



Intercountry
Committees

Rotary



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Inter Country Committee (ICC) NEWS LETTER

Vol.1 January 2024 issue 10 quarterly





General Information

The initiation, implementation and continuous coordination of projects between a particular Inter Country Committee (ICC) pair of countries is done by working committee in each country mirroring the other. Each country working committee has office bearers: National Section Head, a Vice National Section head, Hony. Secretary, Treasurer and at least one member from each participant district. The office bearers as above alternate between the participant districts.

The role of ICC is analogous to a rotary embassy of one country responsible for continuous communication with the rotary embassy of other ICC paired country/ies. The difference from National Country embassies is that in rotary case the ICC embassy remains in its own country in each pairing.

Through continuous communication of ICC paired countries working committees evolve bonds of friendship, credibility and information exchange on cultural / business and ongoing / potential rotary service projects which lead to mutually beneficial collaboration between Rotarians of paired countries to achieve successful community service projects in each country/ other countries if required.

The ICC is a resource to rotary districts regarding international service projects initiation and implementation and includes exchange of knowledge, technology, finance and evaluation of community service projects.

The ICC proactively supplements the projects completion effort of every participating rotary district in a staff role. The executive governance of each rotary district remains with the district governor and his district officer in accordance with applicable rotary constitutional documents and rotary code of policies.



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MESSAGE

FROM NATIONAL CO-ORDINATOR
PDG DEEPAK TALWAR

Inter country committees (ICC) In Rotary

The ICC is an affiliate program accredited by Rotary international and similar to rotary action groups (R.A.G.S.) based on common hobbies or service areas of interest. It is not a program administered by the Rotary board of Directors. The ICC is managed by an Executive Council which elects/ selects its office bearers every two years.

The objectives of an ICC are encouraging sustained contact between Rotarians, rotary clubs and rotary districts in two or more paired districts. The sustained contact leads to deep bonds of friendship, sister clubs arrangements, friendship/ family exchange delegations, business delegations, cultural assimilation and joint community service implementation collaboration in each paired country. The program gives a true flavor and experience of Internationality of Rotary. When all districts in a country agree to an ICC with all districts of another country, we have an ICC with its memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.), charter of activities and an official charter as per template approved by ICC executive committee.

In process of forming an ICC , if minimum two districts in each paired ICC country wish, they may form an sub national ICC and gradually invite other districts in each country to join the program by signing a protocol of Agreement.

The work of the sub national/ National ICC is carried out by following:

1. National Coordinator (NC) in each country who oversees and motivates rotary clubs and districts in his/ her country to form an ICC



ICC working committee mirrored in each paired country led by a National Section head/ President/ Chair person , A vice Chair, a Hon secretary, a treasurer and two Rotarian members deputed by district governor of each participant district.

These committees in each paired country will initiate activities in consonance with objectives given above. Each activity is recommended to be monitored, finance arrangements made and recorded and contributions from committee members from each district are expected when their district is involved. The tenure of the working committee is indefinite subject to explicit consent of the National Coordinator in consultation with current district governors and approval of ICC executive committee.

We in India, till date have 46 ICCs at sub national level and 28 more are in pipeline. Since rotary internationally is present in 200 plus countries, the potential to form ICCs is immense. The ethos of an ICC is fellowship and service with humanity at its core over riding technicalities, positions and titles the role of which is just responsibility. Through this periodic E newsletter we will share with you salient information on ICCs formed, those in progress and potentials within our reach. We will also share snippets/ summary of accomplishments of ICCs over a period of time.

I encourage you to contact us and with consent of your district governor become a part of this wonderful program to give true shape and substance to the essence of rotary international mission: "We the people without boundaries join hands to do projects to make a positive sustained impact on lives of challenged world communities and in return earn their blessings which enrich our spirit enveloping it in perennial happiness.

Warm Regards
PDG Deepak Talwar
National Coordinator (ICC)



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M.O.U.s SIGNED WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

INDIA

ARMENIA, BANGLADESH, BELARUS, BELGIUM-
LUXEMBURG, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, CYPRUS, EGYPT,
FRANCE, GEORGIA, GERMANY, GREAT BRITAIN-
IRELAND, GREECE, INDONESIA, ISRAEL, ITALY-
MALTA- SAN MARINO, JORDAN, LEBANON,
LITHUANIA, MALAYSIA, MOLDOVA, PAKISTAN,
PALESTINE, PORTUGAL, RUSSIA, SPAIN,
SRILANKA- MALDIVES, SWITZERLAND -
LIECHTENSTEIN, TANZANIA-UGANDA,
TURKEY, UAE, NEPAL, CANADA,
U.S.A., ZAMBIA, NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE
MALAWI, ZIMBABWE. ARGENTINA



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M.O.U.s IN PROCESS

INDIA

BAHRAIN, TUNISIA, PHILLIPINES,
TAIWAN, AUSTRALIA,
HONGKONG, NEW ZEALAND,
TIMOR-LESTE,
SINGAPORE, THAILAND,
SOUTH AFRICA, MOROCCO,
(WEST INDIES) ANGUILLA, BAHAMAS,
B.V.I., CAYMAN ISLANDS, HAITI,
JAMAICA, TURKS & CAICOS, U.S.V.I., ST.
MARTIN, GHANA, BENIN, NIGER, TOGO,
SERBIA-MONTENEGRO



SAMPLE M.O.U.

Rotary



Inter-Country Committees
Comités Inter-Pays



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTER COUNTRY COMMITTEE
(ICC) BETWEEN INDIA AND CANADA**

Dated: Monday June 26th 2023

The rotarians, Rtn. Deepak Talwar and Rtn. Nevine Yassa, ICC National Coordinators of India and Canada, respectively, along with ICC initiating and forming districts through their current district governors mentioned here in under agree to sign this MOU in order to encourage continuous contacts between interactors, rotaractors, rotarians, rotary clubs rotary districts (herein after called as rotary entities) and service minded non rotary entities of both countries to promote and facilitate fellowship, intercultural understanding and community service projects between India and Canada and other countries if required.

To reach these said objectives, the ICC working committee of each country will facilitate periodic continuous communication between themselves, rotary entities and service minded non rotary entities.

Through continuous communication among other things, the ICC working team/s will promote and facilitate individual or group friendship exchanges, business and cultural delegations / develop a network of paired sister clubs in each country and facilitate them to have virtual / physical joint meetings to support current and future Rotary club, rotary district and rotary partners service projects, including the Rotary Foundation Global Grants.

The two countries ICC working committees will further act as bridge to connect non Rotarian individuals and entities to join rotary projects in both countries/ other countries to awaken and keep alive the rotary spirit in societies and communities.

It is understood that the ICC actions and activities are a proactively available resource, support and supplement available to districts in each country to support their service goals to meet the objectives of the rotary movement.



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Inter-Country Committees
Comités Inter-Pays

Under the above conditions agreed and accepted by the two national sections of ICC India - Canada, they will follow a mutually acceptable time bound charter of activities in accordance with ICC terms and conditions applicable in rotary constitutional documents and rotary code of policies and abide by procedures and policies set by the ICC Executive Council of rotarians which oversees implementation of ICC objectives in world rotary.

The national coordinators of each country in due course, agree to regularly invite non participant districts in each country through their district governors to join this ICC by signing the established protocol of agreement and deputing at least one district rotarian to serve on the country ICC section working committee.

This M.O.U. signed by the participant districts through their below mentioned district Governors as on date and the ICC National Coordinators of the two countries, as on date, establishes the ICC between India and Canada.

The President of the ICC India – Canada from the side of India will be Rtn Namrata Suri and from the side of Canada will be S. Rajagopal President.

For the Committee of Canada

National Section Head: Rtn. S. Rajagopal

RI - 5050 DG S. Rajagopal

RI - 5060 DG Karl Ruether

RI - 6380 DG Bala Murthy

RI -7040 DG Pradeep Ahluwalia

For the Committee of India

National Section Head: Rtn Namrata Suri

RI - 3011 DG Ashok Kantoor

RI - 3012 DG Lalit Khanna

RI - 3070 DG Dushyant Choudhary

RI - 3080 DG V. P. Kalta

RI - 3142 DG Kailash Jethani

RI - 3060 DG Shrikant Indani

ICC National Coordinator Canada
Rtn Nevine Yassa

ICC National Coordinator India
Rtn. Deepak Talwar



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SAMPLE CHARTER





Inter-Country Committees
Comités Inter-Pays



**Inter-Country Committee
India - Malaysia
Charter**

Date December 2nd 2021

DG

 To Promote Peace and International Understanding
 while Improving Awareness,
 Engaging Diversities and Bridging Communities



.....

Rtn. Dr Sameer Hariani
ICC President, India



.....

Rtn. Dato Ram Nair
ICC President, Malaysia



.....

Rtn. Deepak Talwar
ICC National Coordinator
--- India ---



.....

Cyril Noirtin
Chairman
Rotary Inter-Country Committee Executive Council



.....

Rtn. Dato Ram Nair
ICC National Coordinator
--- Malaysia ---



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SAMPLE CHARTER OF ACTIVITIES

ICC: India/France

Objectives:

• To create a network of intertwined rotary and non-rotary entities of both countries which will unify Rotarians of India and France.

ICC will be a vehicle which will bring Rotarians together on common issues. • ICC will hold activities for bilateral humanitarian and peace efforts, using programs and initiatives fitting into RI Strategic Plan. It will increase fellowship and inter cultural understanding amongst the people of both nations.

• To focus and coordinate to work as facilitation teams for community service commitments in both / other world countries and create a climate of Goodwill and peace.

• Rotarians, spouses, rotaractors, interactors and non-rotary entities of both countries to participate in ICC activities giving local expertise in each of the two countries and serving as ambassadors of the other paired ICC Country. . Every member of the team is the ambassador of his country to the other ICC paired country.

• To work as team of teams in each ICC country for facilitating service projects by rotary clubs/ individual Rotarians / rotary districts in both countries with support from Rotarians in the other country.

• To continually maintain contact between working teams / rotary entities / non-rotary entities of each country to facilitate service projects for peace and conflict resolution which is one of the focus areas of the Rotary Foundation.

• To provide significant support to all programs of Rotary international.

Service programs restricted to rotary clubs: rotary districts/ other rotary entities in the paired ICC country section.

1. Identification of one major community service project to be implemented in India and one major community service project to be implemented in France ~,,,,,with major resources Contribution by Rotarians in the other country with or without a Global Grant.

2. Exchange rotary youth teams between India and France.

3. Conduct essay competition and debating competition at school and college level. On virtual / physical platforms.

4. Have a joint Facebook page of India and France what's app and other social media tools for all Rotarians from France and India. Similarly, we can have one for the rotaractors. Organise Singing competition between youth/ rotaractors / interactors of both countries.

5. We can also have District teams of one country visiting districts in other country under aegis of district rotary friendship exchange programs.



6. Form Sister clubs between rotary clubs of both countries. The paired sister clubs should have joint meetings once a month or once in two months through accessible virtual platforms in which we can invite social activists, media reps, Business community, youth representatives, professionals and Intellectuals to share views through video link.
7. Each country we have a bimonthly or quarterly E newsletter called ICC - India/France publishing Information on ICC matters and ICC activities between India /France
8. We ask all DG's to provide one column for ICC information and activities in their monthly GML (Governors monthly newsletter)
9. Send delegations in RYLA held in both countries.
10. Make sister rotary clubs by pairing rotary / rotaract / interact clubs of India with similar clubs in France. Each set of sister clubs of either country to have one joint meeting over virtual platform every other month
11. Proposed activities of paired clubs:
 - Facilitate One community service project each, one in France and one in India with major resources by France club for India club project and vice versa. Project may be financed by global grant or otherwise. Once these projects are implemented, they should be widely publicized through print media, social media, and electronic media and in district conferences and other rotary meetings
 - One or more club members' reciprocal cultural visit per annum by club members of one sister club to the club members of other sister club on home hospitality basis.
 - Each sister club to create what's App/telegram groups of members of sister clubs and keep each club apprised of major activities of the other sister club.
 - Each sister club to create a blog/social media film on common life in the area of the rotary club including its community service activities/fellowship activities and widely share with the sister Club/other district through social media.
 - Send one representative at least to an annual peace conference organized by the Inter country Committee in India and France on an alternate basis on annual basis. f) Make a business directory of self-club and sister club members and circulate via social media/digital basis.
12. Hold an annual Peace Conference, one year in India and next year in France. Topics to be interactive with aim to generate positive ideas, discussions on resolution and reconciliation of pending political/developmental differences as perceived by both countries.
13. Hold one business/trade fair annually in each country on alternate basis for list of selected business of Rotarians or otherwise where attendees would be interested Rotarians or non-Rotarians of host/guest country.
14. India districts to propose one delegation of maximum 10 persons for a period of maximum seven nights to France and vice versa annually from following strata of society:



- a) School students or College students
- b) Members of the Press corps of the other country

(Each visit will have a definite approved agenda full of opportunities to imbibe the culture and life ethos of the other country.)

Home hospitality will be the basis of visit to maximum extent possible.

We will expect the press corps members of delegation after the visit to publicize the community service projects which Rotarians in other country are implanting in India or France and create an aura of goodwill in an ambience of love affection and trust in which to work towards resolution of perceived inter country disputes/ areas of perceived differences.

15. Planned liaison with Embassies of the other country and ministry of interior/home in own country on regular basis with aim of:

- Facilitation of obtaining visit visa for Rotarians and others of the other country.
- Creation of a list of Rotarians and prominent society members of the other country to which the Embassy/Got of other country grants long term visit visas with minimum restrictions on a regular basis.
- Incorporation of other country Rotary events in a rotary year on calendar of Interior/home ministry in host country so that visas applied for are issued easily.



ARTICLE 21.020

ROTARY CODE OF POLICIES 2022

D) With the exception of a multidistrict PETS, which shall be under the direct authority and control of the governors-elect in cooperation with governors, the ultimate responsibility for multidistrict events, activities, projects and organizations lies with the governors of the districts involved.

E) Recognition of a multidistrict activity, project or organization by RI in no way implies legal, financial or other obligation or responsibility on the part of RI. A multidistrict organization may not act on behalf of RI, or represent or imply that it has authority to act on behalf of RI. A multidistrict organization is not an agency of RI. Multidistrict organizations must be self-sustaining financially, administratively, and otherwise.

F) In instances where multidistrict activities, projects and organizations are incorporated, the members of the corporation should be the governors of the districts involved or their appointees. The board of directors of any such incorporated activity, project or organization should be elected by the members of the corporation. Corporate structures not in harmony with these provisions will generally be considered as not in conformance with RI policy regarding supervision of multidistrict activities, projects and organizations by the governors. *(January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 80)*

Source: May 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 279; February-March 1967 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 272; June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 304; June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 308; March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 237; February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 283; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; September 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90; January 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 118; July 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 16; September 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 74; January 2017 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; January 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 80. See also May-June 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 356.

Cross References

11.010.2. Multidistrict Activities—Approval to Solicit Cooperation

20.070.6. Multidistrict PETS Guidelines

34.040.7. Requests for Exception to Guidelines for Use of “Rotary” Name

21.020. Intercountry Committees

Intercountry committees promote relationships between two or more international districts or two or more countries to increase fellowship and intercultural understanding among the people of various nations, foster stronger ties between members, clubs, and districts from different countries, and establish networks across borders, continents, and oceans.

While only districts may form and join intercountry committees, individual Rotarians, their partners, Rotaractors, and Rotary and Rotaract clubs may participate in their activities. *(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45)*

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281; Amended by October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45

21.020.1. Activities of Intercountry Committees

Recommended activities for Intercountry Committee participants include, but are not limited to: visiting each other’s countries and homes, strengthening friendships and projects so formed by encouraging clubs and districts to connect with clubs and districts in other countries, and contributing to world peace.



Intercountry Committees may also:

- exchange best practices for sponsoring new clubs
- develop a sister or twin club relationship between clubs in participating countries
- conduct Friendship Exchanges between the two countries
- initiate or carry out International Service projects
- initiate or carry out Vocational Service projects *(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45)*

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281; Amended by September 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 34; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45

21.020.2. Establishing an Intercountry Committee

Intercountry Committees can be national or sub-national relationships between two countries. National intercountry committees require the consensus of all districts in a country. Sub-national intercountry committees require the consensus of all districts participating in the relationship. An established Intercountry Committee shall inform the Executive Council of its formation.

A. Establishing a national Intercountry Committee

To form an Intercountry Committee between two or more countries, approval from all of the countries' district governors must be obtained. District governors from a given country who wish to delegate decision-making authority for establishing new national Intercountry Committees may do so with unanimous consent of all district governors in the country.

Interested Rotarians in each country should form a planning committee to establish an Intercountry Committee. The responsibilities of the planning committee include obtaining approval to organize an Intercountry Committee from each district's governor, electing an Intercountry Committee chair to lead the relationship, identifying potential projects, and activities for the ICC participants to undertake, and organizing a planning meeting. The name of an intercountry committee shall be taken from the names of the participating countries. Should a district decide to leave the relationship, the relationship shall evolve into a subnational Intercountry Committee.

B. Establishing a subnational Intercountry Committee

To form a subnational Intercountry Committee between two or more districts, approval from all of the district governors must be obtained.

Interested Rotarians in each district should form a planning committee to establish a district-level Intercountry Committee. The responsibilities of the planning committee include obtaining approval to organize a subnational Intercountry Committee from each participating district governor, electing an Intercountry Committee chair to lead the relationship, inviting club presidents from each district to participate, identifying potential projects and activities for ICC participants to undertake, and organizing a planning meeting. The name of a subnational Intercountry Committee shall be taken from the names of the participating districts. Should a district decide to leave the relationship, the name of the ICC shall be updated to reflect the remaining participants. *(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45)*

Source: June 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 248; Amended by June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45



21.020.3. Governance

An Intercountry Committee is led by an Intercountry Committee chair, elected from participating districts for a three-year term. Intercountry Committees must abide by the rules governing organizations in their country and shall have officers including a chair, secretary, and treasurer. The chair should serve for three years while the other leaders should rotate on an annual basis. *(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45)*

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281; May 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 178; October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45

21.020.4. Relationships with Districts

Intercountry Committees are encouraged to collaborate with the district governors of participating districts as well as their district international service committees, if one is appointed.

Intercountry committee chairs may contact district governors, district governors-elect, and district international service committee chairs in their country regarding the formation of a new ICC or to annually invite participation in an existing ICC relationship. *(September 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 36)*

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281; Amended by October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45; September 2020 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 36

21.020.5. ICC Executive Council

The ICC Executive Council is a resource for districts and countries wishing to form a new Intercountry Committee. The Executive Council collects and shares best practices for forming Intercountry Committees and subsequent projects and activities. The Executive Council maintains a list of Intercountry Committee Chairs and active Intercountry Committees, made available through its website.

The Executive Council is led by a president, secretary and treasurer, elected by reported Intercountry Committee chairs. The president of the executive council serves a three year term, acts as the liaison between intercountry committees and Rotary International and submits an annual report to RI in July each year. The annual report shall include contact information for Intercountry Committee chairs, a list of Intercountry Committee relationships, and a summary of major projects and activities. Failure to submit an annual report by 1 August will result in termination of the president's term and will require the Executive Council members to elect a new president. The Executive Council may collect modest optional fees from established ICCs to cover website expenses. The Executive Council may not create additional governance or leadership positions for individual Intercountry Committees, nor does it have authority to approve or decline the formation of new ICCs. *(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45)*

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281; Amended by October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45

21.020.6. Relationship with Rotary International

Establishing an Intercountry Committee in no way implies legal, financial or other obligation or responsibility on the part of RI, or any district or club. An Intercountry Committee may not act on behalf of RI, or represent or imply that it has authority to act on behalf of RI. An Intercountry Committee is not an agency of RI. Intercountry Committees



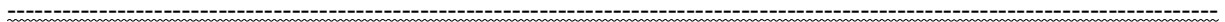
must be self-sustaining financially, administratively, and otherwise. Intercountry Committees may not exist or function in any country in violation of the laws of such country. *(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45)*

Source: January 1938 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 105; Amended by October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45

21.020.7. Finances

Intercountry Committees shall function without financial support from Rotary International. Modest optional fees may be collected from participating districts to cover operating costs of an Intercountry Committee. The fees may be used for administrative purposes or to support humanitarian projects and cannot be used to offset travel or other expenses incurred by an individual as a result of participating in activities organized by an Intercountry Committee or the Executive Council. If an Intercountry Committee or the Executive Council elects to collect fees, the Intercountry Committee's leadership or Executive Council's leadership shall prepare a budget of estimated income and estimated expenditures for the year at the beginning of each fiscal year. All bills shall be paid by the treasurer, or other authorized officer, only after approval by two other officers. An annual financial review by a qualified person shall be made of all the Intercountry Committee's and Executive Council's financial transactions and be shared with all participating districts. *(October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45)*

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281; Amended by October 2019 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45





INTER COUNTRY COMMITTEE MISSION DEFINED

Rotary  **WHO WE ARE ?**

**675 NATIONAL ICC SECTIONS
IN 93 COUNTRIES
IN ALL CONTINENTS**




Rotary  **WHAT IS OUR MISSION ?**



Rotary  **WHAT IS ROTARY INTERNATIONAL ICC ORGANISATION ?**

**ICC NATIONAL SECTION
NATIONAL COORDINATION
EXPANSION TASK FORCE BY CONTINENT**



Rotary  **ROTARY INTERNATIONAL ICC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

CHAIRMAN 2022-2024
PDG MOHAMMED GHAMMAM
RC SIDI BOU SAID
TUNISIA

PRESIDENT ELECT 2024-2026
PDG NATHALIE HUYGHEBAERT
RC VILLERS-LA-VILLE
BELGIUM

Rotary  **WHAT IS OUR ROLE IN GUIDING THE PATH OF PEACE ?**



Rotary  **WHAT CAN WE DO BESIDES PEACE THROUGH SERVICE ?**

WE PROPOSE THREE INITIATIVES ON THE WAY TO PEACE





Rotary  Intercountry Committees 

WE PROPOSE TWO INITIATIVES ON THE WAY TO PEACE

UKRAINE AND RUSSIA REGION INITIATIVE

PEACE

MEDITERRANEAN INITIATIVE PEACE

AFRICA PEACE INITIATIVE






ROTARY INSTITUTE
ROME 2023
15-17 SEPTEMBER

Zones 13, 14, 15, 16, 20B-C

On the occasion of the Rotary Institute Rome 2023
the Intercountry Committees organize the

PEACE FORUM IN THE MED

INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION
FOR PEACE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH 2023 - 09:00

ROMA CONVENTION CENTER "LA NUVOLO" - VIALE ASIA, 40 - ROME, ITALY

08:30 - Registration of participants

09:00 - **OPENING AND INSTITUTIONAL GREETINGS** -
Speaker: Riccardo Lorenzi, ICC

Maria Carla Ciccioriccio, District 2080 Governor

Mohamed Ghammam, Rotary ICC Executive Council
Chairman 2022-24

Alessandro Pastorini, National Coordinator ICC Italy,
Malta and San Marino

Message from **His Holiness Pope Francis**

09:30 - **DIALOGUE OF THREE RELIGIONS: THE
CHALLENGES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN** - *Round table
moderated by Stefano Girotti Zirotti, Rai Vaticano*

Vincenzo Paglia, President of the Pontifical Academy for
Life

Prof. Nader Akkad, Imam in the Great Mosque of Rome

Noemi Di Segni, President of Jewish Communities in
Italy

10:30 - **ROTARY'S COMMITMENT TO BUILDING PEACE**
- **Meredith Burlew**, Director of Grants - Evanston

10:45 - Coffee break

11:00 - **DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION AS A
PEACE-BUILDING MECHANISM** -

Sybille Rupprecht, Rotary International Representative
to the United Nations in Geneva

11:15 - **WATER, IMMIGRATION AND PEACE. THE
WORLD FOOD PROGRAM COMMITMENT** -

Vincenzo Sanasi d'Arpe, President of WFP Italia
(World Food Programme)

11:30 - **HOW TO MEDIATE IN A MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

- **Scott Martin**, Fellow of Mediators Beyond Borders
International

11:45 - **WOMEN IN ROTARY PEACE AGENTS - A
CHALLENGE OF MEDITERRANEAN CULTURE** -

Nicki Scott, Past Rotary International Vice-President

12:00 - **FOSTERING PEACE PROCESSES THROUGH
WOMEN'S MOTIVATION AND INVOLVEMENT** -
Sara Formisano - Rotary Foundation Peace Fellow

12:15 - **CONCLUSIONS**



Register on the Institute website:
rotaryinstituterome2023.com





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Report on the ICC Forum for Peace in the Mediterranean

Date: September 15, 2023

Place: "LA NUVOLA" Congress Center Rome, Italy

Subject: "Intercultural dialogue and cooperation for peace in the Mediterranean"



"La Nuvola" Congress Center, Rome.

Organized by: National Coordination of ICC Italy, Malta and San Marino - PDG Alessandro Pastorini (President of the Organizing Committee - National Coordinator of Intercountry Committees Italy, Malta and San Marino), PP Carlo Felice Corsetti (Co-organiser, President of ICC Italy/BeLux), PP Alessandro De Lucchi (National Coordination Secretary), Riccardo Lorenzi (Speaker).



From left: Lorenzi, Ghanmam, De Lucchi, Corsetti

INTRODUCTORY NOTES

The ICC Meeting "PEACE FORUM IN THE MEDITERRANEAN" took place on the occasion of the Rotary Institute Rome 2023, in the prestigious venue of the Rome Convention Center "La Nuvola" - Italy. La Nuvola is an international conference structure, with great scenographic impact, designed by the famous architect Massimiliano Fuksas.



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This conference, strongly desired by PDG Mohamed Ghammam President of the Executive Council of the Intercountry Committees, was organized by the National Coordination of the Intercountry Committees of Italy, Malta and San Marino.

It saw the participation of over one hundred Rotarians coming not only from the Mediterranean basin but also from various areas of the world.

PDG Alberto Cecchini, Rotary International Director for Zone 14, brought his greetings as Convener of the "Rome Rotary Institute 2023".

Gordon R. McNally, President of Rotary International, honored us with his presence and his message ([click HERE for the video](#)).



The intervention of RIP Gordon McNally

OPENING AND INSTITUTIONAL GREETINGS



Mohamed Ghammam
Executive Council ICC
Chairman 22-24

[VIDEO HERE](#)



Maria Carla Ciccioriccio
Governor D2080 RI

[VIDEO HERE](#)



Nathalie Huyghebaert
Executive Council ICC
Chair Elect 24-26

[VIDEO HERE](#)



Participants during the "Honors to the Flags"

MESSAGE FROM HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

Read by Mons. Vincenzo Paglia

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I. S. REV. MA MONS. VINCENZO PAGLIA (205)
 PRESIDE. PONTIFICIA ACCADEMIA PER LA VITA
 VIA URSULA, CONCILIAZIONE, 1
 00148 ROMA

IN OCCASIONE DEL FORUM DELLA PACE DEL MEDITERRANEO, PROMOSSO DAI
 COMITATI INTER-PAESI DEI ROTARY IL 15 SETTEMBRE PROSSIMO
 PRESSO IL
 CENTRO CONGRESSI LA NUVOLE, IL SANTO PADRE FRANCESCO RINGIACE
 AGLI
 ORGANIZZATORI E AI PARTECIPANTI IL SUO SALUTO, ESPRIMENDO
 APPREZZAMENTO PER L'INIZIATIVA VOLTA A RIFLETTERE SU UNA
 TEMA DI
 VISIONE ATTUALE: «OGGI SAGGIATA» AFRICA CHE L'AVVISTA
 UNA RITORNATA COME AVVENIRE CHE LA PACE È DONO DA IMPLICARE
 DA DIO
 S. AL TEMPO STENDO, FRUTTI DELL'IMPERO COSTANTE DI CANTINO,
 (MUNITO A PACE SCOCOLI HA QUOTIDIANI GASTI DI SONTA' DI
 NOSTRO
 DI DIALOGO E DI FRATELLITÀ». CON TALI VOTI, IL SANTO PONTIFICE
 ASSIEME L'OGNITE RICORDO E UCCIDENTI TAVIA LA BENEDIZIONE
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On the occasion of the Mediterranean Peace Forum, promoted by the Rotary Inter-Country Committees on 15 September at the La Nuvola Congress Center, the Holy Father Francis addresses his greetings to the Organizers and Participants, expressing appreciation for the initiative aimed at reflecting on a topic of significant current interest.

His Holiness hopes that the event will foster a renewed awareness that Peace is a gift to be implored from God and, at the same time, the fruit of the constant commitment of each person, called to make small but daily gestures of goodness, forgiveness, dialogue and of brotherhood. With these vows, the Supreme Pontiff ensures prayerful remembrance and willingly sends the apostolic blessing.

Cardinal Pietro Parolin
Secretary of State of His Holiness

[VIDEO HERE](#)



INTERVENTION by Andrea Benzo

Special Envoy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for the protection of religious freedom and for interreligious dialogue



I am very happy, also as a Rotarian, member of the Rotary Club of Genoa, to bring greetings on this significant occasion. We live, in fact, in an era in which the importance of the religious dimension in foreign policy and of the collaboration between secular and religious actors in diplomatic activity is increasingly evident. In particular, interreligious dialogue is now recognized as an essential tool for promoting mutual understanding, social inclusion, integral development and peace. This is even more true in the wider Mediterranean region, a strategic area for Italy's foreign policy and in which religious traditions shape a significant part of public and individual life. The Italian model of relations between the State and religious confessions is based on mutual collaboration oriented towards the common good. Internationally, we recognize and encourage the role of religious leaders, particularly in advocating for peace. It should be remembered, in fact, that the action to combat terrorism and violent extremism cannot be limited to the sphere of security alone but must also include the cultural, educational and religious sectors. Italy's commitment to religious freedom also passes through the protection of places of worship, today exposed to serious threats in various parts of the world, as demonstrated by the recent anti-Christian violence in Pakistan or the numerous attacks in Nigeria. Many projects financed by our Development Cooperation focus on the economic emancipation and social inclusion of people belonging to ethnic and religious minorities who are victims of persecution and serious discrimination. As the theme of today's event reminds us, it is essential that States, international organizations, religious institutions and civil society actors collaborate in good faith to heal the fractures that divide cultures and religions and promote common paths of reconciliation and dialogue.

THE DIALOGUE OF THE THREE RELIGIONS: THE CHALLENGE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

Round table moderated by Stefano Girotti Zirotti, Rai Vatican

Vincenzo Paglia, President of the Pontifical Academy for Life

Nader Akkad, Imam in the Great Mosque of Rome

Noemi Di Segni, President of the Jewish Communities in Italy

Below is a brief summary of the interventions of the three speakers.

Vincenzo Paglia

"Peace is a very high term for us believers, it is the very name of God. To say a just peace means a peace that has deep roots in associated life, it is not only the opposite of war but it means living together in harmony, starting from the family where you learn to understand and support yourself. Then we move from the family to the social context. We have a home, the planet; a family, that of peoples; a table, that of all peoples. We must live in the perspective of a common future. Interreligious dialogue is very important, we must continue along the lines of Fratelli Tutti. Poverty is the great destabilizing problem and selfishness creates the conditions for conflict."



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Noemi Di Segni

"The prerequisite for the desire for dialogue is the recognition that one wants to live in peace. If there is a starting point that is derogatory and prevaricating towards the other, it is clear that no dialogue can start. The prerequisite is recognition and respect for others. In the case of the Abrahamic religions it is fundamental to put together that series of values that characterize the good and make it available to the community. We must push from below to support the voice of those who want peace, so that those who decide can collect these messages. Seeking peace in the Mediterranean means guaranteeing enormous potential for the whole world, it goes far beyond geographical borders. We must start with children to build the future, indoctrination into hatred is not good for anyone, whether on one side or the other."

Nader Akkad

"Today a key word is peace, in Arabic "Salam". The way to reach passes through an internal journey. To open certain doors that connect the mind to the heart. Once this individual and interior pacification has been achieved, then the human being can become a source of peace, he can become a builder of peace in the various areas of social life. In the ways ahead there are many obstacles and people who put a spanner in the works, many do it for their own ego, this is a great evil of humanity. How can we act?"

There are those who are committed to conflict; those who are committed to peace are motivated by the encounter with others and try to build bridges of peace. Evil is the opposite of love, peace is like the sun that radiates all humanity, unlike selfishness."



Panel discussion. From left: Girotti Zirotti, Puglia, Akkad, Di Segni



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ROTARY'S COMMITMENT TO BUILDING PEACE

Meredith Burlew, Director of Grants - Evanston



Rotary builds Peace

Rotary believes that if concerned citizens work together to create peace locally, we can create lasting change globally.

AREA OF INTERVENTION: PEACE BUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

GLOBAL GRANTS

Club and District projects that support the education and practice of peacebuilding and conflict prevention around the world are eligible for global grants from the Foundation

Rotary. Global grants support large international efforts with sustainable, measurable results in Rotary's areas of focus.

ROTARY PEACE FELLOWSHIPS

Each year, Rotary selects some of the world's brightest and most dedicated professionals to study at seven Rotary Peace Centers around the world. Our more than 1,400 program alumni work in more than 115 countries and serve as leaders in governments and non-governmental organizations, in education and research, in law enforcement and the military, as well as in international organizations dedicated to peace.

ROTARY PEACE FELLOWSHIP

Patrick Bwire (Duke-UNC, 2016-18) is a regional liaison officer for 16 countries with the Center for Conflict Resolution (CECORE) in Uganda. He coordinates projects that prevent young people from being radicalized again after conflicts and that transform them into champions of peace.

ROTARY PEACE FELLOW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Association of Former Rotary Peace Fellows connects former Rotary Peace Fellows to network and facilitate collaboration between them and Rotary clubs to promote peace around the world. The association's speaker database connects Rotarians with alumni who are willing to speak at club meetings, webinars, or town hall meetings. The group's YouTube channel offers recordings of alumni presentations.

PARTNERS IN PEACE

INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMY AND PEACE

Rotary partners with the Institute for Economics and Peace, a leader in the study of peace and conflict, to address the causes of conflict and create conditions that foster peace. The partnership focuses on Positive Peace education and training. While negative peace is usually defined as the absence of violence, Positive Peace examines the underlying conditions that lead to more peaceful societies, including good governance, access to needed services, a healthy business environment and respect for human rights.

MEDIATORS BEYOND BORDERS

Charlie Masilae Hunt, a Rotarian, returned Peace Corps volunteer and president of Partnering for Peace, a group that facilitates collaboration between Rotary and the Peace Corps.



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SHELTER BOX

Noor and her family live in a refugee camp in Syria. They were cattle ranchers, but they fled their homes and lost everything when the Islamic State group took control. "ShelterBox came and gave us a tent and told us that from now on it will be ours. My children were very excited, they jumped for joy, they drew a circle in the sand around the tent and said: this is our home now," says Noor. Learn more about Rotary's partnership with ShelterBox.

PEACE PROGRAMS

INTERCOUNTRY COMMITTEES

The Poland-Ukraine Intercountry Committee organized a summer camp for children affected by the conflict in Ukraine in 2014. In addition to activities and educational trips, participants received counseling to help them deal with their feelings. ICC members raised funds to pay for the travel and accommodation costs of the children and their caregivers. Find out how an ICC can help your club.

EXCHANGE OF FRIENDSHIP

The idea for the Indus Peace Park on the India-Pakistan border came after a Rotary Friendship Exchange group from Canada visited Pakistan in 2015 and participants learned that, for security reasons, they could not attend the changing of the guard ceremony on the border with India.

Group leader Kees van der Pol, a Rotarian from British Columbia and director of the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park on the U.S.-Canada border, suggested creating a new park. Once finished, the goal is for the park to become a place where Indians and Pakistanis can celebrate and share their cultures through dialogue, literature, religion, dance, music, history and art. Learn more about the Rotary Friendship Exchange.

PEACE EVENTS

THE ROTARY PEACE SYMPOSIUM

The Rotary Peace Symposium offers Rotary Peace Fellows and Rotarians the opportunity to showcase and celebrate their peacebuilding efforts by meeting and finding ways to collaborate with like-minded people. Typically held every three years, the most recent symposium was held at the 2019 Rotary International Convention in Hamburg, Germany. These events have inspired many Rotarians to develop peacebuilding projects in their clubs and districts or to make significant contributions to existing peacebuilding initiatives.

ROTARIAN ACTION GROUPS

ROTARY PEACE ACTION GROUP

ROTARY ACTION GROUP FOR REFUGEES, FORCED DISPLACEMENTS AND MIGRATION

ROTARY ACTION GROUP AGAINST SLAVERY

ROTARY ACTION GROUP FOR FAMILY SAFETY

RAGFP

Disaster response to build empathy and resilience in Türkiye and beyond. Participants developed coping skills that help them process their feelings and regain hope for the future.

SUPPORT PEACE

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION AS A PEACEBUILDING MECHANISM

Sybill Rupprecht, Representative of Rotary International to the United Nations in Geneva



Rasha Ahmed, from the Collaborative for Peace in Sudan (CIPS), believes that women's participation in peacebuilding is important. Why?

In Sudan and in Africa in general, war disrupts the lives of women in many ways, in terms of shelter, food, and security like being subjected to gender-based violence as a weapon of war.

As in most war-torn countries the number of female-headed households has become so huge in Sudan (some estimates place it at around 50%) that they are visible everywhere, from courts of laws to the streets where they sell food and tea to provide for a family whose male providers disappeared due to conflict.

Rasha said that she saw how women suffer from the issues of long lasting conflicts: poverty, lack of development, conflict, irresponsible political elite (overwhelmingly male, of course) and bad governance. She saw them walk several miles to fetch water and firewood. She heard their sad stories of how many abortion incidents affected friends and relatives due to the primitive healthcare facilities.

Poverty, insecurity, deterioration of environment, death and injury, bad governance, disruption to the provision of basic services, disruption of the social fabric and other consequences of conflict, all work against women.

Women are the real beneficiaries of peace and its sustainability and are therefore the most likely to fend for it. And Rasha adds: I believe women's presence in peacebuilding is important because they hold the keys to the whole community and are thus the best entry point for any intervention.

Rasha is just one of many courageous women peacebuilders. They risk their life and freedom to advocate for communities without conflicts.

The nature of violent conflict has radically changed over the past century. Wars are now fought on our front door steps, rather than on the front lines. As the consequences of war have shifted from combatants to civilians, the complex and variable roles that women have played in shaping and ending conflict have come into a more critical focus.

Women and girls are acutely suffering from the consequences of armed conflict, which is resulting in much higher rates of gender-based violence. Women and girls are rendered vulnerable to poverty and precarity, due to the loss of jobs and a lack of proper educational opportunities and basic shelter. And harming women and children is nowadays used as a weapon of war.

Today, not only conflict but also climate change exacerbates gender based economic inequalities from access to water to safe, clean and sustainable environment. Ecological catastrophies throw even more refugees on the road many of them women and children.

In today's climate of uncertainty, when so many challenges are facing us on a constant basis, we cannot afford to hesitate to achieve gender equity, equality, and inclusion.

As we sometimes say in stressful times: all hands on deck - and that means including women and girls (in other words half of the population).

As Rotarians -

How could we be silent, when the rights of countless women go disrespected and unprotected.



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How could we be complacent, when indicators from the World Health Organisation tell us that 1 in 3 women, around the world, are at grave risk of physical or sexual violence.

How could we be unworried, when the European Commission reports that women and girls are at particular risk of trafficking and modern-day slavery.

How can we look the other way when still in many countries around the Mediterranean we have inequality in inheritance, restricted or no access at all to abortion services, criminalisation of same-sex relations...

It is women and girls, escaping from persecution in their home countries, who are at the most elevated risk of physical, sexual, and psychological violence.

But it is not all about war, it is about justice, laws, opportunities.

"The global economy will continue to suffer greatly, if women continue to be excluded," said the former President of Malta, Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, at the ILO's World of Work Summit 6 years ago. And yet, no progress has been made.

In the recent Morocco earthquake, many lost all they had, their loved ones, their houses, their livelihood.

As in war, the most vulnerable are women and children. Women who cannot inherit from their fathers due to archaic laws, and who are left with no way of making a living, rebuilding their house, nourishing their children if the father / husband has perished in this natural disaster.

Women who are dependent on the generosity of the men in the family, who have not been sent to school, and find themselves in enormous difficulties.

The increasing numbers of women, being pushed into precarity, results in the continued, and intergenerational, suffering of entire families and communities.

You see, environmental catastrophes, conflicts, climate change affects women and children in their every-day life.

Working to alleviate poverty is working towards sustainable peace.

Women are powerful transformative agents of change who can make meaningful contribution and yet are often excluded of vital decision making and peace negotiations. Their position should make them respected key actors in negotiations and stability

What about Rotary's contribution to peace?

It is time that we take a close and self-critical look at how we function.

Whatever project in whatever focus area ... without peace no possibility to implement it. And without these projects no peace.

This interdependence is not reflected within Rotary. We still work in silos, sometimes jealously guarded. Global Grants are few for peace projects, yet every project is contributing to peace, thus has a peace component in it.

Peace is less familiar to Rotarians than water or maternal health or Polio vaccinations. And yet, without peace, we would not be able to work on these focus areas.

It is high time for us, the Rotarians of this world, to ensure that every one of us is familiar with how peace affects us.

It is high time for us, the Rotarians of this world, to be ambassadors for Peace, and to publicly speak about it.

It is high time for us, the Rotarians of this world, to work cross sector and entirely for the well-being of fellow humans and the planet and not for personal egos.



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It is high time for us, the Rotarians of this world, to be united, in pursuit of peace, prosperity, and wellbeing.

So, let us work together to create a legacy of peace and improved conditions for human beings, thereby safeguarding equity and dignity for each and every member of our human family.

As John Lennon said:

Imagine all the people

Livin' life in peace

You may say I'm a dreamer

But I'm not the only one

I hope someday you'll join us

And the world will be as one

Rotarians are people of Actions - Lets imagine Peace together - and join hands.

WATER, IMMIGRATION AND PEACE. THE COMMITMENT OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM

Vincenzo Sanasi d'Arpe, President of WFP Italy (World Food Programme)



I thank, first of all, General Carlo Felice Corsetti for the invitation, addressed to the Italian Committee for the WFP, to this formidable event on the occasion of the Rotary Institute 2023, as well as the organizers of the event, the Intercountry Committees; event made even more exceptional, not only for the theme "Forum of Peace in the Mediterranean", and for the place that hosts us, the "La Nuvola" Congress Center. The theme, Peace in the Mediterranean, is well suited to a humanitarian agency like the WFP, which, as you will remember, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020. My speech, entitled "Water, immigration and peace. The commitment of the World Food Programme" is above all a story of how the WFP and WFP Italy work, at a global level,

to fight poverty and assist the most needy populations with humanitarian aid and the supply of food. Global water stress is one of the great challenges of recent years, and is closely linked to global food security. There are 828 million people who, in an increasingly fragile planet, suffer from chronic hunger, while 345 million suffer from serious food insecurity. Most of them live in arid environments where water availability is limited, or in areas where water is sufficient to cover the population's needs, but quality and access are often compromised. Poor agricultural production due to insufficient water supplies can exacerbate conflicts and trigger social tensions in communities already under water stress. Today, around two billion people live in territories at risk of desertification, and it is estimated that around 50 million people could migrate due to the effects of water scarcity for agricultural and domestic use by 2030.

Climate change is accelerating the problem of water stress and food insecurity, increasing the frequency and severity of water-related extreme events such as floods and droughts. In the last decade alone, 1.7 billion people have been affected by extreme weather events and climate-related disasters, with the worst impacts occurring in sub-Saharan Africa and some regions of the Middle East.



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What alternatives do we have left, at relatively limited costs? Mainly two, and they are mitigation and adaptation activities. Mitigation measures are those actions undertaken to reduce and curb greenhouse gas emissions, while adaptation measures are based on reducing vulnerability to the effects of climate change.

In addition to being at the forefront in responding to all those emergencies due to environmental disasters such as droughts and floods, WFP promotes, in collaboration with local governments and partners, an integrated package of activities to strengthen the resilience of communities already exposed to a series of socio-economic and climatic vulnerabilities.

Since 2014, WFP has supported the creation and rehabilitation of 110,000 water harvesting structures, 28,000 km of canals and irrigation systems, and 1.6 million hectares of land have been redeveloped.

Water and food security are inextricably linked. The availability and quantity of water, both for agricultural use and for domestic consumption, influence food production and the nutritional status of people, and therefore health. Ensuring that all people have access to safe water sources and nutritious food requires an integrated approach involving governments, international organizations, businesses and civil society. Water and food, two fundamental elements for our existence, to which we should pay more attention.

Other key points of WFP's commitment are:

1. **Fighting famines:** To prevent a famine from developing, we provide emergency food assistance, using cutting-edge technologies that alert to the risk of famine to determine the most appropriate response, and by mobilizing our supply chain tools, such as airlifts or parachuting food in the absence of other options. We also work to prevent situations from deteriorating to the point of famine by strengthening education systems, nutrition, the resilience of livelihoods and social protection, such as with school feeding programs;
2. **Emergency relief:** Early warning systems, emergency prepared personnel always ready to spring into action and the management of a global supply chain allow WFP to be one of the first responders on the ground in case of disasters. Every year, WFP assists millions of displaced people, people left homeless or deprived of basic resources due to conflict, the consequences of climate change, pandemics or other catastrophic events;
3. **Food assistance:** WFP food assistance goes far beyond immediate relief from hunger. In order to achieve the second Sustainable Development Goal - zero hunger - we provide tailor-made, multi-year programs aimed at improving countries' nutritional indicators. Where markets and the financial sector are functioning, we provide cash transfers that enable the people we serve to purchase nutritious food of their choice;
4. **Supply Chains:** Every day, WFP has 5,600 trucks, 100 planes and 30 ships on the move to prevent people from falling into famine. These vehicles transport and deliver vital food and other assistance to the most vulnerable. In its 60 years of activity, WFP has worked and continues to work with governments and non-governmental organizations, suppliers and local communities. We connect with entrepreneurs and small farmers, and invest in local economies, markets and the private sector;
5. **Humanitarian services and support:** WFP puts its vast expertise and capabilities in supply chain management, engineering and emergency telecommunications - often in the most complex contexts - to work for other humanitarian entities. Additionally, WFP leads the multi-agency



Emergency Logistics and Telecommunications (ETC) Clusters and is co-leader of the Food Security Cluster;

6. **Disaster Risk Reduction:** disasters are among the main causes of hunger and malnutrition in the world. Due to the climate crisis, extreme weather events, as already mentioned, are becoming more and more frequent. WFP country programs integrate actions aimed at addressing the risks of climate disasters and mitigating the repercussions on food security. These include land and water conservation, the development of drainage and flood protection structures, the construction of small reservoirs and water reserves at community level, and the terracing of slopes subject to erosion and landslides.

I could add much more regarding our commitment, but I conclude by saying that only with the support of the nations affected by these problems, through the planning of resilience interventions in their countries, with the aim of creating balance, food security and peace, do we help the most vulnerable populations. needy, thus limiting the migratory phenomena, which, as is known, bring with them the suffering of those who have to travel long and dangerously, overcoming repelling borders and facing the risk of being abused, trying to survive and gradually enter into part of the societies of the receiving countries despite the obstacles caused by unreliable legal procedures, poorly functioning reception systems, lack of cohesion policies and the spread in many areas of a culture of separation between social groups and hostility towards differences. Let us not forget, in fact, that among people fleeing wars, humanitarian crises, natural disasters, poverty and authoritarian regimes, a considerable portion is made up of children, girls and adolescents. They are minors who are deprived of their right to a future, who leave their countries of origin with their families. In Italy, up to mid-June 2023, 6,000 minors without parents and adult caregivers arrived in Italy after crossing the Mediterranean, one of the most dangerous migratory routes in the world. We therefore support the WFP and WFP Italy so that they continue to work, with their interventions, to improve the lives of millions of disadvantaged people in the world.

HOW TO MEDIATE IN A MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Martin Scott, Fellow of Mediators Beyond Borders International



I started with my peacebuilding journey, which began while I was studying architecture in Italy in 2001 when 9/11 occurred. The event highlighted the need to see the humanity in each other, even in times of unthinkable tragedies (like now).

I spoke about the work of Mediators Beyond Borders International (MBBI) and our service partnership with RI.

I continued to talk about the layers of how we see conflict in mediation - using the image of a hippopotamus instead of an iceberg to highlight the cultural relevance - most conflicts are fought at the visible moment of "positions" or the underlying layer of "competing interests" - what we say we want and because - which is highly contextual and ripe for cultural misunderstanding. But by letting go of what we think is right or wrong and asking ourselves deeper questions, we find that we may have shared "Values" and ultimately "Needs" that are



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universal. Values that we have defined as a cultural mechanism for satisfy our universal needs. By working at these levels, we can unite across our differences.

Finally, I brought us back to some sobering statistics:

- more people die from suicide than from war, terrorism and natural disasters combined;
- more people now die of obesity than of starvation.

Over the past 10 years, the number of social and environmental NGOs has grown to 10 million, but the number of climate and conflict refugees has grown even faster.

And he concluded: the world doesn't need more resources or NGOs, we need connection networks, like RI, MBBI and ICC that seek to connect the world's people and resources locally and globally.

WOMEN IN ROTARY PEACE AGENTS - A CHALLENGE OF MEDITERRANEAN CULTURE

Nicki Scott, Past Vice President of Rotary International



Greetings to everyone participating today in this important peace forum in the Med. May I start by thanking Mohammed Ghammam for inviting me to speak with you all today. I'm sorry that I can't be there with you all in Rome, but our own institute, or what we now call an action summit, is taking place here in England at the same time. And as much as we would love to be in two cases at once, that's just not possible. However, I know that you will all be having as much fun as I am right at this moment.

As you all saw in the program, I was asked by Mohammed to speak on the topic of women in Rotary as peace agents, a challenge of Mediterranean culture. But I'd prefer to leave the particular focus on

women's involvement in the peace process to our expert Rotary foundation peace fellow, Sarah, who's speaking right after me. Instead, I would prefer to speak more generally about the very important role rotarians and rotaractors of all genders, ages and backgrounds contribute to this topic of peace and how that in turn, helps create peace in ourselves. I believe all of us have an inherent capacity to be peace agents and make conscious choices that promote peace in our relationships, in our communities, and in the world at large. As with all aspects of Rotary, it is important that we walk our own talk, no matter how challenging that may be at times.

One of the things that drew me to joining Rotary and makes me most proud of referring to myself as a Rotarian today is that we are a non religious and non political organization. It is not that we are in denial of the differences we all experience in our lives, quite the contrary, in fact. We celebrate the uniqueness and depth of understanding that listening to each of our individual perspectives can bring to the table. It is our shared purpose as people of action to seek to find solutions that make the world a better place. The word action in of itself implies doing something, and so it's important that being nonpolitical is not confused with shying away from advocacy and activism, even when considered potentially dangerous.

At times in Rotary, we often talk of our Rotary moments, those special experiences attributable to us, to Rotary that stay with us forever. And over ten years ago, I had the opportunity to be part of an NID trip to India. And it was 2012 at the time, the year that Rotary India was celebrating being one year polio free. And they were holding a conference hosted by the government as well, inviting all of those



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from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria, the only other three remaining endemic countries, to learn from what they had learned at that conference. Somebody we know now as past president Ravi was speaking.

He was a director nominee at the time, I believe, but he was talking about how he realized that it was very important for Sri Lanka, his home country, to be able to get rid of polio in order to give India, this enormous country, the hope that it could do the same. When I talk about putting himself in danger, he said that he wanted to write to the head of the Tamil Tigers. The Tamil Tigers were a much feared terrorist organization that basically held the fort of the mountains and very hard to penetrate and go up and vaccinate the children. So everyone said he must be crazy if he was going to write to the head of the Tamil Tigers. But he decided that he wanted to do that nonetheless.

And in this conference space of over a thousand attendees, Ravi held up a letter. And it was a letter written by the head of the Tamil Tigers back to him, and it said, our war is not against the children. You tell us when you want to vaccinate and we will down our weapons. Still gives me goosebumps to say that story, even today. And it was that day that I realized that it is the fact that we're non political, non religious that enables us as rotarians to achieve things and possibilities that are way beyond the normal possibilities.

And for that I'm very grateful. Our core values of service, leadership, diversity, integrity and fellowship unite us across all geographical, cultural and religious and political differences. We're all about caring for humanity and all that that entails. Peace is at the very heart of everything we do. As we often say, it's so much more than the absence of war.

It is rooted in all fundamental human needs being met. And every single one of our seven areas of focus comes back ultimately to creating more peace in the world. I was fortunate to serve on the Strategic Planning Committee when our new Vision Statement was being researched, and I'm proud to share that over a million touch points across people from many countries of differing cultures were made during that process. Rotarians, rotators, alumni of our amazing programs, and even some who had not yet even heard of Rotary. It was not merely a small group of people sitting in one room who came up with it.

Together we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves. I recall being very passionate about the last two words in that final part of the Vision Statement in ourselves. I truly believe that peace must start from within. If we have inner conflict and harbor angry or restless thoughts, it's hard to emanate peace for those around us. I'm very grateful to President Gordon for his focus this year on destigmatizing the topic of mental health.

Many of you will know that he has shared a very personal story on why this topic is important to him. My own mother was a manic depressive, which was the old term for what's now known as bipolar. She died at the very early age of just 45. So this topic is very close to my heart. It's very hard to take care of others when we ourselves are depleted.

I personally find my peace in walking in nature. I'm very lucky to live in the beautiful English countryside, and I take advantage of that as much as I can. I encourage all of you to find whatever it is that nurtures you and ensure you're making time for that in your busy life while working on being committed to service above self. It is great to see the variety of everything that is being included in the agenda for this forum.



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Today's conference is proof enough that there are so many ways for us to contribute towards being peacemakers in our own small way. And Rotary, of course, enables us to amplify our impact and expand our reach. With this conference being held in Rome, it's important to acknowledge that the Mediterranean does, of course, have a long history of conflicts and tensions, but so do many other parts of Europe and indeed other continents. It's sometimes good to focus on the positive and what history has taught us over time. There have been many contributions towards peace from this part of the world.

As Director of Great Britain and Ireland, as well as Spain and Portugal, I had the pleasure of being hosted by Spanish Rotarians on a trip to Toledo last year. I was interested to learn about the period called when people of the Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths all lived alongside each other in harmony. No doubt there's a level of complexity behind that rather simple statement, but Toledo was an incredibly beautiful city to visit, and much of that is attributable to the traces of such religious diversity left in the architecture still standing today. Touching back a little on the subject as presented, Queen Isabella of Spain is attributed, sadly, to putting an abrupt end to that era of "convivencia". And yet at the same time, she's credited for playing a very pivotal role in the exploration of the New World.

Her support of Christopher Columbus led to the age of exploration, which had a profound impact on the Mediterranean region by expanding trade and, of course, cultural exchange, which comes very closely aligned with that. It is the pursuit of cultural exchange and understanding that fuels my passion for Rotary. Many of you already know that I'm a huge supporter of the concept of intercountry committees, where so much good can be done to foster friendships based on our strong values platform that enhance intercultural understanding. I have been blown away by just how many ICCs have formed over recent years, and I thank all of you here today who are involved in this very important work.

With President Gordon coming from Scotland himself. I was interested to note that the first international convention outside of the United States was held in Edinburgh in 1921. And it was at that convention that delegates incorporated a new purpose into the Ri Constitution to advance peace and goodwill through fellowship among Rotarians united in the idea of Rotary service. Having joined Rotary in the Chicago area in 2000, I was fortunate to be able to visit the home of our founder, Paul Harris, which was in the Chicago suburbs. And I loved discovering that Paul Harris had his own peace garden where he would plant trees collected from his visits all around the world.

Of course, we wouldn't get away with doing that today. We wouldn't get away with getting a tree or any plant or anything alive through customs. But I still think it's fun to share that story because it shows that we are truly rooted in nurturing peace right from the beginnings and of our origins. In 1927, rotary youth exchange was started by the Rotary club of Copenhagen, Denmark. It was soon adopted by Rotary International, who hoped it would create a more interconnected and understanding world.

It's a fantastic program for creating a hunger for cultural understanding from a very young age, and it's great to see it coming back now after being after the interruption of the COVID Pandemic, the 69th Europe Eastern Mediterranean Africa Youth Exchange Conference was actually held in Lake Como, Italy in 2022. It is when we seek first to understand, visit each other's homes, and live like others, with different experience to our own, that true potential for peace can be ignited. Whilst my own children were growing up, we were fortunate to host four international exchange students from other



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countries in our own home. And that definitely broadened their horizons and had a lasting impact on both of them. As hard as a COVID Pandemic was, I think it actually has helped us adapt and move Rotary forward more in the last three years than we would otherwise have achieved in ten.

I think this opens up even more endless opportunities to contribute towards peacemaking globally, even from the comfort of our very own homes. One case in point is the Mediterranean Peace Initiative Conference, held virtually on November 20, 2020. It was cohosted by yourself, the ICCs and the Rotaract Mediterranean MDIO, and had over 1000 participants in attendance. How fantastic is that? I found out about it because I was fortunate to meet the Rotaract MDIO President at the time, Astrid, virtually earlier on in that year.

And as a result of getting to know asked I asked her if I could interview her for a breakout session I was being asked to host for an event called the Summit of Champions being held virtually in the US. It's incredible, all of that interconnectivity, and I always say that Rotary makes the world a little smaller, and I think that helps make my point. Last year. Like many before me, I was fortunate to serve as the Vice President of Rotary International. I had the privilege of visiting several different countries and cultures, and I will never tire of that.

One of those visits was to Interota, which was held in Tunisia, at which I was fortunate to meet many of the members of the ICC executive, many of whom may well be with you today. It was great to have such diversity of age and ethnicity all in the same place at once. I think we often undervalue the uniqueness of our Intergenerational mix in helping create understanding through Rotary. So now I come full circle. I have learned so much from so many through my service to Rotary and all that we do to help make our world a better place.

I'm sure that's true for all of you, too. And I thank you for all the time you're taking to be part of this peace forum in the Med today. I always love to end with a quote, and as Albert Einstein said, peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved through understanding. So let's make sure we all stay curious. Thank you.

[VIDEO HERE](#)

FOSTER PEACE PROCESSES THROUGH THE MOTIVATION AND INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN

Sara Formisano, Rotary Foundation Peace Fellow



INTRODUCTION - WOMEN ON EQUALITY FOR LASTING PEACE

Equal power between all genders is crucial to contributing to lasting peace. Since 2000, United Nations Resolution 1325 has required women to participate on an equal footing with men in peacebuilding.

Despite all this, States still fail to implement the national agendas for peace and women's security necessary to achieve gender equality in peacebuilding. However, there are some positive experiences, which deserve to be recognized, focused on building trust in women's ability to make peace rather than strengthening it through military means.



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GOALS

The idea of the initiative is that trained women can empower and motivate their local communities to join peace initiatives and social actions by transcending individual political, ethical and cultural differences, in favor of peaceful dialogues.

It's an opportunity to amplify and spread the success of women. From themselves to communities and beyond, women build empathy and create mutual understanding and solidarity among people in conflict.

RESULTS

This initiative aims to bring concrete results such that the women supported by WELP, in particular the six selected leaders, are included in peace processes and occupy decision-making positions in their field of experience in their own countries.

Furthermore, these women leaders in their countries will support local organizations, training new young leaders for positions within governments, non-state entities, political parties, etc. transferring their know-how into diplomacy and mediation.

WELP COLLABORATORS AND STAKEHOLDERS

The media and in particular the radio are the main external collaborators of the Women in Equality for Lasting Peace initiatives.

In Africa, to promote the joint work of Sudanese and Ukrainian women's organizations we intend to establish a partnership with Radio Tamazui, Radio Miraya and Radio Vision. In Europe we foresee a collaboration with Copy Mad, Radio 3 and Radio Vaticano.

CONCLUSIONS

The ancient Romans said:

"If you want Peace, prepare for War"

but today we all say together:

"If you really want Peace, prepare Peace"



Conclusion of the Forum. Group photo with some of the participants.





ICC EC news

Dear Friends
Dear ICC Family

Chers Amis
Ma Chère Famille

ENGLISH VERSION

The Executive Council of the Inter-Country Committees (ICC) has just organized the Africa Peace Forum in Cairo from 17 to 19 November 2023 with the participation of eminent partners of Rotary for Peace, MBBI, IEP, Makerere Peace Centre, a Rotary Peace Fellow, the Egyptian Red Crescent and other outstanding speakers. Allow me to thank them very much.

This Forum brought together ICC participants from 35 nationalities and was honoured by the presence and participation of Director Patrick Chisanga and PRIVP Nicki Scott.

The Forum is being organized after the Rome Forum for Peace in the Mediterranean last September, which was honoured by the participation of Rotary International President Gordon McInally.

Allow me to thank and extend my warmest congratulations on behalf of the Executive Council Committee, to the entire organizing team and in particular to the exceptional Abdulhamid, President of the Organizing Commission, to the excellent Annemarie and to the remarkable Christophe. Their teamwork over the months has enabled the organization of a successful and high-quality Forum despite the difficult situation prevailing in the region and which did not allow certain participants to join us.

I am pleased to provide you with a summary report of the activities of this Forum, illustrated with a few photos and with appropriate links.

I am also transmitting a statement voted on by the participants outlining proposals and suggestions to Rotary International and the Rotary Foundation regarding the humanitarian situation in the Gaza area.

I wish you a good reception.

Hope and Peace

Mohamed



I.C.C. ACTIVITIES

BENELUX

Dialysis Centre by Rotary Club of Chennai Towers:

Playing with other children, running around, spinning on a merry go round, eating what kids like to eat like sweets, etc, is not possible for some little ones having kidney problems. Many of these children are in need of dialysis but unfortunately they don't get the opportunity because of lack of facilities and money. Private hospitals are way too expensive for such prolonged treatments.

In short, the children are effectively deprived of their childhood because they do not have the kind of medical facilities needed to recover and get as close to normalcy as they can. That's why our Project at the Government Institute of Child Health, Egmore, Chennai in India provides us with so much satisfaction.

Through the efforts of Rotary Club of Chennai Towers Dist 3232 and financial support from our sister club Rotary club of Villers la Ville Belgium district 2150 , Rotary Club of Nurnberg Neumarkt Dist 1880 Germany who was our International Rotary club partner due to which we could get a substantial Global grant , and several other generous donors who's contribution helped us enable to provide dialysis to little lives with sophisticated equipment that offer treatment with less pain and more comfort, free of cost.

7 state of the art dialysis machines, a haemodiafiltration unit, a portable RO, ultrasound and a body composition machine were handed over along with the required beds and cots and other details required for a full-fledged dialysis center.

With this project by Rotary Club of Chennai Towers, our vision of being able to get children suffering from kidney diseases back on their feet and able to lead a normal life has been made a possibility.

Nephrologist Dr.Balaraman was very thankful for the project and shared how this has improved in treatment of young patients. It's no doubt that Rotary has created a benchmark of sorts through this project. Hopefully many more little lives will benefit from this heartening and need of the hour project.

Regards

Sabu Balagopal



P

Peter Bal

Jan 13, 2024, 8:18 PM
(3 days ago)

to me, Nathalie, Sabu

Dear Deepak,

Please find attached a Powerpoint and Word document on a pediatric dialysis clinic that was created by the Rotary Club of Chennai Towers and that was opened in 2023.

This project was supported by a Global Grant that resulted from the collaboration between Rotary Clubs in India, Germany and Belgium.

More details can be found in the documents attached and with Sabu from RC Chennai Towers, in CC of this email.

Best regards,

Peter

Pediatric Dialysis Centre Chennai

Highlights

- **Pediatric dialysis centre by Rotary Club of Chennai Towers:**
 - Targeted at children with kidney problems that cannot afford a treatment
 - Full fledged dialysis centre:
 - 7 state of the art dialysis machines
 - A haemodiafiltration unit, portable reverse osmosis unit, ultrasound and body composition machine, plus beds and cots and other details
- Opening on March 13, 2023 (close to World Kidney Day on March 9)
- At Government Institute of Child Health, Egmore – Chennai
- Cost of 8.5M INR or 100K EUR
- Supporting Global Grant:
 - RC Chennai Towers, RD 3232, India
 - RC Nurnberg Neumark, RD 1880, Germany
 - RC Villers-la-Ville, RD 2150, Belgium



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BELARUS

Rtn Julia from Belarus visited Rotary clubs in Bangalore as chief guest talking about rotary in Belarus and their service activities. Subsequently she visited Delhi and was Chief Guest at meeting of rotary club of Delhi on December 14th 2023





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Dear Deepak.
I hope you are doing well.

I am sending you an invitation to the Celebration of the 30th anniversary of ROTARY in Belarus, which will take place on April 19-20, 2024.
Perhaps you can place this Invitation in your newsletter so that many of your friends and partners can see it and, perhaps, want to come to visit us.

Our Rotary friends will have an interesting program, acquaintance with the newly found work of the artist Kazimir Malevich (author of the famous "Black Square", he is Belarus), tasting dishes of medieval Belarusian and Hungarian cuisine, etc.

Rotarian friends from Hungary, Russia, and Sweden are going to visit us.
The guests will be the 1st cosmonaut of Hungary Bertalan Farkas and Russian cosmonaut (he was born in Belarus) Oleg Novitsky.
Perhaps Rakesh Sharma, the first cosmonaut of India, will want to come to Minsk to meet with Farkas and Novitsky? Which one of you can ask him about it?

Now that there is a direct flight from Minsk to Delhi, visits have become easier.

I am sure that if Rotary India wants to send its delegates to our Holiday, the Indian Embassy in Belarus and the Embassy of Belarus in India will help us with this.

I stay in touch,
yours sincerely,
Alexander





ISRAEL

Respected PDG Deepak Talwar ICC National coordinator India

Warm greetings from Israel

As you all know , since the unprecedented terror attack on 7th October 2023 (black saturday) by Hamas terrorists,causing the massacre of over 1200 Israeli citizens and abduction of over 240 hostages to Gaza , Israel has been in a state of war for the last three months. Daily life is getting disrupted due to barrages of missiles firing at different parts of the country from time to time and Israel is still fighting for the release of the 136 hostages remaining under Hamas custody in underground tunnels of Gaza.

Rotary Israel authorities , and myself, ICC Israel India chair have conducted many zoom meetings to our fellow rotarians around the world in public diplomacy, to explain to the world the real facts on the Israel Hamas war, as lots of fake news appear in the media day by day.

Attached herewith photo of our solidarity zoom meet on the heinous Hamas terror attack and its aftermath held on 6th December 2023,participated predominantly by rotary clubs from different parts of India, Delhi Mumbai Bangalore and Kerala clubs ,many of them twin clubs of Rotary club of Ramla. Our heartfelt gratitude to PDG Deepak Talwar and ICC India Israel chair Dr Sushil Khurana for their gracious participation and warm support to Israel . PDG Dr Nachum Frenkel narrated the difficulties which Israel faces due to biased media .

The current war situation prevailing in Israel disrupts the ordinary rotary activities in and out of the country

Despite that, we are pleased to inform , Rotary club of Ramla is in the process of signing a twin club treaty with Rotary club of Delhi South End, who visited Israel October 2023 , pre-war period and also there will be a collaboration between the clubs , a global grant project in the medical field ,MOU is to be signed soon.

On this occasion our sincere gratitude to PM Modi ji, government of India and the members of different rotary clubs in India for their strong support and concern to Israel

Warm Rotary greetings

Zipora Meir

ICC INDIA ISRAEL CHAIR

DIST 2490 ISRAEL



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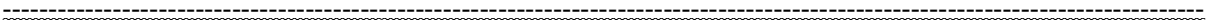
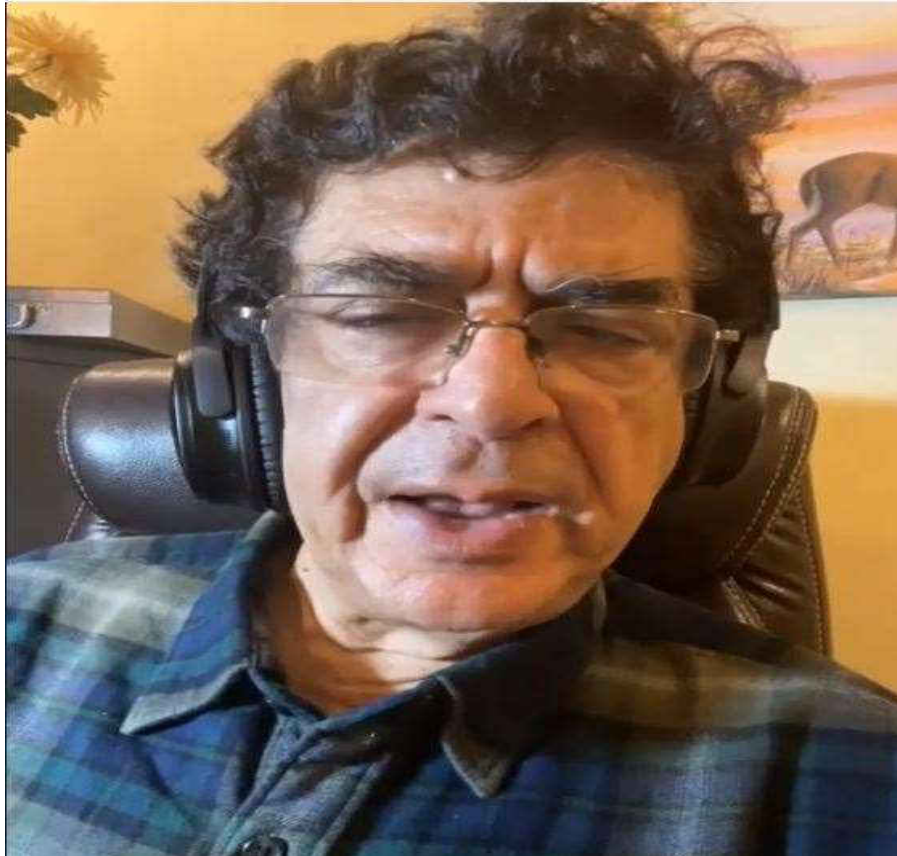


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Respected Deepakji

Thank you for your participation

Highly appreciated your supportive words to Israel 🇮🇱





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U.S.A.

Ref: 12.19.23a "Minutes" India-USA ICC. w/Zoom Recording URL and Photographs. Minutes in Agenda References, Thank You Zoom Participants, YouTube Recipients, & Presenters! Next Zoom Meeting January 18th, 2024. Welcome All!

Thank You to Each Participant for Such Wonderful and Active Involvement during our December Meeting.

"Minutes" Backup Watch Now the Zoom Meeting Recording for full Details at: <https://youtube.com/live/PtG9N3X43p4>

Referenced "Minutes" in Red for Tuesday, December, 19, 2023,

10:30 A.M. EDT/9:30 A.M. CDT/8:30 A.M. MDT/7:30 A.M. PDT USA/9:00 P.M. IST, India

Moderators: Dr. Samuel Lee Hancock, CM, RID 7620, India-USA ICC, U.S. Division President and PP Vijay Narayan Kewalramani, RID 3142, India-USA ICC, India Division President

Join Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87255172333?pwd=a0p3OVBPtZVTWFkxdVZZeWJaUjVlVGQTO9>

Meeting ID: 872 5517 2333, Passcode: ICC

Theme for December: Reviews, Outcomes, and Future Steps from COP 28 - United Nations Climate Change Conference, 30 November - 12 December 2023, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. What is Next to Save Planet Earth...from US?

Why Did it Matter: Rotary International was able to amplify and help direct climate action at COP28 in Dubai. Set against the backdrop of a world grappling with multifaceted environmental challenges, Rotary, along with hundreds of other organizations, emphasized the importance of collaborative community-driven action which can help facilitate ongoing discussions between climate experts and key opinion leaders from across the globe. The Rotary delegation, led by our very own Rotary International President [Gordon McInally](#), Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair [Barry Rassin](#), and Rotary International General Secretary and CEO [John Hewko](#), helped to augment our Pavilion in the UN-managed venue called the Blue Zone. Across the two weeks, Rotary hosted numerous breakout sessions aligned with COP 28 [thematic days](#) working to exceed all 17 U.N. SDGs.

"We aim to bring to the fore how community-driven organizations like Rotary can catalyze positive change and effectively tackle both the causes and impacts of climate



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change," said McNally. "Our legacy is not just in the projects we initiate, but in the global collaborations we foster for a healthier planet." As a testament to Rotary's global community presence and commitment to climate action, the Association of Rotary Clubs in UAE was invited to showcase local environmental initiatives in the Blue Zone venue managed by the COP28 UAE Presidency. To access what was projected to happen and what actually happened we have invited back three of the top Blue Zone subject-matter experts and proven Rotary leaders to discuss their themes, ideas, and proven solutions presented while at COP. The most urgent question as we move from COP 28 in 2023, "Did we achieve our aim and potential in Dubai?" as we enter the New 2024 Year.

Order of Business:

1a) Dr. Sam: (4 Minutes) {Invited} Introducing our esteemed guest Mohamed Ghammam. ICC World Chair (2022-2024). Mohamed will share special greetings on behalf of the Rotary ICC Executive Council. Mohamed has been a Rotary member since 1990 and Founder of a new Rotary Club of Sidi Bou Said in 2014. Mohamed served as Club President. Then Governor and member of the staff of RID 9010. He was Representative of the President of RI, Trainer, Speaker, Moderator, General Trainer, Training Leader in Gets and Institutes, Rotary conventions and Presidential Conferences, Africa Rota Chair Region 1 (2014-2016), Vice President of IRL and Rotary Coordinator Zone 22 (2014-2020). He was former ICC National Coordinator Tunisia (2013-2018) and President Nominee of ICC Executive Council. Mohamed is Major Donor of the Rotary Foundation and Member of Paul Harris Circle. Please Mohamed's Links about this most important meeting.

*References made by Mohamed can be found in the [ICC Peace Forum in the Mediterranean – September 15, 2023](https://rotary-icc.org/news/icc-peace-forum-in-the-mediterranean-september-15-2023/), URL: <https://rotary-icc.org/news/icc-peace-forum-in-the-mediterranean-september-15-2023/>

1b) PP Vijay (3 minutes) Welcome to All for participating in YOUR India-USA ICC. We Welcomed both our India and U.S.A. Division Participants. Please see the December comments and presentation here: India USA Inter Country Committee 6th Committee Meeting 12.19.23. URL: <https://youtube.com/live/PtG9N3X43p4> We were most pleased with everyone's full support and participation. Thank you for your active participation, volunteering, and supporting our India-USA ICC Family in 2023. In order to provide maximum time for the COP 28 information and presentations we hosted the general introductions of our members, guests, and



supporters following our top COP 28 Blue Zone subject-matter experts and proven Rotary leaders. **Achieved as stated.**

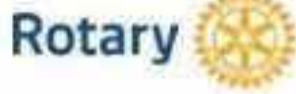
2) Dr. Sam: Rotary Blue Zone COP 28 Leader #1" (10 Minutes) w/Slides: Dr. Christopher (Chris) Puttock was the Program Manager for "Rotary at COP 28" in Dubai. For the first time Rotary International had a Pavilion within the United Nations Climate Change Conference, There were numerous themed breakout sessions. Chris had the honor of directing several of these himself. He assembled a great Team of Rotary subject-matter experts and community opinion leaders who directed the majority of these breakout sessions. Besides Chris, two other Rotary leaders included in this Cadre were: Yasar Atacik Leader #2 and Salvador Rico Leader #3. Chris, with the help of Mina Venkataraman, International ESRAG Representative and Organizer, managed the "Nature" session. Rotary, and its most active and visible Rotaractors, including one from our own RID 7620, demonstrate how climate impacts every aspect of what we do today across all Rotary seven major areas of focus and the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

***Chris shared many important ideas, challenges, and ways forward for our global environment as debated at COP 28. Many of the important ideas and much work yet to be done is contained in the COP28 Agreement Signals "Beginning of the End" of the Fossil Fuel Era, 13.12.23 URL: <https://unfccc.int/news/cop28-agreement-signals-beginning-of-the-end-of-the-fossil-fuel-era>**

3) PP Vijay: Rotary Blue Zone COP 28 Leader #2" (10 Minutes) w/Slides: Yasar Atacik is currently the Chair of the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG). He is actively engaged in developing projects, writing, and speaking on sustainability issues around the globe. Before retiring he was a highly accomplished senior executive with 27 years of experience in the Sabanci Group (Türkiye). His professional expertise includes 22 years at Board of Directors level responsibilities at Sabanci's leading companies, focusing on innovation; mergers and acquisitions, strategy development, corporate restructuring, and divestments of assets. He joined the ESRAG (Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group) Board in 2018. Partnering with fellow ESRAG members, he led the development of *Climate Roadmap* for significant climate initiatives at Club, District and RI levels, which are still on going.

***Please review the following Zoom Meeting Recording for full Details of Yasar's PowerPoint and remarks at: <https://youtube.com/live/PtG9N3X43p4>**

4) Dr. Sam: Rotary Blue Zone COP 28 Leader #3" (10 Minutes) w/Slides: Salvador Rico has been a Rotarian for over 12 years as a member and PP of the Rotary



Club of South Ukiah, California, RID 5130. Salvador began River Clean Up Projects with his Rotary Club in 2009. Since then, he has helped start River Clean Up Projects with the support of Rotary Clubs in different countries. Currently, thanks to WASRAG's River Clean Up Challenge, this project has crossed continents. Salvador has been involved in numerous River Clean Ups and extensive tree planting initiatives through an ambitious initiative called *Cleaning the Rivers of the World*. He has also been an Organizer, Subject-Matter Expert, and Community Leader for other major projects in Mexico on the Ameca and Lerma Rivers. His latest initiative involves the United Nations Global Project of "Adopt-a-River" Program featured at COP.

***Please review the following Zoom Meeting Recording for full Details of Salvador's YouTube videos and remarks at:** <https://youtube.com/live/PtG9N3X43p4>

Four major outcomes shepherd by our Rotary Leadership in COP 28 took positive steps towards developing a plan with more specific, concrete, and feasible including, but not limited to:

- Creating a Rotary Climate Taskforce to build commitment at all four levels of Rotary leadership: the RI Board and the Rotary Foundation, Regions, Districts, and Clubs
- Measuring, saving, and cataloguing the carbon footprint of Rotary activities embracing the highest-impact strategies to reduce even eliminate such footprints;
- Documenting Rotarian environmental behavior changes, projects, and impacts; while
- Aligning Rotary's investments to support environmental sustainability.

***References to, actions taken by, and progress towards the above points may be found in the COP28 Agreement Signals "Beginning of the End" of the Fossil Fuel Era, 13.12.23 URL: <https://unfccc.int/news/cop28-agreement-signals-beginning-of-the-end-of-the-fossil-fuel-era>**

Our presenters shared how well we as Rotarians were able to address these four major outcomes while still needing additional "Next Steps" to further evolve and/or begin to create hands-on projects through local, district, and global grants to realize the potential for each outcome.

5) Dr. Sam: (10 minutes or Adjusted Based on Number of Participants) 30 Second Elevator Style Introduction: Your Name, RC, District, Rotary Position Title if any. Please put all of your particulars in "Chat" as to your: Full Name; Rotary



Nickname if Any, Rotary Club; District, Position Title(s) if Any, Local Telephone/WhatsApp Number, Best email Address, and One [1] Rotary Exchange Program You would like to discuss in the future. **Achieved as projected.**

6) PP Vijay: (10 minutes or Adjusted Based on Number of Participants) 30 Second Elevator Style Introduction: Name, RC, District, Rotary Position Title If any. Please put all of your particulars in "Chat" as to your: Full Name; Rotary Nickname if Any, Rotary Club; District, Position Title(s) if Any, Local Telephone/WhatsApp Number, Best email Address, and One [1] Rotary Exchange Program You would like to discuss in the future. **Achieved as projected.**

7) Dr. Sam (1 minute) IGGPFs "Friendly Reminder", 12.19.23, 6:00 p.m. PST (U.S. & Canada) Zoom
Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2113420592?pwd=ODAyendVL3dCcVV6S1MvRnhZeG5qZz09> Overview and Invitation to the monthly International Global Grants Projects Fairs (IGGPFs). Third Tuesday of each month. 6:00 P.M. PST. Project(s) submission at: www.matchinggrants.org Once you register your proposed project please keep your 'G' number and bring with you to this coming week's IGGPF workshop. Invitations are being shared with all those in the India-USA ICC email lists, both the U.S. Coordinating Committee and the Indian Coordinating Committee. We can add anyone you may know interested in a new, very progressive, potential high return/low investment of time and effort, in this alternative Global Grants process. Welcome! **Achieved as projected.**

8) Dr. Sam (1 minute): Two [2] Announcements:

- We will be meeting the third [3rd] Thursday of each month, or as a special session called by the Country President, at: 10:30 A.M. EST/9:30 A.M. CST/8:30 A.M. MST/7:30 A.M. PST (USA)/9:00 P.M. Indian Standard Time (IST). Welcome to any and all of our monthly meetings; and
- We will have our next meeting of the India-USA ICC, U.S. & Indian Divisions on: Thursday, January, 18th, 2024 (1.18.24). **Achieved as projected.**

9) Reminder: Zoom Meeting monthly
at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87255172333?pwd=a0p3OVBpLzVTWFkxdVZZeWJaUUVGQT09> Meeting ID: 872 5517 2333, Passcode: ICC

10) Dr. Sam & PP Vijay: (1 minute) Adjournment and Final "Thank You" to ALL Participants.. **Achieved as projected.**



Intercountry
Committees

Rotary



SERVE TO
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Washington, D.C. 20037 USA

India-USA ICC, U.S. Division President

Rotary International (Ruby Award) Sustaining Member,

Rotary Club of Washington, D.C. Sustaining Member,

and Senior Advisor "[Trees for the Capital](#)" Committee

Rotary Club of Washington, D.C. - America's National Capital Club

1)* Special Discussion: With **Larry Strober, Chair, Rotary International Global Peace Poles Projects, RID 5100** and **Dr. Sam** discussed about Rotary International's Global Peace Poles Projects around the globe. What? How? Impacts? Outcomes? With one idea directly related to the Global Peace Pole Project can be an audacious project proposed to follow one of three most promising major Peace Walks/Marches entitled as "**Following in the Steps of Mahama Gandhi, Planting Peace Poles and Peace Groves to Foster Peace and Environmental Rejuvenation in His Memory**". This is an initiative to more firmly connect Rotary International's First Area of Focus, "Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution" and its natural bookend with the Seventh Area of Focus "Supporting the Environment" This effort will be to involve as many Rotary Clubs, Rotaractor Clubs, Interact Clubs, and Districts to focus on the balance of Peace and Environmental Quality through the fusion of Peace Poles and native species planting of trees as Peace Groves. This project can be viewed as a world-wide model program * **As shared above, Larry announced there will be the effort to establish an Indian and American Planning Team to review the following documents and begin determining the best "Path Towards Peace" taken by Mahama Gandhi for our first Peace Poles and Peace Groves initiatives. More detailed discussion to be taken in the January, 18th, 2024 ICC Zoom meeting.**

***(Revised) Major Project for our India-USA ICC (Top Selects for Consideration)**

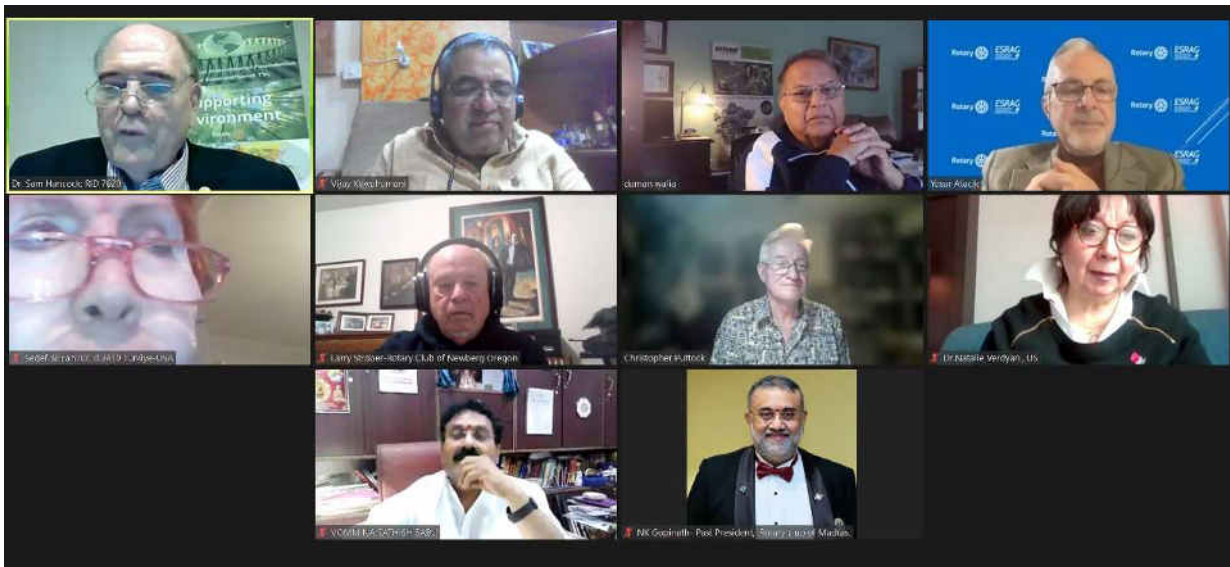
"Following in the Steps of Mahama Gandhi Fostering Peace Poles & Peace Groves in His Memory"

The idea is to follow one or more of the long Peace walks taken by the Great Mahatma Himself thus tying the Indian and U.S. Rotary Clubs and Districts together in the "planting" of Peace Groves of about five to seven [5 - 7] native species trees with a Peace Pole. A typical Peace Pole, [The Peace Pole Project - May Peace Prevail on Earth](#), has from four to eight [4 - 8] languages which can be Hindi,



Tamil, English, perhaps several local Indian languages, plus several European or Asian languages as well.

The Peace Poles can be twined together between a local Indian Rotary Club and/or District with American one(s). There are estimated 2,500 Peace Poles "planted" around the world dedicated as monuments to peace. The innovation, sustainable, and resilience qualities of our proposal is to add the earth healing impacts of having each Peace Pole planted with its own Peace Grove. We want to explore this opportunity so we have a truly world-wide long-term high profile sustainable and resilient ICC project.





ARGENTINA

On 15th December 2023 and MOU and Charter of ICC India / Argentina was digitally signed vide virtual meeting duly recorded. Rtn's Rohin Chawla President of ICC India / Argentina section in India and Rtn. Miguel President of ICC India / Argentina section in Argentina looked forward to regular meetings between ICC working committees of both countries to facilitate continuous contact and implementation of service projects in Argentina and India through the governing districts participating in ICC program of both countries.





MALASIYA



20 November 2023

Dear Sir

Many are aware that while Gaza Crisis may be a war disaster, the ground situation strips the dignity of humanity. Humanitarian aid to the affected areas is limited and the situation is increasingly devastating. Babies and children are the main victims and are dying every day.

The call for an immediate ceasefire by Malaysia, Indonesia, and Brunei at the APEC economic leader's meeting in San Francisco, is a call for us to prepare ourselves to mobilise immediate humanitarian aid to meet basic humanity needs.

Rotary Malaysia in partnership with VIVA Palestina Malaysia and with our partners on the ground in Palestine, the Rotary Club of Ramallah, are making a call for donations to generate funds to provide the necessary aid to meet basic humanity needs in these life-threatening situations.

Attached is a report on the current ground situation for your reference.

We appeal for your kind support for GAZA WEEPS. Be rest assured that every contribution will reach the beneficiaries as we are engaging with the Rotary Clubs in Palestine and VIVA Palestine's ground team to disburse supplies of food, medical and any immediate needs from resources obtained from around the region. Accountability and stewardship are the forefront of this fundraising campaign.

Donations may be made directly to account: Rotary International District 3300 (Malaysia) Berhad
Account: CIMB BANK 8600290231
Swift Code: CIBBMYKL (for international transfer)
Kindly indicate GAZA AID in your bank in-slip

Your donation will make a difference in the lives of those who are in need.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Siti Subaidah
Past District Governor,
GAZA Aid Task Force, Rotary International District 3300

Rotary International District 3300 (Malaysia) Berhad
509, Block B, Dataran Usahawan, Kelana Square, 17, Jalan SS7/26, SS7, 47301 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia
012 2129933 | sitisubaidah@rccd.org.my



SRILANKA

Neona Heart Surgery Project . Flag ship Global Grant Project of Rotary Club of Colombo West And Rotary Club of Cochin West . Another Batch of 7 Children from Sri Lanka UK flying today to Cochin For Surgeries to be performed at Amritha Hospital/ Cochin . Kerala . PP Jit , VP1 K.P Nagaraja , International Service Director Tilak Gunawardane, Rtn Nalinaksha went to Airport see them off .





SAMPLE OF STEPS FOR FORMATION OF INTER COUNTRY COMMITTEE (ICC)
(INSTEAD OF SPAIN PLEASE SUBSTITUTE NAME OF FOREIGN COUNTRY INVOLVED)

Step 1

- 1. Paco Chapa is National Coordinator Spain**
- 2. Deepak Talwar is National Coordinator India**
- 3. Aniel Sahni will be the President**
- 4. Let Rtn. Paco Chapa National Coordinator of ICC Spain give you names of at least two district governors in Spain and names of president and Vice President from Spain**
- 5. Finalise the MOU in consultation with NC ICC Spain and president ICC India Spain section for Spain**
- 6. Prepare a tentative agenda for max 60 minutes meeting as follows:**

MOC

Welcome address: National Coordinator India

National Anthems of both countries

Short film on India

Inspirational address DG 1 India

Inspirational address DG 2 India

Meeting handed over to MOC in Spain

Short film Spain

Inspirational address DG 1 Spain

Inspirational address DG 2 Spain

Reading of MOU by NC Spain

E signing of screen shared MOU by verbal acceptance of same by each signatory on MOU

Toast and congratulations to all present for MOU digital signing ceremony.

Vote of thanks ICC Coordinator Spain

Meeting adjourned by National Section Head / president ICC Spain section of India / Spain ICC

- 7. In coordination with Paco Chapa and all MOU signatories and agenda participants fix a date and time on zoom for signing the MOU.**

Step 2

Based on Step 1, I will get official charter issued by ICC executive committee Rotary international

Step 3

In India and Spain separately an ICC working committee should be set up such as:

India



**Intercountry
Committees**



President: RI 3011

Vice President: RI 3170

Secretary: RI 3170

Treasurer. : RI 3011

Member: 1. RI 3011

Member: 2 RI 3011

Member: 3. RI 3170

Member: 4. RI 3170

Same committee for Spain formed by President ICC Spain sharing positions between involved districts and having two members separately from each district which is part of ICC India/ Spain.

Step 4

In consultation with President Spain, you finalize an annual charter of activities for the said ICC

Step 5

Start virtual activities immediately and physical when feasible

Step 6

National Coordinator India to write letter to each district in India asking them to join ICC India /Spain and depute two members from accepting districts to join working committee.

National Coordinator of other ICC country to write to other districts in said country inviting them to join ICC and depute two members in the ICC working committee for that country.

If you need any clarification feel free to contact me

PDG Deepak Talwar

National Coordinator (India)

Inter country committees

Rotary international

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InterCountry
Committees

Rotary



SERVE TO
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ROTARY INTERNATIONAL INTER COUNTRY COMMITTEE

MISSION OF INTERCOUNTRY COMMITTEE

“To promote peace and international understanding while improving cross-cultural awareness, Engaging diversities, and bridging communities”





Editorial

PP Rtn. Subhash Dewan

Dear friends in Rotary,

It is heartening that for the first time, we have a lady RI President Rtn. Jennifer Jones, in a long history of rotary international.

Essence of all human beings is the same existence, that we merely are bestowed different individual talents & Gender roles. We are like actors on a stage called Planet Earth, giving our one life time performance. The Creator gave us abilities not for our own use but for the benefitting the world.

In the Rotary year 2000-01, when I was President of my R.C. Delhi South-West,

R.I .President, Frank Delyn on his visit to our R.I. district said, we the Rotarians in your country India & ones in mine Mexico, should thank ourselves that we have never-ending opportunities to do our best in our developing world, otherwise Rotarians in the affluent western world have to literally look around For such avenues.

Friends, we Homo sapiens have devastated this beautiful planet in the last 200 years, which was not done in past millions of years before. It becomes our solemn duty to save it for our future generation, for the better life for our Children. The greatest hope can come from our Rotary World, spread out in 200 countries. It was Rotary which with help of WHO, decimated crippling diseases Like Polio & others, but this journey, has to go on, till it reaches the last person in misery.

Here is our PDG Deepak Talwar of R.I. Dist. 3011, India, who has taken the challenge of doing well to society by clubbing two binary nations & Rotarians,



in R.I. Districts together to alleviate poverty & hunger, illiteracy, malnutrition, sanitation, clean water & health issues; plus bring International understanding, conflict resolution, through goodwill for all.

At recent Armenian Rotary conference PDG Deepak Talwar's address was very motivational and musical. We wish the cold & hot war between Armenia & Azerbaijan. Rotary can be act like mediation. No longer can a bigger nation bully a small neighbour, we're saying in going on between Russia and Ukraine.

I can prove this by self-example, as in his year of his Dist. Governorship 2005- 6, Deepak chose me to write his 'Governor Monthly Letter' as Editor. It was in that year he took us, a good number of Dist. Rotarians to Pakistan (our estranged neighbour) on good-will mission to resolve conflict & to bring human- touch, at least between our two peoples, who have same roots, culture & language. I wrote the awesome experience in our Mega issue, to show, how his initiative brought such enormous bonhomie thru' people to people contacts, which continues till date.

So my appeal to DGs & PDGs of all our friendly countries, to join his "ICC & Rotary" crusade in order to take Rotary to pinnacle of "Service above Self"

**Warm Regards
PP Rtn Subhash Dewan**
