

## Last week's Proceedings -

# 26th January, 2011

The 29th Meeting of RCHKIE was started at 1:03pm with Pres. Heman as chair. He warmly welcomed our guest DG Jason Chan who was our speaker of the day, he also warmly greeted Pres. Stephen First from RC of HK South and Pres. Belinda of RC of HK Harbour together with their members PP Grace Yen and PP Eddie Leung. PN Nancy introduced her guest Mr. Alex Ng. Pres. Heman then welcomed back PP Desmond Cheung.

The birthday boys of the day were PP Desmond and Rtn. Peter Yeung. Both PP Stephen and Pres. Heman invited as song leaders. Cake cutting ceremony was held after the birthday song and all members congratulated our birthday boys

Pres. Heman then presented the Wedding Anniversary gifts to Rtn. William Leung, our SAA and PP Desmond Cheung, and our members and guests congratulated them with another big round of applause.

Pres. Heman proceeded to make the following announcements:

- 1. Nomination for District Governor 2013-2014 is now open. Deadline would be at 5pm, 18th February 2011.
- 2. CNY Family Gathering will be held on 12 February, Saturday, at PP Laurence's residence in Fairview Park, Yuen Long, NT. Interested members please contact HS Jonathan. Pres. Heman thanked PP Laurence for organizing this event.
- 3. Uncle John Golf Day is scheduled on 18 Feb 2011 Friday at HK Golf Club, Fanling, all golfers please mark your diary.
- 4. 19th February would be RC of Hong Kong's 80th Anniversary, venue would be at J W Marriott. Any members who are interested to join please inform HS Jonathan or myself.
- 5. A brief note on the coming District Conference being held on 19-20 March at Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre as follows
  - a. In our last board meeting, our board members agreed that there will be 10 registrations to District Conference free-of-charge. Should there be more than 10 participants, we will share the additional costs.
  - b. Alicia Chan, our First Lady of Rotary 3459 and spouse of DG Jason, personally inviting all spouse of Rotarians to join the spouse program of District Conference. There will be a image talk on Saturday afternoon by Judy Man, a renowned Image and Fashion Designer and visit to DiD on Sunday afternoon.
  - c. Rotary Has Talent, performance of our Second Generation at Governor's Banquet.
- 6. The RI Theme for 2011-12 is 'Reach Within to Embrace Humanity'

Sergeant-At-Arm William Leung then reported the Red Box collection of today was HKD 1,300, he thanked all contributors for their generous sponsors.

AG Henry Chan then formally presented DG Jason as our speaker who needed no further introductions.

DG Jason began by inviting all to the District Conference, he stated it is the most important event of District which showcased the projects of the Clubs as well as the efforts that we all put in during the year. He also introduced the keynote speakers, including

- 1. Mr T Brian Stevenson, SBS, JP, Chairman, The Hong Kong Jockey Club
- 2. Dr. Eden Y Woon, BA, MA, MS, PhD, JP Vice President, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- 3. Dr. Trisha Leahy, Chief Executive of Hong Kong Sports Institute

Chief Executive Mr. Donald Tsang will be the Guest-of-Honor in the opening ceremony of District Conference.

DG Jason mentioned that he would not go into details of the history of Rotary Information Centre (RIC) as PDG Uncle Peter was the person who officiated the opening of RIC in 1985. He then moved to state the background of the reasons for the questionnaires and the findings resulted from the process; District actually grows in membership, from the 23 clubs in 1985 to the current 64 clubs and as a result, the demands for the use of RIC grow tremendously. At the time the main purpose of RIC, as the name stated, was to passing information to visitors and Rotarian in general. Upon consulting with the Clubs in our District DG Jason took the liberty to carrying out the process of finding out if there is actually a need for bigger premise and sending out of questionnaires to all Rotarians in August 2010. The main purpose of the process is to ascertain that there is a genuine concern that more space is needed to accommodate the growing need of Clubs.

95 questionnaires were received from 19 clubs. Based on the result around 60% consider there is a need for a bigger premise, and out of these 60%, about 10% have not been to RIC. He encouraged those who have not been to RIC to pay a visit there. Currently, District employed 3 staffs who have been with us for slightly over 2 years; RIC occupied the whole floor, apart from the secretariat area, there is a conference room. A store- room and a washroom also located beside the lift lobby. The gross area is 1267 sq. feet, and net just over 900 sq. ft. With the slightly bigger space it would hopefully help District to retain the 3 staffs who have only been working in RIC for over 2 years. For our information, there are actually 80 boxes of important documents, such as annual reports that were still storing off site. DG Jason also instructed a surveying firm to prepare a valuation report back in August 2010 and at the time the premise was worth HK\$7.4 M.

DG Jason also received comments from Rotarians stating that we should not buy a big premise and leave the meeting room and conference room vacant as we are only conducting meetings in the evening hence not worthy to leave the space open for a lot of time.

DG Jason stated that he would not present the official version at this moment as there would be technical terms that required professional input and PDG Anthony Hung and PDG Vincent To are currently working diligently in preparing the resolution, the intention he learns from lawyers is to ensure there is continuity and time frame. The main purpose is to ascertain that there is a demand for a bigger premise. The resolutions, however, would not touch upon how the space would be allocated.

DG Jason then mention that the term of reference of the current draft is that we will look into the current state of the RIC premise and to solicit views of all clubs of the District with a view to recommend to Rotarians gather in the future district conferences of plan to dispose of RIC premise and to acquire new premise for use by clubs in the future. As there are legal implications due to the fact that the current premise is owned by 23 clubs, we need to have the agreement of the 23 clubs if we want to sell the existing premise. The term of reference set out the purpose clearly.

Regarding the composition, the current draft also recommend the setting up of a task force comprising of one representative of each area and such equal number of officers may be appointed by the DG from time to time taking into account the Rotary experience and professional expertise. In the resolution we do not touch upon how these representatives were nominated, to streamline the process, the one representative from each area would likely be the senior club of that area which act as a coordinator to gather comments that was discussed at the task force and communicate back to the clubs in that particular area. Regarding the other officers that being appointed by DG, he recommended that they should be professional accountants and lawyers in order to address the complicity of the structure of holding the premises. It is also not feasible to impose a high levy for every clubs in the district in view of purchasing a new premise, the likely option would be, as we have so many generous donors, they are willing to contribute and not concern too much about the ownership.

Back in 1985, the purchase price was about HK\$600,000, apart from the 23 clubs, and there was about HK\$150,000 from the reserve, and every year we make a profit from the Conference and hopefully we make some profit this year.

According to the legal advisors, setting a time frame is needed, and the term of the task force shall be 3 years and may be extended by resolutions in the future District Conference. The task force will be chaired by District Governor. There would also be an advisory board that comprised of PDGs whom would be appointed by DG. It would be very important to have support from 23 clubs and senior leaders as they knew how difficult to purchase new premise, the time and efforts required and also to have Rotarian to agree on the future direction before we move forward.

During time for questions, the following were asked and answered:

Pres. Stephen asked what would be the amount of money that might be required in present dollar to purchase a new

premise.

DG Jason answered that the amount would be in Millions, and from the result of the questionnaire the amount of space required would be double the size of the current premise. If the current premise is worth about HK\$7.4M, then we will be talking about another HK\$7.4M. We have Rotaract Clubs, in particular, Com-based Rotaract Clubs who are looking for suitable meeting venues as they are very busy with their work and could only hold meetings after work. We believe some Rotarians are willing to contribute substantial amount but we need to make the proposal very clear before we go back to them. In the findings, 60% expect the premises to be on HK Island but because of the increase in property prices it would probably not in Causeway Bay, may be in western side of HK Island.

PP Uncle John drawn the attention that the main reason for not having meeting at RIC was due to lack of secretariat support as meetings ending late, and there was no one locking up the premise and the second reason was that most of the members wanted to have a meal after the meeting, the meeting venue actually took place somewhere else.

DG responded that for new clubs, it would be difficult for them to find a suitable location because of the minimum charge and if we have a bigger premise, part of it would be used for holding club meetings. Secretarial staff don't like working overtime, and hence difficult to have secretarial support after office hours. Security is also a concern. Half of the money has been used in RIC and the related secretarial support. It is not feasible to impose individual levy. The 3 Rotary Clubs in Macau are willing to surrender their rights for the purchase of new premise, and it was agreed among them that the proceed arising from the sell of the current premise will be contribute to the new premise.

PE Eric asked the existing RIC premises is owned by 23 clubs, in case there is disagreement from any of the 23 clubs, what would be the stand on this?

DG Jason stated that it actually touch upon the legal issue. For the resolution, it would not be restricted to the 23 clubs, he doesn't have the right to request the 23 clubs to vote for this resolution. The main purpose of this resolution is to ascertain whether there is a demand for a bigger premises for Rotarian and Clubs in our District in general. Based on the M&AA, the owners of RIC limited needed to have majority before taking any actions. As we needed to have the majority to move forward, and we stop if we don't have an agreement. If we look back our future leaders would at least know that we tried our best, we only need to demonstrate whether there is a need for bigger premises. My role is to ensure that we have discussed something important for our District and not to pass the resolution. My role is to coordinate and have agreement on the direction.

PP Stephen asked if we need to own a premise as we need to raise a lot of money. The Rotary Club should be non-profit making. Can we work through our Chief Executives office to obtain a rent free/low cost premise?

DG replied that to rent a property from Government, we need to go back to relevant government bureaus. As civil servant, we received a lot of requests, and in the current environment it is very difficult to acquire a premise free of charge or at a very low rent/management cost, as the bureaus would have to answer to a lot of different parties. We may convey our message to CE Donald Tsang nonetheless. Our Rotarians are very influential and if they could persuade our government for a premise at a very low cost it would be very appreciated.

Pres. Heman then presented a small gift to DG Jason as a token of appreciation and he thanked him for taking the opportunity to explain to us the findings of the questionnaire and the context of the resolutions given that he just landed from his trip to National Immunization Day (NID) in India.

Pres. Heman reminded us that there will be no meeting next week as it is the last day of this lunar year and the next meeting would resume on 9 February. Rtn. Dr. Au Chung Tak of Rotary Club of HK Harbour who will be talking about the fortunes of Year of Rabbit. The meeting was then adjourned at 2.07pm with a toast to RI coupled with the Rotary Clubs of The Peak, Hong Kong Harbour, Hong Kong South and Hong Kong Island East. We all stayed behind to take a group photo before leaving.

# **Rotary Potpourri**

## Club Officers for Rotary year 2011-2012

President:	Dr. Eric Chin
President-Elect:	Nancy Yee
Secretary:	Jonathan Lamport
Treasurer:	Rudy Law
Sergeant-at-Arms:	William Leung
Membership Chair:	William Wong

Public Image Chair:	Teresa Ho
Administration:	John Kwok
Service Project:	Norman Lee
Community Service :	Kelvin Leung
Rotary Foundation :	Laurence Chan
New Generations:	Andy Wong
International Service :	Sharon Lamport
Advisor:	Peter Hall
Chair of PP Council:	Andrew Chen
Ex Official:	Heman Lam

# **Electronic Make-up Questions**

## You can submit an electronic makeup for this missed meeting by answering the following questions:

Name:
Email:
1. Name the two Club Presidents visiting us today and which club they came from $?$ Ans)
2. Who was our honorable guest and speaker today ? Ans)
3. Who was welcomed back by Pres. Heman ? Ans)
4. Who was our visiting guest and was introduced by whom ? Ans)
5. Who were greeted birthday today by Pres. Heman ? Ans)
6. Pres. Heman presented the Wedding Anniverdary gifts to whom ? Ans)
7. State any two of the announcements made by Pres. Heman today $$ ? Ans)
8. Who was our SAA today and what was the Red Box collection ? $\ensuremath{Ans}\xspace)$
Submit
-

# A useful Guide

#### Health:

- 1. Drink plenty of water.
- 2. Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince and dinner like a beggar.
- 3. Eat more foods that grow ON trees and plants and eat less food that is manufactured IN plants
- 4. Live with the 3 E's -- Energy, Enthusiasm and Empathy.
- 5. Make time to pray.
- 6. Play more games
- 7. Read more books than you did in last year

- 8. Sit in silence for at least 10 minutes each day
- 9. Sleep at least 7 hours.
- 10. Take a 10-30 minute walk daily. And while you walk, smile.

#### Personality:

- 11. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
- 12. Don't have negative thoughts on things you cannot control. Instead invest your energy in the positive present moment.
- 13. Don't over do. Keep your limits.
- 14. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
- 15. Don't waste your precious energy on gossip.
- 16. Dream more while you are awake.
- 17. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
- 18. Forget issues of the past. Don't remind your partner of his/her mistakes in the past, that will ruin your present happiness.
- 19. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone. Don't hate others.
- 20. Make peace with your past so it won't spoil the present.
- 21. No one is in charge of your happiness except you.
- 22. Realize that life is a school and you are here to learn. Problems are simply part of the curriculum that appear and fade away but the lessons you learn will last a lifetime.
- 23. Smile and laugh more.
- 24. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree...

#### Society:

- 25. Call your family often.
- 26. Each day give something good to others.
- 27. Forgive everyone for everything.
- 28. Spend time with people over the age of 70, and under the age of 7.
- 29. Try to make at least three people smile each day.
- 30. What other people think of you is none of your business.
- 31. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends will. Stay in touch.

#### Life:

- 32. Do the right thing!
- 33. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful, or joyful.
- 34. GOD heals everything.
- 35. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
- 36. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up, and show up.
- 37. The best is yet to come...

- 38. When you awake alive in the morning, thank GOD for it.
- 39. Your Inner most is always happy. So, be happy.

#### Last but not the least:

40. Consider forwarding this guide to those you care about.

# **Photographs of our meeting**

### <u>on</u>

## **26th January, 2011**





PE Eric Chin, Pres. Belinda Yeung from RC of HK Harbour & Pres. Stephen First from RC of HK South



Pres. Heman Lam presented two birthday gifts to PP Desmond Cheung & Rtn. Peter Yeung



Two birthday boys doing the cake cutting ceremony



Pres. Heman Lam presented the wedding anniversary to two members, PP Desmond Cheung & Rtn. William Leung



DG Jason Chan gave us a talk about the plan for the new Rotary Information Centre premises



Pres. Heman Lam presented a club souvenir to thank DG Jason's talk



Group photo - DG Jason Chan, members, visiting Rotarians and guest

## previous home

\_

\_

\_

\_

\_

-