



東風



TUNG FENG

香港東區扶輪社週報 THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG ISLAND EAST

Last week's Proceedings -

12th October, 2005

In the absence of Pres. Eddy and IPP Rudy who were visiting the Rotary Club of Penang on the occasion of their 75th Anniversary, Acting Pres. PE Paul opened the meeting by welcoming our speaker for today Mr. Ernest Ng of World Vision. We had one other visiting Rotarian who came in just as our meeting started. It was the second visit by Rtn Christophe Piganiol from Bugis Junction. He was very warmly welcomed by PE Paul.

Acting Pres. PE Paul asked Rtn Christophe to address our meeting. He thanked PE Paul and went on to tell us about his Rotary Club of Bugis Junction in Singapore. He revealed that his Rotary Club is about the same size as our club around 35 but only half our years. He said he is being transferred to Hong Kong and is looking for a Rotary Club to join. Why not join our club? You are welcome with our opened arms. He was warmly applauded. It was a very rare coincident that our speaker today addressed us in Cantonese, but luckily he sat next to our PP Tim who gave him very good instantaneous translation so that he didn't miss a thing. Thanks a lot PP Tim.

Acting Pres. PE Paul then asked our Sargeant-at-arms who is none other then PDG Uncle Peter to report on the collection for today. PDG Uncle Peter announced that according to an email received from our Pres. Eddy who proposed that we donate the Red Box collections on October 12th to the victims of the recent earthquake disaster in South East Asia country. Pres Eddy led off by giving \$1,000 followed by IPP Rudy also giving \$1,000. Almost everyone present at the meeting gave including Norman who was absent gave \$100 to \$500. The total collection was \$6,700.

Hon Tres Laurence was then asked to introduce the speaker for today. Laurence said that he first met Mr. Ernest Ng in Mongolia last year and he was very much impressed by the dedication of the organization of World Vision in their project for bringing water to Ningxia. He introduced Mr Ernest Ng who will tell us about the Water Projects in Ningxia.

(The following text is a translation of the speech by our guest speaker Mr. Ernest Ng by PP Tim for our benefit. Thanks again PP Tim.)

World Vision is an international Christian relief and development agency with its aim to deploy the resources of various classes within the society to serve those in need, particularly children. World Vision has been functioning in China for many years and is extending its coverage across different provinces of China.

The talk concentrated on the water well projects of World Vision in China covering Gansu, Ningxie, Shaanxi, Henan and Anhui. Some of these areas used to be green areas but with the lapse of time and lack of attention, they have turned into barren land resulting in acute lack of water supply thereto. In some hilly areas, the residents were living at the top of the mountains but the water source inevitably was found at the foot of the mountains. In order to alleviate the situation, World Vision had helped with enhancing supply and storage of water. In areas where water supply is an issue, they will help to convert roof-tops, hillsides into storage facilities as well as assisting the residents with building water wells.

Another approach is to pump water back up to the mountain top for use by the residents there. This will save the residents the trouble of having to travel up and down the hill carrying the water. The residents could spend up to two or three hours doing this and over time, their health and bone structure would be affected given the weight of the water. There was a story about a young man helping his father to perform this task but fainted half way up the mountain as he was not used to doing this. After waking up, he went back home and had to asked his father to finish the task for him as water is a precious commodity for the family.

The speaker was appreciative of the effort of our Rotary Club in helping out with the work of World Vision in China. Some years ago, we participated in a water well project in Ningxie where the club and members donated money to build water wells there. Over 1800 residents were able to benefit from the project in terms of improving their conditions and way of living.

As we were running short of time ,we ended our meeting by PE Paul giving the speaker a vote of thanks for a very interesting talk. He then closed the meeting by proposing a toast to RI coupled with the Rotary club of Bugis Junction, Singapore.

Rotary Information

The World Natural Catastrophes

After the December 2004 South Asia "Tsunami", there came a hurricane - Katrina happened in the U.S. Gulf causing heavy damage and lives, followed by an earthquake in Pakistan, India and Afganistan.

The worst earthquake in Pakistan's recorded history on 8th October 2005, and affected neighbouring India and Afganistan. The earthquake measured 7.7 on the Richter Scale and was followed by more than ten after shocks ranging from 5.2 to 6.3. At least 40,000 were estimated to have died and it is projected that the death count may reach up to a staggering 80,000.

Our district is starting to collect fund from individual Rotary clubs as a joint donation to help the victims of these countries. D.G. Peter Wan will be the bridge to handle the relief efforts.

District Visit to Po Leung Kuk

D.G. Peter Wan organized a delegation of Rotarians to pay a visit to one of the charitable organizations in Hong Kong - Po Leung Kuk.

An estimation of over 30 members from more than 16 clubs attended. The group headed by D.G. Peter was welcomed to the main hall where Chairman Vincent To received the party in a warm atmosphere.

Chairman To introduced his high ranking staff members and showed us a video of the activities of Po Leung Kuk. Later, he gave us the history of the Kuk