

Last Week's Proceedings (16th February, 2005)

This was the first meeting of the Year of Rooster. President Rudy opened the meeting with Gong Xi Fa Cai and he handed out red packets with potential value of over \$10 million to every member and guest attending. He then extended a special welcome to DG Alex and PP Pedro Ching of RC of Hons Kong Island West. PP John led the birthday song to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Rotary International, and DG Alex, PDG Uncle Peter and President Rudy cut the birthday cake which was shared by members after the main course.

PP John conducted a quest in order to get rid of the surplus red packets he had bought and PP George was the clear winner of the quest. President Rudy reminded members to complete the survey form from the District and return it to PP John before the end of February. DG Alex urged members to register for the District Conference which would be held on 19 to 20 March. The Club would pay the \$1000 registration fee for members and members only have to pay for the Governor's dinner if they want to attend. Uncle Peter was the acting Sergeant At Arms and he collected a total of \$1800, \$500 of which was from DG Alex.

Ms Angela Ellermeier who is a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar in 2004-5 took the floor and gave members a talk about some old tradition in Germany. At this time in Germany it is in the "Lent" period which is the period of 40 days before Easter. During this period people should reflect and pray and are supposed to go fasting. If they have to eat they should not have meat in their meals and should not take alcohol but fish is not considered to be meat and beer is not considered alcohol. She gave a story about how the German could get away for not including beer as alcohol. On Easter day, people are not supposed to have fun but Easter Eggs hunting is permitted. Some people organise hardest egg competitions and the winner would get all the broken eggs, a lot of fun but not much to win.

She then gave members an introduction about the traditional bread in Germany. There are over 300 different kinds of bread and the most famous is "brezeln". In the US they call this kind of bread "pretzel". President Bush was almost killed when he tried to swallow it without che wing. The CIA was still investigating how this secret German weapon could slip through the security check. There are three holes on the brezeln and people say it allows the sun to shine through three times. The shape of brezeln has been used as the sign of bakers and next time members visiting Germany would know what to look for when they get hungry. Brezeln can go well with almost anything, beer, sausage and the like. Ms Ellermeier was kind enough to bring along some brezeln for members to taste and members can ask her if they want to know where they can get brezeln in Hong Kong.

President Rudy reminded members that the meeting next week will be on Thursday at the Regal Hotel, Causeway Bay, a joint meeting with RC of Hong Kong Harbour. He then closed the meeting with a toast to RI coupled with RC of Kingspark and RC of HK NE.

Club News

Fireside Meeting

In this cold spell climate, a fireside meeting is most desirable. The Rotary fellowship warmth is needed to keep us out from the chill.

President Rudy in trying to get the members and families together, played host, by organizing a fire-side meeting dinner (Pun Choy) at the mansion of Hon. Treasurer Laurence Chan in Fairview Park, Yuen Long, New Territories, on the 19th Feb. 2005 at 7.00 p.m., with the coordination of Hon. Trea. Laurence.

Exchange of conversations among the Rotarians, Annes and children did take place with pre-dinner drinks and snacks, including the traditional Chinese New Year goodies, all of which were added to the fireside atmosphere (though no actual fire was visible) but the fine fellowship heated our hearts. Director Andy Wong was busy enough with his digital camera snapping the evening's activities. These photos appearing in this issue would prove that we were having the "Pun Choy" dinner composed of various palatable ingredients. Needless to mention, wines continued to fill the empty glasses. "Pun Choy" is a kind of Haaka clansmen feast for celebrating festivals and happy events.

The participants consisted of Rudy Law and family, Laurence Chan & family, together with PP John Kwok (who left earlier for another party), PP Henry Chan and his Rotaryanne May, PP John Luk & his wife Dr. Andy, Director Andy Wong and wife Angela, PP Stephen Liu, and PDG Peter Hall. After filling their stomach with good food and fine wines and exhausted in talking, the party broke up at around 10.00 p.m.

Rotary Information

Nomination for District Governor 2007-2008

Due to the amendments approved to the RIBy-Laws by the 2004 Council on Legislation, our district is required to select the DGN for 2007-2008 not less than 24 months prior to the day of his/her taking office, that is prior to 1st July 2005, hence RI board of Directors granted special permission for us to select the DGN for 2007-08 by ballot by mail without the assistance of a nominating committee.

Should any club wish to propose a Rotarian to be the candidate, please contact the District Governor direct for the application form. Please observe the fundamental principle in Rotary and also the guidelines laid down by RI as published in the MOP.

The completed application form must be submitted to the District Governor on or before 5.00 p.m. on 16th March 2005 at 26th floor, We swick Commercial Building, 147-149, Queen's Road East, Hong Kong.

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Centennial Project in Hong Kong

We are proud to note a press release in the ROTARIAN February 2005 issue concerning a joint nature project by the following local Rotary Clubs:

Rotary Club of Hong Kong,

Rotary Club of Hong Kong Island West,

Rotary Club of Hong Kong Northwest,

Rotary Club of The Peak,

Rotary Club of City Northwest Hong Kong and

Rotary Club of Mid-Level

will join forces to upgrade the Peter Scott Field Studies Center at Mai Po Nature Reserve to help promote wetland education. The clubs will also build an institute for wetland conservation inside the center.

"We want to expand wetland conservation education to all sectors of the public, not only students, but business leaders, city officials and engineering professionals who have an impact on the success of conservation." Says Jason Chan, president of the Rotary Club of The Peak. The total cost is around HK\$500,000.00.

The clubs participated in joint fundraising projects. Chan says members will also provide manual labor for the project, with input from Rotarian structural engineers and designers.

Joke & Cartoon

This married man goes to confessional and he tells the priest, "I had an affair with a woman... almost."

The priest says, "What do you mean almost?"

The man says, "Well, we got undressed and rubbed together but then I stopped."

The priest replies, "Rubbing together is the same as putting it in. You're not to go near that woman again, now say five Hail Marys and put \$50 in the poor box."

The man leaves confessional, goes over and says his prayers, then walks over to the poor box. He pauses for a moment and then starts to leave. The priest, who was watching him, quickly runs over to him and says,

"I saw that! You didn't put any money in the poor box!"

The man replies, "Well, Father, I rubbed up against it and you said it was the same as putting it in!"

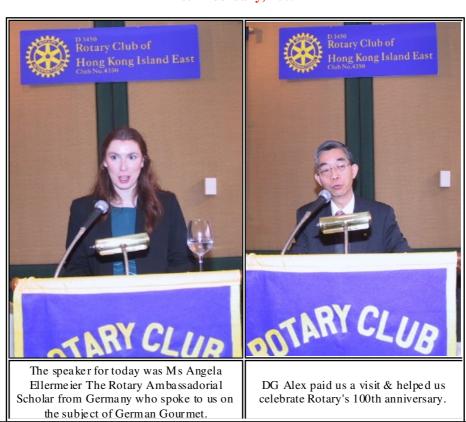
The Highway Safety Council has done extensive testing on a newly designed seat belt. Results show that accidents can be reduced by as much as 45% when the belt is properly installed. Correct installation is illustrated below:



Photographs of our meeting

on

16th February, 2005





(L to R) PDG Uncle Peter, guest speaker Ms Angela Ellermeier, and Pres. Rudy.



(L to R) Hon Sec. John, DG Alex and PP Pedro Ching (HKIW).



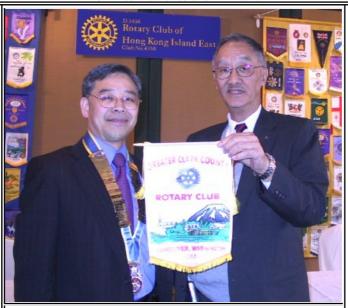
(L to R) Pres. Rudy, PDG Uncle Peter, DG Alex helped cut our Rotary 100th Anniversary cake watched by Hon Sec John.



(L to R) Rtn Sam, PP's Stephen, Hubert, George, Andrew and JL



(L to R) Dir Andy, PP's Henry, Tim, George, Hon Sec John, PE Eddy, Hon Tres. Laurence and Dir Paul.



We received a banner by remote control. A Rotarian by the name of Bill Hughes (Vancouver, Washington) called our Hon Sec's mobile phone to asked whether we will meet on the 9th of February (Chinese New Years Day). He then asked whether we could exchange banners with us. So here you are Rtn Bill we did receive your beautiful banner. We hope you received and liked ours as well.



Group Photo of our meeting with PDG Uncle Peter and Pres. Rudy with DG Alex, our speaker and visiting Rotarian and our members on 16th February, 2005