



ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE

# Rotary Crossroads

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*Proud of our Heritage, Committed to our Future*

*Chartered 6<sup>th</sup> June 1930*

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**Best wishes for Diwali from  
President Keith & Board of Directors**

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## Something Different

By: Hon Member (HM) PP Raymon Huang



HM PP Raymon Huang

RI has designated October as “Economic & Community Development Month”. The first area “Economic Development” is a “remote” subject for me. So I will just pen something akin to “Community Development” which is closer to our everyday journey in Rotary.

Many years ago, a significant item in Rotary’s panoply of worldwide service activities and programmes was certainly directly related to community development – the “Rotary Community Corps”. It was also called by other names like “Rotary Village Corps” and “Rotary Community Service Corps” in urban areas. Although I said “significant” as a project in Rotary’s manifold programmes, the Rotary Community Corps was little known to us, in particular in Singapore.

It was RI President M.S.T. Caparas who initiated it – in 1986. Perhaps it was much needed in the Philippines, his home country. But it was a good and laudable initiative – basically a form of grass-roots self-help programme of service, aimed at developing and “improving the quality of life in villages, neighbourhoods, and communities”. In the Philippines and other similar parts of the world – there was always “an abundance of labour” available. The “big absence” was the “process to mobilize “the labour force into a cohesive group” to conduct useful projects of community improvement”. The notion of “community development” is of course nothing new to or in Rotary. It has been doing this ever since its inception in 1905. But the helping hand needed to get it done is where Rotary comes in strong. So what is the difference?

It may seem strange or sound like a misnomer. Because a Rotary Community Corps, although a Rotary Club-sponsored entity, comprised public-spirited non-Rotarians with a burning desire to help their communities achieve better things in life. Rotarians provided the catalyst, the leadership, the expertise in organising such civic-minded non-Rotarians into cohesive and effective groups. Yes, Rotary provided the encouragement, the guidance, and material assistance where needed, and the Rotary Community Corps the muscle, the manpower and the many little things sought by their communities. The Corps formed an effective self-help conduit between Rotary and communities in need. It offered “another dimension to the concept of service to improve the quality of life”. That would indeed be so. Working hand in hand, partnerships, always achieve better results when effective.

So there you have it in the Rotary Community Corps. It was something different, a “new dimension” and a noble idea. To this day it is possible to establish a new Rotary Community Corps as a way of giving focus and community management to a community project.

Many RI’s programmes have been changed, many scrapped altogether – like the Group Study Exchange (GSE) programme. The GSE programme was indeed one of Rotary’s iconic projects. A real pity that it has been done away with. It was indeed one of the most popular and rewarding programmes of the Rotary Foundation. Started in 1965,



## In Focus

the programme provided participants with new educational, cultural and life experiences. The programme paired Districts to send and receive Teams – of young executives, professionals, teachers, etc. hence the name “Group Study Exchange”. The programme was funded by the Rotary Foundation. Apart from the aspect of learning new experiences, GSE Teams served as “ambassadors of goodwill”, as a result of which many of the new friendships made “blossomed” into lasting ones. The programme was found – by all participants – to be “most enjoyable and meaningful”, and helped to promote world understanding.

A GSE Team comprised of four (4) to six (6) participants, sent to a receiving or hosting District for a period of four to six weeks – staying in, where possible, Rotarian’s homes. The Teams would be led by a GSE Team Leader, a Rotarian selected by the incumbent District Governor. I was honoured by being made a GSE Team leader by the then DG John Cheah (RY 1991/2). My spouse, Jessie, was also a member of the entourage. We had a Team comprising a medical doctor (Penang); a journalist (KL), an accountant (Ipoh), and a lawyer (Penang) – all young, eager, and enthusiastic. At that time, the whole Malay Peninsula was part of District 330. We went to District 745 in Pennsylvania, USA and stayed for six weeks there. (D745 also sent a GSE Team to D330). It was a life-time experience – Rotary, personal, educational and cultural. Our hosts were most gracious. Our visit programme there as both intensive and expansive. We gave talks to no less than 10 Rotary Clubs, fellowship at countless homes, and visited historic and places of interest galore. And, indeed we made many lasting friendships, with whom we kept in touch. Alas, some of the older ones have passed on. But the fond memories remain.

Relieved! I have done it. I wanted to write “something different”. Simply, I am no expert in “Economic Development”, which this October month is slated as. We have so many gurus in this area in our Club. We could have them share their hands-on knowledge.

My pleasure and honour then – to invite these gurus to do a follow-up on “Economic Development”. I leave the ball in your court.

## Heartiest Congratulations to Rtn Tina Tang...



We are pleased to announce that Rtn Tina Tang and her husband Zhang Ming are blessed with their second child, a boy named Kris Zhang, who was born on 25 September 2017.



## Photo Album of the “Help the Children 2017” Project Visit from 6 to 8.10.17

Following are some photographs of the project visit shared by President Keith at the weekly meeting of 11 October 2017...





## Photo Album of the “Help the Children 2017” Project Visit from 6 to 8.10.17





# Last Week

## Last Week – Report on the Wednesday Meeting – 11 October 2017

### OPENING REMARKS

President Keith opened the Meeting and welcomed members and the Speaker, none other than our member, Rtn Dr Irina Francken to the Meeting.

### HELP THE CHILDREN 2017 PROJECT

Starting the meeting with a brief update of the Help The Children 2017 project visit, President Keith advised that a large group of members went to Malang, Indonesia. He added that the project helped more than 1,000 children with school provisions as well as training for about 100 teachers and livelihood programmes for the children's families. President Keith noted that the project was well supported by Rotary Clubs in Malang, Surabaya, Batu, Rotary Clubs of Marina City and Kuching Central. He added that also participating in the project were IPDG Michael Yee and the Governor from District 3410 in Indonesia.

### WELCOME

Duty of welcoming guests of members and Visiting Rotarian fell to Rtn Deblina Chatterjee:

#### Guests:

Dr Daisy Rani  
Ms Bhibhuti Rai  
Ms Wendy Tan  
Ms Sarah Tan  
Dr Hans Schniewind  
Mr Kanishk Singh

#### Visiting Rotarian:

PE Travis Olszewski – Westtown – Goshen, USA



*Deblina Chatterjee*

### TOAST & EXCHANGE OF BANNERS



*From right: Pres Keith, PE Travis Olszewski and Toastmaster Rtn Steven Nichols who proposed a toast to Rotary Club of Westtown-Goshen in Pennsylvania coupled with the toast to Rotary International*



*Pres Keith exchanged club banners with PE Travis from RC Westtown-Goshen*

# Last Week

## ROTARY DIWALI NITE 2017

President Keith called on Membership Director Rtn Rajkumar Perumal Suppiah who reminded members of the coming fellowship event as follows:

Date: **Tuesday, 24 October 2017**  
 Time: **6.30pm onwards**  
 Venue: **Moghul Mahal Restaurant (Inside Khalsa Association)**  
**2 Tessensohn Road #03-01, Singapore 217646**  
 Cost: **S\$68 for adults and S\$58 for children**  
 Attire: **Ethnic Indian Wear**



*Rajkumar Perumal Suppiah*

Rtn Raj announced that the Diwali Nite promises to be a great fellowship event with good food and fun activities. He was pleased to add that 50 persons have already signed up and he hoped to have more members join in this night of enjoyment!

Book online at <https://goo.gl/forms/oP2emp3qvO2r22Zw2> or contact Rtn Raj at 9696 7624 or email [raj@ipcgroup.com.sg](mailto:raj@ipcgroup.com.sg)

## COMING ROTARY EVENTS

EVENT	DETAILS
<b>Rotary Diwali Nite 2017</b>	24 October @ Moghul Mahal Restaurant from 6.30pm onwards. Please contact Director Rtn Raj
<b>1<sup>st</sup> District Mandarin Conference @ KSL Hotel, Johor Bahru</b>	27 October – Welcome Dinner 28 October – Conference & Governor's Banquet 29 October – Morning project showcase & Closing Guest of Honour: Past RI President Gary Huang
<b>Rotary Flag Day</b>	28 October – Volunteers are needed. Please contact VP James Lee email <a href="mailto:jameslee071@gmail.com">jameslee071@gmail.com</a>
<b>Rotary Charity Golf</b>	8 November @ Sentosa Golf Club, Serapong Course For more details, please contact PE Mark Wang email <a href="mailto:markyywang@alum.mit.edu">markyywang@alum.mit.edu</a>
<b>Minority Vocational School Mission Visit in Guizhou, China</b>	10 – 16 November Please register with PE Mark Wang
<b>The Entrepreneur of the Year Award (EYA) 2017 – Award Presentation &amp; Gala Dinner</b>	23 November @ Grand Ballroom, The Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore. Book your tickets with the Secretariat.



**Speaker:** Our member, Rotarian Dr Irina Francken

**Topic:** “Community Philanthropy & the Charity Landscape in Singapore”

President Keith invited PP Perlita Tiro to introduce the Speaker, none other than our member, Rtn Dr Irina Francken. PP Perlita noted that Rtn Irina was a member of the Rotary Club of Dunedin East, New Zealand for 10 years prior to her joining the Club in 2010. She added that Rtn Irina served as a Board Member during Rotary years 2012-13 and during her presidency term of 2014-15.

Rtn Irina's last two decades of professional experience includes trust/company creation, administration and management. In addition to her fiduciary services for the last 6 years, she has developed her expertise in philanthropy; she provides consultancy and management services to Family Offices, HNW individuals, corporate and non-profit organizations in order to create effective philanthropical projects. She regularly publishes her articles about trends of philanthropy and impact investing in professionals' magazines. Rtn Dr Irina is a 3rd term member of the steering committee of Philanthropy Advisors Group at the Society of Trusts and Estate Practitioners (STEP, London). She is involved as a consultant and trustee with Pace Universal (USA and India). She plays an active role as an advisor with The Blue Sky Charitable foundation (Dhaka, Bangladesh) and involved in many charitable and philanthropical projects in Singapore.



*Speaker, Rtn Dr Irina Francken*



*From right: Pres Keith, Rtn Irina  
& PP Perlita Tiro*

In her very informative presentation, Rtn Irina noted that a common criticism of international development aid agencies was their top-down approach, which meant that local communities generally see these organizations as being detached from them and not listening to the real needs on the ground. She added that community philanthropy was a missing link between local communities and international development. She highlighted the rise of community philanthropy for the last few years and its emphasis on local resources shifts power closer to the ground. Rtn Irina added that this unveiled one of the key roles of a community - to identify its most pressing needs which outsiders cannot do. She advised the next step was to find a solution, preferably a sustainable, long-term one, which would give greater control and integral aspect of community work.

Rtn Irina noted that Rotary work from community contributions to projects, to initiatives supporting local civil society was a valuable contribution to the assets development and capacity building of local communities. She also gave a summary of analysing statistics of Singapore Commissioner of Charities Annual Report to begin to explore possible opportunities for

further development of community philanthropy. (A copy of Rtn Irina's presentation is available from Secretariat.)

President Keith warmly thanked Rtn Irina for her fantastic presentation which encouraged the focus on projects and smaller charities with the assistance perhaps through the Foundation of Rotary Clubs Singapore.



# Mark Your Diary

## Birthday Celebrants

**RC sends Birthday greetings to celebrants:**

20 October – M M Patel

21 October – PP Jimmy Ooi

## Anniversary Celebrants

**RC sends best wishes to Wedding Anniversary celebrants this week:**

23 October – Renate Noessler & Guenter Stockmann

28 October – Dr Ekkehard & Dorothea Wiek

30 October – IPP Garry & Grace Taylor, Dr Hoh Sek Tien & Julie, Vishal & Sonam Nanwani

## International Service Meeting

**International Service Committee Meeting will be held as follows:**

**Date:** Thursday, 19 October

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Venue:** Board Room, Senior Police Officers' Mess, 153 Mount Pleasant Road, S 298391

**Co-Hosts:** Joseph Chia, Robert Craiu, President Keith Harrison & PP Dr Oliver Hennedige.

## This Meeting

**18 October 2017**

**Meeting cancelled  
In view of public holiday  
Deepavali**

## Next Meeting

**25 October 2017**

**Reception Desk duty:** PE Mark Wang, Manish Tibrewal

**Sunshine Box:** IPP Garry Taylor, Asheesh Khaneja

**Speaker:** Ms Helga Herrera, Photographer & Managing Partner of Grafika Photography & Design

**Topic:** "Composition in Photography, a Form of Art"

## Youth Service Meeting

**Youth Service Committee Meeting will be held as follows:**

**Date:** Thursday, 26 October

**Time:** 7.00pm

**Venue:** Joy & Peace Room, Level 3, YWCA @ Fort Canning Road, S179494

**Co-Hosts:** Uttam Kripalani, Deblina Chatterjee & PE Mark Wang

## Coming Rotary Events

### October

#### *Economic and Community Development Month*

**24 Oct** – Diwali Nite at Moghul Mahal Restaurant (inside Khalsa Association)

**27-29 Oct** – District 3310 Mandarin Conference, Johor Bahru. Guest of Honour: Past RI President Gary Huang

**28 Oct** – Rotary Flag Day

### November

#### *Rotary Foundation Month*

**8 Nov** – Rotary Charity Golf at Sentosa Golf Club, Serapong Course

**10-16 Nov** – Minority Vocational School Mission Visit

**23 Nov** – Rotary Singapore-ASME The Entrepreneur of the Year award (EYA)

### December

#### *Disease Prevention and Treatment Month*

### January

#### *Vocational Service Month*

### February

#### *Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month*



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## The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build goodwill and better friendship?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

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## The Guide to Daily Living

Before doing the things we want to do, consider first, the Precepts of the guide. Ask ourselves these 4 questions and act upon them:

**First:** *Have I spent some time in self-examination?*

**Second:** *Have I spent quality time with my family?*

**Third:** *Have I given my best to my work?*

**Fourth:** *Have I given some time to someone near and far?*

The Guide, in fact, encompasses the 4 parts of the Object of Rotary.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017/2018

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