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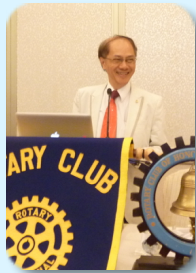
Rotary
Club of
Hong Kong Island East
TUNG FENG



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17 JUNE 2015

LAST WEEK'S PROCEEDINGS - 10 JUNE 15



This week it was PP Laurence who took to the podium to chair the meeting, and at 1.05 the bell was rung for the meeting to commence. PP Laurence started by welcoming HIMSELF back from his trip (which caused a laugh among the members...) before also mentioning other returnees, including John Yau, Uncle John, PP Hubert and Peter. IPP Jonathan introduced his guest, Leo Yu and John Yau also introduced his own guest, two lovely ladies including his daughter, Desiree Yao, and his daughter's friend Ms Tian Tse.

PP Laurence read out the announcements, including a resolution regarding procedures for handling all future resignations from the club. We also had birthday boys to celebrate this week, namely Kishu and Freddie, and Rotarian Kishu invited Rotarian Chris (soon to be PE Chris) to lead the birthday song, which must have been because of the reports of Chris's karaoke performance at the recent IPP dinner. And with the singing, cake and gift presentations done, acting SAA PP Andy announced the Red Box takings of \$1400 which this week will be donated to help the



Community of Hong Kong.



It was then time for our guest speaker, and PP Laurence invited Rotarian Chris, but this time not to sing,

instead to give a warm welcome to our guest speaker, Mr Matt Friedman of the Mekong Club which is a collective of business professionals, based in Hong Kong, who devote time and resources to fight against human trafficking around the world. The theme of Matt's speech was 'Human trafficking – Modern day slavery'.



The presentation was hard-hitting, and in places shocking. Such a dark and daunting and also very important topic. After the presentation, Rotarian Freddie was invited to thank the speaker,

before President Norman also presented the speaker with a souvenir from the occasion. With all said and done, we gave a toast to RI and HKIE, and gathered for our group photo. Next week's speaker will be Mr. Jimmy Tao, CEO of Vitargent (Intl) Biotechnology Ltd and the 2015 Geneva Inventions Grand Prix Winner, who will speak about how Vitargent's fish embryos have improved global safety testing standards.



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 - Human Trafficking - Modern Day Slavery



Human trafficking occurs when a person is tricked, sold or forced into a highly exploitative, work-related situation, with little or no payment, or few options to escape because of fraudulent debt or threats of violence. Because human trafficking tends to be an underground practice, there is a false perception that this form of modern-day slavery was abolished years ago and therefore no longer exists. However, despite this belief, human slavery thrives throughout the world. **It is estimated that there are nearly 36 million men, women and children languishing in slavery today — more than at any other time in history.** These victims, who can be found in factories, construction sites, within fisheries and sex venues, are deprived of their freedom and often subjected to unimaginable suffering.

Matt Friedman began his presentation by telling us some stories. And not pleasant ones. He told how an encounter with an abducted girl he wanted to help in India, but was unable to do so, convinced him he was destined to be an activist. It was this and other incidents which led to him forming The Mekong Group. In the early days of his work, he also changed the existing definition of what was called Human Trafficking and coined the term 'Modern Day Slavery'. He told how thousands of poverty-stricken families and young people are tricked every year, by human traffickers, who abduct young people and force them into unpaid work for years of their life. For young men, this means forced labour. For girls, worse. They are imprisoned in a life of forced prostitution for which there is no escape until perhaps they are cast out, old and used up and soulless, or they die. It's an incredible reality in today's supposedly modern world. Slavery, pure and simple.



Matt talked about the strategy of Mekong Group, which is about the 3 Ps – Prevention, Prosecution, Protection. They work to educate, not just educate the world's community about the situation, but also those vulnerable to its evils. The group works relentlessly to involve the private sector in helping to fight this problem (with many governments being deemed inept, either not facing up to the problem, or not caring).

Matt asked us to think of these children as our own? If we look at them in that light, and think about what we would do, how much we would do, to protect our own. Can we commit ourselves to help those poor and helpless victims around the world?

Finally Matt told of a hero in our midst – a Rotarian! Mark Little is UK based, and is Chair of The Rotary Action Group, to help battle modern day slavery. Mark avows that all Rotarians have a responsibility under the RI Code of Polices a) to defend the rule of law and order to preserve the liberty of all individuals and b) to uphold the principles of justice for humankind. For more information and to see how you can help, look up The Rotary Action Group page on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Rotarian-Action-Group-Against-Child-Slavery/121197057958416>

About the Speaker



Matt Friedman is an international human trafficking expert with more than 25 years of experience as a manager, program designer, evaluator, and front-line responder. He is currently the Chief Executive Officer of The Mekong Club, an organization made up of Hong Kong-based private sector business leaders who have joined forces to help fight human trafficking in Asia.

From 2006 to 2012, Friedman was the Regional Project Manager of the **United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP)** in Thailand, an inter-agency coordinating body that linked the United Nations system with governments and civil society groups in China, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. Prior to this (1991-2006), Friedman worked for the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Thailand, Bangladesh and Nepal.** During this period, he designed and managed both country and regional human trafficking programs; helped to establish a range of comprehensive counter-trafficking initiatives focusing on prevention, prosecution and protection; and participated in the resource mobilization and the production of two award-winning international films about sex trafficking in Nepal and India.

Friedman also offers regular technical advice to numerous governments working to stop slavery. He is frequently cited in the news media on issues related to human trafficking and slavery across Asia (CNN, TVB, BBC, NYT, IHT, etc) and is invited to speak at major conferences around the world. He is the author of nine books, on subjects ranging from human trafficking to the ancient art of Bangladesh metal casting.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Membership benefits program unveiled at convention



RI President-elect K.R. Ravindran introduced a member benefits program at the 9 June closing session of the 2015 Rotary International Convention, saying that many more hands are needed to continue Rotary's work around the world.

The program, [Rotary Global Rewards](#), aims to boost membership and enhance member satisfaction. It will debut on 1 July.

"This innovative new program will allow Rotary members to connect with hundreds of businesses and service providers from around the world -- and that number is growing," said Ravindran. "These establishments will offer

Rotarians discounts and concessions on the everyday business that you do. And, in many cases, not only will you benefit, but our Foundation will as well, by receiving a contribution with each transaction."

The program will include discounts on car rentals, hotels, dining, and entertainment. Discounts on more products and services from companies worldwide are expected to be added throughout the year.

"It will be another way to benefit from being a Rotarian and being part of the Rotary network," said Ravindran, whose presidential theme for 2015-16 is *Be a Gift to the World*. "I urge all of you to become a part of that scheme."

ROTARY GLOBAL REWARDS

Rotary's new member benefits program gives Rotary members access to discounts on a variety of products and services selected with their interests in mind.

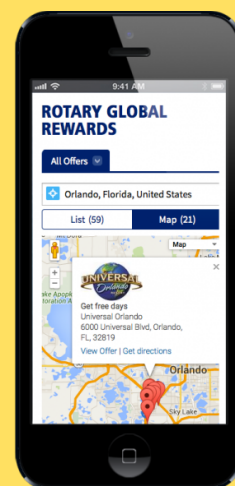
DISCOUNTS & SPECIAL OFFERS

When Rotary Global Rewards launches in July, the program will include discounts on car rentals, hotels, dining, and entertainment. More products and services from companies around the world will be added throughout the year. Check back often to see what's new in Rotary Global Rewards.

HOW IT WORKS

Anyone can view the offers and discounts on Rotary Global Rewards. But only Rotary club members who are signed in to their My Rotary accounts can redeem them. You can access and redeem rewards from your computer, smartphone, or tablet.

Create a My Rotary account now so you're ready to take advantage of the new member benefits program when it's available. If you need help creating an account, see the [How to Create a My Rotary Account quick guide \(PDF\)](#).



ROTARY SUPPORT

If you have questions about specific offers, please contact the company directly. They have the most knowledge about their discounts. Contact information is available on each company's website.

For issues with our website, please [send us an email](#).



ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. June 24th will be our last meeting for this Rotary year. July 8th will be the first meeting and it will be our club installation. Please reserve your time to attend both meetings to support your presidents.
2. Our sister club, RC of Penang will be celebrating their 85th anniversary. They have planned the program for sister clubs from Oct. 8-10. The official party is on Oct. 9. Those who are interested to join can register with PE William.
3. 13 members and spouses have registered for District installation. Anyone wish to register with the regular price, please call RIC (Rotary Information Centre) direct and arrange the payment. The regular fee is HK\$1,288.
4. The board has reviewed members' resignation requests in the joint board meeting. We will accept 3 members' resignation request. Members wish to resign the membership from HKIE should do so before June 20, 2015. If we don't receive any request by June 20, 2015, the club will assume the member to continue the membership in July 2015. Half year club due will remain at HK\$3,500. HT Jason will issue the debit note together with the prepaid lunch option asap.

THE LAST LAUGH - TIE

On the day of my big job interview I woke up late. Frantically I threw on a suit. "OH NO!" I thought. "MY TIE! My Dad was out of town and wasn't there to help me, and for the life of me I did not know how to tie a tie!"

I grabbed a tie and ran out the door. "Excuse me sir," I said to the crossing guard, "I have an important job interview, can you please help me make this tie?!"

"Sure" said the guard, "just lie down on this bench." Well if someone was going to help me I wasn't going to ask any questions. After he finished and the tie looked good I just had to ask why I had to lie down.

"Well in my previous job I learned how to tie tie's on other people when they were lying down. He replied.

What was your previous job? I asked incredulously.

"I ran a morgue."



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Avis Kong
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Jason Chiu

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Andy Wong
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Nancy Yee
Service Projects
Heman Lam

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Youth Service
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Vocational
Charles Man
PPE
Raymond Chu
Sergeant-at-Arms
John Kwok
PP Council Rep.
Andrew Chen

Ex-officio
Jonathan Lamport

Club Advisors
Peter Hall
Y. K. Cheng
Henry Chan
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://hkierotary3450.org/>
Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/RotaryClubHKIslandEast>