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COP28 UAE

VOICE FOR ACTION



IN FOCUS | 1

Presentations and workshops at COP28 highlight community-led solutions, partnerships

MEETING REPORTS | 3

21st Weekly Meeting –
13.12.23

MARK YOUR DIARY | 8

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

In Focus

Presentations and workshops at COP28 highlight community-led solutions, partnerships.

By *Etelka Lehoczky*

(Extracted from Rotary International's website)

Rotary experts are hosting more than two dozen sessions at the 28th United Nations climate conference, addressing how a changing climate intersects with health, poverty, and other factors. Rotary International President R. Gordon R. McNally will discuss the mental health effects of climate-linked disasters.

The two-week conference in Dubai, also known as COP28 (short for Conference of the Parties, now in its 28th year), is the world's highest decision-making process addressing climate issues. It brings together more than 70,000 delegates from 197 countries and geographical areas as well as thousands of nongovernmental organizations, companies, and others. Rotary is taking part in the conference for the third time, highlighting community-led solutions, partnerships, and dialogue.

"The record global temperatures this year have underscored the immediate need to take action on climate change," McNally says. "They have also demonstrated the massive destructive toll that climate has taken on global mental health."

McNally notes studies connecting extreme heat to greater rates of violence and incidents of mental distress. His presentation will also address the anxiety that younger people feel because of climate change.

Recognizing the central role of young people in shaping a sustainable future, Rotary is sponsoring 12 youth volunteers to attend COP28. This amplifies young voices in the climate discussion and offers the volunteers learning opportunities and international experience.

Rotary's 28 sessions include presentations by members of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers. Meenakshi Venkataraman, a member of the Rotary Club of Nilgiris West, Tamil Nadu, India, will discuss how invasive species cause biodiversity loss. Salvador Rico, a member of the Rotary Club of South Ukiah, California, USA, will offer an introduction to community-led watershed protection efforts.

In addition, Elif Selin Calik, author of "The Renaissance of Smart Energy" and a member of the [Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group](#), will talk about how artificial intelligence can revolutionize areas like energy, agriculture, and disaster resilience.

Yaseen Mohamed Jaffer Mohsen, president of the [Association of Rotary Clubs in the United Arab Emirates](#), will explore how environmental projects can be financed through corporate partnerships.

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In Focus

Presentations and workshops at COP28 highlight community-led solutions, partnerships... *contd.*

Other sessions focus on food systems, Indigenous land rights, and related topics.

From supporting vulnerable populations to forging partnerships across the public and private sectors, Rotary members are motivating progress and inspiring action on the environment. Members in the United Arab Emirates are planting 50,000 mangrove trees in partnership with the government. The restoration of mangrove forests, which help protect coastlines and marine life, is a Rotary priority.

“Mangrove ecosystems in the tropics and subtropics around the world are in peril because of their position along coastlines,” says Christopher Puttock, chair of the [Rotary Action Group for Endangered Species](#). “Because of the rapid sea-level rise we are experiencing, and the persistent need for human coastal development, these ecosystems are being squeezed out of existence. Working with governments and local communities, Rotary has the unique opportunity to assist in mangrove restoration projects.”

Rotary’s COP28 delegation includes Trustee Chair Barry Rassin and General Secretary John Hewko, as well as Judith Diment, dean of the Rotary Representative Network; Mohamed Delawar Aly, Rotary Representative to the Arab League; Yasar Atacik, chair of the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group; and K. Neil Van Dine, chair of the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Rotary Action Group.

Rotary International has long worked to protect the environment by collaborating with communities to implement clean water and sanitation, alleviate poverty, and promote sustainable energy technologies. The Rotary Foundation has committed more than US\$23.7 million toward environmental projects led by Rotary members around the world.

HOW ROTARY MAKES HELP HAPPEN

Rotary members are tackling environmental issues the way they always do: coming up with projects, using their connections to change policy and planning for the future.



SAVING HABITATS



HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT



CLIMATE CHANGE

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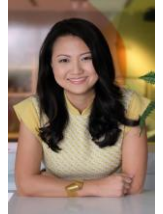


Meeting Report

21st Weekly Meeting for Rotary Year 2023-20234 held on 13.12.2023.

Opening Remarks & Welcome of Guests

In his opening address, President Dr Chan Siew Luen noted the presence at the meeting of Honorary Members Rtns Mohan Vaswani, Uttam Kripalani, PDG Dr Ivor Thevathasan, DGE Dr Yap Lip Kee and spouse Rachael, and DGN Dr Shahul Hameed. He then called on Director Rtn Louisa Lee to welcome the following guests who were present to celebrate Christmas at the meeting:



Rtn Louisa Lee

Speaker Mr Benjamin Jeyaraj William & Ms Yvonne Loo (Singapore Red Cross)

First Lady Patricia Wang, Dr Rachael Yap & Mrs Irene Henedige

Mr Glenn Walsh, Ms Grace Roache & Mr Shaun Roache

From Canossian School:

School Principal Ms Christina Michael & Teacher Ms Koh Hin Ann

Students – Aisyah Amirah Biniti Mohammed Yusoff, Muhammad Uwais Mikail s/o Abdul Hakim, Qiara Adreanna Binte Mihammad Herwan, Katelyn & Skyler

From Children's Cancer Foundation:

Mr Shawn Guan (staff), Beneficiaries & their families – Ayden Chew, Chew Wai Lam, Sabrina Khoo, Ashlee Chew, Ashley Cai, Ronold Cai, Delphine Loke, Janine Cai, Meghan Cai, Austin Rana, Amar Rana, Kiran Thapa Rana, Carolyn Rana, Rachel Cheng, Nancy Woo, Nathaniel Ong, Ong Chuan Leong, Chan Sow Wan & Katrina Ong
Interactors/Rotaractors from Interactors from Bukit Gombak EAGLES, Victoria Junior College, Nanyang Junior College and Sembawang Interact Clubs and Rotaractors from Rotaract Club of Bukit Gombak:

Wei Xuan, Jun Feng, Joey Soh, Felix, Natasha Yeo, Kennise Kong, Zhivani Sri, Javier Chew, Ye Yint, Bryston Chue, Estelle, Huang Li Shou, Karis, Bryan & Tyrone.

Toast

As there were no visiting Rotarian, President Siew Luen invited Rtn Hitansh Vij who called on members to join him in a toast to Rotary International.



Rtn Hitansh Vij

President's Announcements

- Reminder of the Club's Christmas Party to be held at Honorary Member Mohan & Kawita Vaswani's residence on Friday, 15.12.23 at 7.00pm.
- Food from the Heart, food distribution project on 16.12.23 at the usual location Blk 9/Blk 4, North Bridge Road S190008 from 9.30 to 10.30am
- World Understanding and Peace Day (WUPD) Dinner will be held on Friday 23.2.24 at Goodwood Park Hotel, 22 Scotts Road S228221. Guest of Honour is Dr Janil Puthuchery, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information & Ministry of Health. The Club meeting of 21.2.24 will be cancelled in lieu of the WUPD dinner meeting. Tickets cost \$140 per person, however members would only pay \$80, as \$60 would be from the weekly meeting cost.

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Meeting Report

Proceedings of the 21st Weekly Meeting ... contd.

What Happened Last Week?



PN Sonali Sinha received on behalf of the Club, a token of appreciation from Deputy Prime Minister Mr Heng Swee Keat for the Club's cricket project for migrant workers at the Hope Initiative Alliance Gala Dinner on 7.12.23

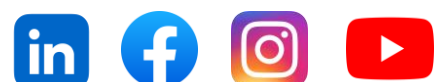


DGN Dr Shahul Hameed received a token of appreciation at the 2023 Kaohsiung Rotary Institute for his efforts as Rotary District trainer

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Meeting Report

Proceedings of the 21st Weekly Meeting ... contd.

Speaker's Programme

Speaker: Mr Benjamin Jeyaraj William, Secretary General/CEO, Singapore Red Cross

Topic: Singapore Red Cross – Serving the Vulnerable in Singapore and Beyond



Speaker, Mr Benjamin Jeyaraj William



*Rtn Dr Ganesh
Ramalingam*

President Siew Luen invited Rtn Dr Ganesh Ramalingam who is a Council Member of Singapore Red Cross (SRC) to introduce the speaker Mr Benjamin Jeyaraj William. Mr William has been the Secretary General/CEO of the Singapore Red Cross from 1 March 2012. He joined the Foreign Service in 1981 and held various positions which include the Regional and Economics Department; Country Officer for Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific; First Secretary in the Singapore High Commission in Bandar Seri Begawan and Singapore Embassy in Manila; Deputy Director in the Management and Personnel Directorate; Deputy Director General in the ASEAN Directorate; Deputy Chief of Mission in the Singapore Embassy in Washington; Deputy Director at the Policy, Planning and Analysis Directorate II covering North

America and Europe; Director-General for ASEAN Singapore; and Director of Consular Directorate. From 2007 to 2011, he served as Singapore's Ambassador to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Mr William gave a brief outline of SRC's vision, mission and 75-year history of serving humanity. He spoke of the new environment which it now operates with changes in the social framework, demographic developments and government policies. He noted various concerns of global uncertainty and the volatile environment. He gave a summary of the extensive activities and programmes undertaken to serve the elderly, disabled, youth and others from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Among the many SRC activities, Mr William highlighted the vital service provided as the appointed National Blood Donor Recruiter since April 2001, to ensure a sufficient and safe supply of blood to meet the transfusion needs of the nation. He further spoke on how SRC helps overseas communities to build resilience during peacetime, and to recover and rebuild after disasters, as well as its COVID-19 international response. Lastly, Mr William informed members how they could support SRC by volunteering, donating, engaging and advocating. At the end of his talk, Mr William graciously answered questions put forward to him.

In his vote of thanks to Mr William, Rtn Allard Nooy noted the links between SRC and the Club, being SRC's service to vulnerable people, that has synergy with RCS. And, SRC has the same acronym alphabets as RCS!



*Mr William (centre) receives the Club's token of appreciation from
President Dr Chan Siew Luen & Rtn Allard Nooy*

Photo Album of the Christmas Fellowship on 13.12.23 with Children from the Canossian School and Children's Cancer Foundation...



The Welcoming Committee!



It's great to be with Santa!
From left: PP Stan Low, Rtn Willi Hess, Santa Claus (aka Rtn Claus Dusemund), Rtn Allard Nooy, IPP James Lee



Fun games, face & hand paintings, and lots to eat!



Busy & talented artists – Rtn Agnes Kwek & 1st Lady Patricia (right)

Photo Album of the Christmas Fellowship on 13.12.23 with Children from the Canossian School and Children's Cancer Foundation... *contd.*



A group photo with the children from Canossian School



Santa merrily handing out presents



Our enthusiastic & supportive Interactors/Rotactors



From left: Mrs Rachael Yap & Rtn Jasbir Koh send their love and Season's Greetings!

Mark Your Diary

Birthday Celebrants

RCS sends Birthday greetings to celebrants this week:

Saeed Khan for 20 Dec

Claudia Huegel for 20 Dec

Raj Rajkumar for 24 Dec



Wedding Anniversary Celebrants

RCS sends best wishes to Wedding Anniversary celebrants:

Paul & Janet Phua for 18 Dec

Ivan & Sharon Lew for 19 Dec

Tan Ching Khoon & Bee Lian for 23 Dec



This Meeting

20 December 2023
Lunch Meeting @ Tanglin Club

Speaker: Mr Emil Tan, Cyber Strategist & Market Lead, Booz Allen

Topic: Cybersecurity Matters: Navigating the Digital World

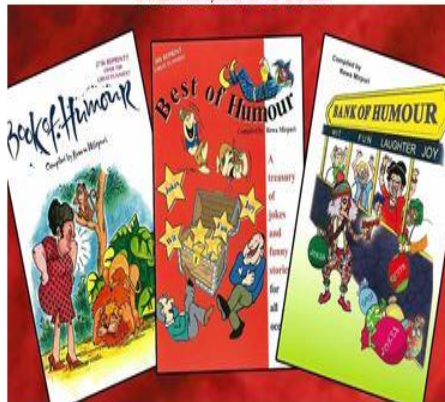
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Next Meeting

27 December 2023
&
3 January 2024

Weekly meetings are cancelled
in view of the Festive Season.

Happy Holidays!

Coming Rotary Events

December – Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

27 Dec – Weekly meeting cancelled in view of the Festive Season

January – Vocational Service Month

3 Jan – Weekly meeting cancelled in view of the Holiday Season

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

18 Apr – The Entrepreneur of the Year Award (EYA) presentation

May – Youth Service Month

17-19 May – 33rd District Conference @ Kuching

25-29 May – Rotary International Convention, Singapore

27 May – Host Hospitality Night

June – Rotary Fellowships Month

22 Jun – Installation of the 90th President & Board of Directors

Register Early




**INSTALLATION OF 90TH
PRESIDENT & BOARD**

JUNE
 Saturday 22nd at 6:30 pm
 2024

Capella Singapore, 1 The Knolls, Sentosa Island,
Singapore 098297

Dress Code
Black Tie (1930 Great Gatsby)

SCAN TO REGISTER AND PAY FOR 90TH INSTALLATION DINNER (22 JUNE 2024)
 UEN No. S615S0037C

Early Bird \$198/pax <small>(Till Christmas Day)</small>		Regular Price \$238/pax
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This registration is only for Rotarians of the Rotary Club
 of Singapore or by Invitation only.

To enjoy the early bird discount,
 please register before 24 December 2023 using the following link:
<https://forms.gle/qg8rSsJC1Ub5Evv49>

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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
 Immediate Past President
 President Elect
 Vice President
 Vice President
 Hon. Secretary (Administration)
 Hon. Treasurer (Finance)
 Community Service Committee (CSC) Director
 Vocational Service Committee (VSC) Director
 International Service Committee (ISC) Director
 Youth Service Committee (YSC) Director
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 Director of Meetings & Conventions
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 Major Project Chair
 The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Director
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 Sergeant-at-Arms
 Sergeant-at-Arms

Chan Siew Luen
 James Lee
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 Ronald Wong
 Suzanne Ng
 Keizo Fujitake
 Sonali Sinha
 Vineet Iyengar
 Rupesh Agrawal
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