



Marhaba



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Dinner Meeting - Guest Speaker H.E. Mr. Ravi Thapar April 05, 2011



RCBC members were pleased to host H.E. Mr. Ravi Thapar, Indian Ambassador to Lebanon, at a dinner meeting. He gave a most interesting presentation entitled: “Emergence of Business India and Prospective Ties between India and Lebanon.”

H.E. started his presentation by putting India and its economy in perspective. Its population is currently 1.2 billion strong, second only to China's. Having gained its independence in 1950, it experienced rapid, state-controlled, agricultural and industrial development in the next 30 years or so. During the 1990's, it started to dismantle government controls over business to enhance quality and promote competitiveness.

He then enumerated the reasons why India is a reliable business partner:

- Its Political and Institutional Infrastructure: India is well known for its political stability, democracy, and comprehensive and independent judicial and legal system.
- Its Workforce: India has the second largest pool of technical and scientific manpower in the world; it also has world class Research and Development facilities.
- Its Economy: The fast-growing Indian market attracts investors from overseas. According to a forecast released recently by the consultancy group PriceWaterHouseCoopers (PWC), the Indian economy will register the second fastest growth world-wide between now and the year 2050 and emerge as the second biggest economy in the world by the middle of this century.

He also noted that India and Lebanon enjoy cordial and friendly relations based on a number of complementarities such as a rich and historical heritage; a diverse and multi-ethnic/multi-religious society; an open and cosmopolitan vision; a complex geo-political environment; a parliamentary democracy; a vibrant business culture and tradition of entrepreneurship; and last but not least, a talented and dynamic service sector.

He concluded his presentation by stating that, in the light of such commonalities, the potential is good for strengthening ongoing bilateral ties, especially in the following sectors: power, including renewable energy (solar and wind); agriculture; food processing; information technology and telecoms; infrastructure; education; healthcare and public health; science and technology; and tourism and culture.

**Brainstorming Session
April 16, 2011**

President Elect Habib Saba called RCBC members to a brainstorming session at Hotel Al Bustan to prepare the Planning Guide and Vision Statement for the coming Rotary Year 2011/2012 that starts in July 2011. Many spouses (members of the RCBC Inner Wheel) were in attendance. After explaining the basics for preparation of the two documents, PE Habib opened the floor for a free discussion and debate during which members and inner-wheelers inputted their valuable suggestions to ensure the success of the club.





Dinner Meeting - Guest Speaker PP Karim Jaude, RC Santa Monica April 26, 2011

RCBC welcomed Mr. Karim Jaude, Past President of The Rotary Club of Santa Monica in California, USA, who shared with our members his vast experience and insight into “Real Estate Investment in the US.”

Foreign direct investment in U.S. real estate has increased significantly in recent years due to a variety of factors, most notably the globalization of the real estate industry and a sharp decline in real estate prices -- of between 30% and 60% -- accompanied by extremely low interest rates. These developments combined to create investment opportunities that investors had not seen for over 70 years.



He also spoke about the possibility of acquiring a green card (permanent residence) in the USA and eventually an American passport by investing \$500,000 or more in real estate. His talk was followed by a lively exchange of questions and answers with those present.

At the end of the session, VP Lina Shair exchanged banners with PP Karim. She also thanked PP Karim and his club for their support of RCBC with the Landmine Project and the Schneller School Solar Heating Project.

RCBC Attendance - District Conference in Egypt

A great time was had by the Rotarians who attended the district 2450 conference held in Egypt between April 28 and May 1st, 2011. VP Lina Shair and PE Habib Saba represented our club and participated in a number of informative sessions, gala dinners and award ceremonies. RCBC received awards in the fields of Club Administration and Public Relations. Well done again this year RCBC!





A New Member Joins the RCBC Family

Mr. Raja Abdallah, received a warm welcome upon joining our club. He is shown being pinned with the Rotary emblem by President Elect Habib Saba on the 5th of April 2011. His membership classification in the club is "Financial Analyst"

Rotary International News

Global Grant Project Boosts Malaria Prevention and Treatment in Mali.

Last year, malaria claimed the lives of almost 750,000 people in sub-Saharan Africa, 85 percent of them young children. Some of the region's poorest residents live in Yirimadjo, Mali, and are receiving protection from the disease through a Rotary Foundation Global Grant project supported by Rotarians in four countries.

Called Bite Malaria Back, the project is providing insecticide-treated bed nets, physician services, and medications to help prevent and treat malaria. It is led by the Rotary Club of Bamako-Amitié, Mali, along with the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill (Washington, D.C.) and five others in District 7620 (District of Columbia; part of Maryland, USA).

Club members are working with Project Muso Ladamunen, a nongovernmental organization whose goal is to end the cycle of poverty and disease in Yirimadjo. The Bamako-Amitié club is helping to coordinate Rotarians' role in the effort.

During its first three months (February-April), Bite Malaria Back made possible more than 3,000 patient visits at the Yirimadjo Health Center. It also facilitated more than 12,700 visits by community health workers to residents' homes, resulting in the treatment of almost 900 children with malaria -- over 80 percent within the first 48 hours of the onset of symptoms, when medical intervention is critical.

The effort supports the disease prevention and treatment area of focus under the Foundation's Future Vision Plan. It is funded by a \$26,666 global grant and more than \$33,000 in sponsor contributions from Future Vision pilot districts 3140 (part of Maharashtra, India), 7620, and 9100 (parts of West Africa). The Rotary Club of Kowloon Golden Mile, Hong Kong, a nonpilot club, has also contributed funds to the project.

Rotarians in Mali are monitoring malaria-related consultations and services that patients receive from physicians. "We have also gone to see how the field workers go house to house to visit patients and make the project felt by the community," says Sunny Akuopha, until recently a member of the Bamako-Amitié club, now of the Rotary Club of Bamako Ouest. "The project has had tremendous impact by reducing the mortality rate and mortality-prone situations."

In June, Bite Malaria Back completed a survey of every household in Yirimadjo, which has more than 56,700 residents, and determined that over 22,300 bed nets are needed. The Against Malaria Foundation has committed to support the project, which will enable 21,500 bed nets to be distributed in July.

"By leveraging Rotary's bold commitment to mobilize additional partners, Rotary's impact will be multiplied manifold," says Ari Johnson, co-executive director and founder of Project Muso Ladamunen. He adds that the Mali Ministry of Health is being asked to provide the remaining bed nets needed to reach every resident in the community. The Capitol Hill club used social networking to raise funds for the project through Crowdrise. It is also using Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn to keep Rotarians up-to-date about the initiative's progress and to coordinate media coverage.

"It is not acceptable for nearly one million children to die each year of a disease like malaria, which can be cured with a few dollars' worth of effective medications, efficiently delivered to the thousands of children who need them," says Capitol Hill club member Maria Nelly Pavisich.

"We are seeing incredible changes happening in the communities we serve," says Johnson, reflecting on Rotary's role. "I am at a loss for words to express our gratitude for your efforts in heroically championing the Bite Malaria Back vision."

Members' Happy Moments ☺

Happy Birthday to PP Joe Boulos!

RCBC wishes you a wonderful year of health, prosperity and happiness.