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Bhakti Luhur Orphanage Covid-19 Project

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In Focus

For Bhakti Luhur Orphanage Covid-19 Project, Indonesia



PP Dr Shahul Hameed

Report By: District Rotary Foundation Committee (DRFC) Chair, PP Dr Shahul Hameed

Rotary Club of Singapore received a request for assistance for Covid19 Antigen Swabs and PCR Tests for 651 children and staff at Bhakti Luhur Orphanage as well as for supply of PPEs, sanitizers, masks, soap and food rations, in March 2021.

Fund raising was done from International Service Committee (ISC) members and Club. HUA QIAO FOUNDATION IN SHANGAI also made a contribution of USD\$10,000. This project also received funds from the painting auction held earlier. Special thanks to ISC Director Varun Gulati and IPP Dinesh Sharma for their extraordinary efforts in making this project a complete success.



Hon. Member Mohan Vaswani and ISC Director Rtn Varun Gulati with Bhakti Luhur resident



IPP Dinesh & Rekha Sharma at the Bhakti Luhur orphanage with AG Lusy (extreme right)

For Bhakti Luhur Orphanage Covid-19 Project, Indonesia ... *contd.*



The Bhakti Luhur Orphanage (BL) is situated in Malang, in East Java and was set up in the 1950s. Its unique appeal is the housing of the children in home-like environment instead of in a Hostel-type arrangement. Each small building houses 8-16 Children of similar disabilities and educational requirements and is headed by a Matron, housekeeper and cook that will look after the Children. It is the largest Orphanage in East Java with 500 Children plus 161 staff Members in one single location.

RC Singapore has been involved actively with the Orphanage since 2008. Hon Member Mohan Vaswani and Family have been associated with the founders of this Orphanage since the 1950s and have continued to assist them since.

A total of IDR 504,000,000 (about USD\$35,000) was sent to Indonesia for BL in total. IDR360,000 (about USD\$25,000) was sent directly to BL for expenses associated with Covid-19 testing, hospitalisation and quarantine expenses and IDR144,000 (about USD\$10,000) was sent to our Partner Club RC Malang Central to purchase the necessary food items and medications for the residents of Bhakti Luhur. This is a joint project between **RC Singapore, Hua Qiao Foundation and RC Malang Central**. **(Full Report and Accounts available on requests)*



For Bhakti Luhur Orphanage Covid-19 Project, Indonesia ... contd.



We take this opportunity to thank all our Members, Donors, RC Malang Central & Hua Qiao Foundation (HQF) especially Rtn Frank Yih, Chairman of HQF and Rtn Terry Chu, both are eminent Members of RC Shanghai, for all their Helping Hands and for making this Project a success. Looking forward to more collaborations in the future.
- Report compiled by PP Dr Shahul Hameed

Meeting Report

9th Club Meeting for Rotary Year 2021-2022 held on 1.9.2021

OPENING REMARKS

Honorary Secretary Jessica Lim called the Meeting to order and invited Sergeant-at-Arms Rtn Vineet Iyengar who reminded participants of the house-keeping rules before handing the Chair to President Louis Lim.

TOAST

President Louis also called on Rtn P K Walia who was pleased to raise a toast to the Rotary Club of Thamel in Nepal coupled with the toast to Rotary International. Present at the Meeting from the Thamel club was International Director PP K M Ranjitkar.



Rtn P K Walia

INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

President Louis inducted the following new members, who were introduced by Membership Chair, Rtn Subhash Pritmani:



Rtn Mohandas Vishindas Chugani

Place of Work: NetReach Asia Pte Ltd

Classification: Information Technology: Software

Proposer: Rtn Subhash Pritmani

Mentor: PP Paliath "Mohan" Mohandas

Rtn Subhash advised that Rtn Chugani (as he would like to be known in the Club) is his good cycling buddy as well as an avid animal lover.

Rtn Chugani holds a degree in Computer Science from University of Essex and started his career with Electronic Data Systems in Singapore and subsequently worked in three Singapore Government Statutory Boards. After working for 5 years in the IT industry, Rtn Chugani started his own company in 1996 followed by NetReach Software Pvt Ltd in Mumbai in 2004.

Rtn Chugani is married to Kavita Melwani, who helps him in the capacity of HR and Administration Manager to run the business. They have two children, Raina who is a corporate lawyer and Adarsh who is studying computer science.

His hobbies are cycling, swimming, long distance walking, jogging and resistance training in the gym

9th Club Meeting for Rotary Year 2021-2022 held on 1.9.2021

INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS... contd.



Rtn Hitansh Vij

Place of Work: Oracle Corporation Singapore Limited

Classification: Customer Relationship Management: IT Services

Proposer: Rtn Vineet Iyengar

Mentor: PP Tapan Rao

Rtn Hitansh has a long relation with Rotary, starting as a Rotaractor of the Rotaract Club of Chandigarh in RI District 3080 from 2006-2009, and served on its Board for 2 years. Furthermore, Rtn Hitansh has seen his mother actively working with the Rotary Club of Chandigarh for many years and served as the Club's President during 2016-17.

He is widely travelled and over the years have been to 32 countries and hopes to do a total of 50 countries depending on how the world re-opens. He has stayed and worked across the globe from India, US, Europe and now finally in Singapore for more than 6 years. He is a Senior Sales Manager at Oracle Corporation, working in strategy consulting and sales in the areas of automation, robotics and transforming large scale business to obtain measurable efficiencies.

Rtn Hitansh is married to Tulika for the past 6 years and they are blessed with a two-year old child.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CITATION RY 2020-21 AWARD

President Louis was proud to announce that the Club was bestowed with the Rotary International Citation for last Rotary Year. He added that the Award was a significant achievement during a year that was extremely challenging throughout the world.

He called on members to join him in congratulating IPP Dinesh Sharma and invited him to say a few words. IPP Dinesh thanked members and his Board for their support which enabled the Club to achieve its plan and had a great year.

Message from IPDG Rajamohan Munisamy:

Congratulations! Your club in our district has earned the Rotary Citation, the most significant award a Rotary club can achieve, for 2020-21. During a year that was challenging for many Rotarians around the world, your club demonstrated a commitment to achieve your goals, which ultimately helps strengthen Rotary and shape our future.



9th Club Meeting for Rotary Year 2021-2022 held on 1.9.2021

THE CLUB'S 113TH APPROVED GLOBAL GRANT (GG)

President Louis announced that the Club received its 113th approved Global Grant and called upon District Rotary Foundation Committee Chair PP Dr Shahul Hameed to say a few words.

PP Shahul thanked Club Donors who contributed towards this GG, with special thanks to Honorary Member Mohan Vaswani and IshK Tolaram Foundation for matching the Club's contribution of US\$25,000 with another US\$25,000.



FIRESIDE CHAT WITH GUEST SPEAKER: MR BJORN LOW TOPIC: EMERGENCE OF A NEW AGRICULTURE PARADIGM

Prior to introducing the Speaker, Moderator Rtn Louisa Lee, Environment & Sustainability Chair informed members of ESRAG (Environmental, Sustainability Rotary Action Group) of which she is a member of the SEA group. She invited members to join the group to take action to sustain and particularly to stabilise the climate.

She introduced the Speaker Mr Bjorn Low who is a practicing urban farmer and a social changemaker. He is an Ashoka fellow, a young leader of the World Cities Summit and the co-founder of Edible Garden City, an urban farming social enterprise. Bjorn's practice and research focuses on identifying the value that urban agriculture brings to the communities of highly dense and food import dependent cities such as Singapore. He has a keen interest on social ecology and how the rapidly aging population present a new opportunity for urban care farms to play a bigger role in the rejuvenation of cities.



Speaker, Mr Bjorn Low

Bjorn advised that he spent 10 years in digital marketing in both London and Singapore, however he was seeking a more sustainable lifestyle. After his experiences overseas, he came back to Singapore. He noted that in the past, Singapore was sustainable in its food production with its smaller population. However, with industrialisation, there was a decline of production and Singapore now imports 90% of its food. He spoke of the impact made by consumerism to the environment degradation.

Bjorn highlighted government's policies which were strong in developing green spaces and the aim of green roofing and these policies seen in other countries as well, are driving urban agriculture movement. He described a more equitable food system and spoke of Singapore's community gardening as well as factory farms of the future. He also spoke of the farm to table movement which were driven by foreign chefs that saw growth in the restaurants and hopefully would curb imports.

Mr Low spoke of the community aspects of urban farming which brought children and adults together to learn about growing food and the inter-generational transfer of knowledge. He noted that the movement has also inspired youths who become more aware of environmental ethics. He described the community project with the elderly which went beyond farming that led to community bonding and therapeutic benefits. He hoped to use care farming activities and benefits to reduce stress markers for the elderly.

Following Mr Low's presentation, a lively question and answer session was held. PE James Lee gave a heartfelt vote of thanks to Bjorn, whom he noted was an expert in this area, as well as to Rtn Louisa who got Bjorn to speak to the Club.

Meeting Report

10th Club Meeting for Rotary Year 2021-2022 held on 8.9.2021

OPENING REMARKS

Honorary Secretary Jessica Lim opened the Meeting and invited Sergeant-at-Arms Rtn Vineet Iyengar who once again highlighted the meeting's house-keeping rules. President Louis Lim also warmly welcomed everyone present at the Meeting.

TOAST

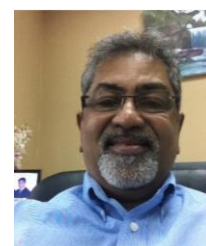
President Louis called on Rtn Shankar Tolety who was pleased to raise a toast to the Rotary Club of Colombo coupled with the toast to Rotary International. Present at the meeting were R C Colombo members - PP Rajiv Walpita and Rtn Aroshi Nanayakkara.



Rtn Shankar Tolety

WELCOME OF POTENTIAL CANDIDATES

President Louis called on Rtn Suresh Keerthi who acknowledged the presence of potential members to the Club who were at the Meeting and warmly welcomed them – Ms Anita Gannavarupu, Mathias Boegner, Vinesh Natali and Rohan Vaswani.



Rtn Suresh Keerthi

REPORT BY CLUB FELLOWSHIP CHAIR

Fellowship Chair, Rtn Francesco De Liva was called upon to inform members of the Icebreaker fellowship activity only for Club members of the Rotary Club of Singapore to expand and know fellow Rotarians.

Every month members would be matched with a random Rotarian from the Club. Members will receive an email with an invitation to meet virtually or physically.



Rtn Francesco De Liva

Rtn Francesco called on members to open their emails and check for the subject “Invite to the RCS Icebreaker” and click on the ACCEPT link. Then wait until the 1st day of the month to receive the first match.

Meeting Report

10th Club Meeting for Rotary Year 2021-2022 held on 8.9.2021

CALL TO BE A SUNSHINE FELLOW

President Louis advised that members' billing will be sent soon. He added that Community (CSC) and Youth (YSC) Service Committees would continue to be billed for Sunshine Fellows contributions.

However, with the savings from the absence of hosting fees and meeting meals, President Louis hoped that members from the Vocational (VSC) and International (ISC) Service Committees would donate as Sunshine Fellows and grow the Sunshine Fund.

President Louis noted that members are generous and want to do good and with a more abundant Sunshine Fund. He called on VSC and ISC members to opt to be Sunshine Fellows and consider give more and be generous.

FIRESIDE CHAT WITH GUEST SPEAKER: DR HE RUIMIN

TOPIC: Software Engineers are in short supply and expensive globally, and the situation is even more acute in Singapore. What are the possible options to overcome these constraints?

The third Fireside Chat this year was moderated by Rtn Hassan Moosa, who recalled Dr He Ruimin's engaging talk to the Club about five years ago. He introduced Dr He Ruimin who is the CEO of cues.sg, an automatic code generation platform. Ruimin (as he would like to be addressed) also teaches executive education courses on Digital Disruption at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. He previously advised the CEO at Grab, leading their analytics, economics, transport, growth, and strategy teams. A technocrat, Ruimin, received his BSc & MSc in Electrical Engineering and PhD in Economics, in just 4 years from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston.



Speaker, Dr He Ruimin

Ruimin gave a succinct presentation on the topic and shared his opinions as Singapore faces talent crunch as tech giants scale up and if the country could become Asia's Silicon Valley. He noted that the shortage of software developers was worldwide and gave a summary of how to perhaps overcome this shortage through producing more tech talent, outsourcing, software as a service, to building web apps without code and even to generate code.

After Ruimin's insightful presentation, the fireside portion of the meeting saw an abundance of questions and comments from members who sought his views and advice on various tech matters.

At the close of the fireside chat, President Louis called on Rtn Suresh Keerthi who warmly thanked Ruimin for his talk on such deep topics which touched on Singapore in its bid to be like Silicon Valley and for sharing his views on tech, cyber-security, coding, etc.

Mark Your Diary

Birthday Celebrants

RC sends best wishes to Birthday celebrants:

Jamshid Medora
Director Sonali Sinha
PP Tapan Rao
Ong Ting Yong
Toshio Omiyama
VP Ronal Wong

This Meeting

15 September 2021
From 7.00 to 8.30pm

Fireside Chat Speaker: Mr Cedric Chew, CEO, Equal-Ark Singapore Ltd

Topic: Working with Animals to help the Disabled

Next Meeting

22 September 2021
From 7.00 to 8.30pm

Speaker: Dr Hemant Bakshi, CEO, Unilever

Topic: To be advised

Anniversary

RC sends best wishes to Wedding Anniversary celebrants:

Jeff & Lorraine Rajack
Raj & Selina Rajkumar
Sean & Michelle Lim
Allard & Anne Nooy
Wilson & Alison Widjaja

Committee Meetings

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

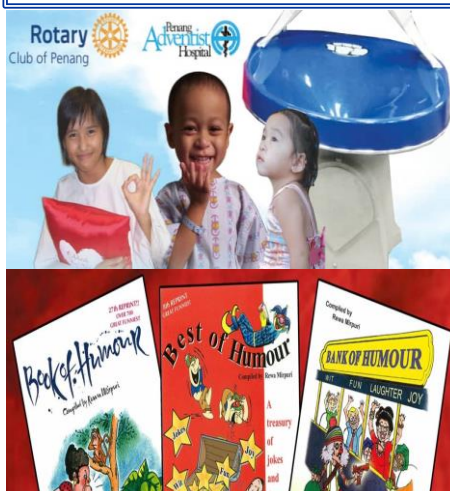
COMMUNITY SERVICE:
Thursday, 2 September 2021

VOCATIONAL SERVICE:
Thursday, 9 September 2021

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE:
Thursday, 16 September 2021

YOUTH SERVICE:
Thursday, 23 September 2021

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

Coming Rotary Events

September

Basic Education & Literacy Month

October

Economic & Community Development Month

6 Oct – DG Dolly Yeap's Official Visit & 2nd Club Assembly

November

Rotary Foundation Month

December

Disease Prevention & Treatment Month

January

Vocational Service Month

February

Peace & Conflict Prevention / Resolution Month

March

Water & Sanitation Month

April

Maternal & Child Health Month

May

Youth Serviced Month

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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 Vice President
 Vice President
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 Hon. Treasurer (Finance)
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 Chair, Vocational Service
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 Colin Miles
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