

Rotary

Thailand

โรตารีประเทศไทย

มีนาคม - เมษายน 2569

No. 223 March - April 2026

“From Common Ground
—
Bridges of Understanding”
For Peace



AI for a better world
Rotary Peace Fellow
employs technology to
prevent conflict

Rotary Haemodialysis
Centre Memorial to
Past RI President
Bhichai Rattakul

บริษัท สหพาณิชย์ เชียงใหม่ จำกัด

ศูนย์รวมสินค้าเครื่องใช้ไฟฟ้าทุกชนิด จำหน่ายทั้งสด และพ่อน

- > ศูนย์บริการมาตรฐานสินค้าเครื่องใช้ไฟฟ้า
- > ศูนย์บริการมาตรฐานรถจักรยานยนต์
- > จำหน่ายรถจักรยานยนต์ แบรินด์ชั้นนำ
- > ร้านตัวแทนจำหน่าย และ พนักงานเสนาขาย

บริการเป็นหนึ่ง คุณภาพเป็นเลิศ



บริษัท สหพาณิชย์ เชียงใหม่ จำกัด

โทร. 053-220999

บริการเป็นหนึ่ง คุณภาพเป็นเลิศ

เปิดบริการ จันทร์-อาทิตย์ 08.00-18.00 น.

ยินดีต้อนรับ สมาชิกบัตร



@sahapanich



สหพาณิชย์ เชียงใหม่



@sahapanich.official



@sahapanich



www.sahapanich.com



The reach of community action

Water connects us all. From a river in a remote forest to a stream running past a city neighborhood, freshwater ecosystems sustain humanity. Yet these waters are increasingly under strain. Pollution, overuse, and climate pressures remind us that protecting freshwater is a global challenge.

Rotary has always believed change begins within communities. Now we are working to see how far the impact of community action can travel. When local service is connected, measured, and shared, it becomes a force that extends beyond geography and borders.

A water project led by the Rotary Club of Panamá Nordeste exemplifies this idea. The project served Indigenous communities in Panama's Darién province, a region accessible only by canoe and small boat. With no roads, limited electricity, and reliance on untreated river water, families faced serious health risks.

To reach these communities, Rotarians had to rethink how supplies and services could be delivered. Working with a partner club in the United States and a specialized water organization, they introduced solar-powered water treatment systems for an area without access to an electrical grid. Local leaders were trained to operate and maintain the system, ensuring that clean water would continue flowing long after installation crews departed.

The results were immediate. Children who once missed school due to illness returned to classrooms. No longer needing to haul water from rivers, adults gained time and strength to work and support their families. What began as a water project became a foundation for healthier, more resilient communities.

This is how we extend our reach: combine local leadership with global partnerships, technical expertise, and long-term thinking.

That same spirit is at the heart of Rotary's partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme through the Community Action for Fresh Water initiative. Around the world, Rotary and Rotaract clubs are restoring waterways, protecting wetlands, and safeguarding vital freshwater sources. By collecting data to map and measure this work, we can better understand its impact and show how local service contributes to worldwide solutions.

Data is not an end. It is a tool that helps us learn and improve so that Rotary's service delivers real, measurable change. Each project entered and each waterway restored adds to a shared story of stewardship and responsibility. You can learn more and get involved at communityactionforfreshwater.org.

As we observe Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month, I encourage you to reflect on the freshwater systems that sustain your community and the role Rotary can play in protecting them.

When we connect local action to a global vision, we strengthen Rotary's ability to make lasting change. Together, by extending our reach and working side by side, we truly Unite for Good.

Francesco Arezzo
President, Rotary International

April 2026



Count on preparation, not luck

Not long ago, in a small health center in the village of Aaye in southwest Nigeria, a woman arrived in labor carrying twins. The facility was short-staffed. The nurse midwife in charge was not present.

A community health worker stepped forward. She had participated in Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria, a Rotary Foundation Programs of Scale initiative. And though she was not formally trained as a midwife, she was equipped with essential emergency obstetric skills.

Hours later, both babies had been delivered, one at the health center and the other at a general hospital, where the mother had been referred after complications were quickly identified. The newborns and their mother were alive and safe. Women around the world face similar circumstances every day — moments when the difference between life and loss depends on well-trained medical staff and reliable systems and procedures. Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria exists to increase the chances that those moments end in hope. By strengthening health systems and training frontline workers, this program helps communities protect mothers and children even when circumstances are difficult.

This work reflects the very heart of Rotary service. Service is not only what we do when conditions are ideal. It is what we do when systems are strained, resources are limited, and the need is urgent. It is the commitment to prepare people before a crisis arrives and to stand with communities when it does.

Maternal and child health is not an abstract goal. It is deeply personal. It is a mother who survives childbirth. It is a newborn who takes a first breath. It is a family that remains whole because someone was trained, ready, and cared enough to act. Rotary understands that service means investing in people and systems long before they are tested.

Programs like Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria show what is possible when Rotary brings together local knowledge, global partnerships, and sustainable solutions. By working alongside health professionals and local leaders, Rotary helps ensure that lifesaving care does not depend on luck or location.

The story of the mother and her twins is at its core a story of service. It is a reminder that Rotary's impact is measured in human moments when people step forward to help others in their most vulnerable hours.

When we *Unite for Good*, service becomes more than an ideal. It becomes a lifeline for families, a source of strength for communities, and a promise that Rotary will continue to go wherever help is needed most.

Francesco Arezzo
President, Rotary International

Rotary Thailand Magazine

Chairman of the Board

PDG Niwes Khunavisarut
Rotary Centre in Thailand

Editorial Advisors

DG Jakchai Visutthakul, DG Patsri Suwimol
DG Sangtiwa Tong-U-Chang, DG Apisak Jompong
PRID Dr. Saowalak Rattanavich, PDG Rathprateep
Keeratiurai, PDG Wichai Maniwatcharakiat
PDG Somphop Thirasan, PDG Juthatip Thamsiripong
PDG Chalermchat Chun-In, PP Vanit Yotharvut
Ms. Danucha Bhumithaworn

Editorial Team

Editor in Chief

PDG Anurak Napawan - Doirabaht 3360

Digital Editor

DG Apisak Jompong - Maechan 3360

English Editor

PP Brian Anderson - Royal Hua Hin 3330

Feature Editor

PP Jantane Tienvijit - Lanna 3360

Senior Editor

PDG Chamnan Chanrung - Chiang Mai North 3360

Editors of Four Districts

CP Apaladee Lekhakul - Khuanlang-Hatyai 3330
PP Deara Piboolwatthanawong - Magkang 3340
PP Trong Sangswangwatana - Bangkok Suwanabhumi
PP Thanijporn Khomson - Doirabaht 3360

Translation Team

PP Phanita Telavanich (Samutsakhon - 3330)
PP Patchara Phulphokphol (Leung Krabi - 3330)
PP Ratchada Thepnavana (Khuanlang-Hatyai - 3330)
PDG Oranong Siriphonnas (Plutaluang - 3340)
DGE Srifa Siriudomseth
(Bangkok-Ratchadapisek - 3350)
PP Phanu Yoshmetha (Bangkok Cyber - 3350)
PDG Dr. Virachai Jamroendararasame
(Chiang Mai North - 3360)
PP Dr. Saran Chantelay (Chiang Mai North - 3360)
PP Naiyana Khomson (Doirabaht - 3360)

Editorial Coordinator

Ms. Jitraporn Santithamcharoen
(Rotary Centre in Thailand)



Opt in to online
subscription

Editorial



PDG Apisak Jompong
Digital Editor

When “Printed Materials” Become Stacked Relics at Home

Take a moment to look around a corner of your home... You will often find piles of documents, letters, or magazines from various organizations delivered to your doorstep; some never even opened. These items not only become paper waste waiting to be sorted, but also reflect how “traditional communication channels” are no longer keeping pace with today’s fast-moving lifestyle. The Rotary Thailand Magazine itself cannot escape this current of change.

Adapting to the Digital World: Not Just an Option, but a Necessity for Survival

Today, the Rotary Thailand Magazine has moved beyond the limitations of print by fully embracing the digital world. Although we currently continue to offer both print and online editions, looking ahead to a future driven by technology and AI, it is clear that the “digital edition” will ultimately become the core of communication to replace a print system.

Why Switch to Read the Rotary Magazine via an Application?

The transition to reading through an application is not just about reducing paper usage, it is about enhancing the overall user experience.

Superior Speed: No need to wait for delivery or wonder when the magazine will arrive. As soon as new content is ready, it is instantly updated and delivered straight to your screen.

Freedom of Access: Whether you use iOS, Android, or a PC, you can carry Rotary knowledge and activities with you anytime, anywhere.

No Language Barriers: The digital edition offers both Thai and English options, enabling seamless communication among Rotary members worldwide.

Reduced Space and Environmental Impact: Say goodbye to piles of paper cluttering your home and be part of reducing global warming aligned with Rotary’s commitment to environmental sustainability.

Conclusion: Moving Forward with a New Vision

The age of AI has not come to replace the old, but to help us connect in “smarter and more efficient ways”. It is time for members and readers to shift from the familiar of turning pages to simply tapping a screen for embracing content that is fresh, modern, and sustainable.

Rotary

Thailand ไรดาโรประเทศไทย

Vol. 43 No. 223

March - April 2026

www.rotarythailand.org



Download
English and Thai issues



Download Application
for iOS to read online



Download Application
for Android to read online

Rotary Thailand Magazine

Published bimonthly by the

Rotary Centre in Thailand

Tel: 0 2661 6720

Mobile: 08 5822 4442

Email: jittraporns.rotarythailand@gmail.com

To advertise and submit stories to be featured in our magazine, or to change mailing addresses, please contact Ms. Jitraporn Santithamcharoen.

Advertisement Rates

Back cover THB 15,000

inside front cover THB 12,000

inside back cover THB 10,000

inside full page THB 8,000

page THB 4,000 ½

page THB 2,000 ¼

Printing

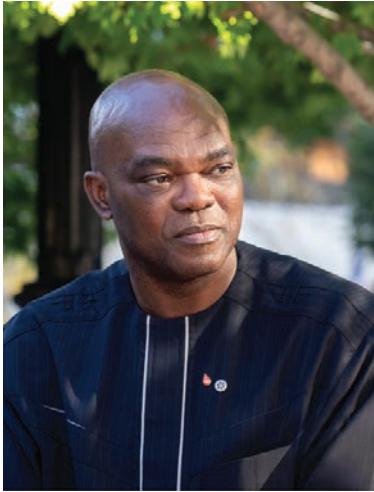
Phetkasem Printing Group Co, Ltd.

Tel: 0 3425 9111



A publication of Rotary
Global Media Network

Contents



Meet your 2026-27
Rotary president, Olayinka
Hakeem Babalola
" The game changer"

6

In-depth perspectives
from Professor Emeritus
Dr. Surichai Wun'gao
on the New Generation
through the Rotary Peace
Fellowship, along with
reflections from those
working at the community
level to promote peace
within local communities.

20



AI for a better world
Rotary Peace Fellow
employs technology
to prevent conflict

10

Rotary Haemodialysis
Centre Memorial to Past RI
President Bhichai Rattakul
at Suranaree University
of Technology Hospital:
Creating a Lasting Impact
on the Community and
Rotary

24

- 1 RI President's Message
- 3 Editorial
- 9 Member magnets: Four things your club can do to make members want to stick around
- 13 It's foundational: Can these eight pillars support more than just peace?
- 14 Out of many, One Rotary Club of Vijayawada Midtown, India
- 16 Have an ice day! This fundraiser is more fun than watching ice melt
- 18 Trustee's message
- 27 Charter Celebration Rotary Club of LANE XANG, Vientiane
- 28 District 3330: A Journey Beyond Tourism
- 29 District 3330: The Class 113, Chair of President Rotary Handover Ceremony
- 32 District 3340: The Journey to this Day
- 33 District 3340: Rice Sorting Machine Project Delivery for Sustainable Farmer Career Development
- 36 District 3350: "Save water today, sustain life tomorrow"
- 37 District 3350: Your Profession Can Change the World: A New Era of Vocational Service in Rotary District 3350
- 40 District 3360: "Pan Rak Ruam Jai Phak: Two Wheels for Merit along the Mekong Giant Catfish Route" (9th Edition)



Highlights from the International Assembly in Orlando, Florida, USA, where incoming district governors worldwide gathered for a learning session on 13-14 January 2026

Top: Rotary International President

Centre: President-Elect of Rotary International

Bottom: Ravishankar Dakoju and Poala, Indian Rotarians, announcing a USD 50 million donation to The Rotary Foundation



THE GAME CHANGER

Photography by Monika Lozinska

Meet your
2026-27
Rotary president,
**Olayinka
Hakeem
Babalola**

Olayinka “Yinka” Hakeem Babalola is sitting on the wrong side of his desk, staring at the tiny squares on the laptop perched in front of him. He’s just finished speaking on a call with 300 Rotaractors from the African continent and other parts of the world, Rotary’s president-elect explains as he turns down the volume. “They held a celebration for me because I’m a past Rotaractor,” he says. By seeing Babalola, himself once in their shoes, embarking on the highest position in Rotary, who knows how many of the 300 he will inspire

It’s early October, less than two months since the Rotary International Board of Directors selected Babalola to lead Rotary, in a special session in late August after the resignation of RI President-elect SangKoo Yun, who died shortly after, following months of cancer treatment.

It’s only the second trip to Rotary headquarters for



Babalola, of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi in Nigeria, since his selection. His office is nearly empty, void so far of all the gifts Rotary leaders tend to accumulate during their travels as an incoming president.

While he’s new to the position, he has a long history with Rotary, starting as a Rotaractor in 1984 and then as a Rotarian in 1994. “One thing is for certain, preparing me for this role are my many years of engaging with Rotary” — over four decades, he says. “Not many people who get to this position have that privilege.”

In that time, he’s served not only as RI vice president and a member of the RI Board of Directors but also as an active leader and participant in RI committees such as the End Polio Now Countdown



to History Campaign Committee and the Nigeria PolioPlus Committee. Babalola was a trustee of ShelterBox. His Rotary honors include the Regional Service Award for a Polio-Free World, the Service Above Self Award, and a Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service. He and his wife, Preba, a member of the Rotary Club of Port Harcourt Passport, are Arch Klumph Society members.

That's all on top of his professional life. He worked for 25 years in the oil and gas industry, holding senior positions with Shell. He is the founder of two companies: Riviera Technical Services Ltd., an oil and gas infrastructure delivery company, and Lead and Change Consulting, an executive coaching and organizational performance advisory group.

Rotary magazine senior staff writer Diana Schoberg sat down with Babalola to find out more about the president-elect.

He was inspired to join Rotary because of something he saw on TV.

On summer break between his last year of high school and his first year of college, Babalola was hanging out at home watching TV when a well-dressed man on the screen caught his eye. The man was wearing all white, and "his English was something else," Babalola recalls. Curious, he listened more closely. The man was talking about Rotary. "It was the first time I heard anything about Rotary," Babalola says. "Like with most TV interviews, it probably lasted one or two minutes, but he made an impression on me."

Fast forward to Babalola's second year at the university, when the school's public image director, a member of the Rotary Club of Bauchi, approached him with a proposal: Would Babalola like to help organize a Rotaract club at the school? "I still tell people I have no idea why he approached me," Babalola says. He recalled the well-spoken man in white and asked if the director was somehow connected. It turns out the director knew the man on TV, who was the past district governor. Babalola was sold on the connection and went on to become the Rotaract club's charter president.

He met his wife at a Rotaract meeting.

After finishing up his university education, Babalola moved to Port Harcourt and joined the community-based Rotaract Club of Trans Amadi. At one event, he recalls noticing a beautiful woman, the president of a university-based club. He pointed her out to

a friend and said, "That's the one." He was right.

But Yinka and Preba aren't the only members of their family who have been involved in Rotary. Their oldest daughter was the charter president of the Interact club at her secondary school. She moved to North America for college and today belongs to the Rotary Club of Winnipeg in Manitoba. Another daughter was the president of her university's Rotaract club.

His nickname is "the game changer."

Babalola served as district governor in 2011-12 while employed by Shell, a multinational energy company. This was unlike his predecessors, who were either retired or running their own businesses while they held that role. He knew things had to change for him to be successful.

At his first meeting with the assistant governors and committee chairs, he asked them to include what would be the "game changer" in their proposals: how they used to do things, and how their approach would change going forward. "If they have no answer," he says, "the proposal is thrown away. They need to present it again."

"It occurred to people that this guy actually wants something different," he continues. "I'm called the game changer, but the ideas that changed the game were not mine."

He raised \$80,000 with a text message.

Part of Babalola's effort to make changes as district governor involved his use of technology. On 1 November, the start of Rotary Foundation Month, he woke up around 3 a.m. and sent a request to a district group on a BlackBerry messaging app asking everyone on the platform to give something to the Foundation that day, no matter how small. Then he went back to sleep. When he woke up a few hours later, he made his own donation and posted the evidence. Within a few hours, the group had raised \$80,000. "Usually, you would gather people together, you'd talk to them, and ask for it," he says. "But with technology, you could ask virtually."

That year, every club throughout the district gave something to the Foundation. The nearly \$1 million raised was, he says, the highest amount ever from a district on the African continent for The Rotary Foundation.

He wishes he had more time to go scuba diving.

Babalola is certified to dive to 30 meters and has



President-elect Olayinka Hakeem Babalola stands outside Rotary's headquarters building with Rotary Foundation Trustee Martha Peak Helman and RI Vice President Alain Van de Poel.

done some diving in the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, and the Atlantic. He's looking forward to someday diving in Hurghada, a resort city on Egypt's Red Sea coast that's known for its marine life, iconic wrecks, and high visibility in the water. "The reefs are wonderful," he says.

He also enjoys other outdoor pursuits including swimming, gardening, and bird-watching. One of the most interesting birds he's seen is the Ibadan malimbe, a rare songbird with bright red feathers around its head and face that is found only near his hometown.

The 2026-27 presidential message is Create Lasting Impact.

If you need it, here's a refresher on Rotary's 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." This Rotary year, Babalola explains, RI has been focusing on that first word, "together," through the message Unite for Good. In 2026-27, members will tackle the next part of the vision statement: creating change that lasts.

Lasting change across the globe is an easy idea for most Rotary members to understand, he says. "They can give

"We must let people understand how membership can make a lasting impact on their own lives."

you examples: our polio eradication work, our peace centers, global grants," he says. "When you talk about lasting change in communities, they know because they do things in their own communities. But each time I've been in a gathering of Rotarians and asked them about lasting change in themselves, usually the room goes quiet."

He thinks a key to growing Rotary is realizing the effect it has on you.

While members can and should measure the impact of a project, Babalola wants to see that idea flipped, too. "How has doing all of that impacted you?"

He can clearly see how Rotary has changed his own life. "I had a privileged upbringing — a good education in a place where many did not have that opportunity," he says. "Rotary

grounded me. It pulled me out of my privileged world and put me in touch with the realities of my community."

Many Rotary members have their own stories about how their membership has changed their lives for the better, how it humbled them or brought them closer to their fellow human beings. Babalola encourages them to share those stories. "If we are going to grow this organization, we must let people understand how membership can make a lasting impact on their own lives," he says. "That's one of the things I'm hoping that I can help communicate."

Rotary made him a diplomat.

As a Rotary director in 2018-20, Babalola represented more than 80 Rotary countries and geographical areas — over a third of the Rotary world — including countries in Africa (where at least 1,000 languages are spoken), the Middle East, and parts of Europe. The zones he represented included politically sensitive areas such as Israel, Lebanon, Ukraine, and Afghanistan. "There are certain skills you end up building," he says.

For example, at a Rotary institute he convened in Egypt, he received a phone call from a senior government official about a map of Africa used at the event. The map, which he'd found on the internet, showed Western Sahara as a separate country, which Morocco does not recognize. Egypt supports the position of Morocco. "That kind of situation brings a certain awareness straight to you," he says.

He'll be the second Rotary president from Africa.

"It means a lot for the people of that continent," he says. And, he adds, everyone seems ready to do the work to support him, to show that his presidency is not a fluke. "I'm used to delivering results. We need to deliver results," he says. That's what he's been preaching at the Rotary institutes he's attended. "I've told them, stop talking about things. Just do it. If it works somewhere, copy it shamelessly. Don't be afraid to fail — be afraid not to try." ■

Member magnets

Four things your club can do to make members want to stick around

By Brianne Haxton and Nick Taylor

We're living in a world with rapidly changing global economies, and Rotary's membership follows those trends. The United States, Europe, and Australia, which have traditionally been places where Rotary's membership has been strongest, have been declining in members, while parts of Africa and Asia have tremendous membership growth.

For many years Rotary thrived by connecting people locally for friendship and professional development. The internet changed the way we interact and made it easy to connect with a few clicks. We're starting to see the pendulum swinging back as people look for in-person connection because they are tired of interacting primarily online. They see Rotary as a way to make genuine connections. That's a huge opportunity for Rotary to grow.

Unfortunately, right now, half of all Rotary members leave their clubs within three years of joining. Rotary research tells us that they're leaving because they're not satisfied with the club experience. A 2022 survey found that the most important thing to members is the week-to-week happenings within their club. We want to create inclusive and welcoming environments for members so that they want to come back. We need to make sure that we provide value, making their time as members truly worthwhile. Here are four small but significant steps clubs can take to create a positive club culture.



The Rotaract club of Melbourne City in Australia leads an effort to keep trash out of the Yarra River.

1. Know your club's identity and provide a product that reflects it.

There are more than 45,000 Rotary and Rotaract clubs in the world. Unlike a global corporation like Starbucks that offers a standardized experience in all of its stores, each Rotary and Rotaract club provides a unique experience for members and guests. It's important to be aware of your club culture and be sure that your club reflects it in your meetings and events, the work you do, and the image you portray in social media.

2. Set unifying goals.

We know from research that the top reason people join a Rotary club is to make a difference in their community. Many members end up staying because of the relationships they build doing something meaningful.

If you look at an American football team roster, you see 50 to 60 players from different walks of life. But the teams that end up winning at the end of the season tend to be the those with a close-knit locker room. They get along, they like each other, and they enjoy spending time together. That's oftentimes because they're working toward that common goal of winning. And so, when we look at a Rotary club with conflict and tension, our first question is: "Do you have big, audacious goals that can unify your members?"

3. Listen to your members and adapt.

Rotary's membership team provides helpful survey tools on rotary.org/membership. Members' needs and interests change over time, so checking in regularly helps you assess, adapt, and evolve. One club told us it surveys members twice each year. Based on those results, the club stopped doing projects it's been doing for years and started projects that align more closely with members' interests. Members feel more engaged and it's a growing club.

4. Communicate consistently.

At Rotary, doing good in the world is what we do best, but oftentimes telling people about who we are and what we do is a challenge. Clubs can tell their Rotary story in newsletters, on websites, and on social media, but the key is to do it consistently. A Rotary club in Ohio grew by over 100 members in the last couple of years. Leaders attribute their success to a newsletter that highlighted service projects and club activities with locations, meeting times, and what to expect for new members.

Change can seem overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be hard. Start by asking your members what they want. Be honest about the changes your club needs to make and prioritize them. And remember, change doesn't have to be big. Small changes can make a big impact. ■

Adapted from the Rotary Voices podcast. Hear RI staff members Brianne Haxton and Nick Taylor talk more about Rotary membership trends and tips at rotary.org/podcast.

AI for a better world

Rotary Peace Fellow employs technology to prevent conflict

During her Rotary Peace Fellowship, Branka Panic worked as a short-term consultant at the World Bank, joining a team that was building a model to predict the probability of famine.

The benefits of such a tool were obvious: “If a certain area will be in need of food in six months, in 12 months, we can prepare humanitarian aid more efficiently,” Panic says.

But unintended consequences of making that information



Branka Panic founded AI for Peace to help stop conflicts before they start.

available also became clear. “Our intention was to make humanitarian agencies ready,” Panic says. “But what if, by providing this signal as an open source, we were actually informing the government or any warring party out there to intentionally attack this population because they see there is a vulnerability?”

The exercise illustrated both the power and the danger of using such technologies. It surfaced ethical questions to be mindful of and the sensitivities of parsing data and sharing it widely.

It also motivated Panic, 42, to found AI for Peace, a think tank dedicated to issues like these, as well as how artificial intelligence has the potential to benefit peace, security, and sustainable development. She co-authored a book of the same name.

The organization’s focus areas include humanitarian action (using AI to save lives by anticipating and targeting response efforts); human rights and democracy (using AI to identify human rights abuses and protect defenders of human rights); and human security (using AI to protect people, as well as researching potential security threats). Positive use of AI technology can strengthen societies and prevent conflict in the first place, Panic says.

AI is already being used in peace negotiations. Israeli and Palestinian peacebuilders have used AI to facilitate large-scale dialogues aimed at ending the conflict in Gaza, she says. In some conflict areas, AI is breaking down language and dialect barriers. “We are using AI to say, ‘Wait a minute, we actually have quite an easy way to let people’s voices be heard in this peace process.’”

AI for Peace works with peacebuilders to build their knowledge and familiarity with artificial intelligence to become an active voice in designing, developing, and implementing new applications, she says. “We also work with data scientists, who quite often never thought about peacebuilding before, and we want them to become a little bit of peacebuilders themselves,” she adds.

In fact, Panic says everyone has agency to shape the future of AI and how it’s used — not only

Photograph by Bénédicte Desrus

the experts and data scientists. While it can feel intimidating to participate for those who aren't technology-minded, it's important that individuals with varying perspectives have a say, Panic adds. "Everybody needs to be part of this conversation," she says. "Rotarians as well."

Born in Belgrade, Serbia, Panic lived through conflicts in the Balkans, an experience that shaped her worldview and motivated her to become a peacebuilder. She recalls the NATO bombing of her country, when school stopped and people had to live in basements and shelters. "These things tend to leave a mark," she says. For her, it set her on a mission: to do all she could to prevent people from having to live through similar conflicts.

Panic became an activist while in high school, joining the Otpor ("Resistance") movement against the authoritarian regime of Slobodan Milošević, former president of Serbia and Yugoslavia. The group organized daily peaceful walks in resistance of

Milošević, who eventually resigned and was charged with war crimes committed during the Yugoslav wars of the 1990s.

Protesting in 1999 and 2000, however, was done without much technology, she points out. In contrast, subsequent grassroots movements, such as the Arab Spring in the early 2010s, were able to benefit from social media tools to coordinate. "At the very beginning of my interest in technology, we started seeing how social media has been used to actually strengthen that type of activism," she adds. "This was super empowering."

With her Rotary Peace Fellowship, she was able to delve deeper into technology and AI to enrich her peacebuilding background. Rotary District 2483 in Serbia and Montenegro supported her fellowship, and the connection changed her life, she says.

Panic is now a Rotarian herself and is a charter member of the Rotary Club of Global Partners in Peace, an e-club for peace fellows and peace activists. The club hosts speakers who talk about their peacebuilding, humanitarian, and

development work, and members live all around the world, from Mexico (where she lives, in San Miguel de Allende) to Chile, Nepal, and the Philippines.

With her husband, Panic opened a "peace house," which she describes as "a place where artists, thinkers, neighbors, diplomats, technologists, travelers, and unexpected guests can meet around one table." Gatherings spark conversations among people of different backgrounds, an effort to turn "everyday encounters into small acts of peace," she says.

The house is part of Panic's ethos of stopping conflicts before they start. AI for Peace intentionally focuses on prevention of conflict and building resilience; it doesn't focus on the ethics of AI in weapons of war but rather how to address root causes of human suffering and vulnerability.

"This is the niche that we decided to cover," Panic says. "There are a lot of things to do in building peace or sustaining peace or making sure that wars don't happen at all."

- Amy Hoak



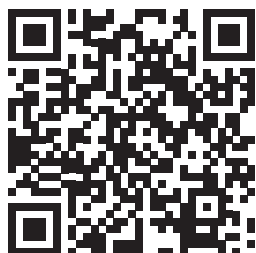
Branka Panic

- **Rotary Peace Fellowship**, Duke University/University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2017-19
- **Founding director**, AI for Peace, 2019-present
- **Charter member**, Rotary Club of Global Partners in Peace, 2022-present

From left: During her Rotary Peace Fellowship, Branka Panic joined her host club from North Carolina in helping introduce electricity to schools in Nicaragua and volunteered with Habitat for Humanity for the International Day of Peace.



Recruit Peace and Development Leaders for a Rotary Peace Fellowship



Selected fellows receive full funding for a master's degree or postgraduate certificate in disciplines related to peace and development. Our fellows lead peacebuilding efforts worldwide. Rotary members play a key role in recruiting candidates from their communities!

It's foundational

Can these eight pillars support more than just peace?

By Alison Sutherland

As a longtime Rotarian, I've watched as members have embraced Positive Peace — not just working toward a lack of conflict but creating and sustaining the building blocks of more peaceful societies. The Institute for Economics and Peace has developed eight Pillars of Positive Peace, those elements that have the strongest correlation with peacefulness. When you look at the way Rotary operates, it's not a stretch to think these pillars could be incorporated not just into our peacebuilding efforts but into any of our service projects. Let's take a closer look.

1. Free flow of information

Service projects often come about because a Rotary member with a big heart has seen a need somewhere and brought it back to their club. But what is really required is a community assessment. Members might think the need is a means of cooking, whereas the community says no, it's clean water to put in the cooking pots. If the assessment is done well, that's more or less your whole project in one paragraph because you've engaged with community members, determined what their priorities are, learned about their strengths and resources, and identified other collaborators to tackle the problem. But more importantly, you've brought everyone to the table and listened to them.

2. Equitable distribution of resources

This comes up again in the community assessment as you ensure you don't overlook a group of people. Who are the people that benefit? Are some of those

groups excluded from the conversation? Will some be disadvantaged as a result of this project? Don't disregard any groups because you think they're not involved. Get them involved so they have ownership and a voice.

3. Acceptance of the rights of others

This is embedded in The Four-Way Test and something you see in Rotary's culture of belonging. Everyone is welcome. This is underpinned by Rotary's diversity, equity, and inclusion statement, which celebrates the contributions of people of all backgrounds and values differences in ideas, thoughts, and beliefs. You need to make sure that everyone has that equal voice.

4. Good relations with neighbors

This is seen in the way Rotary operates on the world stage. It advocates for international understanding, goodwill, and peace. It does not take sides. It is nonpolitical and nonreligious. With service projects, I also think of this as the principle of "first, do no harm." If you're drilling a water well, you might decide to put it in a particular village just because somebody had visited it. But what if the adjoining village doesn't have water either? Is that going to create difficulties between the two? Could you put it on the boundary? But then who's going to have ownership, maintenance, and access? If you don't think about some of those things, you could bring friction.

5. Well-functioning government

Rotary is founded on good governance from our directors and trustees down through the zones, districts, and clubs. There are teams, committees, and boards to handle the work of Rotary in a synchronous way. Likewise, when you're planning a project, you have to make sure it's clear who is doing what and whether the necessary structures are in place.

6. Sound business environment

Rotary hires consultants and experts to advise on the safekeeping or investment of Rotary funds. Clubs have officers who follow this practice of maximizing assets and adhering to the ethical values of Rotary. When preparing a global grant request, ask yourself, Does any party involved have a conflict of interest or stand to make personal gain? Are the people you're partnering with in alignment with Rotary values? Global grants should have measurable outcomes. What are the inputs and the outputs? Are the monitoring and evaluation in place with specific milestones and deliverables identified? These same principles apply to any project undertaken by clubs and districts.

7. High levels of human capital

This is at the core of what we do at Rotary, with many programs designed to develop leadership abilities such as Rotary Peace Fellowships, Rotary Scholarships, and Rotary Youth Leadership Awards. Within a service project, look for opportunities for capacity building. Will folks be gaining new skills as a result? Think about how you could make the project stronger and bring in sustainability.

8. Low levels of corruption

The fact that Rotary has received the highest rating from Charity Navigator for years is an indicator of its transparency. Its checks, measures, and stewardship mechanisms at every level of the grant and investment cycle are second to none. Apply similar levels of transparency in all of your service projects. ■

Find a Positive Peace design checklist at on.rotary.org/peacechecklist.

Alison Sutherland, a member of the Rotary Club of Cardiff Bay, Wales, is a former chair of the Rotary Action Group for Peace and a member of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers. This article was adapted from the newsletter of the Rotary Action Group for Peace. Subscribe at rotaryactiongroupforpeace.org.

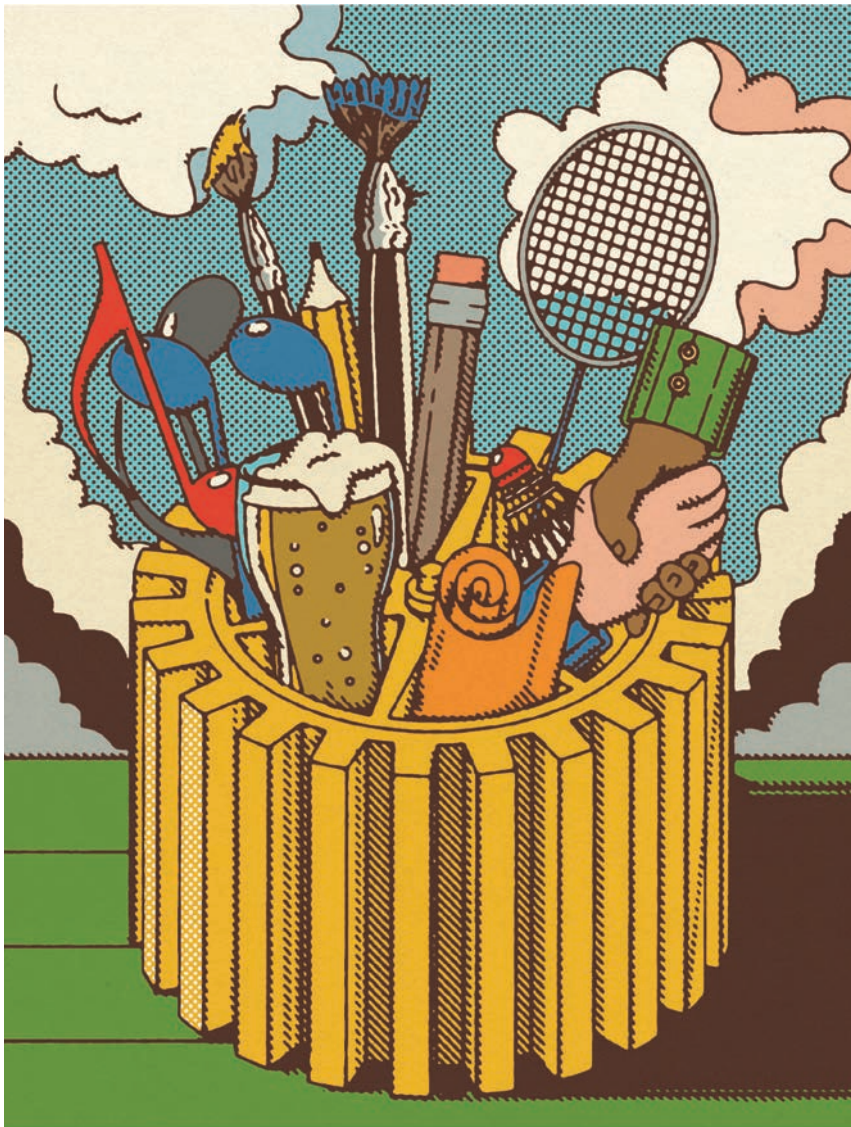
Out of many, one

Rotary Club of Vijayawada Midtown, India

By Subbarao Ravuri

When our Rotary club chartered in 1985, it started modestly: just 33 members with big dreams.

Over the years, the club grew, and in 2018, we reached an incredible mile-stone, becoming the largest Rotary club with 650 members. Today, with more than 750 members, we continue to hold that title with pride.



People often ask me what keeps so many members motivated, encouraged, and united for so long. The answer is simple, yet powerful: our club within a club concept.

What “club within a club” means

The idea is both simple and transformative. Within our large club, members who share common interests — sports, music, business, or health — come together to form smaller circles that function like mini clubs within the main one. These clubs within the club create focused spaces for friendship, fun, and shared purpose. They give every member a chance to connect in a way that feels personal and meaningful.

The club within a club model helps all Rotarians find their own space to connect, serve, and grow.

What makes it work

This model has transformed engagement and retention. Here’s how:

- Families got involved, turning Rotary into a shared joy.
- Friendships deepened, lasting far beyond meetings.
- Members stayed active, finding belonging in smaller circles.
- Contributions to The Rotary Foundation grew, powered by enthusiasm and purpose.

■ What began as an experiment became a proven model for sustainable growth and vibrant friendship.

Simple structure, strong results

Each club within a club is self-managed, led by a small team and headed by a chairperson. Activities are planned in coordination with the main club board to complement, not compete with, Rotary's calendar. A modest membership fee supports operations. For example, the Midtown Cricket Club collects 3,000 rupees (about US\$34) annually to cover rent, equipment, and refreshments. This structure keeps things light, efficient, and focused on fun and friendship.

Our club within a club idea has caught the attention of many clubs in Rotary District 3020 and beyond. By creating multiple ways for members to connect and serve, Vijayawada Midtown has shown that when Rotarians bond beyond meetings, Rotary itself becomes stronger, livelier, and more impactful.

At Midtown, every passion finds a place, every member finds meaning, and every connection strengthens Rotary's purpose.

If your club is also looking to better engage its members, consider adopting your own club within a club model. It might just be the spark that transforms your Rotary family.

Subbarao Ravuri is a past governor of Rotary District 3020, Zone 7 membership plan lead, and current district Rotary Peace Fellowship subcommittee chair.

👉 FINDING FRIENDSHIP IN SHARED PASSIONS

Here's a glimpse of how our Midtown club members stay connected and engaged through their interests:



The Beer Boys Club holds a dance party to raise money for polio eradication.

- **Midtown Cricket Club:** Cricket lovers play weekly friendly matches and host the 20+ teams in the Midtown Premier League, which raises significant funds for The Rotary Foundation.
- **Midtown Badminton Club:** Where fitness meets friendship. The Midtown Badminton League blends sport and service, supporting Rotary's End Polio Now campaign.
- **Midtown Music Club:** Brings members and families together twice a year for joyful evenings of rhythm, harmony, and friendship.
- **Rotary Means Business:** A dynamic networking platform where members present their businesses before more than 200 Rotarians. It has strengthened trust, created collaborations, and even launched new ventures, proving that enterprise and friendship can thrive together.
- **Midtown Yoga Club:** Promotes daily wellness and mindfulness, because healthy Rotarians build healthier communities.
- **Beer Boys Club:** A lighthearted fellowship group whose annual Drink-Dine-Dance (D3) event raises funds for Rotary's polio eradication efforts.



ABOUT THE BLOG

Have a story to share? Rotary 360 is your place to read about other people of action and submit your own inspiring posts. Visit blog.rotary.org.

Have an ice day!

This fundraiser is more fun than watching ice melt

In Colorado at this time of year, days are short and temperatures are cold. But the Rotary Club of Mountain Foothills of Evergreen provides its community with a little reminder that spring will come again.

For two decades, the club has put a colorful barrel on the ice of Evergreen Lake. Community members buy tickets guessing the exact date and time — down to the second — that the alpine ice will melt and the barrel will fall through, offering some hope of winter relief while raising funds in the process.

“The barrel is this promise of spring,” says Dennis Brovarone, who leads the club’s effort. “It will eventually fall through.”

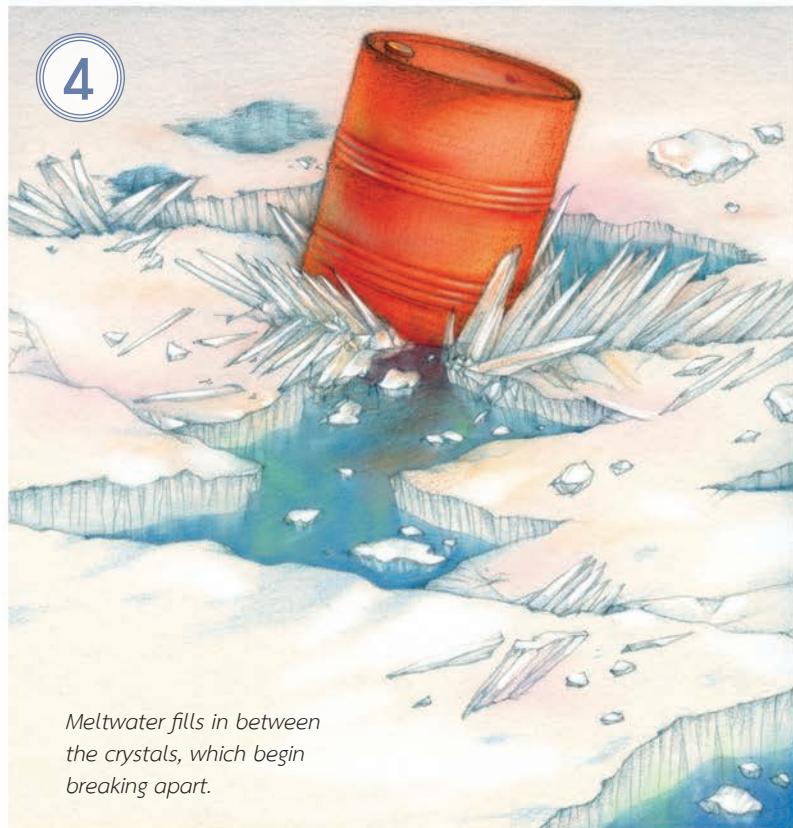
Tickets go on sale early in the season as they are favorite winter holiday gifts in the community. The club partners with the local parks department to place the barrel on the ice near a main road. “You can see it very well,” Brovarone says. “People look for it all the time.” To clock what time the ice melts, organizers take the covers off the backs of two inexpensive watches, put them inside a real estate agent lock box, and chain it to the barrel. When the barrel falls through the ice, the watches short out, stopping at the exact date and time. “You have to determine it fairly quickly,” Brovarone says. “After the watches dry out, they start back up again.” The earliest melt was 5 March, and the latest was 17 April, Brovarone says, and sometimes the winning guesses come down to the second. The local fire and rescue crew retrieves the barrel from the lake, which has an average depth of just 15 feet.

The project’s beneficiaries include the Evergreen parks department’s program for people with disabilities, an organization that connects teens with mental health counseling, a ranch retreat for first responders, and Crutches 4 Africa, a project started by a member of the club that ships mobility devices to the continent.

See more about the project and join the fun at mountainfoothillsrotary.org.

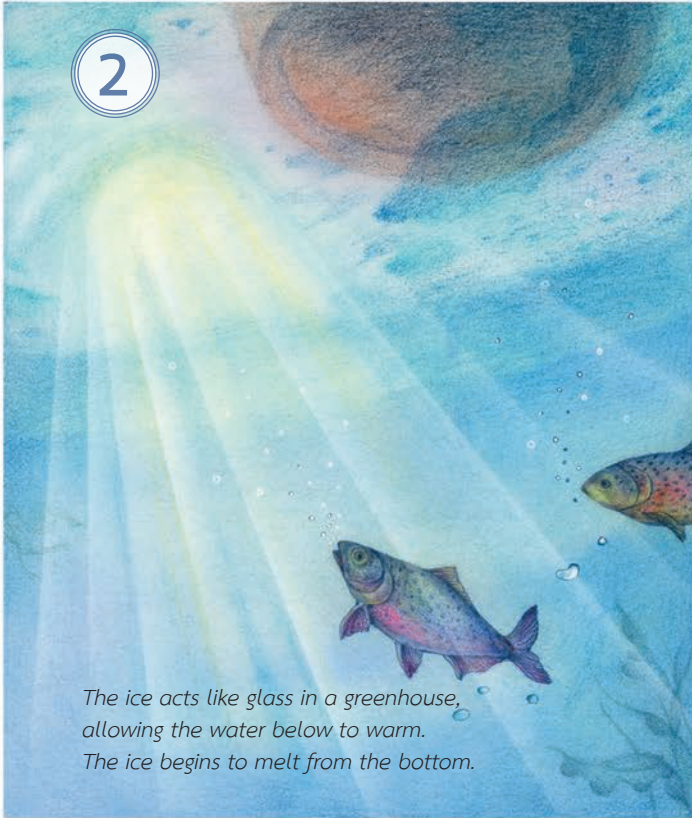


As snow cover melts, sunlight starts to penetrate down to the ice.



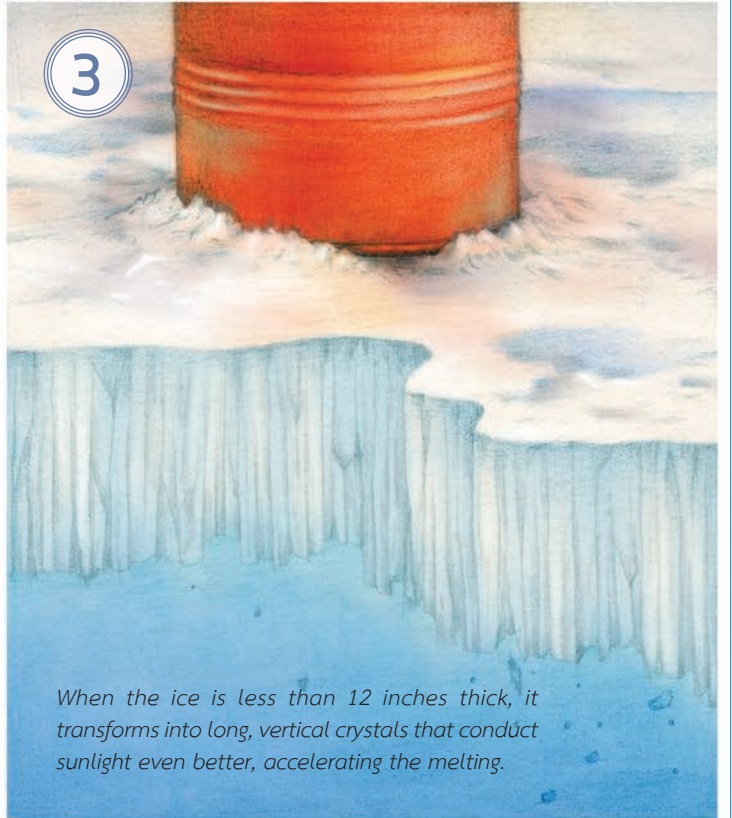
Meltwater fills in between the crystals, which begin breaking apart.

Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources



2

The ice acts like glass in a greenhouse, allowing the water below to warm. The ice begins to melt from the bottom.



3

When the ice is less than 12 inches thick, it transforms into long, vertical crystals that conduct sunlight even better, accelerating the melting.



5

Wind breaks the ice surface apart and blows the ice to the shoreline.

How lake ice melts

Illustration by Vicki Ling

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

THE OBJECT OF ROTARY

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- FIRST:** The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- SECOND:** High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- THIRD:** The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business and community life;
- FOURTH:** The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

THE FOUR-WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do:

- 1) Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2) Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3) Will it build **GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4) Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

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.



Trustee's message

March 2026

It starts with water

Since 2013, The Rotary Foundation has invested more than \$230 million to support thousands of water, sanitation, and hygiene initiatives. Behind these numbers is Rotary's unique approach. Rather than offering one-time fixes, we train communities to manage systems for generations, moving beyond charity to lasting change. Erica Gwynn, manager of Rotary's water, sanitation, and hygiene area of focus, shares her perspective:

I have worked with hundreds of members, providing technical support to improve the sustainability and impact of their projects. During site visits, I am struck not only by their dedication but by how far-reaching their impact truly is — oftentimes in ways no one anticipated.

In northern Uganda for RI work, I met a Rotary member who had been a child soldier in the rebel Lord's Resistance Army and escaped. During the conflict, he said, schools and health care facilities became places of refuge. Years later, after joining Rotary, he wanted to give back. He volunteered to improve water and sanitation in those same schools and facilities, which were once again centers of refuge — this time for the health, safety, and vitality of the entire community.

In Maharashtra, India, I witnessed how our Programs of Scale grant initiative, Partners for Water Access and Better Harvests in India, is bringing irrigation to a traditional farming region that gave women a voice. Though the women couldn't own land, the water project enabled them to engage in silviculture, or care for forests, and other income-generating activities. They became knowledgeable about



farming techniques, increasing their economic agency and dignity.

It's no coincidence that water challenges are most acute in areas affected by conflict. In Haiti, I have seen how these projects are central to rebuilding resilience in communities recovering from instability and violence. I see the same theme playing out everywhere: These projects deliver so much more than clean water. They boost Rotary's other areas of focus and are a source of safety, pride, and hope.

Indeed, water projects improve health, foster economic opportunity, and amplify education through increased school attendance, especially for girls who no longer spend hours fetching water. And they fight poverty.

By giving to our Foundation and volunteering in water projects, you are part of this success. Everything we do opens an opportunity for someone, somewhere.

April 2026

Your impact partners

Rotary's environment area of focus offers clubs and districts the chance to make a truly lasting impact in their communities.

One possibility is through the Community Action for Fresh Water partnership between Rotary and the United Nations Environment Programme, which launched the initiative in 2024 to protect, restore, and better manage freshwater resources worldwide.

Through the program, Rotary and Rotaract clubs identify a local body of water — a river, a lake, wetlands, or groundwater — and commit to its long-term protection and restoration. Members can draw on UNEP's technical expertise.

Salvador Rico, a member of the Rotary Club of South Ukiah, California, and a technical adviser to the partnership, tells us more:

The partnership is deeply personal to me.

My passion for clean rivers comes from a painful family experience during my childhood in Mexico: We believe my older sister died of polio she contracted from swimming in a polluted river there. Unsafe water is not an abstract environmental issue; it is a matter of life, health, and dignity for families and communities.

This experience drives my work as a member of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers, where I ensure Rotary members have access to proven technical knowledge so their global grant-supported projects deliver lasting impact through permanent, scalable solutions.

Today, Community Action for Fresh Water supports Rotary clubs globally by providing a shared platform to upload projects, learn from other clubs, and access technical and financial support through global grants and club-to-club collaboration.

The impact became tangible in 2024, when the environmental chair of District 4170 in Mexico shared a critical challenge: Small, family-owned textile factories were polluting the upper Lerma River watershed. Rotarians lacked clear solutions. Through the freshwater partnership, I connected them with UNEP experts who provided guidance on bioremediation strategies. That collaboration led to a global grant application and, we hope, cleaner water for this community.

The partnership among Rotary clubs, family-owned textile companies, and government authorities ensures shared responsibility and long-term stewardship.

Every Rotary club can amplify this impact by registering freshwater projects at communityactionforfreshwater.org.

Look around your community — I bet you'll find a body of water in need of protection. The Rotary Foundation can support your project through Community Action for Fresh Water and a global grant.

HOLGER KNAACK

Foundation trustee chair

Weaving the Threads of Peace: Service as a Bridge in a Fractured World



By Chanthanee Thianwijit
Rotary Club of Lanna Chiang Mai



In today's world, where technology evolves at a rapid pace and connects us at the touch of a fingertip, it is striking that the emotional distance between people seems to be growing wider than ever. When we look around, news of conflict, polarization, and misunderstanding has become all too familiar—gradually eroding the sense of peace within us.

Yet, deep down, all human beings share a simple and universal aspiration: to live in a society filled with peace—a society enriched with love, connection, and mutual support. Why, then, does this destination of peace seem increasingly distant, like a horizon that continues to move further away?

This is precisely why “peacebuilding and conflict prevention” has been identified as one of Rotary's seven areas of focus. It reflects a shared belief that sustainable peace can only be achieved when we address the root causes of problems through service that reaches the hearts of people.

To provide a clearer and more tangible understanding of peace work, this issue of *Rotary Thailand Magazine* invites readers to learn through the perspectives of three individuals who have dedicated their lives to weaving threads of understanding amid the fractures of society.

Whether through the in-depth insights of an internationally recognized scholar, the energy of a global network of young leaders through the Rotary Peace Fellowship, or the voices of those working within conflict-affected communities along border regions, the conversations that follow may offer an important key to understanding that true peace does not begin somewhere far away—but begins with giving and listening to one another, starting now.



Professor Emeritus Dr. Surichai Wun'gaew
Director, Peace and Conflict Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University
Former Director, Rotary Peace Center at Chulalongkorn University (2006-2023)

Professor Surichai Wun'gaew, widely known simply as “Ajarn Surichai,” is a sociologist and a key figure in advancing peacebuilding in both Thailand and the international arena. He served as a member of the National Reconciliation Commission in 2005, laying the foundation for addressing unrest in Thailand's southern border provinces. He was awarded the Sriburapha Award in 2021 in recognition of his contributions as a thinker and practitioner of peace, and in 2023 he received a royal decoration from the Government of Japan for his role in promoting international understanding.

When asked from a sociological perspective about the fractures within society and the possibilities for peace in a

world marked by intense ideological polarization, particularly how “common ground” or “bridges of understanding” can be constructed, Professor Surichai explained that today's world is undergoing rapid transformation. This has led to a tendency for people's thinking to gravitate toward binary frameworks—“I am right, you are wrong.” Such tendencies appear at all levels, from individuals to international relations.

As people become more entrenched in their own perspectives, a form of self-bias emerges. Combined with the constant changes in the surrounding social environment, individuals often lack opportunities to reflect inwardly. In this regard, mindfulness and self-reflection become crucial elements in reducing conflict.

From a sociological standpoint, this issue relates to the dimension of social relationships, as human lives are inherently interconnected. However, ideological polarization has become a condition that fractures these relationships—even within families—where members consume information from different sources. This phenomenon can lead to divisions in thought, affecting decision-making processes and weakening fundamental relationships among relatives and communities.



Cultural values that once emphasized compassion and mutual care gradually become diluted.

Understanding contemporary social change requires attention to the context of the digital age and the increasing role of artificial intelligence in everyday life. Many countries have recognized the impact of excessive reliance on digital communication tools, especially among children and youth. For example, countries such as Sweden and Australia have introduced measures to regulate the use of such technologies, while others that have not taken preventive steps often face consequences such as depression, loneliness, and a decline in social interaction among young people.

The creation of “common ground” or “bridges of understanding” in society often emerges when people share experiences or emotions. These shared experiences can foster cooperation and unity. For instance, during disasters such as floods or fires, when people collectively face hardship, a sense of empathy arises, prompting mutual assistance. Such social relationships generate a shared sense of suffering and solidarity, creating the power of collective unity.

Within the context of Rotary, Professor Surichai noted that Rotarians around the world share a common ideal of helping others under the motto “Service Above Self.” This reflects a belief that helping others not only benefits society but also brings inner happiness to the giver. From a Buddhist perspective, this can be likened to the concept of *dana* (generosity), a form of merit-making. This spirit of giving has become a core identity of Rotary. Rotarians are willing to support one another across borders, and historically, Rotary played an important role in international cooperation, including its significant contribution to the founding of the United Nations after World War II.

Toward a Culture of Peace

When discussing ways to build a culture of peace, Professor Surichai explained that contemporary society tends to lean toward individualism—what may be described as a “self-centered” orientation—where individuals prioritize personal benefits over the collective good. This tendency can be observed in certain political policies, such as those aimed at expelling migrants, which may lead to tension and violence rather than peace.

In contrast, he cited the example of 24 monks who undertook a Walk for Peace from Texas to Washington, D.C., covering approximately 3,700 kilometers over 108 days. This initiative attracted significant public attention and served as a powerful symbol and source of inspiration for peace at the societal level.

Building a culture of peace must begin at multiple levels—from individuals to communities to organizations. In everyday life, people can contribute through their attitudes and behaviors. A lack of awareness may lead individuals to view rights as purely personal, without considering their impact on others, which can result in conflict and violence. A key starting point for a culture of peace is recognizing the rights and dignity of others, alongside consideration for the common good.

When individuals expand their perspective from their own rights to those of others and society as a whole, empathy and mutual understanding can begin to take root, forming the foundation of peace.

In the context of ASEAN, Professor Surichai highlighted the growing presence of children of migrant workers in Thailand. Many of these children grow up within the Thai education system and are more familiar with Thai language

and social contexts than with their ancestral cultures. This reflects a structural transformation in Thai society. Migrant labor has become essential to the country’s economy, while Thailand’s birth rate continues to decline.

This raises important questions about how Thailand can design pathways for coexistence among diverse populations to foster a culture of peace and support national development. Such issues should be considered at the regional ASEAN level rather than solely within the framework of the nation-state. As Thailand prepares to assume the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2027, these considerations will also contribute to shaping its regional leadership.

From a broader perspective, the younger generation of migrant-background individuals represents a valuable human resource for the future of the region. Cultural and linguistic hybridity may create opportunities for deeper mutual understanding among people. In the future, the ability to communicate across languages and cultures will become increasingly valuable. Organizations like Rotary, composed of professionals from diverse fields, can play a significant role in fostering peace through cooperation and conflict reduction.

A Message to Rotarians: Becoming Peacebuilders

Professor Surichai suggested that Rotary clubs can play an important role in promoting peace within their communities by creating spaces for dialogue. This could include dedicating meeting agendas to peace-related topics, encouraging



Dr. Duanghathai Buranajarenkij
Lecturer and Researcher in Gender,
Peace, and Human Security

Dr. Duanghathai, a Rotary Peace Fellow (Class 27, 2020), is currently a lecturer at the Asian Institute of Technology and conducts research on gender, peace, and human security. Her work focuses on students, woman leaders in vulnerable areas, and policymakers, using feminist participatory action research and safe dialogue spaces to ensure that differences do not escalate into division.

One of her proudest achievements is supporting women’s roles in peace processes and facilitating dialogue among conflicting groups, helping rebuild trust and understanding. She also contributed to The Women, Peace

members to exchange ideas, or inviting speakers to share knowledge and inspire collective thinking about peace at individual, organizational, and community levels.

Rotary should not be seen merely as an organization that increases activities or provides case-by-case assistance. Rather, it should act as a “multiplier”—amplifying cooperation and inspiration throughout society. Rotarians can become “bridges of inspiration” for the future.

In a Thai society deeply interconnected with its neighbors, being a “bridge” means choosing hope over fear—standing firm in one’s values while remaining open to listening and learning from others. A single bridge may seem small today, but it can transform relationships in the future.

The power of such bridges is most evident in children and youth. When a child in a border community is given access to education, care, and protection, they may grow into individuals who connect cultures and foster understanding. Providing opportunities for one child may ultimately mean building a bridge between two societies.

Rotary should emphasize empowering youth and cultivating a culture of peace from an early stage. Showcasing success stories—such as youth from marginalized communities who achieve educational success or develop local enterprises—can inspire society. These efforts contribute to peace by strengthening local economies, promoting health, protecting the environment, reducing drug-related issues, and supporting



and Security National Action Plan of Thailand, marking an important step in integrating gender equality and peace into national policy. “For me, the path to peace is a journey that integrates human rights, human security, and social cooperation to build a ‘Just Peace’—where people have freedom to live with dignity, freedom from fear, and freedom from want.”

She emphasized that peacebuilding is a long-term process requiring patience, communication, and sustained collaboration. True peace is not merely the absence of violence, but the presence of structures that support dignity, equality, and mutual understanding.



Miss Pao Hom
Coordinator for Peace and Multicultural Initiatives among Ethnic Communities
Voices from the Fractures: Lessons of Hope and Peacebuilding in Myanmar

“I was born and raised in Shan State, Myanmar...”

Pao Hom’s journey began in a remote community and later expanded through higher education in Thailand. At a pivotal moment—during Myanmar’s ceasefire and peace negotiation process in 2013—she chose to dedicate her life to peacebuilding, starting as a technical support officer.

In 2018, she was selected as a Rotary Peace Fellow (Class 27) at Chulalongkorn University. After completing the program, she returned to Yangon to work closely with political leaders and stakeholders in national peace processes.

One of her most powerful experiences was engaging with leaders from various ethnic and resistance groups. Despite differences, they shared a common vision: that a ****federal democratic system grounded in equality and inclusivity**** is key to sustainable peace in Myanmar.

“In a land rich in diversity—ethnic, cultural, and identity-based—our true strength lies in multiculturalism. Respecting and embracing differences is like weaving threads of many colors into a fabric of peaceful coexistence.”

For her, peacebuilding is not merely a duty—it is a bridge that connects fractured societies and keeps hope alive in the hearts of people.

Conclusion

In a world where some choose to build walls, Rotarians can choose another path—to become a force of connection.

Building bridges with neighbors at every level does not weaken us; rather, it strengthens our vision and resilience. Sometimes, the most important bridge begins in the smallest spaces—a classroom or a community—where children are encouraged to speak, to respect differences, and to recognize their own value.

Children raised in such environments will grow into adults who choose understanding over division.

Peace, therefore, is not merely the absence of conflict or economic success. It is about learning together, embracing diversity, and recognizing that failure is part of growth. Rotary, grounded in the principle of “Service Above Self”, stands as a meaningful bridge—connecting people, ideas, and collaboration for a more peaceful world.



Seventeen Years of the Rotary Peace Center at Chulalongkorn University (2006–2023)

Professor Surichai explained that the Rotary Peace Center was established through the initiative of Past Rotary International President Bhichai Rattakul, who collaborated with Chulalongkorn University. Over 17 years, the program trained Rotary Peace Fellows from more than 80 countries across 33 cohorts, with two sessions per year.

This initiative positioned Chulalongkorn University as a significant contributor to global peacebuilding. Although Rotary International did not renew the agreement after 17 years, leading to the closure of the center, peace studies continue through a newly established research unit at the Social Research Institute, led by Dr. Ekapan Pinthawornich.

Rotary Hemodialysis Center, A Memory of Past Rotary International President Bhichai Rattakul, @ Suranaree University of Technology Hospital: Creating a lasting impact on the community and Rotary.

PDG Wichai Chivakanit
District 3350



January 26, 2026, marked a historic milestone for Rotary in Thailand. Rotarians from diverse sectors gathered at Suranaree University of Technology Hospital in Nakhon Ratchasima for the grand opening of the "Rotary Hemodialysis Center." This center serves as a living tribute to Past Rotary International President (PRIP) Bhichai Rattakul, who dedicated his entire life to the services. This initiative not only honors an inspirational leader but also signifies the beginning of a "Create Lasting Impact" on both the community and the Rotary.

Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, former Governor of Bangkok and the eldest son of PRIP Bhichai Rattakul, was an honored guest at the ceremony. Following the official handover of medical equipment, Past President Prinya Phornprapha formally invited Dr. Bhichit to join the Rotary movement as a member of the Rotary Club of Krung Dhonburi. On this auspicious occasion, Past Rotary International President (PRIP) D.K. Lee performed the induction ceremony, pinning the Rotary emblem on Dr. Bhichit. It is a profound honor for Rotary in Thailand to welcome him as he continues the noble legacy of his father, PRIP Bhichai.



In Thailand, the situation has reached a critical point, with approximately 8 million people (17.6% of the population) suffering from CKD. The Northeast region, in particular, has the highest prevalence. As a regional hub, Suranaree University of Technology Hospital must accommodate a vast number of end-stage renal disease patients despite limited dialysis machines and specialized personnel. Consequently, many patients face significant barriers to receiving timely and continuous treatment.

Witnessing the plight of patients waiting long hours for dialysis, my fellow Rotarians and I initiated the concept of the "Rotary Hemodialysis Center." Our goal is to alleviate the burden on the public sector, expand access to quality treatment, and enhance the long-term quality of life for patients with chronic kidney disease.

The Kidney Crisis: Background and Necessity

The Rotary Hemodialysis Center project arose from a concern over Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), a major global public health crisis. Affecting more than 10% of the world's population—over 800 million people—and claiming more than 1.4 million lives annually, CKD remains one of the leading causes of death worldwide.

A National Vision: Centers in Four Districts with a \$1.25 Million Budget

The core vision is to establish Rotary Hemodialysis Centers across all four Rotary districts in Thailand, with at least one center per district. With a total budget of at least \$1.25 million, each center will serve as a "Hub of Hope" for regional patients—reducing the



need for travel to major cities, cutting costs, and allowing patients to remain close to their families.

The impact on the community is multifaceted and includes the following dimensions:

- **Health Dimension:** Patients receive standardized treatment, reducing mortality and complications, and increasing their chances of returning to a near-normal, productive work
- **Life.Socio-Economic Dimension:** Localized treatment drastically reduces travel and caregiving expenses, alleviating household debt and financial stress.
- **Public Health System:** By boosting the capacity of regional hospitals, we reduce overcrowding in metropolitan medical centers and enhance the overall efficiency of the healthcare system.

Investing for a "Lasting Impact"

The Rotary Hemodialysis Center at Suranaree University of Technology Hospital is designed to be more than a time-to-time equipment handover; it is a "Long-term Investment" for sustainable change, divided into two phases:

Phase 1 (Rotary Year 2025–26): delivery of medical equipment and nursing scholarships worth 8,250,000 THB to initiate patient services.

Phase 2 (Rotary Year 2027–28): Additional equipment delivery valued at 4,750,000 THB to further enhance long-term capacity to care for patients.

The Heart of Sustainability: Human Resources

We recognize that even the most advanced dialysis machines are meaningless without a team of specialized medical professionals. Therefore, the project has allocated 8 scholarships for the "Renal Replacement Therapy Nurse Practitioner" program, valued at \$5,000 per scholarship. This 7-month training program not only produces personnel who meet international standards but also elevates the nursing profession—aligning with Rotary’s "Vocational Service" ideal. This knowledge and skill set will remain within the hospital and the community for years to come.

The Power of Global Alliances and the New Image of Rotary

The Rotary hemodialysis Center project showcases the strength of international collaboration through various Global Grants:

- **Rotary Hemodialysis Center at Suranaree University of Technology Hospital GG 2464995:**
 - International Partner: RC Daegu-Songlin (D3700 Korea)
 - Host: RC Bangkok Nawamin
- **Rotary Haemodialysis Device Centre and CRRT GG 2465728:**
 - International Partner: RC Pocheon (D3690 Korea)
 - Host: RC Bangkok Siammin
- **Rotary Haemodialysis and CRRT Project GG 2463069:**
 - International Partner: RC Taipei Nankong (D3523 Taiwan)
 - Host: RC Udomsuk

• **Rotary Haemodialysis Centre at Suranaree Hospital GG 2579914:**

- International Partner: RC Busan Geumjong (D3661 Korea)
- Host: RC Krung Dhonburi



Those projects are supported by Rotary clubs in Thailand, South Korea, and Taiwan, and key contributors like Past President David Gibson-Moore and many international Rotarians, which reaffirms Rotary’s image as "People of Action." We are not just donors; we are strategic partners with hospitals and government agencies in elevating public health.

In the past, Rotary in Thailand has undertaken many community projects, but the impact on Rotary’s image may not have been outstanding. The four districts hemodialysis center projects were therefore designed as a "model" for projects that create a dual impact:

- 1. On the Community:** Tangible access to treatment and a measurable improvement in the public health system.
- 2. On Rotary:** Instilling pride in members through cross-club and international collaboration, while clearly defining Rotary as an organization that creates systemic change rather than just occasional activities.

This is the true meaning of "Impact", aligning with Rotary Internatuional presidential message for the upcoming year: "Create Lasting Impact".

An opening ceremony filled with meaningful and inspirational legacy The opening ceremony on January 26, 2026, was led by District Governor Thawatchai Chatvittayanon (District 3350) and graced by PRIP D.K. Lee (2008–09), who traveled from South Korea to preside over the event. They were joined by District Governors from Districts 3340, 3360, 3523, and 3661 Past District Governor, along with over 300 Rotarians from various domestic and international clubs.

The event featured the handover of dialysis machines and nursing scholarships \$5,000 each, totaling \$50,000, with a total project value exceeding 8.25 million THB. Senior Rotary representatives from South Korea, including DG Hwang Moon-Jung, PDG Lee Geun Cheol, and President Dong-Seok Kim, emphasized the spirit of "Service Above Self" and recalled the timeless motto of PRIP Bhichai Rattakul: "Sow the Seeds of Love."

A Tribute to PRIP Bhichai Rattakul and “Role Moel” for “Sow the seeds of Love”

The commemorative plaque at the center clearly states that this project was established to honor and remember PRIP Bhichai Rattakul (2002–03). By aiming to establish centers across all four districts of Thailand with a \$1,250,000 budget, we honor a man who was a global role model for social service.

Conclusion: From Seeds to Sustainable Success

The Rotary Hemodialysis Center at Suranaree University of Technology Hospital is more than a medical project; it is a symbol of borderless cooperation and the power of friendship. It carries forward the legacy of PRIP Bhichai Rattakul, who sowed seeds of love around the world.

Today, those seeds are blossoming into "New Lives" for Thai patients and a stronger, clearer identity for Rotary as we move together toward RI presidential message: "Create Lasting Impact".

Rotary Numbers 19 March 2026

District	Rotary		Rotaract	
	Clubs	Rotarians	Clubs	Rotaractors
District 3330	104	2,323	12	116
District 3340	64	1,298	2	17
District 3350	134	3,335	40	672
District 3360	65	1,245	13	172
Districts	367	8,201	67	977
World	36,552	1,163,102	9,441	146,426

Country	Rotary		Rotaract	
	Clubs	Rotarians	Clubs	Rotaractors
Cambodia	10	192	3	51
Thailand	339	7,471	51	607
Myanmar	11	455	10	226
Laos	2	35	-	-
Vietnam	5	48	3	93
In addition there are 415,081 Interactors in 18,041 clubs and 14,191 Rotary community crops in the world				

Charter Celebration Rotary Club of LANE XANG, Vientiane



District Governor Wiwat Srisomphong, District 3340

The Rotary year 2025–26 is another year with great stories happening in District 3340 because we welcome the Rotary Club of Vientiane, Lao PDR, to affiliate with D3340, formerly located in D3360. The simple reason for relocation is “closer” and easily travelling. The club is close to Nongkhai province and many provinces in the Northeast. It is very convenient to join activities.

I first had ever met the members of Vientiane Rotary Club at CLLS D3360 in Chiang Mai, led by P Chinda Phontesa and AG Dr. Somsouk Sananikone. I invited them to attend CLLS of D3340 in Chantaburi that we get more acquaintance.

Later, AG Dr. Somsouk asked me and my Rotary Anne to join the learning event about Rotary where PDG Stan Lee (D3501,Taiwan) Who is the RLI International Director also play a role as a facilitator. The weather that days was full of energy and inspiration; especially the idea of expanding Rotary in Lao PDR. I had seen that Rtn. Pantamit Sangpanya; a member of Rotary Club of Vientiane, was interested in stepping up to be a charter president of a new club. So, we began talking and communicating with each other.

On 4-6 October 2025, I arranged a Wiand Wang - Vientiane Trip for members of D3340. We took the high-speed train heading to Vientiane when I made an official visit to the Rotary Club of Vientiane. At night, the charter president of Lane Xang Rotary Club was unveiled in a party which we had so much fun with Baslob dance and traditional Lao dress styling. The next morning, we did good activities together by giving water purifiers and school supplies to children in an early childhood school.

After that, the founding of the club began in shape bit by bit, I remained continually coordinating with Rtn Pantamit for gathering charter members to meet the criteria. The Rotary Centre in Thailand arranged collaboration until the establishment of new



club accomplished with 18 members and received Charter Certificate on 13 November 2025.

Charter Celebration and Club Board Installation was held on 18 January 2026. 33 Members of D3340 and I attended the warmest

night with pride. The ceremony was held with honor, along with distinguished Rotary Leaders, such as PDG Niwes Khunavisarut, DGN Parkpoom Joomparak and AG Dr. Somsouk Sananikone. I had a chance to provide the charter president, secretary, treasurer and to crossbody a sash to Sergeant-at-Arms to the club, while DGN Parkpoom; the club counselor, gave the Gong for club meeting material.

Of course, “Rotary” never holds only formality, by next morning, we together with the members of Lane Xang Rotary Club do a service project: 20 wheelchairs and 50 white canes to the disabled in Vientiane before leaving for Thailand.

None of these would have happened without cooperation from all parties. I would like to thank all from the bottom of my heart for the success of organizing the Rotary Club of Lane Xang. From now on, we will the club growth with strengthening and create good activity to society for sustainability.



Members of Rotary Club of LANE XANG

A Journey Beyond Tourism

A Real-Life Experience through the Rotary Friendship Exchange Program



PP Jaruwan Haotawanich
Rotary Club of Songkhla

India is a vast country that many people dream of visiting, whether for a pilgrimage to sacred Buddhist sites or for tourism. World-famous destinations such as Kashmir and the Taj Mahal attract visitors from around the globe. Most trips are typically organized as standard tours, with hotel stays and fixed itineraries.

However, there is another group of travelers who seek “authentic life experiences” in the countries they visit. They live with local families, stay in their homes, share daily life, cook meals, participate in club meetings, observe social activities, and travel together under a mutual “visit and host” exchange concept. This is part of the Rotary Friendship Exchange program, where participants learn from one another while building meaningful friendships with fellow Rotarians. Participants are expected to be flexible, open-minded, and ready to embrace new experiences. Under the leadership of PP Anchalee Amornsing, Chair of the Rotary Friendship Exchange, Committee for District 3330, the 2025–26 program aimed to visit Districts 3132 (led by PP Dr. Tevin Bupphakam) and 3040 (led by PP Jaruwan Haotawanich) in India, with participation from PDG Bob Artis, of District 7090, USA. The group consisted of seven participants over 23 days: 7-18 January in Maharashtra (District 3132), and January 19–30 in Madhya Pradesh (District 3040). The team received warm and grand welcomes from every club, including garlands, welcome signs, scarves, forehead markings, turbans, and colorful flower decorations. These gestures reflected genuine friendship and heartfelt hospitality.

Living with Host Families

Most travel was arranged by Rotarian members. Some areas were still rural, with developing infrastructure and roads under construction. It was common to see goats, sheep, and cows on the roads. Major cities such as Mumbai and New Delhi offered modern



conveniences. Host families were carefully selected for their ability to communicate in English. Each stay lasted 1–3 days, with private rooms, bathrooms, and breakfast provided. Indian families typically live in extended family systems of three generations, with 3–20 members. Children are taught to respect the elders, reflecting strong family values and close relationships. Arranged marriages remain accepted, even among younger generations.

Food was mostly vegetarian, consisting of local dishes such as chapati, dal, and paneer curry. Initially, utensils were used, but eventually, everyone found eating by hand to be more practical and appropriate, provided hands were washed before and after meals. Meals were freshly prepared and served hot, often accompanied by bottled water, buffalo milk, and local desserts.

Club Activities and Sight seeing

In most cases, husbands and wives are members in the same club and English is widely used. Some clubs encourage contributions to The Rotary Foundation through PHF donations and support global grant projects. Activities included visiting global grant projects of Sagar Club, educational support programs, and visits to educational institution such as Daly College Satara, and various community development projects in various areas.

For sightseeing, the group visited Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Khajuraho temples, and Panna National Park.

Conclusion

The Rotary Friendship Exchange is more than tourism—it is a profound experience of life, culture, and friendship. It broadens perspectives and fosters genuine understanding among people of different cultures.

For more information, please contact: PP Anchalee Amornsing Tel. 065-591-6329, PP Jaruwan Haotawanich Tel. 089-466-2952



The Class 113, Chair of President Rotary Handover Ceremony

In Rotary Year 2017–18, we had the opportunity to serve as club presidents of Rotary clubs, Class 13. Leading a club whose members are businesspeople and professional leaders was both an honor and a challenge. We were concerned about whether we could unite members and effectively carry out service projects for communities and the underprivileged in accordance with Rotary's objectives.

Ultimately, we demonstrated that we were able to lead our club and create meaningful change in our communities by upholding the principle of "Service Above Self". Our encouragement came not only from fellow members but also from our PDG Dr. Peera and Rotary Ann Janchira Farmphaiboon, and our fellow presidents of Generation 113. In Rotary Year 2025–26, I was honored to be selected as President of Generation 113—not because I am more capable, but because I believe in the unity and strong bonds within our group. For over a decade, we have maintained close relationships, working together continuously to serve communities and strengthen friendships.

And in this handover of the presidency of the 113th class, we made history by passing the position at the Rotary Center in Thailand on September 8, 2025, led by PDG Dr. Peera Farmphaiboon. And the 113 class presidents, along with their families, were warmly welcomed by PDG Prawit Rojkajornpalai, Vice President of the Rotary Center, PDG Wichai Maneewatcharakiat, committee of Rotary Centre in Thailand, and all staff. We held a ceremony to hand over the esteemed class president, an honor

that will forever remain in the hearts of all of us.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to PDG Dr. Peera Farmphaiboon and PP Nittaya Chan-in, Chair of the event, for organizing such a prestigious ceremony. I also thank over 80 participants, including fellow presidents and their families, as well as supporters who contributed to projects at Ban Huai Raya School in Nakhon Si Thammarat province, including cafeteria renovation and clean drinking water systems, totaling THB 141,500.

By PP Thanakrit Petchuchuy
Rotary Club of Nakhon Si Thammarat
Chair of President Rotary, Class 113





The Rotary Club of Theparak, Rotary Club of Ladluang and Rotary Club of Erawan welcomed PP Kraiwoot Seetalakan and a Stewardship representative from The Rotary Foundation Zone 10B to visit a medical capacity enhancement project aimed at reducing patient mortality. This Global Grant #2567138 project, valued at THB 1,946,534 was implemented in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Uijeongbu Sungang, District 3690, South Korea. The project provided medical equipment including an ultrasound vascular scanner and real-time blood pressure monitoring devices to Bang Bo Hospital, Samut Prakan province. The delegation was welcomed by P Peeradej Prachumchoncharoen and club members on 6 March 2026.



The Rotary Club of Naresuan-Kanchanaburi organized a charter celebration and board installation ceremony for the 2025-26 Interact Club of Phangtru Rat Rangsan School in Kanchanaburi Province, on 6 March 2026.



The Rotary Club of Tongkha donated and delivered a herbal steam cabinet to the subdistrict Health Promoting Hospital in Ratsada, Phuket province. Led by P Ayut Angsukirirat, members also surveyed the area for future service projects.



Eight Rotary Clubs in Songkhla province organized “Rotary Day: 108 Professions” to celebrate Rotary Day, offering vocational training to the community. Activities included blood donation and workshops such as batik embroidery, Nora bead crafting, traditional massage, making bags from sedge, preserving mango, and free haircuts. The event took place at Central Festival Hat Yai, Songkhla province, chaired by PDG Teeranan Wonglor on 21-22 February 2026.



The Rotary Club of Satun conducted head measurements for students at Ban Pak Bara School, Langgu district, Satun province to prepare for helmet distribution under the Global Grant “Safe Roads Save Lives.” A total of 139 helmets will be provided to kindergarten through Grade-5 students on 9 March 2026.

The Journey to this Day

DGN Parkpoom Jomparak Governor nominee, District 3340

As the District Governor-nominee of District 3340, I would like to share with readers my experiences and the journey that has brought me to where I am today, becoming a district leader.

Firstly, I was born into a family in which my father is a Rotarian. I joined activities of the Magkang Rotary Club from the age of five. At such a young age, the Rotary activities I participated in were not very clear in my mind. As far as I understood then, Rotary was simply about my father volunteering in community service.

Secondly, I learned more about Rotary through participation in the Youth Exchange program when I was 17. In 1999–2000, I joined a long-term program in the USA, attended weekly meetings with the Rotary Club of North York, D7390 PA., USA, and had the opportunity to take part in many activities there. However, at that time, Rotary was only the beginning of my journey.



After returning home, I continued my life in business as usual. PDG Vivat Pipatchaisiri recognized the importance of strengthening the club for future growth and believed that Rotary clubs should welcome a new generation. That is why I was invited to become a member of the Rotary Club of Magkang in 2013.

During the first six years of being a Rotarian, I mainly participated in activities within the club. Later, in 2018–19, I was appointed club president;

in 2020–21, assistant governor; in 2023–24, district secretary; and finally, for 2027–28, I was nominated as district governor. Over the years, I have continuously learned and developed myself, while also experiencing the happiness that comes from giving. From the early days, I came to understand Rotary's motto: Service Above Self. At first, we may not fully understand it, but as we engage in more activities, we discover greater happiness. Seeing the smiles of those we serve allows us to truly understand its meaning.

Many people may have heard the question, "What do you get from joining Rotary?" Others may ask, "What does it cost to join



Rotary?" There is nothing wrong with these questions. I would summarize the answers into four points as follows:

- 1. Time** – You can dedicate time to society, meetings, and activities. In return, you gain friendships, happiness, and pride.
- 2. Resources** – Certainly, nothing comes for free. If you are not ready to contribute financially, you can still give your time and effort.
- 3. Knowledge** – You can share your knowledge and abilities, while also learning and developing yourself.
- 4. Communication** – You can build friendships across languages and cultures, as Rotary is an international organization where you meet people from around the world. This helps you develop communication skills and language abilities.

All four of these points are essential qualities for a leader, regardless of your level within the club or district. Most importantly, your mindset will be prepared for leadership in Rotary, as Rotary does not provide compensation to those who give. You may receive honor and recognition, but the deeper reward is the happiness of being part of changing lives, and the pride of being a Rotarian.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the senior members of the Magkang Rotary Club, past district governors, and fellow Rotarians who have given me the opportunity to serve as district governor. I also received an important message from Rotary International president Francesco Arezzo, who taught me that:

"The Rotary International president or district governor is not the most important. Rotary is about service projects carried out by clubs. Therefore, the club is the heart of Rotary."



Rice Sorting Machine Project Delivery for Sustainable Farmer Career Development

Rice Sorting Machine Project is to improve the farmer's life quality under the philosophy of sufficiency economy and the science of King Rama IX. The Rotary Club of Sisaket conducted the Global Grant Project #2570768 to support new theoretical agriculture and enhance sustainable income generation for farmers in Surin and Sisaket provinces.

This project is supported by 4 Rotary Clubs: The Rotary Clubs of Bangkok Pattanakarn and Patumwan (D3350), Sisaket (D3340), Thailand; and Rotary Club of Busan Shinhwa D3661, South Korea, combined funding from The Rotary Foundation and Rotary District 3661, 3350 and 3340.



Adding value to agricultural products, particularly rice, which is the main economic crop of the area, requires tools that help raise quality standards before entering the market. A rice sorting machine has therefore become an important tool in improving quality, building confidence, and increasing income for farmers in the community, with the following objectives:

1. To support the provision of rice sorting machines to learning centers and farming communities in Sisaket Province.
2. To improve the quality of rice production to meet standards.
3. To add value and create sustainable income for farmers.
4. To promote learning in new agricultural theory in accordance with the royal initiatives.

The Rotary Club of Sisaket has delivered a rice sorting machine for use in learning centers and farming communities, aiming to promote stable and sustainable career development, which is expected to result in the following key outcomes:

- Farmers can sort and develop rice quality according to standards.
- Increase market opportunities and farmers' income.
- A new theory of agricultural model learning center was established.
- Build an international cooperation network through Rotary to support sustainable development.





The Rotary Club of Ubon collaborated with Rotary Club of Lumpinee, D3350, The Federation of Thai Industries Ubon Ratchathani and Monsoon Wind Power Project staff conducted “Rotary Cold Weather Relief Project” to deliver warm clothes, school supplies, sport equipment, snacks and milk to 200 students and villagers in remote areas at Ban Dak Kor Village, Dak Cheung district, Sekong province, Lao PDR.



The Rotary Club of Chonburi collaborated with Rotary Club of Gwang ju Bia D3710, South Korea, handed over Hi power Laser Therapy machine and 31 patient beds under the GG#2459399 worth THB 2,057,000 to Koh Chan Hospital, Chonburi province. It was the sixth project in which both clubs work together to donate medical equipment to various hospitals in Chonburi province. On this occasion, DG Wiwat Srisomphong officially handed over equipment to the hospital on behalf of D3340 Rotary International.





The Rotary E-Club of District 3340 handed over the 14th Library for children and family Project, supported by Rotary clubs in Oregon, D5110, USA. Teacher training was conducted and books worth more than THB 20,000 to schools in Chanthaburi province. The project was chaired and carried out for by PDG Somchai Chiaranaipanit, at Wangprai Resort, Chanthaburi province.



The Rotary Club of Amnat Charoen organized monthly scholarships presentation activity for February for students of Ban Thayang Chum, Hua Tapan district, Amnat Charoen province. In addition, 10 sets of computers, stuffies, coffee cup sets were donated to school. It created great happiness and a strong impression for both giver and recipients.



The Rotary Club of Chanthaburi collaborated with Rotary Club of Prakanong, D3350 handed over AED (Automated External Defibrillator) under the “Revive Hearts, save lives” GG#2572576 valued THB 1,623,202.68 to Khao Khitchakut Hospital, Chanthaburi province. The training was also provided on the causes and prevention of diabetes, blood pressure, kidney disease, and heart disease to the Village Health Volunteers (VHV) and villagers in Khao Khitchakut district. The hand-over ceremony was led by P Chairat Yim-im, DG Wiwat Srisomphong, PDG Niwes Khunavisarut, IPP Sairung Srisukwat and club members.



“Save water today, sustain life tomorrow”



IPP Thipaporn Phetchai
Providing Clean Water
Subcommittee Chair



On 22 January 2026 at 9:00-12:00 a.m., the Providing Clean Water Subcommittee organized a study visit to enhance knowledge and understanding of sustainable water management. The delegation of Rotary members visited the Bang Khen Water Treatment Plant of the Metropolitan Waterworks Authority (MWA) to observe and learn about the processes and procedures of tap water production.

On this occasion, Mr. Somsak Passananon, Assistant Governor of the MWA, graciously welcomed the Rotary delegation and provided valuable insights into water production processes, water quality control, safety standards, and engaged in an exchange of information, ideas, and cooperation regarding clean water management.

The objective of this activity was to equip Rotary members with accurate knowledge and a deeper understanding of tap water production, water quality management, and sustainable clean water systems. This knowledge serves as a vital foundation

for the development, monitoring, and enhancement of Rotary service projects on clean water in the communities and schools, ensuring greater effectiveness and long-term sustainability. The study visit was further honored by the presence of the District Governor Tawatchai Chatwittayanon, who joined the delegation and participated in discussions, reflecting strong cooperation and support between Rotary and public sector organizations.

In the afternoon session, interested Rotary members continued the program with a visit to the Narwhal World Service Bottled Drinking Water Factory, where they learned about the bottled drinking water production process, its multi-stage water filtration system, the packaging of the finished product, and quality control standards according to international HACCP & GMP as well as cleanliness control within the factory. Mr.Siriwat Rattanarangsima, Managing Director, warmly welcomed and facilitated the visit for the delegation.

The visit provided additional practical knowledge that can be applied to Rotary’s clean water service initiatives. The activity proceeded smoothly and received strong interest from Rotary members.



Your Profession Can Change the World: A New Era of Vocational Service in Rotary District 3350



**PP Voradej Panjarongkha, CFP®
District Vocational Service Chair**

Have you ever wondered why millions of Rotarians worldwide remain members for many years, while others leave shortly after joining? The primary reasons usually come down to "friendship" and "pride in membership." Therefore, encouraging Rotarians in Vocational Service is essential "Our professional expertise is the most powerful tool for doing good."

This concept can be broken down into 3 practical levels:

1. Vocational Service... Starts with You and Your Organization

Apply "The Four-Way Test" (Is it the Truth? Is it Fair to all concerned? Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships? Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?) as the core standard for your business decisions, contracts, marketing, and employee relations. Uphold professional ethics, conduct business with honesty and transparency, and never exploit customers or partners. Build a strong reputation that "Rotarians are people you can trust." Furthermore, treat your employees fairly, honor them, and improve the quality of life for your subordinates, as they represent the very first unit of society under your care.

2. Mutual Support... Among Fellow Rotarians

Utilize the Rotary network to exchange knowledge and support one another (Rotary First) through various activities:

- **Knowledge Sharing and Vocational Visits:** Share your professional expertise with fellow members. For instance, an accountant advising on corporate tax management; Fantasia Village opening its doors to share insights on securing high-yield, long-term property rentals to foreigners; or the warm welcome we received visiting the Tao Bin robotic barista factory, witnessing world-class innovation invented by Thais.



Fantasia Village hosted an open house on securing favorable long-term rentals rates for foreigners on 3 February 2025.



Career development activities at Early Bird Coffee & Dessert Bar on 16 October 2025.

- **Support and Connecting Businesses:** Whenever possible, let's support fellow members' businesses so we can grow together. For example:

- o Need accommodation or a banquet venue? Think of Bangkok Midtown Hotel, Tara Grand Hotel, or Oakwood Suites Tiwanon.
- o Need a quality mattress? Think of Springmate.
- o Need to send condolences thoughtfully? Think of Sati Wreaths.
- o Need health and medication advice? Consult Pharmacist May.
- o Need a clean water system? Call Technician Aod.
- o Need delicious drinks and desserts for meetings or banquets? Think of Early Bird Coffee & Dessert Bar.

(You can find more information about our members' businesses at <https://fellowshipnetworking.net/>)

- **Professional Trust:** On a personal note, I am deeply grateful that fellow members have trusted me to help with their happy retirement planning, wealth transfer to the next generation, and corporate welfare management, as well as utilizing our financial planning platform at <https://assurewealthonline.com/>.

3. Bringing Your Skills... to Serve Society

Career guidance and inspiring young people (Rotaract/Interact) are vital activities that clubs should collaboratively organize in schools, universities, or receptive communities. This also includes using your specialized skills to help the underprivileged pro bono—such as dentists providing free checkups, IT technicians upgrading computer labs, or lawyers offering free legal consultations to villagers.

Additionally, it involves being the eyes and ears of your club or district to discover "good, honest people who put vocational service above self" (even if they are not Rotarians) and nominating them for Vocational Service Awards. By doing so, we help establish excellent ethical standards for society.

We are not asking you to abandon your work to engage in social activities. Rather, Vocational Service is about "doing your job to the best of your ability and generously using that expertise to benefit others."

Take a moment to reflect... What is your profession or business today? Try to come up with creative vocational service ideas tailored to your field, and let's take action to change the world together.



District Governor Meets Club Presidents and District Team #3 on Saturday 28 February 2026 at The Idle Hotel & Residence, Pathum Thani province.



The Rotary Club of Suan Luang in collaboration with the Yannawa Rotary Club and other clubs in Rotary District 3350, organized a "Rotary One Day" event at Matthayom Naknawa School on Monday, 23 February 2026. PDG Prawit Khajornnaphalai presided over the opening ceremony. P Palachai Meesuk served as the event chair, and PP Somjai Leelawat, the school director and District 3350 Interact Program Chair, coordinated all parties involved in this event.

The Rotary Club of Suan Luang organized activities including Vedic mathematics lessons for Grade 10 students, as well as vocational development, peacebuilding activities, educational guidance, language instruction, slogan and speech contests, and free dental services for 200 children.



The Rotary Club of Sai Mai, in collaboration with Rotary Club of Ladprao and the Ladprao District Office, organized a student training program under the project "Thai Youth Awareness of Accidents and Disasters". The training was provided to 200 students from Grades 4–5 at Phetthanom School to help them understand the seriousness of road accidents, learn how to assess risks, and develop safe road-use and life skills. The event was held on Wednesday, 28 January 2026.



The Rotary Club of Bang Bon donated water filtration systems to Ban Don Mun (Silaphet) School and Ban Bo Luang School in Nan province, and also provided scholarships to students in January 2026.



The Rotary Club of Rat Burana donated an anesthesia machine to Bangchak Hospital under Global Grant Project #2579340 on 25 February 2026. Seven members from the club's partner, the Rotary Club of Yaizu, District 2620, Japan, also attended the handover ceremony.



“Pan Rak Ruam Jai Phak: Two Wheels for Merit along the Mekong Giant Catfish Route”

9th Edition: The Power of Giving Cycling Together for the Community



PP Arisara Kittitham
Rotary Club of Chiangkhong

The Rotary Club of Chiangkhong, Chiang Rai province, organized a charity cycling event titled “Pan Rak Ruam Jai Phak: Two Wheels for Merit along the Mekong Giant Catfish Route” (9th Edition). This year’s event holds special significance as it is dedicated to honoring the gracious benevolence of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit the Queen Mother. In addition, the activity promotes physical exercise, fosters unity, and raises funds to support the club’s community service projects in Chiang Khong district. Located along the Mekong River, Chiang Khong is a land rich in natural beauty and cultural identity. It is also home to the Mekong giant catfish, an iconic species of the Mekong River basin.

The event attracted strong interest from cyclists and health enthusiasts from various provinces, as well as participation from several organizations, including Chiang Khong district Office, Wiang Chiang Khong Municipality, Somdej Phra Yuparat Chiang Khong Hospital, and the Chiang Khong Bike Club, along with both public and private sector partners in the area. Participants had the opportunity to experience the scenic cycling route along the Mekong River, passing through local communities and enjoying the beautiful natural landscapes of Chiang Khong district.

This cycling event not only brought joy and lasting impressions to participants, but also encouraged people to



prioritize their health through exercise suitable for all ages and genders. This year, the Rotary Club of Chiangkhong organized the event on 22 February 2026. Cycling is highly beneficial to health; it helps strengthen the cardiovascular system, improves muscle performance, burns calories, and reduces the risk of non-communicable diseases. In addition, it helps relieve stress and promotes balance in both physical and mental well-being. It is truly a simple and sustainable way to take care of one’s health.

The Rotary Club of Chiang Khong will allocate the proceeds from this event to support various community service projects. These include funding for medical equipment for Somdej Phra Yuparat Chiang Khong Hospital, providing life jackets for water rescue to the Sangtham Foundation (Chiang Khong branch) and the Boonchuy Support Club in Chiang Khong district, as well as supporting educational initiatives, health promotion programs, assistance for the underprivileged such as wheelchair donation projects and other community development activities. These



efforts clearly reflect Rotary’s guiding principle of “Service Above Self”.

Over the years, the event “Two Wheels for Merit along the Mekong Giant Catfish Route” has become one of the club’s key activities, successfully bringing together club members, cyclists, and the local community to create positive impact for the people of Chiang Khong.



At the same time, it helps strengthen Rotary's public image as an organization that truly takes action in serving the community.

Every turn of the bicycle wheel is not only a journey toward better health, but also a powerful act of giving and help to create opportunities and bring sustainable hope to the community. At the same time, the event promotes tourism in Chiang Khong district, contributing to the local economy and helping make Chiang Khong more widely known to the public.

The Charm of Chiang Khong: A Small Mekong Riverside Town Full of Stories and Impressions

When speaking of Chiang Rai province, most people are familiar with it; but what about Chiang Khong? Many may not yet know that Chiang Khong district, in Chiang Rai, is a charming small town along the Mekong River, rich in natural beauty, local way of life, and Lanna culture. Those who visit often fall in love with its simple lifestyle and the warm hospitality of its people. This town also serves as a border gateway connecting Thailand and Laos, adding a unique vibrancy through cross-border trade and the blend of cultures along both sides of the Mekong. Surrounded by mountains and the river, Chiang Khong offers a distinctive cultural mix of Lanna and Tai Lue traditions. Visitors can enjoy nature, local customs, and traditional cuisine in a peaceful and friendly atmosphere.



Anyone visiting Chiang Khong should not miss paying respects at Wat Phra Kaew Chiang Khong, an important temple located in the heart of the town. Inside, there is a revered green jade Buddha image, widely worshipped by both locals and visitors for good fortune. The temple also houses an ancient pavilion believed to be over a thousand years old, making it a spiritual center for the people of Chiang Khong. In addition, there are beautiful viewpoints along the Mekong River, especially during sunrise and sunset. Visitors can enjoy a relaxing stroll by the river, take in the fresh breeze, and observe the daily lives of people on both the Thai and Lao sides up close.

For those interested in culture, a visit to Lue Lai Kham Museum is highly recommended. The museum showcases traditional textiles, ancient utensils, and the rich heritage of the Tai Lue community that has been preserved for generations. And of course, one must not miss the local markets and traditional cuisine. Chiang Khong is well known for its Mekong River fish dishes such as soft-flesh fish and other freshwater specialties—along with authentic Lanna-style meals. The local markets also offer a wide variety of handmade products and souvenirs for visitors to explore and enjoy.

Chiang Khong may be a small town, but it is full of charm; rich in natural beauty, cultural heritage, and the warm friendship of its people. Most importantly, the Rotary Club of Chiang Khong is always ready to warmly welcome friends from all districts.



The Rotary Club of Lampang, in collaboration with the Heart Disease Foundation of Lampang Hospital, the Association of the Elderly Council of Thailand, Lampang and the Lampang Provincial Administrative Organization, jointly organized the project “Senior Walk & Run for a Healthy Heart.” This marks the third consecutive year of the event. The activity truly reflects the spirit of “Service Above Self,” as it not only promotes the physical and mental well-being of the elderly but also serves as a strong example of collaboration among Rotary, partner organizations, and the community in creating a better and more sustainable quality of life for society. The event was held on Saturday, 28 February 2026.

The Birthday Fund activity of the Rotary Club of Nakornping Chiang Mai was organized in celebration of the birth month of PP Acharee Trapsuwan and PP Pisit Sirisophonpanich. The activity involved donating cooking ingredients and essential supplies for meal preparation at Tham Pha Plong Monastic Center, Chiang Dao district, Chiang Mai province. On this occasion, participants also had the opportunity to engage in Dhamma discussions and climbed 510 steps to deliver the supplies to the monastery. Most of the donated items were non-perishable ingredients, which can be stored longer than prepared food, allowing the temple to have a continuous supply of cooking materials without the risk of quick spoilage like fresh food. Offering cooking ingredients is therefore considered a meaningful way to support food sustainability. “Because giving... is a happiness that can be shared endlessly.” This activity was led by CP Jompol Khattithima, together with club members who celebrate their birthdays in March.



The Rotary Speech Contest on the topic “Unite for God” was organized through the strong collaboration between the Rotary Club of Nakorn Hariphunchai and Rapeelert Wittaya School. This activity is not merely a competition, but an important platform for developing youth in systematic thinking, creative communication, confidence in self-expression, and social responsibility, all of which are essential foundations for becoming good leaders in the future. It aligns with Rotary’s ideals of nurturing the next generation of leaders to build a strong and sustainable society. The club places great importance on continuous youth development, encouraging young people to express their ideas honestly and creatively, as today’s experiences will become valuable steps for their future. We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to Rapeelert Wittaya School, its administrators, and teachers for their support and for providing students with the opportunity to fully demonstrate their potential.



The Rotary Club of Phitsanulok has organized a free haircut service, which has been continuously carried out for 9 years. In this initiative, free haircut services and basic haircut training are provided to patients, their relatives, hospital staff, nurses, and doctors at Buddhachinaraj Hospital in Phitsanulok province. The activity is held on the second Wednesday of every month, and the number of participants continues to grow steadily each month. The club recognizes that organizing activities in a hospital setting can effectively engage public interest and create a positive social impact, as hospitals serve a large number of people. This allows the community to clearly see the meaningful work that Rotary contributes to society. This activity is led by PP Likhit Noipeng.



The Rotary Clubs of Chiang Mai, Chiangmai Phuping, Chiangmai Doi Suthep, Chiangmai Sansai, Chiang Mai Nawarat, Chiang Mai International, Chiang Mai North, Nakornping Chiang Mai, Chiangmai South, Sarapee, Lanna Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai Thin-Thai-Ngam and the Rotary Club of Charoen Nakhon, District 3350, jointly organized the project “MUSIC FOR ALL 2026.” The event featured the Kasetart Wind Symphony, a large wind orchestra of over 100 musicians and a two-time Gold Medal with Distinction awardee (2013 and 2017). The project included a music workshop for more than 500 youth from Chiang Mai and Lamphun provinces, held at the 80th Anniversary Commemoration Hall of the Chiang Mai Provincial Administrative Organization. The event was a great success, creating meaningful value for youth and society. It was supported by PDG Dr. Krai and PP Rungnapa Tangsanga from the Rotary Club of Charoen Nakhon, District 3350, as well as the Faculty of Humanities, Kasetsart University, the Chiang Mai Provincial Administrative Organization, government and private sector partners in Chiang Mai, along with lecturers, speakers, volunteers, musicians, and participating youth. Siam Yamaha Co., Ltd. also provided support. All participants came together to create the power of sharing “opportunities, inspiration, and hope” through music passing it on to the younger generation and contributing to a sustainable future for society. The project was led by DG Dr. Jaruwat Techawut and was held on 24 January 2026.

ROTARY CLUB CENTRAL

TRUE OR FALSE

ROTARY'S MOST SUCCESSFUL CLUBS SET GOALS — AND NOT JUST FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR.

TRUE.

When club leaders think about the future and plan beyond their year, they set their club up for long-term success.

CLUB GOALS ARE ONLY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CLUB LEADERS.

FALSE.

Every club member is responsible for their club's success. And as a Rotary member, you too can use Rotary Club Central to view your club's short- and long-term goals.

NEED HELP?

Head to the Rotary Learning Center and take the Rotary Club Central Resources course!

MORE THAN HALF OF ROTARY CLUBS USE ROTARY CLUB CENTRAL TO TRACK THEIR GOALS.

TRUE.

Club leaders use this free tool to set goals and record accomplishments, while tracking goals like membership growth, service activities, and Foundation giving.

Start setting and tracking your club's goals now:



喜
北



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

TAIPEI, TAIWAN | 13-17 JUNE 2026



Register today at convention.rotary.org.

neptune
COATINGS

A Member of The Harco Group



Product of USA

นวัตกรรมใหม่แห่งการกันรั่วกันซึม!

- กันน้ำได้ใน 3 วินาที
- มีความยืดหยุ่นมากกว่า 2000%
- มีคุณสมบัติดับไฟด้วยตัวเอง
- รวดเร็วและประหยัด



สนใจติดต่อ บริษัท นีโอไลท์ จำกัด

☎ 02-744-0102-4, 02-398-2278-9

✉ nakarin@neolight.th.com

🌐 www.neolightthailand.com

