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# The President – His First 100 Days

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The President – His First  
100 Days

By: HM PP Raymon Huang

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# In Focus

## The President – His First 100 Days

By: Hon. Member (HM) Past President (PP) Raymon Huang



HM PP Raymon Huang

October 8, 2020 was an auspicious day for President Dinesh – it marked his first major milestone in his Presidency. On that day, he completed his First 100 DAYS in office. How time flies! It seemed not too long ago that he was installed as our President, in a first-ever virtual Installation Ceremony.

When you are busy-busy, time does fly! President Dinesh has indeed been caught up, not just in the rush-hour traffic, but coping with the demands of the new norms. True, he has a high calibre Board of Directors to help him along. And, indeed, his A-Team has been at full stretch. The excellent mix of experienced Old Guards and eager Young Guns has done very well. All in all, it has been a hectic time.

It is in this light that I spoke with President Dinesh, asking him to share his experiences in his first one hundred days in office, as well to give a canvas of things to come – his learnings in this journey, problems encountered, and plans in motion. Here we go!

**HM PP Raymon:** *What are the new experiences you have gained in your first 100 days. With the fresh ideas gained, how could you apply them to make our Club even better?*

**President Dinesh:** Being President of the largest Rotary Club in the District 3310, with 90 years of history and 155 members from 25 nationalities, it is imperative to learn and gain new experience all the time. However due to Covid 19 and restrictions on movements, all Club and Service meetings are held virtually with no physical interaction.

We had to adapt to the new normal and innovate the ways we keep members engaged. More and more members want to move out and participate in field activities. The senior members would like to see Rotary traditions and protocols being adhered to while the club achieves greater heights. The aspirations of younger, newer members are to see vibrancy in the club where they can network and have more fellowship and gain experiences in community projects and leadership. They want to know more about our Club, heritage, and our achievements to be proud of. It is a challenge to carry out changes in a volunteer organisation while catering to diverse needs.

We are taking the challenge head on to provide better experiences to the members and set an example and make RCS a model, other clubs would like to emulate. At the same time as per our strategy and plans, we have to re-engineer the back end to make our club super-efficient using technology and hire new staff equipped with knowledge for digital transformation.

For the first time, we have created 5 Club committees in addition to four established service committees. These are Membership, Public Image, Club Administration, Club Rotary Foundation and Finance. Each of the committees has its members to keep them directly engaged in various areas of functioning and working as part of the solutions. It is working extremely well with active participation of our members both new and experienced and Past Presidents who are engaged in giving their valuable advice to younger Rotarians.

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# In Focus

Our new programme 'KYFR' ( Know Your Fellow Rotarian) is well accepted and becoming popular, where we ask one member, both new and seniors, to speak about themselves, their vocation and how they are applying it to Rotary. For members who are asking for updates of activities, we have started another slot during the weekly meetings "What's Happening" where we inform about key activities by service and club committees.

For fresh and newly inducted members, and for those who really need refresher's course, a new programme slot is planned and will start soon in the weekly meetings which will be named 'BEING A ROTARIAN'. Our most senior members will speak from their experiences, what it means to be a Rotarian. The speakers will also talk about Rotary values, "Service Above Self" & "Four Way Test", "Guide to Daily Living" and so on. How we can integrate these values in daily living and make our Club experience unforgettable. A small step to make our Club cohesive where members share love, happiness and joy and engage in service to communities in Singapore and around the world through our partner clubs.

**Raymon:** *Membership - Have all the 15 potential members lined up and are ready for induction been conducted? Do you feel members' response to the call to duty has improved significantly?*

**President Dinesh:** We have already inducted 8 members and 5 are in the last phase of induction after our lengthy and well-established process that makes a total 13 new members. Another batch of 4 + 2 potential members have initiated the process. It is a record number in the first 100 days. I will not call it the number but the extremely qualified candidates who will blend and bring diversity being from different vocations and nationalities. Most of the members are young in their late 30s, which is essential for renewal of our Club and to bring fresh ideas.

The bane of Rotary Clubs around the world has been a decline in membership. Therefore, our Board decided to make it a priority to attract and retain members. To acquire good members, we have improved our branding strategies and created awareness through social media. Most of the new members inducted since 2018, are being involved in newly created Club committees.

The attraction of new members and some of the Ex members joining back is the result of a new vibrancy in the Club. Our speaker's subcommittee is proactively inviting extremely good speakers on relevant topics. Our Club meetings with world-class speakers are being made available on YouTube. I expect the trend to continue and we expect 25 new members this year.

I would say an emphatic 'yes' to members' response to Call of Duty as we see Rotarian volunteers ready to join the groups required for a service. Even with restriction in movements we have conducted several volunteer trips maintaining social distancing and other safety precautions.

Members have shown their generosity by actively contributing to the retirement fund of Ms Ivy who served the club for 25 years.

**Raymon:** *What is in store in next 260 odd days?*

**President Dinesh:** I said in my first Q & A session, we are working on a plan and strategy with a Mission and Credo. Most of the work is in progress and some has been accomplished already. But I can confidently say we are on the right track. I can summarise as follows, what is in store –

Membership is the backbone of our Club. We have plans to acquire new members to maintain diversity, demography, and younger members for Club renewal. We will continue to engage them in various Club committees; we will ensure new members are from diverse professions, culture, and demography. We have world class speakers lined up to the end of the year 2020.

## In Focus

We will embark on Rotary education, which we believe is a good way to engage members and new members to learn about Rotary. Our target is to have 100% members registered on 'My Rotary' where a wealth of knowledge and Rotary leadership and many real-life improvement subjects are available. We already had a first training session attended by 22 mostly new members conducted by our Club trainer Rtn James Lee.

As part of strengthening of our Club, we have started on streamlining of accounts. After the graceful retirement of Ms Ivy, Ms Linda Lim has been hired as Account and Admin Executive who will contribute in achieving our plans.

As per our strategic plan, we will adapt the new 2019 Constitution, implement the Three Years Strategy committee report, and amend Bylaws and SOPs as per a well planned process. It is work in progress, which includes investments of donors' funds available for years to utilise the returns for the purpose intended for. Being a Premier Club, we need to take a lead in implementation of the latest RI guidelines, 2019 Constitution which are flexible, simplified, and helpful in implementation of our strategic plans and the five priorities set by RI.

Last but not the least, we are working on finalising the Club's major project this year which will be sustainable and making an impact on our communities in need in Singapore.

I thank you HM & PP Raymon for asking me very intense questions and giving me the opportunity to put my views on my first 100 days.

There you have it. Thank you, Mr President.

It is important that the general membership knows what is keeping us vibrant as a Club, why it keeps on ticking so well, as well as what is in the offing. President Dinesh's excellent response to my prodding has enlightened many of us who have not been able to participate in the current virtual meetings. We have 155 members. That is a lot of information to feed to. So far, year after year, we have kept RC of Singapore's flag flying high, not only in the District, but Internationally. Let us keep it that way!

Congratulations, President Dinesh – and your Board – on completing and crossing your First 100 DAYS with such aplomb.





# Last Week

## 13th Club Meeting for Rotary Year 2020-2021 held on 14.10.20

### OPENING REMARKS

The meeting was opened by Sergeant-at-Arms, Rtn Jean-Philippe Lionnet who reminded members of the meeting rules before handing the Chair to President Dinesh Sharma.

President Dinesh Sharma warmly welcomed Honorary Members PP Bhagwan Melwani and Mohan Vaswani, adding that they were inspiring members with their attendance at the weekly meetings from the very start. He thanked the Speaker, Mr David Seow for accepting the Club's invitation to address members. President Dinesh also welcomed guests including Rtn. Leela Singaram Champ from Zambia, stating that more guests were expected.



President Dinesh Sharma

### TOAST TO ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



Toastmaster was none other than Honorary Secretary Rtn Brigitte Holtschneider who invited members to join her in a toast to Rotary Club of Lusaka Metro, Zambia coupled with the toast to Rotary International.

Rtn Brigitte Holtschneider

### HONORARY SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hon Secretary Rtn Brigitte then continued with the announcements:

- International Service Committee (ISC) which would be chaired by Director Varun Gulati on 15 October at 7.00pm, which will be a hybrid meeting.
- Community Service Committee (CSC) will be supporting the Food from the Heart on Saturday, 17 October from 10am to 1pm for distribution of food.

### STEP UP TO END POLIO 2020

President Dinesh called on Rtn Adnan Ansari who invited all Rotarians, family members and friends to join the fund raising drive "Step Up to End Polio 2020" and to put the Club on top of the donor's list! He called on members to make their US\$35 (S\$50) before World Polio Day on 24 October, to eradicate Polio completely from this Globe. All Rotarians, family and friends of Rotarians are welcome to register and participate, by clicking the web link:

<https://forms.gle/8brZYdAsnZFFUA4r5>



Rtn Adnan Ansari

Rtn Adnan also informed members of the weekly walks for the Participants every Sunday morning in groups (max. of 5pax in each), while observing all mandatory social distancing rules from authorities. He added that the participants have been exploring some beautiful spots and parks in our tiny red dot 'Singapore' during these group-walks, while enjoying meeting fellow Rotarians and prospective members in person. The fellowship breakfasts after the walks gave opportunities to make up for much needed physical interaction among members, which were otherwise rare in this 'Circuit-breaker' time during Covid-19. Rtn Adnan showed some photos of the wonderful fellowship walks and invited members to join in.

# Last Week

## 13th Club Meeting for Rotary Year 2020-2021 held on 14.10.20

### “WHAT’S HAPPENING”

President Dinesh briefly highlighted some of the events which were took place during the week:

- Saturday, 10 October saw the Club’s first session by Club Trainer, Rtn James Lee, where 22 members participated in an introduction to “My Rotary”. This session was organised by Public Image Director Rtn Sonali Sinha, and more sessions will be planned for the future.
- The Club with Rotary Club of Jurong Town organised a forum on mental health held on 10 October, which saw 3 wonderful speakers. President Dinesh thanked Community Service Director Dr Irina Francken for her efforts in this worthy project to which he donated \$1,000.
- The Club participated in the Joint District 3300/3310 Seeing Eye to Eye Conference for which PP Dr Yap Lip Kee donated M\$5,000. President Dinesh thanked International Service Director Varun Gulati for his efforts and Rtn Dr Hoh Sek Tien who was a speaker at the conference.
- President Dinesh advised that there was a conference organised by Rotary Club of Hooghly, attended by Rotary International PE Shekhar Mehta who thanked the Club’s contributions in the Global Grant projects.

### KYFR KNOW YOUR FELLOW ROTARIAN



President Dinesh called upon Rtn Horst Hagemann who shared with members his youth years in the underdeveloped countryside of central Germany. He highlighted the various cities in which he was educated and the internship he completed in Singapore in 2001. He advised that he was always in the financial services. Rtn Horst spoke of his lovely family and added that he became a Singaporean in 2012. He advised that he is a

passionate runner and speaks Mandarin (HSK Mandarin Level 3). He travels extensively and so far has travelled to 59 countries and enjoys visiting other Rotary Clubs. Rtn Horst not only volunteers in Rotary, but does voluntary work with LGT Lightstone and PA (People’s Association) where he welcomes new citizen/PRs to Singapore.



*Rtn Horst Hagemann*

### GUEST SPEAKER: MR DAVID SEOW G.S.

#### TOPIC: THOUGHT LEADERSHIP – HOW THE WHOLE BRAIN WORKS

President Dinesh called upon Rtn Sudhir Tiku to introduce the Speaker Mr David Seow who is a Corporate Trainer specializing in Leadership and Profiling. David’s passion in training and coaching has ensured that participants are enriched and benefited from his delivery since 1998 to a varied clientele.

At the start of his presentation, Mr Seow spoke of the ever changing uncertain world and if we are prepared for these uncertainties. He noted the various business challenges being faced and the evolution of work. Mr Seow noted the need to understand the power of our brain and how to maximise it for better results and performance. He further emphasised the importance of the Thinking brain and Feeling brain which would have great impact in the thinking and decision quality as leaders. He encouraged members whenever analysing situations, making decisions or engaging with others to see things from all four quadrants of the whole brain.

President Dinesh invited Director Sonali Sinha who warmly thanked Mr Seow for his excellent introduction to how the whole brain works and how to engage all the quadrants in order to apply to individuals, organisations and country.



*Speaker  
David Seow G.S.*

# Mark Your Diary

## Birthday Celebrants

RC sends best wishes to Birthday celebrant next week:

PP Jimmy Ooi

## This Meeting

**21 October 2020**  
**From 7.00 to 8.30pm**

**Speaker:** Dr Chong Mei Sian, Senior Consultant Geriatrician & Medical Director, The Geriatric Practice

**Topic:** Road to Cognitive Wellness – A Holistic Approach

## Next Meeting

**28 October 2020**  
**From 7.00 to 8.30pm**

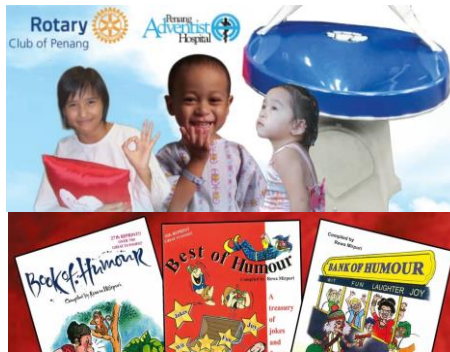
**Fellowship Event**

## Anniversary

RC sends best wishes to Wedding Anniversary celebrants this week:

Frank & Fancy Pao

Toshiya & Atsuko Kimura



## Coming Rotary

October  
*Economic and Community Development Month*

November  
*Rotary Foundation Month*

December  
*Disease Prevention & Treatment Month*

January  
*Vocational Service Month*

February  
*Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month*

March  
*Water and Sanitation Month*

## Committee Meetings

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

**YOUTH SERVICE:**  
**Thursday, 22 October**

## 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

Dinesh Sharma

Immediate Past President

Deepak Nagrani

President Elect

See Mee Lee

Vice President (Membership)

Suresh Keerthi

Vice President (Digital Technology)

Colin Miles

Hon. Secretary (Administration)

Brigitte Holtschneider

Hon. Treasurer (Finance)

Manish Tibrewal

*Directors*

Chair, Community Service

Dr Irina Francken

Chair, Vocational Service

Dr Chan Siew Luen

Chair, International Service

Varun Gulati

Chair, New Generations Service

Dr Ganesh Ramalingam

Director (Public Image & PR)

Sonali Sinha

