

Vol.63 No.18 18 NOV 2015

# **President's Message**



A while ago, I did speak about the importance of promoting peace through Rotary, and this week, given the tragic attacks in Paris last weekend, I would like to take a moment to re-emphasize the

importance of this message, and of our role as Rotarians to everything we can to, not just promote, but actively try to influence the world wherever we are doing our work.

The Rotary for Peace video is a great and meaningful message to let the world know where we stand, and I

thank all those involved on the part of our club. But it is only a message. We should use it to tell the world that we stand for peace, and treat it as a starting point, for future activities that can help promote and work towards peace. We need ideas for future services that are peace related. Can we organise future events? Can we actually influence peace where there is conflict (even in our own city)? We must never forget that this is one of the most important causes that we stand for.



### COMING SPEAKERS

25 NOVEMBER Ms Joyce Yuk of

Love & Care Foundation

02 DECEMBER Ms Michele Hui of

The Nature Conservancy
Topic:

The Nature Conservancy's work globally & locally

Avg. Attendance

Members





Last Week REDBOX \$800

THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG ISLAND EAST

香港東區扶輸社週報 Club 16340 District 3450 Chartered on 06 April, 1954 by Charter President PDG (Uncle) John Yuen

# SPOLIGHT ON - From Opium War to Xinhai Revolution



YC Ho was speaking about the Struggle of China in the Ch'ing Dynasty from Opium War in 1840 to Sino-Japanese War in 1894. Opium started to be smuggled into the Mainland almost 50 years before the Opium War broke out in 1840. In the later times of Emperor Qianlung , the grand father of Emperor Duoguang who governed the Dynasty in 1840, the British Empire sent an official Envoy led by Sir Macarney to Mainland hoping to build up a state-to-state diplomatic relationship with Ch'ing Dynasty , and to discuss in details the trading condition between the two states.

Emperor Qianlung, as most of the traditional Chinese held in conventional concepts, demanded Macarney to recognize China as her Dominating State and insisted no need to discuss trading which was regarded as the Dynasty's gratitude to other states in the traditional Chinese thinking because the Old China had mostly self sufficed and supplied all along without the need to import any items from outside. So Macarney returned. Before leaving the Mainland, he had travelled in the cites along the East coast of Mainland, and in his report to the British Govenment, he concluded that several modernized warships were needed and enough to 'make' this sleeping lion awake.

Opium smuggling worsened that by 1839 Emporor DuoGuang sent His Special Representative, Master Lin to Canton where most opium smuggled for a complete eradication of this old-time national turnmoil. During his execution of duties in Canton, Master Lin was the very first person of the whole nation to realize the great difference in technology between the old China and the West. He renewed all the cannons in the military port of Humun, or literally known as 'Tiger Gate', which guarded the door to Canton from the Pearl River Delta. Moreover with the help of some Chinese Christians, he had translated many books in western technology.

He burnt all the opium collected from the opium traders in Tiger Gate, and demanded the foreign Opium Traders to promise in writing to never again smuggle opium into China. The British Envoy, Mr Elliot demanded Lin to compensate for the 'goods' that he had burnt, and reported to the British Government to send modern battleships to Fareast to settle this 'Trade' Dispute with the Ch'ing Dynasty. It was Less than a year's time since Master Lin arrived in Canton for stopping opium from smuggling into Mainland that the British battleships started opening fire against the military stronghold in Tiger Gate. But the British failed in Tiger Gate. The Fleet went north until it invaded the Daigu Fort, the Military Fort guarding the entrance to Beijing from the sea. The cannons in this fort had not been renewed for more than 100 years which was well known to the British when Sir Macarney had visited it almost half a century ago.

The Imperial Government inBeijing was shocked. The Emperor denounced Master Lin for causing the warfare, and sent another Special Representative to represent the Emperor to deal with the British. It was almost two years before the Nanjing Treaty was signed in 1843 which recognized the British's colonial occupation of Hong Kong Island. Moreover, the other clauses included that it also allowed to appoint a British Officer to be the Chief of Customs of China; to delegate the judiciary soreignity to the British Embassy that any British involved in dispute with Chinese in Mainland were to be handled purely by the British Embassy; and to open 5 more ports for trading with the British; in addition to the penalty of a large amount of silver taels to the British for failing in the war. There was no single word about opium as if this had never existed before. Opium influx was elevated without control continually.

The whole nation including the Imperial Government of the Ch'ing Dynasty had not made any analysis of this historic hallmark of opium war, the first failure of the whole nation in the challenge by the strong Western powers. 10 years later, with the further deterioration of the economy of the whole nation due to the continual loss to the British via opium trade of silver taels which was the currency of the Nation, a massive rebellion broke out in 1850, known as the TaiPing Rebellion in the southern part of the Mainland. It took about 16 years that this rebellion was cracked down by another Master, Tsang GuoFeng.

During the wartime, Tsang had a first hand experience of the powerful techology of the Western Civilization. So after the rebellion was ended, together with other wartime generals, Tsang started the first attempt of modernization of the whole nation in1864, known as the Self-Strengthening Movement. This movement was supported by the Chief Head of the Imperial Government, Prince Gong, who also had a very painful and first hand experience when he had to deal with the British-French powers who had annexed Beijing after the Dynasty had failed in an invasion by both powers in 1860. The Movement mainly only involved renewal of weapons, the building of modern fleet, the ability to self make modern weapons and to send students abroad to learn modern technology. There was no change in the infra-structure in politics as most of the interlectuals at that time practising Confusionism which had dominated for thousand years strongly refused the need.

In 1870, Japan, after almost spending 10 years in internal argues and struggles in modernization when her port was invaded by a modern US battleship in 1860, finally adopted the Meiji Restoration for a complete modernization including infra-structures of the political system.

In 1894, almost 30 years after Self-Strengthening Movement in China, and after almost 24 years of Meiji Restoration, Japan invaded into Korean Peninsula which was a protectorate state of China. The Dynasty immediately responded to support the Korean King by sending troops to Korea both by land across the Yarlu River and by sea renting a British-Flag holding merchant ship to carry troops to Korea across the Yellow Sea. This ship was attacked and sunk with the Chinese troops on board by the Japan Fleet without prior declaring war by the Japan side.

The stigma of the success of Self-Strengthening Movement, the North Sea Fleet of the Ch'ing Dynasty was at once deployed to retaliate but eventually failed in the seawar and almost all battleships were sunk by the joint Japan Fleet. This war, Sino-Japan war was another hallmark signifying the complete failure of this Self-Strengthening Movement which did not modernize political infra-Structures; and further deepening the crisis in the survival of both the Ch'ing Dynasty and the whole nation, and fastening the steps of years long continual invasion by the Japanese troops into Mainland which finally ended up in a complete collapse of the whole Japan State in 1945 when the World War II ended. The above is a brief account. The only purpose of this talk is to share with you the historic facts and not to create any sentiment against the western powers who have eventually brought the needs and concepts of modernization to the Old China.



# Last week's Proceedings - 11 November 2015



President William rang the bell at 1.05pm to kick off proceedings and welcomed our guest speaker PP YC Ho of Rotary club of Peninsular South, a well know friendly face to our members, as well as welcome back Rotarian Tony Loy. With no birthdays to celebrate, P William commenced with the announcements, before asking SAA Andy to announce the Red Box takings of \$900. We also had one late arrival guest to welcome, who was Ms Elle Tse Ying Sum - Guest of Uncle John. Elle has arrived in Hong Kong from Australia where she was a Rotarian, and is keenly exploring various clubs in Hong Kong to join one. With no further ado it was then time for YC to take to the podium to present his fascinating account of Chinese history between 1840 and 1911, covering the Opium wars and how Hong Kong was ceded to Britain. A

great history lesson for us all (especially PE Chris who shifted uncomfortably in his seat as the sole representative of the British aggressors of the time). Eventually the presentation had to be cut somewhat short due to time, but all in all it was a nice change as a topic. P William then thanked YC with a photo, before asking all to rise and toast RC Peninsular South, RI and HKIE, before we all joined for a group photo.

## Out & About

### Governor Elect Training Seminar (GETS), Manila



DGE Eric and wife Christine were in Manila last week to attend the Governor Elect Training Seminar (GETS), and both graduated with flying colours! Representing District 3450, DGE Eric and Christine competed the GETS from Nov 3-5, 2015 in Sofitel Philippines Plaza Manila with 30 DGEs and couple from Zone 6B, 7A and 10B (9 countries), over 600 Rotarians and spouses in all.

Rotary International President Elect John Germ addressed everyone in his key note speech highlighting the changes to be considered for us to expand our membership to young adults,

female members and retired persons. He also shed light that flexibility in conducting meetings will be also

considered to meet with the tight schedules of young members.



He reminded everyone that the Rotary Foundation will celebration its 100th anniversary in 2016-2017. Public Image will be heavy promoted for Rotary at all levels. International Night which was held on Nov 7 was awesome as Rotarians from various countries wore their national costumes and made their cultural performance on stage.

Finally, some rock and roll dancing promoted the event to its highest level. (We can always rely on our Philippines hosts to

ensure that music and fun are part of the proceedings). DGE Eric and Christine will further their learnings at the International Assembly from Jan 17-22, 2016 in San Diego, USA.

DGE Eric was also recognised by RIPE John Germ on stage in the AKS/Major Donor Lunch for his contribution to the Major Donor Level 2



### Hotpot Dinner, November 11th

It was a truly heartwarming evening last Wednesday when, following the Board meeting, members and RAC members gathered for a bit of winter fellowship over a hotpot dinner at Megan's Kitchen restaurant in Wanchai. Great to see one or two faces we haven't seen in a while, and all in all, a high spirited event. Also at the dinner we had the prize presentation for the winners of the Uncle Peter Golf Tournament, which was held in Fanling on the 10th. Details







of the winners are:

Winner - Best Gross Score: Place Score Winner Kevin Leung 1st 88 Tajwar Shadikhan 2nd 99 Jason Chiu 3rd

Winner - Best Net Score Winner Place Score Andrew Chen 69.79 1st 70.26 Norman Lee 2nd Stephen Liu 70.79

Longest drive hole 7 John Poon Longest drive hove 16 Normen Closest to pin hole 2 Kevin Closest to pin hole 17 Jason



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Uncle Peter Cup Golf Tournament held yesterday in Fanling Golf Club. We have prize presentation tonight Nov 11 in the Hot Pot Dinner Fellowship. Please enroll with Fellowship Director PP Jonathan if you have not yet done so.
- 2. Nov 12 Thurs William, PP David Li and his son Christian join RC HKS annual golf tournament and regular luncheon meeting in Deep Water Bay Hong Kong Golf Club.
- 3. Nov 14 Sat Vocational visit and fellowship in MADHEAD office of Rtn Terry Tsang in Science Park. Now we have 17 members & guests and 5 Rotaractors registered. Total 22 people.
- 4. Nov 18 Wed The Club AGM will be held in Regal Hotel, members please come to support and vote the board members and PE of Rotary year 2016-2017.
- Nov 22 Sun

   — The installation of RAC HKIE in 10/F, Capital Commercial Building, 26 Leighton Road, Causeway Bay starting at 4.30pm till 7.00 pm. Fees HK\$150.00 for Rotarians, \$100.00 for Rotaractor and \$80.00 for student Rotaractor. Please enroll with DGE Eric or PE Chris, please support youth.
- Election of Members to serve on the nomination committee for District Governor 2018-2019. We need members who presented at the regular club meeting today and approved by a majority of members present on the decision of the board.

#### **DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Part 3 The Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) will be held on Nov 28, 2015. Any member interest, please enroll DGE Eric.
- 2. District Rotary Foundation Seminar and Grant Management Seminar will be held on Sat 21 Nov, 2015 at Regal Hong Kong Hotel from 9.30am to 4.00pm. Fee is HK\$550.00.
- 3. District Vocational Service Seminar Tuesday, 19th January 2016 at 12.30 pm to 2.00pm Marco Polo Hong Kong Hotel. Please mark the date and register as soon as possible if you are interested to join.
- 4. Nov 19 Sat Rotarians' Wine Appreciation Fellowship HK(RWAF) will be holding the first wine & food fellowship dinner, please feel free to get touch with PP Nigel Lo (RC of HKN) if you are interested in become of RWAF (HK) and so in joining their wine & food fellowship.
- 5. Dec 12 Sat District Fellowship Japan Night, 6.15 7.15pm Ikebana Flower Workshop, organized by the Consulate-General of Japan (HK) in cooperation with Ikebana International HK Chapter (Rotarians and spouses). 7.30pm Fellowship Party in The Hong Kong Japanese Club, 18/F, 68 Yee Wo St., Causeway Bay. Fee HK\$600.00. Interested member please register by email to RIC and send cheque in advance.
- Jan 8, 2016 Friday District Golf Tournament in Faldo Course, Mission Hill Golf Club, Mid Valley Club House. Entry fee HK\$1,800.00 for non member and HK\$1,300.00 for Mission Hill Golf Club members Interested members please register with RIC and the deadline is Dec18,2015 on first come first serve basis.
- 7. Rotary Convention 2016 in Seoul, 28th May to 1 Jun. The dead line of early bird registration is Dec 15, members please mark these dates in your diary and make registration if you interest to go.

## THE LAST LAUGH - Soldier and Nun

A soldier ran up to a nun. Out of breath he asked, "Please, may I hide under your skirt. I'll explain later." The nun agreed.

A moment later two Military Police ran up and asked, "Sister, have you seen a soldier?"

The nun replied, "He went that way."

After the MPs ran off, the soldier crawled out from under her skirt and said, "I can't thank you enough Sister. You see, I don't want to go to Iraq to fight."

The nun said, "I understand completely."

The soldier added, "I hope I'm not rude, but you have a great pair of legs!"

The nun replied, "If you had looked a little higher, you would have seen a pair of balls....I don't want to go to Irag either!"

Club postal address Meeting Venue Meeting Schedules Website

**Facebook** 

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

: Regal HK Hotel, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong

: Every Wednesday at 12:30 pm : http://hkie.rotary3450.org/

: https://www.facebook.com/RotaryClubHKIslandEast

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Chris Kyme **Secretary** 

Heman Lam

Treasurer

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