



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 (19th January, 2005)

It was the third meeting of 2005 and most members seemed to be out of town as only 11 members turned up for the meeting. The only visiting Rotarian was our speaker for the day, PP Simon Wong from RC Peninsula Sunrise.

Hon. Secretary PP John started the meeting (no objection from President Rudy!) by reporting on various matters discussed at a recent Joint Secretaries Meeting of the District. The first matter for attention was the upcoming stages of the District Centennial Walk at Maclehoose Trail, the fifth stage will be held on 23 January 2005 starting from Gilwell Campsite to Tai Po Road. The route will be about 10.6 km and is expected to last for 3 hours. This will be a fairly difficult route. The sixth stage scheduled on the same day will start from Tai Po Road to Shing Mun. This second route will be an easier walk of about 4.6 km and is expected to last for 1.5 hours. Members are encouraged to take up these challenges and please contact PP John for more details if required.

Next matter for attention was the call for Rotarian volunteers to act as mentors for the RYLA camp to be held in China during 17 to 20 February 2005. The third announcement was a plea to members to complete the Demographic Survey for Individual Club and the District Project for Hong Kong & Macau. We have until 28 February 2005 to submit the completed questionnaire. The most effective method is to complete it on line via the District web site. The District aims to have 100% submission from Rotarians and your participation will be greatly appreciated.

President Rudy finally managed to unseat PP John and took charge of proceedings at 1:38pm. PDG Uncle Peter reported the SAA intake of HK\$500 - a most respectable sum given the number of members attending. Rtn. Tony then came up to the rostrum to introduce our speaker, PP Simon who came to give us an update on the joint relief efforts by District 3450 and the Salvation Army following the recent tsunami disaster. PP Simon delighted the crowd by showing us various interesting screensavers on the computer that he was using which belonged to his son.

PP Simon reported that DG Alex and he went to Medan and Meulaboh in Indonesia on 9 January 2005. Meulaboh was a fisherman's port before the disaster and took on very heavy casualty. Over 80% of the residents perished and in one army camp, only 20 soldiers were left out of a garrison force of some 700 officers. The Singaporean armed forces arrived ahead of the Indonesian army to start off the rescue operation and they were followed by the Salvation Army.

PP Simon indicated that the food and basic medical supplies were largely sufficient as the de-facto local government was the army itself. The biggest problem was the disjointed and disorganised efforts of the various NGOs out there. Another concern was safety and security given that guerrilla activities were rampant prior to the disaster. Army escorts were on hand and they did not encounter any incidents as a result. The problem for the various NGOs was that they were independently operating along their stated missions and sometimes reluctant to venture into far away locations as it was not cost effective to do so. Tension between the army and various NGOs was high and arguments broke out at times. Perhaps there is a lesson for these NGOs to take away and hopefully leading to better co-ordination and deployment of resources in future emergency relief operations.

The joint relief effort of District 3450 and the Salvation Army was a different story. They were well received by the army there as they were happy to go where help was needed. The joint effort was essentially the provision of medical teams which were well sought after given the circumstances there. In fact, the teams had to carry out a lot of educational work and vaccinations for international volunteers who went there to help. Many of them were infected and had to be dealt with by the medical teams. In summary, the short term objective was to provide primary health care in the refugee camps as well as to look after the psychological needs of the survivors. In the medium to long term, the need for schools, orphanages and resettlement housing have to be considered.

Members would recall that the District donated HK\$1 million to the Salvation Army during our regular luncheon two weeks ago. Approximately half of the amount will be spent on the provision of a mobile clinic and the setting up of a permanent medical centre in Indonesia. The remaining half of the donation will be deployed in the relief effort in Sri Lanka. We should appreciate that it will take 6-7 years work for the full relief operation to be completed. In this respect, our ongoing concern and further donations would be most useful. Our club salutes the tremendous efforts of the various international agencies and our own District 3450. We are proud to be a Rotarian in District 3450 and in particular a member of RCHKIE given the extra special efforts that various individual members have put in as reported in an earlier club bulletin.

President Rudy closed the meeting at 2:10pm by thanking the speaker and toasting RI coupled with the Rotary Club of Peninsula Sunrise. As for next week, the Rotary Club of Hong Kong Harbour will be making a club visit and the speaker for the day will be Rotarianne Andy (wife of PP JL). Her talk will be on Survival Coping Plan.

Bulletin Editor : PP Tim Lui

Asian Tsunami Press Conference

A press conference was arranged by DG Alex Mak of district 3450 on the 13th January 2005 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Hong Kong to update the visiting RI President-Elect Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar about what Rotary in our district had done towards the earthquake and tidal waves incurred in North Sumatra, Indonesia, affecting the neighbouring countries, such as Sri Lanka, Thailand, India and others. President-Elect Carl, District Governor Alex Mak, D.G. Ritje Rihatinah of District 3400, Indonesia, Rtn. Simon Wong of the Salvation Army were at the conference ready to take any questions.

To start off the conference, D.G. Alex reported by means of the many slides he had taken during his visit to the devastated area in Indonesia. Tears will fill your eyes after looking at the pictures and listening to his explanation. Questions were raised from the members of the press and were answered by those who sat at the head-table. Of course, RI P-E Carl also expressed what Rotary had done by the 529 districts worldwide. The conference lasted for nearly three hours. A more detailed report appeared in the SCMP on the 14th January 2005 which is extracted for general information in the following paragraphs.

Local team of volunteers recall the tormenting scenes in Banda Aceh. Hong Kong Salvation Army worker Simon Wong Kwok-ching has worked in disaster relief for 15 years but nothing could have prepared him for the devastation of northern Sumatra.

A Salvation Army team from Hong Kong has recently returned from what used to be the city of Meulaboh in the west of Aceh province, Indonesia, where he was accompanied by members of the Rotary International district of Hong Kong, Macau and Mongolia.

"We arrived on January 9," Mr. Wong Said yesterday. "The whole place had been washed away. 15,000 people had lost their lives, that's 80 percent of the population. We have two medical teams - one in Meulaboh and the other on the island of Nias"

The teams have been providing refugees with milk powder and other supplies, plus giving medical care and counseling.

They traveled hours at a time to get to people in remote areas, but were restricted in their work by the 6 pm curfew imposed by the Indonesian army in an area that has been wrought by civil war for decades.

Alexander Mak Kwai-wing, district governor for the Rotary International District 3450 (Hong Kong, Macau and Mongolia) said that as well as the emergency medical care being given to treat visible injuries from the tsunami, health workers needed to be in place to help with primary medical care.

"We met one old lady who had a broken bone in her chest. Without the Salvation Army there I'm not sure what would have happened to her."

Rotary International has given \$1 million to the Salvation Army and raised another \$1 million which members want to use on rebuilding.

"I talked with a fisherman who was paid daily wages for working on a boat. Now the fish are gone, his wife is gone, as is his livelihood. His sixth-month-old daughter is being breastfed by another woman who is ill, but it's the best he can do. When we talked to him he just stared, there was no hope in his eyes," said Mr. Mak.

Mr. Mak said Rotary would be concentrating on how to provide this area with 8,000 houses, schools, and economic infrastructure in the form of micro-credits small loans to fisherman.

Ritje Rihatinah, district governor for Rotary International District 3400 in Indonesia, flew to report on her visit to Aceh.

She said yesterday that rehabilitation would require housing, schools, health centres, clean water and orphanages. "I seek the assistance of Hong Kong on this important mission." She said.

Reported by PDG Peter Hall

Jokes & Cartoon



A man has six children and is very proud of his achievement. He is so proud of himself, that he starts calling his wife, "Mother of six" in spite of her objections.

One night, they go to a party. The man decides that it's time to go home and wants to find out if his wife is ready to leave as

well. He shouts at the top of his voice, "Shall we go home 'Mother of Six?'"

His wife, irritated by her husband's lack of discretion, shouts right back, "Anytime you're ready, Father of Four."

Photographs of our meeting

on

19th January, 2005



PP Simon Wong (Pen South) our speaker for today telling us about condition in Shri Lanka during the Tsunami.



(L to R) PDG Uncle Peter, PP Simon Wong(Pen South), and Pres. Rudy.



(L to R) PP Stephen, Dir Paul, PP Tim, and Rtn Francis.



(L to R) Dr Tony, PP J.L. & Hon Tres. Laurence.



Group Photo of our meeting with PDG Uncle Peter, Pres. Rudy, guest speaker, and our faithful members on 19th January, 2005

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