



扶輪 Tung Feng



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Last Week's Proceedings – 17th January, 2014

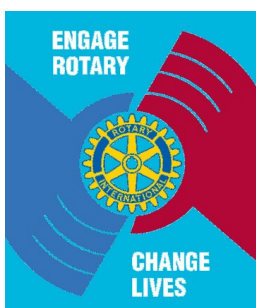
The Area 3 joint luncheon meeting hosted by Rotary Club of Hong Kong Northeast was held at the World Trade Centre Club, Causeway Bay where 54 members, District Dignitaries, and guests attended in welcoming our honorable speaker, Mr. Chua Hoi Wai, the New Chief Executive, The Hong Kong Council of Social Services (HKCSS). His topic was on Poverty in Hong Kong.

With the announcement by Master of Ceremony, Deputy Assistant Governor Arthur Lee of RC Hong Kong Northeast, Assistant Governor Heman Lam rang the bell at 12:50pm and declared the meeting open.

Presidents of Area 3 including Presidents --- Bau To of RC Hong Kong Northeast, Mawin Cheung of RC Happy Valley, Vice President Ricky Chan, Representative of RC Hong Kong Harbour, Past President Nick Pirie, Representative of RC Hong Kong South, Charter President Tobias Doeringer of RC Shouson Hill, and our President Jonathan Lamport of RC Hong Kong Island East were all in place on the head table.

AG Heman Lam then warmly greeted our VIP guests namely, District Governor Eugene Fong, Past District Governors Tony Wong, Ada Cheng, and Anthony Hung, Club Presidents Wing Leung from RC Kowloon West, Irene Lau of RC Hong Kong City North, Darwin Liu of RC Lion Rock and Cassey Leung of E-Club. Our members, including CDS Eric Chin, PP Eddy Wong, PP Andy Wong, PE Norman Lee, Rtn. Jonah Cheung, Rtn. Kevin Leung, and Rotarianne Olivia Kan.

DG Eugene Fong was then invited to address the meeting when he began by greeting everyone and very successful year in 2014; he then congratulated Area 3, not only will we have a DG in the coming year, Ms. Belinda Yeung from RC Hong Kong Harbour, but also the year after next in 2016-17 where CDS Eric Chin was successfully elected, given no contesting before 27 January, as District Governor.



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**

DG Eugene mentioned the first collaboration with HKCSS in PDG Kenneth's year in setting up the District Poverty Alleviation Projects which it successfully carried on this year with the leadership of PP Andy Wong as Chair. He hope that with the momentum and impact it created on the upward mobility of our transient age, this collaboration would continue to give positive impact to our young people in the society and we look upon HKCSS as our service partner in the future.

The Club Presidents of Area 3 then began to give their reports, our President Jonathan provided his report as follows:

- 1 Rotaract club of Hong Kong Island East will have Board Meeting on 24th of Jan, 7:30. After meeting, we will have pre-dinner for the coming Chinese New Year, members who are interested please enroll to Director Stacy.
- 2 The event of Happy Luncheon enable members of Rotary Club of Hong Kong Island East to know more about the children with intellectual disability and enables Choi Jun School students to enhance their communication skills, improve the table manner through having lunch with members of Rotary Club of Hong Kong Island East. The 4th Happy Luncheon is scheduled on Feb 14, 2014 Friday, exact date and venue will be confirmed soon.

It was a very happy moment when DAG Arthur announced their new member Dr. John T Wong will be inducted in this meeting. DG Eugene, PDG Ada, the District Membership Chair, accompanied by President Bau, together with the proposer PE Simon Wong and Dr John Wong proceeded to the rostrum for the ceremony. After President Bau read out the declaration, DG Eugene pinned the new member while PDG Ada pinned PE Simon with the proposer pin.

AG Heman proceeded to the podium and introduced Mr. Chua as follows:

Mr. Chua Hoi Wai is the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS), which represents more than 400 non-governmental social services organizations. Before assuming this position, he was in charge of its policy advocacy agenda and researches on poverty and social development. He set up the HKCSS – HSBC Social Enterprise Business Centre in 2008 to provide capacity building, joint marketing and an exchange platform for local social enterprises.

Mr. Chua has participated in a number of advisory or statutory bodies of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. He is currently a member of the Commission on Poverty and chairs its Special Needs Group Task Force, and an Associate Member of the Central Policy Unit.

Mr. Chua is a graduate of the University of Hong Kong in Mechanical Engineering. He studied Master of Social Work in University of Illinois at Chicago and is now a social worker by profession. He was also the President of the Hong Kong Social Workers Association from 2004 to 2008.

Mr. Chua began his speech by thanking us in inviting him to speak to us. He then moved on to tell us about the background of HKCSS and the policy advisory role that the council has played over the years with the government. Mr. Chua talked about how the government has gone from resisting to actually setting the poverty line and the structure of the poverty in Hong Kong.

Mr. Chua mentioned about the sizeable poverty problems as declared by the government during the policy address that 1.3 million people are officially poor, that is 19.6% of the city's population and when factored in welfare payments 15.2 % are still under the poverty line. These people live in about 400,000 families, out of these 400,000 families about 100,000 families live on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA).

In Hong Kong, the government does not like to give a very generous CSSA support, as their philosophy is that if we provide such good support, people rely on the government and would not have incentives to work and make money themselves. So the inclination is to give at medium level, not too bad, but actually not too good.

Apart from the 100,000 now on CSSA, what about the other 300,000 families, not on CSSA? Amongst those 300,000 families, about half have children, and about 40% have elderly members. Among the below median poor people, 48% should be considered as working poor, that actually explain why the Chief Executive announce the subsidies for low income working family allowance to addressing the working poor.

The Commission on Poverty wants to address the working poor and also the children poverty. They hope that these new initiatives would help more children to get support so that they can have better environment for their development, such as more tutorial classes which is very common amongst middle classes, the intension is to help them so that they would have more opportunities in future.

People may not think that our society has a very serious problem on social mobility, but actually it is more serious now. There was a recent study by the HK Institute of Education, the results were announced about a year ago. The study compared the rate of young people getting into University. They compared the rate in 1991 and that of 2011, so what happened between these 20 years?

They found that for poor households, about 8% of the children there can get into university 20 years ago and in the year 2011 the percentage increased to 13%, that was 63% increase among young people in poor households. They tried to compare that in the high income households, i.e. those earning the highest 10% income households, at the time 20 years ago the rate was 9.3%, which was more or less the same as the low income family, about 20% different, but in 2011 that percentage increased from 9.3% to 43%, that was a 418% increase.

The chances of our grass-root children are much less than their counterpart in the rich families. That gives us a very good reason to address this children poverty issue. Now the government announced the low income working family allowance, the government projected this scheme will use the government about\$ 3 billion each year and benefit 200,000 families and 700,000 people. And that would help 40,000 poor families, or 180,000 people to get away from poverty. That means their income, when they get their allowance, their total income would be higher than the poverty line.

The government also adopted one of the key features of the Council, that we do not just help the families with income lower than the poverty line, this new allowance also help those who are marginally below the poverty line. The poverty line is set at 50% of the median household income, this allowance would also benefit those who are between 50 and 60% household income, what they get would be about half of those who are below the poverty line. We make this proposal to the government because we believe this is a good movement to prevent poverty, as they would not stop working because their total income is just very slightly higher than the poverty line, and it is also their hope that they would have some savings and eventually leave the state of poverty themselves.

Another long awaited measure is the New Chinese- language curriculum for ethnic minority children to help their integration in local schools. A lot of resistances were met in previous years, and the Special Needs Group Task Force put in a lot of efforts in formulating this policy, he personally visited numerous schools, talked to a lot of concerned NGOs and met with the government a number of times before the final plan was formulated. Their views were largely adopted by the government and hence the package announced was quite comprehensive. He will closely work with the government to ensure a good implementation of this policy.

He reckoned that the partnership between NGOs and government can actually yield a better result. A lot of the NGOs complained that the government did not listen to them. Although popularity of the government is not very high, but they did put in a lot efforts to set up a number of consultative committees, especially the Commission on Poverty, it really provides a very good platform for the government, NGOs, professionals to work together to try to address some very important social issues. He doesn't think that the government can develop so many important and well addressed policies if it is not because of the set-up of these consultative committees, and they would not have achieved such results if they have not listened to our view.

Mr. Chua hopes that in future, with these commissions, and the new scheme called Social Innovation and Entrepreneur Development Fund, the collaboration between government, NGOs, and the business sector can be promoted. And he certainly hopes that with these new initiatives and their work in the council, they can collaborate

closely with Rotary Clubs and other business people to further address other social problems in Hong Kong. That was one of his chief targets when he assumed his new role as Chief Executive of HKCSS in December last year.

He saw a lot of good initiatives that was being tried out in NGOS, and he also met with a lot of good people who are very keen to work with them. Currently these initiatives are of relatively small scale, and he hope that with his relationship with business sector, such as the 2,800 Caring Companies, he could work together to scale up these good initiatives so that more people can benefit from these programs. In the years to come, he hope we can continue to work together to address these problems.

Topics that were raised during the question and answer session covered the effect on poverty from housing problems, aging populations, medical, etc. PP Frederick Lynn of RC Hong Kong Northeast thanked Mr. Chua for giving us a very informative speech on the poverty situation in Hong Kong, and that we all appreciated the efforts that he and his council members has done in the past to help shaping the policies for poverty alleviation of the HKSAR government and we look forward to work together with HKCSS in the future. AG Heman thanked everyone for attending our Area 3 Joint Meeting, ran the bell to close the meeting and invited everyone to stay behind for group photo.

Rotary Potpourri

Rotary Supports 4th Hong Kong Bowling Tournament for All cum 3rd Hong Kong Blind Bowling Tournament - January 19th 2014

Sponsored by the Labour & Welfare Bureau, this event is organized by the Hong Kong Blind Sports Federation (HKBSF) and co-organized by the Rotary International District 3450. 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.

It was successfully held last Sunday morning at the South China Athletic Association Bowling Centre (南華體育會保齡球館) with 37 teams participated. Each team will have three participants plus a fourth member who is being assigned and has visual impairment. Every participant who has normal vision must throw their first ball with eyes blind folded so as to experience the playing of the game in complete darkness such as those members who have visual impairment.

Our Rotary Club of Hong Kong Island East has four teams participated as follows:

- Team 1 PP Norman Lee, Rtn. Avis Kong and her son Matthew
- Team 2 PP Laurence Chan, Rotarianne Jennie Chan and son Danny Chan
- Team 3 CDS Eric Chin, Rotaractor from HK Island East Lisa Chow and Alexa Chen
- Team 4 Rotarianne Christine Chin, daughter Fiona Chin and son Ivan Chin.

Our teams' players enjoyed the atmosphere and bowling games with our assigned team members who have visual impairment. Our District Governor Eugene Fong and Assistant Governor Heman Lam came to give cheering support to our teams too. At the end our Team 2 has won the following prizes:

Overall Champion for the New Generations 扶輪新世代成員(個人組)冠軍
- PP Laurence Chan's son Danny Chan

Overall Second Runner Up for Rotarians 扶輪社(個人組)季軍
- PP Laurence Chan

Single Match Champion for Lady 全場單局最高分(女子組)冠軍
- PP Laurence Chan's wife Jennie.

Congratulation to our winners and thank you for the enthusiastic support and active participation of our members in this meaningful event.


 LAUGH FOR THE WEEK

Subject: Is My Time Up?

A 54 year old woman had a heart attack and was taken to the hospital. While on the operating table she had a near death experience.

Seeing God she asked “Is my time up?”

God said, “No, you have another 43 years, 2 months and 8 days to live.”

Upon recovery, the woman decided to stay in the hospital and have a face-lift, liposuction, breast implants and a tummy tuck. She even had someone come in and change her hair color and brighten her teeth!

Since she had so much more time to live, she figured she might as well make the most if it.

After her last operation, she was released from the hospital. While crossing the street on her way home, she was killed by an ambulance.

Arriving in front of God, she demanded, “I thought you said I had another 43 years? Why didn’t you pull me from out of the path of the ambulance?”

You’ll love this:

God replied: “I didn’t recognize you.”



| 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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Club website: <http://hkie.rotary3450.org>
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 c/o Li, Tang, Chen & Co., 10/F, Sun Hung Kai Centre, 30 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong
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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.**

17 January 2014 - Area 3 Joint Meeting
Rotary Club of Hong Kong Island East



AG Heman Lam chaired the Area 3 Joint meeting.



Pres. Jonathan Lamport making the club announcement



CP Tobi Doeringer, DG Eugene Fong & Mr. Chau Hoi Wai - CE of HK Council of Social Services



Rotarians from different clubs attended the Joint Area 3 meeting



Rotarians from different clubs joined the meeting



PP Eddy Wong & CDS Eric Chin



Rtn. Jonah Cheung & Deputy AG Douglas Hsia



Rtn. Kevin Leung, RIC Director - Rainy Ma
Rotarianne Oliva Kan



PP Andy Wong & PP Norman Lee



DG Eugene Fong gave a short speech
at the Area 3 Joint Meeting



Guest Speaker - Mr. Chua Hoi Wai -
CE of HK Council of Social Services



New Member was inducted at the Joint Area 3 Meeting



All Area 3 Presidents presented a club banner to
Mr. Chua Hoi Wai - CE of HK Council of Social Services



Group photo of Area 3 Clubs Joint Luncheon Meeting

The 4th Hong Kong Bowling Tournament for All
Cum The 3rd Hong Kong Blind Bowling Tournament

held at HK SCAA Bowling Centre on 19 January 2014



Four Teams from RC of HK Island East:

1. PP Norman, Avis and Avis's son Matthew
 2. PP Laurence & Jennie and son Danny
 3. CDS Eric, Rotaractors from HKIE Lisa Chow & Alexa Chen
 4. Rotarianne Christine, daughter Fiona & son Ivan.
- Each team was assigned a 4th team mate with visual impairment

PP Laurence's team has own the following prizes:-
Overall Champion for the New Generations for Danny Chan
Overall Second Runner Up for Rotarians for PP Laurence
Single Match Champion for Lady for Laurence's wife Jennie