

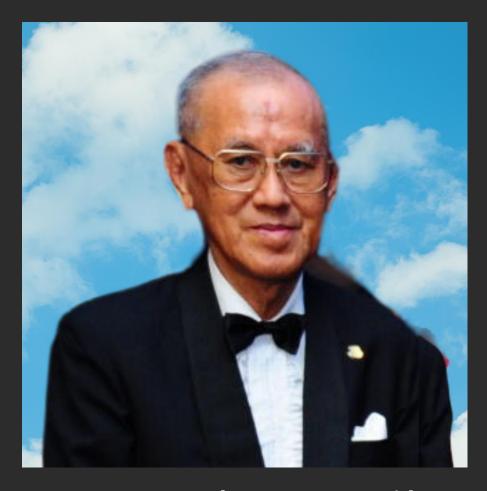




8 January 2024 | Volume 60 Issue No. 13

Founded on 6 June 1930 | Proud of our Heritage, Committed to our Future Lifetime Achievement Award Winner for 'Best Bulletin in District 3310'

#### IN LOVING MEMORY OF



Honorary Member & Past President Chiang Shih Fang (1935 – 2023)

#### IN FOCUS | 1

In Memory of Honorary Member & Past President Chiang Shih Fang

#### MEETING REPORT 9

23<sup>rd</sup> Weekly Meeting – 3. 1.24

#### **MARK YOUR DIARY | 10**

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

# In Memory of Honorary Member & Past President Chiang Shih Fang ...

Following are extracts of the eulogies presented at the Memorial Meeting for Honorary Member (HM) and Past President (PP) Chiang Shih Fang which was held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024.

First Eulogy was given by PDG Dr Philbert Chin who extended his deepest condolences to Mrs Chiang Liew Chin and family. PDG Philbert spoke of his friendship with HM/PP Shih Fang since his presidency in Rotary year 1985/86 when they would often lunch together with the late PP Leow Jwee Meng.

He advised that it was HM/PP Shih Fang who formulated the concept of the "Sunshine Box" which was then formally adopted by the Club to which members continue to contribute an annual amount for the needy community. PDG Philbert added that it was during HM/PP Shih Fang's term as President that the Club adopted the Major Project for all members to participate and he established a Cultural Foundation which collected over \$200,000.00 which was a substantial amount at that time.



PDG Dr Philbert Chin

It was during HM/PP Shih Fang's presidency that youth activities were covered for a whole month and a second edition of the Interact Guide was updated and given to members who were Rotarian Advisors to Interact Clubs and used not only in the Club but in the District as well. PDG Philbert advised that HM/PP Shih Fang was very involved in the Youth Service Committee and later in the International Service Committee. He recounted that while in Youth Service, HM/PP Shih Fang hosted a Rotary Exchange student from USA, who met an accident and passed away. Unfortunately, Rotary International did not have insurance coverage for such a tragedy. HM/PP Shih Fang had the sole responsibility to ensure that the student's body was returned to America, which he did, at his own expense!

PDG Philbert added that HM/PP Shih Fang was a fantastic friend, very generous and willing to contribute his share, at times more than his share for the Club... he was a wonderful man!

Next, PP Jimmy Ooi shared that he has travelled with HM/PP Shih Fang and Liew Chin on many occasions. PP Jimmy added that HM/PP Shih Fang was a benchmark for his vocation in the travel industry, if HM/PP Shih Fang was happy than he was doing well! He was a loving father and grandfather, always very proud of his family. PP Jimmy further shared that HM/PP Shih Fang told him that he looked forwarded to reading the bulletins during his term and that made him want to do a better job with the bulletin production during his presidency. He noted that members like HM/PP Shih Fang wanted to know what was going on in the Club which has a rich heritage. He added that HM/PP Shih Fang was very proud of the Club, and he was quiet and very generous, but he shares a strong bond with the club. PP Jimmy reminded Liew Chin and family that they were part of the Club too.



PP Jimmy Ooi









## In Memory of Honorary Member & Past President Chiang Shih Fang ... contd.

President Siew Luen called upon PP Mark Wang who noted that perhaps among all the speakers, he probably knew HM/PP Shih Fang the shortest time, not quite 10 years since he joined Rotary.

However, PP Mark added that he quickly found HM/PP Shih Fang to be an extraordinary man, who excelled in studies, work, charity and culture. He believed that HM/PP Shih Fang found in him, someone who shared his passion and curiosity about Chinese culture, and he always looked forwarded to the Club meetings and to their conversations on language and poems, couplets which were always rewarding. A typical Anglophile of his era, PP Mark added that HM/PP Shih Fan's love and understanding of the Chinese culture were immense, and his knowledge of its beauty, intricacies came with an inspiring passion.



PP Mark Wang

PP Mark cherished all the overseas trips shared with HM/PP Shih Fang – a pioneer project visit to a minority race vocational school for Guizhou, China, and a Sister Club visit in Osaka and Wakayama, among others. Those journeys were more than just visits; they were tapestries woven with laughter, shared experiences, and the indelible bond of friendship that time could never unravel.

PP Mark added that HM/PP Shih Fang's beloved wife, Liew Ching, was always by his side. PP Mark advised that Liew Ching's Chinese name is Green Willow, and HM/PP Shih Fang told him of his goal to one day visit the historic Yang Liu Qing town, in Northern China, which was the northern starting point of the Grand Canal, going south. Much later, PP Mark was so happy to hear HM/PP Shih Fang made it happen.

Lastly, PP Mark shared that he was privileged to have met HM/PP Shih Fang on his birthday last year, at the Tanglin Club, and shared a quick but warm chat, not knowing it would be our last. He made a big impression on many people and will be remembered for a long time. Farewell, HM/PP Shih Fang, your legacy of love, adventure, and understanding will live on in our hearts forever. Rest peacefully.

Following PP Mark's sharing, Rtn See Mee Lee tributed HM/PP Shih Fang as a Mentor, who served the Club with a legacy of love, generosity and was forgiving gentleman. HM/PP Shih Fang joined the Club when he was 36 years old in 1971, served as President in 1985/86 and was bestowed Honorary Membership in 2020 during PP Deepak Nagrani's term.

Rtn Mee Lee advised that President Siew Luen asked her to deliver a eulogy and stated her apprehension, she then decided to share HM/PP Shih Fang's work in Rotary, particularly about education for needy students. Rtn Mee Lee recounted that when HM/PP Shih Fang spoke about the interviews conducted with the recipients of student loans, there would be tears in his eyes. On many occasions, he spoke about his presidency term - how busy, tiring, eventful and hard it was.



Rtn See Mee Lee









## In Memory of Honorary Member & Past President Chiang Shih Fang ... contd.

Rtn Mee Lee highlighted HM/PP Shih Fang's generosity, he would not say "no", but quietly slip you a cheque! He has contributed not only to the Club, but also to the Foundation of Rotary Clubs (Singapore) Ltd (FRCS), Rotary House at Peninsula Plaza as well as to the NUS Education Foundation.

Rtn Mee Lee shared the honour she received to be invited to HM/PP Shih Fang's home, which was so clean, shiny and huge. She further shared anecdotes of HM/PP Shih Fang's considerate care for his wife, Liew Ching, which showcased his love for her. Rtn Mee Lee showed some of the following photos.

The memory of HM/PP Shih Fang's will continue to remain with us, and we will miss him.



On a project visit to Hue, Vietnam











## In Memory of Honorary Member & Past President Chiang Shih Fang ... contd.

Eulogy By Keith Harrison, Past President RC Singapore 2017-18 (current President-Elect Rotary Club of Makati) which was read by President Dr Chan Siew Luen:

"Firstly, my heartfelt and most sincere condolences to Liew Chin and the whole family and friends of Chiang Shih Fang. I am sure there will be many memories of Shih Fang shared today, please allow me to share a couple of **my** favourite memories of him.

I joined the Rotary Club of Singapore in 2009 and met PP Shih Fang shortly thereafter. He was always a revered club member, certain of his legacy having led the club to the pinnacle of membership strength and extraordinary fund raising for the Club Major Project in the year he was Club President. Yet I got to know him as a member who was a charming and very warm-hearted man, always most humble, very generous, quick to laugh, smile and tease, encourage, joke and tell stories - all of these characteristics stuck together with a wonderfully dry sense of humour and adorable directness. He was a lifelong International Service Committee member. Attending all ISC committee meetings contributing ideas, experience, and support. He was, as a far as I can remember, for many years, a club meeting 100% attendee. For sure a true Rotarian!

My meeting attendance percentage was finally on a par with Shih Fang's when I became Club President in 2017. Seeing him at the club meetings every Wednesday, I used to tease him, (whilst he was seating at the senior member's table at the front of the room with the other notables) because he always turned up to lunch looking like he had just come from the golf club – I asked why he dressed like he has just come from the golf course, to which he replied that he had just come from the golf course!! Early every Wednesday he played 9 holes with his friends at SICC – he would shower and appear in a different stylish golf shirts for lunch every week – making me very envious – I had to go to the office. He knew I loved golf, and we often discussed the game together. Then one day, as he started to play less and less golf – his 4 ball had dropped to 3, he started to turn up at lunch with small gifts for me! On different days I received a bag of old golf balls, a golfing coffee table book, another coffee table book of the UK countryside, a dibber (thing to repair pitch marks), a bag of golf tees and a magnetic ball marker that clips to the peak of one's cap – to this day the ball marker is attached to my latest golf cap. Indeed, every time I have played golf in the past 5 or 6 years golf I have fondly thought of Shih Fang! Thanks to these personal gifts I will always remember him. I once asked him why he was giving me his old golf balls and golfing stuff; he told me in his usual gruff style, "when I die, I don't want my family throwing them away, far better you have them and then you can lose them whilst playing bad golf!" – laughed and walked off.

As a Rotarian, Shih Fang was extraordinarily generous, a Rotary International Major Donor and a huge club project donor (others will know more details), yet so humble, never wanting recognition. He was also very keen to travel for Rotary projects. In early 2018, when he was 82, I was delighted and surprised to see him (with Liew Chin) join a group of us visiting a water project in Vietnam! Another time he walked up to me at the end of lunch and said, "here is \$200 for your plant-a-tree project." As I was thanking him, he said, "no need to thank me, I just had to do something, your tree planting fund hasn't grown at all in the past 3 months, and it's been driving me crazy!!" Again, laughing and walking off, accepting no further praise or thanks. So, for the record, there are over 100 trees alive today (out of well over a 1,000 we eventually raised money for) that were planted in Zambales in the Philippines because of Shih Fang.









## In Memory of Honorary Member & Past President Chiang Shih Fang ... contd.

Just before I became president, Shih Fang had gone on a trip to China and visited loads of factories to source the best and most stylish ballpoint pen in the world. And I suspect enjoyed himself bargaining with old contacts and seeing friends. He returned with pens (black and maroon) with the Rotary logo on the top and the words "gift from Rotary Club of Singapore" on the side and with a spare refill cartridge. This was a personal donation by Shih Fang to the Club for it to use in its service to others. We thought he had perhaps bought 500 or even 1,000 of them, there certainly seemed to be a lot of boxes of them. He insisted that one was to be given to every visitor to a Club meeting or event as well as given to all our beneficiaries (especially children). He would hand them out himself, if the secretariat team had been slow or forgotten. When I asked how many he had actually bought, he grinned and said "10,000, yes 10,000 and all of them with a refill!!" and then he added, "they are all of excellent quality, smooth workings, very smooth writing, so the recipients will remember us as a club of excellent quality for a very long time!" There will only ever be one Shih Fang, but he will be remembered and so terribly missed, by well over 10,000 Rotarians, beneficiaries, guests and family members as a man of "excellent quality" for a very, very long time - sadly, for us, without a refill.

We love you and already miss you HM PP Chiang Shih Fang, rest in peace you beautiful person."

























## In Memory of Honorary Member & Past President Chiang Shih Fang ... contd.

Following are extracts from Rtn Jasbir Koh's eulogy presented at the meeting:

"Today, we gather here not just to mourn the loss of a remarkable man but to celebrate the life of Shih Fang, a past president who left an indelible mark on our hearts and on the community we hold dear. Shih Fang was more than a Rotarian; he was an inspiration, a slilent force of generosity, and a true embodiment of the Rotary spirit.

I stand before you as someone profoundly touched by Shih Fang's unwavering dedication to education, a commitment that showcased his passion for sharing knowledge and shaping young minds. I had the privilege of witnessing Shih Fang's profound impact on the youth through 2 stories that I would like to share.

In the world of education there are pivotal moments that transcend the classroom and textbooks. One such moment arose when my son, who shares my passion for education, southt a senior Rotarian willing to share insights into



Rtn Jasbir Koh

the history of Singapore during the Japanese occupation. Shih Fang, without hesitation, answered the call. He agreed to be interviewed by Secondary 3 History students, showcasing his readiness to give back without expecting anything in return. The interview unfolded on Zoom. As the students listened attentively, my son and I found ourselves transported back in time, living through Shih Fang's vivid recollections. His candidness, informative anecdotes, and infectious laughter not only engaged the students but left an everlasting impression on their young minds. The interview, now archived in the History Department of River Valley High School, stands as a testament to Shih Fang's ability to connect with the next generation. In that moment, Shih Fang wasn't just a Rotarian; he became a living, breathing history book, sharing his stories with passion and authenticity.

As we continue to reflect on the life of our dear friend Shih Fang, I am honored to share another story that speaks to his passion for technology and his profound generosity.

Shih Fang was a man ahead of his time, always intrigued by the possibilities that technology held. One day, he approached me with a glemm in his eye and a bag full of treasures from the online shopping world of Taobao, China's virtual marketplace. Shih Fang, who had embraced this digital frontier, wanted to share his discoveries, not just for personal delight but with a purpose that reflected his compassionate spirit.

The first item he proudly presented was a palm-operated torchlight. With a twinkle in his eye, he demonstracted its magic – no need for batteries, just a simple pump of the handle, and the light would shine. It was more than just a gadget; it was a solution for those facing power outages, a practical tool he believed could make a difference in the lives of others. "Bring it to Nepal," he said, "distribute it to the people affected by the earthquake." And so, I did. Shih Fang's generosity knew no bounds; he had more torchlights than we could have imagined.

But his benevolence didn't stop there. Shih Fang was fascinated by Rotary and its values, and he wanted to share that enthusiasm. His next acquisition was Rotary pens – affordable, he said, and he bought boxes of them, along with refills. "Come to the house," he urged me, "I have books and pens for your students." Anthony, my husband, became Shih Fang's car consultant, and through that, a friendship blossomed. I vividly recall the day I visited Shih Fang's home. To my amazement, there were 5 boxes of pens awaiting distribution to my students. Alongside the

An e-bulletin published by Rotary Club of Singapore









## In Memory of Honorary Member & Past President Chiang Shih Fang ... contd.

pens were books on Singapore, and cookbooks for me to explore. Shih Fang's generosity was boundless, a reflection of his commitment to making a positive impact.

As a teacher of graduating A-level students, I saw an opportunity to turn these gifts into something truly special. I shared with my students the story of the "magic pen." I told them that this pen had been used by a distinguished individual, now a successful philanthropist, and encouraged them to use it in their exams for inspiration. The magic pen becam a symbol of potential and success.

During General Paper exams, students actually raised the pen to me as I walked by, a gesture that filled me with surprise and warmth. Shih Fang was present in those momemnts, his spirit alive in the tangible impact he had on these young minds. Many of them achieved A grades, and as they left the school, they passed on the story of the magic Rotary pens to the juniors, creating a legacy of inspiration that continues to this day.

While we mourn the loss of a emarkable individual, we find solace in the enduring legacy Shih Fang has left behind. His simple gestures, his love for technology, and his boundless generosity have touched the lives of many, creating a ripple effect of inspiration that will continue to resonate in the hearts of those he has inspire.

Rest in peace, Shih Fang, knowing that your light continues to shine brightly through the stories you've woven into the lives of others."



Rtn Jasbir's son, Mr Shane Koh with HM/PP Shih Fang



From left: Mrs Chiang Liew Chin, Rtn Jasbir Koh & HM/PP Shih Fang



HM/PP Chiang Shih Fang during the interview with students









## In Memory of Honorary Member & Past President Chiang Shih Fang ... contd.

Following the eulogies from members, President Siew Luen called on HM/PP Shih Fang's son, Mr Chiang Wen Wei to address the Club.

Wen Wei thanked members for the warm and touching stories and recollections. He noted that Rotary was a big part of his Dad's life and the weekly meetings were a fixture at the then Mandarin Hotel. He recalled when he was about 10 years old, his Dad came back, and at that time it was not pens or torchlights, but stacks of bookmarks with the 4-Way Test message to be given to friends. This made him feel like Santa Claus, and extra popular in school! He also participated in Rotary events such as installations and overseas conferences and highlights were meetings with Rotary scholars, and he added, were still in touch with a few of them.

He shared that his sister, Wen Bing was inspired to join an Interact Club at St Andrew's School and also ran for and became president of the club at the time. While sister Wen Shan accompanied his parents on their sister club visits to Osaka, Wakayama and Kobe, enjoying the fellowships, sightseeing and food. He added that members PDG Dr Philbert, Paul Phual, T K Chew, PDG Dr Ivor Thevathasan, Joseph Chia and at the time Mrs Kitty Aeria were all very familiar names when growing up.

Wen Wei extended on behalf of his mother and family, a very special "Thank You" to Rotary and Rotarians who were counted as his Dad's greatest life long friends, as affirmed by the stories and tributes. On behalf of his mother and family and as a final act in the name of his father, Chiang Shih Fang, a donation to the Chen Su Lan Methodist Children's Home (the Club's Major Project) was presented from the collections received at the wake and funeral.

Having the last say, President Siew Luen recounted his conversation with HM/PP Shih Fang when he joined the Club in 2016 – when asked what he knew about Rotary, he replied that it was a club of rich old men! HM/PP Shih Fang said he was wrong, and President Siew Luen then took HM/PP Shih Fang's following defination of what the Rotary Club meant to heart, especially now that he is President. HM/PP Shih Fang said, "This is a Club where a fishmonger and a tycoon can sit side by side at a lunch meeting and they are equal. They are only matched by the generosity and service to the community and not by the size of their bank accounts or wallets!".

President Siew Luen noted the need to bear this in mind all the time, that we do not just



Mr Chiang Wen Wei presents a cheque to President Dr Chan Siew Luen

look out for rich people to join or socialise with, but the objective would be to serve the community and do the larger good. He added that he will remember and live up to that advice from HM/PP Shih Fang.









## **Meeting Report**

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Weekly Meeting for Rotary Year 2023-20234 held on 3.1.2024.

#### **Welcome of Guests**

President Dr Chan Siew Luen called the meeting to order and invited Rtn Jeff Lim to extend the welcome to guests of members and visiting Rotarians as follows:

#### Guests

First Lady Patricia Wang

Family of late HM/PP Chiang Shih Fang -

Mrs Chiang Liew Chin, Mr Chiang Wen Wei, Ms Chiang Wen Bing, Ms Chiang Wen Shan,

Mrs Chiang Bee Lan, Ms Charis Chiang Yi Ning, Ms Mingyan St-Maurice,

Ms Hannah Chiang Yi Min, Ms Petra Chiang Yi Xian

Ms Bernie Ng

#### **Visiting Rotarians:**

DG Jerome Rajendran – RC Colombo Rtn S K Mitra – RC Bhubaneswar Eco

Rtn Madna Kalyayera – RC Garden City



Rtn Jeff Lim

President Siew Luen also acknowledged the presence of Honorary Members PDG Dr Ivor Thevathasan, Uttam Kripalani, Paul Phua, PDG Dr Philbert Chin and DGE Dr Yap Lip Kee.

#### **Toast**

President Siew Luen invited Youth Service Director Louisa Lee to raise a toast to Rotary Club (RC) of Bhubaneswar Eco coupled with the toast to Rotary International. We learnt from visiting Rtn S K Mitra that the club was 3 years old and focussed on environmental projects particularly in weaning the local community from forest burning and assistance in professional advice. Rtn Mitra added that while his club was young; he has been a Rotarian since 1980.



Rtn Louisa Lee







President Siew Luen presented our Club banners to DG Jerome Rajendran (left) & Rtn S K Mitra



PP Jimmy Ooi presented banners he received from RC Batam, and two from the Arctic Circle – RC Rovaniemi & Rovaniemi Santa Claus

The Meeting proceedings continued with eulogies in loving memory of Honorary Member and Past President Chiang Shih Fang which are reproduced in this bulletin.









An e-bulletin published by Rotary Club of Singapore

rtyinfo@rotary.org.sg | rotary.org.sg

Save our Forests! Save Paper & Print only if absolutely necessary.

# Mark Your Diary

#### **Birthday Celebrants**

## RCS sends Birthday greetings to celebrants this week:

PP Peter Tan, Indi Tulsi & Dr Hoh Sek Tien for 8 Jan Suresh Hathiramani for 9 Jan Ankit Khandelwal & Priveen Santakumar for 10 Jan Sudhir Tiku for 11 Jan Elizabeth Chee for 12 Jan Vivek Chhabra for 13 Jan



## Wedding Anniversary Celebrants

## RCS sends best wishes to Wedding Anniversary celebrants:

Willi & Hannelore Hess for 13 Jan

Ivy & Jimmy Tan Chiew Yan for 13 Jan



#### This Meeting

#### 10 January 2024

**Speaker:** Mr Manu Bhaskaran, Founding Director & CEO, Centennial Asia Advisors

**Speaker:** Economic Outlook for

2024

#### HAVE MANY LAUGHS AND HELP THE NEEDY

#### **BOOKS OF HUMOUR**

(PUBLISHED BY ROTARY CLUB OF SINGAPORE)

Book of Humour, Best of Humour and Bank of Humour

**OVER 150,000 CPS SOLD** 



SPICE UP YOUR LIFE, LIVEN UP A PARTY AND DELIGHT YOUR DINNER GUESTS.

EACH TITLE 500 JOKES. NON-STOP LAUGHTER. FUNNY, WITTY AND HILARIOUS.

ONLY \$\$25.00 A SET OF 3 TITLES (1,500 jokes)
(All proceeds to charity projects)

NO JOKE, IT'S JEST FOR CHARTIY

WWW.BOOKSOFHUMOUR.COM

#### **Next Meeting**

#### 17 January 2024

**Speaker:** Mr Charlie Lim, Artisan Award Winner will speak on "Paintography"

Speakers: Ms Rachna Sampayo & Ms Geraldine Tay (Human Resources, Oracle) will speak on Unconscious Bias – understanding its impact on decision making -Part 1

#### **Coming Rotary Events**

#### <u>January</u> – Vocational Service Month

## <u>February</u> – Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month

**14 Feb** – Meeting cancelled in view of Chinese New Year festivities

**21 Feb** – Meeting cancelled in lieu of WUPD dinner on 23 Feb.

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

<u>March</u> – Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month

**7-10 Mar** – District Training Assembly @ Johor Bahru

29 Mar – Swimmarathon

<u>April</u> – 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

31 May – The Entrepreneur of the Year Award (EYA) presentation

June – Rotary Fellowships Month

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









## 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

Director of Environment

Director of Technology

Director of Meetings & Conventions

Public Image & Public Relations Director

Major Project Chair

The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Director

Membership Director

Sergeant-at-Arms

Sergeant-at-Arms

Chan Siew Luen

James Lee

Tom Wolf

Frank Pao

**Ronald Wong** 

Suzanne Ng

Keizo Fujitake

Sonali Sinha

Vineet lyengar

Rupesh Agrawal

Louisa Lee

Suresh Hathiramani

Lionel Otsuka

Raj Kumar

Ong Ting Yong

Pauline Teo

Ankit Khandelwal

Sean Leas

Don Chen

Priveen Suraj













An e-bulletin published by Rotary Club of Singapore <a href="mailto:rtyinfo@rotary.org.sg">rtyinfo@rotary.org.sg</a> | rotary.org.sg</a> Save our Forests! Save Paper & Print only if absolutely necessary.