



RI District 3291

December 14, 2019

PRESIDENT DR SUDHA CHAUDHARY

CLUB NO 78956

Spectrum

Weekly bulletin of Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata

SECRETARY KUSUM CHAMARIA

CHARTERED ON APRIL 30, 2008



VOL 12A NO 24

EDITOR BL AJITSARIA

WEBSITE www.rcslmk.org

Connect with partners in Bolivia

Posted on December 10, 2019 by Livio Cesar Zozzoli, District 4690 Grants Subcommittee Chair, and member of the Rotary Club of Grigota, Bolivia



Salar de Uyuni - Isla Incahuasi

We invite you to attend our project fair in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 14-15 February 2020. Through this fair, we aim to connect Rotary clubs throughout our region to international partners, promote fellowship and collaboration on sustainable humanitarian projects.



Samaipata - El Fuerte

At the fair, clubs from our region will showcase their projects, and we invite you to find a project that best fits your club's goals. Over the course of the two days, you will have the opportunity to get to know local Rotary members and discuss your interests, concerns, and ideas with them.



Samaipata - Cuevas Waterfall

By facilitating connections between Rotary districts to implement projects, we can **Connect the World** and increase our participation in humanitarian service and global grants. We can make full use of District Designated Funds to directly benefit our communities.



Samaipata - Giant Fern Forest

Santa Cruz de la Sierra is an enclave in the Bolivian Amazon that is 416 meters above sea level. This offers you a number of natural landscapes typical of the tropical area, a green paradise that can be enjoyed during your stay and above all, exquisite hospitality from the locals of this beautiful city.



Salar de Uyuni - Potosi

We also invite you to visit the Uyuni salt flats, the largest continuous and highest salt desert in the world. Every year thousands of tourists come to Uyuni to discover the fantastic salt desert. The Fort of Samaipata, a site considered the largest carved stone in the world, declared Cultural Patrimony of Humanity by UNESCO is an important nearby tourist destination in Bolivia.

This rocky platform is 200 meters long and 60 meters wide, has a rich landscape in nature and is conducive to guided walking.



Salar de Uyuni - Desert of Siloli

*Find more information and register for the fair online.
Did you know? District grants can be used to support travel to and participation in Rotary project fairs to help districts identify project partners. It is up to the district whether they permit District Designated Funds (DDF) to be used to this end.*

Restoring an Andean watershed

Posted on December 12, 2019 by Ariel Miller, member of the Rotary Club of Cincinnati, USA and member of the Environmental Sustainability Rotarian Action Group



Rotarians in Ecuador are planting trees while raising new awareness of how to restore a ravaged watershed in the foothills of the Andes. They've united in a global grant project that combines reforestation with teaching residents what they can do to improve the safety and sufficiency of their water supply.

Called "Sustainable Management of the Micro-Watershed of the Naranjos River in the Buenaventura Reserve," the project was launched by Past President Fressia Abad de Serrano of the Machala Moderno Rotary Club.

Fressia, an engineer, organic farmer, and PDG of District 4400, saw an opportunity to combine Rotary's strengths with the expertise of the Fundación Jocotoco, a local environmental nonprofit which manages a forest preserve in the watershed. She pitched the project during a 2017 Rotary Project Fair in Ecuador and won over Pedro Cevallos-Candau, an Ecuadoran engineer who is also a Past District 6450 Governor and member of the Rotary Club of Chicago ("Rotary One").

By teaming up, they hoped to demonstrate how Rotarians can help reverse decades of environmental degradation resulting from deforestation, thereby improving the lives and livelihood of the communities who depend on the land and the river.

The project concept included Jocotoco planting 30,000 trees of native species on 100 acres of deforested land on the upper watershed of the Naranjos River. Here's how the Rotarians pitched this reforestation project under the water, sanitation and hygiene area of focus: the loss of trees contributes to lower rainfall, soil erosion, and sedimentation, with unsustainable farming practices endangering springs and streams in the

watershed. Runoff from pig and poultry farms on the cleared land pollutes the river. The water shortage and toxic runoff harms 90,000 people downstream who depend on the Naranjos River for irrigation and drinking water.

Rotary staff urged the host club to ensure that the key stakeholders – from the provincial government to local farmers – understood the changes they needed to make in their own practices to improve the water quality and supply.

"Rotary's done other watershed management projects, particularly in India," says Susan Doxtator, the Rotary Regional Grants Officer for Ecuador. "Most of these involve check dams and flood control. This one, based on reforestation, was different. It's a great idea, but coming up with a solution is complicated."

"We urged the project team to make sure they developed a structure to ensure it worked," she adds. "Some key questions included: what is the watershed management plan in the region? Will it dovetail with what the project is trying to achieve? What educational activities can you carry out with the key stakeholders – especially those involved in agriculture and economic development? Is the local government providing any incentives to farmers to keep riverbanks forested, protect springs, and to reduce turbidity and runoff?"

Fressia's team held extensive consultations with the provincial government, the regional water authority, and community residents. As a result, public officials, Rotarians, and Jocotoco staff are teaming up to provide eight community workshops for stakeholders including farmers, developers, and residents of the communities within the watershed. Topics include water quality for irrigation and human consumption, water management for agricultural development, soil conservation, and treating wastewater from pig farming.

A top environmental official of the provincial government and staff of Fundación Jocotoco have committed to work with the Machala Moderno Rotarians to continue the work after the end of the three-year global grant. Jocotoco is providing almost 40% of the project funding.

Asked what advice he'd give to other clubs trying to combine trees with water, "Start with a good hydrologic study up front," says Pedro Cevallos-Candau. "That was the biggest impediment to our getting the project approved."

The outcomes to be measured are the number of trees and the water quality of the river. The key to success is to look at the big picture: going beyond trees to find out how the whole system – land, water, and humans – can better interact to build a sustainable future.

This story was original featured in the Environmental Sustainability Rotarian Action Group's newsletter and website. Learn more about the group and how they work with Rotary members.

Why Toastmasters benefits Rotary clubs

Posted on December 9, 2019 by Terry Beard, Rotary Club of Portland, Oregon, USA



Terry Beard

You may have heard that most people would rather die than give a speech. Public speaking is the number one fear for many people.

I too had a fear of public speaking. It was so bad; I would break out in a sweat. I'd leave the room. I'd find excuses, or ask someone to stand up and speak for me.



Portland Rotary members at a Toastmasters meeting

I always tried to find anything to avoid having to speak in public. A couple of bad experiences early in my life built up this fear, but I made it my goal to overcome it. Fifteen years ago at the age of 50, I was introduced to Toastmasters by a good friend, and I've been a member since.

As a Rotary member, I've been committed to Service Above Self for more than 20 years. I now believe one of the best acts of service we can do is to help people find their voice.

Four years ago, a group of Rotary members and I started a Toastmasters club to do just that. We wanted to create a "safe harbor" where people could improve their speaking skills, in the spirit of friendship and fellowship. As a charter member, I was privileged to give the first speech, which established this shared value as the cornerstone of our club.

Our Rotary club has over 250 members and our Toastmasters club has around 40. While most of the Toastmasters members are also members of our Rotary club, we are also open to non-Rotarians. Those who are in both clubs find added value in Toastmasters.

In Toastmasters, we learn how to feel comfortable in front of an audience, sharing knowledge, experiences, and values. This is not only fun for the audience, but it's healing and even cleansing for us to share our stories. While it can initially be hard to open up and be vulnerable in front of peers, as we do so, it helps us understand and relate to each other.

When we are members of the audience listening to others speak, we also benefit. We sometimes identify with the way the speaker feels, or the thoughts they have shared, producing empathy, trust, and a sense of community. These all lead to peace.

As we learn and develop different speaking techniques, this benefits all areas of life, helping restore an art that is being lost in this day and age of communicating online.

Toastmasters can benefit a Rotary club in a number of ways:

1. It can improve the quality of your weekly programs by creating a pool of people who can deliver a better talk. Often clubs invite someone to give a program because of their topic, regardless of their skills as a speaker. Imagine having a built in means of training people to deliver better programs.
2. It can enhance your leadership training. One of our members joined when he was selected as president-elect of his alumni advisory council. He knew he would have several speaking engagements and joined Toastmasters to practice. Toastmasters also learn skills in running meetings.
3. It can teach your members how to better share their Rotary story with the public. We have developed some great storytellers, and Rotarians have amazing stories to tell.
4. It can introduce people to Rotary and show them why they should join. Often, when non-Rotarians join our Toastmasters club, they inevitably hear about Rotary and end up joining.

We started our Toastmasters club to help members develop their voice and grow in their leadership skills. But we got so much more than we anticipated. A huge benefit is getting to know

people on a deeper level. The experiences people have shared in our Toastmasters meetings have built deeper, longer-lasting relationships. There is a sense of community and connection that goes beyond anything you can get just by sitting at a table and having lunch.

It brings tears to my eyes to be a part of this great community. The combination of Rotary and Toastmasters allows for big dreams to come true. As we build our communication and leadership skills, we become better equipped to tackle the world's problems.

How we created five new clubs in under a year

Posted on December 11, 2019 by Vikash Shah, Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam Oyster Bay, Tanzania



Vikash Shah with Sharmila Bhatt, 2018-19 governor of District 9211, at a club event

My year as Rotary club president was approaching, and I knew I had to do something substantial to leave my mark. I had participated in a district team training seminar by our district governor, Sharmila Bhatt, and was inspired by her vision for growing Rotary. For many years, the growth in District 9211 (Tanzania and Uganda) had come mostly from Uganda. But she saw potential in the "sleeping giant" of Tanzania. It was then that I conceived the bold idea to form not just one, but five new clubs during my year as president.

My fellow club members thought I was crazy. But Dar is a big city and I said "why not?" They were willing to accept my idea. So we set out to reach people who had not yet heard about Rotary.

Finding the right vibe

My first concern was finding members who had the energy I wanted to see. "Who had the vibe to join my tribe." I knew they needed to buy into this crazy idea and yet we also had to keep it simple and cost effective. So we set about establishing an evening meeting time between 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. so that people could come for drinks but wouldn't have to spend a lot of money on anything else.

Teamwork

The task was now to identify a core team who could assist me in forming all these new clubs. We got the approval of our district governor, and we began our journey in August 2018.

With the Dar es Salaam Sunset Club, member Thomas offered his premises for our meetings. It is a brilliant structure with a great presentation and attracted many people. He invited everyone in his contact list and we had more than 30 people at our first meeting. Thereafter, we drew in even more guests, and chartered with 43 members, making us the second largest club in Tanzania.

Our Mbezi Beach Club is made up of prominent and respected families in Tanzania, a large extended family that is all related in one way or another. After trying two different venues, we finally landed on a more permanent place.

Slow starts for number three

With Dar es Salaam City, we were so encouraged when we had more than 20 guests at our first meeting. But we did not know what was ahead. At the second meeting, two members and I

waited for someone else to walk through the door. We were about to leave when one person finally showed up. But when you have set your mind to something and are determined, nothing stops you. We carried on, and after struggling through four venue changes, found a better permanent place.

At each meeting, we talked about different aspects of Rotary. While the clubs were still in their provisional status, we charged each club with undertaking a service project to keep members engaged and motivated. On 19 January, the first three clubs, Dar City, Sunset, and Mbezi Beach, were chartered with a total of 83 members.

Twins

Two more clubs, our twins, were born on 25 June; the Rotary Club of Peninsula made up of Rotaractors who were joining Rotary, and the first E-Club in our district, bringing in 52 more members.

We are committed to mentoring all these clubs for at least the next year to make sure they continue to grow and become more active.

So my crazy vision of five new clubs brought Rotary almost 130 members in a period of five months. And very importantly, all these members are contributing \$100 a year to the Rotary Foundation to make their clubs an Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY) club.

I learned these lessons: Attract new members, encourage giving to the Foundation through EREY, and make your costs affordable. Then you will be on a roll. Let's use this formula everywhere to extend our membership. Be Inspirational and Connect the World.

Global Community Renews Commitment to the World's Poorest Countries with \$82 Billion

Focus on jobs, gender, fragility, climate, and good governance



Stockholm, December 13, 2019 - A global coalition of development partners announced today their commitment to maintain momentum in the fight against extreme poverty, with \$82 billion for the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's fund for the poorest. The financing, which includes more than \$53 billion for Africa, will help countries invest in the needs of their people, boost economic growth, and bolster resilience to climate shocks and natural disasters.

"Today's commitment by our partners is a strong sign of their support for the urgent mission to end extreme poverty and promote shared prosperity in the poorest and most vulnerable countries," said World Bank Group President David Malpass. "We are grateful for their continued trust in IDA and its ability to deliver good development outcomes for people most in need."

Two thirds of the world's poor, almost 500 million people, now live in countries supported by IDA. The funding will allow IDA to reinforce its support to job creation and economic transformation, good governance, and responsible institutions. It will also help countries deal with the challenges posed by climate change, gender inequality, and situations of fragility, conflict, and violence, including in the Sahel, the Lake Chad region, and the Horn of Africa.

IDA will renew its support to facilitate growth and regional integration, including investments in quality infrastructure. The

IDA Private Sector Window will continue enabling the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) to mobilize private sector investment in challenging environments, a critical component to meet the scale of financing needed in developing countries.

IDA's resources are replenished every three years; this 19th replenishment will cover the period from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2023. The new funding will support projects that deliver life-changing results, including:

- *Essential health, nutrition, and population services for up to 370 million people;*
- *Safe childbirth for up to 80 million women through provision of skilled health personnel;*
- *Enhanced access to broadband internet for 50 to 60 million people;*
- *Immunizations for up to 140 million children;*
- *Better governance in up to 60 countries through improved statistical capacity;*
- *An additional 10 GW of renewable energy generation capacity.*

To promote greater equity and economic growth, IDA will also tackle broader development challenges, such as enhancing debt sustainability and transparency; harnessing and adapting to transformative digital payment technology; promoting inclusion of those living with disabilities; strengthening the rule of law; and investing in human capital, including efforts to achieve universal health coverage.

Along with these priority areas, IDA will sharpen its focus on crisis preparedness, resilience building, and supporting countries in their national climate-related action plans.

The successful replenishment of IDA has been supported by contributions from 52 governments; additional countries are expected to pledge in the near term. It is also supported by repayments of outstanding IDA loans, contributions from the World Bank, and financing raised from the capital markets. This unique financial model enables IDA to achieve greater development impact than any other organization.

The International Development Association (IDA) is one of the largest sources of funding for fighting extreme poverty in the world's poorest countries. IDA provides zero- or low-interest loans and grants to countries for projects and programs that boost economic growth, build resilience, and improve the lives of poor people around the world. Since 1960, IDA has provided more than \$391 billion for investments in 113 countries. As an institution of the World Bank Group, IDA combines global expertise with an exclusive focus on reducing poverty and boosting prosperity in the world's poorest countries.

Birthdays of Rotary members in December, 2019

Anirban Majumder on December 1, 2019

PP Dr Ankush Bansal on December 6, 2019

PP Siddharth Tantia on December 12, 2019

Dr Saktirupa Chakraborty on December 16, 2019

Past Governor Brojo Gopal Kundu on December 17, 2019

Past Governor Anjan Kumar on December 24, 2019

Anniversary of Rotary members in December 2019

Sp Shashi & PDG Rajendra Khandelwal on December 2, 2019

Sp Maya & PDG Subimal Bhattacharya on December 11, 2019

Sp Ranjana and PDG Jhulan Basu on December 14, 2019

December is Disease Prevention & Treatment month

UNWIND

Work fascinates me. I can look at it for hours!

TAILPIECE

Cleaning your house while your kids are still growing up is like shoveling the sidewalk before it stops snowing.

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

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