



Rotary crossroads

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Help The Children Malang Trip 12-14 October 2018

By: Vice President Rajkumar P Suppiah



VP Rajkumar P Suppiah

I recently traveled to Malang on the Rotary's Help the Children (HTC) Mission Trip. It was organized and coordinated by PP Dr. Shahul Hameed. This was my first such mission trip with the Rotary Club. Not only was it fun and exciting to travel with fellow Rotarians but the whole experience has touched my heart as I interacted with the kids. I would like to briefly share my personal experience of our recent HTC Malang Trip.

On 12th October (Friday) we arrived at Surabaya Juanda International Airport and were received by fellow Rotarians from Rotary Club (RC) Surabaya. We boarded the well-labeled Toyota HiAce vans that were parked outside the airport conveniently to take us to our destination. In front of our vans, there was a police escort car which was slicing the traffic into two halves to give way to our vans. It was a very well-planned and perfectly coordinated trip. We had a delicious lunch of authentic Indonesian dishes at Warung Mbok Sri Restaurant (Hosted by RC Singapore). Being a chilly freak, it was lovely to experience the varieties of chilies that were offered to us in at this restaurant. I was extremely overwhelmed by the warmth and hospitality of both Honorary Member Rtn Mohan Vaswani and his wife, Mdm Kawita who ensured there was ample food for all of us.

Later in the noon, we launched **"Help the Children (HTC)"** event at the Mayor's Official House in Pendopo, Batu by giving donation to 180 students from 8 schools. Kids were excitedly looking forward to their gifts. We then visited seven houses of the children in Tlelung Batu area. I was distressed to see their unfortunate living condition. I expressed my deep sense of gratitude and appreciation to God for giving me a privileged life. We were treated to an extra special food experience of simple local delicacies of sweet potato, corn, and steam nuts. After dinner at Batu Mayor's Office (hosted by RC Batu), we quickly checked-in at De View Hotel, as we all were tired after a long day.

Next morning, we departed to Ishk Tolaram Foundation funded Bhakti Luhur Orphanage. It was really emotional to see children with special needs. Despite their physical and mental impairments, they had this great positive attitude towards life. Some kids were extremely talented. We met a boy who had a vast amount of knowledge of the local train timetable for going around Indonesia. His mental capability was really surprising. We conducted various practical speech therapy activities with some fun games. Seeing the kids enjoying and listening to their innocent laughter brought tears into the eyes of our Honorary Member Mohan Vaswani. We also took a facility tour during the school hours. Children had put together a wonderful musical performance for us which touched our hearts and moved our souls.

Later, we had a wonderful lunch at Oura Resto, Lecheria (Hosted by RC Malang Central). After lunch, we visited another school in SDN Bunulrejo 06. There also we launched HTC Program and gave donation to 110 students of 4 schools in Malang City area.



In Focus

A trip is never complete without shopping. In the evening, we shopped at Lai-Lai Supermarket for local delicacies. Then, we went back to the hotel and had a short rest until dinner which was a grand gala affair at Honorary Member Rtn Mohan Vaswani's beautiful villa with the Mayor of Batu also joining us.

Next day on Sunday, 14th October, we had breakfast at the hotel before departing to HM Rtn Mohan Vaswani's villa again for fellowship. At the last minute, on someone's suggestion, we all went for Batik shopping at Golden Tulip Hotel. We later came back for lunch to HM Rtn Mohan Vaswani's villa and then departed for the airport.

Though we went there to **GIVE** but I brought back two precious gifts with me – one the contentment and gratitude that I felt seeing the joy in the eyes of the kids and two, an important life lesson to try to stay positive and seek the good when life throws challenges at us. I learned the value of giving back to society and inspiring others to give.

Most of the times people associate Rotary with the only fellowship but this trip made me realize there is so much more to it. It really inspired me and made me feel proud to be a **ROTARIAN**.

I also take this opportunity to thank PP Dr. Shahul Hameed for this wonderful experience! Being a travel agent myself, I know handling a trip has never been easy, anticipating lots of last minute changes but he made the whole trip look so seamless. He is truly an asset to the Rotary Club of Singapore.

Looking forward to next year's HTC Malang trip.

" If you want to build a better world, you have to awake the souls of your Rotarians ~ to their own ability, and their own potentiality, and to the longing inside each and every one of us " - Barry Rassin, R I President



Coming Events...

Inter District Rotary Vocational and Community Visit cum Fellowship Trip to Malaysia

Itinerary of Trip:

10th Nov 2018 Saturday:

9:15am: Meet at Newton Hawker Centre Carpark and Board Bus(es)
12:00noon: Fellowship Meeting with RC Muar
1:00pm: Lunch with RC Muar
2:00pm: Visit Proposed GG Project Muar Palliative Care Project and Visit Hospital Muar Paediatric Unit.
4:00pm: Leave for Kuala Lumpur
6:00pm: Check in Hotel
8:00pm : Fellowship Dinner with RC KL Di Raja (Tentative)

11 November Sunday

9:00am: Checkout Hotel and Head to BRDM Rotary Children's Home in Sri Petaling
9:30am; Meet Children at Rotary Home and tour of Facilities including Proposed GG for Equipment Purchasing and Training
11:00am: Leave for Batu Pahat
1:30pm: Lunch with RC Batu Pahat
2:30pm Tour of RC Batu Pahat Rotary Haemodialysis Centre (completed GG Project)
4:00pm: Head for Singapore with 1-2 food and fruits shopping stops
7:00pm: Arrive at Newton Hawker Centre Carpark.

Proposed Hotel: The Gardens Hotel at Mid-Valley (\$150 per night for 2 pax)

Luxury Transport about \$100 per pax (est) (Toyota Alphard or similar)

Minimum Donation to Muar Paediatric Unit, Children's Home and Dialysis Centre (\$50 per location per Rotarian: Total \$150 per Rotarian)

Deadline for booking 31st October 2018 .

As we have only limited seats, please book early to avoid disappointment.

Please contact VP Rajkumar P Suppiah to register

Update on The Entrepreneur of the Year Award (EYA)

REMEMBER: This is the 30th EYA celebration of the gold standards - the standards of entrepreneurship and a legacy for future generations. Gala Dinner at the Ritz Carlton Hotel where the winners will be announced

- Date: **22 November at 7 pm**
- Rotary Club of Singapore will have 2 tables at this event. Cost: \$180 per person
- Rotarians who wish to participate, please advise the Secretariat.



Last Week

Last Week – Report on Wednesday Meeting (World Polio Day) – 24 October 2018

OPENING REMARKS



Sergeant-at-Arms Rtn Bertrand De Mil opened the World Polio Day Meeting which was well attended by more than 80 Rotarians from 19 Rotary Clubs in Singapore and guests. He invited President Mark Wang to take the Chair and to commence the proceedings.

President Mark welcomed Guest of Honour District Governor Henry Tan, PDG Michael Yee and Speaker Dr William Tan to the Meeting commemorating World Polio Day, which was hosted by all the Rotary Clubs in Singapore.

TOAST

President Mark (left) called on District Governor Henry Tan (right) who invited all present to join him in raising a toast to Rotary International.



ADDRESS BY ORGANIZING CHAIR



Organising Committee Chair, President Jona Pang (left) from Rotary Club of Tanjong Pagar was invited by President Mark to say a few words.

President Jona thanked the various members of the Organising Committee for their assistance, as well as Assistant Governor Elsie Chua who helped with the fund-raising advertisement in The Straits Times featuring World Polio Day. She thanked all the Rotary Clubs for their participation and opportunity in placing the advertisement to raise awareness of Rotary's objective to eradicate polio.

President Jona highlighted the fund-raising efforts through the sale of tee-shirts, pins and mugs which were available. She also called on members to fill in their pledges in the forms provided.



Last Week

WORLD POLIO UPDATED

Organising Chairperson, President Jona Pang called upon PDG Michael Yee who gave an overview of Rotary's End Polio programme.

Following are some highlights and information on World Polio Day:

- World Polio Day on 24 October, was established by Rotary International to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, who led the first team in 1955 to develop a vaccine against poliomyelitis. Rotary International undertook its fight to end Polio since 1979. We have reduced cases by 99.9% since 1988. However, unless we eradicate polio, within 10 years we could see as many as 200,000 new cases each year, all over the world. The disease is endemic in only 3 countries, but unless we reach every child with the vaccine, no child anywhere is safe.
- Poliomyelitis is a highly infectious disease that most commonly affects children under the age of 5. Most know it as poliovirus. The virus is spread person to person, typically through contaminated water. It can attack the nervous system, and in some instances, lead to paralysis. Although there is no cure, there is a safe and effective vaccine – one which Rotary and our partners use to immunize over 2.5 billion children worldwide.
- 1978: Singapore is declared Polio-free.
- 1979: Rotary International begins its fight against polio with a multi-year project to immunize 6 million children in the Philippines.
- 1985: Rotary International launches PolioPlus, the first and largest internationally coordinated private-sectorsupport of a public health initiative, with an initial fundraising target of US\$120 million.
- 1988: Rotary International and the World Health Organization launch the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. There are an estimated 350,000 cases of polio in 125 countries.
- 1994: The International Commission for the Certification of Poliomyelitis Eradication announces that polio has been eliminated from the Americas.
- 2009: Rotary's overall contribution to the eradication effort nears \$800 million. In January, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation pledges \$355 million and issues Rotary a challenge grant of \$200 million. This announcement will result in a combined \$555 million in support of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.
- 2012: India surpasses 1 year without a recorded case of polio, and is taken off the polio-endemic list. Only 3 countries remain polio endemic. Rotary surpasses its \$200 Million Challenge fundraising goal more than 5 months earlier than planned.
- 2014: India goes 3 full years without a new case caused by the wild poliovirus, and the World Health Organization certifies the South-East Asia region polio-free. Polio cases are down over 99.9% since 1988.



PDG Michael Yee



Last Week

Speaker: Dr William Tan, Neuroscientist & Physician
National Cancer Centre, Singapore

Topic: *“Impacting Lives beyond the Wheelchair”*

IPP Troy Engle from Rotary Club of Singapore North was given the pleasant task of introducing the Speaker, Dr William Tan. Dr Tan is a world records holder Paralympian. He is also an Asian-Pacific Games triple gold medallist; holder of six endurance marathon world records, including “fastest time to complete 7 marathons in 7 continents (including Antarctica and North Pole) in 27 days”. He is an author and international inspirational speaker.

Prior to his talk, Dr Tan showed a video sharing memories of his childhood and the outstanding feats accomplished notwithstanding his disability. He recounted that he contracted polio at two years old and is paralysed from the waist down. He shared many stories of his life, including his career in the Civil Service. He spoke of his dreams of becoming a scientist and medical doctor, which he pursued tenaciously and achieved.



Speaker, Dr William Tan

Dr Tan also shared some of his accomplishments as a sportsman, such as completing a marathon in a wheelchair in the North Pole in 21 hours and 10 minutes despite overwhelming obstacles and extreme conditions. He spoke of the realisation that sports should be a means to further goodness and to help others and he has championed and raised funds for many causes as well. Dr Tan advised that he was diagnosed with Stage 4 (end-stage) leukemia, but despite this adversity he championed on in many sporting activities and is now cancer free for 10 years.



From left: President Mark, Dr William Tan, President Jona & DG Henry

Dr Tan further shared his association with Rotary in New Zealand where he cycled for charity from Wellington to Auckland and was bestowed a Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) recognition. He added that the PHF recognition spurred him further and he cycled the whole length of New Zealand! He was also made an Ambassador for PolioPlus in 2005.

President Mark invited DG Henry Tan to extend the vote of thanks to Dr William Tan. DG Henry noted that in keeping with Rotary International Theme “Be The Inspiration”, Dr Tan has indeed proven to be “inspiring”!

He added that Rotarians were present to give significance to World Polio Day; to achieve the goals and to show belief in the cause to End Polio. He called on each Rotarian to fill in the pledge slips and contribute to End Polio.



Mark Your Diary

Birthday Celebrants

RC sends Birthday greetings to celebrants this week:

Michael Haughey
Loo Lian Wee
Moshood Olaniyan
VP Manish Tibrewal

This Meeting

31 October 2018

Reception Desk duty: Directors Drs Rupesh Agrawal & Chan Siew Luen
Sunshine Box: PP Jimmy Ooi & Mandy Pascual

Speaker: Ms Damayanti Shahani, Founder & Managing Director, Principium Consulting Pte. Ltd.
Topic: "BridgeAble – Accelerating Social Impact"

Next Meeting

7 November 2018

Meeting cancelled in view of Deepavali holiday festivities



Anniversary Celebrants

RC sends best wishes to Wedding Anniversary celebrants this week:

Director Dr Hoh Sek Tien & Julie Vishal & Sonam Nanwani
PP P Balachandran & Rajini
PP Jimmy & Jane Ooi
Suresh & Meera Keerthi
Terry Lobaton & Glen Cabrey

Vocational Service Meeting

Vocational Service Committee Meeting will be held on:

Date: Thursday, 8 November

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: The Tanglin Club, Claymore & Draycott Rooms, 5 Stevens Road

Hosts: Rtns Asheesh Khaneja, Bala Venkatesan, Dr Claus Dusemund, Dr Hoon Sing Keow & VP Hassan Moosa

Community Service Meeting

Community Service Committee Meeting will be held on:

Date: Thursday, 1 November

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Pope Jai Thai, Scape, Orchard Link #03-03 S237978

Hosts: Rtns Ronald Wong & See Mee Lee



BE THE INSPIRATION

Coming Rotary Events

October

Economic and Community Development Month

November

Rotary Foundation Month

2-4 November – 30th Pan Borneo Meet 2018

10 November – District 3310 Inter City Bowling at SRC Esplanade Bowl from 6.00 pm to 11.00pm

10-11 November – Inter District Rotary Vocational & Community Visit cum Fellowship to Malaysia

22 November – The Entrepreneur of the Year Award Presentation at Ritz-Carlton Hotel

December

Disease Prevention & Treatment Month

3 December – RC Taipei's Charter Celebrations

14-17 December – Mission to India

14-16 December – District Rotaract Conference at Oasis Bay Resort, Johor

20 December – Christmas Fellowship

7 | Crossroads





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?

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.

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