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Rotary Vocational Training Teams (VTT) Community Assessment Trip

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Training Teams (VTT)
Community
Assessment Trip

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the forthcoming events and
Birthday / Anniversary
celebrants and more...

In Focus

Rotary Vocational Training Teams (VTT) Community Assessment Trip

SIKKIM (EAST & NORTH) – DARJEELING - 2022

09 DAYS/08 NIGHTS (08 – 16 Mar 2022)



Director Rtn
Peter Brock

In March 2022, ten Rotarians & family members from four District 3310 clubs travelled to Sikkim (India) on a Vocational Training Team and Fellowship trip. The trip was led by PP Jimmy Ooi (RC Singapore) and included DG Dolly Yeap (D3310), DRFC PP Dr Shahul Hameed and Michelle (RC Singapore), PDG Michael Yee (D3310) and Helen, Dir Louisa and her husband Weng Cheu & son Sean (RC Singapore), PP Brian Tan (RC Raffles City) and last, but not least, Dir Peter Brock & Tanya (RC Singapore).

The trip was to experience first-hand the impact which our Clubs and our District, through Global Grants, are having, in and around Kolkata. In addition, we also visited Sikkim and some of the more remote villages north of Gangtok, to see the potential for further assistance.



We spent our first full day visiting hospitals in and around Kolkata that have been the beneficiaries of Rotary Club of Singapore sponsored Global Grants. The impact of these grants, and the support given by the RC of Belur (RCS Sister Club) [Global Grant - Eye Projects at Susrut Hospital], RC Calcutta Metropolitan (RCS Sister Club) (Global Grant – Oxygen Plant at Ispat Hospital), RC Calcutta Mahanagar [Global Grant - Dialysis Centre], RC Calcutta Mega City (Global Grant - Ventilators at Ramakrishna Mission Hospital) is amazing and I'm proud, and a little humbled, that I belong to a Club that has transformed so many lives. From the purchase of dialysis machines, ventilators for Covid-19 treatment, medical oxygen plants, funding eye clinics and general hospital medical services, our Club is supporting the amazing effort of many medical professionals whom every day, 'serve to change lives.'

It wasn't all work though as we also visited Mother's House, the final resting place of Mother Teresa, and were spoilt by having lunch with several new Rotarian friends. We ended the night by attending a joint meeting of the Rotary Club of Calcutta and the Rotary Club of Calcutta Mega City where we were honoured to meet Rotary International Director Nominee, RIDN Anirudh Roy Chowdhury. During the meeting, we were also given a presentation on their proposed Global Grant project to protect the local mangroves whilst also improving local flood mitigation measures.

In Focus

Rotary Vocational Training Teams (VTT) Community Assessment Trip... *contd.*



After a welcome sleep, we met our other travellers who arrived overnight. Once breakfast was over, we headed for the airport to catch our flight to Bogdogra, the northernmost airport of West Bengal. Upon arrival, we meet our guide and our drivers, then drove, after lunch hosted by the RC Siliguri, the 115Km to Gangtok. This sounds like a pleasant drive, however due to the mountainous climb, the journey takes five hours. In addition to the windy roads, to enter Sikkim, you need specific approval, called an In Line Permit, which needs to be approved at the border checkpoint between West Bengal and Sikkim. As this isn't a quick process, we stopped at Ricki's Bar & Restaurant for a beverage and snacks while waiting for the permit to be approved. During the next seven days, we had many checkpoints to pass which resulted in numerous stops to enjoy the mountain scenery.

During the next few days, we managed to experience local hospitality, as well as meeting up with members of the RC Gangtok South and well as RC Gangtok Smart City. We were fortunate to have a representee from RC Gangtok Smart City, Rtn Choden joining our tour for the next stage of our trip, which was to visit the village of Lachung, located North Sikkim, close to the Tibetan border.

During the Gangtok rest day prior to travelling to Lachung, we were very blessed to be granted an audience with His Excellency Zurmang Gharwang Rinpoche. Due to covid19 restrictions, this was his first public greeting in more than two years, and he was more than generous with his time.



In Focus

Rotary Vocational Training Teams (VTT) Community Assessment Trip... *contd.*

After spending time wandering around the monastery, we travelled to Tsomgo Lake, which is at an elevation of 12,310 feet (3,753m). A highlight of the visit to the lake is a Yak Safari. Yaks are known as the Himalayan wagon and are often used to carry loads in the high passes of the Himalaya.



Upon our return to Gangtok, we had an interaction dinner meeting with Rotary Club of Gangtok South at our hotel, the Mayfair Resort & Spa.



During the next three days, we drove to Lachung and spent time with the local Dzumza (village committee) to discuss their needs and how Rotary could assist. It was quite clear to us that improving the Lachung Primary Health Care Centre and the local schools would offer significant benefits to the community of which, the RC Gangtok Smart City will take the lead in preparing a Global Grant submission.

In Focus

Rotary Vocational Training Teams (VTT) Community Assessment Trip... *contd.*

To show our appreciation for their hospitality, we gave the Dzumza several boxes of masks to help with the fight against covid-19, as well as a cash donation to assist with their ongoing expenses.



Upon returning to Gangtok, we had dinner at the home of the President of RC Gangtok Smart City and were privileged to experience a local evening of song and culture by a traditional folk music performer.



In Focus

Rotary Vocational Training Teams (VTT) Community Assessment Trip... *contd.*

The next morning, we departed Gangtok and drove for the remaining part of the day, the 100km to Darjeeling which was our base for the next two nights. After breakfast, we were taken on a factory tour of a local tea plantation, the Happy Valley Tea Estate which was established in 1854 and then we rode on the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, affectionately known as the Toy Train, which is the highest Heritage Railway in the world and is also a UNESCO listed World Heritage site.



That evening, we attended the regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Darjeeling to discuss our trip and also for some wonderful fellowship.



Our journey was then done. We visited some of the most scenic villages in the region, enjoyed some wonderful fellowship, and hopefully, with the world now starting to reconnect, Rotarians can again, 'Serve to Change Lives.'



Meeting Report

37th Club Meeting for Rotary Year 2021-2022 held on 13.4.2022

OPENING REMARKS

President Louis Lim warmly welcomed members and guests to the Club's hybrid meeting held at the Churchill Room at Tanglin Club.

INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBER

Following the Club announcements, President Louis called upon Membership Director Rtn Subhash Pritmani who introduced Rtn Lionel Otsuka. President Louis then proceeded to induct Rtn Lionel to the Club:



Rtn Lionel Otsuka

Place of Work: OTECH (OTSUKA TECHNOLOGY) PTE LTD

Position: Founder / CEO

Classification: IT Consulting: Blockchain

Proposer: VP/PN Dr Chan Siew Luen

Mentor: President Louis Lim

Recommended Committee: Vocational Service

Rtn Lionel studied in Melbourne Australia, Monash University in Medical Science under Stem Cells but was keen to pursue a career that had a faster turnaround in terms of benefitting the greater society as a whole hence in IT, specifically integrations and digital adoption. He is Singaporean but is of Japanese descent, his mother is Singaporean and father is Japanese. In terms of community services, he focused on educating digital adoption such as NFTs, generative art etc to art students/adult practitioner through schools like NAFA and communities such as "Join the flow - a freelance engagement community".

GUEST SPEAKER: MS. RANGANAYAKI THANGAVELU

TOPIC: SOCIAL INCLUSION AS AN ANTIDOTE TO POVERTY

the Club's 13th Fireside Chat was moderated by VP/PN Dr Chan Siew Luen who introduced the Speaker, Ms. Ranganayaki Thangavelu as his co-conspirator in University. Ms Ranga is Deputy Executive Director of Beyond Social Services.

Ms Ranga gave a brief overview of the services provided by Beyond Social Services which as the organisation's name denotes – their approach to services goes beyond welfare towards stability. She highlighted some statistics of poverty in Singapore with about 14% (about 140,000 households) of families living on less than \$1,500 per month. With 57,000 families among the poorest living in HDB rental flats with an average income of \$750 a month. Ms Ranga shared Beyond's vision to create neighbourhoods where individuals support themselves and contribute to stable families, and in turn build resilient communities that support the wider society. She further spoke on approaches to tackling social issues; bridging volunteers and partners to vulnerable communities and shared success stories such as the "Sew Can We" initiative that empowered women from low-income backgrounds to generate income through sewing projects. (A copy of Ms Ranga's presentation is available from the Secretariat.)

Following her talk, Ms Ranga answered the many questions posed to her such as the demographics of the various groups which the organisation works with, as well as the various challenges faced.

To conclude, VP/PN Siew Luen warmly thanked Ms Ranga for sharing her informative insights and views.



Pres. Louis presents the Club's mementos to Speaker, Ms Ranganayaki Thangavelu

Meeting Report

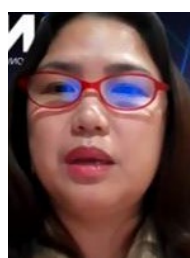
38th Club Meeting for Rotary Year 2021-2022 held on 27.4.2022

OPENING REMARKS

President Louis Lim warmly welcomed members and guests to the meeting as well as proposed the toast to Rotary International, followed by the Club's best wishes to birthday and wedding anniversary celebrants.

INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Membership Director Rtn Subhash Pritmani introduced the following Rotarians who were then inducted to the Club by President Louis:



Rtn Ivy Tan (Ivy R Pimentero)

Place of Work: Apex Employment Agency Pte Ltd

Position: CEO

Classification: Employment Services : Caregivers

Proposer: President Louis Lim

Mentor: PP J K Ong

Recommended Committee: Community Service

Rtn Ivy is a Singapore permanent resident from the Philippines and an entrepreneur for 26 years helping expatriate and local families to source their domestic helpers or caregivers for their families.

She serves as a volunteer and a board member at Foreign Domestic Helper for Social Support and Training (FAST), which looks after the needs of migrant helpers to upscale their skills to better serve their employers' families. She is an EXCO member of FAST where President Louis is also a member.



Rtn Klaus Urs Gabriel Duss

Place of Work: Notsofar Capital Pte Ltd

Position: Founder / Partner

Classification: Consulting: Private Banking

Proposer: Rtn Andy Mankiewicz

Mentor: PP Stan Low

Recommended Committee: Vocational Service

Rtn Klaus is a finance professional with Swiss and Canadian citizenship and a long time Singapore permanent resident. He has a long career in the banking industry, starting as a foreign exchange trader in Zurich. Subsequently, Rtn Klaus joined Swiss Bank in Toronto, in 1997 he relocated to Asia where he has been ever since, working in Singapore, Tokyo, Mumbai and Indonesia in various capacities. Rtn Klaus is currently a freelance consultant.

Rtn Klaus served on the Management Committee of SPCA for 10 years, and had to step down due to tenor restrictions within the Singapore charity act. However, he is still actively involved in SPCA's fund-raising committee.

Rtn Klaus is married to Lisa, who is a university lecturer; and they have a daughter who will be starting her university education soon. The other member of the family is their dog named "Happy".

Meeting Report

38th Club Meeting for Rotary Year 2021-2022 held on 27.4.2022

INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS... cont'd.



Rtn Kevin Pang Sai Khit

Place of Work: Legatus Global Pte Ltd

Position: CEO

Classification: Financial Services : Payment Services

Proposer: VP/PN Dr Chan Siew Luen

Mentor: PP Mark Wang

Recommended Committee: Vocational Service

Rtn Kevin is CEO of several companies. He is Chairman of SGTECH Blockchain Committee, Secretary of Blockchain Association of Singapore, Board Member/Director Payments/NFT, Group Lead of Global Impact Fintech Foundation.

He spent 23 over years in the Global IT and Telco industry with recent 7 years of new life in regulated Financial Services and Fintech, Cryptocurrency and Blockchain, NFTs and GameFi. He is deeply involved in regulations and compliance in these space as practitioner.

Rtn Kevin believes in life-long education as he completes his Master of Laws and embarks on his doctorate.

GUEST SPEAKER: ROTARIAN SUHAIMI ZAINUL-ABIDIN

TOPIC: EID AL-FITRI – ITS MEANING AND CELEBRATION

President Louis called on PP Perlita Tiro to introduce the Speaker, none other than our member, Rtn Suhaimi Zainul-Abidin. PP Perlita noted that next week would be the celebration of Hari Raya also known as Eid Al Fitr. Rtn Suhaimi is a lawyer by training, like our President. He joined his current company, Quantedge Capital in 2013 and in 2018 became its CEO. Rtn Suhaimi joined the Club less than two years ago and leads the Vocational project for the Artisan of the Year Award. He also serves in many other charitable organisations and statutory boards.



Speaker,
Rtn Suhaimi Zainul-Abidin

Rtn Suhaimi shared the significance of Hari Raya or Eid al-Fitr which are somewhat interchangeable. He started talk on the Islam as a faith with about 1 billion Muslims in the world and one of the 3 monotheistic faiths – Judaism, Christianity and Islam and gave historic similarities. He spoke briefly about Prophet Muhammad and the 5 Pillars of Islam. Rtn Suhaimi focussed his talk on Ramadan and fasting; Ramadan which is the 9th month of the Muslim calendar is known as the fasting month. He explained that it was a month of spiritual reflection, self-improvement and heightened devotion and worship and abstain from sinful speech and behaviour. He added that it teaches self-discipline, self-control, sacrifice and empathy for those who are less fortunate. He further explained the fasting rituals and prayers and the paying of “zakat” (obligatory alms). Rtn Suhaimi advised that Ramadan culminates in Eid al-Fitr (Hari Raya) which is a day of renewal and forgiveness. It is also a gathering of family and feasting and giving. He noted the cultural customs of celebrations such as dressings of Islamic religion and Malay custom. Rtn Suhaimi graciously answered questions posed to him from members and members also gave their comments and how the celebrations were conducted in other countries.

President Louis called on PP Dr Shahul Hameed who warmly extended the vote of thanks to Rtn Suhaimi for his talk and presentation. President Louis warmly all wished all Muslim members a “Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri”!

Meeting Report

39th Club Meeting for Rotary Year 2021-2022 held on 4.5.2022

OPENING REMARKS

President Louis Lim warmly welcomed members and guests to the meeting as well as added his best wishes for those who were celebrating Hari Raya Aidilfitri and Eid Mubarak.

TOAST TO ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Youth Service Director Rtn Mukundan A P welcomed the RYLA delegation from District 3212 and called on members to join him in raising a toast to Rotary and Rotary International.

President Louis invited Rtn Thanikai the lead for District 3212 RYLA delegation to address the meeting, and wished them a fruitful stay in Singapore.

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Louis reminded members of the Rotary Inter Country Committees ASEAN (RICCA) Charter Assembly to be held from 13 – 15 May 2022. He further reminded members of the meeting hosted by the Club with RI President Shekhar Mehta on 13 May at ParkRoyal Collection Marina Bay and the event would be opened to other Rotarians. He called on members to support this event.

WELCOME TO MS. PIYA MAHTANEY

President Louis invited Ms Piya Mahtaney to address members. She informed members of the recent publication of her 5th book titled “Structural transformation, understanding the new drivers of investment, innovation and institutions”. She encapsulated the book’s concept which looked at the main changes and drivers of economic progress and of our global future. Ms Mahtaney advised members if they wished to know more about the book to Google search for the book to get a summary.

VISION FOR ROTARY YEAR 2022-2023

President Louis called on PE James Lee who gave a glimpse of the changes for the coming year, starting with a poll on meeting preferences – once a week or fortnightly meetings, which showed that 24 out of the 33 members present preferred weekly meetings and 8 members voted for fortnightly meetings.

Next, a vote on meeting content – meeting with only speaker, weekly meeting with mixture speaker and service project or a meeting with service project followed by a speaker. Results showed that majority preferred a speaker and service projects, second service project followed by speaker and fewest votes for speaker only.

Updates from the Board with Sergeant-at-Arms Rtns Dr Claus Dusemund and Ng Jun Dong (JD) and the appointment of Rtn Andy Mankiewicz, OBE as the Club's Vice President.

PE James added that the focus for 2022-23 was for a vibrant and inclusive club that value adds the community it serves. He added that the feedback received for a vibrant club to have member engagement, online professional development and quarterly programmes. Starting with a membership seminar to be held on July 30 for 80 new members involving senior members to introduce Rotary and to mingle and share their experience to have a better understanding between the new and senior members.

He added that 3 members – Rtn Vineet Iyengar, Francesco de Liva and Ong Ting Yong will look into the area of membership and highlighted on the programmes and preferences of members and proposed Club meetings details.

Meeting Report

39th Club Meeting for Rotary Year 2021-2022 held on 4.5.2022

VISION FOR ROTARY YEAR 2022-2023... cont'd.

He added that 3 members – Rtn Vineet Iyengar, Francesco de Liva and Ong Ting Yong will look into the area of membership and highlighted on the programmes and preferences of members and proposed Club meetings details. He called on members to send in their preference. He added that the whole year's programme would be available on a Goggle calendar and emailed out to members.

PE James advised that the invitation for the Club's installation on 25 June was sent out via Goggle form and it would be a fund-raising as well for FootballPlus as the year's Major Project as well as the Sister Club event which would be held on 24 June. He added that more information would be forwarded in the coming weeks.

GUEST SPEAKER: MR SAZZAD HOSSAIN

TOPIC: UNCONVENTIONAL WISDOM: ACCELERATING SOCIAL IMPACT

Director Rtn Louisa Lee was honoured to introduce the Speaker, Mr Sazzad Hossain, whom she added was logging in San Francisco, having to wake up at 4.00am in order to attend the meeting. She advised that she was introduced to Sazzad through previous speaker Mr Bjorn Low of Edible Garden as they were both Ashoka Fellows and when conceptualising the moringa trees project and wanted to have a community angle and that was how they were connected with Sazzad who does a great deal of work with the local migrant community and the Seeds of Friendship was created.



*Speaker,
Mr Sazzad Hossain*

Sazzad is CEO of SDI Academy and SDI Global, he is also the CEO of DoorMart. Mr Hossain founded the Singapore-based social enterprise in 2013 to help the country's migrant workers overcome daily challenges by improving their English. He has since expanded its services to include computer skills, financial literacy and entrepreneurship.

Sazzad shared his inspiring story and experience in helping migrant workers during the pandemic, through food, essential distribution and the launch of an app to help them connect with each other, and the wider community. He also partnered with remittance groups to help migrants send \$1.2 million home during lockdown. He spoke of the problems faced by migrant workers in Singapore, having to pay exorbitant agency fees ranging from \$12,000 to \$15,000. He highlighted the social outreach programme for the migrant workers.

Sazzad shared how we could think in an unconventional way, using three examples of the Nigerian Prince scam; Van Halen and the brown M&Ms and Coca-Cola.

President Louis invited Rtn Suresh Hathiramani who warmly thanked Sazzad for his talk, adding that he had not for many years of Rotary seen a President not intervening and asking a speaker to cut short the presentation which speaks of Sazzad's compassion and work. Rtn Suresh noted the pinpoint silence from members which he added was in respect for what Sazzad was doing for the migrant workers.

To view this meeting, [please click here](#).

Mark Your Diary

Birthday Celebrants

RC sends best wishes to Birthday celebrants:

John Forster
Winston Khoo
Hena Hoda
Daniel Beyeler
PP Dr Shahul Hameed
Uttam Kripalani
Vimal Narayanan
Dr Ganesh Ramalingam

Anniversary

RC sends best wishes to Wedding Anniversary celebrants:

Ujjal Nandi & Li Phing
Anindya & Anisha Dutta
Subhash & Kanak Pritmani
Mahesh & Hanisha Bolimbala
PP Mohan & Vatsala Mohandas
Deepu & Miriam Joseph
Senthil & Lakshmi Kuppusamy
IPP Dinesh & Rekha Sharma
Sri & Swarna Sikhakollu
PP Tan Chin Ngai & Irene

Committee Meetings

All Service Committee Meetings will be held on Thursdays from 7.00 to 8.00pm

COMMUNITY SERVICE:
Thursday, 5 May 2022

VOCATIONAL SERVICE:
Saturday, 21 May 2022 from 3.00 to 4.30pm @ FRCS

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE:
Thursday, 19 May 2022

YOUTH SERVICE:
Thursday, 26 May 2022

This Meeting

18 May 2022
From 7.00 to 8.30pm

Speaker: Mr Alan Seng, Founder of Dark Zodiac NFT project, early investor and advisor of game-fi platform Ethlas Metaverse, Co-founder and Partner of Darkmeta

Topic: NFTs, the Metaverse, and the opportunities within

Next Meeting

25 May 2022
Programme

Club's Second Debate on the motion –
"The Guide to Daily Living Completes the 4-Way Test"

Coming Rotary Events

May
Youth Service Month

June
Rotary Fellowships Month

1 Jun – 4th Club Assembly for RY 2021-2022

4-8 Jun – Rotary International Convention in Houston, Texas, USA

18 Jun – Vocational Visit to Istana Heritage Gallery at 10am

24 Jun – Sister Club event at Grand Hyatt at 6.45pm

25 Jun – Football Carnival at 10am

25 Jun – Installation & Fundraising Dinner at the Shangri-la Hotel at 6.45pm

BOOK OF HUMOUR



A full set of 3 editions – Book of Humour, Best of Humour & Bank of Humour, come in a beautifully designed box housing this set for only \$25.00

Please order a few sets of books for the Gift of Life Project, and place your orders with:
ISC Chair Rtn Varun Gulati
varun.rotary@gmail.com

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:

First: Have I spent some time in self-examination?

Second: Have I spent quality time with my family?

Third: Have I given my best to my work?

Fourth: 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 2021/2022

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Immediate Past President

President Elect

Vice President

Vice President

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Hon. Treasurer (Finance)

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Chair, Vocational Service

Chair, International Service

Chair, New Generations Service

Chair, Public Image & PR

Chair, Membership

Chair, The Rotary Foundation

Chair, Fellowship

Chair, Digital Technology

Chair, Environment & Sustainability

Louis Lim

Dinesh Sharma

James Lee

Dr Chan Siew Luen

Ronald Wong

Jessica Lim

Narasimhan Narayanan (Jul-Jan)

Ankit Khandelwal (Feb-Jun)

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Sonali Sinha

Varun Gulati

Mukundan A P

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Subhash Pritmani

Chong Zhi Cheng

Francesco De Liva

Colin Miles

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