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& 13<sup>th</sup> Weekly Meeting  
– 18.10.23

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What's ahead? Don't miss  
the forthcoming events and  
Birthday / Anniversary  
celebrants and more...

# In Focus

## Rotary Mental Health Project

By: Rtn Anindya Dutta



Rtn Anindya Dutta

As Covid swept through the world, the impact on the Migrant Workers living alone thousands of miles from families in Singapore and the state of their Mental Health was a real concern. That is when we conceived of a Community Services project that would use their common love of Cricket as a means of addressing the issue. That idea became reality when on 19 March 2023, the Rotary Club of Singapore (RCS), in partnership with the Alliance of Guest Workers Outreach (AGWO), launched a 6-month cricket programme for migrant workers at Tuas South Recreation Centre with 240 registered participants.

On the day of the launch, there were around 300 participants including the migrant workers, Rotarians and volunteers from our partner organisations. To make the migrant workers feel included and acknowledged, there was a friendly cricket match organised between the migrant workers and Rotarians and friends.

Over the 6-month period we booked the Recreation Centre Tuas field every Sunday afternoon, provided all cricket equipment as well as clothes, shoes and meals for participants. As importantly we put together a group of very experienced coaches to help work on the fitness and cricket skills of the workers.

The programme was crowned by a Cricket League conducted over the last two months of the programme that culminated in a Grand Finale on September 23rd, 2023 when the two finalists fought out a cricket final for the ages in the presence of hundreds of players, spectators, volunteers and Rotarians. The entire match was live-streamed on YouTube so that the Workers' families back in the home countries could watch the performances and feel included in the experience. Cash prizes and awards were given to all the successful players and teams in a wonderful ceremony. We were there in strength to celebrate with the workers.

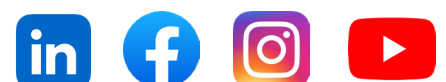
What did we see, firsthand, over these past months?

We saw dedication and enjoyment in equal measure as workers spent half their weekly day off over six months, getting coached and playing. We witnessed camaraderie, joy, fulfilment, excitement, pride in the faces. We saw shy players become captains leading by example. We saw players cut short their stay home and return so they could play the final with their mates and not let their team down. We had players come and give us hugs at the end of the final to thank us for the joy we at RCS alongside the volunteers and our partners at Hope Initiative Alliance (HIA) and AGWO had helped bring.

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# In Focus

## Rotary Mental Health Project ... contd.



Even in the rain, there are always sunny smiles from Rotarians & friends



PP Peter Tan presenting the Championship Trophy

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# Meeting Reports

## Vocational Service Committee (VSC) October Meeting Summary

The 4<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting of the VSC committee was held on 12<sup>th</sup> October at One&Co (11<sup>th</sup> floor, 20 Anson Rd). The location has been very well received by VSC members as it is spacious and comfortably furnished with adequate space for fellowship. The VSC committee remains grateful to Rtn. Toshio Omiyama for making this space available at a subsidized cost.

VSC Chair Vineet Iyengar kicked off the meeting with a recap of the visit by beneficiaries of our ISCOS project in the September meeting. This was followed by a proposal to continue the project in CY 2024 and accepted by the committee after a robust discussion. The intent is to increase our impact by about 50% by raising SGD 48k towards a fund to subsidise vocational training for ex-offenders. The committee would endeavour to raise SGD 24k, and the same amount would be matched by the Tote Board.

An initial update was also provided on a meeting with the Ministry for Social & Family Welfare where they are seeking partnerships for a project to help the poor families break out of the poverty cycle and another project to help retain students in school. These are being considered jointly with Community Service Committee (CSC).

Regarding the Artisan of the Year Award (AOTY), this year's team led by Rtn Hulya Ucer and Rtn Denis Hew are taking initial steps in trying to expand the scale of the award. They have started seeking feedback from past winners and are also looking for partnerships with organisations like National Heritage Board and National Arts Council. Initial discussions have shown that these organisations recognize the unique niche that our award occupies and are looking for ways to engage with us.

The AOTY team has started looking for nominations for this year's award, and an official request will be circulated to RCS members soon. Any inputs from members are very welcome.



VSC meeting in progress



Director Vineet Iyengar

# Meeting Reports

13th Club Meeting for Rotary Year 2023-20234 held on 18.10.2023.



At the 1<sup>st</sup> lunch meeting for Rotary year 2023-2024

## Opening Remarks

Director Sonali Sinha opened the meeting, and invited President Dr Chan Siew Luen to continue with the proceedings. President Siew Luen noted that it was the first lunch meeting for this Rotary year, and the first in 3 Rotary years. He warmly welcomed PDG Dr Philbert Chin, Honorary Members (HM) PP Chiang Shih Fang, Rtns Uttam Kripalani and Paul Phua to the meeting. President Siew Luen added that having a lunch meeting brought back fond memories from the past and perhaps the Club could have both lunch and dinner meetings in the future. He thanked members for their support in making the effort to attend the meeting which he hoped would be sustained and grow.

## Welcome of Guests and Visiting Rotarians

Director Ong Ting Yong welcomed guests and visiting Rotarians as follows:

### Guests:

Speakers, Ms Lim Jia Ling & Mr Lee Byung Jun, BeLive Technology  
 Mrs Niharika Gulati, spouse of Rtn Varun  
 Mr Eddy Handaja, spouse of Rtn See Mee Lee  
 Ms Periyasamy Tamilarasi, Ms Selvi Natchiyawar, Mr Amit Kumar Thapa,  
 Mr VJ Africa, Ms Bernie Ng

### Visiting Rotarians:

Rtn Prem Maheshwari, RC Jaipur  
 Rtn D V Narayanan, RC Calicut Midtown, India  
 Rtn Colin Rymill, RC Norwich, UK



Rtn Ong Ting Yong

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# Meeting Reports

## Proceedings of the 13<sup>th</sup> Weekly Meeting ... *contd.*

### Toast

Toastmaster Rtn Vijaygopal Krishnamurthy was pleased to raise a toast to the Rotary Club of Jaipur coupled with the toast to Rotary International. It was noted that the Jaipur club has a rich history and was formed in 1947. Representing her club at the meeting was visiting Rtn Prem Maheshwari.



Rtn Vijaygopal Krishnamurthy with visiting Rtn Prem Maheshwari

### Exchange of Banners



From left: President Siew Luen exchanged banners with Rtn Prem (RC Jaipur), Rtn Colin Rymill (RC Norwich) and presented a Club banner to Rtn DV Narayanan

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# Meeting Reports

## Proceedings of the 13<sup>th</sup> Weekly Meeting ... *contd.*

### President's Announcements

- RCS Polo Shirts- Final call for members to order the Club's Polo Shirt.
- Call for nominations of Organising Chair for the Club's 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (June 2025) Celebrations Committee. Nominations to be emailed to Secretariat at [rtynfo@rotary.org.sg](mailto:rtynfo@rotary.org.sg) by **31 October 2023**.
- International Service Committee (ISC) Meeting to be held on 19.10.23 at Mogul Mahal Restaurant.
- Food from the Heart food distribution on 21.10.23 at Blk 9/Blk 4, North Bridge Road, S190008.
- District World Polio Day Walk on 21.10.23 at Singapore Sports Hub.
- Deepavali Dinner Party on Wednesday **8 November** at Churchill Room, Tanglin Club.

### Block Your Calendar

President Siew Luen noted that the remaining half of the Rotary Year will be very busy, and wished to remind members of the following events and dates:



**23 February 2024** – World Understanding & Peace Day – Meeting to be organized by the Club.

**7 – 10 March 2024** – District Training Assembly @ Johor Bahru. IPP James Lee is a District Trainer and incoming Boards of DG Dr Yap Lip Kee's term in office will receive their training.

**29 March 2024** – Swimmarathon fund raising event for the whole day. Major Project Chair Pauline Teo together with PP Deepak Nagrani will organize the event.

**17 – 19 May 2024** – 33<sup>rd</sup> District Conference @ Kuching, Malaysia. This will be the acceptance speech by DGN Dr Shahul Hameed as he takes on the District Governorship.

**25 - 29 May 2024** – Rotary International Convention – Please register.

**27 May 2024** – Host Hospitality Night – In conjunction with the RI Convention, the Club is in the process of confirming a venue to host our sister clubs. Members are requested not to do separate hosting event so as not to cannibalize this event.

**22 June 2024** – Installation of PE Tom Wolf and the incoming Board.

### What Happened Last Week?

Opening of Hillview Community Club Community Library – Project started by the Club's sponsored Interact and Rotaract Clubs – Bukit Gombak Eagles Interact Club and Rotaract Club of Bukit Gombak, as well as the joint installation of both clubs.

The Guest of Honour was Minister of State, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth & Ministry of Trade and Industry, Chairperson of Mayors' Committee & Mayor, South West District.

More of this event will be featured in the coming issue of the Crossroads.



At the Opening Ceremony

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# Meeting Reports

## Proceedings of the 13<sup>th</sup> Weekly Meeting ... *contd.*

### Fireside Chat: Future of E-Commerce

**Speakers: Ms Lim Jia Ling, Asst. Head, Marketing and Partnerships and Mr Lee Byung Jun, Vice President of Business Development of Belive Technology**

To start off the fireside chat, President Siew Luen called on Director of Technology Lionel Otsuka who advised that the speakers were part of the technology series program. He added that the topic was on the “Future of E-Commerce” specifically in live-streaming.

A short video demonstration of the TaoBao Metaverse live-stream shopping experience, called TaoCity was viewed which enabled shoppers to view products in 360 degrees VR, play AR games and try out clothes, accessories, and makeup in real-time. All products are purchasable and shipped within hours.



*Rtn Lionel Otsuka in conversation with Speakers  
Ms Lim Jia Ling & Mr Lee Byung Jun*

After his introduction of the speakers, Rtn Lionel fired off the first question. He noted that conventional retail therapy is defined as shopping with the primary purpose of improving the buyer’s mood or disposition, and asked how might live-streamed shopping experiences redefine the concept of "retail therapy" in the digital age? Ms Lim replied that “therapy” suggests that it is something meant to relieve or make one feel better and “Retailtainment” - combining entertainment with the shopping experience is meant to be enjoyable. She cited the example of local getai celebrity success as his customers were able to explore products and ask questions in real time and to engage with him.

Between themselves, Ms Lim and Mr Lee gave succinct replies to questions posed to them from Rtn Lionel as well as from members. One of which was if live-streaming could become a powerful tool for sustainability in e-commerce by promoting conscious consumption and reducing returns? To which, they noted that this was a double-edged sword and like any other tool, it would depend on how it is being used. On the plus side, live-streaming could be used to build trust by showing viewers the actual product and enabling them to ask questions and better educate audiences to make informed decisions. Ultimately it boils down to the brand’s values and what they think is best for their customers.

Another relevant question as to what potential do live-streamed charitable events and fundraisers have in driving social impact through e-commerce, and how can businesses harness this potential? Both speakers noted that live-streaming empowers donors to feel that they can make a difference. As for businesses, it could be used as an educational tool and to connect with others better. It could be used to partner with charity organisations to donate a portion of sales during live events, or commit to matching customer donations. This would be a win-win situation as it benefits communities in need but also enhances the brand image and reputation and fosters customer loyalty.

To extend the Club’s vote of thanks, President Siew Luen invited Rtn Vinit Sarangdhar.

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# Meeting Report

Proceedings of the 13<sup>th</sup> Weekly Meeting ... *contd.*

Pictorial Highlights of the Lunch Meeting...



From left to right (l to r): President Siew Luen, Mr Lee Byung Jun, Ms Lim Jia Ling & Rtn Lionel Otsuka



Rtn Vinit Sarangdhar extending the Club's vote of thanks to the Speakers



Seated (l to r): PDG Dr Philbert Chin & Hon. Member (HM) PP Chiang Shih Fang  
Standing (l to r): PPs Tan Chin Ngiap, J K Ong, HM Uttam Kripalani, PP Paliath Mohandas, HM Paul Phua, PPs Peter Tan, Sajjad Akhtar & Stan Low



Thank you, Rtn Varun & Niharika Gulati for celebrating your wedding anniversary at the Club, and for the Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) pledge towards The Rotary Foundation

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# Mark Your Diary

## Birthday Celebrants

### RC sends best wishes to Birthday celebrants for October:

PP J K Ong  
Wilson Widjaja  
HM Rewa Mirpuri  
Alex Lega  
Lionel Otsuka  
Pauline Teo  
Robert Chien  
Jean Khoo  
President Dr Chan Siew Luen  
Dr Omkar Shrestha  
Jens Ruebbert  
M M Patel  
PP Jimmy Ooi

## Wedding Anniversary Celebrants

### RC sends best wishes to Wedding Anniversary celebrants in October:

Vimal & Rekha Narayanan  
Dr Suresh & Priti Mahtani  
President Dr Chan Siew Luen & Patricia  
Marcelo & Daniela Monteiro  
Angela Lim & Steven Neoh  
Varun & Niharika Gulati  
VP Frank & Fancy Pao  
Kevin & Lena Pang  
Winston & Jolene Khoo  
Yogesh & Dishita Dodani  
Dr Hoh Sek Tien & Julie  
Vishal & Sonam Nanwani  
PP Garry & Grace Taylor

## This Meeting

25 October 2023

**Speaker:** Hon. Member, His Excellency Dr Norbert Riedel, German Ambassador to Singapore

**Topic:** What about Germany? Opportunities and challenges in a changing world

## Next Meeting

1 November 2023

**Speaker:** Dr Gowreeson Thevendran, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Island Orthopaedics

**Topic:** To be advised

## Coming Rotary Events

### October – Economic & Community Development Month

24 Oct – YSC Meeting

24 Oct – World Polio Day

### November – Rotary Foundation Month

4 Nov – Deepavali lunch/visit for Sree Narayana Mission residents to Little India (11am – 2.30pm)

8 Nov – Deepavali Dinner Party, Churchill Room, Tanglin Club

### December – Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

### January – Vocational Service Month

### February – Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month

23 Feb – World Understanding & Peace Day / Rotary's anniversary.

### March – Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month

7-10 Mar – District Training Assembly @ Johor Bahru

29 Mar – Swimmarathon

### April – Environmental Month

### May – Youth Service Month

17-19 May – 33<sup>rd</sup> District Conference @ Kuching

25-29 May – Rotary International Convention, Singapore

27 May – Host Hospitality Night

### June – Rotary Fellowships Month

22 Jun – Installation of the 90<sup>th</sup> President & Board of Directors

HAVE MANY LAUGHS AND HELP THE NEEDY

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## The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build goodwill and better friendship?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?



## The Guide to Daily Living

Before doing the things we want to do, consider first, the Precepts of the guide. Ask ourselves these 4 questions and act upon them:

1. Have I spent some time in self-examination?
2. Have I spent quality time with my family?
3. Have I given my best to my work?
4. Have I given some time to someone near and far?

The Guide, in fact, encompasses the 4 parts of the Object of Rotary.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023/2024

President	Chan Siew Luen
Immediate Past President	James Lee
President Elect	Tom Wolf
Vice President	Frank Pao
Vice President	Ronald Wong
Hon. Secretary (Administration)	Suzanne Ng
Hon. Treasurer (Finance)	Keizo Fujitake
Community Service Committee (CSC) Director	Sonali Sinha
Vocational Service Committee (VSC) Director	Vineet Iyengar
International Service Committee (ISC) Director	Rupesh Agrawal
Youth Service Committee (YSC) Director	Louisa Lee
Director of Environment	Suresh Hathiramani
Director of Technology	Lionel Otsuka
Director of Meetings & Conventions	Raj Kumar
Public Image & Public Relations Director	Ong Ting Yong
Major Project Chair	Pauline Teo
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Membership Director	Sean Leas
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Sergeant-at-Arms	Priveen Suraj

