

Last week's Proceedings -

30th April, 2008

President Laurence started the meeting at 1:15 pm with 21 members and guests attending. We had a very special meeting today with all members and guests standing to start with the Rotary Vitarobic dance for the celebration of the 100th day count down for the 2008 Beijing Olympic. While the District had formally hosted the Vitarobic dance in the Shatin Sports ground in the morning, our Club is supporting this event during our regular lunch meeting. AG Eddy had rushed back from Shatin to join and lead the dance. The video provided by the District was played on screen and all participants were heated up and we all had a good exercise.

SAA Heman reported the Red box of the day was HK\$1,100.

Rtn. Jackal introduced the guests of today being PP Joop Litmaath of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong, Dr. K.M Tse our speaker of last week, Ms Carmen Chow friend of Rtn. Gilbert and Mr. Mark Chong from the Citibank in Hong Kong. They were warmly welcomed by our members with big rounds of applauses.

Rtn. Heman introduced our speaker, Mr. Patrick Kwong, Director of the City University of Hong Kong Press, to us and the topic being "Hong Kong Reading Month - it's impact to our future generation".

Mr. Patrick Kwong has around 30 years of experience in the local publishing scene. He first served as Editor for Mathematics and Science Subjects in Oxford University Press in 1978, and became Assistant to Director / Business Manager in The Chinese University Press in the following year. In 1995, he joined the City University of Hong Kong as Head of the Publications and Media Production Unit, overseeing all activities related to design, printing and publishing of printed items as well as production of audio-visual items in the University. In 1996, he helped to establish the City University of Hong Kong Press which is the publishing arm of the University and became its founding director.

Patrick had served the local publishing sector in many capacities, including director of the HK Federation of Publishing (1994-1995, 2000-2006), Executive Committee member of the Hong Kong Publishing Professionals' Association (1989-2006), members of various Industry Training Boards related to publishing and printing established by the Vocational Training Council (1989-1991, 1995-1997, 1998-2006). He is currently a member of the Printing and Publishing Industry Training Advisory Committee established under the Education Bureau of the HKS AR Government.

The "Hong Kong Reading Month" was born amid the anxiety brought about by the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) epidemic in 2003. In May, schools were closed temporarily and students were advised to stay at home. To help students and indeed the community to spend their time meaningfully and to restore their spiritual well-being at the time, the Hong Kong Publishing Federation (HKPF) immediately took the liberty to rally the support of publishers, bookshops, the education sector and other organizations to launch the Reading Month which ran in May. The theme was "Reading for Health." To the surprise of the organizers, the project was a resounding success, reported widely by the media, and won accolades at home and abroad. Publishers in the Mainland and Taiwan, regions also affected by SARS, were not so responsive to the needs of their communities.

Following the success of the first Reading Month in 2003, HKPF organized the project again in April 2004 to tie in with the "World Book and Copyright Day" promulgated by UNESCO. Co-organizers included: City University of Hong Kong, the Federation of Youth Groups, the Leisure and Cultural Service Department of the HKSAR government, RTHK and the Hong Kong EdCity. The theme was "Reading for All." HKPF further undertook to make it an annual event.

The major highlights of the annual campaign since its inception include:

- a. launching ceremony,
- b. 50 books recommended for reading (except 2007),
- c. seminars at bookshops,
- d. publicities at bookshops and schools,
- e. publicities on websites of Hong Kong EdCity and other organizations, and
- f. advertisements in local newspapers.

It has always been the objectives of the campaign to promote reading and instill awareness to the local community especially youths and teenagers of the importance and benefits of reading. In 2006, special efforts were directed toward corporate with a view to enhancing the humanistic qualities of the workforce of the business sector in order to qualify itself to compete in the global knowledge-based economy. For 2007, a reading marathon was organized for primary and secondary students in which 30 books were recommended. Students were invited to read titles chosen from the list within a period of 5 months and submit book reports to the organizers through their schools.

The Reading Month campaigns held consecutively and annually since 2003 confirm to HKPF the great urgency of promoting reading for all sectors and ages. In this regard, HKPF would very much like to expand the scope of activities for the project in the years to come. The major difficulties are found in the areas of funding and manpower support. The first five campaigns were made possible through the unselfish efforts of many from the publishing, cultural and other sectors who contribute their time and effort without charge. Consequently, many activities were organized on an ad hoc basis and could not attain the level of influences and impact intended. The organizers are working hard in seeking sponsorships and support so that a

permanent secretariat can be established.

Patrick concluded his speech on a brighter note by pointing out that in the last five years: (a) more books were bought annually, (b) number of visitors to the public libraries rose sharply and (c) more activities related to books and readings were organized by shopping malls as a means to attract traffic.

Dir. Jason was asked to thank our speaker. Jason had been involved in the "Reading month" through his son, and hence was touched very much by the speech. We gave a big round of applause to our speaker.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:04pm with a toast to RI coupled with Rotary Clubs of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Island East.

Rotary Potpourri

Explanation on Approved Charitable Donation

The question of how to define an approved charitable donation is frequently raised. The following details from the Inland Revenue Department will give you the correct answer:

"Subject to certain limitations, an allowance is granted, for tax purposes under the Inland Revenue Ordinance, for donations of money to charitable institutions or trusts of a public character. As your organization has been recognized as such, donations of money made to your organization will be allowable.

It has, however, come to my knowledge that the donations shown in some receipts issued by some recognized charities are not in fact donations in the true sense of the word. Very often, payments made for a grave space, services such as saying prayers, reservation of a space for ancestral worship, admission tickets for film shows etc. are treated as donations and receipts issued accordingly. This is incorrect as such payments are made under a contractual obligation or in return for some direct advantage.

The word "donation" has not been defined in the Inland Revenue Ordinance. However, it is the Departmental view that donation, in its ordinary sense, means a gift. To constitute a gift, the property transferred must be transferred voluntarily and not as the result of a contractual obligation to transfer it, and no advantage of a material character is to be received by the transferor by way of return.

The purpose of the letter is therefore to remind you of the need to distinguish donations from other payments when issuing receipts. Payments other than those which are strictly gifts should not be termed as donations. On the other hand, you may state on your receipts that donations may be tax deductible, but you must cross out such statement when receipts other than donations in the true sense are acknowledged. In addition, please note that the correct full official name of your organization must be printed on every donation receipt.

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Electronic Make-up Questions

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

1. How many participants we have today for the luncheon meeting?
Answer:
2. Who was our visiting Rotarian and from which Club?
Answer:
3. Who were our visiting guests?
Answer:
4. What have been specially done by all participants at the start of the meeting?
Answer:
5. How much we have collected for the Red Box today?
Answer:
6. Who was our speaker today?
Answer:

7. Who was asked to introduce the speaker?
Answer:
8. What was the subject of our speaker's speech?
Answer:
9. Who was asked to thank our speaker?
Answer:
10. If payments are made under a contractual obligation or in return for some direct advantage can it be recognized as tax-exemptible donations by the Inland Revenue Department?
Answer:
Na me: Em ail:
Submit
LAUGH FOR THE WEEK
This is the Doctor I want as my primary physician:

Q: I've he ard that cardiovascular exercise can prolong life; is this true?

A: Your heart is only good for so many beats, and that's it... don't waste them on exercise. Everything wears out eventually. Speeding up your heart will not make you live longer; that's like saying you can extend the life of your car by driving it faster. Want to live longer? Take a nap.

Q: Should I cut down on meat and eat more fruits and vegetables?

A: You must grasp logistical efficiencies. What does a cow eat? Hay and corn. And what are these? Vegetables. So a steak is nothing more than an efficient mechanism of delivering vegetables to your system. Need grain? Eat chicken. Beef is also a good source of field grass (green leafy vegetable). And a pork chop can give you 100% of your recommended daily allowance of vegetable products.

Q: Should I reduce my alcohol intake?

A: No, not at all. Wine is made from fruit. Brandy is distilled wine, that means they take the water out of the fruity bit so you get even more of the goodness that way. Beer is also made out of grain. Bottoms up!

Q: How can I calculate my body/fat ratio?

A: Well, if you have a body and you have fat, your ratio is one to one. If you have two bodies, your ratio is two to one, etc.

Q: What are some of the advantages of participating in a regular exercise program?

A: Can't think of a single one, sorry. My philosophy is: No Pain...Good!

Q: Aren't fried foods bad for you?

A: YOU'RE NOT LISTENING!!! Foods are fried these days in vegetable oil. In fact, they're permeated in it. How could getting more vegetables be bad for you?

Q: Will sit-ups help prevent me from getting a little soft around the middle?

A: Definitely not! When you exercise a muscle, it gets bigger. You should only be doing sit-ups if you want a bigger stomach.

Q: Is chocolate bad for me?

A: Are you crazy? HELLO Cocoa beans! Another ve getable!!! It's the best feel-good food around!

Q: Is swimming good for your figure?

A: If swimming is good for your figure, explain whales to me.

Q: Is getting in-shape important for my lifestyle?

A: Hey! 'Round' is a shape!

Well, I hope this has cleared up any misconceptions you may have had about food and diets.

And remember:

Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways - Chardonnay in one hand - chocolate in the other - body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming 'WOO HOO, What a Ride!'

For those of you who watch what you eat, here's the final word on nutrition and health. It's a relief to know the truth after all those conflicting nutritional studies.

- 1. The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
- 2. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
- 3. The Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
- 4. The Italians drink a lot of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
- 5. The Germans drink a lot of beers and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.

CONCLUSION

Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you.

Photographs of our meeting on







Members & guest were doing the Rotary Vitarobics Dance together



Luncheon group photo with speaker, visitors & members





Group photos at the District Assembly held on 26th April at the Shatin Jockey Club



Group Photo with President-elects, visiting guests & the District Officers at the District Assembly



41 小児患者にも遊びを

香港ではチャリティーが盛んで、非営利団体による慈善活動も活発です。「子供には遊ぶ権利がある」という信念のもと、健全な遊びや遊び場を提供して 健全な遊びや遊び場を提供している「Playright」(プレーライト)もその一つ。彼らは不公平に遊びを奪われている子供たちに目を向け、入院中の小児患者に手を差し伸べています。世間から離され、他の子と触れ合うこともなく繰り返される
注射、検査。理由も分からず痛み、恐怖、孤独にさいなまれる
子供ら。彼に遊びを通じて喜び



でも、それを享受できる数は 限られています。そこで2年前 から、隔離病棟の子もカメラに 向かってゲームに参加できるイ ンタラクティブなテレビ生番組

香港・谷川 公光子さん

四周終聞 2008年 (平成20年)3月31日(月曜日)

Playright project published in Japan newspaper

pre vious home