



# Marhaba



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District 2450  
Rotary International

## 2009—2010 Officers

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## Business Meeting - GSE Team to Sweden 06 April 2010

The Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan hosted the D2450 Group Study Exchange (GSE) team members – Roy El Meouchy, Raffic Hissen, Keti Gochitasvili, Marina Theodotou and the leader of the group, AG Samar Saab – at a business meeting at Le Vendome.



The team members introduced themselves and presented their plans and objectives for their one month vocational trip to Sweden. The team departed Lebanon on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April.

AG Saab kept us posted on their news all the time. After a few days we received an email from her saying “The first few days were a really good start for us. The spa relaxation was needed since we were all exhausted. The only draw back was the freezing cold weather, but other than that all was very well...” Regarding their first official presentation in Sweden, she guaranteed that it was a huge success and the team was able to leave the audience with lasting positive impressions about the culture and the people within our district.

## Business Meeting - GSE Team from Sweden 20 April 2010



RCBC members welcomed with great delight the GSE team members from Sweden D2380 visiting D2450 who delivered an insightful presentation about their country, government, nature and culture.

Elisabeth Axelsson (Team Leader) is a member of Skövde Rotary Club. She is a registered psychologist by profession and married with five children.

Kristin Kallner (Team Member) is a project manager and has a Master of Science in Industrial Engineering and Management.

Evelina Nystrom (Team Member) is an International Coordinator at the University of Skövde. She will be obtaining her Bachelor of Science with a major in Industrial Leadership and Organization at the end of 2010.

Hanna Ottoson (Team Member) is a constructional engineer. She is a Bachelor of Science in Engineering and Architecture.

Skövde Rotary Club belongs to District 2380 that has 48 clubs and 2516 members while Sweden is divided into 10 districts holding 29137 members of which 79% are men and 21% women.



### Dinner Meeting - HE Mr. Johan Verkammen 27 April 2010

In a dinner session with high attendance, Rotarian Samir El Khoury presented Belgian Ambassador, HE Mr Johann Verkammen, to RCBC members and their guests, including several Belgian dual nationals.

The title of the Ambassador's talk "Belgium-Lebanon, managing diversity" illustrated the bilingual nature of the country, created in 1831 as a unitary monolingual Monarchy, which by 1963 took the first steps towards becoming a Federal State to build on the cultural diversity of the two major communities Flanders and Wallonia.

Three Constitutional reforms in 1970, 1980 and 1988 turned Belgium into a full fledged Federal State with three cultural communities (lingual): Flemish, French and German speaking, and 3 Economic Regions: Flanders, Wallonia and the capital, Brussels.

Article 1 of the Constitution states that Belgium is a Federal State composed of Communities and regions. Each Entity has its own Government and Parliament (but the Flemish Region and Community are merged into one)

The peculiarity of the Belgian Federalism is that it has two types of Federal Entities- Regions and Communities- with a geographical overlap.

The Ambassador referred to Belgian Federalism as 'work in progress' as it is clearly demonstrated by the current debate on institutional reforms, surrounding Brussels-Halles-Vilvoorde.

He drew some examples of certain concepts of Belgium Federalism which could be used to clear the tension in Lebanon: very gradual introduction, territorial delimitations may vary in function of the competences that are devolved, management of territories with mixed communities, protection mechanisms of minorities...

Belgium as well as Lebanon, the Ambassador concluded are a laboratory of coexistence.







### GRSP Scholars Winning the “Will Watt Fellow” Award

RCBC would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Rashel Asfour who has been granted the “Will Watt Fellow” Award with a Golden GRSP Badge for being an outstanding ambassadorial scholar.



### Rotary News

#### Giving Ugandan children a second chance

Mulambuzy Joshuah is not likely to forget his fifth birthday. He spent the day recovering from heart surgery that will allow him to attend school again in his village outside of Kampala, Uganda.

Mulambuzy was 1 of 20 Ugandan children who received free heart surgeries through Gift of Life India. The program is among 65 throughout the world supported by Rotary clubs and established to arrange cardiac care for young children whose families cannot afford it.



The surgeries were funded by a US\$105,000 Rotary Foundation Matching Grant sponsored by the Rotary Club of Delhi Midwest and District 3010 (India), and all 17 districts in Korea.

The children, between the ages of 11 months and 12 years, arrived in New Delhi over a three-month period starting in January. Doctors at the Escorts Heart Institute and Research Centre and the National Heart Institute performed surgeries to correct their congenital heart defects. Several of the children needed immediate attention.



“Many of them were overdue,” says Dr. A.C. Peter, a member of the Rotary Club of Delhi East End and Gift of Life India national coordinator. “After surgery, all these patients can lead healthy and productive lives like any other child.”

District 7250 (New York, USA) established Gift of Life India in 2002. Since its inception, the program has treated more than 500 children from India, Kenya, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Sudan, with support from Rotary clubs and Matching Grant funds. It also receives help -- including medical team coordination and prospective patient lists -- from Gift of Life International, formed in 2003 to assist Gift of Life programs around the world.

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### District Rotaract Conference

33rd District Rotaract Conference under the theme "Tomorrow Crafts Today" will take place in Lebanon from June 23rd till June 27th, 2010.

Besides exploring our beautiful Lebanon and the great fellowship and sightseeing activities, the conference will include certified peace building and team building training program for community youth leaders aiming at empowering them to become active citizens promoting peace, and productive members in their societies.

Peace will also be promoted through sports; a mini fun marathon will be organized at Byblos inviting all Lebanese NGOs and Universities to run 5km together with Rotaract members as a team building collaborative activity.

We would also want to highlight that all our formal trainings and Gala dinners will be in a smoke free environment with the presence of the Lebanese Ministers and Government officials, Diplomats, Rotary and Rotaract Officials, and VIP guests.

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### The Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- FIRST. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- SECOND. High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- THIRD. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
- FOURTH. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

### Latest Events in Lebanon!

\*May 29-July 28: Holiday On Ice, a spectacular ice show, will be performed at La Salle des Ambassadeurs by 22 of the best ice skating artists around, dressed in colorful sparkling costumes magically dancing around the rink.

\*June 05-June 26: Inspired by his many visits to Beirut since 2006, British painter Tom Young set up residency here. The exhibition at Aida Cherfan Gallery will feature the fruits of his work: impressionist scenes of the modern city.

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### Members' Happy Moments 😊

Happy Birthday to PP Joe Boulos (Apr 02)

RCBC is wishing you another wonderful year of happiness and joy.