



東風 Tung Feng



Vol. 61 No. 23

18th December, 2013

Last Week's Proceedings – 11th December, 2013

President (Pres.) Jonathan Lamport called the luncheon meeting to order in time.

Past President (PP) Eric Chin brought a visiting Rotariman, Chartered President (CP) Uranzaya Erdenechuluun from Rotary Club (RC) of Ulaanbaatar Peace Avenue to join us. PP Norman Lee introduced his guest of Mr. Raymond Chan and our luncheon speaker was Mr. Simon Wong, CEO from a leading restaurant chain in HK.

Pres. Jonathan had the following announcement:

1. Rtn. Kevin and I attended Chinese University of Hong Kong 75th congregation for the conferment of degrees on Friday, 6th Dec, 2013.
2. Second activities of project "夢想咖啡店 Dream Cafe" was held on Saturday, 7th Dec. Dir William, PP Rudy, Rtn Jonah and I joined the birthday party and enjoyed a meaningful time with the students.
3. Holy Carpenter Secondary School, Our Rotary-Adopt -A-School partner and Interactor Club held the Sports Day with the final competition on December 5th. Dir. William, PP Eric, Vice principal of Holy Carpenter Rtn. Joseph and I together enjoyed the fun with our adopted school children.
4. IPP Nancy, PP Norman, Dir. William, Rtn. Jonah, Rtn. Jason and I had a vocational visit to Frames Bellavita Winery at Kwun Tong on Dec 7th (Sat.). We have a good time of fellowship.
5. Our adopted a school Choi Jun School's service project, third Happy Luncheon will be held on Friday 13th Dec, 2013 at Fat Angelo's, Tsim Sha Tsui.



THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG ISLAND EAST LTD.

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**

6. The 4th Hong Kong Bowling Tournament For All Cum 3rd Hong Kong Blind Bowling Tournament will be held on Jan 19, 2014 at South China Athletic Association Bowling Centre (南華體育會保齡球館). Its main objectives are to raise the self-confidence of people with visual impairment through equal participation in sports training and sports tournament and to arouse the public awareness on their abilities. Tournament start from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (All participants should report to the organizer at the Bowling Centre at 9:45 am), members who are interested please enroll to HS Carl.
7. We will move 15th Jan 2014 luncheon to 17th Jan to have joint lunch meeting, at World Trade Centre Club, and we invited Incoming CE of HK Council of Social Services to speak. The cost is HK\$ 300 per person, members who are interested please enroll to HS Carl.
8. Racing Night is reserved on 5th Feb.

Pres. Jonathan ended his announcements and began to celebrate our birthday boy of the week who was PP Hubert Chan, and his song leader was PP Eric.

Sergeant-at -arm Jonah Cheung reported that the red box collection was HK\$1,800.

CP Uranzaya Erdenechuluun exchanged her club banners with Pres. Jonathan, and she had brought the greetings to us from the 30 members of her club. Their latest community project was about donating hearing aids and testing equipment to the deaf people, a needed assistance to the hearing impaired children and adults. RC of Ulaanbaatar Peace Avenue was seeking international partners to join them in this community project.

PP Norman introduced our Speaker of the day: Mr. Simon Wong, who was a professional engineer by training from UNSW and MBA, now back to work for LHG, his family business of a restaurant chain (with both Chinese & Japanese foods) since 2006.

Mr. Simon Wong was elected Top Ten Outstanding Persons in HK by 2011 and also being the chairman of Institution Of Dining Art, jointly organizing F&B training institute with VTC in Hong Kong. Simon also joined WWF to promote an environmental friendly dinner menu without shark-fin soup for the wedding banquets in Hong Kong. Simon's wife was also a Rotarian in HK.

Today, Simon shared with us how he turned a new leaf on his 40th birthday in 2013, to undertake an RTHK challenge, by staying in a tiny partitioned room in Mongkok (in the hot summer, not even equipped with an electrical fan), just a street away from the 5-star Langham Place Hotel and taking on 2 part-time jobs on 4 days & 3 nights duration, at a daily allowance of HK\$50, after his 10 hours of minimum pay, deducting the supposed to be rent & utility expenses.

The Rich Mate Poor Mate (窮富翁大作戰) Series III was broadcast in October of 2013 and well received with public response to the real life experience of the 4 participants.

<http://programme.rthk.hk/rthk/tv/programme.php?name=tv/richmatepoormate2013&d=2013-10-19&p=6014&e=236126&m=episode>

Simon got a Mega Supermarket labor job for 4 hours per day, and another take-away food stall job in Lam Tin. It took him HK\$16 for the MTR daily return transport from Mongkok to Lam Tin, leaving only HK\$34 for his meals.

Simon was subsequently taken to a community food bank for a HK\$10 meal (Kiddy Heart Canteen, 2-dish dinner, funded by Lee Hysan Foundation, operated by MX catering and Baptist welfare service) to make his both ends meet. Upon sharing from a lady in the dining hall, he realized her low income family only did family dinner cooking on Saturday and Sunday situations, very often going to the community food bank for the daily meals (the touching note was her reluctance to buy beef as it was too dear in the last 12 months).

His supermarket experience was remarkable as the CPI increase was around 4.5% in the year, yet the supermarket chains had much higher (double digit) price increase in some daily necessity items.

He found the local supermarket stores offered better service and more competitive pricing (e.g. up to HK\$4 difference per 8kg bag of rice). The government policy on anti-monopoly practices would naturally help the consumers quite a lot on stabilizing the food prices.

His take-away food stall experience was tremendous, as the owners had 50% revenue to cover the rental cost, so they had tight cost control on food and labor. Simon had to busily prepare the chicken wing, clean the oxen tails, prepare for the sugar cane juice.

The long working hours in the back-alley (especially in rainy day & hot summer) was very testing, not much incentive from a minimum -pay worker. One co-worker shared her experience, of working at least 10 hours per day (normally for 12-13 hours to earn more over-time) to get HK\$10,000 wages, ended up paying nearly one-third of their monthly income in partitioned room for the family.

Simon had much sympathy with those full-time (low tech, low pay) manual workers who had to live on minimum wages, when paying HK\$3,500 monthly rent for a partitioned room. The possible solutions could be both from public housing and residential rental control.

Nevertheless, Simon learnt that everything had to start from his related experience, that he could provide better working condition for his 1,500 staff in the LHG restaurants (each staff with their own families).

Simon was inspired by the food store in his old home street in Homantin Victory Avenue, who was offering the free meal coupon to the needy (100 offering in a day). Therefore Simon started to follow and work with the NGO in Tin Shui Wai to provide free meal coupon 「待用飯券」 arrangement.

It was a sustainable and win-win situation as there were other donors to join him to provide the lunch or dinner meal coupons, also the restaurant could provide the food at cost and getting more publicity, of course the recipients got the food subsidy when they most felt its need.

The noble practice of providing free meal coupon in Hong Kong, was said to be influenced by the Italian suspended coffee or pending coffee practices (a cup of coffee paid for in advance as an anonymous act of charity) with 100 years of history. Simon planned to do in a more concerted way in Wong Tai Sin, jointly with more restaurant and bakery owners in their neighborhood.

Before Simon ended his sharing, he quoted the starfish story (that a kind gesture might be small and matter to a small group only, yet it makes a difference already) for his deeds.

Simon did something similar for Qinghai school kids (who walked to school weekly from a long distance, with 4-day boarding at school, their daily meal was plain rice, and those from his family ration, all in a jar of preserved vegetable).

PP Hubert thanked the speaker in our Rotary manners, and commented that we would attempt to provide equal opportunity, though we had no way to guarantee the equal results. Pres. Jonathan reminded us next week to be X'mas luncheon and made a toast to Rotary International coupled with Rotary Clubs of Ulaanbaatar Peace Avenue and HK Island East. The meeting was adjourned and the guests and members stayed for a group photo.


 LAUGH FOR THE WEEK

Subject: Russian Menace

The commanding officer at the Russian military academy (the equivalent of a 4-star general in the U.S.) gave a lecture on Potential Problems and Military Strategy.

At the end of the lecture, he asked if there were any questions.

An officer stood up and asked, "Will there be a third world war? And, will Russia take part in it?"

The general answered both questions in the affirmative.

Another officer asked, "Who will be the enemy?"

The general replied, "All indications point to China ."

Everyone in the audience was shocked.

A third officer remarked, "General, we are a nation of only 150 million, compared to the 1.5 billion Chinese. Can we win at all, or even survive?"

The general answered, "Just think about this for a moment: In modern warfare, it is not the quantity of soldiers that matters, but the quality of an army's capabilities. For example, in the Middle East we have had a few wars recently where 5 million Jews fought against 150 million Arabs, and Israel was always victorious."

After a small pause, yet another officer - from the back of the auditorium asked,

"Do we have enough Jews?"



YEAR 2013-2014						
<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Ex-Officio</i>	<i>Club Advisor</i>		
Jonathan Lamport	Carl Yau	Rudy Law	Nancy Yee	Peter Hall Henry Chan	YK Cheng Hubert Chan	
<i>Directors:</i>						<i>PP Council Rep</i>
John Kwok	Eric Chin	Stacy Ho	Heman Lam	Norman Lee	William Wong	Andrew Chen
<i>Service Chairs:</i>						
Anthony Kwong	Kevin Leung	Dr. Freddie Wu Teresa Ho	Sharon Lamport	Laurence Chan		

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**ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG ISLAND EAST MEETS EVERY WEDNESDAY, 12:30 p.m.
 at Regal Hong Kong Hotel, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong.**

11 December 2013 - Luncheon Meeting
Rotary Club of Hong Kong Island East



PP Uncle John Kwok, Guest speaker – Mr. Simon Wong
& Pres. Jonathan Lamport



CDS Eric Chin, CP Uranzaya from Rotary Club of
Ulaanbaatar Peace Avenue & AG Heman Lam



Rtn. Peter Yeung & PP Rudy Law



Dir. William Wong
& Rtn. Kevin Leung



PP Eddy Wong & Rtn. Charles Man



Visiting guest - Raymond Chan
& PP Norman Lee



Rtn. Raymond Chu
& PP Hubert Chan



PP Andy Wong
& SAA Jonah Cheung



PP Norman Lee & Rtn. John Yau



This week's birthday boy is PP Hubert Chan



Pres. Jonathan exchanged club banner with CP Uranzaya from Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar Peace Avenue



PP Norman Lee introduced this week's speaker



Guest speaker Mr. Simon Wong shared his livelihood experience of a person living under the poverty line.



Pres. Jonathan presented a photo in action to thank Mr. Simon Wong's talk



PP Hubert Chan gave a vote of thank to Mr. Simon Wong on behalf of the club

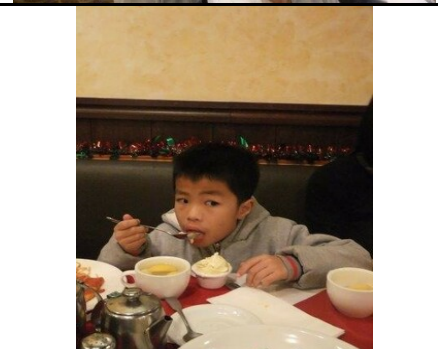
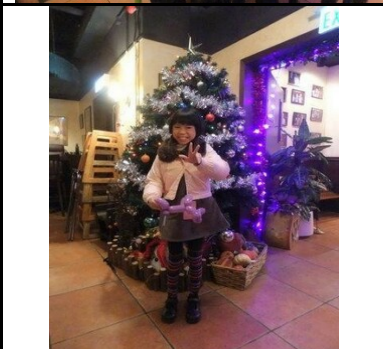
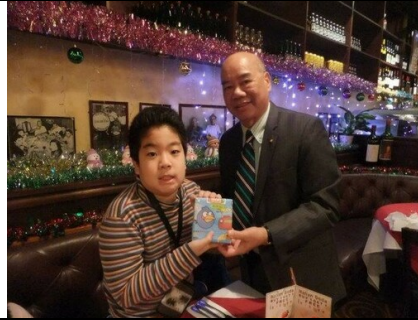


CP Uranzaya from Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar Peace Avenue shared her Club project with our members



Group photo of members of HK Island East, visiting Rotarians, guest speaker & visiting guest.

Choi Jun School Happy Lunch at Fat Angelo's Italian Restaurant - 13 December 2013



Poverty Alleviation Project - Dream Cafe
Birthday Party for the under-privileged families' children 14 Dec., 2013



Poverty Alleviation Project - Dream Cafe Open Ceremony - 15 December 2013

