

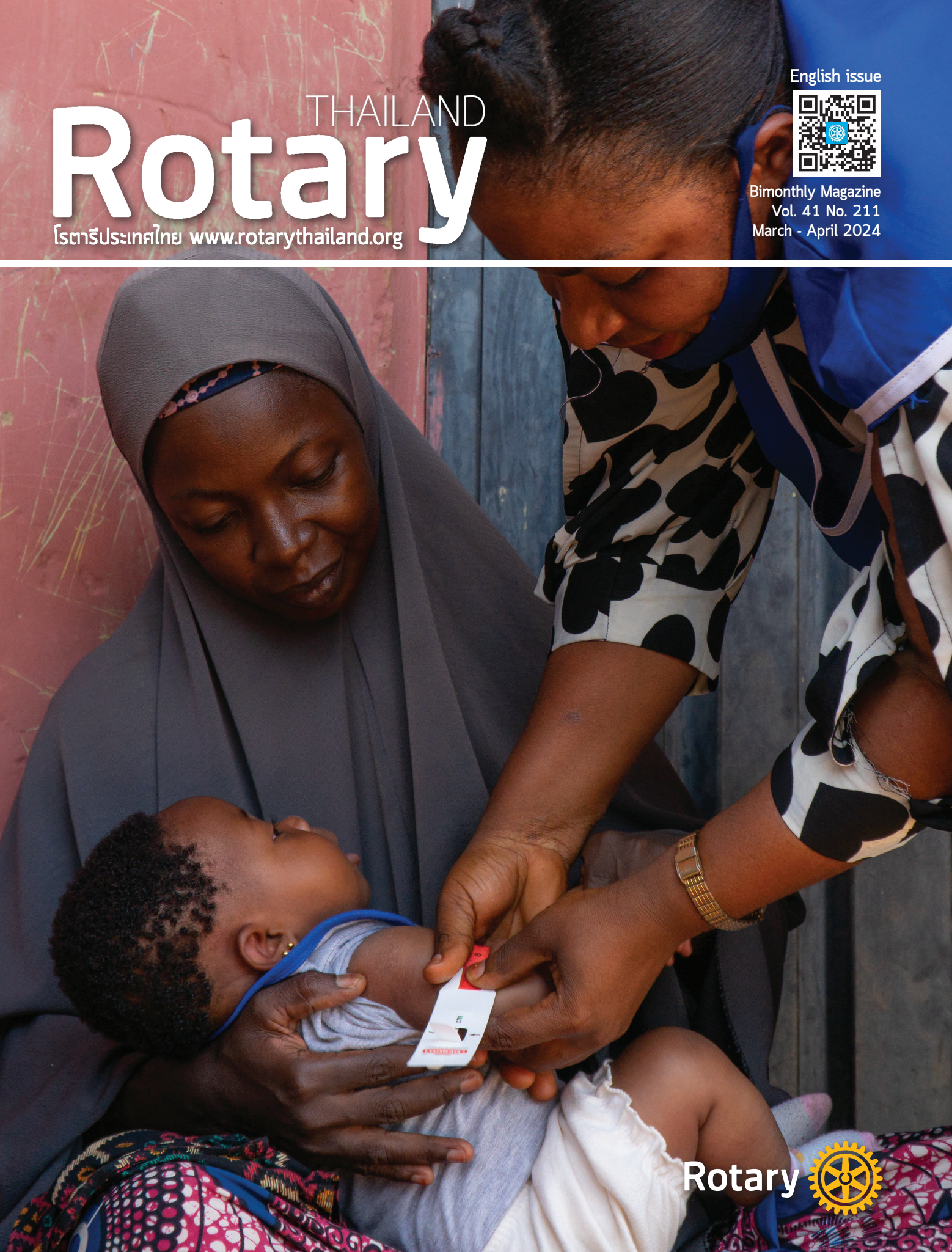
# THAILAND Rotary

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English issue



Bimonthly Magazine  
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March - April 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, March 2024



### Think like a Rotary Peace Fellow

**T**here are many pathways to peace, and in Rotary, we are fortunate to have Rotary Peace Fellows who demonstrate this truth time and again.

Each year, Rotary awards up to 130 fellowships for leaders around the world to study peace and development, and what these peace fellows learn prepares them to work in conflict prevention and resolution and promote Positive Peace. Here are a few examples of the creative ways peace fellows advance peace:

#### Promoting sustainability

Alejandra Rueda-Zarate combined her Rotary Peace Fellowship in peace and conflict resolution with her master's degree in energy and resources to support her dream of protecting the Colombian countryside.

She founded the organization NES Naturaleza in 2011 to help farmers in Colombia and across rural Latin America gain access to knowledge and training to uphold sustainable farming standards. That support has improved the lives of nearly 4,500 farmers, inspiring many of them to become entrepreneurs. And it's helped promote both natural and social sustainability throughout Latin America.

#### Ending racism

Peace fellows Geoffrey Diesel and Kathy Doherty have applied their fellowships in peace and development studies toward co-founding the Racial Equity Project, a subcommittee of

Rotary Positive Peace Activators in North America committed to studying ways to create a more peaceful society through anti-racism efforts.

The Racial Equity Project takes a deep look into how the eight Pillars of Positive Peace could support efforts to address racism, and it works to spread this message to communities across North America. The organization initially grew from Rotary's strategic partnership with the Institute for Economics and Peace, a global think tank dedicated to promoting Positive Peace.

#### Managing disasters using data

Through a Rotary Peace Fellowship, Jamie LeSueur earned a master's degree in social science within peace and conflict research. He now leads emergency operations for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, setting a management and operational framework for agency collaboration in emergency response situations.

Jamie has found that research data is a powerful tool to bring calm to the complex world of disaster response. No matter what an organization's protocols might entail, letting research be the foundation for decision making helps clarify even the most complicated emergencies.

These stories — and hundreds like them — show how Rotary is creating a generation of leaders ready and able to build peace worldwide. Nearly 1,800 peace fellows have graduated from Rotary Peace Centers, and they are applying their craft in more than 140 countries.

May the continuing work of peace fellows and the Rotary members who support them inspire you to continue to Create Hope in the World through service, fundraising, and creative thinking.

R. GORDON R. MCINALLY  
President, Rotary International



## RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

R. Gordon R. McNally, April 2024



### The change within

These are times that cry out for peace. The Middle East is in its most volatile condition in years. The war in Ukraine is the largest in Europe since World War II, and there are armed conflicts in Sudan and parts of Central Africa. Nearly every continent is experiencing a major armed conflict.

Rotary has a vital role to play in advancing the cause of peace — I often say Rotary needs to work toward peace as aggressively as those who wish to wage war. It's the spirit found in our vision statement: "Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves." We must never lose track of that last call — that to bring about change in the world, we need to foster change within.

It is up to us to model peacebuilding behavior among each other. We can do better than questioning the motives of one another and jumping to the harshest possible explanation. After hearing words that might strain or offend us, we have an opportunity to ask, with compassion and curiosity, the intent of those offending words. And then we have another opportunity to repair the breach.

If we wish to be a beacon to the world, let us start by being so to one another. Let's help each other find

greater understanding and productive alternatives to words that cause hurt and distrust. And let's stick to our principles, but never doubt the sincerity of each other to end conflicts, not inflame them.

I'm reminded of a speech that U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy made on 4 April 1968, that dreadful day when the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. Kennedy was in Indianapolis speaking to an audience in a predominantly African American neighborhood where people had yet to learn that Dr. King had been killed.

He shared the terrible news. He honored Dr. King for all he had done for the cause of justice and peace. And then he connected with the fuming, grieving crowd by saying: "For those of you who are Black and are tempted to be filled with hatred and distrust at the injustice of such an act, against all white people, I can only say that I feel in my own heart the same kind of feeling. I had a member of my family killed." It was the first time he had spoken publicly about President John F. Kennedy's assassination. And while many American cities exploded in violence that night, Indianapolis did not.

It is in times of crisis and despair that we need empathy most of all. Empathy is the most powerful tool of peace, and it is vital if we are to take the first brave, humble steps to Create Hope in the World.

R. GORDON R. MCINALLY

President, Rotary International



## RI TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Barry Rassin, March 2024



### More than a basic necessity

Rotary's focus turns to two themes this month. March is Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month, and we celebrate World Rotaract Week 11-17 March. Both WASH and Rotaract are near and dear to me.

Clean water, basic sanitation, and proper hygiene are fundamental human rights, yet a staggering 2.2 billion people still lack access to safe drinking water.

We're taking action. Over the past decade, your Rotary Foundation has invested more than \$180 million in over 2,500 water and sanitation projects worldwide. Rotary is on the ground making a difference through global grant-supported projects funded by your contributions to the Foundation.

But Rotary can't do it alone. We have partnered with organizations like USAID to deliver large-scale solutions. The Rotary-USAID Partnership has helped thousands access water and sanitation services in the Dominican Republic, the Philippines, Ghana, and Uganda.

Our Foundation is the connector for other water partnerships, too. This was the case when I worked with leaders from Rotary District 7020 to set up the Haiti National Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Initiative, known as HANWASH. Foundation grants continue to play a critical role in our strategy of working with nongovernmental organizations, municipalities, and government agencies in communities throughout Haiti.

Rotary efforts to connect people with clean water go beyond providing a basic necessity. We are paving the way for healthier communities and brighter futures, and doing so in a sustainable manner. With access to water,

communities enhance education levels, improve health, and further development.

When we talk about partnerships, we can't forget our closest ally, right here in the family of Rotary:

Rotaract. The engagement, energy, and ideas of Rotaract complement the experience of Rotary clubs and increase our collective impact.

Yet many Rotary members still do not know that, as of 2022, Rotaract club activities can be included in district grants, and they are eligible for global grants, expanding avenues for collaboration.

I encourage all Rotary and Rotaract clubs to foster closer collaboration and engagement in our Foundation, whether it's rolling up their sleeves on a project or giving.

We all know that in Rotary, great opportunities are always around the corner. When you combine water and sanitation projects, Rotaract, and the Foundation, all will become a big part of your life, as they have in mine — and not just this month, but forever.

BARRY RASSIN

Foundation Trustee Chair



## RI TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Barry Rassin, April 2024



### To make change, just get started

For many, the Bahamas is a place to escape colder climes, relax on white-sand beaches, and snorkel in clear, turquoise waters. For me, it's home. I grew up sailing on these waters and to this day, anytime I can, I am out on the water with family and friends. It's where my heart is.

The environmental threats my country is facing are real. Our coral reefs, vital for biodiversity, are in danger due to warming seas and pollution. Hurricanes and tropical storms seem to get more intense with each passing year. Rising sea levels pose an existential threat to the Bahamas, eroding our beautiful coastlines as saltwater intrudes on our precious and limited freshwater resources.

Late last year, I was fortunate to represent Rotary at COP28, the United Nations climate change convention in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The consensus coming out of the meeting was that progress on addressing climate change has been too slow. Participants said the world needs to pick up the pace to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, help communities become more resilient to climate change, and better support countries that are most vulnerable to it.

Rotary can be part of the solution.

As you know, protecting the environment is one of Rotary's areas of focus. Many clubs are active in their communities with projects such as beach and roadside cleanups. With The Rotary Foundation, you can increase your impact by pooling resources with clubs and districts

around the world. Foundation grants let you put the generous contributions of your fellow Rotary members to work to make the world better.

Imagine the possibilities.

Perhaps Rotary districts in Canada and Australia could protect wetlands in New South Wales in Australia. Rotary leaders from Brazil, India, and Taiwan could lead grant projects to train farmers in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh in sustainable agriculture. Rotary and Rotaract clubs from the Bahamas, South Africa, and New York could work with their districts to help my country restore its natural resources, one reef or mangrove at a time.

The problems our environment faces seem overwhelming until you realize that many are fixable. There are so many ways to help through Rotary. Even if we don't lead a grant or volunteer on the project, we can all help protect the environment through our giving to the Foundation.

Rotary can't save the planet all by itself. But as our progress in ending polio proves, Rotary's impact is great when we put our vision for a better world in motion, and just get started.

BARRY RASSIN

Foundation Trustee Chair



## Editorial

PDG Chalermchat Chun-In



Dear all beloved readers,

This magazine issue arrives during Thailand's summertime, with temperatures across the country soaring higher than usual this year. I urge everyone to take care of themselves and their loved ones' health during this time.

In this issue, we have the privilege of featuring the Rotary International President who shares insightful content as always. Among the valuable topics discussed are the Rotary Peace Fellowships program and efforts to promote peace by The Rotary Foundation chair. They shed light on initiatives concerning clean water, sanitation, Rotaract, and climate change, all of which are crucial and compelling.

The Rotary Foundation has approved a significant project worth USD 2 million related to maternal and child health in Niger, aimed at reducing maternal and infant mortality rates. I encourage you to follow along with these ideas and perhaps develop similar projects in our own communities.

Also in this issue, we have a direct article from the Past Rotary International Director (PRID) Dr. Jessie Harman (2021-2023), who served as the regional representative of the Rotary International President at the RI D3330 District Conference in Surat Thani province in March of this year. I had the opportunity to converse with Dr. Jessie, who informed me of her avid readership of the Rotary Thailand magazine. Thus, I asked her to contribute an article on any topic she wished. Upon her return to Australia, she promptly sent the article to me, and I am delighted to present it here to share her perspectives and leadership experiences.

We also have stories of collaboration aiding flood victims in the southern border provinces, particularly in Yala, where the Rotary Club of Yala has provided comprehensive narratives and images. Furthermore, this section serves as a platform for content curated by the editorial team from all four regions. This issue emphasizes stories of international activities, with each district showcasing various projects and collaborations with clubs and districts from different countries. There are numerous friendship activities among them. Upon witnessing the broader picture of narratives from all four districts, one can truly feel the immense power of collaboration without boundaries or limitations.

The Rotary Centre in Thailand, led by the chair and translator team, present an easy-to-understand feature on learning about Rotary in the Thai language. It's commendable how the Rotary Centre in Thailand has improved learning avenues for Thai members, making it more accessible and efficient, especially with the Thai language courses in the Learning Center. I encourage you to follow and explore these resources.

Lastly, I express gratitude to everyone involved in producing our Rotary Thailand magazine, both front and backstage, as well as to all our readers who have followed us throughout the years.

PDG Chalermchat Chun-In  
Editor in Chief – Rotary Thailand magazine



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# THAILAND Rotary

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# Bimonthly Magazine

## Vol. 41 No. 211

### March - April 2024

#### Contents

RI President's Message	1 - 2
RI Trustee's Message	3 - 4
Editorial	5
Contents	6 - 7
Rotary Information	8

#### Translation story

A labor of love	9 - 19
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#### Scoop

Creating Hope Through Friendship	20 - 21
Cooperation in Alleviation Empowerment in Yala Province	22 - 25
Our Districts	26 - 41
Learn about Rotary easily in Thai language	42 - 43

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# How can DEI strengthen a club?



The concept “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” originated from the English language and abbreviated as DEI. Let’s first understand these three words.

**D**iversity, represented by the letter “D” encompasses the variety present within any organization. If you observe closely, you will notice diversity in terms of gender, age, education, customs, cultures, and beliefs. Every club must undoubtedly embrace diversity.

**E** Next, “E” stands for Equity, ensuring fairness regardless of whether one is male, female, elderly, or young, and regardless of educational background or lifestyle. Equity in an organization ensures equal treatment for everyone.

**I** Lastly, “I” represents Inclusion or the act of coming together. When diversity within an organization or club is harmonized and everyone feels included, work becomes more efficient and effective.

The world is undergoing significant changes, and Rotary organizations are no exception. Clubs are becoming more open to accepting male and female members, younger generations, and increasing numbers of women. Therefore, even clubs with over 20 years of history are witnessing increased member diversity. During my tenure as the president of Rotary Club of Ganchan, I managed diversity by fostering a creative working environment, operating under principles of equity and a spirit of inclusivity. Senior members of the club, who possess knowledge, abilities, wealth, and extensive management experience, play a crucial role in supporting and providing equal opportunities for young members to stay up to date with technology, thereby enhancing the club’s effectiveness. Both groups are equally important to the club, and even though disagreements may arise at times, it is a natural aspect of working together. As the club president, I managed diversity using the Rotary Four-Way Test, ensuring that decisions and actions were based on truth, fairness, goodwill, and the benefit of all concerned.

In our Ganchan Rotary Club, we leverage occupational diversity as a strength in our work, following the Rotarian principle of using our professions to serve others. If we effectively manage DEI, we will cultivate a new culture within the organization, leading to a stronger and more unified club. Our Rotary organization will then become more resilient and continuously move forward without hesitation.



PROGRAMS OF SCALE

# A labor of love

Supported by a Rotary Programs of Scale award,  
an initiative in Nigeria seeks to remedy the country's  
high instances of maternal death

BY DIANA SCHOBERG

Photography by Maryam Turaki



**On the outskirts of Abuja, beneath a blistering November sun, a pregnant woman, leaning on the arm of her friend, shuffles across a courtyard and disappears into a brick shed. Moments later, from within the shed, come shouts of “Push! Push!” A few more minutes pass and the pair reemerge, only this time the woman is seated in a wheelchair pushed by the friend. Another woman walks alongside them carrying a newborn baby.**

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The woman in the wheelchair is in distress. From across the courtyard, a nurse runs toward her. “Why didn’t you come to the health facility to deliver the baby?” the nurse laments while checking the woman’s blood pressure. Other health workers cluster round. “She has lost a lot of blood,” cries the nurse. “We don’t want her to die here.”

**T**heir ministrations are futile. The woman slumps in the wheelchair. The nurse looks up and delivers a belated admonishment. “The safest way is to deliver in the hospital,” she says. “You see what has happened to this woman? We have lost her. We have lost her!”

A second of mournful silence passes, and then from every corner of the courtyard — from the scores of people seated beneath blue tarps to the dozen or so clustered within the shadow of a solitary tree — comes a great wave of applause. The performance has been a great success.

That is exactly what this scene in the courtyard of the Kuchingoro Primary Health Care Centre has been: a performance, staged for the benefit of the nearly 200 people who have gathered this morning outside Nigeria’s capital city of Abuja. The nurse is no actor but Victoria Okwute, the health center’s chief nursing officer, and the occasion is a Rotary-supported workshop organized to address the shockingly high numbers of deaths that accompany childbirth in Nigeria.

No country has greater instances of maternal death than Nigeria. In 2020, 82,000 pregnant women and new mothers died there, nearly four times the maternal fatalities in India, where the second-most deaths occur.

One contributing factor? Sixty percent of births in Nigeria take place outside of a health center or hospital, meaning mothers and expectant mothers are far more vulnerable if complications arise. And they so often do: The top causes of maternal deaths include

postpartum hemorrhage, obstructed labor, and eclampsia, when seizures develop from a complication that can cause high blood pressure and organ damage. “Most people view [the deaths] as a punishment from the gods or some kind of witchcraft,” says midwife Ashezi David Alu. “But it’s just a pure act of negligence because of poor management of those complications.”

Now a \$2 million Programs of Scale grant from The Rotary Foundation is addressing this problem head on. Its goal is to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality by 25 percent in target areas at the end of the three-year program. Known as Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria, the initiative is sponsored by Rotary District 1860 (Germany) in partnership with Districts 9110, 9125, 9141, and 9142 (Nigeria), as well as the Rotary Action Group for Reproductive, Maternal, and Child Health.

Unfolding in targeted areas within three Nigerian states and the Federal Capital Territory, the initiative builds on previous work by Rotary members in the country. It’s hoped that, once the program demonstrates its effectiveness, it will be replicated across Nigeria and elsewhere. Critically, Rotary members are partnering with federal and state agencies in implementing the program to ensure the intervention and its benefits last far longer than the three years of the grant cycle.

That’s part of the added value that Rotary brings to the initiative: Because its members



*Victoria Okwute (left) performs in a skit about the importance of giving birth at a health facility.*



*At the Rotary-supported workshop, health workers explain signs of maternal distress.*





live in the country, they have a long-term commitment to seeing that fewer mothers and babies die. “This project is going to birth more projects,” insists Toyosi Adebambo, the program’s manager.

Adebambo previously spent 16 years at USAID and its implementing partners in roles ranging from monitoring and evaluation, administration and human resources, to project management. He joined Rotaract in 2004 while he was a statistics major in college and later became a member of the Rotary E-Club of One Nigeria. When he heard about the Programs of Scale grant, he applied to work on the initiative. “When you start looking at what it will look like in 10, 20 years, you want to be there to make sure it actually works out,” he says. “Nobody is going to do it better than a Rotarian.”

Later that day, after the courtyard skit, an educational presentation, and a passionate speech from a venerated local leader, Faith Gideon leaves the Kuchingoro health center wearing a blue “Together for Healthy Families” apron. A community health worker, Gideon proceeds along a series of red dirt roads before arriving at the home of Theresa Andrew.

Seated across from Andrew, who is five months pregnant with her first child, Gideon encourages the expectant mother to visit the clinic at the first sign of trouble. “If you have any problems,” she says, “if there is anything you don’t understand, if the baby is not kicking, anything at all.”



*From left: Faith Gideon and Judith Anyah visit a pregnant Theresa Andrew; Gideon has been a health worker since 2013.*

Gideon goes on to talk about the dangers of malaria for pregnant women and gives Andrew a mosquito net. She also presents her with a birthing kit, which contains a bedcover, soap, umbilical cord tie, latex gloves, razor blade, and gauze. One of the reasons women give for not delivering at a clinic is the perception that it costs more, in part because they are often required to bring their own supplies.

Gideon makes this walk along the community’s red dirt roads three times a week to visit with pregnant women and new mothers. She’s one of 84 community health workers who, over two days last July, received training through the Rotary-supported initiative. The health workers were already engaged in primary health care in their communities, and this new round of training helped increase their knowledge about maternal and child health. Top participants at these trainings will become trainers

themselves, helping to further expand the program.

The health workers learned about topics including basic prenatal and postnatal care, pregnancy complications, clinic referrals, home birth risks, and modern family planning methods. They learned how to educate expectant and new mothers on such topics as prenatal nutrition, breastfeeding, childhood immunizations, and when to introduce solid foods.

Program organizers originally planned for these outreach visits to occur three times each quarter; they quickly pivoted once they realized their effectiveness. Now the health workers make the rounds three times each week — which means that, in its first three months, the initiative surpassed its three-year goal for number of visits. That frequency helps make the health workers familiar and trusted faces in their communities. “When we get to people’s homes, we relate to them,



## Program organizers originally planned for these outreach visits to occur three times each quarter; they quickly pivoted once they realized their effectiveness.

we talk to them,” Gideon says. “It makes them feel comfortable and encourages them to come to the health center.”

Gideon grew up in this community and has been a health worker since 2013. She’s seen her share of women who have chosen to deliver at home, as well as the unfortunate consequences that follow when complications arise and women arrive at the health facility too late. But she’s also seen evidence of this new program’s immediate impact. “As we keep educating women, they see the reason to come to the health center — and more of them have been coming.”

And all of this is because of a chance meeting in a California hotel 30 years ago.

In March 1994, at the Anaheim Hilton and Towers, Emmanuel Adedolapo Lufadeju and Robert Zinser struck up a conversation. The

two men were district governors-elect, and they had traveled to California for Rotary’s annual International Assembly. Lufadeju, now a member of the Rotary Club of Ibadan-Jericho Metro, Nigeria, described a visit he’d recently made to a hospital maternity ward in Nigeria; Zinser, a member of the Rotary Club of Ludwigshafen-Rheinschanze, Germany, listened intently. That conversation sparked a 30-year partnership between Nigerian and German Rotary members who worked to improve maternal and child health and birthed the Rotary Action Group for Reproductive, Maternal, and Child Health, culminating in the recent \$2 million Programs of Scale grant.

Along the way, Rotary members began to focus on collecting data on maternal deaths to uncover quality of care issues and help determine which interventions made the most sense. Their surveillance work became integrated into the Nigerian health system. The Rotary project trained medical officers to collect and review the data, which includes information on when, where, and why women and babies die. Rotary members supported government officials in introducing a bill, passed by the

Nigerian Parliament in 2021, that required the accurate reporting of maternal deaths. Since the majority of women in the country give birth outside of medical facilities, no records had previously been kept on the cause of their deaths.

The Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria initiative is looking at compliance rates for this reporting, focusing on facilities in three states and the Federal Capital Territory where the program was initiated. In the first quarter of 2023, only 8 percent of facilities were properly reporting their data. The team held a flurry of meetings and calls with government leaders, and by the end of the fourth quarter, they had increased that rate to 90 percent. Rotary members continue to advocate with government officials to keep records officers in their positions once they’re trained and to train backstops who can keep the data consistent.

To verify the figures’ accuracy, program team members compare data from the national data collection platform, state systems, and the health facility register, which logs client intakes and referrals. “The next stage is to relate this data to quality of care and have discussions with ministers of health in various



*Emmanuel Adedolapo Lufadeju began working with German Rotarians on maternal health efforts in 1994.*



locations about what we're finding and what they will do to rectify any issues," Lufadeju says. "Luckily we have good relationships."

Lufadeju, a Rotary member since 1980, possesses an air of quiet authority. Most everyone, from the team working on the Programs of Scale initiative to government officials, calls him "Prof" in recognition of his many years as a professor of agriculture who worked with the country's smallholder farmers. In August 2023, Lufadeju was appointed chair of a subcommittee on safe motherhood within the Nigerian health agency, and his presence threw a spotlight on the important role that Rotary is playing in maternal and child health. "When you get recognized like that," says Lufadeju, "it's an indication you are doing something right." That new assignment helped open doors for Rotary members to advocate for additional resources. "When I ask for a meeting [with federal health officials], they don't say no," Lufadeju says. "They cannot tell me they don't have time, because I am a principal stakeholder. I am part and parcel of their system."

At the National Primary Health Care Development Agency in Abuja, Lufadeju warmly greets Chris Elemuwa, the agency's director of social mobilization and community development. Lufadeju is here to petition the agency to absorb responsibility for the community dialogues and the maternal and child death data. Part of the Rotary program team's strategy is not merely to execute the interventions

over the next three years, but to convince the government to take them on long term.

Lufadeju had for years tried to make inroads at the agency, which supports community health workers throughout the country. Finally, as the Programs of Scale grant was coming together, he emailed Elemuwa and requested a meeting. "We struck a real brotherhood," says Lufadeju. "Everything we're doing would not be possible without him."

"Rotary played a fantastic role when they supported us with polio eradication," says Elemuwa, who worked on polio surveillance early in his career. Now, he's excited for the opportunity to work with Rotary on maternal and child health, and he has attended some of the program's community dialogues and training sessions. "It's not easy to build a program the community embraces," he says. "They're doing a great job."

Two days after the meeting between Lufadeju and Elemuwa, the program team engages in another advocacy visit, this time with the Ministry of Health in Nasarawa, a predominantly agricultural state southeast of Abuja. Along one side of a long conference table sit six directors within the ministry, people who oversee everything from medicine and reproductive health to — and this is key — finance and planning. On the other side of the table sits the Rotary program team.

After a few jokes and an exchange of complimentary speeches, the two teams get down to business. The state has started using some of its staff to supplement the

program's home outreach visits, and government officials are interested in a midterm assessment to see which interventions are supported by data. They also want to know what they should be doing differently right now in communities outside of the program locations. The finance director is already looking to make sure pieces are in place for when the Rotary program is complete. "We want them to take it over, and the only way they can take it over is to embed it in the state program and budget for it," Lufadeju explains.

The Rotary program team is doing similar advocacy work on the community level, working with local religious, traditional, youth, and business leaders and asking them what they'd like to see. And because Rotary members are now executing the leaders' objectives, they have full buy-in. "The king and chief of each place have started talking about how to help us," recalls Adebambo, the program manager. "It's not really a question anymore about if they'll help us."

A tour of the Wamba Road Primary Health Centre in Akwanga, Nasarawa state, shows the Programs of Scale initiative at work, while also demonstrating the effectiveness of the community visits. Outside the clinic, women and children have gathered for an immunization event. Inside, where they are serenaded by a baby's wail, two expectant mothers sit in a small waiting room. As part of the program, pregnant women have been assigned to cohorts depending on their due



dates, and the members of those groups come together to the clinic for each of their seven prenatal visits.

Research backs this kind of group approach to prenatal care. It creates a sense of social camaraderie among the women, further reinforcing the necessity to keep up with their prenatal visits and allowing time for peer discussion. Surprisingly, even as the number of women coming to the clinic increases, the ability to accomplish a number of tasks collectively decreases the workload for the clinic staff.

When the program started, this center received about 75 prenatal visits per month. In the first six months of the program's implementation, the number increased to about 185. The community outreach portion

**“The king and chief of each place have started talking about how to help us,” recalls Adebambo, the program manager. “It’s not really a question anymore about if they’ll help us.”**

of the program started in June, and after that, visits skyrocketed to about 570 per month. Not all of the women who come to the prenatal clinics are giving birth at the facilities, but still, those rates are climbing, jumping in three months from 18 percent of prenatal attendees to 66 percent. Postnatal care, including immunizations, leaped from 2 percent of attendees to 70 percent. “The impact is huge,” Adebambo says. “That is the fun part of it.”

Charity James and Sabina Gyado, nurses who help staff the clinic, pull out folders containing the curriculum for each of the seven visits, with topics such as family planning, hemorrhaging, preterm delivery, and infant care. There are facilitator notes as well as simple illustrations that help emphasize

*Rotary members (from left) Toyosi Adebambo and Emmanuel Adedolapo Lufadeju at the palace of a traditional leader in Ekiti state.*



Photograph: courtesy of Olubunmi Afolabi



certain points for the women who attend. One illustration shows a picture of a baby with an irritated umbilical cord. “We emphasize that if you see a hot, red umbilical cord, come to the hospital,” James says. “If it’s your neighbor, get them there.”

In the clinic’s labor room, a lightbulb protrudes from the wall above a counter near one of the hospital beds. The device, provided as part of Together for Healthy

Families in Nigeria, keeps babies warm, like an incubator, as they are cleaned up and their mothers recover. “You don’t see this at other primary health centers in Nasarawa state,” says Ashezi David Alu, who works for the Rotary program as the chief midwife for the state. Next to the counter is a cabinet with medical supplies — such as vitamin A, eye ointment, vitamin K, and other essentials — that was stocked by the program.

The Nigerian government has traditionally underbudgeted for the health sector, leading to poor infrastructure and a lack of skilled providers and supplies. Poor quality care, rather than lack of access to a health clinic, contributes most greatly to maternal and newborn deaths worldwide, research finds. Quality health care could avert half of maternal deaths and 58 percent of newborn deaths in Nigeria, according to a 2023 progress report on the



*Home outreach visits supported by the program encourage families to visit health facilities.*



topic by several United Nations agencies.

Addressing this gap, the Programs of Scale-backed initiative provides trainings for health workers in emergency obstetrics and neonatal care. During the emergency care trainings, doctors, midwives, nurses, and paramedics at both primary and secondary facilities learn skills, such as newborn resuscitation and the management of vaginal bleeding, that can help when complications arise. Program organizers have since heard anecdotes of health workers using their new skills to resuscitate babies with asphyxia, or lack of oxygen, at birth.

In the third quarter of 2023 alone, 210 health workers across the three states and the capital territory covered by the initiative received this training. Now, Alu and other midwives hired by the program conduct monitoring visits to ensure staff members are employing the

best practices they learned and collaborate on an action plan in cases where they aren't.

Health workers also had training in respectful maternity care, which emphasizes the rights of women, children, and their families, allowing women to enjoy their personal and cultural birthing preferences while still receiving quality care. In addition, health workers were also counseled on how to respond in emotionally charged situations. "Health workers are always at the front line of this," Adebambo says. "We train them on how to react and respond to people."

An entirely different scene is unfolding outside the nearby Gwanje Primary Health Centre, where several hundred people have gathered, congregating in the shade: teens, expectant mothers, and women with their children under striped tents in the middle; men under a

mango tree to the women's left; and some boys hanging out under the support for a water reservoir to their right. Fields of maize wave beyond the cement walls of the compound.

The need to include both women and men becomes apparent when the topic of family planning comes up. The crowd laughs when a health worker takes a wooden penis model out of a bucket marked "demonstration." The boys, who until this time had been lounging around, snap to attention, eyes wide, as they watch her demonstrate how to use a male condom. Later, during a Q&A session, a woman with six children says she'd like to try family planning, but her husband refuses to allow her. "Is he here?" asks the facilitator. "Yes, he's here. Right there!" she points. Once again, the crowd erupts with laughter. The facilitator declines to give a solid answer, saying this is a conversation to be had at the family level.

**Poor quality care,  
rather than lack of  
access to a health  
clinic, contributes  
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maternal and  
newborn deaths  
worldwide**



Researchers have identified four tenets that lead to a risk of increased maternal deaths: becoming pregnant too frequently or when you are too young, too old, or too close to your last pregnancy. Contraception addresses all four. “What we do in family planning is allow the woman some space to get her energy back, allow some space so that the children at home can be taken care of well,” Alu says, “so that subsequent pregnancies will be safe for her.”

Nigeria’s national goal is for 27 percent of the country’s women of childbearing age to use modern contraception methods, but right now only 14 percent of women do so. Program organizers credit the unmet contraceptive need to weak demand and shortages of trained providers, information about options, and funding for procurement. “We enlighten people to know the difference between child spacing and not giving birth at all,” Alu says.

As the clinic’s community dialogue winds up, the sound of drums thumping and horns blazing permeates the air. Dancers wearing seedpod anklets stomp and shake to the beat. The crowd draws in closer to watch and join in, and as they do, the ring of dancers grows wider and pulses with energy. Unable to resist, Lufadeju sheds his professorial demeanor and enters the throng, one more member of Rotary contributing to this animated emblem of the circle of life.

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*Ashezi David Alu speaks at a community dialog at the Gwanje Primary Health Centre.*



*The \$2 million Programs of Scale grant has a goal of reducing maternal and neonatal mortality by 25 percent in its target areas at the end of the three-year initiative.*



# Creating Hope Through Friendship: District 3330 Conference

By Dr. Jessie Harman  
Rotary International Director, 2021-2023

*I always enjoy district conferences. They are a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the value of Rotary service and meet Rotary friends, old and new. I generally come away from conferences feeling inspired and energised.*

That's exactly how I felt after the Rotary District 3330 conference in Surat Thani, Thailand. I learned a lot from the varied and Rotary-focused conference program, enjoyed the many opportunities for fellowship, and delighted in seeing a local service project as well as some of the surrounding countryside.

There were many highlights of the conference for my husband Andrew and me.

We were impressed with the district's focus on Rotary youth programs and pleased to see so many Youth Exchange students participating in the conference. We were inspired by the many service projects featured in the program, including the 'Safe Roads Save Lives' project being implemented as a multi-district initiative across Thailand. We enjoyed dinner and dancing at the city pop themed conference dinner. Overall, we had a terrific time as representatives of Rotary International President Gordon McNally and Heather.

District conferences are also an opportunity to pick up new ideas – and we picked up several. The excellent District Awards event, held as a prelude to the conference, would work well in our Rotary district in Australia. The Rotary Information speaking contest



for new members would complement our existing high school student speaking competitions. We can definitely incorporate more video and live streaming to extend our Australian audiences.

More important than any of these things, my most significant take-away from the district 3330 conference was a reminder about the power of Rotary to create friendships.

In Rotary, we talk a lot about service - of giving



back to our communities. Yet I wonder if we do enough to promote the friendship benefits of Rotary; the extraordinary opportunities Rotary provides us to join with like-minded people around the world. Rotarians may join for service, but they stay for fun and friendship. Andrew and I have returned home to Ballarat, Australia with a whole new set of friends, and an even greater appreciation of the things that connect us all.



This was an excellent conference put together by Governor Dr. Chatchawal and his organizing team. It was an honour and a pleasure to attend and we look forward to future visits to Thailand.



# Cooperation

## in Alleviation Empowerment in Yala Province



By Niwas Srichompoo  
Club President,  
Rotary Club of Yala

*At the of the year on 24 December 2023, everyone was preparing to celebrate the New Year festival while unfortunately, the biggest flood in 60 years happened in the area of Yala province. The news of the flood disaster was reported throughout the country by the news reporters and social media the next morning.*

The Rotary Club of Yala called for an urgent meeting to bridge the assistance and provide relief to the flood victims. The recipient's bank account was announced and publicized through various channels for fundraising in order to prepare aid packages, which were immediately distributed to those in need. Immense generosity by Rotary members and people all over the country came in forms of money and goods contribution. In addition, the Rotary Club of Phatthalung went to the disaster area to hand over their donations to those in need.

On 26 December, the Rotary Club of Yala submitted a letter requesting the Disaster Relief



Fund to the District Governor, and the support of THB 30,000 was approved. While publicizing the request for donations and aid packages, and as people of action, the Rotary Club of Yala partnered with the Interact Club and Rotaract Club of Yala Phadungpracha Vocational College and prepared 400 aid packages which were distributed from the afternoon until 8.00 pm.





On 27-29 December, we maintained our action. The aid packages were packed in the morning and distributed to those in need in the afternoon by club members, who alternated their volunteering times. More than 1,000 units of aid packages were distributed. The government agencies, provincial Red Cross, military officers, Yala Municipality Office, and sub-district administrative organizations participated with their support. The donation of 3,000 bottles of drinking water was handed over to the Deputy Governor of Yala province to distribute to those in need.

On 30 December, the Disaster Fund Committee of Rotary in Thailand approved a budget of THB 100,000 to support the alleviation. By then, the flood situation relieved itself. The Rotary Club of Yala therefore followed Rotary's guidelines for initiatives via the survey to find the real and urgent needs of the

community. Club members visited many areas and inquired for the information with officials, who were responsible for disaster relief from many organizations, including the Red Cross, Social Development and Human Society (SDHS), Community Development Department (CDD), and SBPAC. All agencies responded in the same way that dry food and aid packages were adequately supplied. However, home appliances were in high demand since they were washed away by the flood. The villagers needed kitchen utensils and bedding. Consequently, 250 sets of kitchenware were arranged for them.

On 11 January 2024, Disaster Aid Thailand led by the Rotary Club of Phatthalung, District 3340 and Disaster Aid Australia coordinated by PP Dol Adinan the Chairman of Disaster Aid Thailand, arrived in Yala. A water filtration unit was installed at Khuhaphimuk Temple in the area affected by flooding.









On 12 January, the Disaster Aid team installed a water filtration system unit at Kuan Yin Shrine while they gave supplies of rice to the villagers. The Thailand Disaster Relief Unit together with Disaster Aid Thailand under Rotary International, and Disaster Aid International were responsible for areas throughout Thailand and assisted in the flood incident. Two high-quality water filter units were supplied by Disaster Aid Australia and were brought by two past presidents, who flew directly from Australia to Thailand to install the units by themselves. The total project value was THB 1,200,000.

In this flood incident, the clubs supported in the total project value of approximately THB 1,600,000. Finally, the Rotary Club of Yala was very grateful for all the support contributed by Rotary clubs across the country and abroad in order to empower the alleviation for the victims.





D3330

Editorial



PDG Paikit Hoonpongsimanont  
Rotary Club of Tubtiang

Dear all Rotarians, Sawasdee krub,

Rotary Thailand magazine 2023-2024 has reached its fifth issue, with only one more issue remaining, and the term of the magazine editorial team will be expired. This issue is scheduled for release at the end of April, which is one of Rotary's busiest periods at the district level. In March every district holds a District Conference (DC) to summarize and celebrate past achievements. From the middle of April to the end of May, the new district committees will hold a District Training Assembly (DTA) to train new club officers who will succeed the current ones whose terms will expire at the end of June.

Under the area of District 3330 in this issue, I would like to present a special article on international services which is considered to play a role in linking clubs in the country with clubs abroad. In particular, it supports clubs in finding international partners in doing Global Grant projects. It also includes an article about Rotary information on the topic of how DEI can make your club stronger composed by PP Pathomporn Jeasakul of the Rotary Club of Ganchan. And what is indispensable are the photos of various activities being performed within the district.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone good health and free from all kinds of illnesses. See you again in the next issue.

## International Service



PDG Paikit Hoonpongsimanont  
International Service Committee  
Chair, District 3330

The District International Service Committee (ISC) is an important one in Rotary. Rotary International has been in action for more than 119 years. Over 1.4 million Rotarians and Rotaractors in more than 30,000 clubs are spread in hundreds of countries around the world. There are clubs based in developed countries where members are well-equipped with knowledge of technology and finance. There are also Rotary clubs located in developing countries where people need help. So, what can we do to provide available assistance to clubs to ensure successful service projects in developing countries? Of course, it can be done through the ISC.

If we take a look at the roles and responsibilities of the ISC, we will find that Rotary wants the ISC to encourage clubs and districts to undertake projects or partnerships with clubs and districts abroad, especially clubs applying for Global Grant projects. The Rotary Foundation requires the clubs that want to do Global Grants to have support from international partners. Therefore, the ISC is responsible for liaising with clubs and/or districts in other countries.

As for District 3330, it has been in contact with Rotary clubs abroad for a long time which is especially significant for Rotary clubs in South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Singapore. Looking back, the clubs in District 3330 have been doing service projects with clubs from overseas since it was initially called a Matching Grant program until it evolved into the current Global Grant program.

For this Rotary year 2023-2024, there have been many projects where the district has collaborated with foreign Rotary clubs such as South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan.



The Rotary Club of Poochaosamingprai and the Rotary Club of Patong Beach collaborated with the Rotary Club of Euijeongbu Hoiryong, District 3690, South Korea for a Global Grant project to hand over a pure water production system with reverse osmosis technology and four dialysis machines to the Raj Pracha Samasai Institute, with the project value of THB 3,710,000 (USD 100,000).



The Rotary Club of Kanchanaburi and the Rotary Club of Uijeonbu, District 3690, South Korea, jointly implemented a Global Grant project to prevent and eliminate malaria in Thailand at Ban Huai Nam Khao, Kanchanaburi province, with the project value of THB 2,325,600 (USD 68,400).



The Rotary Club of Ban Pong and the Rotary Club of Donggu, District 3600, South Korea, jointly implemented a Global Grant project to provide medical equipment to Damnoen Saduak Hospital, Ratchaburi province, for saving the lives of accident victims with a project value THB 2,583,805 (USD 73,823).

The above examples are the projects that have already been delivered and there are still many Global Grant projects that District 3330 has worked on together with international partners that are in the process of being implemented. Doing large projects has a positive impact on the community which is in line with “Increase our Impact”, one of the four aspects of Rotary International's Action Plan.





In addition to collaborating through The Rotary Foundation's Global Grant program, relationships at the club level also make it possible to cooperate on international service projects.

The Rotary Club of Samrong received financial support from Dr. Christian Erwin Hort of the Swiss Confederation and the Rotary Club of Suratthani, and handed over the project “Water for Life” at the value of THB 75,000 to Ban Bang Samrong School, Kanchanadit district, Suratthani province.



The Rotary Club of Nakornpathom welcomed the Rotary Club of Ikeda, District 2660, Japan, to jointly hand over water filtration systems to Wat Thung Ree School, Ban Ton Makham Child Development Center in Sa Katiam subdistrict, mueang district, Nakornpathom province, with the total budget of THB 155,000.

It can be seen that the ISC plays a role in supporting collaboration between Rotary clubs in the district and Rotary clubs from abroad to carry out service projects that create a great impact on the community.

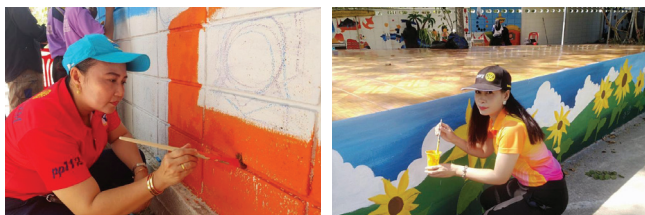
## Activities



Rotary Club of Pechra-Suphan President Sema Aumnaiwattanakul led members in service activities on mental health with music, singing and dancing. They also served lunch and provided gifts to senior citizens at the Elderly Quality of Life Promotion Center (Wat Klang Nursing Home), Suphanburi province on 16 February.



## Activities



**Rotary Club of Pattani** President Chayamanee Chotosathee and Club Foundation Chair PP Kris Kongsiput led club members,

teachers, and students from Art Education, Faculty of Education, Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus in painting activities. The project “Beautiful painting, creating, sharing and learning media by Rotary Pattani” was held at Ban Don Khet School, Khok Pho district, Pattani province on 24-25 February.



**Rotary Club of Pra Phathom Chedi** President Rathip Tangsirirork and members participated in the handover of two dialysis machines with a project value of THB 1,078,000 (USD 30,800) to Raj Pracha Samasai Institute on 28 February. It is Global Grant #2454552 in collaboration with the **Rotary Club of Bucheon West, District 3690, South Korea**, and the **Rotary Club of Samrong, District 3330**.

**Pawanapimon Pittaya School** organized academic open house activities by setting up a popcorn shop "POP~IN" for club fundraising and increasing vocational skills at Pawanapimon Pittaya School. There were approximately 500 students from nearby schools that came for study tour on 13 March.



**Rotary Club of Suphannikar** President Sukunya Thaiseereekul and members provided support to buy water filtration systems and give the school children with clean, hygienic water to drink at Rang Krathum School, Tha Rahat subdistrict, mueang district, Suphanburi province on 27 February.



**Rotary Club of Nakornpathom** President Kittipat Thongphul, Rotary Ann Phatcharin Noophasuk, club members, and Rotary Anns participated in the "Week of World Kidney Day" activity. This event had a variety of activities such as exhibitions about kidney knowledge, screening to assess kidney disease risk, and a forum on “Covering all rights, Conquering kidney disease, Paying attention to medication use” at Big C Department Store, Nakornpathom branch on 9 March.



**Rotary Club of U-Thong** President Phimwarawan Jangthanatphathon and the **Interact Club of**



D3340

Editorial



PP Puttitorn Patthanasintorn  
Rotary E-Club of District 3340

Hi fellow Rotarians and readers!

This magazine is the 5th edition of Rotary Year 2023-2024. I'd like to present the clubs' activities of which Global Grant projects have been completed and many other service projects that every club in District 3340 has done to make a difference in their communities.

Apart from these, there were service projects that united many clubs in District 3340. They organized procurement campaigns and acquired 140 wheelchairs and 110 anti-decubitus mattresses. These items were distributed among the disable and bedridden patients by participating clubs.

Particularly, the clubs arranged the service project activities on 23 February "Sow the Seed of Love", on RI's 119th Anniversary day.

## Sister Clubs



P Narumol Piyaasdarut  
Rotary Club of Roi Et

According to the Rotary theme 2023-2024, Create Hope in the World, the specific project that was the Rotary Club of Roi Et's pride is Global Grant #2234695, "Stroke Rehabilitation System". It specializes in taking care of the patients after the critical period in Thawatburi Hospital, Roi Et province.

On 5-7 March, the Rotary Club of Roi Et had the good opportunity to welcome DG Etan Chen and 17 club presidents join together with fellow Rotarians from Taiwan, D3490. They travelled the long distance to participate in the handing over of the medical equipment at the ceremony. The value of this project is THB 3,868,900.

This project is successful and based on the concept of driving the organization "Give what you want, get what you want". The operation is as follows:

### **Coordinate the provision of the hospitals in need and explore the needs of the community.**

The director of Thawatburi Hospital kindly completed the project arrangement. The members of Rotary Club of Roi Et conducted needs surveys of the communities for the years. It was found that the project can help the patients who are unable to recover after suffering from stroke and have just passed the critical period. However, these patients are still unable to help themselves, with mobility problems and other issues. Self-support, eating, and communication still need to be nursed to prepare both the patients and the caregivers - the patient's relatives - properly so that the patients can recover to a level of self-care at home and then return to a normal life, which will help reduce the number of patients with disabilities in society.



### Coordinate with medical personnel.

It doesn't matter whether they be necessary equipment and searching for the price of medical equipment, they are usable in the rehabilitation room. The proper equipment and the right budget meet the needs of the patient's rehabilitation.

### Proposal funding to fellow Rotarians by preparation of a draft project.

This year, I was inspired by the Rotary Club of Roi Et's members to write our own Global Grant project till the time it was completed and became the club project's priority.

This project would not have been possible without the cooperation of the friendly Rotary clubs in District 3490, Taiwan. Together with the Rotary Club of Nonthaburi, Rotary Club of Nong Khaem and Thawatburi Hospital, the community coordinated well with the Rotary Club of Roi Et. It is used in treatment and rehabilitation of patients to get a better life. It is expected to strengthen further people's health and economy of the community.

Finally, I would like to thank the Rotary Club of Roi Et for their support, inspiration, and push forward across projects as well as the other agencies not mentioned above that have helped and supported the club's project success and benefits for the community, to Create Hope in the World beyond the goals that were set.





## Memorial Day Activities on 23 February "Sow the Seed of Love"



"Hand Back To Work" is the slogan of Dr. Vichai Vijitpornkul, a former deputy Director of Lerdsin Hospital. He specializes in treating trigger finger symptoms without open skin surgery. **The Rotary Club of Surin** led by President Pee Phanitkullawat and members associated with the alumni club, ANS Class 48 (Bermuda grass) set up a trigger finger drill project for people in Surin and nearby provinces. There were 26 cases treated free of charge, and all courtesy of the medical facilities and equipment from Surin Municipal Public Health Department.



**Rotary Club of Pattaya Center International** in collaboration with the city of Pattaya, organized the "Return Green Space to the City" project by planting 119 Golden-Urai trees. It is a long-term project that the Rotary Club of Pattaya Center International planted different trees in many areas in Pattaya City and has the honor to display the club name where the trees grow. The club members will proceed with this project in years ahead.



**Rotary Club of Sisaket** renovated and repaired toilets at Ban Sanam Samakkee Rotary 2nd School, Khukhan district, Sisaket province in memory of the former Rotary International President PRIP Bhichai

Rattakul. It was to engage and develop good rapport among friends within the club and return to promote and support the school where the club built the first teak wooden school building in 1976, some 48 years ago. There was a lack of reconciliation for a very long time.

**Rotary Club of Nam Phong** led by Dr. Lakkhana Hanpradit and members organized an activity to teach students how to make sandwiches and provided lunch for 200 students and donated funding to Ban Phak Nam School, Kranuan district, Khon Kaen province.



**Rotary Club of Korat International** donated wheelchairs and anti-decubitus mattresses to Pol Krang Hospital, Muang district, Nakhon Ratchasima province.



## Activities



Rotary Club of Mittraphap Khon Kaen and the Rotary Club of Sa Pathum, District 3350 in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Kan Onji, District 2670, Japan, donated teaching materials, sports equipment, musical instruments and arts supplies. They provided arts and culture media, published comic books that tell literature stories of Sangsilpchai, and provided 12 scholarships to students at Ban Savathi School, Khon Kaen province.



Rotary Club of Krasang organized project activities giving socks, masks, school supplies, scholarships and supplementary food for children at Ban Samet Samakkehi School, Nong Teng, Krasang district, Buriram province.



On the auspicious occasion of the Commemoration of His Majesty the King's 6th Cycle Birthday Anniversary, the Rotary Club of Phanat Nikhom in collaboration with Phanat Nikhom Hospital, Chonburi province, organized a project "Take Doctors to See The Public" by giving eye-glasses to the hospital on 17 February.



Rotary Club of Sri Muang Korat led by Dr. Siriyavadee Sirithanakunaporn together with members donated scholarships to three students at the community behind Wat Samakkee, Nakhon Ratchasima Municipality.



D3350

Editorial



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

Dear fellow Rotarians and readers,

This issue of Rotary Thailand magazine emphasizes International Relations Services. Apart from 'Rotary Youth Exchange' programs, we also do a large number of Global Grant (GG) projects that require international partners.

District 3350 does a lot of GGs every year. Our district has made it into TRF's Top Ten of Global Grants in the past. Even though we are a middle level country, we had a very strong district governor who coordinated activities between districts and thus, we have a large number of sister clubs in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan so that we can complete many GG projects equal to the level of large country.

When our sister clubs participate in GG projects with us, they are always invited to the handover ceremonies. They feel impressed with the Thai-style reception and see the benefits that the projects have on the community stakeholders. The projects show the value for money they have invested and feel confident to invest in future projects. When the sister club relationship grows, whenever they have an important event, our clubs often join in these activities. The relationship grows more steadfast, not just in the year of handover.

Presented are photos of activities as examples of foreign Rotarians visiting Thailand and Thai Rotarians visiting and joining their activities in their respective countries. Another important activity is the Rotary Friendship Exchange which takes place between our district and the district in Taiwan.

We will meet again in the next issue.

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## Sister Clubs

The Rotary Club of Bangkok Suwanabhum had six members and their partners attend the 70th anniversary celebration of their longstanding friendship with the **Rotary Club of Kariya, District 2760**, at Shine's Hall in Japan and a dinner at Indigo Hotel on 18 March. Additionally, in October of the previous year, ten members from the Kariya Rotary Club traveled to Chumphon province to participate in the handover ceremony of medical equipment as part of the Global Grant project #2342754, valued at THB 3.3 million.



The Rotary Club of Bangkok along with members from the **Rotary Club of Okegawa** handed over a water purification system, valued THB 77,000 to Tung Chang School, Nan province on 21 February.





The Rotary Club of Patumwan celebrated its 40th anniversary on 2 December 2023. As part of the event, they also held a ceremony to donate two ambulances worth THB 5 million to Chumphae Hospital in Khon Kaen province. The ceremony was well-attended by sister clubs from Japan, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan with a total of 15 Rotary clubs and 165 members from the clubs below:

- Japan: RC Ashikaga, RC Hitachi, RC Ichihara Chuo, RC Ishioka, RC Koga East, RC Mito Minami, RC Moka, RC Omagari, RC Shimodate, RC Tokai Naka, and RC Tsukuba Sunrise, RC Ushiku and RC Utsunomiya
- Singapore: RC Suntec City
- South Korea: RC Busan Gaon and RC Jinju Seonhak
- Taiwan: RC Hualien and RC Taipei Lungmen



The Rotary Club of Bangrak had five members visit their sister club, the Rotary Club of Hong Kong North East, District 3450, to join in celebrating their 40th anniversary at The Icon Tsim Sha Tsui Hotel. The event was themed as a masked banquet and attendees



included the current president, past presidents, Interact and Rotaract representatives, as well as distinguished guests totaling over 230 people. This occasion showcased the continuity and transmission of ideals from one generation to the next, in service and benevolence. It highlighted the dedicated and powerful community service efforts of the members of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong North East over the past 40 years, demonstrating their steadfast commitment and energy towards serving their community. This memorable event took place on 13 January.



The Rotary Club of Sathorn signed a sister club agreement with the Rotary Club of Kishiwada South and Rotary Club of Takaishi from Japan. They traveled to sign the agreement and brought funds to support the WCS Clean Water Project in Thailand at the Holiday Inn Hotel on Silom Road, Bangkok, on 22 February.



The Rotary Club of Phra Phutthabat, together with the Rotary Club of Bangkok Suriwong, and 10 sister clubs from Japan, organized a clean drinking water

project for three schools in Saraburi province and two schools in Ang Thong province. Members from Rotary clubs in Japan participated in the activity and handed over the project on 23 February.



The Rotary Club of Suan Luang had 11 members and their partners travel to attend a meeting with their sister club, the Rotary Club of Taipei Southworld at the Grand Hotel in Taipei, Taiwan, on 26 March. They also paid a

courtesy visit to the Mayor of Taipei City, Chiang Wan-an, who is a great-grandchild of Chiang Kai-shek and the group explored various educational and significant sites in Taipei. This visit expressed gratitude for their participation in Global Grant project #2346513, which involved purchasing medical equipment for Chiang Kham Hospital in Phayao province, Thailand. They had previously traveled to Thailand to hand over the equipment on 25 August 2023.

The Rotary Club of Nongkhaem, led by President Pissit Sunthareerat along with members and representatives from the RC Sakai Izumigaoka, RC Sakai North and RC Sakai Seiryō in District 2640, Japan, and RC Tokyo Hachiochi West, RC Tokyo Machida, and RC Tokyo Machida Central

in District 2750, Japan, jointly handed over water filtration systems worth THB 500,000 to 17 schools. The clubs signed MOUs with the schools regarding the maintenance of the equipment.



The Rotary Club Phra Pokklao donated water filtration systems to Wat Khun Samut Thai School in Samut Prakan province, Pong Charoenchai School in Chanthaburi province, and Kotawindha School in Chanthaburi province. Members from the Rotary Club of Wakayama in District 2640, Japan, also participated in this donation.



# Rotary Friendship Exchange



AG Wallapa Chuenchoksan  
Rotary Club of Bangkok Nawamin  
Chair of the Rotary Friendship Exchange Program

I was assigned this task by DG Wichai Chivakanit, at the beginning of January. It came about after receiving communication through PP Lisa, the Chair of Youth Sub-Committee of District 3490, from the Rotary Club of Zuoying Fangyuan in Taiwan, which is a sister club of the Rotary Club of Bangkok Nawamin. With various coordination efforts, the collaboration became more manageable.

The participants of the Taiwan RFE project visited Thailand from 21 - 25 February, for a duration of five days and four nights. The attendees were as follows:

1. DG Ethan accompanied by his partner Ms. Lai Hong Ling, from the Rotary Club of Zuoying Fangyuan
2. PDG Zhang Qiu Hai accompanied by his partner Ms. Liao Li Yu, from the Rotary Club of Uguong
3. District Secretary Huang Rui Xiang accompanied by his partner Ms. Xu Shou, from the Rotary Club of Zuoying Fangyuan
4. Chair of Youth Sub-Committee PP Xu Li Ling and her partner Mr. Xia Xing Hui, from the Rotary Club of Zuoying Fangyuan
5. President Li Hong Zhi accompanied by his partner Ms. Yang Ya Qi, from the Rotary Club of Luo Ding Xi Qu

DG Wichai Chivakanit, PDG Dr. Surachat Chuenchoksan, AG Wallapa Chuenchoksan, PE Pritha year 2024-2025, PE Santi year 2025-2026, along with the NGSE team, welcomed them at Suvarnabhumi Airport. They were then treated to dinner at the Grand Four Wings Hotel on Srinagarindra Road and stayed there for the first night.

The group traveled to Khao Yai in Nakhon Ratchasima and stayed at two houses at Kensington Khaoyai owned by AG Rewadee Dhanasarnsilp and PE Ekkarach Muangsiri. Various activities were organized including:

- Homemade breakfasts, lunches, and dinners at the accommodation



- A visit Rtn Kanyasiri's house to see the demonstration of making papaya salad and spicy shrimp soup
- Learning how to wear the Thai-style, wrap-around skirt at AG Pornthipha Pradidsukthavorn's house
- Karaoke and souvenir exchange at Kensington Khaoyai hosted by AG Rewadee Dhanasarnsilp
- Visiting the Tippiman Art Gallery in Khao Yai
- Exploring the Christian Church, gallery, and English-style garden at Kensington Khaoyai
- Visiting a mushroom farm
- Alms-giving at the Wat Pa Kiriwan temple
- Enjoying the evening ambiance and music at Toscano
- Sightseeing and shopping at the Icon Siam

This project was highly successful, with the Taiwan RFE team enjoying and learning about Buddhism, Thai cuisine, and Thai arts and culture. They were delighted and impressed, with hope for similar projects in the future. The Thai RFE team plans to travel to Taiwan from 6-10 April, with a total of 11 participants.



D3360

Editorial



PP Dr. Natthanin Setavanich  
Rotary Club of Phrae

Dear Rotarians,

In this edition, the Rotary Thailand magazine recognizes the importance of international relationships as a significance observed since the establishment of Rotary clubs in Thailand. With sister clubs abroad, we have cultivated numerous relationships while fostering friendships and initiating various impactful projects, particularly Global Grants. Rotary International emphasizes the necessity of international hosts for project implementation. Consequently, many clubs in District 3360 have established partnerships with international counterparts, leading to significant Global Grants that benefit communities.

In this issue, I am pleased to present the international relationships of what could be considered the pioneering club in the district, the Rotary Club of Chiang Mai Nawarat. Through insights shared by PDG Dr. Weerachai Chamroendararasamee, we aim to highlight the concept of fostering sustainable relationships with international partners. Furthermore, we have compiled various successful project activities from clubs in the district, hoping to inspire you to discover beneficial projects for your own clubs in the future.

## Activities



### Rotary Club of Chiang Mai Nawarat, led by CP Chalida Ekachaiyaphatthanakul, together with members including DG Dr. Watit Tangrapilert, collaborated with T.P.N. Global Co., Ltd. and the Little Step Project, spearheaded by Miss Universe 2023 1st Runner-Up Anntonia Porsild, to donate clothing, toys, educational supplies, sports equipment, food, and snacks to students at Samoeng Pittayakom School, Ban Dong Community School, and Ban Mae Lan Kam School on 26 December 2023, at Samoeng Pittayakom School, Samoeng Tai subdistrict, Chiang Mai province.



Rotary Club of Chiang Mai organized a "Beneficial Activity to Create Hope for the World" initiative, which included activities such as teaching dental hygiene and distributing toothbrush kits to students, providing medicine cabinets to schools and temples, distributing winter clothing to the elderly, and providing adult diapers to bedridden patients at Ban Dong Community School, Samoeng district, Chiang Mai province, on 24 February.



**Rotary Club of Uttaradit** donated one meeting table set and a document storage cabinet with the support of Rtn Sakol Chavalitsakuldech (Thai Yont Seat Fabrics Shop) from Global Grant project GG#2342901. They also donated three Pulse Oximeters with equipment to Thong Saen Khan Hospital, Uttaradit province on 3 February, with support from their sister club the **Rotary Club of Prakanong, District 3350**.



**Rotary Club of Chiangkhong**, in collaboration with the Chiang Khong Municipality, Chiang Khong Subdistrict, Somdej Phra Yupparaj Chiang Khong Hospital, and the Chiang Khong Bike Club, along with various governmental and private organizations in the Chiang Khong district, organized the 7th annual "Bike for Merit: Two Wheels to Support Local Fishermen" event. The event aimed to raise funds to purchase medical equipment for Somdej Phra Yupparaj Hospital, acquire air purifiers for childcare centers in the district, and support the charitable projects of the Rotary Club of Chiangkhong on 25 February.



**Rotary Club of Nan** donated short-sighted and astigmatism eyeglasses to children in a vision testing project in collaboration with Nan Hospital. The hospital provided measurements for the glasses, and the Rotary club covered the expenses through to the Rotary year 2026-2027 on 8 March.

**Rotary Club of Chiang Mai Thin-Thai-Nga**, as the host club, collaborated with the **Rotary Club of Sarapee**, **Rotary Club of Nakhonping Chiang Mai**, **Rotary Club of Chiang Mai Doi Suthep**, and **Rotary Club of Chiangmai San Sai**, along with **Rotary District 3490 from Taiwan**,



as partner clubs, to implement the "Clean Water Project" to construct and renovate bathrooms for six schools in Chiang Mai province under Global Grant GG#2352923, with a project value of THB 2,600,000 (USD 65,725).



## International Service



**PDG Dr. Weerachai  
Chamroendararasamee  
ARRFC Region 12 Zone 10B**

### Structure of Rotary International (RI - 1905) and United Nations (UN - 1945)

It is well known that the structures of Rotary International and the United Nations are similar. Because more than 40 Rotary International staff members were involved in shaping the United Nations after World War II, both organizations have members around the world. Rotary has members in Rotary clubs and these members are known as Rotarians. Rotaract clubs were established in 1979. The United Nations organization has members from many different countries. Rotary has a mission which is to wish everyone in the world live together in peace and free from conflict by doing service projects (doing good for the world), promoting

education, learning and the youth. Rotarians have five core values: friendship, ethics, a variety of professions, conducting service projects and projecting leadership. Rotary clubs exist in nearly 200 countries around the world, and they come in many different sizes. They have ability to do different activities for the benefit of the underprivileged and disadvantaged. This caused Rotary International to design a partnership to help each other and create service projects that truly impact the community. This form of assistance is the coordination of various groups such as RFE, DISC, RC, RRF, RPIC, RAG and others, and there are trainings and opportunities to meet together at regional, zonal and international meetings around the world every year. The club plans for Rotarians to find opportunities in making new friends from meetings. These opportunities build friendships and promote each other, thereby helping to increase the “International Service of Rotary Clubs”.

### How to build international friendships between Rotary clubs?

Rotarians from all clubs attend District Training Assemblies every year at all committee levels to gain basic knowledge to carry out the mission. You can also learn more on the Rotary International website. Committees, club leaders, and Rotarians can also access training opportunities organized by Rotary International between countries, regions and zones to stay updated on changing information. Importantly, it provides an opportunity to get to know each other as members of different clubs, different districts, and abroad in similar regions, and especially at the annual RI Convention where Rotarians from all over the world come to meet. It is the best opportunity for building friendship and understanding each other. This also leads to cooperation in the future. If the club does not invite members to join, it is a lost opportunity to build understanding and trust for cooperation in doing

service projects. You should prepare souvenirs with local symbols to exchange and build friendships. It is a culture that Rotarians have continued to practice. When making friends, exchanging business cards and contact details creates familiarity. Exchange visits help the International Club Service succeed.

Additionally, in today’s technological world you can find friends on various websites of the Rotary clubs, Rotary districts and various Rotary Action Groups (RAG), and a follow-up meeting in person helps to build greater trust and understanding. Participating in welcoming Rotary friends from other clubs who are invited to visit the area facilitates friendships by coordinating with that club in advance. It is an approach that does not break any rules, and it also builds trust between each other.

### Build friendship to build trust between each other.

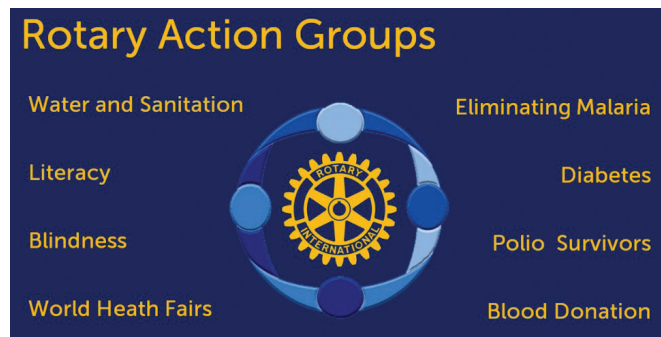
The Rotary Friendship Exchange program (RFE) organizes teams to visit Rotarians living abroad, and invite foreign team members to visit with a schedule and appropriate details, such as when they come, we arrange for them to visit our projects that have already been implemented successfully. Reception from senior members such as the District Governor, District Governor-Elect, and Past District Governors help to build your club's commitment to the Rotary guidelines, "Do good for the world". For a club that has no goal of making friends, whether in the country or abroad with no activity, it will not be possible for members to remain with the club for a long time. If the member intends to become a Rotarian embracing "Service Above Self", it is therefore the duty of the club president and club members to plan the event thoroughly. Doing any project by club members alone will cause them to be lacking in friends. Like a house that has four pillars, we must always remember that a successful club includes:

- 1) Membership increase and retention
- 2) Create opportunities for service
- 3) Donate to The Rotary Foundation
- 4) Leaders need to be developed to serve at a higher level in the club

Additionally, Rotarians responsible for the Youth Exchange (YE) Program can connect to their overseas YE host clubs as another way to join the international service of Rotary. Another avenue that is available to help the clubs connect very fast is the district chair of the International Service Committee (DISC) appointed by Rotary for a three-year term, with a network of connections around the world. They should be a close advisor to your club in finding friends to work together on Rotary Foundation projects.

### Summary

- The club should work to make friends and allow the club to have foreign friends join in providing service projects for the club in a Global Support Fund continuously.
- The club should continue to develop friendships with the Rotary sister club relationships by visiting each other and signing the sister club agreement every year.
- The club should continue to pass on its mission of friendship to the next generation of club leaders and committee members.
- The club should prepare members who are ready to assume leadership roles to attend international conferences and look for opportunities to make foreign friends.
- The club should study and learn various methods and knowledge through district meetings and the Learning Center on the Rotary website.
- The club should assign club representatives who will be responsible for leadership in the next year to attend the Rotary International Convention.
- The club should work with the DISC to connect with The Rotary Foundation's GG project partners and provide direct mentoring.
- District governors and district leaders should be able to help club members when going to international conferences or meetings to coordinate with fellow Rotarians.





## Learn about Rotary easily in Thai language



PDG Nakharin Rattanakitsoonthorn  
Chairman of the Translation  
Committee and Vice Chairman of  
the Rotary Centre in Thailand

*“Learning about Rotary is no longer difficult for those who love Rotary documents that are translated into Thai.”*

PDG Nakharin, who has been working hard to translate RI documents into the Thai language, has clarified details and document translations. His intention is to help members of the four districts learn about Rotary without limits.



**Q: What quantity of Rotary documents have been translated into Thai, and in what matters?**

**A:** What matters? I can't tell you all about it here. There are almost 200 Rotary papers that have been translated into Thai! We have tried to cover every matter, but only published some items, and for instance, a series of club officer manuals and pamphlets of the RI President. However, many translations are available on the Rotary Centre in Thailand's website at [www.rotarythailand.org](http://www.rotarythailand.org).

**Q: What is your successful work that you think is great and useful for members?**

**A:** The Thai Language Courses at the Rotary Learning Center. Presently, RI produces very few hardcopy manuals and encourages members to learn through online, interactive courses. In the early stages, we translated the courses into Thai in the form of files to download. However, the Rotary Centre in Thailand has collaborated with RI to provide Thai language courses at the Learning Center in My Rotary, starting with two courses: Get Ready, Club President and Working with Your Leadership Team. There will be more to come. This process takes a lot of time from two to three months to complete, including translation, editing, and sending to RI to convert it into a file for proceeding in the information system, and then returning to the director for testing and correction. Finally, the Thai documents will be available online and hopefully, Rotarians will learn from it by logging in.

We intend to provide as much benefit for our members as possible, and please advise us for improvements.

**Q: It's almost the Rotary New Year. The Club Officers-Elect are very eager to learn about Rotary in their new positions. What advice can you give?**

**A:** Firstly, Rotarians are expected to participate in the DTA of each district. No matter what position you are in the club such as president, secretary or chairman of any committee, or any position in the district, as well as Rotaractors and Interactors, everyone can learn from the Thai manuals. There are also many more documents that can be downloaded.

**Q: What would you like to say to members?**

**A:** Translation Committee members work very hard. Once the translation is complete, every page will be revised for the best outcome. They put all their effort into updating documents as early as possible. Thai versions are available for download free of charge. If the reader finds the original document or doesn't find the expected document, please contact the staff of the Rotary Centre in Thailand. We are ready to support every club in all matters as well as translation.



**The Office of the Translation Committee**



PRID Prof. Dr.  
Saowalak Rattavich  
Advisor



PDG Nakharin  
Rattanakitsoonthorn  
Chairman



PDG Somphop  
Thirasarn  
Committee



DGND Srifa  
Sriudomseth  
Committee



AG Phanu  
Yoshmetha  
Committee



Danucha  
Bhumithaworn  
Secretary



## Rotary Centre Chair's Message

PDG Somphop Thirasan



Dear fellow Rotarians,

All four of our district governors have completed official club visits and a general meeting of each region was held in March. The successful results were reported and celebrated happily and congratulations and appreciation to all on this occasion.

I have seen the evolution of the work of each sector trying to use new innovations, including more members of the new generation coming to help with Rotary work. Whether in terms of doing service activities, membership development and club management, the district governor and assistant district governors evaluated the clubs and recorded the details in My Rotary. Each club should request this information to consider the club's strengths and weaknesses in order to plan a strategy for a strong, sustainable club, especially to increase the impact and could be an effective problem solver to expand access. They can motivate and inspire each other to promote participation, be able to understand the needs of others, and to increase the ability to apply with a comprehensive perspective with flexibility. Let's have fun with the challenge of club management.

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 April 2024 (1 July 2023)

District	Rotarians	Clubs	Rotaractors	Clubs
Worldwide	1,179,212 (1,157,010)	36,914 (36,789)	161,278 (166,541)	10,720 (11,310)
3330	2,337 (2,203)	103 (103)	249 (233)	27 (26)
3340	1,390 (1,316)	65 (65)	99 (76)	6 (5)
3350	3,138 (3,013)	131 (128)	474 (407)	31 (30)
3360	1,369 (1,441)	69 (70)	271 (274)	16 (15)
Total	8,234 (7,973)	368 (366)	1,093 (990)	80 (76)



TOGETHER, WE

LEARN

Rotary



PEOPLE of ACTION

Rotary Club of Silpakhom-Udon Thani organized the continual activities project "Library for Kids" which was also given in the previous year 2017-2018. They conducted outdoor activities with children, talking, telling stories, and teaching English during the cool season under the warmth of the sun. The library atmosphere is very nice and shady at Nong Wua So district, Udon Thani province.





**อน.นทินทร - แอนน์วีณา ศรีสรรพางค์**  
**รัฐมนตรีช่วยว่าการกระทรวงพาณิชย์และกรรียา**  
**ประธานสภาอธิบดีนายก สโมสรโรตารีแก่นจันทน์**

**ผู้ก่อตั้ง ตลาดศรีเมือง จ.ราชบุรี ตลาดปลาฟิชวิลเลจ จ.ราชบุรี**  
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