



扶輪



Tung Feng

VOL. 50 No. 18

6th November, 2002

What Happened Last Week

Today, our member's turnout was 20. President Chris opened the meeting early because we were expecting an elaborated presentation from our guest speaker. President Chris welcomed visiting Rotarians namely Kurt Stoll from Lausanne, Switzerland, Tobi Doeringer from Hong Kong South and Benny Ratnani from Hong Kong Northeast.

Acting Sergeant-at-arms, Rtn Eddy reported a total collection of HK\$1,550 today.

PE Henry informed members that the racing night was fixed on evening of 15 January 2003 and that a box in Happy Valley was booked. Members please mark your diary for the event.

PP Li then introduced our speaker for today, Miss Susanna Chui-yung Cheung. She was educated in London and obtained B.Sc. in Social Sciences, and M.Phil. in Sociology from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She obtained Human Rights Press Awards of Hong Kong and the Award as the most courageous journalist in Hong Kong in the year of 2000.

Susanna has been in journalism for 15 years, and is seen as the first female war correspondent in Hong Kong. She currently is a radio correspondent for the Chinese section of the BBC World Service, and a contributing writer for the Inter Press which is a Rome-based largest alternative news agency that covers news with the third world perspective. She also is a columnist for Ming Pao and Guangzhou based 21st Century World Herald. Earlier, she had been with the Hong Kong Economic Times, Sunday Weekly, and briefly with Reuters TV covering the 1997 handover of Hong Kong. Working as a foreign correspondent, she has covered the fall of the communism in Eastern Europe, the Kosovo crisis in the Balkans, and the Sino-US relations in Washington DC and Beijing. In the years between 1998 and 2000, she shifted to cover the Southeast Asia affairs which included the Asian financial crisis, the 98 general election in Cambodia and the plight of the Khmer Rouge, the riots in Indonesia, the Taiwan general election, and the conflict in East Timor.

Most recently she has reported on the plight of the Palestinian people under occupation and successfully interviewed with President Arafat of the PLO, and the life of Afghanistan under the American attack.



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

Today, Susanna gave us an eye-witness account of the humanitarian disaster in Palestine illustrated with a couple of slides.

Two months ago this summer Susanna spent 6 weeks in the Palestinian territories. She visited Jennin, Nabulus, Gaza, and Ramallah. In Ramallah, she managed to sneak into the PLO headquarters and interview the PLO president Yasser Arafat. What she saw there was that many buildings in the headquarters had been reduced to rubble by bombing. She even found many bullet holes on the door of Arafat's bedroom, and the damage done by missiles.

When Susanna interviewed Arafat, he told her that facing the incursion of Israel, he wouldn't give way. He stressed that Palestine was not Afghanistan. He wouldn't step down in accordance with the wish of George Bush and A. Sharon. He even told her that he had visited Hong Kong in 1958. Susanna was so curious that she asked him in what capacity he visited Hong Kong. He replied with a big smile: " don't worry. I visited HK as a tourist, not a terrorist!"

Since early this year, Israel has been occupying the Palestinian territories by military force again in retaliation of the Palestinian suicide bombing as it claimed. It was not only part of its anti-terrorism operation, but also part of its collective punishment. That meant if there's one suicide bomber in a family, the whole family and even their neighbor or the others would be punished. That's why when she visited those Palestinian refugee camps, she could see a big scale of damage done there. They looked like a battlefield or something after the earthquake.

The refugee camps and even the residential areas could be the target of the Israeli attack. She remembered when she was in Gaza, she was invited to stay with one family in Gaza city. That night 24th July, the Israeli F16 war plane dropped a big missile in one residential area in Gaza city. She was just a few blocks away from the area. That incident has taught her something: don't stay in the Palestinian houses, stay in the hotel!

As the Israeli authority imposed curfew almost everyday when they were occupying the West Bank, people simply couldn't get out at all, otherwise they would be shot. Sometimes, curfew lasted for months. People just stuck in their houses for months running out of food and water.

When she was in Nabulus, she saw a banner saying that: " Hands off, children need food" because Nabulus had been under curfew for 38 days already and the people had no way to get food and supply. Children were suffering from starvation while the farmers could not get the food out. All the food got rotten in the farms.

Also, the Israeli checkpoints were dotted everywhere in the West Bank. When the curfew was lifted and the checkpoints were open, there was always a long queue of people waiting to go through the checkpoints. It may take an hour, or even a day. There was no exception for the ambulance. A woman was forced to give birth to her child in the ambulance and unfortunately she died after the delivery due to lack of proper-medical attention.

Susanna rounded up the talk by showing us a documentary film made by a young American Afghan woman named Masuda Sulten. The film is titled "from ground zero to ground zero". It showed the real horrified situation of Afghanistan in war.

PP George thanked the speaker for her powerful presentation and saluted to her courage and bravery.

Rotary Information

What is R.I.B.I. ?

In the past, Rotary clubs were grouped into Regions, viz.

- ASIA - All countries with Rotary clubs in Asia;
- ANZAO - Australia, New Zealand, Africa and other places not included in any other groups;
- USCB - United States of America, Canada & Bermuda;
- SACAMA - South America, Central America, Mexico and Antilles;
- R.I.B.I. - Great Britain and Ireland and
- CENAEM - Continental European, North African and Eastern Mediterranean.

All the above groupings have been changed to the existing 34 Zones in this Rotary world, except R.I.B.I. which still exists. The abbreviation of R.I.B.I. stands for Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland including the Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

The structure of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland forms an interesting chapter in our history. In 1914, after Rotary expanded across the Atlantic to Great Britain and Ireland a British Association of Rotary Clubs was established as part of the International Association of Rotary Clubs. During World War I, there was little contact between the international clubs, and the British association held the small number of Rotary clubs together in Great Britain, Ireland and a few other European communities.

Following the war, a new Rotary International Constitution was adopted in 1922 which established the principle that whenever a country had 25 Rotary clubs it could become a "territorial unit" and thus have a representative on the R.I. board and receive other specific powers. The clubs in Great Britain and Ireland immediately petitioned for and received the status of a "territorial unit." No other group in the world made such a request or received that status.

In 1927, Rotary International terminated the territorial unit and concept and organized Rotary clubs by "areas" of the world. However, all of "the rights, privileges and powers of existing territorial units" were forever protected and perpetuated. Thus, since R.I.B.I. was the only territorial unit, it has continued to function as an independent unit of Rotary International, subject to certain approvals by the R.I. Constitution.

The R.I.B.I. form of administration is uniquely appropriate to Great Britain and Ireland because of geography, language, tradition and custom. Because of this historic relationship, R.I.B.I. maintains a slightly different administrative structure from all the other Rotary clubs and districts in the world, even though it is a full member of Rotary International.

LAUGH FOR THE WEEK

Several men are in the locker room of a golf club. When a phone on a bench rings, a man engages the hands-free speaker-function and begins to talk.

MAN: "Hello"

WOMAN: "Honey, it's me. Are you at the club?"

MAN: "Yes."

WOMAN: I am at the mall and found a beautiful leather coat. It's \$1,000. Can I buy it?"

MAN: "OK, go ahead if you like it that much."

WOMAN: I also stopped by the Mercedes dealership and saw the 2002 models. I saw one I really liked."

MAN: How much?"

WOMAN: \$60,000.

MAN: "For that price I want it with all the options."

WOMAN: "Great! One more thing. ... The house we wanted last year is back on the market. They're only asking \$450,000."

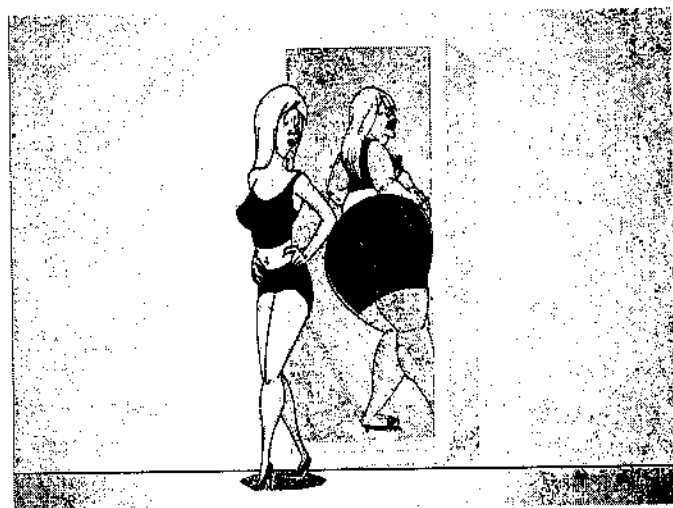
MAN: "Well, then go ahead and buy it but just offer \$420,000."

WOMAN: "OK. I'll see you later! I love you!"

MAN: "Bye, I love you too."

The man hangs up. The other men are looking at him in astonishment

Then he asks: "Anyone know who this phone belongs to?"



YEAR 2002-2003

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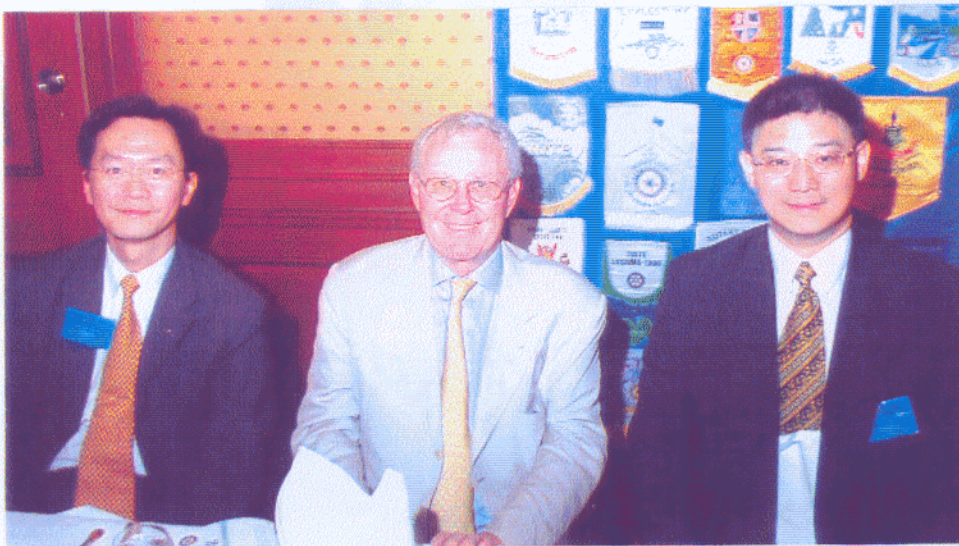
ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG ISLAND EAST MEETS EVERY WEDNESDAY, 11:30 p.m. AT EXCELSIOR HOTEL, CAUSEWAY BAY



Our guest speaker of the day was Ms. Susanna Chui-yung Cheung, the first female war correspondent in Hong Kong who spoke on the Humanitarian Crisis in Palestine under Occupation.



At the left head table were PDG Peter, our guest speaker Ms Cheung & Pres. Chris.



At the right head table were Hon. Sec. Eddy, Visiting Rotarian Kurt Stoll (Lausanne, Switzerland) & Dir. Paul.



(L to R) PP George, Dir Jason, Rtn Benny Ratnani (HKNE), Francis, and Rtn Tobi Doeringer (HKS).



(L to R) Helping our with the Audio-Visual Equipment was Elsa, Amy Li, PP David Li, Heron, PP Desmond & Kenny



(L to R)Dir Laurence, PDG Y.K., PE Henry, & PP Stephen.



Group Photo of Pres Chns with our speaker, guests, & visiting Rotarians on 30 October, 2002.