



# 東風

**Rotary**  
Club of  
Hong Kong Island East  
**TUNG FENG**



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## LAST WEEK'S PROCEEDINGS - 25 MARCH 2015

The meeting kicked off at 1:05pm and President Norman began by welcoming back PP Tim & Rotarian Peter. There was no celebration for birthdays this week, and the Red Box collection for today was HK\$2,800 with special contribution from PP Henry with his kind top-up.



Pres. Norman then announced several key coming events and stressed the importance of each. A successful grand opening of the Play Therapy Centre in Heep Hong Yau Lai Centre was held on 21<sup>st</sup> March. 16 members and spouse from HKIE have participated. Pres. Norman has treated the attendees lunch after the ceremony. Next highlight was PP Henry's retirement party, it was full of fun, the venue was at the CRC, members can read Tung Feng to learn more about the joyful moment we shared that night. PP Henry has donated HK\$2,000 to red box as an appreciation to all PPs who attended the party.



PP Uncle John introduced the speaker, Ronny Mintjens who is a linguist, an international educator, a world traveler and a passionate football coach. He has visited close to 100 nations and he has played and coached football at the highest level in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. He has been trying very hard to fulfill a childhood dream, but hasn't quite managed to do so yet.

After the presentation, Pres. Norman then presented a small gift to our speaker as a token of appreciation and gave a vote of thanks to Ronny and appreciates his sharing and his dedication to the children of the Democratic People's of Republic of Korea.



Next week's program will be our Club Assembly, so members please join us next Wednesday to learn the progress of our service projects. The meeting was then adjourned at 2:05pm with a toast to RI and the Rotary Club of HK Island.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG ISLAND EAST  
香港東區扶輪社週報  
Club 16340 District 3450 Chartered on 06 April, 1954 by Charter President  
PDG (Uncle) John Yuen

## SPOTLIGHT ON: Ronny Mintjens

Ronny used his involvement in African football to embrace the local culture. He has managed to go far beyond the guidebooks and the photo albums, and his interpretation of the football culture has helped him better appreciate what makes these cultures so unique.

His interest in intercultural understanding and global peace now takes him regularly to North Korea, where he runs educational projects with local schools. Having previously set up Tanzania's first ever youth football academy, he has recently also started working on a youth football development project with the North Korean Football Association. He believes that raising awareness about cultures and global issues is the first step to a more tolerant and better-informed world. In November 2011 Ronny co-led a Rotary trip to North Korea.

In December 2012, he published "More than a Game", a novel based on his African odyssey, and in January of 2014 he published the first ever photographic album and guidebook on North Korea, entitled "A Journey through North Korea". Copies of both of these books are available online or directly from Ronny (rmintjens@gmail.com).

Ronny's presentation about North Korea focused on how the situation in Korea has become what it is today, and what the future may hold. Five thousand years of common history and just seventy years of strict division characterize this beautiful part of the world, where we all agree that the DMZ (the Demilitarized Zone separating the two countries) is an anachronism that does not belong in the 21st century. The Korean War of 1950-53 continues to this day, yet small signs of progress and goodwill are starting to appear. The complex situation that has so far kept North and South separate may at first look insurmountable, but after closer analysis it so appears that there is hope and that those who dare to take an interest and reach out to the local population can actually do so. Ronny's emphasis on bringing goodwill and small change to North Korea focuses mainly on the next generations.

As a teacher and global traveler, he realizes the importance of broadening the horizons of the young people, and of showing them that the world can indeed be a better place.



Ronny shared the ways in which he is having a small impact on the lives of children, students and adults in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and how the international media looks at his attempts to unite people from very different backgrounds and ideologies. He freely uses the words "challenge" and "opportunity" in the same breath.

North Korea has been isolated for too long, and it is not quite possible to isolate it even more. So Ronny's approach is to do the opposite : to try and engage, to show that there is still a lot of goodwill amongst people in the world, and to reassure the people of North Korea that they are not on their own. Through the tours that Ronny organizes to North Korea, anyone interested in visiting this fascinating and stunningly beautiful country can do so. After all, there is no better way to get to know a foreign culture than to immerse oneself in it. Ronny shared many pictures on the various places of interest, the culture, the nature, the people and the daily life in North Korea. He would like to promote awareness of the plight of the DPRK, a country not to be forgotten. This is a country that is highly deserving of our interest, our curiosity, our visits and our support. Details of the tours can be found at [www.visitdprk.weebly.com](http://www.visitdprk.weebly.com)

## OUT & ABOUT

### Penang International Understanding Week

Pres. Norman and his family led the Choi Jun School students, parents, teachers and Principal Lee to visit Penang for an International understanding trip last weekend, departing on an early flight. The total group included 10 students and their parents, 5 teachers, one nurse, one social worker, principal Lee and the family of Pres Norman.

They visited a special school similar to Choi Jun, as this school had visited Choi Jun in 2013. It was a rewarding trip, and the Hong Kong students enjoyed interacting with their local Penang counterparts.

Rotary Club of Penang had arranged two special visits for us during the trip. One of these was to the Spastics Centre, which is a non-Government Organization established by RC of Penang back in 1962, and the Joblink Centre, which is another service project of RC of Penang to create a very special factory for the graduates from the Spastics Centre.

The Hong Kong group also visited some historic sites in Penang. All in all there were many learnings for everyone, and the objectives for this special service trip were achieved. Mission accomplished and good work all round!



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Pres. Norman has submitted the presidential citation for HKIE. And he would like to express his appreciation for all members' support.
2. A special project for HKIE, the Rookie Star Hip Hop dance competition is scheduled on 12<sup>th</sup> April in Shatin. This year we have made this as an Area 3 project. It will be a big event. All members are reminded to join the spectacular performance by all the international and local hip hop dance teams. PIC PN Chris will provide more detail of the event rundown in due course.
3. A very special speaker has been arranged on 29<sup>th</sup> April with Dr. York Chow while Mr. Stephen Ng, Chairman of Cable TV will be the mega speaker on 20<sup>th</sup> May for our annual 4-clans meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May. Please reserve your time to join both meetings and try to promote both meetings to your friends in Rotary.
4. The District Conference will be held on April 25-26. Our board has approved to sponsor 8 participants. We would like to encourage the new members to join. Any new members inducted within a year and have not joined the District Conference before will enjoy the sponsorship by the club. It is absolutely free for those new members. If the new members do not use up the free sponsorship quota, the other members will use the remaining fund as subsidies for their cost. The cost for early bird registration is HK\$1,800. Please register with P Norman before Mar. 25th, 2015.

## THE LAST LAUGH

### Texting codes for seniors:

- \* ATD- At the Doctor's
- \* BFF - Best Friends Funeral
- \* BTW- Bring the Wheelchair
- \* BYOT - Bring Your Own Teeth
- \* CBM- Covered by Medicare
- \* CUATSC- See You at the Senior Center
- \* DWI- Driving While Incontinent
- \* FWIW - Forgot Where I Was
- \* GGPBL- Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low
- \* GHA - Got Heartburn Again
- \* HGBM - Had Good Bowel Movement
- \* LMDO- Laughing My Dentures Out
- \* LOL- Living on Lipitor
- \* OMSG - Oh My! Sorry, Gas
- \* TOT- Texting on Toilet
- \* WAITT - Who Am I Talking To?

### OFFICERS

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Hubert Chan  
Eric Chin

**Club postal address** : P.O.Box 47064, Morrison Hill Post Office, Hong Kong  
**Meeting Venue** : Regal HK Hotel, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong  
**Meeting Schedules** : Every Wed. 1st week at 7:30 pm. Other weeks at 12:30 pm  
**Website** : <http://hkie.rotary3450.org/>  
**Facebook** : <https://www.facebook.com/RotaryClubHKIslandEast>