

Last Week's Proceedings (5th January, 2005)

In the first Rotary meeting of the year 2005, President Rudy called the meeting to order promptly at 1pm, starting with one minute's silence while we all stood up, to remember the South Asia tsunami disaster on 26th December 2004.

Apart from the 17 club members present, we were joined by the following Rotary dignitaries:

DG Alex Mak of Kingspark. DGE Peter Wan of Tolo Harbour, AG Ada Cheng of Wanchai, PDG Anthony Hung of Taipo, DT Thomas Wong of HK Island West, IPP Alfred Tsang of Peninsula, PP Simon Wong of Peninsula Sunrise, PP Kenneth Chow of Tsuen Wan.

As speaker, we had Kevin Chiu, CEO of World Vision HK, and guest Pinky Lam from World Vision and Alex So from Salvation Army.

DG Alex Mak then presented a cheque of one million HK dollars to Salvation Army of HK, received by Major Alfred Tsang who is also IPP of Peninsula. It was reported that our club, as coordinated by PE Eddy, had secured 1,500 kg (3,000 cans) of condensed milk, 900 kg (500 cans) of milk powder and 600 infant feeding bottles with rubber feeding tits, to be transported to Sri Lanka for local distribution.

Sargent at Arms PP Tim reported the collection at the Red Box as \$1,100.

Our speaker, Kevin Chiu, was introduced by PP Hubert. Kevin has just returned from a field trip in Sri Lanka. He was speaking to the club some 8 years ago, and since then, he had been to 10 disaster areas including India, Mozambique, North Korea etc, but Sri Lanka presented with the worst scenario, with naked dead bodies (and stench) around. Sri Lanka never had typhoons nor earthquakes, and was not prepared for natural disasters of this magnitude. The 300 World Vision local staffs in Sri Lanka were in full operation after the hit, with clothing and food relief from the capital of Colombo. However, the roads were wrecked and the east coast and south coast of Sri Lanka, the hit areas, were hard to access. It took 6 men to recover a dead body, which numbered 30,000. Bodies were piled up in schools etc and with identification difficulty. Water wells were contaminated and clean water scarce. Tragic incidents abound: a man was holding onto a tree and his two daughters holding onto his two legs, in time, both daughters were swiped away and lost. A 78 year old fisherman lost his wife, granddaughter, boat, home, all his possessions. He was comforted by the fact that he managed to save three women, a mother, her daughter and the village midwife. Of the two hospitals in one area, one was flattened. One orphanage with 40 orphans was completely wiped out.

In the help to disaster areas, phase one was relief. This would take one month or so. The second phase of rehabilitation and rebuild would take much longer and would need much more resources. To help was not only to provide the hard ware, but to counsel, to give reason to go on, to love and to care.

The speaker invoked many questions from the floor and discussion was carried after the meeting. He was formally thanked by VP Paul Chan.

The next week's meeting would be club assembly, and on 19 January we shall hear from the Salvation Army on their relief work in Indonesia.

Report on Asian Tsunami Relief from Rotary Club of Hong Kong Island East

The December 26 Asian Tsunami disaster had touched the hearts of many people and come to emergency relief.

The members of Hong Kong Island East had raised HK\$90,000 in total to contribute to the Asian Tsunami relief drive from Rotary International District 3450. PDG Peter Hall had kindly advised the board of directors of RCHKIE in planning this particular relief project.

* The Club's community service fund had allocated HK\$40,000 cash contribution and joined by Director Jason Chiu's personal contribution of extra HK\$20,000.

* In response to the DG Alex Mak's drive for milk powder and milk bottle, PE Eddy Wong had led an international service project, and with personal contributions from Hon. Treasurer Laurence Chan (HK\$10,000), IPP Henry Chan (HK\$10,000) and PP John Kwok & Mrs. Mae Kwok (HK\$10,000), for the purchase of the instant milk powder. The Salvation Army in Sri Lanka would be the receiving party over there and responsible for the customs clearance and local distribution.

The members of HK Island East had to thank many friends and contributors to make this project possible (about 2,300 kilograms of relief resources shipping to Sri Lanka).

* 1,332 kilograms of Longevity sweetened condensed milk (2,880 cans) were donated by Friesland Foods limited, effort coordinated by PE Eddy and Pres. Rudy. Thanks to the reference of a friend of PP John Kwok.

* 900 kilograms of Instant Milk Powder (636 tins. for age 1 to 3+) were acquired from Friesland and Yau Cheong Ho

Company (Nestle distributor) at low costs. * 600 milk bottles (65 kilograms) were donated by Mapa Babycare Company Ltd, effort co-ordinated by Rtn John Yao and

PP John Kwok. *Cathay Pacific Airways provided free passage to fly to Sri Lanka for this relief shipment, efforts co-ordinated by Director Andy Wong.

*Unique Logistics provided free local transportation and HACTL provided much needed assistance in this cargo handling in Hong Kong.

PE Eddy Wong would like to report to the members that the above Asian Tsunami relief project was completed in eight days (between December 31, 2004 - January 7, 2005).

Rotary Information

Highlights of Actions Taken by the Board of RI (Continued).

Membership and Extension

The Board agreed in principle to extending Rotary to Libya and Qatar, and will seek governmental approval for Rotary to operate in these countries.

The Cyber Rotary Club pilot project will now known as the "Rotary E-Club pilot project." From now on, Rotary International membership coordinators will be called "Regional Rotary International membership coordinators."

Programmes and Communications

The Board adopted sexual abuse and harassment prevention guidelines designed to protect youth participating in Rotary club and district programmes. The Board also agreed to develop and implement a club and district certification programme for Rotary Youth Exchange over the next eighteen months. To be certified for participation in Youth Exchange, RI districts will need to comply with the new abuse and harassment prevention guideline, and adopt more stringent screening, selection, counseling, orientation, and reporting procedures.

The Board selected 125 recipients of the 2004-05 RI Service Above Self Award, which recognizes exemplary service provided on a continuing basis by Rotarians who might otherwise go unrecognized. The names of the recipients will be announced at the end of the Rotary year.

The Board discontinued the Rotary Award for World Understanding and Peace effective immediately.

The Board recognized new Rotary fellowships for convention goers, dental volunteers, doll lovers, football (soccer) fans, gourmets, literacy providers, and Rotarians concerned with drug-abuse prevention.

International Meetings

The Board tentatively selected Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, as the site for the 2011 RI Convention and confirmed that the 2006-11 international assemblies will be held at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel in San Diego, California, USA.

Due to high meeting costs and a resulting high registration fee, the Board cancelled the 2006 International Institute that was scheduled to take place in Copenhagen, Denmark.

<u>Fin ance</u>

RI Policy had required maintaining an operating reserve equal to 100 percent of the highest level of total expenses during the most recent three-year period. The Board agreed it was unnecessary for RI's operating reserve goal to take account of International Convention and Council on Legislation expenses, since such expenses are budgeted to be covered by associated revenues.

All requests for reimbursement of expenses incurred by Rotarians on Rotary business must be submitted to RI within 60 days. Requests for reimbursement received after 60 days will not be reimbursed unless authorized by the general secretary in exceptional circumstances.

Jokes



It has been determined, the most used sexual position for married couples is a doggie position.

The husband sits up and begs.

The wife rolls over and plays dead ...

Photographs of our meeting

on

5th January, 2005





DG Alex mixing with our guests on 5th January 2005



(L to R) IPP Henry, DG Alex, DGE Peter, DT Thomas Wong (HKIW) & PP John.



(L to R) IPP Alfred Tsang (Peninsula), DG Alex & DGE Peter Wan presenting a check of \$1,000,000 to the Salvation Army aid to the Tsunami victims.



(L to R) PE Eddy, Dir Paul, AG Ada Cheng(Wanchai) & guest PP Simon Wong of (Peninsula Sunrise).

