

Rotary District 5050 Group Study Exchange: Team Thailand 2006

Marco's Group Study Exchange has a website, where they keep us informed about their adventures. The blog is located at the following address: <http://gse5050thailand.blogspot.com>

HOST OF ROTARY CENTER IN THAILAND IS RANKED AMONG WORLD-CLASS UNIVERSITIES

By Vukoni Lupa-Lasaga, Rotary International News
Photo by Jenn Weidman
15 February 2006



Founded in 1917, Chulalongkorn is Thailand's oldest university.

When the first batch of students starts classes at the [Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies program](#) in Thailand, they will be participants of a specially designed course at a world-class university. The program, newly established at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, opens this July.

Long recognized internationally for its academic excellence, Thailand's oldest university has earned a new accolade. According to the Times Higher World University Rankings 2005, published by the London-based *Times Higher Education Supplement*, Chulalongkorn is rated 121st among 200 leading universities. Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Oxford, and Stanford, in descending order, are the top five universities on the list.

"This places [Chulalongkorn] in the same rank as Michigan State University in the United States and the Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne in France," Pavich Thongroj, a high ranking education ministry official, told Thailand's *Nation* newspaper in November 2005.

The Times' list ranks Chulalongkorn as the third-best university in Southeast Asia and the 35th-best university in the Asia Pacific region.

Designed by renowned peace studies academics, the curriculum of the intensive, three-month course at Chulalongkorn is aimed at imparting conflict prevention and resolution skills to middle- and upper-level professionals from the corporate, governmental, and nongovernmental sectors.

The program will also train participants in maintaining peace. Participants who successfully complete the course will be awarded a certificate in peace and conflict studies.



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter

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Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Gourmet Hideaway Restaurant

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February is World Understanding Month

INVOCATION

Feb. 21	Robert Campbell	Feb. 28	Vladimir Cukor
Mar. 7	Murray Davelaar	Mar. 14	Mike Davies

BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15-8:15	8:00-10:00
Feb. 23	Maureen Goodrick	Ron LePore
March 23	Ron LePore	Stan Wade

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

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Bob Shantz - the "Olson Case"

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Angela Marshall- Chrystal Meth

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Apr. 8	8:00 – 2:00	District 5050 Assembly	Kwantlen Univ. College, Surrey, B.C.
May 19-21		District 5040/5050 Conference	Whistler, B.C.
May 24		Haney Rotary Golf Tournament	
June 11-14		RI Convention 2006	Malmö and Copenhagen
June 14		Haney Rotary Ladies Night	



SERVICE Above Self

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$829+ 1/2 of today's sales, 21 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

FEBRUARY 7TH MEETING

The Rotary Foundation is striving for \$100 per person. Not all of us can do this, so we do it via fundraising. One example is Vladimir's annual BBQ at the bee farm, where Vladimir donated all the proceeds to the Foundation. We received a letter from Rotary International, thanking our club for our donation of \$1531.00. Many thanks to all of us!

Bob Thompson and his team, Jillian Small and Heather Gill from the Ridge Meadows Association for Community Living, were our guests.

RMACL was founded in 1958 as a support service to people with developmental disabilities in the community. The initiative is to provide a SAFE and AFFORDABLE home environment that meets their needs. This program supports independent living for those concerned.

Callaghan house (the new building) will be a 8 or 9 unit complex and facilities on the main floor for support which includes children's activities. The clients include people with autism, cerebral palsy and other developmental issues. Their goal is to improve and expand much-needed children's programs.

There are currently 50 kids between 0 and 3 on a waiting list at any given time in our community. The need is 40% higher in 2006. There is a huge need in our community. Between 40 to 50 people are on a waiting list now in this community. Callaghan House will be open to all community user groups. It is intended as a get together place for young adults as well.

RMACL has an excellent track record in serving our community and 90% of families rated it above average or excellent. The goal is to help people live independently and help themselves. The help does not go unnoticed. The clients themselves become volunteers involved in community projects of their own. For example they can be seen gardening, helping out with meals on wheels, Kaie's Place and Adopt - a - block! Staff is on site all the time for support but the clients are realizing independent living. These individuals are vulnerable in general and they have access to support workers to assist in all areas of their life.

Did you know that 3% of the population in the GVRD is autistic?

The Callaghan project is financed by way of a mortgage. The total project is approximately 1.1 to 1.2 million and the RMACL has between \$300 - 400 K to put towards the project now.

The intention is to build and operate this house, then look for another since the need is so great.

We appreciate the folks from RMACL coming to talk to us and showing us their exciting model for Callaghan House.

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Today we had a membership meeting. As we heard from Murray last week, we are looking to find 6 new Rotarians to boost our Club Membership. There were approximately that many guests that we hosted for lunch.

We watched a new DVD on Rotary International. The highlights of that viewing were: Paul Harris and a few friends founded the first Rotary Club in Chicago on Feb. 23, 1905. These humble beginnings started what is now the largest service club in the world, having over 30,000 clubs in 163 countries and over 1.25 million Rotarians worldwide. Incidentally RI is also the world's first service club!



In 1917 the Rotary Foundation was born and this is one of the world's largest charities.

By 1921 Rotary International was now in every continent in the world with over 100 clubs. Rotary International is a global force for good and we help millions through our projects. We created and adopted a code of ethics, which preceded the 4 Way Test, which we are familiar with. Paul Harris died in 1947.

By the 1980's Rotary was developing and expanding programs worldwide, and made a historic commitment to eradicate polio from the World. Polio has decreased dramatically through the world due to RI's efforts. This is a lasting legacy to children. 2 Billion children have been spared from polio; a true accomplishment for Rotarians. By the 1990's Rotary International has addressed environmental concerns and crisis, literacy, education and disaster relief.

Rotary's goal is to achieve peace and understanding the world over. We help with health care, clean water, education. We build houses, establish micro-credit for women to enable them to earn a living in poor countries, and we offer new hope for children.

We focus on teaching children world peace and understanding through our Youth Exchanges and Interact and RYLA organizations, which are sponsored by Rotary International.

The destiny of RI is in our hands in the next 100 years of service. We all need to work together.

Bob Shantz spoke of our objective to promote ideas of service as a worthy enterprise. We adhere to the idea for "Service above Self", and the 4 Way Test: "Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?"

When people find out you are a Rotarian, they understand that you operate only on the highest ethical standards whatever your job is. We strive to have the utmost respect for our fellow man.

Thank you Bob for your comments.

Ken Patterson a chartered member of our Club for 16 years. He told us how our club's atmosphere is like the Cheers show....."Where everyone knows your name" We experience this sentiment every Tuesday, I am sure you all agree!

Ken brought up an example when he was preparing a speech for a friend who is retiring. He wanted to make a quote in Dutch and called Peter Boekhorst for assistance. He was pleasantly surprised when Peter showed up at his office to "help with his little problem". This is a fine example of the warmth and fellowship of our club. Our membership meeting was very lively and we heard from 3 great Rotarians- Murray, Bob and Ken. All were very inspiring, and I am sure to us and our guests.

In other news Marco announced that he and his team are departing for Thailand next week in fashionable form! They are not only the best delegates, but we are sure they are the Best LOOKING delegates. We look forward to feedback from Marco on this exiting trip!

Further to this, Dave Rempel reminded us, we desperately need ONE more family to host a Thai delegate who will be visiting here. It is just one person, and we are sure a home will become available.

The dates are May 7 – 11.

