

# THAILAND Rotary

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English issue



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Rotary 



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## ROTARIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

As a Rotarian, I will:

- 1) Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life
- 2) Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect
- 3) Use my professional skills through Rotary to mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world
- 4) Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians
- 5) Help maintain a harassment-free environment in Rotary meetings, events, and activities; report any suspected harassment; and help ensure non-retaliation to those individuals that report harassment



## RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

R. Gordon R. McNally, July 2023



### My call to action

Even as we face new and serious challenges, Rotary takes care of its members and those we serve, works to build lasting peace, and embeds belonging and inclusion in everything we do. That is why I am asking everyone in Rotary to Create Hope in the World.

This year, we're prioritizing projects to support mental health. This effort is deeply personal to me. I know what it's like to see someone suffer in silence. I have also witnessed the power of personal connections, the value of discussing emotional and mental well-being, and the lifesaving impact of preventive care and treatment.

Research shows that performing acts of kindness is an effective step any of us can take to protect our well-being. And by building peace within, we become more capable of bringing peace to the world.

Building peace is the essence of Rotary. Many of our service projects foster the conditions for Positive Peace. We work tirelessly to overcome barriers and create new connections. This year, we'll promote virtual international exchanges for members to strengthen those vital connections.

Peace isn't a dream, and it's not passive. It's the result of working hard, earning trust, and having open conversations that may be difficult. Peace must be waged persistently — and bravely. Everything we do across our

areas of focus has the potential to foster the hope that can make peace possible.

The spirit of connection and purpose should inspire every Rotary member. When club leaders focus on offering an excellent club experience, we retain more members and attract more prospective members. We must make our clubs as welcoming and as engaging as we can.

Our goal is to create a sense of belonging, from our club meetings to our service activities. We need to continue creating inclusive, welcoming environments where everyone can be their authentic selves. All people of action need to be able to imagine a place for themselves in Rotary — it's up to us to ensure they can do so.

Over the next year, I will be putting a focus on continuing our journey in diversity, equity, and inclusion — ensuring that Rotary reflects the communities we serve and continues to take significant steps toward accessing the full range of human talents and experiences, so that we can better serve humanity. And we will continue to empower women and girls by helping them unlock the potential already within them.

As we begin this journey together, I take inspiration from Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns, who in the 18th century spoke of all the world becoming kin, promoting "sense and worth, over all the earth." This has long been my call to action, and I share it now with you.

Let us build peace within and spread it freely. Let us create belonging and imagine the future of Rotary afresh. Let us work together joyously and *Create Hope in the World*.

R. GORDON R. MCINALLY  
*President, Rotary International*



## RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

R. Gordon R. McNally, August 2023



### In the spirit of caring

**A**t the 2023 Rotary International Convention in Melbourne, I asked all Rotary members to become champions in our effort to illuminate mental health needs near and far. This includes helping one another feel more supported, advocating for mental health services, and building bridges with experts in the field to expand access to treatment.

It's an important task and a big ask. But it's also something that should feel familiar to every Rotary member — because everything we do is in the spirit of caring, giving, friendship, and compassion, and has been from the beginning of our organization.

We've grown into an amazing global network of 1.4 million interconnected community leaders — leaders who share a deep commitment to doing good in the world. But what makes Rotary powerful isn't just what we do for the communities we serve. We also support and empower each other, by creating a safe space for our members to bring their whole, authentic selves. We show each other comfort and care.

These connections are deeply meaningful. The U.S. surgeon general recently declared loneliness a public health epidemic. Dr. Vivek Murthy said, "We must prioritize building social connection the same way we have prioritized other critical public health issues such as tobacco, obesity, and substance use disorders." I am proud of what Rotary has done across generations to build those kinds of social connections — and this magazine focused

on loneliness and what Rotary can do about it in its January 2023 issue.

Our worldwide community and our foundational value prioritizing Service Above Self makes Rotary a powerful global advocate for mental health. A recently published study by Ohio State University found performing acts of kindness was the only one of three mental health interventions tested that helped people feel more connected to others. Study co-author David Cregg said, "Performing acts of kindness seems to be one of the best ways to promote those connections."

This research suggests support for what we've known all along — that doing good helps transform not just the communities we serve, but it also transforms us. As we put a greater focus on mental health, let's not think of this effort as something new to Rotary, but rather as something we can do better and as a result have a greater impact on ourselves and the people we serve.

We are not starting this effort from scratch. The Rotary Action Group on Mental Health Initiatives has been focused on these kinds of issues for several years — and we will be looking to members of that group for leadership as we continue to build awareness.

Mental health care fits comfortably within several of our areas of focus. As of May, there are 41 global grant-supported projects with a mental health focus. Many of them have tremendous promise, and we will be highlighting them in the months ahead.

So let's work together to erase the stigma associated with emotional well-being, raise awareness of mental health needs, and improve access to preventive and interventional mental health services.

Together, we will *Create Hope in the World*.

**R. GORDON R. MCINALLY**  
*President, Rotary International*



## RI TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Barry Rassin, July 2023

### Audacious goals

I love Rotary for many reasons, perhaps most of all for the impact we make when we work together. There is really no other group like us.

In the last five years, The Rotary Foundation has helped 100 million beneficiaries. That is staggering.

But the need is great. There are countless more we could be reaching and supporting right now if we had the resources. We could reach twice as many in the next five years. And your fellow Rotaractors and Rotarians are ready to help. They're hungry for more grants to help more people who need us.

That's why, this year, The Rotary Foundation Trustees have set an ambitious goal for giving of \$500 million, our highest ever.

This breaks down to \$150 million for the Annual Fund to help fund grants and \$50 million for polio eradication, to be matched by \$100 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. For the Endowment Fund and our future, we are targeting \$60 million in outright giving and \$80 million in commitments, totaling \$140 million. And we want to collect \$60 million in other contributions, such as direct giving, cash for global grants, and Disaster Response Fund donations.

To make this happen, we need all of you — each and every Rotarian and Rotaractor.

Did you know that over 80 percent of Rotary members make no contributions to PolioPlus, or that over 60 percent make no donation at all to The Rotary Foundation? For an organization of 1.4 million members,



that means that nearly 1 million of us are not contributing each year.

Just imagine the tremendous difference it would make if each of those 1 million could contribute just \$25 a year. That would be \$25 million we wouldn't need to raise from our best donors.

We can all give something. That's why I am asking each of you to set a goal to give what you can to The Rotary Foundation this year.

Never have we set such an audacious goal, but I believe that you, who make up Rotary, always respond to a challenge, especially when you see the difference we can make with those funds. We are part of an audacious organization, one that dreams big and makes our dreams a reality.

Let's think bigger and differently this year, so we can meet our goal and do more to Create Hope in the World. In this way, we will make the Rotary year ahead an unforgettable one, not just for ourselves, but most importantly, for those whose lives we will soon touch.

**BARRY RASSIN**  
*Foundation Trustee Chair*



Barry Rassin, August 2023

### Reaching into the future

This year, I urge all of you to think big about The Rotary Foundation. To reach our goals and make the impact we know we can make, we must think outside the box and embrace innovation. We must make bold plans to expand our reach today, tomorrow, and in the future.

Start by thinking big about Foundation-supported projects. If your club hasn't engaged in a Rotary Foundation district grant or global grant, make this the year you do. Collaborating with your Rotary counterparts in another district on one of Rotary's seven areas of focus can make a lasting impact beyond your wildest dreams. Explore Rotary Showcase at [rotary.org/showcase](https://rotary.org/showcase) or arrange a meeting between your club and your district Rotary Foundation chair to start a conversation.

Let's also think big about our polio fundraising this year. Begin planning your World Polio Day fundraiser now for 24 October if you haven't already. Let's see how Rotaract and Rotary clubs can make this year's fundraisers our best ever.

Thinking big about the Foundation also means remembering that through it, our impact goes beyond the current Rotary year. We see this through not only the emphasis on sustainability in our grant projects but also in initiatives such as Programs of Scale. The third Programs of Scale recipient will take on a big challenge: combating cervical cancer and enhancing women's health in Egypt through awareness-raising and improved access to preventive care.



The success of the Programs of Scale grant model lies in our approach of closely collaborating with partners to amplify proven

methods. Each year, The Rotary Foundation awards \$2 million to a member-led program that has demonstrated success and has the potential to reach more people through scaling up over a three- to five-year period.

Our Programs of Scale are the epitome of thinking big: Through them, we aim to establish sustainable partnerships and cost-effective programs that deliver tangible benefits beyond the funding period. This way, Rotary and its Foundation can reach and assist more people in more places.

Lastly, let's remember that our efforts to make the world a better place should extend beyond our time on earth. As we strive to reach \$2.025 billion by 2025 for Rotary's Endowment, consider how you can leave a legacy by making a gift or a commitment to a Rotary endowment. By doing so, future generations of Rotary members will have greater financial resources to create positive change, just as so many are doing now, in so many ways.

**BARRY RASSIN**

*Foundation Trustee Chair*



## Editorial

PDG Chalermchat Chun-In



Dear Members and Readers,

This issue of the Rotary Thailand magazine has entered its 40th year. Our magazine contents will always be interesting to inspire and convey good experiences.

The editorial team consists of the advisory board, co-editors from four districts, assistant editors, and a translation team of which are self-sacrificing and determined volunteers. Every one of them always dedicate and pay good attention to these duties. In this issue, we are pleased to welcome another new team member, PP Brian Anderson from the Rotary Club of Royal Hua Hin. He joined as assistant editor of the Rotary Thailand magazine – English edition. This will better help facilitate our timely release and a perfectly-produced English edition.

In this issue, we offer readers some diverse topics. By starting the new Rotary year, RI President Gordon R. McNally delivered his impressive ideas and policies. The members can read and use such content for Rotary information in the club. The Rotary information of this issue by PDG Dr. Apa Ataboonwongse Tansod, District 3350, emphasized the significance of Rotary's Public Image to create awareness and better understanding of Rotary's mission among the general public. Furthermore, in early June 2023, I was invited to attend the Rotary Asia-Pacific Magazine Conference in Manila, Philippines, so I shall share my good experiences from that conference.

Last month, an outstanding Rotarian in Thailand passed away, PP Arnaud C.M.C. Verstraete, a member of Rotary Club Patong Beach in District 3330. He is the highest donor in Thailand with more than \$1 million to The Rotary Foundation. We wish to offer our deepest, heartfelt condolences on his passing. He was a prime example of personal sacrifice by contributing to The Rotary Foundation throughout his lifetime.

In addition, we will meet with the RI Financial Representative in Thailand, PDG Krit Indhewat, interviewed by the Chair of the Rotary Centre in Thailand. He will provide good news about the ease of remitting clubs' RI dues. Then PDG Prawit Rojkajonnpalai will offer us an interesting fact about having a "friendship club" which can inspire clubs to develop international club relationships.

As for the co-editors of the four districts, they presented their content in terms of the Governors' policies and ideas. By reading their policies and ideas, we shall better know and understand those of the governors. However, photos and activities of the four Districts, either representing fellowships or services, show that Rotary is always moving, regardless of the time of the year.

Finally, I continue to invite Rotary members to advertise your businesses in the Thailand Rotary magazine. Please choose the space and duration as needed to support the operations of the magazine and to use its space to benefit members as much as possible.



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PDG Chalermchat Chun-In  
Editor in Chief



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Picture: The McInallys take  
a walk in Roxburghshire.






# ETHOS INTO ACTION

Scotland's Gordon McNally stands ready to bring his presidential priorities to fruition





Gordon  
and Heather  
McNally  
In South  
Queensferry,  
Scotland.

By Dave King

Photography by Monika Lozinska



**A young bagpiper parades out of a hotel banquet room playing the familiar refrain of “Scotland the Brave.” Behind him, carrying a plated ceremonial haggis and wearing blue, green, black, and yellow Gordon Modern tartan, is 2023-24 Rotary International President Gordon McNally.**

It’s Burns Night, celebrated every January with folk music, drams of Scotch whisky, enthusiastic renditions of the songs and poems of Scotland’s greatest poet, Robert Burns, and, of course, haggis with neeps and tatties (turnips and potatoes). It is quintessentially Scottish, and McNally is in his element with friends as he marks the occasion in Galashiels, a town in Scottish Borders close to his home in Yetholm.

Heather McNally, his wife of 42 years, is wearing a sash of tartan — checks of green, light blue, and dark red — created for the 1997 Rotary International Convention in Glasgow. A classically trained former professional opera singer and music teacher, she belts out songs by Burns learnt from childhood.

*Contented wi’ little, and cantie wi’ mair,  
Whene’er I forgather wi’ Sorrow and Care,  
I gie them a skelp as they’re creeping along,  
Wi’ a cog o’ gude swats and an auld Scottish sang.*

**NOW THE HAGGIS IS SOMETHING ELSE.**

It is made of a sheep’s pluck — the heart, liver, and lungs — minced with onions, oatmeal, suet, salt, pepper, and other spices, mixed with stock and then, originally, boiled in the animal’s cleaned stomach. It sounds like a culinary nightmare, but on their travels

the McNallys have been spreading word of haggis’s appeal throughout the Rotary community.

Heather McNally explains how, on their visits to the States, they have sourced local supplies of haggis and even warmed up the Scottish delicacy

in their hotel room microwave. “The smell of haggis lingered in the room the entire week,” she recalls. “We served it to other RI Board members while in Chicago. Everyone seems to love it, even though they were not quite sure what they were eating.”

Gordon McNally grew up in Portobello, a picturesque seaside area of Edinburgh, notable for its beautiful beach with light-colored sand and wooden groynes (barriers to protect the shoreline) jutting out into the water of the Firth of Forth. His mother owned and operated a private nursery, and his father worked for Macdonald & Muir, which makes Glenmorangie whiskies. His late brother, Ian, was three years younger, and the two spent much of their childhood playing and watching rugby.

Gordon and Heather met in their late teens, and their relationship blossomed on a trip to Florence, Italy, with a combined choir from their separate schools in Edinburgh. “We’re not in each other’s pockets; we do our own thing,” Heather McNally says. “Even with Rotary, I belong to the Borderlands passport club [a satellite club of the Rotary Club of Selkirk], and Gordon is a member of South Queensferry. Our lives have always worked like that, largely due to

Opposite: McNally at The Borders Distillery in Hawick, Scotland.



work commitments, where we go off in different directions. We're both independent people, but we always come home at night and tell each other what we've been doing."

Her husband agrees. The couple have two daughters, Rebecca and Sarah, and two grandchildren, Ivy and Florence. He describes Heather as "a very, very tolerant lady who has been a great support to me over the years."

He adds: "She's always a good sounding board. I can rely on Heather to tell me it as it is. If I give a presentation, everyone's going to tell me it was great, but Heather will always tell me the truth! I know I couldn't do this job without her support."

When they married at Craigsbank Parish Church in Edinburgh, Gordon McNally became a member of the Church of Scotland, having previously been a member of the Methodist Church. Now

an elder and trustee in the church, he has also served as a Presbytery elder, chairman of his parish congregational board, and a commissioner to the church's general assembly.

"My parents instilled in me and my late brother a sense of helping and caring for others that has remained with me for life," he says. "My personal faith, and my upbringing within a family with a similarly strong faith, has definitely impacted my life choices and career."

McNally owned and ran a busy dental practice in Scotland's capital for more than three decades, retiring in 2016. He held teaching and examining posts and served as a branch chairman of the British Paedodontic Society (now the British Society of Paediatric Dentistry). After living for many years in South Queensferry, the McNallys relocated to Scottish Borders when he stepped back from day-to-



day practice. The move was over 30 years in the planning.

“All the time I was working as a dentist, we said it would be nice to ultimately make our home in the Borders, because it’s where my forebears came from,” he says. “My mother’s family were farmers, and my mother was born on a farm about 15 miles from here. I’ve said to people since we came here that I feel as if my DNA has come home.”

For McNally, this is a night off, listening to youngsters from Galashiels’ schools deliver dramatic recitations of Burns’ works, including the “Address to a Haggis” read by young Poppy Lunn, who then theatrically cuts it open. There’s more pipe music and fiddle playing, plus community singing, until the evening rounds off with a hearty rendition of “Auld Lang Syne.”

**A FEW DAYS LATER,** McNally is at Abbotsford House, which towers over the gently flowing River Tweed in the heart of Scottish Borders country. The countryside is a tapestry of greens, and in the distance loom the three conical peaks of the Eildon Hills, steeped in Roman history. It’s a beautiful spot and one of McNally’s favorite places to take visitors, as he has done today.

Abbotsford House was the home of Sir Walter Scott, the novelist, poet, and historian, who popularized the wearing of tartan, created the historical novel, and counted Queen Victoria among his fans. Abbotsford’s architectural style inspired many buildings in Scotland, including Balmoral Castle, Queen Elizabeth II’s summer home. Now, Scott’s works such as *Ivanhoe* and *Rob Roy* have been adapted for the screen.

Below: The McNallys talk with Anna Hinnigan, senior operations manager at Lochcarron of Scotland, a manufacturer of tartan cloth in Selkirk. Opposite: McNally introduces the 2023-24 presidential theme at the International Assembly in Florida in January.





On this day, the 19th century Scots Baronial building with its crow-stepped gables, “pepper-pot” bartizans, and elements taken from medieval structures in Scotland, is shut to the public for the winter. Dust sheets hang over the furniture, and one poor soul is in the middle of cleaning the 9,000 books that line the library’s shelves.

Scott’s connection to the Borders began when he contracted polio at 18 months old. He was paralyzed in the right leg, and so his parents sent him to recover at his grandfather’s farm outside Kelso. “It was because of polio that Sir Walter was brought to the Borders where he heard the stories and songs which would inspire his writing,” explains Mary Kenny, Abbotsford’s heritage engagement officer. McNally and Kenny agree that Scott would have made a great Rotary member.

McNally’s own Rotary journey began at 26. He joined the South Queensferry club after being invited by a farmer friend who was a member of the family’s church. “Initially I saw the Rotary club as a great way to make friends in the town and

**“My parents instilled in me and my late brother a sense of helping and caring for others that has remained with me for life,”**

to do things in the area that would benefit the wider community,” he says. “As time went by and I realized the work done by Rotary all around the world, I was hooked.”

Except for a three-year period when McNally was a member of the sadly now-closed Rotary Club of Kelso, he has remained a member of the South Queensferry club. He was district governor in 1997-98 and marked Rotary’s centenary year in 2004-05 by serving as president of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland.

Shortly before becoming RIBI president, McNally visited Rwanda and South Africa to work







Heather and  
Gordon McNally  
on the banks of  
the Firth of Forth.

with children orphaned by the 1994 Rwandan genocide and by HIV/AIDS. He subsequently helped set up an RIBI partnership project with Hope and Homes for Children, which had been operating in both countries, to support orphans there with food, shelter, medicine, and education toward a sustainable future. McNally is a proud patron of Hope and Homes for Children, which is now supporting the Rwandan government to develop a national child protection system that minimizes family separation and provides family-based alternatives.

McNally's work in Africa has spread to Kenya. Just before the COVID-19 pandemic, he traveled to the country to volunteer as part of an initiative led by Scottish Rotary members. There he carried out dental screenings in Nyumbani Village, a self-sustaining, purpose-built eco-village that provides

homes and support for orphaned children and grandparents who serve as their guardians. He also helped renovate residents' accommodations.

"I have found Rotary to be a great vehicle for being able to care for and help others," he says. "Rotary has also given me friends all over the world and, as a consequence, a better understanding of the world in which I live. All that, together with the personal development, is what makes it continue to appeal to me and what makes me want to share it with others."

**WHILE MCINALLY STAYED CLOSE TO HOME**, his brother, Ian, after graduating from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, lived outside of London, where he was a member of Rotaract and met his wife while working in the computer industry. The two brothers and their families would visit

one another over the years, but little did McNally suspect that his brother was suffering from the “black dog” of depression, as Winston Churchill called it. Ian McNally took his life on 8 February 2014.

That moment forever changed the lives of those who loved Ian, and they continue to ask themselves questions: Why? What signs did we miss? What more could we have done?

McNally recalled all of this in a speech at the International Assembly in Florida in January, the first time he spoke on a public stage about his brother’s suicide. He had gotten emotional when he practiced the address. “I might tell you, it was not an easy presentation to give,” he says. “That day was the first time I had ever been able to get through it without breaking down.”

Below: McNally skips around a maypole with his granddaughters, Florence (center) and Ivy, in East Lothian.



**“I have found Rotary to be a great vehicle for being able to care for and help others. Rotary has also given me friends all over the world and, as a consequence, a better understanding of the world.”**

His goal in telling the story was not to seek sympathy but rather to let people know mental health issues can touch anyone, to illustrate why he feels so strongly about this subject. “A number of people came up to me afterwards and said, ‘Your story is very similar to mine,’” he says.

Last year, McNally became an ambassador for the charity Bipolar UK, which then launched a partnership with RIBI. After his brother’s experience, he shares a deep resonance with the organization and has supported it by hosting a webinar about suicide prevention and producing a video about the condition.

And one of his presidential initiatives is prioritizing mental health. “My call to action in this new initiative for Rotary,” he says, “is that we advocate for removal of the stigma of talking about mental health, help people to find better quality care, and also support them through their journey to recovery.”

It’s another opportunity for McNally, through Rotary, to put his personal ethos into action.

**AFTER ABBOTSFORD HOUSE**, McNally’s next stop is the grounds of the Kelso Rugby Football Club for its local derby against Gala in the Tennent’s National League Division 1. If there is one passion that unites Border folk, it’s rugby. The region has produced some of the best rugby players to come out of Scotland, many of whom have gone on to play for the revered British & Irish Lions.

Joining the McNallys at the clubhouse for a pre-match meal of lentil soup followed by steak pie are six friends from their Rotary clubs. The conversation is rich and the laughter frequent with friends catching up on the latest news.



A former police officer, Doug Forsyth has good instincts and takes the opportunity to approach Kelso RFC President Neil Hastie to talk about joining the new Borderlands passport club.

“Neil is someone who knows what Rotary is about in the community, but he likes the flexible approach of the passport club,” says Forsyth. “We don’t have weekly meetings, we don’t have meals. We meet maybe once a month for a coffee and a scone, and we do projects. ... We’re here to do Rotary, not talk Rotary. We’re all about making Rotary active and attractive.”

McInally looks on approvingly. “This is flexible Rotary, and this is the future,” he adds.

Around the table, there’s widespread admiration for the man who will become president of Rotary International — the second Scot and the sixth person from the UK. Out of earshot, Sandy McKenzie, president of the Rotary Club of South Queensferry, insists everyone is very proud of the achievement. “We are absolutely delighted,” McKenzie says. “Gordon is a down-to-earth, coalface Rotarian. He is a man with his feet on the ground.”

Club colleague Kate Gibb reveals how she always knew her good friend of almost 30 years would reach the pinnacle of Rotary International. “I remember telling our [Queensferry Parish Church] minister, David Cameron — not the former British prime minister — that he would be Rotary International president one day,” she says. “Call it instinct. Gordon is self-effacing, humble, and hardworking.”

McInally was a second row forward and a number 8 in his rugby playing days — “a promising career cut short by a severe lack of talent,” he concedes. After the meal, at the Kelso rugby match with his friends, he watches from the stands wedged in the front row between boisterous fans of both teams. It’s a fast and flowing match with plenty of tries and plenty of good-humored advice being dished out by the spectators.

Rugby is a big part of the family’s life. McInally’s former dental practice is just a drop kick from the Murrayfield rugby stadium. When he sold the practice in 2016, one condition was that he had permission to park there for Scotland internationals.

Heather McInally recalls one occasion when the



The McInallys with daughters Sarah Wardell (left) and Rebecca McInally in Yetholm, and with Rotarian Andy Ireland (left) and friend Eric Williamson at Murrayfield rugby stadium in Edinburgh.

television cameras were at Kelso and they homed in on daughter Sarah, then a toddler, who was with Gordon watching a match. “Aye, they start them young in the Borders,” sang the lyrical tones of legendary BBC rugby commentator Bill McLaren.

Gala steal victory over Kelso 36-31 with two late penalty goals. As we’re getting ready to leave the ground, Heather notes: “Gordon jokes in his speeches how he is waiting for someone from the nominating committee for RI president to come along and say, ‘Sorry, we called the wrong person with the invitation to be president. We meant to call the next person on the list!’”

“It is such an honor. We’re meeting heads of state, visiting glamorous places, and I’m pinching myself thinking, ‘I am just Heather. What on earth are we doing here?’” she says. “We’re from a small village in Scotland of 500 people, and here we are representing Rotary International.”

Before we part, she acknowledges being immensely proud of what he’s achieved: “Of course,” she says, “but please don’t tell him that!” .

# 2023-24 PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES

## Prioritizing mental health

Talking about mental illness and emotional health may feel uncomfortable, but it's vital to the well-being of Rotary's global community. RI President Gordon McInally encourages clubs and districts to work toward creating a space where it's safe to address these issues to help provide a welcoming and equitable environment for all.

To do that, think about ways that you can:

- Erase any stigma associated with discussions of emotional well-being
- Raise awareness of mental health needs
- Improve access to mental health services

## Building peace through virtual exchanges

Rotary has a long history of working for peace through personal connections, but the COVID-19 pandemic made it difficult to do that face to face. Inspired by what we've learned during this time, McInally encourages districts to incorporate virtual components into more of their programs, events, and activities. By using innovative technologies to make connections, we give more people the opportunity to experience Rotary's global community while laying the foundation for peacebuilding through improved intercultural dialogue, awareness, and understanding.

Adding or maintaining

these components in our exchange programs like Rotary Youth Exchanges and Rotary Friendship Exchanges will:

- Give members and participants new ways to experience other cultures, make new friends, and broaden their global awareness
- Make membership more accessible to people with time, health, or financial considerations
- Build stronger intercultural communication and understanding, and ultimately foster more stable and peaceful communities

## Empowering girls

McInally will continue the initiative launched by 2021-22 RI President Shekhar Mehta and maintained by 2022-23 RI President Jennifer Jones that focused on elevating the voices and unlocking the power of girls and women around the world. Rotary encourages members to keep finding ways to improve the health, well-being, education, economic security, and agency of girls.

For more information, please visit [rotary.org/initiatives23-24](https://www.rotary.org/initiatives23-24).

# Rotary Membership

Data source: [www.rotary.org](https://www.rotary.org)

As 1 August 2023 (1 July 2023)

District	Rotarians	Clubs	Rotaractors	Clubs
Worldwide	1,167,654 (1,157,010)	36,914 (36,789)	164,274 (166,541)	11,195 (11,310)
3330	2,242 (2,203)	103 (103)	233 (233)	27 (26)
3340	1,347 (1,316)	65 (65)	76 (76)	5 (5)
3350	3,068 (3,013)	129 (128)	415 (407)	30 (30)
3360	1,441 (1,441)	70 (70)	275 (274)	15 (15)
Total	8,098 (7,973)	367 (366)	999 (990)	77 (76)



## Rotary Information

By PDG Dr. Apa Ataboonwongse Tansod  
President of Rotary Public Image and Communication Department, District 3350, 2023 - 2024



*“Rotary’s work performance is like a mountain, but people know it like anthills.”* These are the words I said when I was the governor of District 3350 in 2007 - 2008. It’s been 16 years, but the public still doesn’t seem to know much about Rotary. Especially in an era where news and information are overwhelming. It seems that few people know the name of Rotary. This is a problem that affects membership growth and donations in useful service projects, and it is a proposition and a challenge that all volunteer-minded Rotarians must join together to help disseminate the friendship news about Rotary service projects. It needs to be distributed to people both inside and outside of the Rotary circles, in both online and offline channels in the form of *“Real Rotary”* People of Action (POA) to see the friendship that is intimate and supportive. It is to see the action of doing good deeds that truly help the less fortunate or poor in our society, so that the community has a better quality of life. As a result, the country is progressing on a par with other countries. There has to be a better way to promote our image than just standing like the traditional match heads in front of the camera.

If 8,000 Rotarians in the four regions of Thailand have the same understanding and cooperation in spreading their own Rotary message in the same direction as



mentioned above, and start sending news images in the above manner together every day in various channels that they have, it can be believed that Thai society will begin to recognize “What is Rotary, who is it and what does it do?” What contributions does it make to Thai society? Then retaining and adding new Rotary club members won’t be difficult anymore. Let’s work together to build and grow Rotary, and be strong and sustainable together.

All four Rotary districts have been supporting all Rotary clubs to prepare and present posters or animated clips in the People of Action format. The competition has been continuously held for awards and recognition for many years. Did you know and participate in our region’s recognition? If not, we invite you to be a part of the competition by offering images or pictures that will stimulate the spirit of positive thinking and doing good through Rotary for society, our nation and our world.



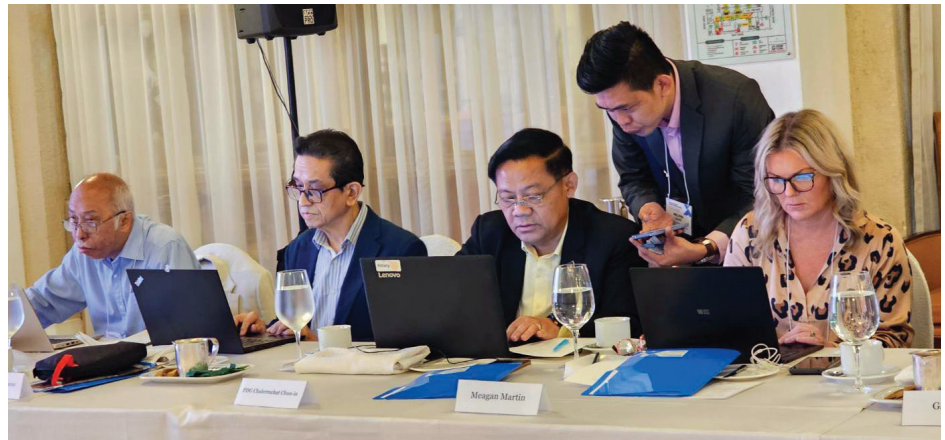




**By PDG Chalermchat Chun-In**  
**Editor in Chief**  
**Rotary Thailand Magazine**

## 2023 ASIA-PACIFIC ROTARY EDITORS SEMINAR

June 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, The Manila Hotel, Philippines



I was invited by Ms. Gundula Miethke, Regional Content & Magazines Lead, Global Communications of Rotary International, to attend the Asia-Pacific Rotary Magazine Editors Seminar hosted by Philippine Rotary Media Foundation, Inc.

I departed Bangkok via Philippine Airlines on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. The hospitable facilitation was given to the participants by the host and the personnel of Philippine Rotary Magazine delivered a warm welcome at the airport.

On the second day, we met the personnel and editors of Rotary Magazines from different countries, i.e. the Philippines, Australia, India, Taiwan, and the United States of America. We had a pleasant trip to Taal Volcano, the second longest active volcano in the country. The last eruption in 2020 reflects a glimpse of the aftermath of recent volcanic eruptions; meanwhile, I experienced the lives of Filipinos along the trip.

The seminar was held on June 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 with a welcoming remark by past district governor of the Philippines and the introduction of the district leaders in charge of the Philippine Rotary Media Foundation, which owns and produces the Philippine Rotary Magazine. The speakers, who are experts in journalism at the national level, advised about the digital transformation of the media on different topics, e.g. “Cyberspace Opportunities and Threats”, “Asia Pacific Scenarios and Strategies”, and “Meeting the Challenges of Journalism amid Digital Transformation”.

Ms. Gundula Miethke attended the seminar and delivered the presentation on the “Overview of RI’s Content Focus and Strategy for 2023 – 2024” and “Status of the Digitalization of Regional Magazines”. She shared the information about the production of regional Rotary magazines in accordance with RI’s recommendations. Another interesting topic was “Partnering with Rotaract and Conversations with Rotaract Communicators”

presented by a Rotaractor, who eventually became a Rotarian. What we learned is the collaboration between Rotarians and Rotaractors in the Philippines. They were well coordinated.

At the end of the session, editors and staff of Rotary Magazines from different countries presented the current situations of their Rotary Magazines. I learned how interesting the performance, ideas, and inquiries in different countries were. I presented the Rotary Thailand Magazine, which is classified as a well-developed group by Ms. Gundula Miethke since it is printed in books, online responsiveness, and modern application format. Each column can be selectively opened and read conveniently. The Rotary Thailand Magazine is published six issues per year with 8,000 copies of each issue. The magazines are delivered to Rotary members in Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam and the United States of America. The cover of our magazine displays a QR code for members to scan and enjoy online reading. Rotary Thailand was thanked for taking care of Rotary clubs in neighboring countries and the Rotary Thailand Magazine also contributed to this matter.

The host took good care of the participants from the first day of arrival till the departure at the airport. The venue holding the seminar gave us a pleasant stay and convenience. The important thing is that we build up friendships, make more new friends, and exchange knowledge among friends from different magazine-producing countries. This proves that Rotary is a learning organization that develops leaders at the club, district, national or international levels. Through the dedication and responsibility that we contribute, these things will also give us the opportunity to transform our self-development throughout our lives as Rotarians.



*In Memoriam*

Past President  
**Arnaud C.M.C. Verstraete**  
1960 - 2023



“The Rotary world is saddened by the passing of an outstanding, warmhearted, and philanthropic visionary, Mr. Arnaud C.M.C. Verstraete, on 4 July 2023, just a few weeks before his 63<sup>rd</sup> birthday.”



Past President Arnaud, who lived in Phuket, Thailand for over 30 years, was a founding member of the Rotary Club of Patong Beach, chartered on 5 September 2001. He served as the 5th President of the Club for the Rotary Year 2005 - 2006. His tenure as President started just six months after the devastating Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami had hit Phuket and his year was an intense burst of service projects and helped the coastal region recover.

PP Arnaud served in almost every board position in the Club and also held positions at the District level. For the last few years, he was the Chair of the Arch Klumph Society Sub-committee for Southern Clubs in District 3330, which

represents The Rotary Foundation's highest tier of donors.

He was not only a Rotarian who understood and acted according to Rotary's ideals, but he also devoted most of his wealth to The Rotary Foundation without expecting any direct or indirect advantages or benefits. His altruistic dedication and leadership during his presidency and as an Arch Klumph Society (AKS) member demonstrated his remarkable character and leadership in service.





His overall contributions as a Rotarian were extraordinary and he will be remembered as an outstanding humanitarian who made a significant impact on the lives of so many. PP Arnaud remains an exemplary role model for his fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors, and the Kingdom of Thailand, and PP Arnaud's legacy will continue to inspire us all in our Rotary endeavors.

Rest in Peace, PP Arnaud



Walter Wyler

Club President 2023 – 2024

Rotary Club of Patong Beach, District 3330



# Questions Everyone Wants to Know About...

## Can we pay RI dues by bank transfer? \_\_\_\_\_

I had a chance to meet with PDG Krit Indhewat, RI Fiscal Agent in Thailand, so I did not hesitate to bring up questions that I have been asked by many Rotarians.

**PDG Somphop (Chairman, Rotary Centre in Thailand 2023 – 2024):** I've been asked by many Rotarians about payment for Rotary International membership dues when I attended conferences which were held both in my district and other districts, so I take this opportunity to discuss with you the RI dues question.

**PDG Krit:** With my pleasure.

**PDG Somphop:** I would like to ask about how to pay for membership dues.

**PDG Krit:** Currently, Rotary International offers online payment options through My Rotary via credit cards or through the RI Fiscal Agent who accept payments in the form of cheques or drafts. Clubs are responsible for ensuring timely payment of dues and have the freedom to choose their preferred payment method.

**PDG Somphop:** We're reaching to the top hit question... if clubs would like to pay through the RI Fiscal Agent, can they pay by bank transfer or not.

**PDG Krit:** I'm somewhat concerned about this matter, as I previously had permission to transfer club membership dues during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, I encountered an issue where the club transferred the money but did not provide any information about their payment to us, so we could not mention the club name, it was only shown as "Club Unknown" in the report to Rotary International. Even though we've tried to find the owners of the transferred funds both by E-mail and group chat on LINE, no one came forward to claim ownership. As the deadline for paying club membership dues drew near, Rotary International sent an email inquiry to the club president notifying that failure to pay dues on time would result in club termination. At that moment, clubs provided their evidence of payment to us.

With numerous inquiries arising, we have made the decision to allow clubs to pay for club membership dues by bank transfer. I would like to make it more convenient



for the clubs and reduce expenses for purchasing drafts and postage but I also request the support from clubs by providing documentation upon making the fund transfers to our officers. Clubs must take responsibility in this matter.

**PDG Somphop:** Oh, I've been keeping my fingers crossed that bank transfers would be allowed. It's good news for this Rotary year and I hope payment via bank transfer will help the clubs send dues more quickly.

**PDG Krit:** However, payment via bank transfer has more conditions as follows:

“ Rotary International Fiscal Agent is responsible for receiving and disbursing funds for Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International, arranging weekly reports, summarizing monthly reports, and submitting them to Rotary International. They also issue receipts for received funds. ”



- After transferring money, you must immediately send the transfer receipt along with supporting documentation indicating the purpose of the payment and contact details for follow-up.
- All documents must be sent via email to [rotaryfath@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryfath@gmail.com) and notifications via LINE or phone will not be accepted.
- Money transfers must be completed by the last day of the month, before 24:00 (midnight). If Rotary International adjusts the exchange rate on the 1st of the following month, the club must take responsibility for any changes.



**PDG Somphop:** If clubs don't send any proof of bank transfers to you, can you check it with the bank?

**PDG Krit:** Requesting individual transfer confirmations from the bank for each transaction would require at least 14 days per request, and such a lengthy process is not feasible for us. This is because we need to submit reports to Rotary International every week, and it's crucial to remember that payment and providing documentation is the responsibility of the club. We won't be pursuing inquiries regarding this matter.

**PDG Somphop:** Is there any way to push the clubs on sending documents once they make transfers?

**PDG Krit:** I believe it's important to highlight the potentially devastating consequences if the club fails to provide immediate documentation upon transferring of funds. For example, if the club misses the 120-day deadline for

submitting documentation, the club will be terminated. This would result in the club having to invest time and effort to reinstate its status, in addition to incurring a fine of \$30.00 per person. These consequences are responsibilities of the clubs.

**PDG Somphop:** For donations, we also can make transfers the same as clubs dues, can't we?

**PDG Krit:** Yes, you can make transfers and send all documents including the name list of donors. I'll send all the information about payment methods to club presidents in July 2023.

**PDG Somphop:** I would like to thank you PDG Krit for dedicating your time and providing clear information about the payment of club membership dues. I believe every club will be glad that the RI Fiscal Agent accepts the payment of club membership dues and donations for The Rotary Foundation through bank transfers.

However, it's important to note that the acceptance of bank transfers must come with requirements that will make it most convenient for the clubs and the RI Fiscal Agent team.



**PDG Krit Indhewat**

A member of the Rotary Club of Bangkapi since 1970, he was assigned as the District Governor 3350 for year 1994 - 1995 and was assigned to be the RI Fiscal Agent in Thailand for years 2000 - 2005, 2007 - 2014 and 2016 - 2024.

### Get to Know the RI Fiscal Agent in Thailand Team

Not only PDG Krit Indhewat but also PDG Somphop Sooksing and PDG Chairat Prasertlum are in this team, and Rotary International assigns their Fiscal Agents with a term of one year.





By PDG Prawit Rojkanonpalai

# Think Big: Friendship Clubs



when the club wants to meet the requirements defined by The Rotary Foundation. The lessons in the old days reflected that such projects did not go on smoothly. There was no continuous responsible person taking care of the project, and the project could not be completed. Eventually, the detriment happened to clubs and districts.

Last week I had a conversational opportunity with an elder from the Rotary Centre in Thailand, whom I respect. He asked me for an interesting article about Rotarian activities to be published in this issue of Rotary Thailand Magazine. I swiftly responded with my acceptance. Without checking my personal schedule, I had an appointment with many people including an important welcome for my friendship clubs from abroad in July. This period is the prime time for the installment of the new club president and board of committees, including the handover of various joint projects successfully implemented in the previous year. I apologize for the delay in submitting my article because my writing was completed after we had seen them off. This shows that I give priority to welcoming sister clubs instead of the promised article. Why?

The large-scale humanitarian service project or Global Grant, is a grant with a minimum project value of US\$ 30,000. This Global Grant must meet each of Rotary's 7 Areas of Focus. Certain parts of financial management are sponsored by The Rotary Foundation. The very important requirement is that the international partner must take part in a minimum of 15% of the total project value. The important reason is that all Rotary clubs implementing Global Grants must find an international partner for each project.

The achievement of having friendship or sister clubs to partner in club service projects can be achieved in many ways of approach, e.g. club-to-club referrals or recommendations between district leaders, fellowship activities, training seminars, and district and regional conferences. The important idea is to avoid partnering with a superficial partner or to cut corners



Please confirm with your club members the following inquiries before partnering with international clubs to join a big project:

1. Does your club have a member or a group of members who are language-wise to communicate with prospective international partners?
2. Does your club have an individual or a group that is ready to focus and pay attention to joint activities with the prospective friendship clubs regularly, e.g. visiting exchange, sharing a warm and honorable welcome?
3. Is the club ready to receive and provide reciprocal contributions to the prospective international partner?
4. It is undeniable that it costs both Rotarians and clubs to have international friends both welcoming their visits and participating in related activities on many occasions. Are you and your club members ready?

If you are ready with the above-mentioned four requirements, please start exchanging communication and paying visits to each other for a certain period. If both clubs can get along well, they can agree on a year-to-year friendship club, and exchange participation in activities. The friendship agreement will be renewed once it meets a one-year period. At the end of one year, if the friendship is dull and club members can't get along well, it is known that the friendship agreement is not to be renewed.

Successful friendship clubs with consistent visits and mutual support over the years eventually agreed to form a sister club, where the bonds between the two clubs would deepen and endure. The bonds are as follows:

1. Exchange visits to each other every year, especially the installation ceremony of club presidents and board of committees
2. Exchange club news and activities regularly
3. Collaborate on projects and mutually support funding activities
4. Welcoming, caring, honoring, and giving importance to both club members equitably in the case of joint club meetings

At this point, many of you understand why I give priority to the friendship club. That's because I'm thinking of doing a big project soon.



# Introducing 2023 - 2024 Committees, Rotary Centre in Thailand

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. PDG Somphop Thirasan               | Chairman                                  |
| 2. PDG Siri Eiamchamroonlarp          | Vice Chair #1                             |
| 3. PDG Nakarin Ratanakitsunthorn      | Vice Chair #2 and Translator Committee    |
| 4. PDG Dr. Virachai Jamroendararasame | Vice Chair #3                             |
| 5. PDG Chalermchat Chun-In            | Editor in Chief, Rotary Thailand Magazine |
| 6. PDG Anurak Napawan                 | Library Committee                         |
| 7. PDG Thanongsak Pongsri             | Public Relations Committee                |
| 8. PDG Wichai Maniwatcharakiat        | Finance Committee and Secretary           |

## District 3330

- |                                 |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 9. DG Dr. Chatchawal Telavanich | Committee |
| 10. PDG Paikit Hoonpongmanont   | Committee |
| 11. DGE Jakchai Visutthakul     | Committee |

## District 3340

- |                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 12. DG Wirot Pipatchaisiri        | Committee |
| 13. PDG Rattaprateep Kiratiurai   | Committee |
| 14. PDG Maruay Jintabunditwong    | Committee |
| 15. PDG Wimon Kachintak           | Committee |
| 16. PDG Dr. Jareesri Kulsiripanyo | Committee |
| 17. DGE Sangtiwa Tong-u-chang     | Committee |

## District 3350

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 18. DG Wichai Chewakanit                             | Committee |
| 19. PDG Suchada Itthicharukul                        | Committee |
| 20. PDG Somsri Mekthon                               | Committee |
| 21. PDG Emeritus Clinical Prof.<br>Dr. Wirun Bunnuch | Committee |

- |                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 22. DGE Patsri Suwimol | Committee |
|------------------------|-----------|

## District 3360

- |                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| 23. DG Dr. Wathit Tangpilert | Committee |
| 24. PDG Chamnan Chanruang    | Committee |
| 25. PDG Somchai Kerddecho    | Committee |
| 26. PDG Jirayut Hirunyawat   | Committee |
| 27. DGE Apisak Jompong       | Committee |



## Advisory Board

1. PRID Norset Pattmanan - Chairman (D3350)
2. PRID Dr. Saowaluk Rattanawit (D3350)
3. PDG Somphop Suksingh (D3350)
4. PDG Chaisin Maninan (D3360)
5. PDG Manit Wongsureerat (D3330)
6. PDG Pairote Euaprasert (D3360)
7. PDG Wiwat Sirjankapattana (D3360)





D3330

Editorial of District 3330



PDG Paikit Hoonpongsimanont  
Rotary Club of Tubtiang

“Sawasdee Krub” and Dear Fellow Rotarians,

This is the first issue of Rotary Thailand magazine for Rotary Year 2023 - 2024, to “CREATE HOPE in the WORLD”, and also my second year as a co-editor from District 3330. We successfully completed it under the leadership of the Immediate PDG La-or Chinda, and are welcoming a new district leader, DG Dr. Chatchawal Telavanich from the Rotary Club of Samut Sakhon. Therefore, in this issue, I am pleased to present my special interview with DG Dr. Chatchawal. I would like all readers to read his interview as the District Governor, and Dr. Chatchawal provided us with interesting ideas that can be applied in the Rotary organization and in our daily lives.

For service projects in District 3330, I am delighted to present the Global Grant overview of the Rotary Club of Phrasamutchedi which handed over the medical equipment to the local hospital. Another Global Grant of the Rotary Club of Phrasamutchedi is to provide an ambulance and dental equipment to hospitals within the area. About the youth, the district has twice organized the District Training Assembly (DTA) for Interact; one for the Southern Interact clubs and another for the Central Interact clubs.

Lastly, I wish all readers good health and safety. See you again.

## Talking with District Governor Dr. Chatchawal



DG Dr. Chatchawal Telavanich  
District 3330

**Editor:** District Governor, could you please tell us about your action plan during Rotary Year 2023 - 2024?

**DG:** Actually, my action plan as the District Governor includes the same strategies that our District has set based on the action plans of Rotary International. Those are to increase our impact, expand our reach, enhance participant engagement, and increase our ability to adapt. I shall also emphasize the three main pillars of Rotary International; Membership, The Rotary Foundation, and Rotary’s Public Image. Anyhow, I shall pay special attention to membership, especially to clubs with memberships of less than 10. Normally, clubs that meet RI’s membership standards should have a minimum of 25 members, and I intend to increase the numbers in clubs to more than 25 members. It’s quite a challenging goal but I will do my best through service and fellowship projects of which I consider to be the strength of our District 3330.

In addition, the district has planned to encourage clubs to do more Global Grant projects. District 3330 also plans to do a Global Grant project for the district itself, with partners from District 3600 and 3690 of South Korea, and not only but also partnering with USAID in conducting malaria prevention and elimination projects along the border from Kanchanaburi province to the border with Malaysia.

In the area of training, the district has adopted integrated training to promote learning and participation. Thanks to today’s technology, online communication such as Zoom meetings can be used to help organize training sessions to



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prepare participants for Adult Learning, which focuses on facilitators rather than instructors as in the past. Or we can take advantage of the Learning Center in My Rotary to help train and educate members.

**Editor:** How is your idea of working as the 3330 District Governor?

**DG:** I have a personal motto that “Imperfection is Perfection”. Nothing is perfect in this world. I’ve never expected perfection. It’s normal to make mistakes while working, as long as we can fix them and get the job done. Rotary is no exception. I’ve never expected every club to work so perfectly that it can’t get the job done. Past mistakes are experiences that teach us to learn more and work more carefully. The more you learn, the more proficient you become.

**Editor:** What would you like to focus on this Rotary Year and why?

**DG:** I would like to focus on friendship and participation. Rotary was born out of the friendship of four men who came together over a hundred years ago for doing good in the world, and now, for more than 119 years, this friendship has spread all over the world. It is true that service is at the heart of Rotary. And it’s what makes Rotary known around the world. But the friendship and participation of members is what holds every Rotarian together. In my personal opinion if friendship is strong, doing service projects will also make a more positive impact on the community.

**Editor:** What do you think is the most challenging about being a district governor?

**DG:** Being a district governor faces many challenges. Growing our membership is one of my challenging goals for this Rotary year. But the biggest challenge for

me was to make DEI part of District 3330’s DNA. DEI is new to Rotary, but the concept of diversity, equity and inclusion is prevalent in the West. It’s been a while, it can be seen that during this time, regardless of the foreign movies and dramas, they focus on the variety of characters or different cultures but can live together. In Thailand, it may be new, but I believe that with the character of the Thai people who are generous and friendly with others, as well as the deep friendship of the members of District 3330, making DEI a part of our district is not impossible. In particular, this year’s district DEI committee chair PDG Somphop Thirasan, has deep knowledge and understanding of DEI. I am confident that we will achieve our goals.

**Editor:** Please share your feelings about participating in the many clubs’ Installation Ceremonies during the past few months.

**DG:** The Installation Ceremony of a Rotary club in District 3330 is a tradition that we do every year after the DTA ends. Attending events of all the clubs in the district, I’m happy to see the good friendships that members have with each other. Although eating out almost every day will cause some weight gain, it’s okay. But this is the friendship that never fades from the Rotarians of District 3330 though Covid prevented us from having the opportunity to meet like this for almost two years. The Installation Ceremonies of the central clubs is now nearing its end. Next, I have to travel to the south to attend their club Installation Ceremonies as well.

**Editor:** Is there anything you would like to say to the Rotarians who read this magazine?

**DG:** Wishing all readers happiness, enjoy your volunteer work and join together to “*CREATE HOPE in the WORLD.*” Thank you very much, krub.

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D3330

Global Grant Project

**Global Grant No. 2342158****Project - Donation of medical equipment for the intensive care unit (ICU), and medical supplies, supported by the Rotary Club of Pra Pathom Chedi**

Compiler: Charter President Benjawan Thammasiripong (Rotary Club of Thavaravadi)



The Rotary Club of Pra Pathom Chedi surveyed the needs of the community to identify the importance of expanding assistance to various areas around Nakhon Pathom province. The survey was carried out around the community in Kamphaeng Saen district. Most people in the district engage in agriculture and many industrial plants are scattered around this area. The main people living in the area are Thais and many foreigners. We found that numbers of patients are suffering due to the lack of access to medical care in the area.

The survey explained that it takes one hour or more from Kamphaeng Saen district to the hospitals in Nakhon Pathom or Bangkok, and the traveling cost is quite high. To reduce such pains, an intensive care unit (ICU) had been set up at Kamphaeng Saen Hospital, which carries the second largest number of patients in Nakhon Pathom province, next to Nakhon Pathom Hospital. The Rotary Club of Pra Pathom Chedi coordinated with the hospital for medical equipment procurement, and the preparation of specialists to provide the necessary training for medical personnel and nurses in order to enhance their skills and achieve good practice for the operation of the ICU.

The Rotary Club of Pra Pathom Chedi, led by Kruea Fah Nakrua as club president, had a meeting on project planning. The contributions were supported by The Rotary Foundation and the Rotary Club Bucheon Mogryun from District 3690 in South Korea. The additional contributions were made by many Rotary clubs in District 3330 including Nakorn Pathom, Bang Len, Dontoom, Royal Hua Hin, and Thavaravadi. The fundraising was implemented at the Phra Pathom Chedi Night Market for two weeks with the cooperation of PP Yongyut Thitibenjapol (Rotary Club of Nakhon Pathom), who helped publicize the project to the people visiting the night market in the area of Phra Pathom Chedi to offer their contributions.

A fundraising event was implemented via the charity rally competitions to support the medical equipment project. The rally tickets were distributed to 320 participants or 102 teams at 8,000

baht for each team. The participants were a diversity of Rotarians in District 3330, business people, garage associations, and general participants in both the public and private sectors. The winner received a trophy bestowed by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Siam Boromarakumari, and the winner was the Thavaravadi Rotary Club (Congratulations!). This fundraising event generated a net profit of 1.7 million Thai baht (after all expenditure deductions.) A big “thank you” message was addressed to all participants in this service project. All donations reached 4.6 million Thai baht, which covered the procurement of medical equipment for two intensive care units with standard conformity. The additional medical equipment support for one more ICU was contributed by Wat Rang Man (Luang Poo Phaew) and another two sets were supported by the Kamphaeng Saen community. A total of five ICUs in Kamphaeng Saen Hospital in Nakhon Pathom province have been well-equipped and accommodate the patients living in the districts of Kamphaeng Saen, Bang Len, and Dontoom in Nakhon Pathom province. Moreover, the nearby area of Kanchanaburi has benefitted from this project. This humanitarian service project eases people’s lives by not having to travel so far to Nakhon Pathom or Bangkok.

To implement this project, the training was well prepared to educate doctors and nurses, who were the key part of the Global Grant program, in order to achieve a sustainable project. With the experts cooperating with Nakhon Pathom Hospital, the training was implemented on Wednesday, May 24, 2023. The project handover was completed on the same day.

Thank you to those involved in the project and all donors who cooperated in doing good humanitarian service for the community in Nakhon Pathom province. This is one of the significant projects in 2022 - 2023 by the Rotary Club of Pra Pathom Chedi. Together we share our pride.



## Activities of District 3330



The Rotary Club of Phrasamut Chedi led by President Arin Duangsawad, Rotary Ann and partner of the Rotary Club of Masan-East of District 3722, the Rotary Club of Changwon Dasom (South Korea) and the Rotary Club of Shimonoseki Kita (Japan), handed over the ambulance



and dental equipment to Phrasamut Chedi Sawatyanon Hospital in the total of THB 2,865,600 under GG#2342286.



The District Interact committee led by the chair PP Jirawut SaeTung of the Rotary Club of Ratchaburi, twice organized the District Training Assembly (DTA) for Interact clubs and club advisors. Firstly on July 15, 2023 for the Clubs in the area 16 - 30 at Ratchaburi Kindergarten, Muang District, Ratchaburi Province, with PP Prateep Yamket from the Rotary Club of Ratchaburi as the chair of the DTA organizing committee. Secondly on July 22, 2023 for the Clubs in Areas

1 - 15 at Sangthong Wittaya School, Hat Yai District, Songkhla Province, with PP Patcharawadeephon Atthaphonsirpaisarn from the Rotary Club of Khok Samedchun as the chair of the DTA organizing committee. The event was well planned with many District Interact committee members acting as speakers. The training focused on learning through workshops and playing fun games.



# D3340

## Editorial of District 3340



**PP Puttitorn Patthanasintorn**  
Rotary E-Club of  
District 3340

Hi! Fellow Rotarian friends and readers,

I started as a charter member of the Rotary E-Club of District 3340 in 2013. I got the opportunity to be the Club President in 2015. After that I was honored to be the one of the District staff and this is how I have learned, gained friendship, and become a co-editor of Rotary Thailand magazine for two years. It has been an honor to be in all roles of a Rotarian for the past 10 years.

“*Create Hope in The World*” is the Rotary International motto for 2023 - 2024. There is a quote, “Hope lies in dreams, in imagination, and in the courage of those who dare to make dreams into reality.” This year, Rotary will work together to make people’s dreams come true, initiated by the Rotary International President. He gives priority to mental health, peacebuilding, and empowering girls.

District 3340 under the leadership of DG Viroj Pipatchaisiri, has functionally launched the district plan that follows the RI President’s guidelines. Some clubs still carry on with last year’s services by extending the service area to cover more communities while others are producing new services that associate with Rotary International. You will be able to follow these while reading about the services of every club of District 3340 in every issue of the Rotary Thailand magazine.

## Talking with District Governor Viroj Pipatchaisiri



**DG Viroj Pipatchaisiri**  
District 3340

I have been on the path of “Service Above Self” based on Rotary’s principal motto for over 40 years. Since the Rotary Club of Udon Thani was established, I have done it out of love and expected to help make a better living for the less fortunate. Formerly, I did it with a slight understanding until I had the opportunity to become the club president for the first time in 1993 - 1994, when the club turned 24 years old. I was quite young when I was in a functional club and president 30 years ago. Every time I worked on a project, I received good cooperation from our members. Every project brought pride to the former presidents and members.

Being a club president that year, I just started to understand more about a Rotarian’s role. Therefore, I was fully supportive of projects for the future generations of club presidents. I tried to keep club meetings interesting so that members wanted to come and attended constantly. I started to think that there were







four clubs in Udon Thani at that time. Originally, all clubs conducted activities or organized meetings in their own way. They were small and not as powerful as they should have been. Therefore, I proposed to all four Rotary clubs in Udon Thani province to form the “Rotary Family Udon Thani” because when we gathered, we grew stronger and able to give more help to the less fortunate.

This year I am honorably appointed to take charge of the role of Governor of District 3340 in Rotary International, so I would like to strengthen all clubs in District 3340 by adding more clubs and more members. I expect that every Rotary club has a sister club as well as a twin club to adopt the Rotary Avenues of Service for more efficiency. I’m going to run training programs for the President-Elect, Secretary and Governor-Elect in order to prepare themselves at least three to five years beforehand. I will develop Rotary’s public image to let outsiders know that Rotary is a real contribution from friend to friend for more than 119 years. Rotary has international credibility. Rotary is to create a good conscience for a better global society.





D3340

Zones and Clubs

# Congratulations to the Boards of Directors of all clubs in 2023 - 2024



Rotary Clubs in Zones 1 - 2



Rotary Clubs in Zones 9 - 10



Rotary Clubs in Zones 15 - 16



Rotary Club of Nakhon Phanom



Rotary Club of Kantaraluk



Rotary Club of Buriram



Rotary Club of Krasang Buriram



Rotary Club of Surin



Rotary Club of Srisaket



Rotary Club of E-Club of District 3340



Rotary Club of Chanthanimit



Rotary Club of Khao Soi Dao



Rotary Club of Sillpakom



Rotary Club of Magkang



Rotary Club of Banchiang



Rotary Family in Udon Thani province



## Activities of District 3340



**Rotary Club of Sillpakom-Udon Thani** Led by President Patchanan Yanthitiworakorn with her members and accompanied by government and the private sector in Udon Thani, they participated in a series of auspicious ceremonies and celebrations to mark His Majesty the King's 71st birthday anniversary. They launched a mobile blood donation unit dedicated to His Majesty the King at IQ South East OA Udon Thani Co., Ltd. on July 6, 2023.



**Rotary Club of Mitraparp-Khon Kaen** Rotarians participated in the recording of the blessing program on the occasion of His Majesty's Birthday, His Majesty King Ramathibodi Sri Sinthon Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklao Chao Yuhua at the radio and television station in Khon Kaen, Thailand on 11th July 2023.



**Rotary Club of Krasang Buriram** Led by President Ittisak Pathan and his members, they gave not only scholarships and educational aids, but plenty of meatballs and ice cream on 12th July 2023.

D3350

Editorial of District 3350



**PP Trong Sangswangwatana**  
Rotary Club of Bangkok  
Suwanabhum

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

We see you again in this Rotary Year 2023 - 2024 and please do not get bored of the same editorial team. We promise to keep bringing useful pictures and stories to our readers for another year.

In the first issue of this year's Rotary Thailand magazine, I would like everyone to become informed about the ideas of DG Wichai Chivakanit and the way he will be working this year. Please read from the interview along with pictures of the District Governor's Installation by PRID Dr. Saowalak Rattanawich. Also included are pictures of the activities at the beginning of this Rotary year, mainly Club officers committee installations, the President-Elect Training Seminar and the District Membership Seminar.

PP Trong Sangswangwatana  
Rotary Club of Bangkok Suwanabhum  
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## Talking with District Governor Wichai Chivakanit



**DG Wichai Chivakanit**  
District 3350

**Editor:** What are your plans for this Rotary Year?

**DG:** I want to bring about change. By that I am not saying that what has been done in the past is bad, but rather I believe there is an opportunity for our district to take a leap. It is also a good time to set off the process as conditions are now favourable for this positive change we have envisioned.

It is also important to always remember that Rotarians are volunteers – nobody is paid to be a Rotarian and no Rotarian is compensated for their time, effort, and occasionally financial cost. Running a district is therefore not the same as running a business – one does not order Rotarians to do something. Instead, I take this opportunity to invite you to join us in our collective effort to better our district.

**Editor:** Customarily, the District Governor will have their official visit to all clubs in the district. What are your plans for this year's visits?

**DG:** My priority is to minimise the burden on clubs, especially smaller clubs. Because there is a cost for every activity, smaller clubs tend to be more stretched resource – wise. That is why I intend to do group visits instead of individual visits. This will allow clubs to come together and have their visit on the same day. This lowers the burden on the district, too, so that our resources can be maximised. However, if your club prefers an individual visit, please reach out to the secretary, AG Yod Sangsawangwattana, and we will be happy to accommodate your request.

Please note that gifts are not necessary – your hospitality and fellowship are more than adequate.

**Editor:** You are also the District Membership Committee Chair—what are your plans for membership development?

**DG:** Membership development is vital to the well-being



and survival of Rotary. This year we have made membership one of our priority issues as it forms an important part of the plan I mentioned earlier. Once the district reaches a certain number of members, it is possible to divide the district into two, thus forming a fifth district in Thailand. Our target is to achieve this in Rotary Year 2025 – 2026. By adding a fifth district, we will be able to raise Thailand's profile in the eyes of Rotary International – a major step forward for all Thai and Thailand-based Rotarians.

We must never forget that Rotary is the sum of its members. Membership development is therefore vital to the sustainability of Rotary.

Now, quantity has no meaning if it is without quality. The district therefore also plans to educate, or re-educate, its members on by-laws, policies, rules, and regulations, so that members are always up-to-date with the way Rotary operates and the framework within which they must operate.

As a continuation of the drive to minimise the burden on clubs, the district also intends to make more activities accessible remotely, so that Rotarians who may not be able to travel to attend certain activities are not deprived of the chance to participate.

**Editor:** It seems that the district is not just looking inwards, but also outwards.

**DG:** That is correct. It is not enough to only self-manage in today's world. How the public perceives Rotary can be vital to our growth and sustainability as well. I am pleased to say that we have the honour of having PDG Apa Ataboonwongse Tansod of the Rotary Club of Sathorn as the District Public Image Chair. PDG Apa intends to raise public awareness about Rotary, so that the public has a better understanding of who we are, what we do, how we do it, and the fact that we have been serving Thailand for almost a century since the founding of the first club on Thai soil.

With better public perception, we hope that the pride in Rotary among our members will be renewed. And we may just attract more like-minded people to join our cause.

**Editor:** Apart from cooperation between clubs within the district and inter-district cooperation, is the district seeking partners outside Rotary?

**DG:** Yes. Under the leadership of RI President Gordon R. McNally, Rotary has a two-pronged approach to progress: one is the continuation of successful projects – because continuity is key to sustainability – and the exploration of new areas of focus in response to new challenges in today's world. We will see projects like End Polio Now and Empowering Girls continue to remain on Rotary's agenda, as well as the introduction of new priorities such as mental well-being.

To answer this calling, the district will seek to work with outside organisations, public and private, whose areas of focus align with ours. The synergy from this approach would allow us to expand our reach and maximise the impact of our resources – more so than if we were to go at it on our own.

**Editor:** Anything else you would like to tell our members?

**DG:** I would like you to see the district committee members and I more as facilitators than managers. While it is true that our job is to manage the district, but in doing that what we actually do is work with every club and every Rotarian to drive our district. Therefore, we encourage you to engage us on projects, or issues you need assistance with. While you are working to serve the community of your choosing, remember that we are here to serve you and to make sure you can succeed in your endeavours.

We the district committee members, I included, are Rotarian first, and committee members second. We remain committed to the Rotary cause and way, and we hope to see our district, and Rotary, progress steadily and sustainably.



D3350

Installations

# Congratulations to every 2023 - 2024 Club Board of Directors



June and July are the time for club installation ceremonies. It started with the joint installation ceremony of 53 clubs at the Miracle Grand Convention Hotel on 3 June 2023. After that, each club or groups of clubs held their ceremonies.





## Activities of District 3350



2023 - 2024 President-Elect Training Seminar at the Classic Kameo Hotel, Phranakorn Si Ayutthaya on 25 - 26 March 2023.

District Governor Installation Ceremony for DG Wichai Chivakanit at Impact Forum, Muang Thong Thani on 20 May 2023.



Membership Seminar at the Miracle Grand Convention Hotel on 1 July 2023.







PP Dr. Natthanin Setavanich  
Rotary Club of Phrae

Dear Rotarians,

Stepping into the Rotary Year 2023 - 2024 officially, I believe each district is beginning to conduct committee training seminars and holding the installation ceremonies for new club presidents and club officers. This is a period of building relationships among clubs through the Rotary spirit.

In this edition, I would like to present the work plan and direction of DG Dr. Wathit Tangrapeerleart, who has meticulously planned the entire process, from the forming of the district committee team to the smooth execution of District 3360's training seminars.

Furthermore, the goals of District 3360 are presented in various areas, along with the important strategies to reach these goals together. This especially emphasizes collaboration among the four Rotary districts in Thailand. Additionally, the various beneficial projects of each club within District 3360 are introduced. It is notable that the first month of the Rotary year is filled with numerous activities, indicating that District 3360 is surely progressing towards the established goals of DG Dr. Wathit.

## District 3360 Goals, Rotary Year 2023 - 2024



**By DG Dr. Wathit Tangrapeerleart**

Compiled by PP Dr. Natthanin  
Sethwanich, Rotary Club of Phrae

During the Rotary Year 2023 - 2024, District 3360 saw remarkable progress under the leadership of District Governor Dr. Wathit Tangrapeerleart. His vigorous approach was evident in the results achieved throughout the year, starting from the preparation of the President-Elect Training Seminar (PETS) and District Team Training Seminar (DTTS) at Nan province, which was successfully completed. This is because of his good planning in the preparation process



and committee preparation in Lamphun province. Therefore, it was fully appreciated during the PETS and DTTS. These events were meticulously planned, and it was evident that the atmosphere of District 3360 was warm and supportive. The focus was on cultivating a sense of camaraderie akin to family, and fostering a harmonious working environment among the District 3360 committee members.

The District Training Assembly for District 3360 held in



Lampang province on June 17 - 18, 2023, marked another successful milestone in this administrative year. With the participation of around 500 attendees, the venue exuded a warm ambiance. Dr. Wathit, the District Governor, presented the vision and goals for the year 2023 - 2024 to the



participants. At the assembly, he referred to Rotary International President Gordon R. McNally, quoting, “Rotary is everywhere for anyone who wants to be part of us.” This sentiment fostered an environment that facilitated the recruitment of new members to Rotary clubs. Furthermore, he highlighted The Rotary Foundation as a catalyst for accelerating philanthropic activities. Various projects have continued to reflect the spirit of the Rotary organization, providing sustained and lasting benefits to the community. Donors could witness the value of what Rotary has taught them. The RI motto for this year, “Create Hope in the World”, encapsulated the idea of fostering hope, even in difficult times, as a driving force for Rotary’s actions.



**Membership:** For this year, District Governor Dr. Wathit set four challenging goals for membership as follows:

1. Increase membership by 15% and promote a new generations of Rotarians
2. Establish new Rotary clubs and satellite clubs
3. Grow the membership of small clubs
4. Retain at least 90% of existing members

District 3360 embraced inclusivity in its membership approach for this year, aiming to bring together a diverse range of individuals. The focus was on recruiting new members while also caring for and engaging with current members. The district transitioned smoothly from the “Imagine Rotary” year, with an emphasis on equity and equality, acknowledging PDG Supaluck Lohajoti



as the Chair of the District Membership Committee. The balance she brought to the committee aimed to empower prospective and existing members within the clubs. The idea of equality was well accepted.

District 3360 aimed to connect clubs in need with resources and support from a specialized team, relying on My Rotary as the foundation for assisting clubs.

**Rotary Foundation:** In terms of The Rotary Foundation, District 3360 planned the event “Walk & Run to End Polio” with the participation of all 69 clubs in the district. The clubs pledged to donate a minimum of US\$ 10,000 each to the PolioPlus fund, collectively aiming for a total donation of at least US\$ 220,000 to The Rotary Foundation. Additionally, at least 15 Global Grant projects were targeted to be initiated in partnership with international counterparts.



**Public Image:** In the realm of public image enhancement, District 3360 aimed to promote various activities through all social media platforms, including LINE, Facebook, TikTok, and the district’s website. They implemented the project “Safe Roads Safe Lives” in educational institutions, fostering collaboration among clubs through various activities. They also aimed to promote the accurate use of the Brand Logo and encouraged participation in the “People of Action” photo and video contest.

Lastly, with regards to My Rotary, District 3360 set the following goals:

1. Promote the use of My Rotary among all members.
2. Record Club Officers for the seven positions by July 31, 2023.
3. Set goals in Rotary Club Central by July 31, 2023.
4. Support the development of the 5-Year Plan.
5. Support all clubs in achieving the Rotary Citation.



D3360

People of Action

## Activities of District 3360

Rotary Club of Nakhon Thong led by President Somchai Jaipolsen along with club members, they donated and installed 12 wall-mounted fans for the inadequate classrooms at Thoen

Technical College. The donation was handed over by Mr. Samrit Klaithin, Director of Thoen Technical College, accompanied by the Deputy Director, faculty members, parents, and students.



Rotary Club of Nan arranged the project "Preventing Sexual Offenses in Schools" using an application to facilitate tracking among teachers, parents, and students, in collaboration with the

Department of Special Investigation DSI STATION NAN, Maha Sarakham Rajabhat University, MAST Human Social Enterprise Foundation, Thai Bamboo Development Association, Nan PDR Area 1 and Area 2 PDR, Nan province at Ban Nam Khrok Mai School, Kong Khwai Subdistrict, Mueang District in Nan province.



Rotary Club of Chiang Mai Sansai led by President Zarhinndah Despitakmeesorn and IPP Isiam Pledger, handed over books on scientific knowledge to the Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North for their library enhancement project, along with mural paintings in cartoon-style at Tha Ma Deua School, San Phue Suea Subdistrict, Mueang District in Chiang Mai province.

Rotary Club of Phan led by President Narongchai Chumpooointa, along with Rotary Club of Lilly Taiwan and the Love and Care Association of Taiwan, donated five sets of CPR MAN-Quality Circle lung inflation and chest compression manikins to the Health Promotion Hospital of Mueang Pan Subdistrict in Pan District.







Rotary Club of Chai Prakan in collaboration with Rotary Club of Sila-Asana led by President Wasana Saimool and President Preeyatat Sarayuth, along with fellow Rotarians, conducted activities to donate 41 sets of personal protective equipment (PPE) including N-95 masks (20 pieces), surgical masks, hand sanitizers, and gloves to medical personnel at Chai Prakan Hospital, Chai Prakan District in Chiang Mai province, to prevent exposure to COVID-19. This was supported by 12 sets of PPE from PDG Kamolsak Visitsakulchai, District 3360, and surgical masks from PP Nadruedee Sriketsook of the Rotary Club of Bangkok East in District 3350.



Rotary Club of Song led by President Kutcharin Wongput, conducted the first activity of the year by planting 100 trees at Wat Luang Pho Wichit Mal in Rong Kwang District. Moreover, the Rotary Club of Wiang Sa and the Rotary Club of Phrae also joined this event.



Rotary Club of Chiang Mai Thin Thai Ngam led by President Jitmatta Nandrakwang along with PDG Dr. Waewdao Limlengler, conducted a ceremony to donate an endoscopic gastrointestinal system camera to Mae Sai Hospital in Chiang Rai province, in the Global Grant project in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Mae Sai and the Rotary Club of Jhang Hua Central, Taiwan in District 3462.

# INCLUSIVE LEADERS with Rotary Leaders in Participation and Engagement

By PP Supan Wiboonma  
Vice-Chairman of the Public Relations Sub-committee  
Rotary Centre in Thailand

An article in Harvard Business Review magazine explains that INCLUSIVE LEADERS are the type of leaders needed in every organization that is facing DIVERSITY, and continually increasing diversity in terms of age, gender, perspectives, beliefs, values, customs, basic education, or well-being, etc. In the age of globalization and digital society, everyone needs recognition, respect, equity and inclusive treatment. Yet, what makes people feel included in organizations? They must work together to accomplish the same goal. As the more pyramid-shaped organization has one “leader” at the top, a number of executives in the middle, and the rest at the base, the more challenging it will be.

Juliet Bourke and Andrea Espedido, both professors of practice in the School of Management and Governance at the University of South Wales, talked about the qualifications of an “inclusive leader”.

- 1. Visible commitment:** They articulate authentic commitment to diversity, challenge the status quo, hold others accountable, and make diversity and inclusion a personal priority.
- 2. Humility:** They are modest about capabilities, admit mistakes, and create the space for others to contribute.
- 3. Awareness of bias:** They show awareness of personal blind spots, as well as flaws in the system, and work hard to ensure a meritocracy.
- 4. Curiosity about others:** They demonstrate an open mindset and deep curiosity about others, listen without judgment, and seek with empathy to understand those around them.
- 5. Cultural intelligence:** They are attentive to others’ cultures and adapt as required.
- 6. Effective collaboration:** They empower

others, pay attention to diversity of thinking and psychological safety, and focus on team cohesion.

In the Rotary International President’s new year message 2023 - 2024, Gordon R. McInally mentioned one of the vitally important aspects, besides a Polio-free world, etc., that is a mental health aspect. It is the cause of people all over the world facing isolation, affecting their emotions and quality of life. He wants to urge Rotarians, as



we are PEOPLE OF ACTION, to close the gap in the state of mind by helping others (we essentially help ourselves, too) through the service projects that might open opportunities to attract partnerships and new members.

A sense of inclusion has an influence increasing continually in every societal unit such as family, institute, community, workplace, hometown, country, Global Community, and Rotary clubs. The word “Fellowship” in Rotary is a deep feeling inside people, and every step heads towards Rotary clubs or aims at becoming a friend of other Rotary clubs, different districts and foreign countries. Everything promotes a friendly and inclusive ambience. Therefore, inclusive leadership is one of the world’s hot topics nowadays, which Rotary International Presidents have already implemented for the last 118 years. With Rotary’s 119th year coming, the context and environment have changed, and it is a challenge that clubs should review by inviting their members to come up with plans to draw participation from all members to keep us up to date with the world and catch up with events.

## Public Relations Engagement Channel of the Rotary Centre is led by PDG Thanongsak Pongsri

Rotarians in all four regions are invited to draw on the participation of friends and continue the culture of sharing news. News of commendable events inspires and encourages Rotary friendships through various communication channels in the digital age throughout 2023 - 2024 as shown in the structure of this sub-committee. If you would enjoy volunteering as a PR staff, please feel free to apply.





# Rotary News Thailand Channel

## Online Public Relations of Rotary in Thailand

By Public Relations of Rotary News Thailand

The theme song of “Rotary News Thailand” is played as an introduction of various programs broadcast through Rotary News Thailand’s Facebook page and YouTube channel. The song, composed by PP Thanongsak Wiboonma, reflects the team’s dedication and the purpose of Rotary News Thailand which is currently a team of the Public Relations Committee of the Rotary Centre in Thailand. They are responsible for presenting Rotary activities in Thailand through online platforms such as Facebook and YouTube.

The Rotary News Thailand program has been producing content showcasing the achievements of Rotary in all four districts since September 4, 2017. It was initiated by PP Sukkit Taweewisanon, a member of Rotary Club of Bangkok East (District 3350). The program began with live broadcasts via the Rotary News Thailand Facebook page, inviting Rotarians from various clubs and districts as guest speakers. They presented remarkable and interesting Rotary activities and the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic increased the popularity of online media viewership. In response, the team adapted the presentation format and invited Rotarians from the four districts to join the team. This collective effort strengthened the team, leading to a more organized and systematic workflow. The team structure involves technical streaming, information gathering, hosting, and coordination with guest speakers for each live broadcast.

Currently, the various programs presented by the Rotary News Thailand team encompass a wide range of service activities undertaken by Rotary clubs such as Global Grant projects and community service projects. The team showcases activities of Rotary clubs and districts, such as conferences, committee installation ceremonies of Rotary Clubs, Rotaract Clubs, Early Act, Rotary Community

// Fellow Rotarians, we have many service projects, inspired by friendship, and doing good together. We are volunteers who promote Rotary news. Our jobs are reporting and interviewing all of what Rotarians have done. Rotarian Community... Rotarians talking news, a hundred million views, Rotary News Thailand. //

Corps (RCC) and other activities. Almost all of these activities are broadcast on Facebook Live and YouTube channels and in the future, there might be an expansion to other platforms which are popular and well known.

In addition, the team has organized other events to provide entertainment for Rotarian viewers, allowing them to relax and unwind. One of these events is the “Fellow Rotarians 4 Districts Song Contest”, an online singing competition across all four districts. This event aims to promote Rotary activities through music thereby increasing awareness of Rotary to the public. The first “Fellow Rotarians 4 Districts Song Contest” was held in 2021 during the lockdown period caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, when people were encouraged to stay at home. Due to its popularity, the second contest took place from May to September 2023, including other programs such as cooking demonstrations showcasing various professions of Rotarians.

Currently, the Rotary News Thailand team consists of 35 members from all four districts in Thailand. Most of the team members collaborate and hold meetings online. Many team members have developed close friendships and a strong working relationship even though they have never met each other. They have been working together diligently for over the past two years. As the situation gradually eased and travel became more feasible, the team has taken the opportunity to organize activities across districts which aim to facilitate team members meeting in person, fostering better acquaintance and camaraderie. Examples of events include live coverage of regional training meetings in various districts, such as the District Training Assembly and the District Conference.

Lastly, we cordially invite all of our Rotarian friends who wish to promote the activities of your clubs or districts to contact the Rotary News Thailand team. You can reach out to us through our inbox on the Rotary News Thailand Facebook page where our team administrators will read your messages and coordinate with you. Additionally, we would like to invite those of you who haven’t been our followers, to “Like” and follow the Rotary News Thailand page. This will ensure that you don’t miss out on any of the excellent activities that Rotary is engaged in. Our team works diligently to present the most up-to-date and relevant information swiftly and accurately.



On July 13, 2023, Lt. Col. Noranat Suwannarong, Deputy Commandant of the Signal School, Signal Department of the Royal Thai Army, along with a delegation representing the Director-General of the Signal Department, presented a black oxide-coated sculpture of General HRH Kromprakampangpetchakkarayothin on the occasion of the 99th anniversary of the Signal Corps, to the Rotary Centre



in Thailand at the Bhichai Rattakul Meeting Room on the 32nd floor of the Ocean Tower 2 Building in the Wattana district of Bangkok. The presentation was made to PDG Somphop Thirasan, Chair the Board of Directors for the Rotary Centre in Thailand, and the Rotary Centre's Board of Directors extended a warm welcome to the delegation.

## Rotary Centre Chair's Message

PDG Somphop Thirasan



Dear Rotarians,

The Rotary administrative year begins in July and goes on throughout June of the following year. Leadership changes and rotations take place during this period, and club presidents serve one-year terms. To prepare for their roles, training and knowledge-sharing sessions are organized for Rotarians, both at the international and district levels. For Rotary clubs in Thailand, the Rotary Centre in Thailand offers extensive resources for document translation. These resources cover a wide range of formats, including printed materials, brochures, podcasts, and downloadable content on our website. This availability of materials ensures that Rotarians have easy access to the information they need to perform their duties effectively.

Today, we have good news that the translation committee, led by PDG Nakarin Ratanakitsunthorn has collaborated with Rotary International through the coordination of PDG Jason Lim to develop a training curriculum in the Learning Center, now available in the Thai language. We invite you to explore and experience the curriculum yourself. This effort aims to further enhance the availability of training courses in the Thai language, and we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity.

Furthermore, on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rotary Thailand magazine, you can now read the magazine on your mobile devices. Just simply download the application, which is available for both iOS and Android, and start enjoying the content. This initiative reflects the dedicated efforts of the Board of Directors for the Rotary Centre in Thailand to bring valuable information and content to all Rotary club members.

PDG Somphop Thirasan

Chair the Board of Directors for the Rotary Centre in Thailand







# TOGETHER, INSPIRE

The Rotary Club of Phitsanulok organizes a free hair-cutting project for the public, patients' relatives, medical staff, nurses, and doctors at Bhuddhachinaraj Hospital in Phitsanulok province. This project takes place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month and has been ongoing for nearly five years with a break of approximately three years during the COVID-19 pandemic.



# สินค้าเกษตรไทย คัดสรรคุณภาพสู่ตลาดโลก



**ผวก.ดร.ชัชวาล เตะละวานิชย์**  
**และ อน.พนิตา เตะละวานิชย์**

CEO และ ผู้ร่วมก่อตั้ง  
บริษัท ชัชวาล ออร์คิด จำกัด

## ตัวอย่างสินค้า

- ผลไม้** มะพร้าวพร้อมทาน CocoQ  
มะพร้าว, มังคุด, มะม่วง, ทุเรียน  
ผลไม้เมืองร้อน, ผลไม้พร้อมทาน
- ผัก** ห่อไม้ฝรั่ง, ข้าวโพด, กระเจี๊ยบ
- ดอกไม้** ดอกกล้วยไม้สกุลหวาย,  
ม็อคคาร่า, แวนด้า



Chatchawal Orchid Co., Ltd. คือบริษัทที่มุ่ง  
เน้นการผลิต และบริการส่งออกสินค้า  
ทางการเกษตรของประเทศไทยสู่สากลโลก  
โดยคำนึงถึงคุณภาพความปลอดภัยและความ  
พึงพอใจของลูกค้าเป็นหลักด้วยความชำนาญ  
การของคนในองค์กร และระบบของบริษัทที่  
พัฒนามาอย่างต่อเนื่องกว่า 25 ปี

สินค้าได้รับการรับรองมาตรฐานส่งออก  
สากล GMP, HACCP, และ BBRC



**Sedex** Member