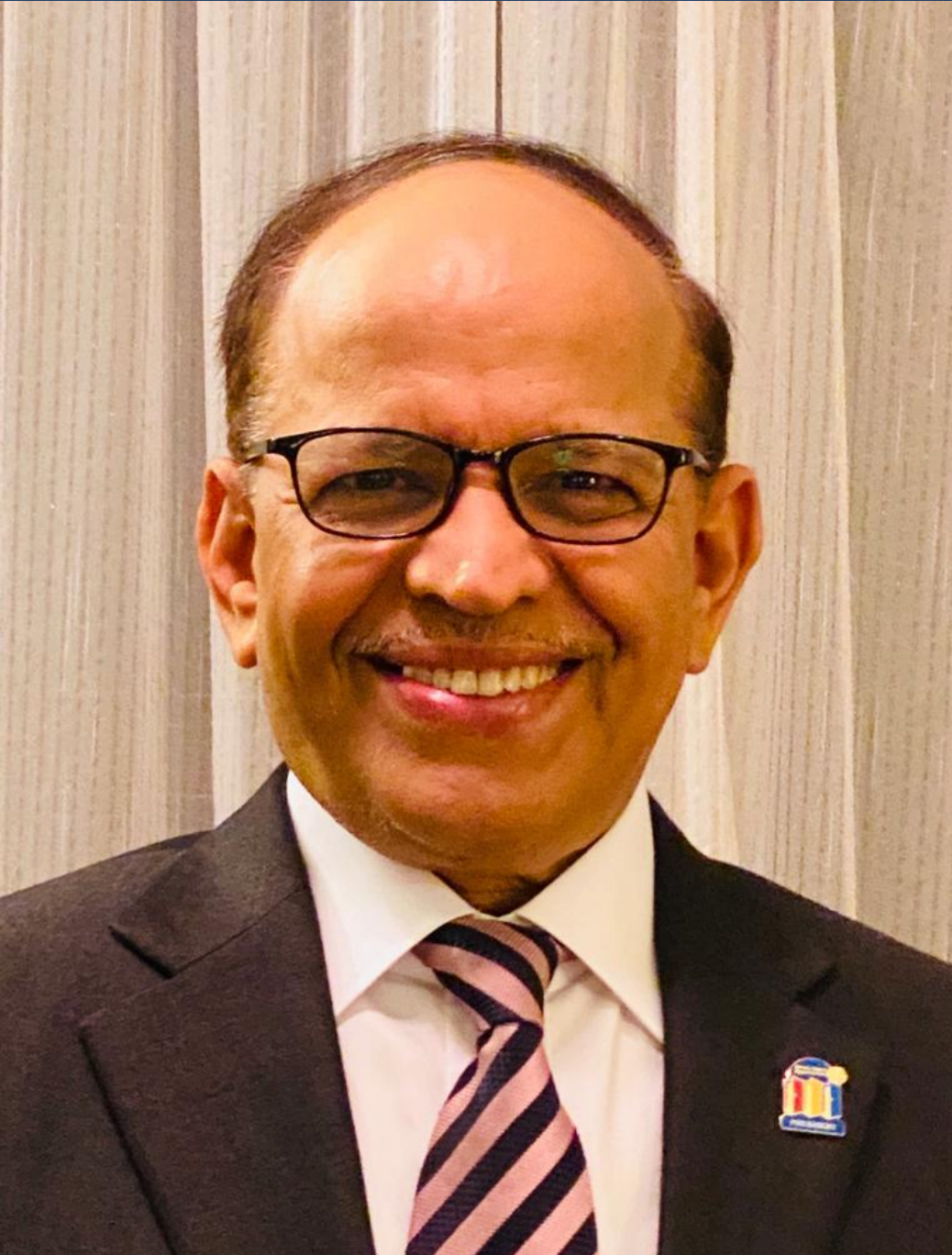




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Founded on June 6, 1930 | Proud of our Heritage, Committed to our Future
Lifetime Achievement Award Winner for 'Best Bulletin in District 3310'



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In Focus

President Dinesh's First 30 Days in Office

By: Honorary Member (HM) Past President (PP) Raymon Huang

It is now just past a month since our 86th President, Dinesh Sharma, took his rightful seat at the helm of the most vibrant Rotary Club in the District. As he settles down on the hottest seat in the Club and looks ahead, he must be having a whole stream of thoughts whizzing by – F1 Grand Prix-like. And as he looks down on the at the huge desk in front of him, he would see an enormous pile of plans and proposals for projects and programmes to be done in his Rotary Year. Very daunting. But knowing President Dinesh, he is the one with the aptitude and attitude to get it all done. And he has assembled a very good Board of Directors to work with him. But the President is the man of the moment. He will have a lot on his mind, and a lot more on his hands.

So I had a chat with President Dinesh the other day, when I asked him to share his early thoughts and plans with us members. The obliging chap that he is: No problem!

So I followed up by sending him five (5) questions – searching and probing questions on his first 30 days as President, and beyond. And here they are – the questions and the responses:

1. **Raymon:** *Now that you are just past a month into the Presidential groove- the President of a very vibrant club – please share with us members, your early thought and plans. I know these are early days.*

President: Yes, I have just completed a month in what you call the Presidential Groove of not only the most vibrant but prestigious and largest and oldest club in District 3310. It was evident as President Elect that I had to start planning for next Rotary year. I started brainstorming my ideas toward end of January 2019 with members of my Board Elect. Meanwhile, Covid-19 disrupted life, economy and business so we had to realign our plans and strategy.

The new Rotary year started well, we were able to put up our strategy and plans in club assembly which lasted in two meetings on Wednesdays. We have started implementation our plans in step already, like interactive meetings applying Zoom, rather than webinars, which allows us to have more interactive meetings.

We have also started having Club meeting and Service Committee meeting separately on Wednesdays and Thursdays, respectively. The objective is to give more time to these Service Committee Meetings as they are vital for our service to community. There was another reason to avoid the longer hours due to combined meetings.

We have introduced a new segment, KYFR (Know Your Fellow Rotarian) in weekly club meetings. Our members speak about their vocation and how they can apply in club activities.

I would say we started off well. Even as I am writing now, our YSC chair has very successfully concluded the 1st virtual ILTC (Interactor Leadership Training Camp).

2. **R:** *A pair of Gulliver shoes has been left for you and your Board to fill, what do you see the main challenges to be, to get it done.*

Pres: Rather than Gulliver's, we have decided to go with a bespoke pair instead, to meet the needs of the Club and Club members. Main challenge for us is that new Rotary year starts under global pandemic crisis, creating unprecedented circumstances where Club meetings are likely to be held virtually up to the end of the year. We are taking these challenges head on by converting adversity into opportunity. Members engagement without physical interaction will be a challenge.

In Focus

President Dinesh's First 30 Days in Office... *continued*

3. **R:** *Because of difficulties and disruptions caused by the pandemic many innovative practices have been initiated in the Club SOP. Do you envisage further innovations? Some ideas of them please.*

Pres: We have developed our own strategy and plans to face difficulties and disruption caused by pandemic from position of strength. We will use flexibility provided by online meetings in getting speakers from anywhere in the world. We already had Dr. Parag Khanna, a world class speaker in the first meeting. Many more to come. We will see closer cooperation with sister clubs and increased participation of members in virtual meetings as they save time and energy compared to attending physical meetings.

Due to limited physical activities, it is an opportune time to take stock and strengthen our club in areas of membership, club administration and finance. We will start engaging deeply our members and attract new members to achieve greater diversity invocation and demography. Already 15 new prospective members are in process of induction. Another area of focus will be Rotary Education through newly appointed Club Trainer, Rtn. James Lee and Rotary Learning Centre. We will continue with innovative ideas, as was amply demonstrated in the virtual installation of new Board, maintaining all protocols as would be in a physical meeting and live streaming, with attendees and viewers close to 450.

4. **R:** *The “new normal” is the current buzzword. How do you and your Board see it?*

Pres: New normal is not only a buzzword but it will be reality. New normal is to adapt to move on with Corona virus restrictions in place. Nobody can predict how long it will last. As we move on, we will find ways and means to achieve our set goals. We need to be prepared for example where members attend physical meetings with face masks on while observing social distancing and yet enjoying fellowship, networking and friendship. The meetings could be hybrid with combination of physical and virtual. We will continue with projects serving communities around us. Many proposals are in the pipeline already, in Vietnam, Cambodia, Philippines, India and Indonesia. Plans are in place to enhance Rotary image and publicize good work done and being done by our Club. All our Club meetings with world class speakers will be streamed live on YouTube to attract new members and let people know about our Club.

5. **R:** *You have an excellent Board to work with. Any special road map to take our Club to another peak?*

Pres: We have assembled an outstanding leadership team to carry out impactful community work while creating inspiring experience for our members. We have a clear mission – **“To strengthen our Club to generate lasting impact from our work while creating an inspiring experience for our members, engaging them with sense of purpose and fulfillment.”**

Our credo empowers to create positive **impact** by being **Innovative, Measurable, Proactive, Adaptable, Compassionate and Together**. We hope to bring all of our leadership on the same page to work as a team and make our club Strong, Vibrant and Relevant to our Motto ‘Service above Self’.

There you have it all.

Of course, plans are just plans, until and unless implemented. Also, I am sure there will be need for tweaking of some kind as we progress along. What is important is that the road ahead is charted. A road map is in place. Oh yes, there will be potholes and bogs. But we shall overcome them. And many milestones will be reached, as we did brilliantly last year. Together we will all try our darndest to make this troubled world a better place for those whom we serve in service.

As RY 20/21 RI President Holger Knaack says, “ there are many ‘Windows of Opportunity’ to do that.”

So Carry On, President Dinesh!

We are right behind you.

We wish you and your Board all success in all the service endeavours planned for this Rotary Year.

Last Week

3rd Club Meeting for Rotary Year 2020-2021 held on 29.7.20

PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

President Dinesh Sharma warmly welcome Honorary Members PPs Bhagwan Melwani, Chiang Shih Fang and fellow Rotarians. He added that just prior to the start of the Meeting, it was noted that the first month of the Rotary year was almost over. President Dinesh noted that it was a crucial period, at times anxious but now completed. He added that the Board had implemented some of the plans and would continue to improve as time goes by. He further welcome guests, adding some of whom were prospective members, he apologised for not being above to welcome them individually, however they were acknowledged by the members who invited them to the meeting. President Dinesh extended a special welcome to the Guest Speaker, Ms Melanie Cook as well.



President Dinesh Sharma

TOAST TO ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



PP Dr Yap Lip Kee

Toastmaster, PP Dr Yap Lip Kee noted the usual practice to couple the toast to a visiting Rotary Club with the toast to Rotary International, however as there were no club at this time, he invited members to join him in raising a toast to Rotary International.

HONORARY SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Honorary Secretary Brigitte Holtschneider announced the following:

- Community Service Committee will be held on Thursday, 6 August at 7.00 to 8.00pm on Zoom.
- Members were requested to attend the Extraordinary General Meeting which would be held after the the weekly meeting at about 8.05pm for the decision on the two items pertaining to the Rotary International Convention in Singapore in 2024. Rtn Brigitte advised that a poll function on Zoom would be utilised for voting purposes.



*Honorary Secretary
Brigitte Holtschneider*

CLUB'S ALMONER TEAM

President Dinesh announced the Club's Almoner Team for the year comprising of:

PP Jimmy Ooi (Chair)

PP Peter Tan

PE See Mee Lee

Rtn Jasbir Koh

He added that the Almoner Team would be on the ground to take care of members on leave. He added that the team have already been in touch with PP Stan Low who had undergone angioplasty surgery. President Dinesh added that he had also spoken with PP Stan who was in high spiritis with plans to hit the golf course soon.

Last Week

3rd Club Meeting for Rotary Year 2020-2021 held on 29.7.20



KYFR KNOW YOUR FELLOW ROTARIAN

President Dinesh introduced the KYFR speaker, Rtn Elizabeth Chee who joined the Club not so long ago. Rtn Elizabeth thanked President Dinesh and Rtn Brigitte for the opportunity to share a little about herself, adding that she would complete a year's members with the Club very soon. Rtn Elizabeth was born and studied in Singapore and in fact was a Rotaractor

from 1980 -83. She left Singapore in March 1990 and only returned in 2017, having lived in Sydney, Hong Kong and Shanghai. Rtn Elizabeth spoke of her career starting in Ernst & Young, GEC and L'Oreal to her current position as Deputy General Manager at Clarins.



Rtn Elizabeth Chee

Rtn Elizabeth also shared about her family and the efforts put in place to ensure that there were opportunities for bonding despite their busy schedules and living in different countries. She stated her belief on the importance of finding work/life balance and to integrate the sense of fun with work. Rtn Elizabeth further shared her varied interests such as food tasting, hiking, cycling, flower arrangements and nature, adding that she was looking forward to more Club activities once the COVID-19 pandemic is over.

GUEST SPEAKER: MS MELANIE COOK

TOPIC: THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

President Dinesh invited Rtn Pia Bruce to introduce the guest speaker, Ms Melanie Cook, Founder of Hyper Island, a futurist who considers herself an educator, systems thinker and a tech humanitas. Ms Cook started in data management in London, the majority of her career has been shaped by the imagination and innovation of digital technologies. She swiftly navigated the rapid-evolving terrains of data management and digital marketing and anchored herself in the technological area of digital business with her creative business school, Hyper Island.



Speaker, Ms Melanie Cook

Ms Cook's talk focused on the future of education and educational trends. She started her presentation by inviting members to participate in the "Teacher & Me" segment by leaving messages about a teacher who played an important role in their lives. She spoke of how COVID-19 has made an impact on how education was viewed and stressed the need to adapt and lead in a changing world in order to shape one's career in these uncertain times. (A copy of Ms Cook's talk is available upon request.)

President Dinesh called on Rtn Asheesh Khaneja to extend the Club's vote of thanks to Ms Cook for her timely talk on various aspects of education to members. Rtn Asheesh further encouraged members to listen to Ms Cook's enlightening talk on TED.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EOGM)

After guests were requested to leave the meeting, the EOGM proceedings were called to order by Hon. Secretary Brigitte Holtschneider who noted that quorum was achieved with 43 members present. After a presentation made by PDG Chew Ghim Bok, Chair of the Host Organisation Committee, Members were called upon to vote via Zoom poll – firstly for the amendment to the total contribution amount from \$480 to \$540 for 4.1/2 years (starting from 1st July 2020 to 2024) proposed by Rtn. Uttam Kripalani and seconded by PDG Dr Philbert Chin, with no objections received to the amendment. This followed by the resolutions for the purpose of considering the Foundation of Rotary Clubs (Singapore) Ltd. ("FRCS") proposal that all Rotarians:

1. pledge to participate actively and volunteer in the work of the Host Organisation Committee and
2. contribute \$120 each, annually for the Rotary Years 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24, totalling \$540 per Singapore Rotarian, towards defraying the expenses of the Rotary Convention in Singapore in 2024.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mark Your Diary

Birthday Celebrants

RC sends best wishes to Birthday celebrants next week:

Michelle Pearce

Dr M C Tong

Hon Member PP Dr Patrick Chin

This Meeting

5 August 2020
From 7.00 to 8.30pm

Speaker: Mr Arun Sharma, Business Consultant, Life Coach & Key Note Speaker

Topic: Monetise your talent

Next Meeting

12 August 2020
From 7.00 to 8.30pm

Speaker: Ms Sindu Sreebhavan, Founder & Bestselling Author, As Many Minds

Topic: Leadership aspects for the next Gen Z

Anniversary

There are no Wedding Anniversary celebrants this week



Coming Rotary

August
Membership and New Club Development Month

September
Basic Education and Literacy Month

October
Economic and Community Development Month

November
Rotary Foundation Month

December
Disease Prevention & Treatment Month

January
Vocational Service Month

Committee Meetings

All Service Committee Meetings will be held on Thursdays from 7.00 to 8.00pm

COMMUNITY SERVICE:
Thursday, 6 August

VOCATIONAL SERVICE:
Thursday, 13 August

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE:
Thursday, 20 August

YOUTH SERVICE:
Thursday, 27 August

GIFT OF LIFE

Children with cardiac problems to get help from Rotary's District 3300 & 3310

A full set of 3 editions - Book of Humour, Best of Humour & Bank of Humour, come in a beautifully designed box housing this set for only \$25.00

Please order a few sets of books for the Gift of Life Project, and place your orders with :
Hon. Member Rtn Rewa Mirpuri @
tel: 6241 9157 or
email: rewamirpuri@gmail.com

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?



Rotary Opens Opportunities

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 2020/2021

President

Immediate Past President

President Elect

Vice President (Membership)

Vice President (Digital Technology)

Hon. Secretary (Administration)

Hon. Treasurer (Finance)

Directors

Chair, Community Service

Chair, Vocational Service

Chair, International Service

Chair, New Generations Service

Director (Public Image & PR)

Dinesh Sharma

Deepak Nagrani

See Mee Lee

Suresh Keerthi

Colin Miles

Brigitte Holtschneider

Manish Tibrewal

Dr Irina Francken

Dr Chan Siew Luen

Varun Gulati

Dr Ganesh Ramalingam

Sonali Sinha

