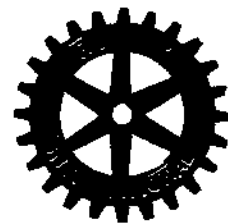




東風 Tung Feng



VOL. 49 No.43

29th May 2002

What Happened Last Week

Today we had an excellent turn-out. The press gang also turned out in full force. So what was the attraction?

The answer was the presence of our guest speaker Dr. Eden Woon. Kishu handed over to the writer his C.V. He was (amongst other things) a doctor of mathematics, a colonel in US Air Force, the special adviser to the Pentagon on relationship with China and currently the president of Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce.

His talk to us was on Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement between HK and PRC. More about that later.

President Stephen started the meeting early in anticipation of the interesting and substantial talk from Dr. Woon.

President Stephen expressed special welcome to our visiting Rotarian friends from Hong Kong NorthEast. They were Pres. Ozar Ebrahim, PP David Tsoi, and Rtn. Jeurgen Thomsen. President Stephen also expressed a warm welcome to our media friends.

Stephen further announced that PDG Moses would be giving us a talk on 5/6/2002. Our sister club Kawasaki South would pay us a visit on 12/6/2002 and its members would also visit HK Seaschool to which they had donated 2 scholarships.

Sergeant-at-arms Laurence announced that donation this week was HK\$1,520.00.

Then came the highlights of the meeting. Kishu introduced our speaker. The writer had already mentioned earlier his colourful and distinguished career.

Dr. Woon said that the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement was a product of WTO. Under WTO, members could enter into regional trade agreements by which one member grants special



THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG ISLAND EAST

香港東區扶輪社週報

Club 4350

District 3450

Chartered on 6 April, 1954 by Charter President
PDG (Uncle) John Yuen

trading privileges to another member or members without granting such privileges to all other members.

At first instance, this would look to be inconsistent with the aim of WTO which was to do away with trade barriers amongst all the members. However, it had been thought that it would be impracticable for some members to agree to removal of trade barriers all at once, and this sort of regional agreements may provide an intermediate platform to foster full economic liberalization in the long term.

The flaw to this was that this type of agreements was discriminatory!

Examples of these types of agreements were abundant like NAFTA, European Economic Union, the agreement between Singapore and New Zealand. Singapore, in particular, was very keen to enter into these types of agreements because of its uneasy relationship with its neighbours. Currently, Singapore was having talks with US and Japan.

Now Hong Kong was also beginning to see the benefit of this type of agreements and it would be most likely to enter into such an agreement with New Zealand first.

Relating to Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement between PRC and HK, it would be allowed under WTO because this arrangement were to be made between 2 members, although the same country. Furthermore, the word "arrangement" was chosen because PRC could not make an "agreement" with its own territory.

Talks had started on this Arrangement with the blessing of our Chief Executive. Mr. Anthony Leung was given the task to head negotiations.

High level talks were to be conducted every 2 months, Operational level talks were to be conducted every 1 month.

In respect of the progress, the part relating to goods was relatively easy but, as can be imagined, the part relating to services was not. Relating to goods, PRC would probably ask for the definition of HK-made goods to mean over 50% made in HK. What constituted HK made goods were easier to define and determine.

But HK services would be harder to define. Presumably, services provided by companies which had had substantive business operation in HK would suffice. But PRC was understandably nervous, and it would take sometime for the parties to reach agreement.

Furthermore, different ministries in PRC reacted differently to this Arrangement. Bearing in mind that some of these ministries had spent substantial time on the negotiation of WTO relating to the gradual opening of trade etc. and finally WTO treaty was signed, they certainly felt reluctant to re-open negotiation on certain aspects of it.

So, what would be the outcome? Dr. Woon expressed optimism because PRC had bigger things in mind, like extending this type of arrangement with Asean, Taiwan and Macau etc.

PP Tim then thanked our speaker. Tim was particularly impressed by Dr. Woon's depth of knowledge despite that he took no part in the negotiation.

The meeting was then declared adjourned with a toast to HKNE.

Rotary Information

The Rotary Foundation announced the first class of Rotary World Peace Scholars selected to study at the Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution.

Rotary Foundation Trustee Chairman Luis Vicente Giay made the announcement at the Non-Governmental Organizations Briefing at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.

A press briefing followed at the UN Millennium Hotel, United Nations Plaza at which Professor Paul Rogers, Director of the Rotary Center at the University of Bradford, England, and two of the Rotary World Peace Scholars were also in attendance.

For more information, please visit the RI web site at www.rotary.org to learn further about the individuals selected from a worldwide competition for the inaugural class of Rotary World Peace Scholars, who will study international relations, peace, and conflict resolution at the Rotary Centers with the aim of increasing diplomacy, mediation and conflict resolution skills among the next generation of community and world leaders.

SPEAKER PROGRAMME

- | | |
|--------|---|
| May 29 | Succession Planning - Why do we need it?
Talk by Ms Pearl Lam
Lawyer, with the law firm of W. I. Cheung & Co. |
| Jun 05 | Fees of Independent Non-Executive Directors - Too High? Too Low?
Talk by PDG Moses Cheng, OBE, JP
Rotary Club of HK Northeast |
| Jun 12 | Intellectual Property Rights in Hong Kong
Talk by Mr. Walter M. H. Wan
Assistant Superintendent, HK Customs & Excise Department |

LAUGH FOR THE WEEK

The Art Of Negotiation - Skinny Dipping

This fellow had owned his large farm for several years. He had a large pond in the back forty, had it fixed up nice, picnic tables, horse shoe courts, basketball court, etc. The pond was fixed for swimming when it was built.

One evening the old farmer decided to go down to the pond as he hadn't been there for a while and look it over. As he neared the pond, he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee. As he came closer he saw it was a bunch of young women skinny dipping in his pond. He made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end of the pond. One of the women shouted to him, "We're not coming out until you leave!"

The old man replied, "I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim or get out of the pond, I only came to feed my alligators!"

=====

Mr. Johnson got himself a new secretary. She was young, sweet, and very polite. One day, while taking dictation, she noticed his fly was open. When leaving the room, she said, "Mr. Johnson, your barracks door is open."

He did not understand her remark, but later on he happened to look down and saw that his zipper was open. He decided to have some fun with his secretary. Calling her in, he asked, "By the way Miss Jones, when you saw my barracks door was open this morning, did you also notice a soldier standing at attention?" The secretary, who was quite witty, replied, "Why no sir. All I saw was a little disabled veteran sitting on two duffel bags."

=====

YEAR 2001 - 2002

Ex-Officio IPP Tajwar Shadikhan	Vice President Henry Chan	President Elect Chris Howe	President Stephen Liu	Secretary Eddy Wong	Treasurer Clark Lu	Advisor PDG Peter Hall
---	-------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	---------------------------------	-------------------------------	------------------------------	----------------------------------

Directors: PP John Kwok	Rudy Law	Ates Yucel	Malcolm Phillips	Jason Chiu	Sergeant-at-arms Laurence Chan	PP Council Rep PP Hubert Chan
-----------------------------------	----------	------------	------------------	------------	--	---

Club postal address: P.O. Box 47064, Morrison Hill Post Office, Hong Kong

Club website: <http://www.rotary.org.hk/hongkong-island-east>

Make-up cards to Club Secretary: Ms Annie Ng

c/-Li, Tang, Chen & Co., 10/F, Sun Hung Kai Centre, 30 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong

Tel : (852) 2827 8663 (ext. 176) Fax : (852) 2827 5086

Bulletin Editor: PP Desmond Cheung Tel : (852) 2230 2233

Fax : (852) 2810 4923

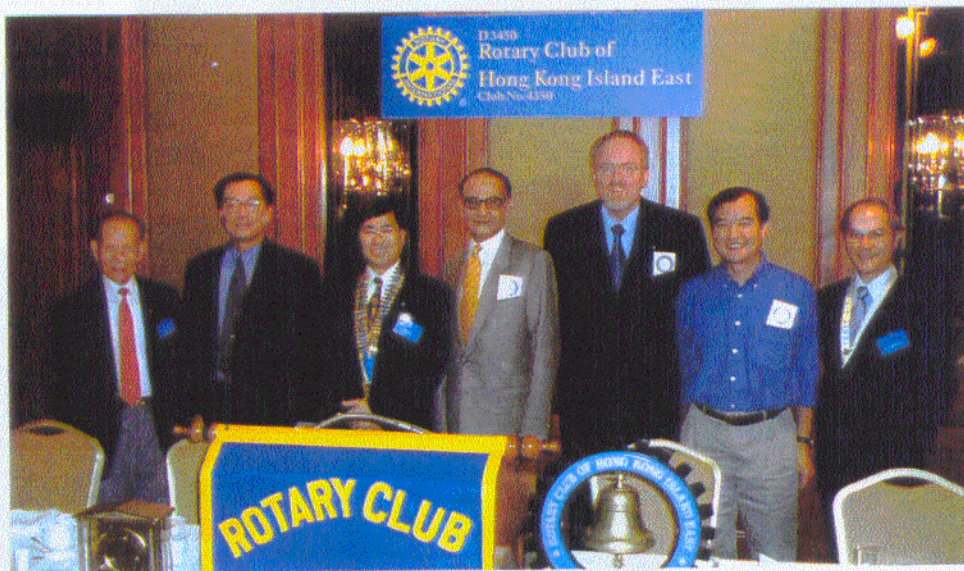
**ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG ISLAND EAST MEETS EVERY WEDNESDAY, 12:30 p.m. AT
EXCELSIOR HOTEL, CAUSEWAY BAY**



PP Desmond, PDG Y.K. Rtn Kishu & Francis enjoying their Chinese meal at their Rotary meeting.



Dr Tony, PP C.Y., Rtn Danny, Ates & PE Chris enjoying their chopsticks meal too.



PDG Peter, guest speaker Mr. Woon, Pres Stephen & visiting Rotarians at our meeting on 22nd May, 2002



Our guest speaker was Mr. Eden Woon, Director of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, who spoke on the issue of Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA).

Acting Sec. Laurence sitting at the head table with Pres. Ozer Ebrahim of the Rotary Club of HKNE & Also Rtn Juergen Thomsen.



PP Hubert, PP George, Rtn. Raymond (hidden), Rtn Jason, PP Li & PP David Tsoi from HKNE

PP Andrew, Rtn Alex, Heron Rudy, IPP Tajwar & PP Tim enjoying the use of the chopsticks for a change.

