



RCBC Marhaba: 2021-2022
Issue No. 7
March

**ROTARY CLUB
BEIRUT COSMOPOLITAN**

Charter Date June 21, 1995
Club Number 30893
District 2452 Rotary International

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West Bengal, India
District Governor **Ashot Karapetyan**
District Governor 2021-2022, District 2452
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SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES
District 2452

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Letter from the editor

PP Mona Jarudi



Although March is the month of Water and Sanitation in Rotary, which is one of the seven areas of focus, it will be equally important to highlight International Women's Day on March 8 to celebrate women and their accomplishments and to highlight the journey of Women in Rotary.

When Rotary International was founded in Chicago by Attorney Paul Harris in 1905, it was at a time when women were confined to their homes and Rotary was basically a man's world. The first attempt to include women was in 1910 which was rejected. In 1923, Rotarians in Manchester, England invited Rotary wives and proposed a formation of a ladies' club which was also rejected. The attempts were repeated in 1964, 1972 but not until 1989 and after court battles did the first three women members were admitted to RC Vero Beach, California. From thereon, women began assuming leadership positions as club presidents, district governors and officers. Now, Rotary International prides itself with having very high female representation worldwide and is vying for more. Dr. Sylvia Whitlock, the FIRST ever female President of a Rotary Club, broke the glass ceiling for hundreds of thousands of women who have served in Rotary ever since. She describes herself as a "Rotary Geek" serving humanitarian causes and encouraging absolutely everyone to become a Rotarian.

Next year, RI will crown its first Woman President, Jennifer Jone, whose Theme "Imagine Rotary" will mobilize Rotarians around the world to keep on imagining a better tomorrow, working hand in hand towards the greater good.

Women in Rotary, YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY! And it's only the beginning!



Water and Sanitation is one of the seven areas of focus, and in recognition of the importance of this theme, RC Beirut Cosmopolitan had initiated two Global Grants in Rotary Water Scholarship. March in Rotary being the month of Water & Sanitation, RCBC hosted Michel Frem, one of RCBC's recipients of Rotary Water Scholarship GG, and a candidate of a Master of Science in Hydrology and Water Resources at IHE Delft Institute for Water Education. The Scholarship Global Grant enables the student to learn the latest techniques and skills in the hope that this knowledge will be applied in Lebanon upon completion of the program.

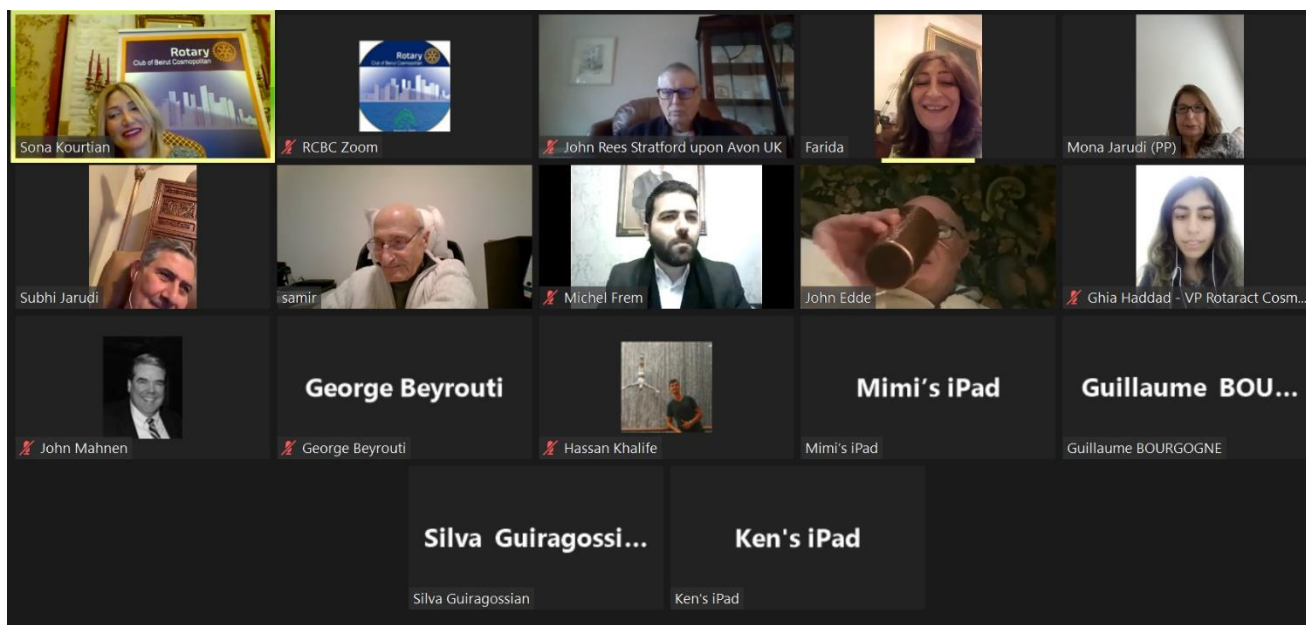
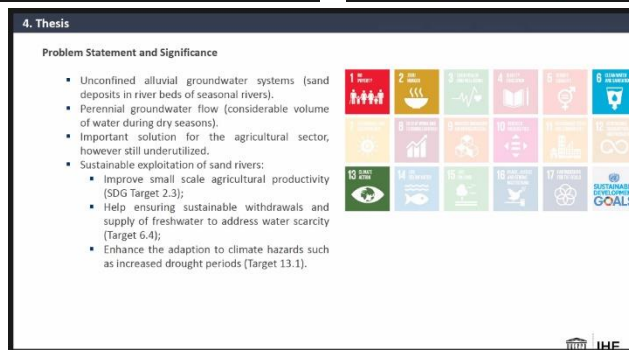
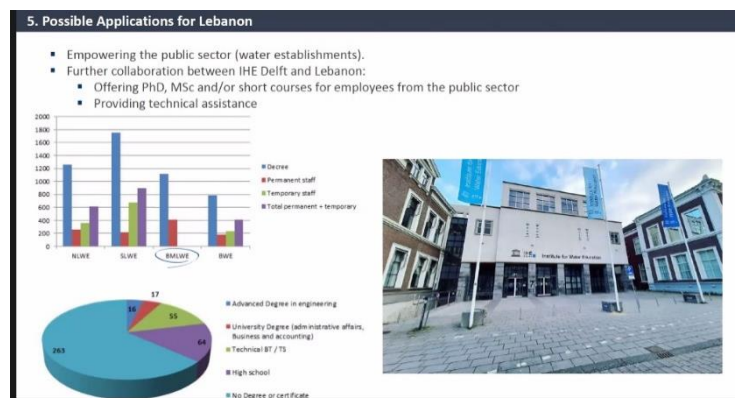
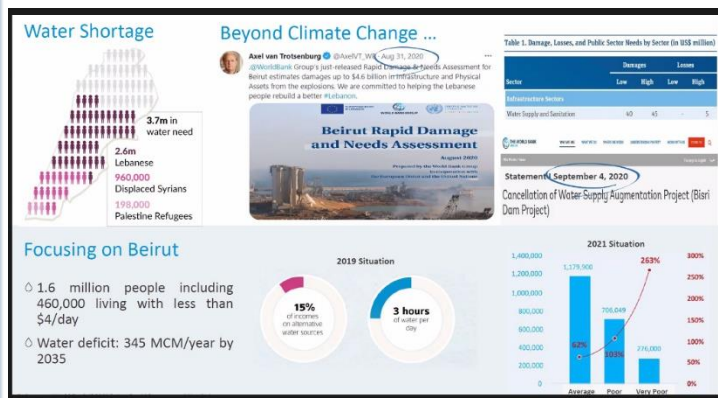
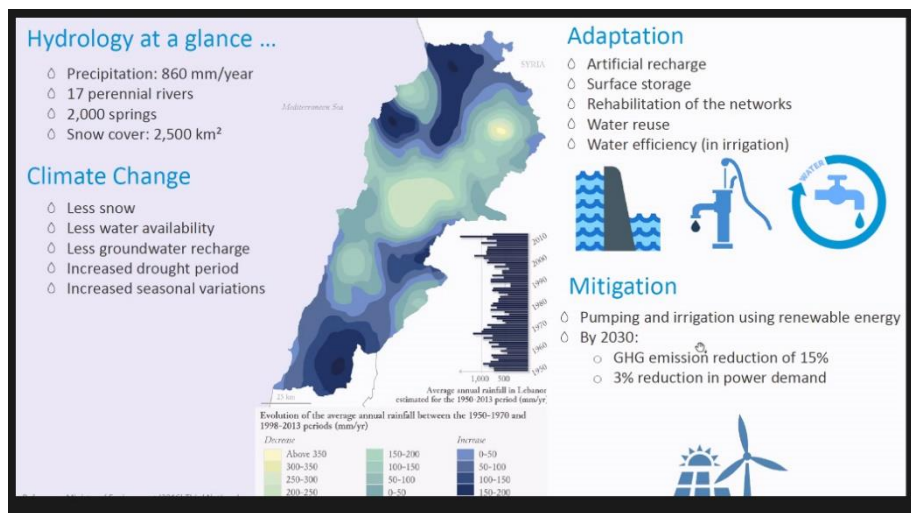
A holder of three Masters degrees in Civil engineering, Oil and gas and Water sciences, Michel took us through his work now at Delft, as an update on his Rotary scholarship. He went in detail through the skills he is gaining, his research and possible applications in Lebanon, and his thesis.

In a highly scientific presentation, our guest speaker highlighted his three areas of research system Mozambique, Doha and the Rhone Delta in France covering hydro chemical analysis of water-scarce cities, and development of a groundwater monitoring system and model. His thesis covers Nature-based water storage in seasonal rivers in semiarid regions in Africa, specifically in Kenya. His extensive research for his thesis will allow him to find applications suitable for Lebanon. Mr. Frem then gave an indepth analysis of Hydrology in Lebanon, the effect of climate change, methods of adaptation and ways of mitigating the water crisis in Lebanon. The possible applications of his work will be:

- Litani River Basin Water Quality Monitoring.
- Development of a national groundwater monitoring systems and groundwater models.
- Saline water intrusion analysis for coastal aquifers (Beirut, Saida and Tripoli being the hotspots in this regard).
- Empowering the public sector (establishing a ministry for Water and Irrigation.
- Further collaboration between IHE Delft and Lebanon: offering PhD, MSc and or short courses for employees in the public sector and providing technical assistance.

It is noteworthy that RC Beirut Cosmopolitan has enabled another candidate to pursue his Masters at Delft in the same field. We are proud to be part of their journey with the hope that they will be able to apply their knowledge to harness positively the water wealth that Lebanon has but has been wasted due to mismanagement.



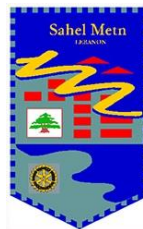


Online Business Meeting in collaboration with
RC SAHEL METN

MRS. Elissar Farah Antonios
(CEO Citi Bank)

"THE FUTURE OF BANKING"

MARCH 8, 2022



On the occasion of Women's International Day, RCBC together with RC Sahel Metn hosted an accomplished female executive Mrs. Elissar Farah Antonios, Citi Bank cluster head for the MENA region, and currently serves as the CEO of Citi UAE.

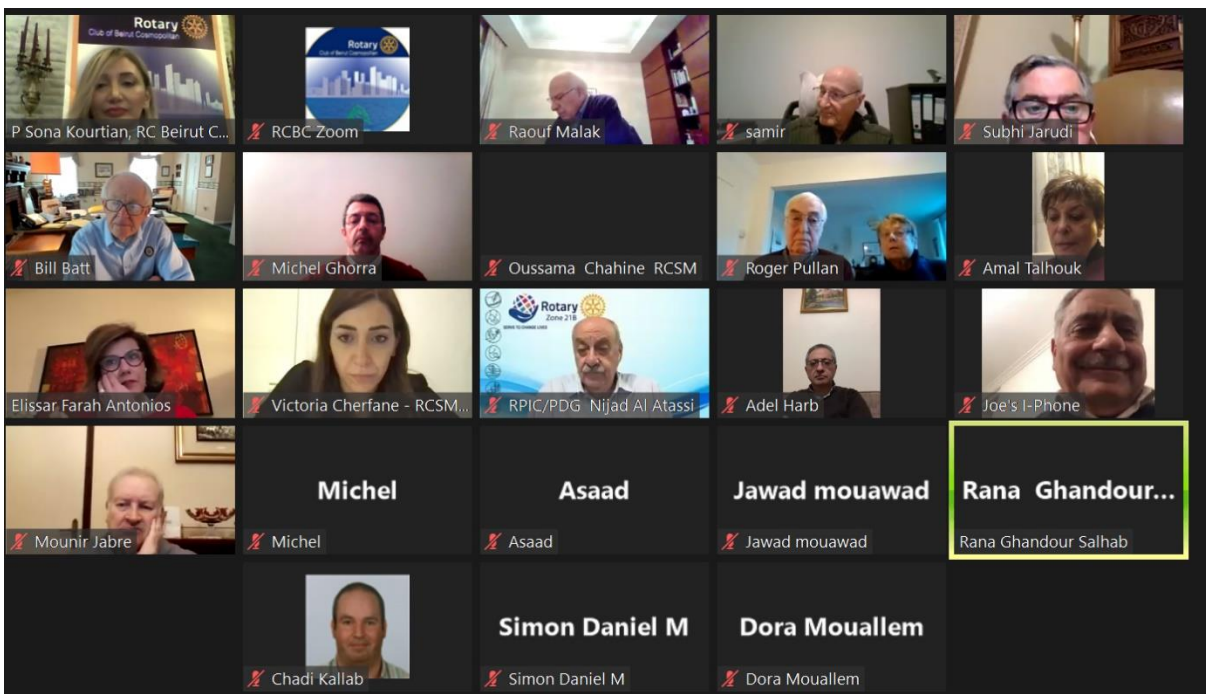
Mrs. Antonios banking journey started in 1990 in the London office of Republic National Bank of New York. She then spent several years with Credit Agricole Indosuez and ABN private banking.

Elissar is ranked by Forbes Middle East among the top 100 most powerful and influential Arab businesswomen.

In her remarks, Elissar took us through a brief history of banking and how it has evolved through the years. She explained the future four pillars of banking: Digitalization, Workspace and Network post Covid, Evolution of payment systems and Regulatory Environment. The rapid advances in digitalized banking were demonstrated by a chart showing how long different inventions took to reach 50 million users, this ranges from Telephone 63 years, computers 14 years, mobile phones 12 years and only two years for Twitter to reach 50 million users. Similarly, the exponential growth in the FinTech space demonstrated by the surge of users is another demonstration of the rapid pace of the evolution of the banking sector.

The second pillar Mrs. Antonios addressed is how the shift to digital banking, accelerated by Covid, is reshaping how people interact with banks. This means, according to Mrs. Antonios, "less and less branches and less and less office space". She went on to elaborate how the explosive growth in Digital/ E-commerce in this past decade disrupted how banks used to operate in the past 50 years. Finally, the last pillar discussed by Mrs. Antonios is enhanced focus on regulatory and compliance.

This becomes more challenging with the rapid growth of Crypto currencies as a new Asset class that is, so far, loosely regulated.



Recording You are viewing Rana Ghandour Sahab View

A BRIEF 4000 YEAR HISTORY OF BANKING

Temples considered safe places for keeping money.
The Romans formalized banking within distinct buildings

Banking revived in the Italian towns of Florence and Genoa

1,000BC Babylon Idea of Banks

AD 1100 - 1300 Collapse of Roman Empire, trade slumped and banks temporarily vanished

Medio Bank took banking to the next step. Branched out of Italy into other parts of Europe

1400

1500 Goldsmiths issued a promissory note against deposits and began to lend.

1600 Banks developed in England

Bank of England founded in 1694 to provide loan to govt.

Many small banks founded in English provincial towns

Regulatory change allowing formation of large banks with multiple shareholders, led many small banks to merge

First Bank of the United States setup in 1791

Japan: Meiji government's attempted to formulate banks

Emergence of Central Banks across the world

1700

1800 First travelers cheque issued in England in 1772

China: Shanxi merchants created 'draft banks' to facilitate intl. trade

Increased global trade, development in technology and financial regulations helped proliferate banking and capital market services

Modern banking began with the Bank Charter Act of 1844

Bank of England became the first bank to issue permanent bank notes in 1695

Second Bank of the United States setup in 1816

2000

1800

1900

2000

Mute Stop Video Participants 26 Chat Share Screen Record Reactions Apps Leave

DIGITIZATION IN THE BANKING

From Black & White TV... to 24x7 Color Mobile Streaming

Number of Years to Reach 50 Million Customers

Technology	Years to Reach 50M Customers
Automobile	68
Telephone	62
Electricity	50
Radio	48
Television	28
ATM	22
Computer	14
Mobile Phone	12
User	7
Internet	7
iPad	4
YouTube	4
Facebook	3
Twitter	2

DIGITAL

From Black & White TV... to 24x7 Color Mobile Streaming

EVOLVEMENT OF PAYMENT SYSTEMS – BLOCKCHAIN & FINTECH

Crypto currencies & Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) Broke into Mainstream with Crypto Characters

Fintech vs. Traditional Banking

Global FinTech Funding Trends, 2015-2021

Year	Funding amount (\$B)	Deal count
2015	1.07	137
2016	2.36	236
2017	2.90	290
2018	3.04	304
2019	3.00	300
2020	3.45	345
2021	13.1	131

FinTech % total funding

2015 13% 2016 15% 2017 15% 2018 16% 2019 16% 2020 17% 2021 21%

DIGITAL / E-COMMERCE-LED FINANCIAL DISRUPTION IN THE PAST DECADE

Market Capitalization Change Over the Past 10 Years

Category	10Y ago (Figures in US\$ Trn)	Latest (Figures in US\$ Trn)
Payment / FinTech Companies	136	1,402
US Banks	763	1,844
Europe Banks	1,298	1,080

10Y Chg. %

Payment / FinTech Companies 940% US Banks 142% Europe Banks -13%

Note: Calculated for banks under CB Research coverage. For payment / FinTech companies, we include companies under CB Research coverage as well as Coinbase Inc. Source: datacenter, Datacenter, CB Research

Grid of participants in the virtual meeting:

- Joel's iPhone
- Samir
- Rana Ghandour Sahab
- Michel Ghorra
- P. Sona Kourlian, RC Beirut Co...
- Raouf Malak
- Subhi Jarudi
- Oussama Chahine - RCSM
- Roger Pullan
- Elislar Farah Antonios
- RPIC/PDG Nijad Al Atassi
- Amal Talhouk
- Victoria Cherfane - RCSM
- Adel Harb
- Mounir Jabre
- Jawad mouawad
- Asaad
- RCBC Zoom
- Chadi Kallab
- Mona Jarudi (PP)
- Simon Daniel M
- Simon DANIEL
- Michel
- Dora Mouallem



Few months back, noticing an interesting article about Ukraine-Lebanon relationships over the centuries, something that most of the Lebanese did not know, P Sona suggested to have a dedicated session to shed more light on the subject. RCBC extended the invitation to his Excellency Ihor Ostash, Ambassador of Ukraine to Lebanon, an invitation that was accepted graciously in these turbulent times that Ukraine is going through and diplomacy is failing at every level. His presence with us is a testimony to his ultimate diplomacy.

Ambassador Ostash holds a PhD in Philology, chaired committees of foreign affairs and was a member of the Executive Committee of the inter parliamentary Union till 2003. In the diplomatic realm, he served as Ambassador to Canada till 2011 and to Lebanon from 2016. He speaks nine languages and he is very fond of Lebanon despite it all.

The presentation focused on the millennial history between Lebanon and Ukraine. The main figures in the journey he took us through were writers, politicians and cultural figures.

- The holy relics of St. Barbara, born in Baalbek, are kept in Ukraine.
- Ukrainian Ruler, Ivan Mazepa, sponsored the first edition of the Gospel in the Arab world, published in Aleppo in 1706-1708 by the typographer Abdallah Zaher, the first Lebanese typographer.
- The Monk and traveler Vasyl Barsky Kyiv visited Lebanon between 1728-1735 and described this journey in his book "Travels to the Holy Places in the East from 1723-1747", a book that the Ukrainian Embassy published in Arabic.
- Muzaffar Basha, the Mutasareff of Mount Lebanon, was closely associated with Ukraine. His father, Tchaikovsky was a famous Ukrainian and Polish writer.
- The prominent Ukrainian orientalist Krymski, wrote two books on Lebanon: "Beirut Stories" and "Palm Branch". The embassy of Ukraine published both books in Arabic.
- Michael Neameh arrived in Ukraine in the city of Poltava in 1906. He spent five years there studying Theology Seminary. His first poetic works were written there about Ukraine and it was there where he met his first love Barbara.

The poetic work of the famous Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko was translated into Arabic by Neameh. The Embassy of Ukraine in Lebanon erected a monument to Taras in the park as well as a memorial carved with the text of the translation of the famous poet, philosopher and writer.



Abdallah Zaher (1684-1748), one of the first typographers in the Middle East, the author of scripts, used for printing religious books in Aleppo



The self-portrait of Abdallah Zaher, Saint John Monastery, Choueir



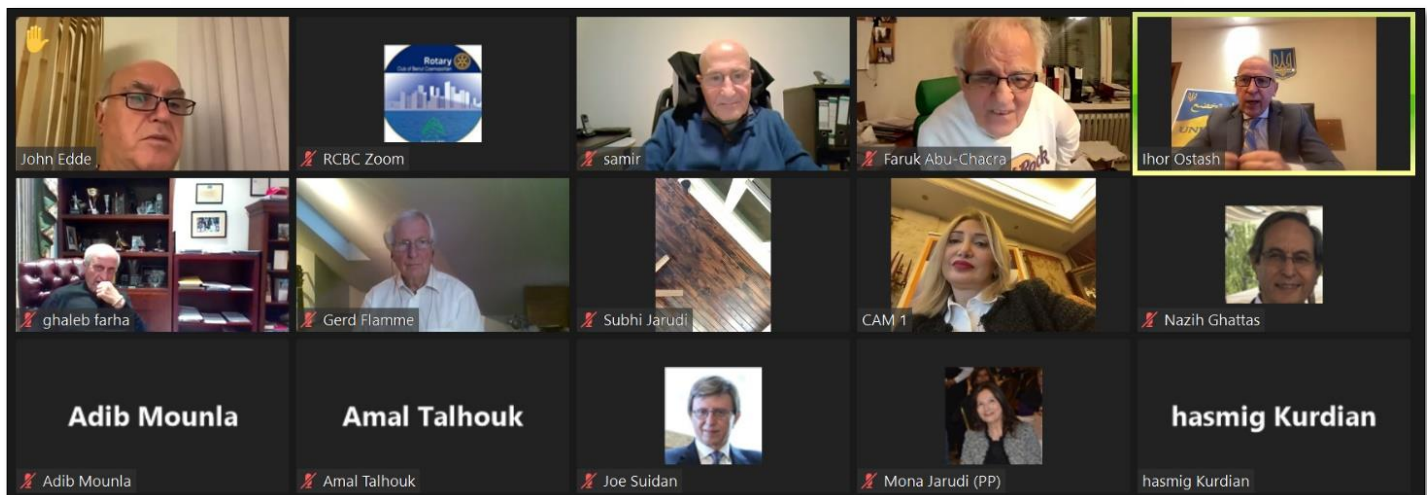
An Arabic Introductory speech of Patriarch Athanasius III Dabbas (1647-1724) in honor of Hetman Ivan Mazepa



This presentation was heartfelt because his Excellency exuded lots of pride and affection as he was recounting the historical link between the two countries. RCBC was very proud to host his excellency and all who attended wished Ukraine imminent peace and for the world too.

We sincerely hope and pray that peace will be restored to Ukraine and innocent lives will be spared.

P Sona ended the session with a beautiful choral rendition of the Ukrainian National Anthem.



Business Meeting with Mr. Elie Khoury
Smart Age s.a.r.l.

"SOLAR TECHNOLOGY FROM GREY TO GREEN"

MARCH 29, 2022

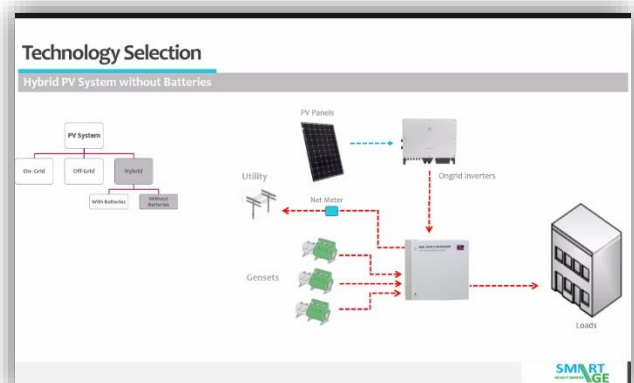


RC Beirut Cosmopolitan has been a leader in Service through successful identification of community needs, assessment and procurement of Global Grants in partnerships with other Rotary Clubs and the Rotary Foundation.

As a follow up on every project, beneficiaries or partners are invited to update our club members on its success and impact on the community served. Mr. Elie Khoury was our guest speaker this meeting on the subject: Solar technology from Grey to Green, whose company Smart Age executed our Global Grant in the Schneller School in Bekaa using the Photo Voltaic system of energy production.

Mr. Khoury stated the mission of his company as a leader in providing the most innovative and sustainable energy saving solutions for the well-being of organizations and the planet. The company collaborates with highly respected German partners who provide the best systems. Elie took us through the various technologies used to generate power: on grid, off grid, hybrid with batteries, hybrid without batteries and the use of each system with its impact. For the Schneller School, the hybrid PV system without batteries was used which proved to be a great success, generated enough power for the school with a surplus that allowed the village of Kanafar where the school is to benefit as well. The below slides show the physical installation and the return on investment of such a project. MORE IMPORTANTLY, the Schneller School is a vocational school, so the students were taught how to install, operate and maintain the system making it a win-win situation for all.

At the beginning of this Rotary year, part of a fellowship day to Anjar, almost 100 Rotarians and guests visited the Schneller School to visit the facility and witness our Global Grant and its success. It was a very impressive project that the Incoming District Governor, George Azar, wants to have a country wide Grant to provide government schools and hospitals with much needed power through utilization of solar energy, a desperate need to be addressed in the current crisis that Lebanon is passing through.



System Sizing

PV location and size



Returns on Investment

Financial Analysis

ROI Summary	
Turnkey Project Cost	\$ 124,860
Energy Production/year	170,000 kWh
\$/kWh	\$0.20
Savings/year	\$34,000
Payback	3-7
Net Profits in 25 years	\$725,140



PETS Training



On March 5, a training seminar (PETS) was given for Presidents Elect, Club Secretaries and other officers to prepare them for the RY 2022-2023.

RCBC was represented by IP Farida Najjar, ICS Dr. Kevin Saliba, IAG Habib Saba and the president of BCRAC Elissa Tabet.

Best wishes to all for another successful Rotary year.



"International Evening" RC BRIDGEND - Wales

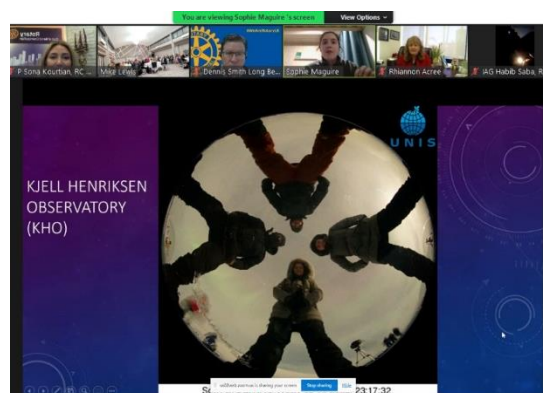
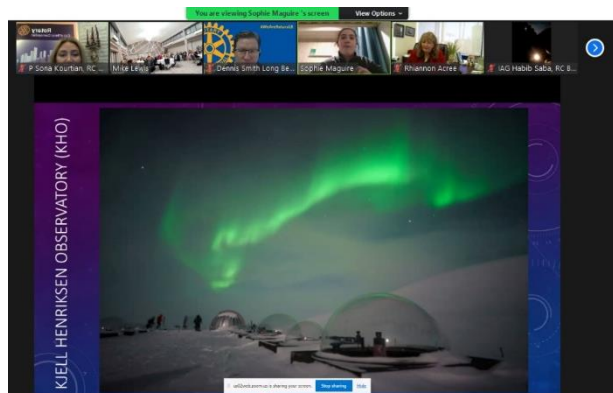
On March 7, P Sona Kourtian & IPP Habib Saba were invited to attend, over zoom, our international partners', RC Bridgend South Wales UK "International Evening".

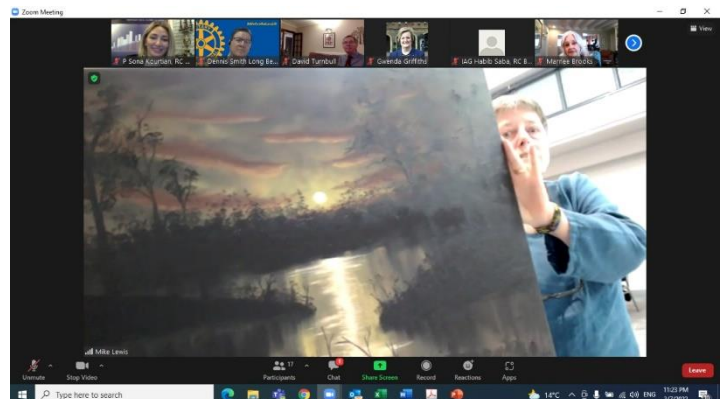
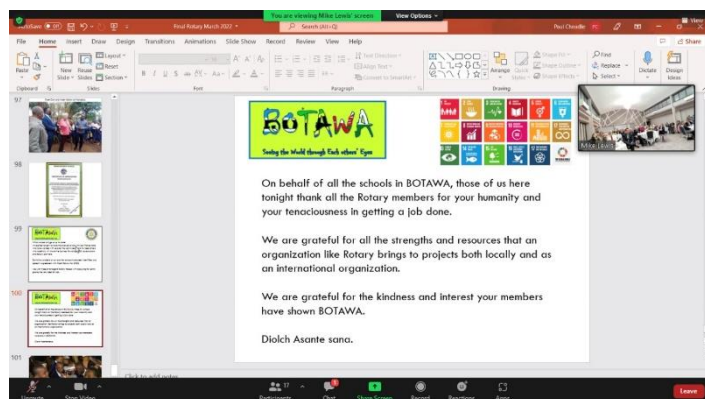
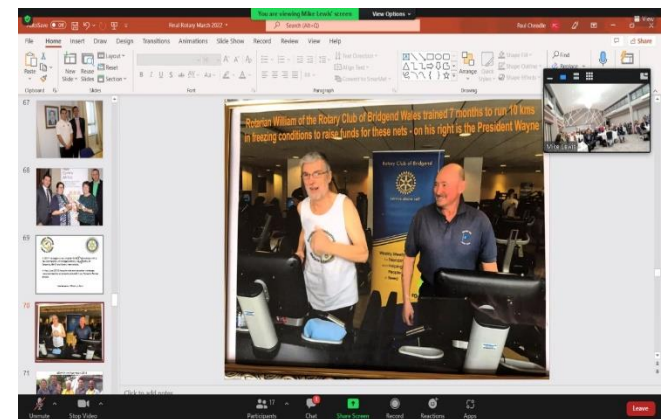
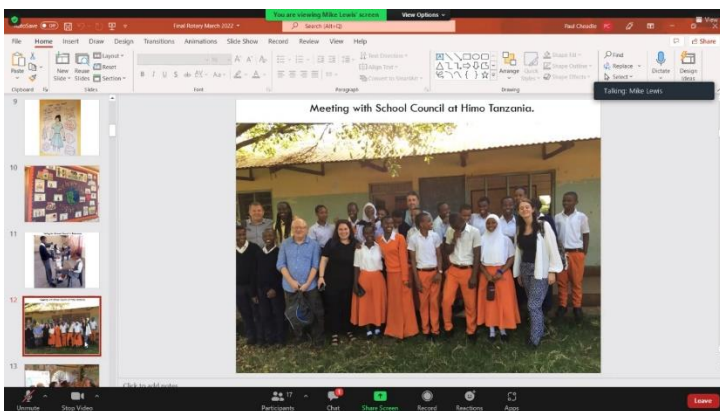
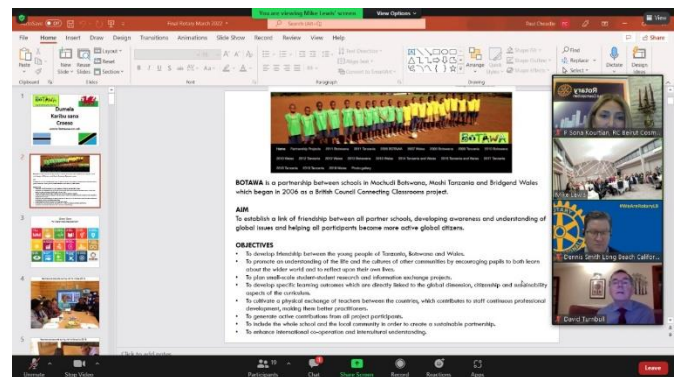
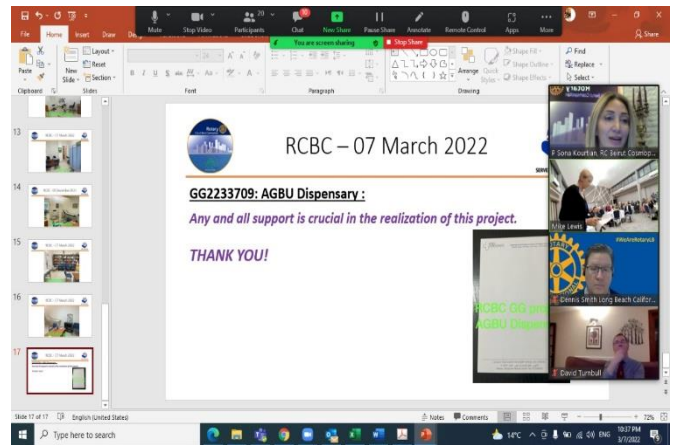
The program included:

- A student zooming in from **North of the Arctic Circle** -Sophie Maguire (Aberystwyth University, MPhys Student),
- Presentation on **BOTAWA** - Allison Rowlands, supported by the BOTAWA Team: where BOTAWA Project = Botswana Tanzania Wales - helping schools in Tanzania, and a Global Grant Project planned for next few years for water and toilet facilities in 6 schools in the Moshi District of Tanzania,
- Interventions from 2 Clubs **Rotary Carson-Gardena-Dominguez & Rotary Long Beach** in California
- A greeting from **Rotary Gourock** of Scotland

On behalf of RCBC, IPP Habib Saba provided an update on the Karantina Hospital Pediatric Ward GG, in which RC Bridgend South Wales are partners, and P Sona Kourtian presented RCBC's current year main project: AGBU Dispensary project.

The evening was concluded by an Auction, the proceeds of which are to be used for projects, while the light and amicable atmosphere was felt and lived even remotely, on the virtual platform. Special thanks to RCBC friends William Williams & Mike Lewis for inviting and giving us the opportunity to participate in this beautiful event.

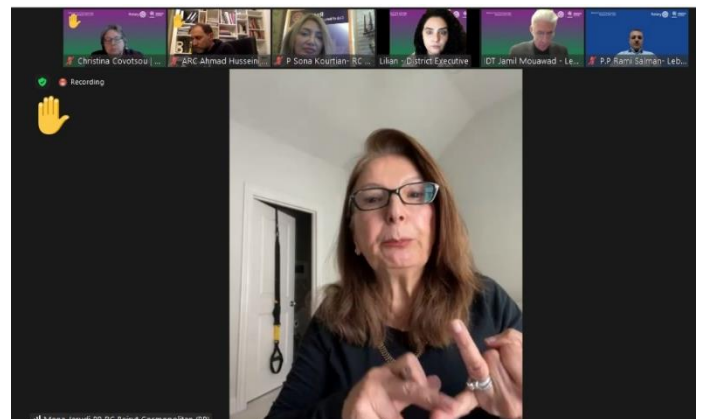
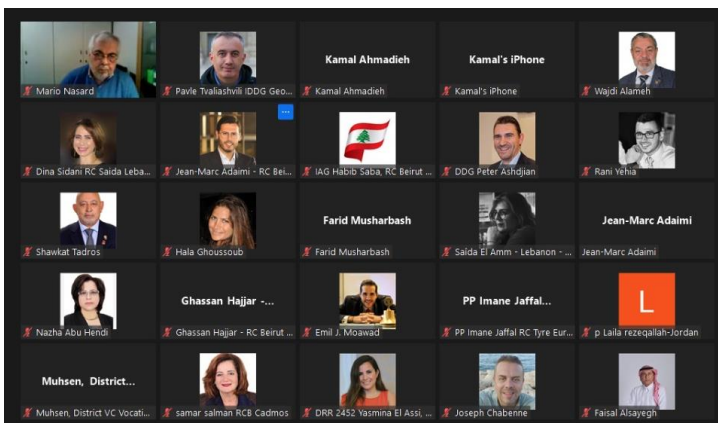
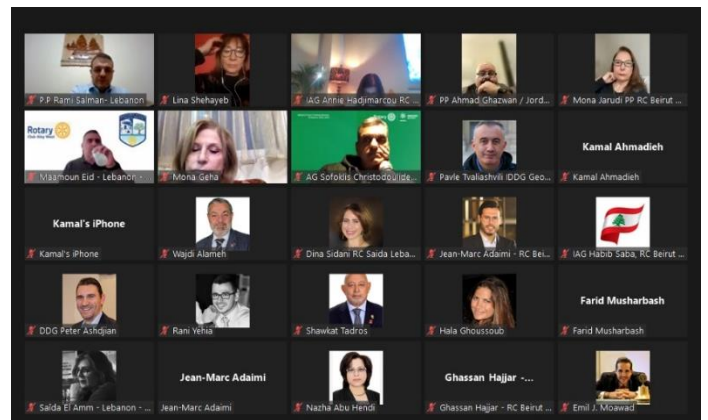
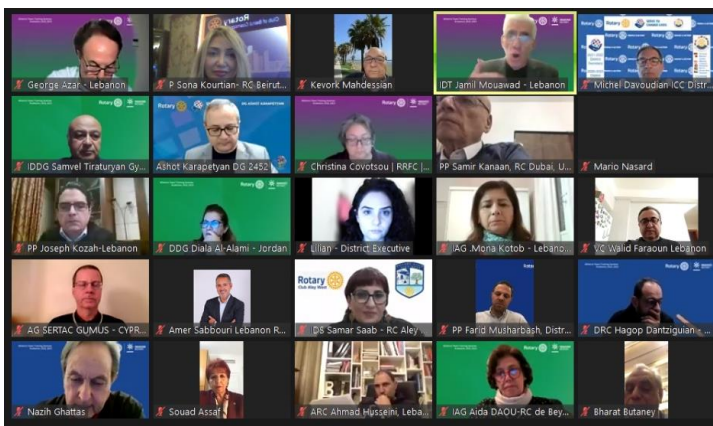




Post District Team Training Seminar (DTTS)

On March 23, a post DTTS was held virtually with over 80 participants from all over D2452. RCBC members District Chairs Joined as well: P Sona Kourtian , IAG Habib Saba and Rana Salhab.

Best practices were discussed through 5 breakout sessions discussing: Membership Recruitment and Retention; Facts Analysis and Solutions; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Youth and their role in Rotary; lasting Impact-Mega Projects. An Action Plan will be charted based on the summary of thoughts given by each group, to be implemented in RY 22-23. Nicki Scott, a RI Director joined the meeting from England and gave a motivational talk entitled: Our Vibrant Future, Putting our Plan into Action. This talk was followed by an extensive Q&A session.



Rotary Family Committee - District Chair
Rotary Day - District Chair
Sona Kourtian



AG Habib Saba



Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
District Chair Rana Ghandour Salhab

RCBC Humanitarian Projects

Infant Milk Project, received from Belgium & France, organized by ALRC & RC Beirut Cedars.

RC Beirut Cosmopolitan donating its shares to following organization.

1- "Howard Karagheusian Commemorative Corporation" -received by Community Development Manager Mrs. Christine Tanielian.

2- "Tari2na el Sama - Ana kamen Je3t" organization - received by Ms. Rita Boulos

3- "Volunteers Together" organization - received by the founder, Ms. Hind Doueihy



RCBC Humanitarian Projects

One of the major attributes of Rotary is the bond of friendship and support that Rotarians enjoy locally and globally.

Lebanon has been facing dire shortages due to the economic crisis, and our friends around the world have been beside us, extending help in every area possible.

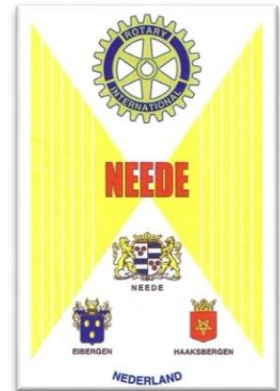
RC Neede (RC NL) of the Netherlands, reached out to President Sona and sent a generous donation of much needed baby milk and formula. Heartfelt thanks go to RC Neede, especially Rt. Naji Rizkallah (RC NL) who is of Lebanese descent and was instrumental in facilitating this donation.

The donation went to:

1. Jebid which means smile that reflects their motto" a smile for a child, a hope for the future". The smiles on the children's faces says it all.
2. Mar Michael Church: in collaboration with the priest of the congregation Rev Elia Mouannes, a milk donation was given by P Sona Kourtian and was thankfully received by priest Joseph Nayel on his behalf.



RCBC extends its gratitude to RC Neede for their friendship and support.



Celebration of RC Beyrouth 90th Anniversary

On Tuesday March 29, our sponsor club RC Beyrouth held a lovely evening to celebrate its 90th anniversary.

Many clubs were in attendance and RCBC was represented by P Sona Doniguian, IP Farida Najjar, IVP Ambassador Samir Khoury, IAG Habib Saba and Rt. Joelle Feghali.





March

Lina Shair – March (5)

Iman Aziz – March (13)

Rana Salhab – March (14)

Raouf Malak – March (24)

The End