



Rotary Crossroads

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May is Youth Services month

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In Focus

A Tribute to Youth – The “GN”

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



HM PP Raymon Huang

The merry month of May is, in Rotary, “**Youth Service Month**”. So designated by Rotary International in tribute to the Young Ones, who I term as the “Generation Now” or “GN” for short. Rotary lauds them for their enthusiasm and vigour in their contribution in so many partnership programmes and projects.

Many nice things have so often been said about youth. There is an abundance of quotable quotes related to youth. Let me quote but a few – like:

- They are our future.
- The future lies in their hands.
- Almost everything that is great has been done by youth
– Benjamin Disraeli.
- It is Rotary’s “Fifth Avenue of Service”.

Today’s generation of youth – the GN – is well informed. Generally well equipped with the best of recent technology. They have it in the palm of their hands. Those who do not, make it up with their eagerness and energy. All this make their contribution so much more meaningful in their partnership projects with us. It is thus no small wonder that Youth Service is referred to as Rotary’s “Fifth Avenue of Service”. We are all very familiar with Rotary’s established and well-known “Four Avenues of Service”. Understanding the “Four Avenues” gives us greater insight into and meaning of “The Object of Rotary”. The “Fifth Avenue of Service” – Youth Service – adds on to the impact and thrust of “The Object”.

Youth Service, as most of us are fully aware of, takes many forms – from Rotaract, Interact, to Rotary Youth Exchange, etc. all of which are, of course, Rotary related as they are Rotary-sponsored. In this context, we are so often reminded that Rotary has a slogan, which says, “Every Rotarian an Example to Youth”. Rotary International adopted this slogan in 1949. It is a commitment to youth wherever Rotary exists. Youth Service has always been an important component of Rotary’s programme. Indeed, it is an integral part. In addition, Rotarians are always in a position to be role models to them. So it is our responsibility, and duty, to make time for them, to share our talent with them and to give some of our treasure to them where needed, e.g.

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In Focus

for scholarships. Because in turn these would be passed on to the community as they grow and mature in education, skills and self-development, and do community service. As young people, these are their basic needs.

At RCS, this Service to the New Generation encompasses nine (9) Interact Clubs, three (3) Rotaract Clubs plus most of the other Rotary Youth Service programmes. These young ones, our partners in our service to society, connect Rotary's fundamental human values with the Community, bolstering our own efforts. Rotary backs them all the way. The Rotary Foundation too. As they perform their good deeds, they develop leadership skills, personal integrity and compassion. In addition, quite imperceptibly, they help to promote understanding and goodwill among community; these are precious items this much-troubled world would need so badly.

Rotary International today has some 1.2 million members spread over 200 countries and geographical regions. Add on to these numbers our Youth partners, and you see at once the immense connectivity created as we serve society, and the massive impact on the lives of those to whom we lend a helping hand. Moreover, the GN can take a big chunk of the credit, for they are as much in the forefront as we are.

Like their adult counterparts, youth too has its own problems – waywardness, drugs, gangs, in particular in the Third World Countries. Rotary also wades into these troubled waters in “rescue” missions that provide corrective counselling, employment programmes, and abuse prevention. Rotarians are not just mentors in these efforts; they are the role models, real “examples to youth”. Records of happy conclusions in these difficult efforts are available aplenty.

Similarly, accounts where partnerships between Rotary and Youth make a real, big difference in the lives of communities abound.

Thus, this specially designated “**Youth Service Month**” of May is dedicated to, and in celebration of, as well as a salute to the part Youth plays in trying to help to make the world a better place. It lays focus on the scale of contribution Youth is making. As Rotarians, we are not just happy, but thankful that we have such partners in service.

Rotary, in designating a month as “**Youth Service Month**” pays a special tribute to and salutes the Young Ones.



Last Week

Last Week – Report on the Online Meeting – Wednesday 20 May 2020

OPENING REMARKS

President Deepak opened the Club's online 40th meeting at 8.00pm.

He called upon Rtn Miha Hribernik who extended a warm welcome to PDGs, guests, spouses, fellow Rotarians and Guest Speaker, Ms Isabella Huang-Loh.



Rtn Miha Hribernik

TOAST

President Deepak called upon International Service Committee (ISC) Director Mamta Shahani to raise a toast, and thanked her for an exciting and informative ISC meeting held prior to the weekly meeting.

Rtn Mamta added that she was pleased to have attending the meeting, PP Ayu Surya from Rotary Club (RC) of Bali Denpasar and AG Hari from RC Bali Tirta Gangga, and invited them to a few words about their respective clubs. Following which, Rtn Mamta called on members to join her in raising a toast to both Bali Denpasar and Bali Tirta Gangga clubs with the traditional toast to Rotary International.



ISC Dir Mamta Shahani

NEW MEMBERS' INDUCTION



President Deepak noted that even with the COVID 19 situation, he was pleased that there were two members to be inducted to the Club. He called on Vice President Bala Venkatesan to introduce his candidate, Rtn Vinit Sarangdhar, a fellow alumni from his business school. He graduated with M.Sc. (Physics) – Department of Physics, University of Pune and MMS (Finance) – Jamnalal Bajaj Institute for Management Studies, University of Mumbai. Rtn Vinit has worked in a wide variety of banks and has since formed his own company, Alpha Quest Pte Ltd. His classification is "Financial Services: Investment Advisory".

Rtn Vinit Sarangdhar



Next, President called upon PP Paliath "Mohan" Mohandas who introduced his candidate, Rtn Sonali Sinha. PP Mohan advised that Rtn Sonali established her firm, SoaringEagles Pte Ltd, an executive coaching and leadership development company. She was a previous member of the second largest Rotary Club in Mumbai, RC Mumbai Queen's Necklace and was elected as the club's President Nominee. Her classification is "Executive Coaching".

Rtn Sonali Sinha

President Deepak proceeded to induct Rtns Sonali and Vinit to the Club, and recommended them to join the Vocational Service Committee, adding that their Mentor would be PP Peter Tan.

Both, Rtns Sonali and Vinit were invited to address members after their induction to the Club. Rtn Sonali added that it was a joy to be of service to the community and thanked PP Mohan for his welcoming force. Rtn Vinit thanked VP Bala and Rtn Suresh Keerthi for their encouragement and he would do his best to contribute. Rtn Vinit added that his brother is a veteran Rotarian and he comes from a second generation of Rotarians.



Last Week

RECAP OF ACTIVITIES

President Deepak gave a brief summary of activities undertaken last week:

- Friends of the VSC – Ms Rachel Wong, Overall winner of the Entrepreneur of the Year (EYA) 2019 and Mr. Dennis Teo, the 2016 winner of the EYA in the established entrepreneur category, shared their experiences as successful entrepreneurs. PP Deepak advised that both entrepreneurs were given an open invitation to attend VSC meetings, Club and VSC service and fellowship/networking events. They would also be included in specially curated FVSC WhatsApp group and recognised on the FVSC Wall of Fame.
- President Deepak advised that the Board was working on amendments to the Club's Standard Operating Procedures on the Club Rotary Foundation and Membership.
- Club's Major Project – citing Martin Luther King's quote *"If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way"*, President Deepak reiterated the four projects were launched and underway by the Service Committees, which needed support. President Deepak reminded members of the following:
 - Vocational Service Committee with HCSA for a Culinary Training Programme with a goal to give a cohort of students a second chance, by undergoing 6-week course which would offer a 100% placement in decent paying jobs in F&B establishments. There are also plans to start a Rotary Community Corp, Global Grant and VSC mentors for this project.
 - International Service Committee with partner, Rotary Club of Bali Denpasar are working on a Water Project to make water more accessible for 600 Villagers in Bali, where the water source is at the bottom of steep mountain. The Project solution is to pump water up to the village at the top and to provide clean water filtration in every home.
 - Youth Service Committee's Accendo Project illuminates issues around mental health, started a Webinar held on 9th May and will continue to spread awareness to all 27 Interact Clubs in Singapore in collaboration with IMH on a pilot mental literacy program.
 - Community Service Committee's project with Aidha will provide foreign domestic workers with personal financial and entrepreneur skills to save money to start a sustainable business and contribute to their community. The project is expected to start in August/September.
- President Deepak thanked Honorary Secretary Shamin Vaswani who designed and donated a pair of beautiful earrings for the Major Project which raised \$7,100. However, President Deepak noted that more funds were needed and called on members to donate.



ENHANCING ROTARY IMAGE THROUGH GLOBAL GRANTS ON ZOOM

President Deepak advised members of the following webinar that will be held on Thursday May 21, to be hosted by Rotary Club (RC) of Surabaya with technical support RC Singapore led by PP Dr Yap Lip Kee. The programme includes an introduction by PDG Achmad Mufid Wahyudi, updates from RID 3420- DG Febri Hapsari Dipokusumo, updates from RID 3410 – RC Jakarta Metropolitan Enhancing Rotary Image Through Global Grants by PP Dr Shahul Hameed and updates from Bangladesh by RPIC Showket.



Last Week

Speaker: Ms Isabella Huang-Loh
Chairman, Singapore Environment Council (SEC)

Topic: “Climate Change and Going Low Carbon”

President Deepak invited PP Perlita Tiro to introduce the Guest Speaker, Ms Isabella Huang-Loh who is Chairman of the Singapore Environment Council, a position she has held since 2008. She was with Shell as Chairman of Shell Marine Products and CEO and Vice President for Global Marine Fuels and Lubricants. Earlier she was President and CEO of SembCorp Environmental Management. She is a non-Executive Board of Director of AIG Asia Pacific and sat on global boards of various companies.

Ms Huang-Loh was awarded PBM in 2017, she holds a Bachelors (Hons) Degree in Aeronautical Engineering from Imperial College and a Masters of Science degree in Management Science from MIT.

Prefixing her presentation, Ms Huang-Loh noted that the greenhouse and global warming effects were well known; she recommended members to view the documentary titled 535AD describing the catastrophic Krakatoa’s eruption and the devastation brought on to mankind. She further noted that unsustainable practices pose climatic risks and health threats and that climate change was her to stay, however, Ms Huang-Loh added that the Singapore government was taking steps to mitigate its impact.

Ms Huang-Loh highlighted SEC’s key accomplishments and milestones in environmental issues. She gave a succinct overview of SEC’s four “Green Trend Lines” in championing environmental activities. She advised on some interesting developments in Singapore’s legislation targeted at zero waste masterplan which would include regulatory ways for looking and thinking about food waste. She gave informative details on packaging strategy, Green Finance and Green Growth to champion climate change risks. To conclude her presentation, Ms Huang-Loh graciously answered questions posed to her from the floor.

To extend the Club’s vote of thanks, President Deepak called upon “his environmental guru” Rtn Suresh Hathiramani, who warmly thanked Ms Huang-Loh for her talk which imparted a lot of information within 30 minutes. Rtn Suresh advised that the Club has a long association with SEC when more than 20 years ago with the “Save Water and Electricity” project in the Bishan/Toa Payoh constituency, which was replicated in other constituencies as well. Rtn Suresh noted that SEC was doing stellar work as evident in Ms Huang-Loh’s presentation, and he hoped that some projects could be done jointly.



*Ms Isabella
Huang-Loh*



PP Perlita Tiro



*Rtn Suresh
Hathiramani*



Mark Your Diary

Birthday Celebrants

RC sends best wishes to Birthday celebrants this week:

Mahesh Kumar Bolimbala
Jasbir Koh

Anniversary Celebrants

RC sends best wishes to Wedding Anniversary celebrants:

Dr Hans & Patricia Schniewind
PP Peter & Shirley Tan
Ronil & Reshma Sujan

Committee Meetings

Service Committee Meetings are held prior to the Weekly Meetings.

This Meeting

27 May 2020

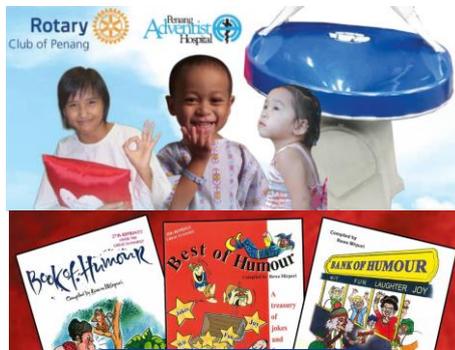
Speaker: Dr Daniel Fung, Chairman
Medical Board of Singapore's
Institute of Mental Health

Topic: Sanity in the Time of
Sanitising

Next Meeting

3 June 2020

**Community Service
Committee Meeting,
followed by the Club's
Weekly Meeting.**



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Coming Rotary Events

May
Youth Service Month

June
Rotary Fellowships Month

6 June—Club's 90th Year Celebration



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:

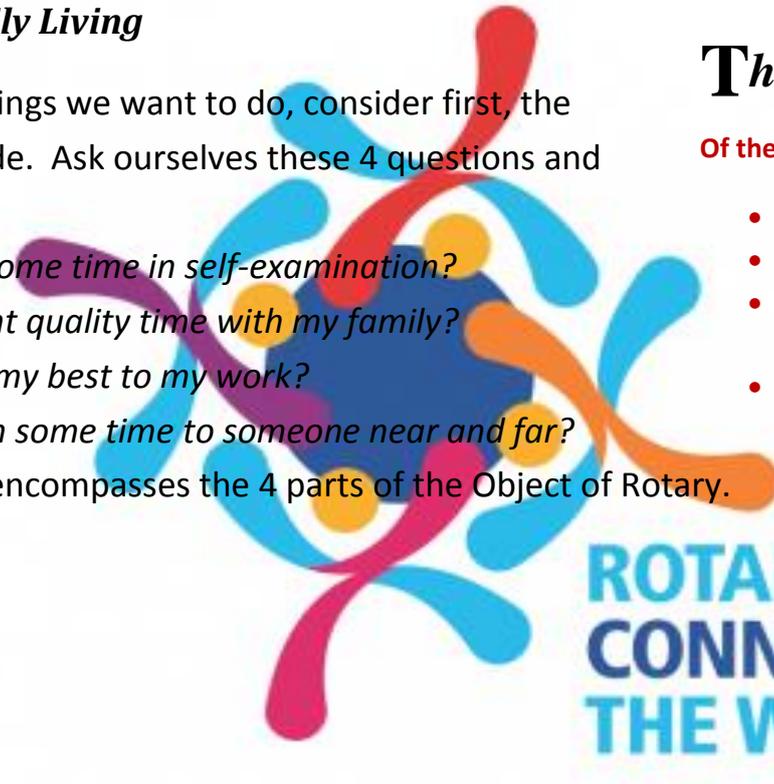
First: *Have I spent some time in self-examination?*

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.



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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| | |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
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