers) create more standing water in which mosquitoes easily breed.

While a global grant may fund reducing environmental hazards and improving medical waste management for both disease prevention and treatment and maternal and child health projects, they cannot be used to fund clean cook-stoves or solar panel-only projects. Solar panels as part of a larger, more holistic project in any area of focus could be eligible.

In the water sanitation & hygiene area of focus, the Foundation continues to fund projects that empower governments, institutions, and communities to manage their water, sanitation, and hygiene services through measurable, environmentally sound and sustainable interventions. Rotarians are encouraged to continue developing and scaling projects that address entire watersheds that protect surface and ground water, reduce pollution and contaminants, and promote wastewater reuse. Projects that protect water sources and improve water quality are supported through the **WASH Area of Focus**.

Although the new policy does not yet connect environmental projects in the basic education and literacy area, you can still

implement these kinds of projects through other funding sources such as district grants. Environmental science and stewardship topics are great vehicles for building literacy and educating future generations about taking care of our planet.

We encourage you to always start with a community assessment with beneficiaries. If concerns regarding the environment arise in those assessments, conduct an environmental assessment as well, especially for WASH and water resource management activities.

The new areas of focus policies create opportunities to increase the environmental sustainability of our humanitarian projects. We in ESRAAG celebrate this important first step to restoring the importance of environmental sustainability throughout Rotary. If you need help making your project more environmentally sustainable, just ask! Engage with us by visiting esrag.org, subscribing to our newsletter, and joining.

As climate and disaster threats rise, let's double down on resilient infrastructure

By Sameh Wahba & Mami Mizutori on November 08, 2019



*A primary school in Hanoi, Vietnam
Photo credit: Quang Vu / Shutterstock*

From tsunamis in Asia and earthquakes in Latin America, to hurricanes in the Caribbean and cyclones in Africa, disasters caused by natural hazards claimed some 1.3 million lives between 1998 and 2017, and wreaked untold havoc on livelihoods and infrastructure worldwide.

We see no sign of the risk posed by natural hazards decreasing, particularly having witnessed the devastating impact of Cyclone **IDAI** on families and communities in Africa earlier this year. What's worse, climate change is making storms, floods, droughts, and heat waves even more frequent, damaging, and deadly.

Disasters can erase decades of hard-won development gains in a matter of seconds, with a painful and costly impact that can last for years, and even generations to come. Today, around 90% of urban expansion in developing countries takes place near hazard-prone areas. Without urgent action, climate change and disasters may cost cities worldwide \$314 billion each year and push up to 77 million urban residents into poverty.

When disaster strikes, we are all at risk; but it is usually the poor that get hit the hardest. Research shows that the impacts of disasters and climate change are more than twice as significant for poor households, because they tend to live in the most vulnerable areas, often with weak housing standards. Over the next 15 years, and in the absence of adequate investment in housing and slum upgrading, we can expect to see the number of people living in substandard housing more than double.

In an era of worsening climate and disaster risks, countries and cities have no choice but to plan better and invest more in resilient infrastructure – homes, schools, and roads – to meet urbanization challenges and sustain economic growth.

In fact, it pays to make our homes safer and our schools more resilient. Recent research suggests that investing in resilient

infrastructure can provide a net benefit of \$4.2 trillion in low and middle-income countries, with \$4 in benefit for each \$1 invested. Such investments can then improve essential services – such as transport, or water and electricity supply – and contribute to more resilient and prosperous societies.

Resilient infrastructure saves lives. In October 2019, the World Bank's Global Program for Safer Schools (GPSS) launched its Global Library of School Infrastructure (GLOSI) and the updated Roadmap for Safer and Resilient Schools with the support of the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR). These tools will help policymakers and school communities better understand and prepare for the natural hazards that put them at risk.

Just like families living in unsafe homes, children and youth studying in poor quality school buildings are also vulnerable to climate and disaster impact. Disasters damage or destroy school infrastructure, harming or even killing students, teachers, and other members of the school community. In Ecuador, for example, the 2016 earthquake damaged almost 1,000 schools and left more than 120,000 children temporarily without education. In Mozambique, 4,000 classrooms were destroyed by cyclones this past year. These disasters also have a devastating effect on children's education and learning environments.

That's why the World Bank and the *United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)* are both committed to helping cities and communities mobilize global resources and take local actions to build climate-smart, disaster-resilient infrastructure.

Cities can only be as resilient as their infrastructure, which is why UNDRR, together with the Government of India co-developed the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. Launched by Prime Minister Modi at the UN Climate Action Summit in September, CDRI will support countries to risk-proof investment plans by providing technical input, exchanging best practice, and capacity building.

UNDRR is also committed to leading action in this area through the Making Cities Resilient Campaign, which more than 4,200 cities have joined over the past 10 years. In consultation with partners, and in response to a clear request from the cities with which the campaign has worked, a new campaign will launch in 2020, supporting cities to reduce disaster and climate risk through improved technical support and enhanced capacity for raising finances to implement change.

Similarly, as the World Bank continues to build back better to reduce annual disaster-related losses, its Global Program for Resilient Housing is stepping up efforts to help countries, cities, and communities build better before the next disaster by making homes safer and more resilient to natural hazards. For example:

- In Guatemala, a rapid, low-cost, and AI-enabled assessment approach – combining drones and car-mounted camera imagery – helped identify and map a significant share of the buildings at risk of collapse in an earthquake. In Saint Lucia, the same approach was used to assess rooftop damage risks from a Category-5 hurricane.
- In Indonesia, the government is making resilience a central part of their home improvement subsidy program, one of the largest in the world.
- In Mexico, the authorities are upgrading their housing programs to make them more inclusive and resilient.
- In Peru, automated property valuations and vulnerability assessments have been conducted to support municipalities.

We meet 2nd and 4th Saturdays at GPT Group, JC 25, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700098 at 6.00 PM

Printed by Dr Sudha Chaudhary, President, Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata • Editor: BL Ajitsaria

For private circulation only • Web site: www.rcslmk.org

Investing in safe and resilient infrastructure – including homes and schools – saves lives, protects livelihoods, and safeguards development. As we just marked International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction and World Cities Day last month, let's double down on our resolve and scale up our action to make the future of our cities and communities more inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable for all.

Authors



Sameh Wahba: Global Director, Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience and Land Global Practice



Mami Mizutori: Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction

The reasons I ride for polio eradication

Posted on November 14, 2019 by Masa Kato

Masa Kato is a global communications specialist at Rotary International. He is one of six Rotary staff members who will join Rotary General Secretary John Hewko in biking El Tour de Tucson in Arizona 23 November to raise money for polio eradication.



The Asia Team supports Masa Kato, third from right, who is part of the Miles to End Polio team.

The six staff members who will be riding in El Tour de Tucson later this month all have different personal reasons for being part of the Miles to End Polio Team. But we all have one thing in common, a desire to help Rotary's effort to eradicate polio. My main objective in riding is likewise to support our top priority of ridding the world of this disease. But I have two other personal reasons.

I have seen the rise of peer-to-peer, or P2P for short, fundraising in North America. There is great potential for supporting good through this platform where individuals can use their personal connections to get others to give to a great cause. But sadly, P2P has not been growing as strongly in Japan, my native country, where the idea of collectivism is entrenched. I feel there is pressure that works against individual activism, as our culture has this strong tradition of collective action.



Masa Kato on a recent training ride

I feel there is a pressure that works against individualism, in the sense of the old saying "a nail that sticks out will be hammered down."

I am hoping my ride draws attention to P2P in Japan and throughout Asia. The amount I will raise for polio eradication through my ride isn't tremendous. But if I can get more Rotary members in Asia to practice peer-to-peer fundraising, we could do some tremendous good for worthy projects. That would be worth celebrating with two barrels of sake!

My second reason relates to my six-year-old son, who is hearing impaired in one ear. I am riding to show my son that there are people and friends who are always there to support people with disabilities. So far, my son has not experienced any learning deficiencies due to his hearing and he is very active in school. But it never takes much to trigger bullying. And I have concerns how kids will react when my son can't respond to things they say. I think knowing that people are willing to support a cause like Miles to End Polio, where we are taking a stand to prevent future children from being crippled by this disease, will show him that there are people in this world who truly care for others.

Artists unite to help The Bahamas rebuild

Posted on Nov 12, 2019 by Julien Believe, singer, songwriter, entertainer, and member of the Rotary Club of East Nassau



Julien Believe, singer, songwriter and Rotarian, performs at the Rotary International Convention in Hamburg. Julien is collaborating with other artists and Past RI President Barry Rassin on recovery efforts in The Bahamas.

Three years ago, I penned "I Believe in You," along with my amazing team, with one purpose in mind – to inspire and motivate. It is a timeless song for anyone that needs a moral boost or just a little nudge to say, "you matter." After the devastation of Hurricane Dorian in both Abaco and Grand Bahama, it was only fitting that I release, "I Believe in You" with a few tweaks.



Julien Believe

My fellow country mates needed help but most importantly they needed HOPE. This song is designed to create a sense of hope, strength and assurance in knowing that we, as a nation, will live up to being strong.

My team and I got on the phone with some of the Caribbean's top artists and created the "We Are the World" of the Caribbean. "I Believe in You" represents solidarity and unity amongst each artist and their willingness to band together to

help a brother or sister in need. This song declares not only love of country but the Caribbean at large. Almost every island has experienced the powerful force of mother nature and witnessed firsthand the sheer destruction of natural disasters, but we haven't seen anything of this magnitude in a while, if ever.

Some lost their homes, their loved ones and some lost their lives. Spirits were broken. I did what I do best – I used my voice to spread love, hope and belief in the fact that “this too shall pass.” I sang words that I knew would help ease the blow, if only for a minute. Music has a way of getting you through, a way of hugging you when arms just won't do, a way of capturing the essence of your emotion when words cannot.

“I Believe in You” drives awareness to the devastation and tugs at your heart for a call for action to help, assist and give to those in need. Many organizations, including Rotary clubs, donated their time, efforts, money, and energy. I figured I must do my part to spread love, hope and inspiration through my voice. This song is a tribute to the resilience of the Caribbean Spirit in the face of insurmountable odds.

I stand hand in hand, side by side, with my brothers and sisters affected by this storm directly or indirectly and I'm asking my fellow Rotarians to do the same. I'm also grateful for Aliv, which has been a major contributor to this effort by donating time, effort, and energy to ensure the Bahamian people understand we are all supporting them. I pray that this song touches the heart and soul of each person. I hope that my message is heard around the world to drive awareness not only to the devastation of Hurricane Dorian but that the lyrics to “I Believe in You” touches anyone going through anything they feel is too hard to bear.



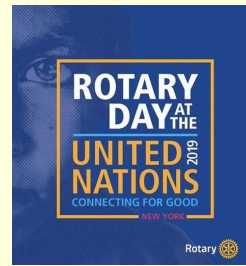
Download or play the song on your preferred music service (iTunes Store, Apple Music, Spotify, Amazon music) or watch the video on Facebook. Follow Julien Believe on Instagram and Facebook. Support disaster recovery and rebuilding efforts in the Bahamas and elsewhere through the Rotary Disaster Response Fund.

Rotary Day at the United Nations 2019 celebrated



By Jason Gonzalez, External Engagement Manager at UNICEF Office of Innovation
Absolutely honored, humbled and proud to have experienced RotaryUNDay that come to life with 25 speakers

At 52% F and a 500-person audience from 23 countries helped reached millions this past weekend to inspire action for refugees.



As lead organizer, this conference was an especially unique opportunity to bridge my two worlds over the last 6 months. It wouldn't have been possible without support from Rotary staff or the endless volunteer hours from our team of Rotary Representatives to the UN in NY— especially from Wayne Charles II, Bharat Jalan and Sylvester Weise.

A sincere appreciation goes to our speakers from organizations doing work for refugees. Our audience was captivated by a number of talented Rotary Peace Fellows, Rotarians, Rotary honorees and representatives from United Nations, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and my colleagues at UNICEF and UNICEF Innovation. Simply remarkable.



Anniversary of Rotary members in November

Spouse Sudata & PDG Anjan Kumar on November 17, 2019
Sp Jaya & PDG Angsuman on November 18, 2019
Spouse Sapna & Sanjay Agarwal on November 19, 2019
Archana & Mukesh Goyal on November 21, 2019
Dr Om & Aruna Tantia on November 27, 2019
Spouse Sushila & Indra Kumar Bagri on November 30, 2019

November is Rotary Foundation month

UNWINDS

Jack Daniels Fishing Story

I went fishing this morning, but after a short time I ran out of worms.

Then I saw a snake with a frog in its mouth. Frogs are good bass bait.

Knowing the snake could not bite me with the frog in its mouth, I grabbed it right behind the head, took the frog, and put it in my bait bucket.

Now the dilemma was how to release the snake without getting bit. So I grabbed my bottle of Jack Daniels and poured a little whiskey in its mouth. It's eyes rolled back and it went limp.

I released the snake into the lake without incident and carried on fishing, using the frog.

Not long later, I felt a nudge on my foot. It was the damn snake with two more frogs.

TAILPIECE

“It is difficult to win an argument with a smart boss; but it is damn impossible to win an argument with a stupid boss !”

