

ROTARIANS HELP IMMUNIZE 24 MILLION INDONESIAN CHILDREN



From left: Rihatinah accepts a donation from Past District 3300 Governor John Cheah.

Close to 24 million children in Indonesia received the oral polio vaccine during National Immunization Days held 30-31 August. To ensure that all targeted children were reached, more than 750,000 health workers and volunteers went door-to-door or staffed strategically located vaccination booths across the nation's 6,000 inhabited islands.

"[More than] 2,000 Rotarians participated in the NIDs in 15 out of 32 provinces," says Ritje Rihatinah, chair of Indonesia's National PolioPlus Committee. Rihatinah is also the immediate past governor of RI District 3400, which comprises Indonesia's 1,002 Rotary clubs. "Each club monitored and supervised 20 immunization posts and provided T-shirts for volunteers and Rotary members, and balloons for the children. They also did social mobilization and participated in independent monitoring, designed by WHO (World Health Organization)."

The mass campaign, the largest conducted on Indonesian soil, was aimed at countering a polio outbreak after a 20-month-old child in West Java province contracted the disease in March 2005. The virus, which has since spread to several other provinces, including Banten, Central Java, Jakarta, Lampung, and West Java, struck Indonesia after 10 years of reporting no cases of polio.

Rotarians from Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand joined their Indonesian neighbours to help defeat the poliovirus to ensure it would not spread to the entire region.

Genetic sequencing at a WHO laboratory traced the origin of the poliovirus that has reinfected Indonesia back to Nigeria, which was the epicentre of a 2003 outbreak that later spread to 19 other countries in Africa and the Middle East.

Aware of the risk of further poliovirus importations into other polio-free countries in the Asia-Pacific region, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative is supporting accelerated immunization activities in Indonesia with financial contributions and technical expertise.

"As with other infectious diseases, the poliovirus does not respect borders," explains Dr. David Heymann, WHO's representative for polio eradication. "The government of Indonesia has assured the polio partners that it is fully engaged and committed to stopping this outbreak and to doing everything it can to prevent further international spread of the virus."

Rotary International, a pioneer and leading member of the initiative, contributed US\$250,000 to support emergency immunization efforts in the nation of more than 241 million.

"We are more-than-ever committed to the attainment of a polio-free world," says Frank J. Devlyn, chair of The Rotary Foundation Trustees.

According to Rihatinah, local Rotarians will participate in more social mobilization aimed at improving on the 95 percent rate of coverage in the end-of-August immunizations.

"If we could reach 100 percent of the target, meaning no unimmunized children," says Rihatinah, "we may say that [our] rapid response drastically reduces the chances of the poliovirus spreading into [other] Asian countries."

"Reaching every single child requires a massive communication effort, in highlighting to parents the dangers of the current polio outbreak and of the need to immunize every child," says Alan Court, director of UNICEF's supply division. "This is our best chance to protect Indonesia's children, safeguard vulnerable children across the region, and keep a polio-free world within our sight."

Despite the reinfection of several polio-free countries, the wild poliovirus is endemic in only six African and South Asian nations: Egypt, Niger, and Nigeria and Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan.



The Four Way Flasher

**Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter**

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Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

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SEPTEMBER IS NEW GENERATIONS MONTH

INVOCATION

Sept. 27	Chad Reed	Oct. 11	Dave Rempel
Oct. 18	Gordy Robson	Oct. 25	Mary Robson



SERVICE Above Self

BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15-8:15	8:00-10:00
Oct. 06	Gordy Robson	Mary Robson
Nov. 03	Laurie Anderson	Bob Shantz

Call Peter at 604-465-3392 for assistance or email peter.boekhorst@telus.net

NEXT WEEK NO REGULAR MEETING: SPORTS BANQUET

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Who's Who – Vivian Hatiras

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM (OCT 11): Richard Mathias, Professor Public Health - Epidemic Infections

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Oct. 4		Sports Banquet	Meadow Gardens
Oct. 15	8:00am	5040 and 5050 Membership Seminar	Sunrise Banquet Centre, Surrey
Nov. 12			Langley Coast Hotel 20393 Fraser Hwy, Langley
Nov. 19	8:00am	D5040 & 5050 Foundation Seminar	Delta Town and Country Inn 6005 Highway 17, Delta

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$400+ 1/2 of today's sales, 39 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEKS MEETING

It was announced today that our share of the Golf Tournament proceeds this spring was \$6,000 and on another positive note we have already achieved \$5,400 of our \$6000 commitment towards the Rotary Foundation.

Also we were honoured to install another new member to our ranks. Hugh MacDonald is our latest member and he is a Civil Engineer and has been proposed by Brian Bekar.

The Vocational committee is looking for interested Rotarians to join their group and they will be meeting next week. If you are interested please contact the chair of the committee Diane Kirkland.

The Wine Zest reported a successful event with between 300-350 in attendance and lots of good wine, food and fellowship.

The Sports Banquet committee is going full force with the event only 1 week away. There are approximately 60 more tickets to sell and Ineke is looking for a donation from each Rotarian for the Silent Auction. The Astro turf field at Samuel Robertson school is scheduled to be officially opened in the near future and Gord reports there are 2 new projects we will be possibly raising funds for : the Lacrosse box and another astro-turf field at Westview school. We also have 2 new Hometown heroes this year and the only hint Gord would give us was that they are both female.

Ineke and Peter presented a slide presentation from the RI Convention in Chicago. The event was attended by approximately 30,000 Rotary "family members" and all in all was very inspiring for our entourage which consisted of Ineke & Peter, Gord and Mary, Bob and Irena Shantz, Ken & Gail Paterson, There was a parade with representatives from all the countries in Rotary and many awesome speakers. Ineke recommends everyone attend one in their Rotary career as there is lots of fellowship and is a very worthwhile experience.

Submitted by Debi Pearce



CELEBRATING THE IMPACT OF THE ROTARY FOUNDATION



CHICAGO — The third day of the 2005 RI Convention celebrated the Rotary's humanitarian reach around the globe, paying special attention to the momentum and commitment generated through The Rotary Foundation.

The inspirational program looked at projects ranging from aiding orphans in a Romanian town to the largest public health campaign in history — PolioPlus, which is literally changing world history.

In his keynote address, Director-general of the World Health Organization Dr. Jongwook Lee praised Rotary's continued commitment to eradicate polio.

"Rotary has provided the vision and the sheer human power – in the form of millions of volunteers and advocates," said Lee. "Because of Rotary, we have completed 99 percent of our task, but to achieve our last 1 percent, we need Rotary's continuing advocacy more than ever... With your energy, support and unparalleled dedication, I know we will make this a reality."

The impact of The Foundation outside the polio campaign has been impressive as well. Over the past decade, Rotary clubs conducted nearly 1.8 million projects, each consisting of about 13 volunteers contributing 140 hours of labor, adding up to more than 25 million hours of work toward improving the lives of others.

The program also took a look at some highly effective community projects. Highlighted were Farmers Feed the Children, a livestock donation program that promotes sustainable development and demonstrates the principle of international cooperation that is the hallmark of Foundation programs, and Sailability, a sailing program that lifts the spirits of quadriplegics in Australia.

The success of these local projects cannot be overstated. "We have people that are full quadriplegics, who are able to sail in a boat by themselves," said Grahame Rayner of the Rotary Club of Sydney, Australia. "It's through Rotary that these types of projects happen, that these kids get an opportunity."

Other projects that demonstrated global partnering of clubs through the vision of The Foundation included a school-building initiative in the slums of Rio de Janeiro funded through matching grants, and a project of the Rotary clubs of Bellvue, Washington, and Patan, Nepal, that has helped 17 schools in Nepal install computers. Tsunami relief and water projects were also presented.

Thanks to Foundation matching grants and the Rotary clubs of Khartoum, Sudan, and South Austin, Texas, USA, a Sudanese village now has clean water. "Without much money at all we can provide clean water and help these people for years to come," said Awad Abdelgadir, a native of the village who is now a member of the South Austin club. "We aren't just giving money. We're providing some funds for infrastructure, and the villagers there are doing the work. Thank you, Rotary, for helping me realize my dream."

MEADOW RIDGE ROTARY SPORTS BANQUET 2005

"Raising money for youth sport facilities"



Dear Fellow Rotarians:

This year's Banquet will take place Tuesday Oct. 4, at Meadow Gardens Golf Course. Tickets are \$125.= with a \$100 tax receipt available(if required) There are only 50 more tickets available.....you have to be quick, if you need tickets!

We are calling on your support again this year for donations towards the silent auction. Items, services or securing a donation – (eg. Dinner with the Mayor) valued at over \$100. are needed. There are several events happening (like WineFest just finished!) during September and October, and some previous donors are declining as a result, so we need your help.

Please contact us ASAP with your donation details (unless you've already donated something), including the value of the item and if it needs to be picked up. Or items and gift certificates can be dropped off at Robson & Associates Consultants office.

Corinne at Robson's Office will be making follow up calls to every MeadowRidge Rotary member shortly, so PLEASE be prepared!

Thank you for your support.

Ineke Boekhorst, Sports Banquet Committee

Telephone (604) 463-3333, ext.3 Ask for Corinne (10am-2pm)