

# THAILAND Rotary

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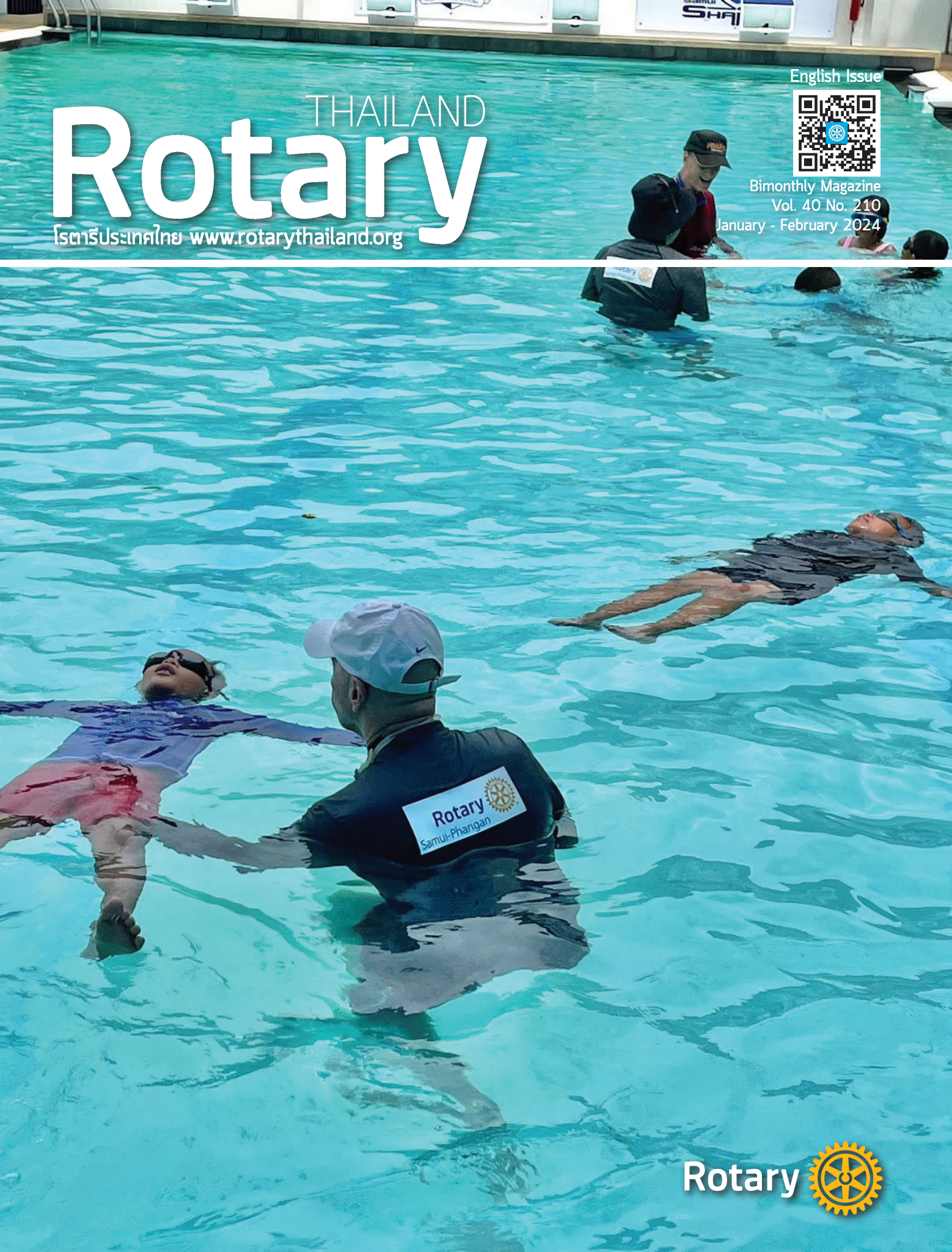
English Issue



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January - February 2024





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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, January 2024



### Light the path out of dark days

In difficult times like these, it's impossible to avoid feeling heartbroken over the devastation and loss of life caused by war and destruction.

Rotary always stands against harming and displacing civilian populations and using armed aggression instead of pursuing peaceful solutions. We advocate for the observance and respect of international law. We believe in strong action to defend and promote peace, even in the darkest of times.

But we also take our position as an international, nonpolitical, nonreligious organization seriously. To respect the global perspectives and experiences of our members, and to work most effectively in our peacebuilding efforts, we do not choose sides in conflicts.

Rotary is made up of 1.4 million people in communities all over the globe who are united in our commitment to building a peaceful world. We strive to ensure that our words and actions prioritize the health and safety of our global membership and the communities where we live and serve.

Our members seek to offer humanitarian assistance to those affected by conflict, and our global reach requires that we promote peacebuilding and conflict prevention with cross-cultural, cross-border connections and friendship through Rotary.

For decades, Rotary has harnessed these connections to carry out service projects, support peace fellowships and scholarships, and establish programs like Rotary Peace Centers to help build lasting peace. Our members also take action to promote Positive Peace, addressing the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources.

Rotary members who wish to wage peace can use district grants and Rotary Foundation global grants to support projects with other Rotary members that help refugees and displaced people, provide medical support, and more worldwide. Members can also work with or join peace-focused Rotary Action Groups, Friendship Exchanges, Fellowships, and intercountry committees. And District Designated Funds or district cash can support our peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts.

Members and nonmembers alike can learn more about peacebuilding through the Rotary Positive Peace Academy, a free online training course available to anyone with an internet connection. You can find it at [positivepeace.academy/rotary](https://positivepeace.academy/rotary).

There is no denying that incidents of violence and atrocities being perpetuated around the world seem to be escalating. Global peace is fragile, and the stakes are getting higher.

Still, we know that it is possible to bring all people together to work toward a shared goal. Rotary members do so every day in every part of the world. May our ability to unify in common purpose be a spark that helps light the path out of these dark days.

Together, let's *Create Hope in the World*.

R. GORDON R. MCINALLY  
President, Rotary International



## RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

R. Gordon R. McNally, February 2024



### A virtuous cycle

I am enthused and encouraged by your embrace of mental health initiatives throughout the Rotary world.

More than 1,000 of you have responded so far to an ongoing survey by the Rotary Action Group on Mental Health Initiatives, offering your feedback on what Rotary can do to improve the personal well-being of members.

The top suggestions are illuminating. Rotary members are asking for more fellowship, camaraderie, conversation, cohesiveness, and connection. They also want more recognition, validation, and integration. They are seeking more service opportunities, and they want more wellness activities, including mental health speakers, awareness efforts, and education.

Our members not only appreciate the greater focus on mental health, but they also believe that making more of the Rotary experience will materially improve their lives. I find it interesting that members are not asking anything dramatically new of their club — rather they want more of what we do best. For example, connection can be improved during meetings simply by assigning seating once each month to encourage people to speak with someone new.

Here are some great ways that we can help achieve these results and make Rotary more appealing to those considering membership. First, we need to acknowledge

the importance of increasing belonging in our clubs and to encourage Rotary members to make the most of every opportunity for new and stronger connections. Public health experts worldwide are concerned about increasing levels of loneliness — the U.S. surgeon general has even declared it an epidemic. Mental health experts agree that finding groups and clubs around common hobbies and interests is a strong way to create greater connectedness. This is what Rotary is all about. We need to make sure all of our members are fully engaged and that our communities are better aware of this inherent strength.

Second, if your club has found new ways to build connection, please share your stories with us at [mindhealth@rotary.org](mailto:mindhealth@rotary.org) so we can make them more broadly known within the Rotary world. Your good ideas might inspire others. Post your service project stories on Rotary Showcase.

And finally, I encourage you to share feedback from surveys like this with your club and bring forward your own ideas to improve your club experience and meet your peers' expectations. The journey we have begun is about more than mental health. It is about taking advantage of the full strength of our wonderful organization and helping all members feel that they are part of a community that cares deeply about their personal well-being.

Everything you do to strengthen connections in Rotary, with each other and the people we serve, also helps improve mental health. And everything we do to improve mental health helps strengthen those connections. Let's continue this virtuous cycle.

R. GORDON R. MCINALLY  
President, Rotary International



## RI TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Barry Rassin, January 2024

### Make the Foundation yours

The new year ushers in promise and hope, a time to resolve to do things differently. We can do more than just hope for the best. We can take steps — big and small — to make changes in every aspect of our lives, including Rotary.

Here's a New Year's resolution to consider: Remember that The Rotary Foundation belongs to you. The Foundation is a global force, doing our good work in the world. Just like anything that belongs to you, it requires care and attention. How can we do this?

First, get to know your Foundation better this year. Did you know that in 2023, the Foundation achieved a maximum four-star rating from Charity Navigator for the 15th consecutive year? This places your Foundation among the world's top charities. Why do we consistently receive this honor? It's because we are financially strong, have a broad reach, and are highly effective with the gifts you give: 91 percent of funds are allocated to program awards and operations.

Another way to engage with your Foundation is to support it through a gift, every year. We've set an ambitious fundraising goal of \$500 million this year, and I'm confident that, with your support, we will achieve it. This year, I'm especially counting on those Rotarians and Rotaractors who have not yet contributed to make their first gift. Because The Rotary Foundation is an excellent steward, you can be confident that your gift will make a difference, whether it's in polio eradication, literacy



initiatives, peace education, or any other area in which we excel.

In 2024, resolve to share the Foundation with others. The Foundation is too great to keep to ourselves. Spread the word during your fundraisers and events. Let the public know that The Rotary Foundation plays a significant role in everything we do, including in our many partnerships. Anyone can support the Foundation, even people who are not in Rotary.

Lastly this year, take action. Your Foundation is waiting for you to roll up your sleeves and make use of its resources to make the world a better place. Seek out global or district grant projects. Consider partnering with a Rotaract club in 2024 to support a grant or collaborate on one. Team up with Rotary and Rotaract clubs in your area to plan your biggest million dollar dinner fundraiser or End Polio Now event.

Whatever you decide to do in 2024, commit to keeping our Foundation in your plans. I can't wait to hear about all the great things we will accomplish this year.

BARRY RASSIN  
Foundation Trustee Chair



## RI TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Barry Rassin, February 2024



### The groundwork for peace

Following the news is challenging these days. Stories of war and violence are deeply discouraging. It breaks my heart when I hear about innocent bystanders, particularly women and children, who are caught in the crossfire of conflict.

Is there anything we can do about it? We certainly can't turn away from the problem. I think in these times, we need to shift our focus from what we can't change to what we can do. We can also support what we know works.

February is Rotary's Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month. It is one of our areas of focus because peace is central to everything we do in Rotary. Even though most of us aren't diplomats at the negotiating table or peacebuilders working on active conflicts, in Rotary's singular way, what we do works to promote peace and prevent conflict somewhere, every day.

Every Rotary member should remember this during the month of February: When you support any of the areas of focus of The Rotary Foundation, you are contributing to peace. Foundation grants that address fundamental issues — such as a global grant focused on enhancing basic literacy in a community — will cultivate a better understanding of the world and lead to greater economic stability, laying the groundwork for peace.

You can say the same for all the areas of focus, from the environment to economic development. They help stabilize communities, lift families out of poverty, and foster the pursuit of education.

Peace is and always has been interwoven into the fabric of Rotary beyond our projects, too.

In 1999, when we established the Rotary Peace Centers through a visionary initiative of our Foundation, we reaffirmed this commitment. This month, we are once again renewing that vision, with Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul, our host partner for the newest Rotary Peace Center, as it takes its first steps to prepare for the initial cohort of students arriving in early 2025.

All along the way, as Rotary has evolved into a global force for good, it has championed peace and understanding in countless ways, and our Foundation remains the great driving force behind that vision. It will be part of Rotary's eternal legacy.

And by supporting our work, you will be able to say that you are a part of that legacy. You can directly support it by visiting [rotary.org/donate](https://rotary.org/donate) and selecting peacebuilding and conflict prevention as the area of focus.

So, yes, there is a lot you can do to support peace and prevent conflict. The next step is up to you.

BARRY RASSIN  
Foundation Trustee Chair



## Editorial

PDG Chalermchat Chun-In



Greetings to all of our readers,

This issue marks our entry into the year 2024. Within this issue, we have endeavored to gather stories to convey and communicate the happenings within our organization, both globally and within Thailand.

The Rotary International President has highlighted the occurrences in our current world, including wars and conflicts that Rotary aims to address in its pursuit of global peace. Additionally, there has been emphasis placed on mental health advocacy activities, a topic of great importance this year. Furthermore, it was announced that The Rotary Foundation has received the highest four-star rating from Charity Navigator for the 15th consecutive year. This recognition signifies the standard and confidence we uphold.

In addition, we have gathered stories of various charitable endeavors from all corners of the world to enlighten and educate our readers. The primary focus of these narratives revolves around maternal and child health in the highlands of Ethiopia, highlighting the direct impact of malnutrition on children's health. We hope to learn valuable insights from these stories. Additionally, this issue includes Rotary information which is worth following and reading.

In the past month, District Governors-Elect from all four districts in Thailand attended the International Assembly in the United States, and DGE Jakchai Visutthakul was representative, sharing the experiences from their journey with us. Furthermore, there are stories of various projects in Thailand that are not only intriguing but also serve as a source of inspiration for Rotarians. For instance, the long-standing service project of the Rotary Club of Samui-Phangan to enhance swimming skills for life.

As for the editorial team representing all four districts, they have meticulously selected and curated a variety of stories and projects related to maternal and child health, offering us valuable learning opportunities. Additionally, they have included photographs showcasing ongoing service projects, where each district continues to fulfill its responsibilities admirably and commendably. I sincerely commend their efforts.

I extend my gratitude to all our loyal readers. The Rotary Thailand magazine team comprises dedicated volunteers, each contributing their professional expertise. We allocate time to fulfill these responsibilities consistently and continuously, spanning over 40 years. Both the frontline and backstage contributors, including translators, co-editors, assistant editors, authors, consultants, and staff, have performed admirably. My commendations once again.

PDG Chalermchat Chun-In

Editor in Chief – Rotary Thailand Magazine



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## MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

# A solution hiding in plain sight

**Inexpensive vitamin B9 can prevent spina bifida.  
Why are thousands born each year with the condition?**

**The** highlands of Ethiopia are filled with lentil farms. It's a mighty legume rich in the natural form of folate, a vitamin recommended for women who can become pregnant to help prevent congenital defects that result in lifelong medical problems or even death.

And yet, when Patricia O'Neill and her late husband, Marinus "Dick" Koning, traveled from their home in Bend, Oregon, to Ethiopia for a humanitarian visit several years ago, they encountered people who had no idea. In one emotional exchange, a farmer told them he wasn't aware that the neural tube disorder his child was born with might have been caused by a lack of folate, a substance in the lentils he sold.

"He was just heartbroken," recalls O'Neill, president of the ReachAnother Foundation, a philanthropic organization focused on treating and preventing neural tube defects in children, including spina bifida. She and Koning, who was a surgeon and member of the Rotary Club of Redmond, Oregon, founded the organization in 2009 after an earlier visit to Ethiopia. "People first have to be aware of the problem, and then understand there is a solution to the problem — and that it's not just treatment, it's also prevention," O'Neill says.

Every year, more than 300,000 children

worldwide are born with neural tube defects, such as spina bifida, when the spine fails to form properly in the first month of pregnancy. Another defect, hydrocephalus, involves a buildup of fluid in the brain. Both are treatable but often cause serious impairments and require complex, lifelong care. And the condition anencephaly is an untreatable, fatal brain defect. Most of these cases could be prevented with folic acid, the synthetic form of folate. (Folate is also known as vitamin B9.) People need enough folic acid in their bodies before or shortly after becoming pregnant to help prevent these conditions at birth, and they can get the necessary amount through a dietary supplement or fortified food staples.

Ethiopia is particularly affected: More than 25,000 babies are born there each year with neural tube defects. About 80 percent of women of childbearing age in the country had blood folate concentrations low enough to cause a risk of birth defects if they had a baby, according to a recent study.

A growing number of Rotary members are working to change that. Their mission is to educate people around the world about folic acid, connect with policymakers to advocate for fortification of foods with the micronutrient (as some countries, including the United States, have done for



**Top:** *The Rotary Club of Visakhapatnam, India, co-hosts a spina bifida seminar for aspiring medical students.*  
**Below:** *A shipment of folic acid arrives in Ethiopia for a global grant-supported project.*

decades), and help affected children get medical help.

Children born with severe cases of spina bifida, for example, often need multiple surgeries throughout their lives. They may have problems walking, have seizures, or require catheters. “And it doesn’t go away,” says Jogi Pattisapu, a retired pediatric neurosurgeon based in

Orlando, Florida, and member of the Rotary Club of Lake Nona. “It’s not like somebody broke their leg and you fixed it. It’s unfortunately an ongoing, revolving door of issues.”

But those medical complications are only a shadow of the problem, explains Yakob Ahmed, a Rotarian in Ethiopia and country director of ReachAnother

Foundation. Other pregnancies end in miscarriage or stillbirth, or are terminated when neural tube defects are identified prenatally. All of the outcomes have implications not only for the children who deal with them directly but for their parents too. “So you can imagine the scale of this problem globally,” Ahmed says.

Preventing the problem, whether through vitamin supplements or food fortification, is affordable, says Ralph Peeler, a retired physician and member of the Rotary Club of North Atlanta. “It costs a few cents per person [per year] to fortify food. By comparison, one case in the U.S. will cost a lifetime of care, in excess of a million dollars.” Given the vastness of Rotary’s





## BY THE NUMBERS

**300,000**

Number of children born each year with neural tube defects

**1 in 100**

Prevalence in low-and middle-income countries

**80%**

Portion of women of childbearing age in Ethiopia with folate deficiency

network and the generosity of its members, Peeler and others are hopeful that preventing more of these birth defects is within reach. “It’s almost a moral imperative, isn’t it? I mean, we have to do it,” says Jonathan Yaeger, also a member of the North Atlanta club. With the help of a Rotary Foundation global grant, a project in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, is underway to provide folic acid supplementation to women who have already had a child with a neural tube defect. Compared to the general population, these women are at a significantly higher risk for a future pregnancy to be affected, and a high dose of the vitamin has been shown to reduce the chance of a neural tube defect in children born later. The project is a partnership between the Rotary clubs of North Atlanta and Addis Ababa-West.

Meanwhile, in India, another global grant is helping pay for children to receive spinal surgeries and aftercare, says Els Reynaers Kini, a member of the Rotary Club of Mumbai Sobo. Parents, especially in rural areas, often don’t know how to help a child born with spina bifida and lack critical support, she says. “So they’re not necessarily investing much in these children. As a result, typically these children don’t go to school. They’re being sidelined,” she says.

In Colombia, Sonia Uribe, a member of the Rotary Club of Nuevo Medellín, is director of Fundación Mónica Uribe por Amor, which helps children with spina bifida. The foundation also developed a campaign with support from Rotary clubs to educate teenage girls about folate and good sources of it, including lentils, peas, and broccoli.

*Jennifer Jones, 2022-23 Rotary president, (center) visits Fundación Mónica Uribe por Amor in Colombia in 2023 with current RI Vice President Pat Merryweather-Arges (left) and Past RI Director Suzi Howe. The foundation helps people with spina bifida.*

Photograph: Sonia Uribe

But perhaps the most impactful frontier is fortifying the food supply in more countries. Enriched foods, from breads to cereals and more, make it easy for many people to get the vitamin, helping ensure women have enough early in pregnancy to guard against birth defects. The World Health Organization passed a resolution last year recommending folic acid fortification. “One of the most equitable interventions that one can do is to put folic acid in something everybody eats,” says Godfrey Oakley, director of the Center for Spina Bifida Prevention at Emory University’s Rollins School of Public Health and member of the Rotary Club of North Atlanta.

In the 1990s, Oakley was instrumental in the effort to fortify foods with folic acid in the United States, while supervising the birth defects division of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Eighty other countries are also fortifying cereal grains with folic acid. Yet more than 100 countries still don’t have folic acid fortification programs, for reasons ranging from a lack of political will and concerns from the food industry to competing public health priorities. Oakley and others are hopeful Rotary’s web of connections can help raise awareness and motivate policymakers to take action on fortification.

It’s been more than 30 years since a pivotal trial showed unequivocally that taking folic acid starting before pregnancy

can prevent most cases of neural tube defects. The failure of so many countries to require mandatory fortification is a tragic missed opportunity, says Victor Hoffbrand, author of the book *The Folate Story: A Vitamin Under the Microscope*.

Over the years, science has shown fortifying foods is safe, he says. What’s more, it not only reduces birth defects but also combats a type of anemia that affects men and women. “The hope is that there will be universal fortification for every country,” Hoffbrand says.

As Rotary continues its efforts, neural tube defects have the potential to become much rarer than they are today, Rotarians say. “This is about healthy kids and having maternal and child health,” O’Neill says. When family members are healthy, it also puts less financial strain on caregivers and contributes to a productive workforce overall, she notes. “I don’t see how that can’t be a win-win.” — AMY HOAK



# OUR CLUBS

## VIRTUAL VISIT

### Leading with heart

**Rotaract Club of One Million Lives  
Saigon, Vietnam**

There's a lot of female energy in the Rotaract Club of One Million Lives Saigon: The charter president, president, and vice president are all women. Is that by accident or design? Perhaps a little bit of both. "It may be a coincidence," says club member Trang Phan Doan Huynh, a student at the Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) campus of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. "But — and this might sound a little biased — in my school, the girls are interested in extracurricular activities a bit more than the boys."

What isn't a coincidence is how the women were drawn to do good works. They credit parents and other older people in their lives with showing them the way. For Ha Vo Nguyet Le, a driving force in

chartering the club, inspiration came from an elementary school teacher in the highland province of Dak Lak. Many students there belong to the Ede ethnic minority, and many are in need.

"I met the teacher through my mother, who also enjoys social work," Le says. She and several friends decided to help the teacher purchase items such as bikes for students who would otherwise have to walk 6 or 7 miles to school.

"I visited her once in 2020 to learn more about her work in the remote areas of Dak Lak," Le says. "I was touched by her enthusiasm and her devotion to people who were strangers to her. She always gives out books and clothes for her students and even gives free tutoring sessions in her house. Even though she's not the most wealthy person in the village — she's in the lower-income section of society — she's still able to do those kinds of things."

Le co-founded an organization to help provide school supplies, transportation, and food for students in the region who face hardships. It grew into an association of young



people across Vietnam that raised money for various causes. When Le met Jason Lim, past governor of Rotary District 3350, which includes Vietnam, he urged her to charter a Rotaract club.

"Ha Le has the potential to become a strong leader," Lim says. "In doing community service, the important thing isn't how rich you are; it's your heart. She has the heart and the patience to lead her fellow members."

Le was just as impressed with Rotary. “We’ve gotten a lot of help from our club advisers,” who are members of the sponsor Rotary clubs of Bangkok Cyber and Saigon, she says.

The club, chartered in February (2023), is the only Rotaract club in Vietnam and part of a small but growing Rotary presence in the country. Five Rotary clubs have been chartered there in recent years, beginning with the Saigon and Saigon International clubs in June 2021.

The women behind the Rotaract club are masters of social media and word-of-mouth organizing. In 2020, as members of the organization that Le started, they put on a concert to raise funds, then persuaded many of the high school students who’d attended to join their group. Within a few months after they chartered the Rotaract club, it had more than 40 members.

Some of the club’s causes are clean water, food for mothers and children, and sex education. Le is particularly excited about a project to provide 1,000 servings of milk each month to students in a nearby elementary school.

“We’re all about providing students with enough food security so that they can stay in school,” she says.

My Trang Quynh Nguyen, the vice president, is dedicated to fighting sexual harassment and encouraging sex education, both controversial topics in Vietnam.

“Normally in Asia, parents prevent



*Members of the Rotaract Club of One Million Lives Saigon focus on causes such as clean water and food for mothers and children.*

any conversations about sex. This means that children and teenagers have to explore everything in this area by themselves,” she says. “It’s crucial to normalize sex education and give our children the right direction.”

Nguyen, Le, and Huynh all brought organizational experience to the club. “I used to participate in many extracurricular clubs, but I’ve never been in any organizations that have such a clear mission as this one,” Nguyen says.

Huynh learned about the group through friends, but her interest in helping others started at home. “I’ve always been interested in social work since I was little, because my parents did it,” she says. “But I wanted to be more proactive and not just follow

my parents around. I started by raising funds in my student council to help students with intellectual disabilities in my school.”

Huynh ended up founding a club in her high school to help these students. Eventually, the club expanded its efforts to help students with disabilities all over Ho Chi Minh City. After this success, Huynh decided to begin working with the Rotaract club on a broader range of causes.

“What I really love about the club is that we raise funds on our own,” she says. “The youth do it themselves.” — ETELKA LEHOCZK



# People of action around the globe

By Brad Webber

## United States

Rotary clubs in the ski resort towns of Park City, Utah, and Breckenridge, Colorado, have a friendly rivalry for the longest “shot ski” — a ski affixed to shot glasses that people raise together to down whiskey at the same time. In October, the Rotary Club of Park City Sunrise recaptured the crown as 1,363 people lined a street to drink rye whiskey (or apple cider) in unison from hundreds of shot skis held end to end. The event raised more than \$43,000 for grants to assist community organizations, club member Connie Nelson says. She concedes that she and fellow club member Mike Luers were inspired by the Colorado club during a “reconnaissance” tour of successful winter resorts. “Their main street was closed for a festival. I looked at Mike and he looked at me and we said, ‘We can beat that,’” she says. The festive affair is “branding for our Rotary club,” Nelson adds. “We not only sell out but we have people on a waiting list to try to get on the line. It’s not just to sample the alcohol. It’s about the getting together, the unique community sharing.”

**Rotary**  
Club of Park City Sunrise

**65 million**

Visits to U.S.  
ski resorts in  
the 2022-23



**45%**

Share of Honduran children who  
complete secondary school



## Honduras

Nearly 40 percent of adolescents are not in secondary school in Honduras, where educational achievement scores are low. The Rotary clubs of Tegucigalpa Sur and Peterborough, Ontario, teamed up to address the issue. In 2018 the clubs, which have collaborated on projects before, constructed a teacher training center in the municipality of Lepaterique and supplied books and other learning materials. Most recently, the clubs partnered with a nonprofit organization and the country’s Ministry of Education to provide literacy training to primary school teachers. “Sixteen-hour workshops are being held on a rotating basis with 160 teachers” representing 62 schools, says Marie Press, a member of the Peterborough club. “The feedback has been incredibly positive.”

**Rotary**  
Club of Tegucigalpa Sur

**Rotary**  
Club of Peterborough, Ontario

Photographs: Courtesy of Rotary Clubs

## England

For its centennial project, the Rotary Club of Halifax built a scenic overlook above the town on an ancient road and footpath known as the Magna Via. Illustrated panels identify landmarks such as Wainhouse Tower, Borough Market, Square Church spire, the Halifax gibbet (a replica of the 16th century precursor to the guillotine), and the Town Hall, designed by Sir Charles Barry, architect of Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament.

QR codes link to descriptions of the landmarks on the club website. “The views are magnificent and span the horizon,” says Ken Robertshaw, a past governor of District 1040. The \$25,000 project, dedicated in late June, was funded by sponsoring businesses and individual donors, including Robertshaw, who contributed in honor of his late wife, Pauline. The Town Council agreed to maintain the overlook. “Given the history of the site, it seemed like an appropriate place for us to build something that celebrates the rich heritage of the town,” Robertshaw says.



# 1650

The year the Halifax gibbet claimed its last victim



## Senegal

The Rotary Clubs of Dakar-Soleil and West Chester, Pennsylvania, celebrated a milestone last year in their project to drill for water in three villages in Senegal. Despite delays during the pandemic and “several difficult months searching for water on the part of the construction company,” productive boreholes were drilled in July and August in the southeastern Kédougou region, reports Samuel Lowry, a member of the Rotary Club of Greater Huntsville, Alabama, who assisted with the project. Three of five planned pumps are now in use providing potable water, Lowry says. A \$130,000 global grant supported the project. Funds were also raised online during the pandemic. A project Facebook page yielded contributions as well as comments like “How can we get one of these where we are?”



# 50%

Possible decline in Senegal's renewable freshwater by 2050

## Sri Lanka

All the world's a stage for young Sri Lankan thespians who, with their Rotarian supporters, take their Shakespeare seriously. For nearly five decades, tens of thousands of them have participated in the All Island Inter-School Shakespeare Drama Competition. Known as the “Shakes,” last year's contest, held in September and organized by the Rotary Club of Colombo North and the Colombo YMCA, included more than 1,000 students. The ensembles performed 30-minute scenes that organizers chose from eight plays. “They are judged mainly on acting, and marks are also allocated for direction, teamwork, and effects,” Club President Lasika Jayamaha says. Rotaractors assisted with front of house and backstage roles. “The competition has been a springboard for thousands of young people across the island” to careers in acting, directing, and media, Jayamaha says. Adding to the shine, the coveted rotating trophy is a silver bust of Shakespeare that was a gift from the mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon, the birthplace of the Bard.



# At least 37

The number of plays written by Shakespeare



## Rotary Information

By PDG Somchai Chiaranaipanit  
Rotary Club of Kaen Koon, D3340

# The Rotary Story



### 1905: Rotary begins

The Rotary Organization was founded in Chicago, Illinois, USA. It is known as the “Windy City” because it can be very windy and terribly cold.

In 1905, Mr. Paul P. Harris, aged 37, a lawyer in Chicago, had an idea of persuading business associates about the possibility about forming a local professionals’ organization where they could exchange ideas and form meaningful, lifelong friendships. He proposed the idea for consideration to his three friends of different businesses. All agreed in the evening of Thursday, February 23, 1905 to establish the Rotary Club of Chicago where it was known as the first Service Club of the world. Later, it became Rotary International now with over 1.2 million members worldwide adhering to the motto of “Service Above Self”.

### 1907: Early community service project

Two years after the Rotary Club of Chicago was founded, members expressed their opinions that instead of only having meetings and dining, they should do some service projects in the community as well. After some discussion in the club, a project was initiated and building a public toilet was the first Rotary public service project. Since Chicago was very cold, a public toilet was unavailable for the passerby who was in need. Therefore, this project received a lot of appreciation from the local people.

### 1930: Rotary Club officially established in Thailand

James W. Davidson entered Thailand to ask permission to have an audience with HRH Prince Purachatra Krom Phra Kamphaengphet Akkarorhin regarding the origin and development of Rotary. In addition, he also asked His Excellency the Prince to start the first Rotary Club in Thailand.

HRH Prince Purachatra who graduated from Cambridge University in England, sympathized with James W. Davidson’s diligence. His Excellency Prince Purachatra was impressed with the ideals of Rotary, and thus the first Rotary Club in Thailand was founded by him on September 17, 1930 (B.E.2473) namely, the “Rotary Club of Bangkok” with 69 founding members of 15 different nationalities. The Charter Presentation Ceremony was held at Phayathai Palace (now the Phra Mongkut Army Hospital on Rajvithee Road in Bangkok), where HRH Prince Purachatra was installed as Charter President. Phraya Manopakorn Nitithada, the former prime minister of Thailand, joined in this regard and English has been the official language used in club meetings still today. It was recorded in Rotary history that King Prachadhipok (King Rama VII) graciously attended the meeting of the Rotary club of Bangkok on December 23, 1930. This occasion really delighted Thai Rotarians and touched their feelings of appreciation.

### 1992: Rotary Centre office and split districts in Thailand

The Rotary Centre office was set up in Bangkok to coordinate Rotary International operations, i.e. RI dues payments that should directly be transferred to the United States, while on the other hand can also be retained in Thailand. Since the number of Rotary Clubs in Thailand had been growing fast, Rotary International approved Districts 335 & 336 to be split into four districts; 3330, 3340, 3350, and 3360, in effect from July 1, 1992 onward. PDG Niwes Khunavisarut from the Rotary Club of Chanthaburi was appointed as the first District Governor of District 3340.

### 2002: First Thai Rotary International President

Every year, the selection of the Rotary International Presidency is drawn from nearly 200 member countries. It is said that being elected president of Rotary International is harder than being elected as the president of the United States. Therefore, it is a great honor for the country and its chosen ones. The first Thai person who was elected as a President of Rotary International was His Excellency Bhichai Rattakul from the Rotary Club of Dhonburi in District 3350.

The motto of that Rotary year, “Sow the Seeds of Love” was translated into Thai by PDG Som Indra-Payoong of District 3340 and organized the “10,000 bicycles” project to celebrate this special occasion, of which PDG Surapol Thaweesaengskulthai proposed the figure of 10,000 units. PDG Som Indra-Payoong submitted nine matching grants and thus there were 13 participating countries. This project was able to be completed within nine months instead of the expected three years’ achievement and was valued at THB 15 million.



# Impressions from the Rotary International Assembly IA in the United States



DGE Jakchai Visutthakul  
Rotary Club of  
Poochaosamingprai, District 3330

**The magic of the Rotary** world has provided me with tremendous learning and great experiences. I must express my gratitude to all my fellow Rotarians in District 3330, especially the five members of the District Governor Nominating Committee who selected me to serve as the district governor for the Rotary year 2024-2025. Additionally, I am thankful for the opportunity to have attended the International Assembly from January 7-11, 2024, at Rosen Shingle Creek Orlando in the United States, to prepare myself to be an effective district governor.

On the day of our departure with Rotary Ann Pornjit Yimphakorn of District 3330 and the family of DGE Apisak Jompong and Rotary Ann Maleeya Wongratanamajcha of District 3360, we met at Suvarnabhumi Airport in the morning of January 5. We smoothly passed through the immigration procedures and prepared for the long journey ahead, spanning over 20 hours of flight time with three connecting flights. Our route took us through Haneda Airport in Japan followed by a transfer at Chicago O'Hare International Airport before reaching Orlando, Florida in United States.

After passing through immigration at Orlando International Airport, we headed to the Hampton Inn, our accommodation for the first two nights. Arriving at the hotel around 11:00 pm, DGE Patsri and her partner PP Kolkij Suwimol of District 3350 who had arrived a bit earlier, kindly waited for us and took us to a convenience store for some snacks before bedtime.

On January 7, we went to Rosen Shingle Creek Orlando where our accommodation and event venue was organized. We arrived around noon and quickly proceeded to meet DGE Sangtiwa Tong-u-chang of District 3340 at a Mexican restaurant in the hotel. We enjoyed lunch together and engaged in lively conversations. During lunch, we reviewed the schedule and prepared for the upcoming sessions. When the time





came, we separated and went to our rooms to prepare for the Welcome Reception that evening.

At 6:00 pm, we entered the Welcome Reception, a casual event preceding the official training sessions on the next day. The reception concluded around 8:00 pm, allowing everyone to retire for the night.

On January 8 at 7:30 am, we gathered for breakfast before heading to the main conference hall. This day was particularly special as it included the official introduction of the theme for the Rotary Year 2024-2025, “The Magic of Rotary,” by RI President Stephanie A. Urchick. The room filled with excitement and anticipation as the theme was unveiled, and we all enthusiastically embraced it.

As for the meaning of this Rotary theme, I believe it is best left to the discretion of each District Governor-Elect to share their experiences during the training sessions in each district. Therefore, I won’t delve into details here, allowing them to convey their thoughts and feelings during their own district introductions.

After learning about the theme and its significance, we separated into smaller groups for the training sessions to prepare for our roles as district governors.

These four days of intensive training provided us with valuable insights and fostered friendships among over 500 district governors from around the world.

After each day of training, we enjoyed evening receptions providing us with opportunities to network and unwind. The most memorable evening was the Cultural Night on the third night, where governors and their partners showcased their national costumes and shared cultural aspects of their countries. It was a night filled with admiration and appreciation for the diverse cultures represented there.

On the final day of training and the farewell dinner, we truly bonded, exchanging stories and forging friendships that will last a lifetime and we pledged to reunite whenever possible.

Two days later, the four of us from Thailand parted ways to return to Thailand. Before our separation at Rosen Shingle Creek Orlando, we engaged in a conversation about everything that had transpired since our selection as district governors. We four came together, discussing and sharing everything to ensure that we all reach our common goal - to foster growth and strength within Thai Rotary clubs, including the





partners who have supported each other throughout this training. As we embarked on this journey to train together as governors, we encountered more than 500 friends, including Rotary International staff, who warmly welcomed and cared for us, despite having never met before. This is not what one might call the *Magic of Rotary*, but rather a source of pride for our four governors.





# Small group, mighty power



PP Ratchada Thepnava  
ARPIC, RI Region 12

The swimming courses for children have been continuously implemented with discipline and a sustainable focus by 10 members of the Rotary Club of Samui-Phangan located on Koh Samui Island. The club has been making a splash with their project to “Enhance Swimming Skills for Life”. This program tackles the critical issue of child drownings by providing swimming courses for 10 to 12 year-old children from government schools. With a focus on building lifelong skills through a disciplined approach to the children’s swimming ability, two to three groups a year with 35 students each have been coached. This hands-on community service project has equipped over 225 children with vital swimming ability and lifesaving skills, leading to a positive long-term impact. The project has been driven since before COVID-19 to the present day. The collaborative effort is unconditionally offered by the dedicated team of club members and professional coaches from Swim Australia and SSA Lifeguards, alongside Thai and foreign volunteer teaching assistants living on Koh Samui.



Koh Samui, Thailand’s second-largest island, boasts stunning beaches, fantastic scenery, waterfalls and mountainous geography. The island attracts international tourists all

year round for both short and long-term stays and workers migrate to the island for higher wages. Nevertheless, a small but important aspect that caught our eyes is that none of the government schools are equipped with swimming pools. The chance for swimming lessons are rarely available and this creates a critical gap in child safety, leading to the highest death rates caused by drowning among children aged five to 14.

Teaching children to swim sounds normal. The story of problem-solving, chance creation, sustainable quality of life and

skill enhancement for underprivileged children to learn lifesaving skills leads to a better life. This Rotary Club of Samui-Phangan project was







communicated to the Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation.

This hands-on project aligns with the foundation objectives, which aim to reduce the risk of drowning by underprivileged children. It resonates strongly with protecting children from water dangers through public awareness, creating preventive measures and swimming education.

The initiative has received support from the Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation. This partnership not only expands the project's reach to help more children, but it also creates a significant public image and attracts further participation and support from international organizations.

Every Saturday, the children are very excited and look forward to the swimming lessons. When they arrive at the pool of Koh Samui International School (KIS), the

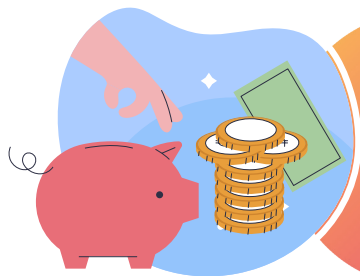
excitement is profound as they race to change into their swimsuits and prepare their swimming items. Qualified volunteer instructors, assisted by trained teaching assistants, ensure a safe and structured learning environment. The moment reflects laughter, cheer, and perhaps tears upon their group. The swimming lesson lasts for two hours and the children are driven home safely afterwards. The dedicated volunteers devote about three hours each Saturday to equip the children with a lifesaving skill and the ability to survive from drowning.

This project exemplifies the commitment and action taken to the community by Rotarians. Through sharing the story of problem-solving and positive impact, meaningful action penetrates into public perception and inspires others to join and empower others while creating lasting change for a better world.





Sharing meaningful initiatives implemented by club members and families, which help solve the problems in communities, inspires people to take part in the activities. To create public awareness through effective communication channels and the right audience, the capability of Rotarians and collaborators will be empowered to expand their reach and create greater impact.



Join together to do good things at

Rotary Club of Samui-Phangan,  
Siam Commercial Bank (Lotus Lamai Branch)

Account number: 427-083691-8

SWIFT Code: SI CO TH BK

Account name: Warunee Sarika, Adam Preston, David Marshall  
(Australian citizens can get a tax deduction on their donations.)



*Drowning is the leading cause of death for children ages five to 14. In Thailand from years 2013 to 2023, there were 6,992 reported deaths of children under 15 years old. The average death figures were about 700 children per year and the highest figures were in the one to nine year old range. The incidents mostly happened in summer from March to May and the major cause was a lack of survival skills from drowning and lifesaving.*

Courtesy photos and info: Rotary Club of Samui-Phangan



# District Training Assembly (DTA) Year 2024-25



## District 3330

**District Training  
Assembly  
Year 2024-25**

**May 10-12, 2024**

**River Hotel  
Nakhon Pathom province**

## District 3340

**District Training  
Assembly  
Year 2024-25**

**May 3-4, 2024**

**New Travel Lodge Hotel  
Chanthaburi province**

## District 3350

**District Training  
Assembly  
Year 2024-25**

**May 18, 2024**

**IMPACT FORUM, Muang Thong Thani  
Nonthaburi province**

## District 3360

**District Training  
Assembly  
Year 2024-25**

**June 8-9, 2024**

**Kong Garden View Resort Hotel  
Chiang Rai province**



**DISTRICT** Rotary  
// - CONFERENCE - //  
ห้องแกรนด์บอลรูม โรงแรมบวรพงษ์บุรี  
จังหวัด สุราษฎร์ธานี

**29-30 67**  
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LET'S GO!

" ฟื้นความหลัง  
#THEME  
City POP  
**Rotary**  
City Pop



ขอเชิญร่วมงาน  
**DISTRICT CONFERENCE**  
การประชุมใหญ่ภาค 3340 (DC)  
8-9 มีนาคม 2567  
ณ.ห้องศรีจันทร์ โรงแรมเจริญธานี จ.ขอนแก่น

**8-9 MARCH 2024**  
AT SRICHAN ROOM CHAROEN THANIKHON KAEN

ย้อนเวลาจากมิตรภาพ  
Back To School Night  
Night of March 8

แกเลซี่ปาร์ตี้ไนท์  
Gatsby Night  
Night of March 9

**การลงทะเบียน**

PROMOTION ลงทะเบียน ชำระก่อน 31 มกราคม 2567  
1,900.-/ท่าน EARY BIRD PAYMENT BY 31 JANUARY 2024

2,000.-/ท่าน ลงทะเบียน ชำระก่อน 29 กุมภาพันธ์ 2567  
PAYMENT BY 29 FEBRUARY 2024

2,100.-/ท่าน ลงทะเบียน ชำระก่อน มีนาคม 2567  
PAYMENT BY MARCH 2024

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ชื่อบัญชี นางกรรณิการ์ อุดมวงษ์กุล





Rotary District 3350  
ขอเชิญร่วมงาน  
**การประชุมใหญ่ภาค ประจำปี 2567**  
**2024 DISTRICT CONFERENCE**  
THE ZIGN HOTEL  
PATTAYA NORTH  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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Rotary District 3360  
**DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2023-2024**  
@ CHIANG RAI

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**การประชุมใหญ่ประจำปี**  
ภาค 3360 โรตารีสากล ปี 2566-67

วันที่ 9 - 10 มีนาคม 2567  
ณ โรงแรมเฮอริเทจเชียงใหม่ โฮเทล แอนด์ คอนเวนชั่น  
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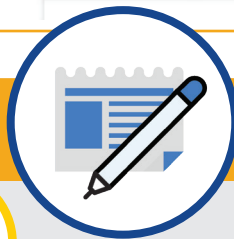



# Courses in Thai Language At the Learning Centre in My Rotary

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the Learning Center  
in My Rotary



• Club President  
Basics



• Working with Your  
Club Leadership Team



• And many other  
topics coming soon

**Rotary Centre in Thailand**

Supported by Rotary International

D3330

Editorial



**PDG Paikit Hoonpongsimanont**  
Rotary Club of Tubtiang

First and foremost, I would like to extend my warmest greetings for the New Year 2024 to all Rotarian friends. As this issue of the Rotary Thailand magazine marks the beginning of the year 2567 BE, or 2024, we must recognize that from the Rotary perspective, the Rotary Year 2023-2024 has only reached its halfway point. We still have more than four months left to carry out Rotary activities for the community. Therefore, in the upcoming issues, we can expect a continuous stream of service projects from various Rotary clubs.

In this issue, there is a special article about the future projects for Maternal and Child Health that District 3330 is dedicated to undertaking. This article was graciously contributed by Rotarian Ratchanee Wongwiwatwaitaya of the Rotary Club of Nakornpathom, Chair of District Promotion of Mental Health Sub-Committee. Additionally, there is news about the service projects of clubs in District 3330.

It is anticipated that this edition of the Rotary Thailand magazine will reach readers by the end of February at the earliest. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone good luck and prosperity for the upcoming Chinese New Year. May you thrive in all aspects of life and may all your wishes come true. Until we meet again in the next issue.

## Mother and Child Health Project



**Rtn Ratchanee Wongwiwatwaitaya**  
Rotary Club of Nakornpathom  
Chair of District Promotion of  
Mental Health Sub-Committee

Rotary International has outlined the Seven Areas of Focus, one of which emphasizes Maternal and Child Health aiming to contribute to the development of basic life assets that impact mental, social, and intellectual development to thrive in an ever-changing society. Recognizing children as the future of the nation, it underscores the importance of parental readiness in terms of physical, mental, and familial aspects to nurture children to grow and sustain themselves in society. This is encapsulated in the saying, "Children are the future of the nation", signifying the quality of children that parents must be prepared for in terms of physical, emotional, and psychological readiness for proper nurturing and suitable developmental promotion according to age – physically, emotionally, and mentally – and reducing risks and mortality rates for both mothers and children. It forms a vital foundation for improving the quality of life for the population.

Rotary International's District 3330 has been consistently prioritizing projects to promote maternal and child health for many decades. Reports indicate that annually, at least seven million children under the age of five die due to malnutrition and inadequate healthcare. District 3330 has thus organized projects to help mothers and children receive necessary vaccinations and essential medicines for infants, as well as improving access to essential medical services. Moreover, they support healthcare providers in receiving training and knowledge for maternal and child care, believing that these projects ensure sustainable development by enhancing community capacity in owning health care training programs.

Therefore, District 3330 supports Rotarians in assisting with the healthcare of mothers and the elderly, with the



## เป้าหมาย แผนแม่บทชาติประเด็นที่ 5 : การพัฒนากำลังคน



เด็กเกิดอย่างมีคุณภาพ มีพัฒนาการสมวัย สามารถเข้าถึงบริการที่มีคุณภาพมากขึ้น

## 6 ปีแรกของชีวิต

คือโอกาสทองของการสร้างพื้นฐานเพื่อพัฒนาการที่รอบด้าน เร็วและให้ดีที่สุดแต่ฝากครรภ์ ด้วยข้อมูลความรู้และกิจกรรมเพื่อพัฒนาลูกด้านต่างๆ ตามช่วงวัย



ลงทะเบียนรับข้อมูลเพื่อการดูแลตั้งแต่ตั้งครรภ์จนลูกอายุครบ 6 ปี ผ่านมือถือ ฟรี  
คุณจะได้รับข้อความ อินโฟกราฟิก และวิดีโอ ที่เป็นประโยชน์สำหรับการเลี้ยงดูเด็ก และนำกิจกรรมไปทดลองทำกับลูก

**วิธีการสมัคร**

1. เพิ่มเพื่อนในไลน์แอด **9yangth**  
Line: @9yangth (มี ๑ ป้ายว่าด้วยแม่และเด็ก)  
หรือสแกน QR Code

ขอเชิญชวนหญิงตั้งครรภ์ คุณพ่อคุณแม่  
ลงทะเบียนฟรี ผ่าน LINE

2. ทรอกประวัติส่วนตัว

3. รับข้อมูลการดูแลสุขภาพที่เหมาะสมตรงตามอายุครรภ์ หรืออายุลูก

9 อย่างเพื่อสร้างลูก กด like ติดตามเพจ 9 อย่างเพื่อสร้างลูก

following guidelines:

1. Reduce mortality and illness rates among children under five years old.
2. Reduce mortality and illness rates among mothers.
3. Improve access to essential medical services.
4. Support and promote healthcare providers in the community by providing training in maternal and child care.

Aligned with current issues in Thailand, activities related to maternal and child health can follow the guidelines of Rotary International or the Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health. For example, the "Early Moments Matter On Mobile" guideline is a preventive activity aimed at empowering pregnant women and parents. Through mobile registration free of charge, participants receive information on self-care from pregnancy to the child's age of six years. After registration, they receive informative infographics and videos for childcare, including:

1. Quality pregnancy care
2. Breastfeeding and age-appropriate nutrition
3. Understanding age-appropriate development
4. Play and promoting age-appropriate development
5. Positive parenting
6. Disease prevention and care when sick
7. Safety and accident prevention
8. Good health
9. Family member roles





Rotary Club of Nakornpathom, at the weekly meeting, Rtn Ratchanee Wongwiwatwaitaya, Chair of District Promotion of Mental Health Sub-Committee gave a special lecture on “The Current Mental Health Situation” at Tubtim room, Whale Hotel, Nakhonpathom province.



The 10 Rotary Clubs in Nakhon Si Thammarat, District 3330, together with the Rotary Club of Bangkok, District 3350, organized an activity under Global Grant project #2351163, physical therapy for children with physical disabilities, movement impairments, or health issues at Nakhon Si Thammarat Special Education Center in Phra Phrom District, Nakhon Si Thammarat province.



DG Dr. Chatchawal along with PP Phanita Telavanich, made an official club visit to the Rotary Club of Naresuan-Kanchanaburi. The visit took place at the club's meeting room where P Chatchawan Uecharoenchoksakun and other members were warmly welcomed. The visit included a report on the club's activities and concluded with the weekly meeting. In the evening, there was an appreciation dinner for the district governor attended by the president and members from other clubs who came to show their support. The dinner took place at the Ban Suan Aroon Restaurant in Mueang district, Kanchanaburi province.





**Rotary Club of Pranburi**, led by P Ittipas Hannarongkij and members, joined a Children's Day event at Pranburi Municipality's courtyard. They provided ice cream and distributed gifts to the children.



**Rotary Club of Phrapradaeng**, led by P Chan Long Im, together with the **Rotary Club of Ladluang**, the **Rotary Club of Phrasamut Chedi** and the **Thai Optometric Association**, organized an activity under the project "Providing Vision through Eyeglasses". Together, they donated 450 pairs of eye glasses to the municipality of Ladluang, with the mayor of Ladluang receiving the donation on behalf of the municipality at Ladluang Municipality, Samut Prakan province.



**Rotary Club of Sichon-Nakhonsri**, led by P Jiraporn Sapanthong, organized the project "Healthy Little Ones, Caring for Health" by donating 150 sets of oral hygiene and head-cleaning kits to primary students of five Child Development Centers in Thung Prang sub-district, Sichon district, Nakhon Si Thammarat province. Additionally, staff from Ban Chompibul Subdistrict Health Promoting Hospital provided education on oral and head hygiene care methods.



D3340

Editorial



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

Hi fellow Rotarian friends and readers!

In this magazine edition of January-February, on the occasion of the New Year 2024, may the power of the Triple Gem bestow upon fellow Rotarians to experience only happiness, prosperity, good health, safety and do well in business.

The second half-year of Rotary 2023-2024 is the time of finishing service projects by Rotary clubs while their club's board is planning with the incoming board. It is a moment for each club to have a hard job together with a challenging time. Mental health becomes a vital issue to take care of one's happiness which goes along with work and life balance.

Rotary Club of Ubon, District 3340, together with the Rotary Club of Lumpinee, District 3350, and the Rotary community at Hak Pakse and Prince Hospital Ubon Ratchathani province organized the 7th "Mobile Medical Unit Project" (Friendship for Health), which is a mobile medical unit for general disease diagnosis and treatment. Medicines are dispensed by a pharmacist and provided public health information to people living in remote areas. Most of them were children, women, and the elderly, totaling 113 people. In addition, sweaters, sports equipment, stationery, notebooks and snacks were given to more than 300 Dak Triam villagers and school children at Ban Dak Triam, Muang Dak Chung, Sekong province, Lao PDR on 17-19 December 2023.



Rotary Club of Muang Mukdahan, District 3340, together with the Rotary Club of Lumpini, District 3350, delivered toilets to the children at Ban Siang Hom School, Muang Chonnaburi, Savannakhet province, Lao PDR, on January 5, 2024.





**Rotary Club of Amnat Charoen**, let by P Sawat Thiamphongpairroj collaborated with partners to organize activities to award scholarships to school children at Ban Kai Kham School in the amount of THB 80,000, and Ban Kham Sang Bo School in the amount of THB 20,000, totaling THB 100,000, to build morale and encouragement for the youth of the nation and received praise from community leaders, government agencies and citizens as well.

**Rotary Club of Trat** joined in a Boy Scout camping activity with the Senior Girl Scouts of Wat Taphan Hin School and participated in first aid and resuscitation training with the Boon Chueay Rescue Association, and training dummies were provided by the **Rotary Club of Trat** and the **Rotary Club of Kaen Koon**. Afterwards, snacks were distributed to the Boy Scout and Girl Scout guides. All together, 290 students participated in the first generation of this activity.



**Rotary Club of Khao Soi Dao**, led by P Watcharalak Takbai, organized the project "Nong Im" at Ban Noen Din Daeng School by providing lunch and participating in recreational activities with students. At the same time, educational support funds were given to the school in the amount of THB 2,000.





Rotary Club of Chum Phae, D3340, together with the Rotary Clubs of Pathumwan, Bangkok Ratchadaphisek, Bangkok Phatthanakan, Srapathum and Lumpinee, D3350 and the Rotary Club of Jinju-Seonhak, D3590, South Korea, led by P Sinsamut Khunprathum and club members participated in donating emergency vehicles worth THB 2.5 million to Chum Phae Hospital for emergency use.

Rotary Club of Chanthanimit performed community service for the month of January. We delivered assistance in the form of daily necessities such as adult diapers, eggs, soap, toothpaste, shampoo, drinking water, and rice to the poor which is the aspiration of the club which performs service once a month. We delivered three items and thank you to all members who participated in the event and did monthly community service, everyone.

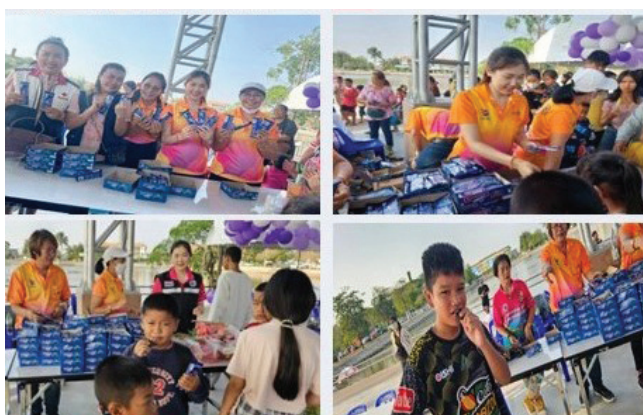




## Children's Day Activities



**Rotary E-Club of Dolphin Pattaya International** provided children with happiness on Children's Day. Club members kindly hosted a delicious luncheon with KFC and ice cream for children at the Child Protection and Development Center (CPDC). They also gave THB 200 pocket money to each child.



**Rotary Club of Buayai** led by P Tawatchai Jintabundidwong together with club members gave 25 cartons of Oreo cookies to the school children and the elderly people at Palung Panya Aryuwat Bua Yai School in Bua Yai municipality.



**Rotary Club of Kalasin** led by P Phetchariporn Leksombun and club members gave a number of school objects, packages of snacks and scholarships to the students at Ban Kampo Prachasan School.

**Rotary Club of Sri-Ubon**, Klung Panya of the elderly people club, Book Bank and the Department of Learning Encouragement of Muang Ubon conducted an activity of happiness. They donated packages of snacks, toys and bags to 80 children at the Child Development Center of Jaramae and Tha Bo sub-district. The Rotary Club of Sri-Ubon has kept on doing such activities as the Young Reading Lover project since 2009. There were more than 200 people from municipality officers, parents and local people who came and joined the event.



D3350

Editorial



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

Happy New Year fellow Rotarians and readers,

We have arrived at the second half of this Rotary year 2023-2024. Activities at the district level are largely 'Rotary One Day' organized as a single club event or a combination of several clubs. These are largely held in schools, although some are held in their own communities. Clubs will send members who have specific areas of specialization whether in making artificial flowers, cooking or coaching in right speech, or other vocations. The specialized knowledge is transferred to the community members and students.

Thailand has a special day for kids every January called "Children's Day". Several clubs organized special events for kids giving them enormous joy by providing them with gifts such as sweets, sporting goods, and learning tools within their communities. I have photos of these activities to share with you.

Another important activity this month focuses on maternal and child health, and District 3350 is offering activities from two clubs in this area.

See you again in the next issue.

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E-mail: trong3350@gmail.com

## Activities

**Running for Share: The Fun Run & Music event** was organized by the Rotary Club of Phra Pokklao and the Rotary Club of Nonthaburi at Phutthamonthon at Salaya on Sunday, January 7. When reaching the finish line, lawn chairs were set up for runners to listen to a concert by STAMP Apiwat instead of receiving a medal like in other walking-running events.



**Certificates of Honor** were awarded to outstanding professionals in Youth and Community Development for Phrakru Samuphonthepchanchoto, Abbot of Tham Tako temple by the **Rotary Club of Charoen Nakorn** on Friday, January 12 at the Tham Tako temple in the Tha Wung district of Lopburi province, along with merit-making by offering alms to monks and novices and feeding orphaned students. Also donated were one hospital bed, sports equipment, rice and children's toys.





# Maternal and Child Health



PP Supreea Taechamaneesatit  
Rotary Club of Bangkok Nawamin  
Chair, Maternal and Child Health Sub-Committee

Information about this year's projects have been collaborations with public health centers and hospitals in the area. The projects allowed Rotarians to bring their careers or special abilities to participate in activities or donate medical equipment to hospitals in need, such as:

**Rotary Club of Lat Phrao:** One of the club's members is a Laughter Yoga coach. Therefore, the member's talents were used to organize a Laughter Yoga activity at the Central Women's Correctional Institution for pregnant female inmates. When interviewing the participants, many of them said that before participating in the activity they could not sleep well because they were not familiar with sleeping near other people. However, afterwards they felt relaxed, more self-forgiving and happier, and will apply the knowledge learned in their daily life.



**Rotary Club of Yannawa:** One of the club's members participated in the Oun Ai Rak (warm with the stream of love) volunteer project and became aware of the shortage of breast pumps. They created a project to give breast pumps to Charoenkrung Pracharak Hospital. Some of the pumps donated were sponsored through social media posts and they will be on loan to individuals for six months. When the term is due, the pump will be returned to the hospital so others can borrow it for further use. Club members also collaborated with Wacoal Company Limited to provide specific bras for mothers who attended the organized breastfeeding training, and a donation of children's storybooks.

**Rotary Club of Bangkok Suwanabhum:** The club donated a color high-frequency internal organ examination machine with five probes (Color Doppler Ultrasonic System) to screen for abnormalities of the mother's fetus, a set to warm newborns using radiation (Infant Radiant Warmer), and anesthesia machines for the new ward of Chumphon Khet Udomsakdi Hospital in Chumphon province, worth more than THB 3.3 million, by doing a Global Grant with the joint support from The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International and the Rotary Club of Kariya of District 2760 in Japan.







Rotary Club of Bangkorlaem



Rotary Club of Nongbua



Rotary Club of Pramesuan Lopburi



Rotary Club of Yannawa



Rotary Club of Nongkhaem



Rotary Club of Lat Phrao



# "Rotary One Day"

## Rotary Club of Rangsit and Clubs in Nonthaburi province



## Rotary Club of Bangkok Pattanakarn



## Rotary Club of Phra Phutthabat



## Rotary Club of Lumpinee



## Rotary Club of Saranrom Thapra





D3360

Editorial



PP Dr. Natthanin Setavanich  
Rotary Club of Phrae

Happy New Year 2024, dear Rotarians,

This magazine edition welcomes the new year of the Golden Dragon. In District 3360, our club has continued its impactful activities from the end of 2023 through the beginning of 2024, without any interruption.

In this edition, District 3360 presents a special article on the success of the Global Grant project related to maternal and child health. The Rotary Club of Chiangkham has successfully completed this project, aiming to share these positive stories with all Rotarians. It may serve as the inspiration for future projects in maternal and child health for other Rotary clubs.

Additionally, we've compiled various activities from District 3360, some of which are not included here due to magazine space constraints. This collection illustrates the dedication of Rotarians in District 3360 to conduct beneficial activities for their communities to Create Hope in the World.

## Maternal and Child Health Project



By Rtn Yannisa Ratthanaphaisalakit  
Rotary Club of Chiangkham

### GG#2346513 Promote Health Awareness to Prevent Preterm Delivery

Our Rotary Club of Chiangkham has been continuously working with communities and various organizations in the Chiangkham district of Phayao province and supporting public health is another significant mission we have prioritized throughout. This time, we supported health services at Chiangkham Hospital, a general hospital serving a large population from four districts in the eastern zone of Phayao province, including neighboring provinces. There has been an increase in the preterm birth rate, leading to respiratory complications in newborns. Without timely intervention or modern medical equipment readiness, infants may suffer severe respiratory distress, sometimes resulting in fatalities. Providing modern medical equipment that is sufficient and efficient in handling preterm births and various complications is crucial for the well-being of families in the community.







community health volunteers - to raise awareness among villagers about the dangers of preterm birth, disease prevention, and community health promotion.

This project is invaluable to the community as we recognize the importance of early childhood in shaping future adults who will drive communities and societies forward.

Thus, the Rotary Club of Chiangkham convened consultations and planned a project to address this issue. With financial support from Rotary International, the Rotary Club Taipei South World of District 3523 in Taiwan, and Rotary Club Suanluang in District 3350, we initiated the Global Grant Project #2346513 “Promote Health Awareness to Prevent Preterm Delivery”. We provided medical supplies and equipment to assist preterm infants, totaling THB 1,095,000 including infant incubators, infant T-piece resuscitators, vital sign monitors, oxygen mobile monitors, and high-flow nasal cannula devices. Equipping medical facilities adequately to handle preterm births reduces the need for transferring infants to hospitals in other provinces, thereby alleviating the burden on mothers, families, and medical personnel.

In addition to providing medical equipment, we also recognized the sustainability of the project. We conducted training sessions for pregnant women, medical personnel in hospitals and health centers, village health volunteers, and community health volunteers. The training, conducted on August 25, focused on pregnancy and preterm birth awareness, emphasizing the importance of preparedness in managing preterm births. Empowering pregnant women to plan and manage their pregnancies appropriately ensures the health and safety of both mother and child. We also included another target group in our training -

By supporting essential factors in promoting quality of life from a young age, akin to nurturing seeds to grow into strong and resilient trees, we ensure a stable and prosperous future ahead.







Rotary Clubs in Phrae province commemorated World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims by initiating a significant event aimed at enhancing road safety culture. This initiative acknowledges the thousands of lives lost to road accidents in Thailand and endeavors to create safer lives for ourselves, our families, friends, and surrounding communities.



Rotary Club of Chiang Mai Nawarat, led by Rtn Nipawan Sathumnuan and other members, generously donated educational materials such as textbooks, extracurricular books, and teaching aids from benevolent adults to various educational institutions. These included Mae Lan Kam School, Mae Fa Luang Thai Hilltribe Learning Center in Sablan Village, Dong Village Community School, Saitong Ratcha Uthit School, and the Child Development Center of Samoeng Tai Municipality. Representatives accepted the donations on behalf of the children and teachers on January 20.



Rotary Club of Chaiyaparakon collaborated with fellow Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Pathumwan in District 3350, under the leadership of Rotarians Mali Ampornvipawat and Siriporn Udomyong, along with a team of 14 members. They provided scholarships to 89 students from Chaiyaparakon School, totaling THB 100,000. This year marks the second consecutive year of scholarship donations, facilitated as a bridge of merit by Phra Khru Sathithathammapirak, Ph.D., the abbot of Chaiyaparakon district, who coordinates this effort annually.

Rotary Club of Chiang Mai warmly welcomed the Rotary Club of Phuket in District 3330, who traveled to join charitable activities in Chiang Mai province. These activities included the "Assistance Project for Children in Orphanages at Wiang Ping Children's Home" and the "Rotary Three-Wheel Project". Additionally, they participated in club meetings and social gatherings to foster friendship between fellow Rotarians from December 3-6.





## Children's Day Activities

DG Dr. Watthit and Ann Somsamai Tangrapilert led members of the Rotary Club of Nakhon Hariphunchai together with the Rotary Club of Lamphun, Rotary Club of Saraphi Chiang Mai, Rotary Club of Nakornping Chiang Mai, Chamthewi Lamphun Lions Club and teachers of Rapolert Witthaya School and organized a charitable event at the Municipal Meeting Hall of Thung Hua Chang sub-district in Lamphun province. The event included lunch, snacks, games, lucky draws for dolls, and distribution of educational materials, sports equipment, and medical supplies. Over 600 students, parents, and teachers from local schools such as Ban Pong Daeng School, Thung Hua Chang School, Ban Dong School, Thung Hua Chang Municipality School, and children from nearby communities participated in the event.



**Rotary Club of Wiang Kosai**, led by PP Sgt. Kitisak Khueanphet, AG Saranya Kitpinyo, and club members organized Children's Day activities for Early Act and students of Wat Sawan Niwet School in Muang District of Phrae province. They distributed gifts, food, snacks, and beverages to all the children. Additionally, club members contributed funds to provide scholarships for 20 students, each receiving THB 500.



**Rotary Club of Saraphi Chiang Mai**, led by P Kritsada Saekoi, joined forces with the **Rotary Club of Lamphun** and the **Rotary Club of Hariphunchai**, and fellow Rotarians to donate two medicine cabinets with common medications, consumer goods, blankets, clothes, toys, and other items to the Children's Center in Ban Pha Nok and the Mong hill tribe community, coinciding with the Mong New Year and National Children's Day.



## Mojos@Rotary: One year with a small pace but great

Complied by PP Supan Wiboonma  
Project Manager/Vice Chairman of  
the Public Relations Sub-Committee  
Rotary Centre in Thailand

“Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.”

Every Rotarian definitely remembers the “**Rotary Vision Statement**”, and we all have contributed our energy and expertise to “Take Action” and see the many changes resulting from countless service projects throughout 2023.

To Increase Our Impact, Expand Our reach, Enhance Participant Engagement, and Increase Our Ability to Adapt, the Mojos@Rotary project began with a course on developing Rotarians as hands-on storytellers. Mobile journalists from our four districts conduct live broadcasts to bring stories of being “People of Action” to the public. Through the online platform of Suthichai Live, there have been 3,000 to 5,000 people watching every episode. Because it is online media, the number of views, both intentional and accidental, by Google Search will always increase and be up to date, especially when they are shared.

From July to December 2023, Rotary broadcast live the Mojo Club (Suthichai Live Mojos Lab) program, totaling eight episodes as follows:

### 1. Rotary Plookpanya – Educational Development



### 2. Rotary Youth Exchange - Brief the World



### 3. Rotary “PEOPLE OF ACTION”



### 4. Doing Good in the World - The Rotary Way





## A collaborative project between the Rotary Centre in Thailand and the Storyteller Club by Khun Suthichai Yoon

### 5. Rotary song – “Creating Hope in the World”



### 6. Rotary’s Three Decades of Eradicating Polio from the World



### 7. Rotary and the Safe Roads Save Lives project



### 8. Rotary’s Sustainable Leadership



In addition to receiving full support from PDG Thanongsak Pongsri, Chairman of Public Relations Sub-committee of the Rotary Centre in Thailand and Chair of the Project Sub-committee, we also received assistance and participation from PDG Somphop Thirasarn, Chairman of Rotary Centre in Thailand, PDG Dr. Sanguan Kunaporn the Rotary Public Image Coordinator, Zone 10B & 10C Rotary International (RPIC) and Rotarian storytellers from our four districts.

## The Way Forward

Rotary was invited by Mr. Suthichai Yoon’s team to co-produce the program in 2024, and with the incisive vision of PDG Dr. Sanguan Kunaporn of the RPIC and PDG Thanongsak Pongsri of the ARPIC, is expected to expand to include Rotary leaders in Zone 10B & 10C covering seven districts in 10 areas of Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Macau, Mongolia, Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam and Brunei.

I would like to invite all of you to watch the program and cheer!



## Singing Contest: Amateur Singers from Four Districts in Thailand

### New angle of connecting friendships through music

---

Rotary News Thailand and the News Talk team are responsible for handling Rotary's public image on social media. They started organizing online singing contests for Rotarians in all four districts beginning in 2021. Organized one district at a time, they selected 1st and 2nd place winners and the most popular of each district to compete in the final round. The latest final round of the contest was held face-to-face on January 20, 2024.

This contest held at Sweat Rock Cafe, 12 finalists from the four districts sang with live musicians playing 16 musical instruments. The team also invited professional singer Khun Chompoo Fruity and another four experienced people to be the referees. Organizing expenses are supported by the four district leaders and Rotarians.

This is the first step in organizing a singing contest for amateur singers from the four districts. It is a new dimension of creating friendship through music. It is also another way to promote Rotary to the public through creative music activities. The Rotarians who were singers and cheerleaders came to join the lively event and now let's see the feelings of some participants in this activity.

**PDG Prawit Rojkajonnalai**

**Rotary Club of Suanluang, D3350**

PDG Prawit who is one of the sponsors and watched the singing contest stated, "I am delighted to be invited as a sponsor of the Four Districts Amateur Singing Contest. It is an activity that builds friendships among Rotarians from all over the country that should be highly promoted. In addition to entertainment from a professional band that plays a beautiful lullaby, I also saw the joyful cheering crowd and my Rotary friends' singing abilities."

**PP Sureeporn Prakoonsuksapan**

**Rotary Club Mitraparp Khon Kaen, D3340,**

**"Public Popular Award"**

"From the results of nationwide online voting, I am glad to participate in this singing contest, which is a good and creative activity. It makes Rotarians happy in another way."

**P Sukanya Thaisereekun**

**Rotary Club of Suphannikar, D3330,**

**"Audience's Favorite Award"**

With a lot of flowers received from fellow Rotarians and fans, P Sukanya said, "I feel happy to have qualified for the finals. I feel excited and honored every time I participate in these activities and it makes me feel that Rotary connects us in many ways. Making friends from different clubs and districts who like the same things creates a beautiful friendship. Thank you for organizing these great activities."

**PP Runnapa Tungsanga**

**Rotary Club of Charoen Nakorn, D3350, "Winner"**

"Singing with a live band improves my singing skills and this is not often an opportunity for amateur singers. Thank you to the organizing committee, thank you to the judges for their advice, and thank you to all our Rotarian friends who came to participate in this activity and sent their support. I hope to participate in a good activity like this again in any district every year."



**P Phagaporn Dechjunthavimon**  
**Rotary Club of Nakhon Nonthaburi,**  
**D3350, “Runner-up”**

“I was very impressed with this activity, it’s both exciting and fun and I want this great activity to continue. I felt like it was not a contest because I got to know fellow Rotarians from various clubs and districts. They are friendly and fun, allowing us to get to know each other and become close in no time at all.”

**IPP Yada Asadangnukun**  
**Rotary Club of Chiangmai Phuping, D3360**

“I’m glad to have joined this activity. I gained experience in singing with live music and advice from judges and the professional singers, which can be used to develop ourselves. Importantly, it creates good friendships among fellow Rotarians from different clubs and districts.”

**PP Thanongsak Wiboonma**  
**Rotary Club of Sathorn, D3350,**  
**Judging Committee**

“Congratulations on the success of this activity. As a result, there has been a huge increase in followers watching the program both online and on-site. Organizing activities creates friendship among members to become close and familiar to seek opportunities for collaborative service. The simplest and most effective way to promote friendship is through the use of music for both the singer and the audience because everyone has music in their hearts, to a greater or lesser degree.”

**PP Pisit Niruttinanont**  
**Rotary Club of Wiengsa, D3360,**  
**Live-Streaming Technical Section**

“I feel happy and proud to take part in this contest. It gives me new experiences and I will try to improve in the live broadcasting technique even further.”



**PP Thatchamas Chanmatikornkul**  
**Rotary Club of Sritapee, D3330,**  
**Master of Ceremonies**

“I am proud to be involved in working with quality teams from all four districts in Thailand and everyone has the same goal of creating graceful friendships. Through the aesthetics of music, viewers and cheering supporters both at the venue and from home followed and watched, joined in the voting, liked, and shared a lot through the Rotary News Thailand page and YouTube channel. They all sent a large number of votes through the Google form. Through this activity, there has been an unprecedented number of viewers watching from around the world.”

**PP Sukkit Thaweewisesanont**  
**Rotary Club of Bangkok East, D3350,**  
**Organizing Contest Director and Live-Streaming Technical Section**

“The goals and expectations in organizing the contest are to open a stage for amateur singers from all four districts to have the opportunity to express their talents and exchange experiences in music. The successful results are gaining work experience, responsibility, cooperation, and dedication including the value and kindness that supporters and followers have admired and given as encouragement. It is like a water pipe that drives the team to develop and raise standards towards the international level.”

## Rotary Centre Chair's Message

PDG Somphop Thirasan



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Happy New Year! Please allow me to take this opportunity to wish you all good health, happiness, and prosperity throughout the year 2024. The New Year wouldn't feel new if we continue doing everything the same as before. Therefore, it is suggested to start afresh by wearing new clothes and stepping out of our comfort zones to explore and discover new things that resonate with our true selves. It's a challenge worth embracing and surely an enjoyable one.

Rotary International prepared district governors worldwide for the upcoming year by organizing the International Assembly in the United States last January. Representatives from all four districts in Thailand attended the training along with their spouses. During this event, the theme for the upcoming administrative year was announced as "The Magic of Rotary", reflecting that success doesn't come from magic spells but rather from the extraordinary efforts of each member, working together to create marvelous achievements, even in the simplest and most humble ways.

PDG Somphop Thirasan

Chair of the Board of Directors for the Rotary Centre in Thailand

## Rotary Membership

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

As 1 February 2024 (1 July 2023)

District	Rotarians	Clubs	Rotaractors	Clubs
Worldwide	1,168,714 (1,157,010)	36,807 (36,789)	161,552 (166,541)	10,750 (11,310)
3330	2,294 (2,203)	103 (103)	248 (233)	27 (26)
3340	1,374 (1,316)	65 (65)	76 (76)	5 (5)
3350	2,986 (3,013)	128 (128)	429 (407)	30 (30)
3360	1,352 (1,441)	69 (70)	288 (274)	16 (15)
Total	8,006 (7,973)	365 (366)	1,041 (990)	78 (76)





TOGETHER, WE

# SAVE LIVES

Rotary Club of Bangkok Suwanabhum, D3350 together with Rotary Club of Kariya, D2760 in Japan and Rotary clubs in Districts 3330, 3340, 3350 and 3360 provided medical equipment in the Global Grant project #2342754 worth THB 3,321,732 for Chumphon Khet Udomsak Hospital, Chumphon province.

Rotary



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- แผ่น Copper 5 mm
- แผ่น Carbon Steel 10 mm
- แผ่น Aluminum 10 mm
- แผ่น Stainless Steel 10 mm
- แผ่น Brass 10 mm
- แผ่น Copper 10 mm
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