



Tung Feng



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What Happened Last Week

President Taj opened up the meeting with a welcome to our special guest and speaker, Professor Joseph Yu-shek Cheng, Professor of Political Science at the City University of HK.

Professor Cheng then spoke to us on Academic Freedom. He said that academics had always been the conscience of society, providing constructive criticism. The tenure system enabled academics to pursue lines of research that might not suit society. Invariably, an academic was tested once and then allowed to keep his job to retirement. This had tended to result in lazy academics. 90% of academics also found that they were in fact ordinary people who could not be creative all the time: hence they concentrated on teaching.

The "good life" came to an end in the early 1990s, when competition, pressure from the Govt. and the community forced them to be productive in quantitative terms. Unfortunately, they tended to focus on narrow areas so as to fulfil the requirement; and they had also stopped reading or at least did not read what was not relevant to their field. They have also been threatened by a golden handshake at 55, and this may even be lowered to 50 in the future. This had led to a lot of grievances, and University Presidents had become very unpopular.

As can be seen from the above, the pressure on academic freedom is great; it pays to be friendly with the Govt and with business. The situation was even more acute in the USA and UK, where severe critics of Govt and business have less chance of becoming faculty Deans. Hence a form of self-censorship had developed, rather than any direct threat to academic freedom.

The Robert Chung affair had been more to do with political struggles in HK, between the pro and anti C H Tung factions. Apple Daily, for example had used the issue to discredit him. It was also complicated by different attitudes amongst senior govt officials. Also, Patrick Chung could have handled the students and the press better.



THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG ISLAND EAST

香港東區扶輪社週報

Club 4350

District 3450

Chartered on 6 April, 1954 by Charter President
PDG (Uncle) John Yuen

In fact China is in full control of HK, and can tolerate academic freedom as long as there is a market economy.

In response to questions, Prof. Cheng said that few academics were keen to be Department Heads because of the bickering and quarrelling. However, there was still keen competition for the key positions such as Vice Chancellor.

Academics in HK tended to be less mobile, unlike their counterparts in the USA and U.K. where they could go out into business and commerce to get experience.

Also, there was a problem with the press, who seemed less interested these days in serious investigative reporting and more interested in sensationalism.

Our very own Prof. Rob Fielding then thanked the speaker in the traditional manner; and Professor Cheng left early.

Welcome was then extended to our visiting Rotarian Tom Sheppard from HKI South.

The Birthday Boys were PP. John Luk, Rtms. Danny Killis and Lewis Fung. PP David Lee was invited to sing the birthday song.

Acting Sergeant at Arms PP David Lee reported that contributions this week had reached \$3000, with generous donations from the Birthday Boys.

President Taj then concluded the meeting with a Toast to Rotary International and our own Club.



Rotary Information

Rotary scholar alumna Ogata receives 2000 Seoul Peace Prize

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata, a Rotary Foundation scholar (1951-1952) alumna, was awarded the 2000 Seoul Peace Prize in Seoul, Korea, on 13 October.



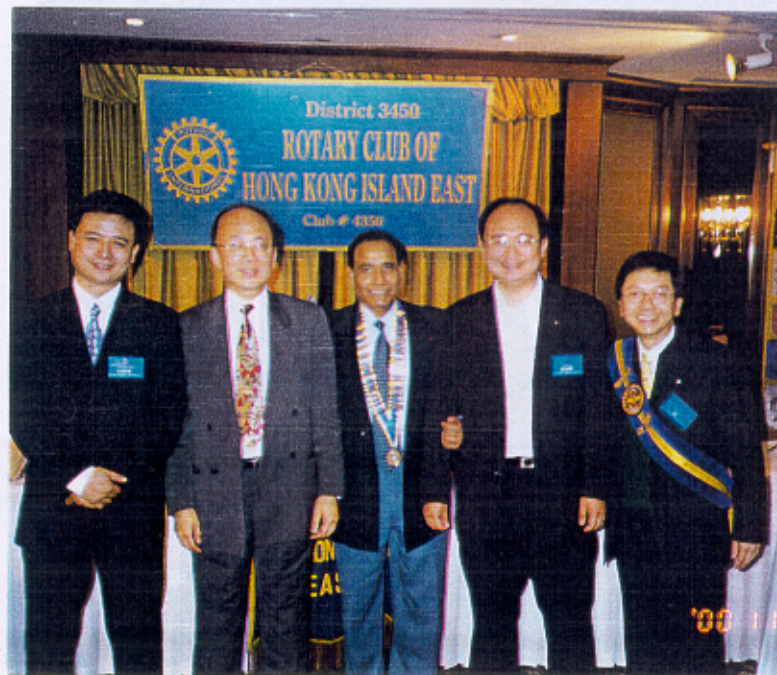
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Professor Joseph Cheng, our speaker for this week.



Pres. Taj presents a souvenir photo to Professor Cheng.



Our President, District Musician and birthday boys-- PP J.L., Rtms. Danny & Lewis.



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Pres. Taj shows off our collection of banners to visiting Rotarians.



Rtns Rudy & Malcolm look after Rtn Tom Shepperd from HK South.

Established in 1990 to celebrate and uphold the peace ideals of the 1988 Seoul Olympics, the biennial prize honored Ogata for her tireless efforts to alleviate the plight of more than 20 million refugees across the world.

"Mrs. Ogata has devoted herself to dealing with international refugee problems based on her firm belief in the lofty ideals of humanitarianism," said Seoul Peace Prize Cultural Foundation Chairman Lee Chul-Seung in opening remarks at the award ceremony.

Past Seoul Peace Prize winners include International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch, former U.S. Secretary of State George Schultz, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and the humanitarian group Medecins Sans Frontiers (Doctors Without Borders).

This is not the first time the 73-year-old international diplomat has been honored for her efforts in promoting world peace. In June 1996, RI presented her with the Rotary Award for World Understanding, its highest honor, in recognition of her efforts to improve the lives of the world's refugees.

Ogata studied international relations as a Rotary Foundation Scholar (then called Rotary Foundation Fellow) at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, USA, leading to a Master's degree in the field. She has a Ph.D in political science from the University of California at Berkeley.

New tool informs Rotarians about Internet resources

The RI Task Force on Technology has rolled out "What's New on the Net?" an educational tool to support RI President Frank Devlyn's call for every Rotary club to expose Rotarians to the Rotary resources on the Internet.

Featuring three- to five-minute modules of information that can be viewed online, downloaded as a PowerPoint presentation, or printed out in .pdf format, "What's New on the Net?" is aimed especially at helping Club Internet Communication Officers (CICOs) in their work.

The Technology Task Force's On-line Learning Centre is at:
<http://www.frankdevlyn.org/technology/training/netnews.htm>

LAUGH FOR THE WEEK

One fine sunny morning, a priest took a walk in the forest. He was walking by a small stream when, sitting on a nearby toadstool, he noticed a sad, sad-looking frog.

"What's wrong with you?" said the Priest.

"Well," said the frog, "the reason I am so sad on this fine day is because I wasn't always a frog."

"Really!" said the priest. "Can you explain?"

"Once upon a time, I was an 11 year-old Choirboy at your church. I too was walking by this stream when I was confronted by the wicked witch of the forest. 'Let me pass!' I cried, but to no avail. She called me a cheeky little boy and with a flash of her wand, turned me into the frog you now see before you."

"That's an incredible story," said the priest. "Is there no way of reversing the witch's spell?"

"Yes," said the frog. "It is said that if a nice, kind person would pick me up, take me home, give me food and a good night's sleep, I will wake up as a boy again."

"Today's your lucky day!" said the priest, and forthwith picked up the frog and took him home. He gave him lots of food, placed him by the fire, and at bedtime put the frog on the pillow beside him. And, lo! Miracles, when he awoke the next morning, there was the 11 year-old Choirboy beside him in bed."

"And that, your Honor, is the case for the Defence."

Thought for the Day:

Don't worry, it only seems kinky the first time.



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ROTARY CLUB OF HK ISLAND EAST MEETS EVERY WEDNESDAY, 12: 30 p.m. AT
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