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Rotary CROSSROADS

by Rotary Club of Singapore



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3rd Board Meeting



The 3rd Board Meeting was hosted by President Tom at Maryland Drive from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. The productive two-hour session covered key agenda items, including updates on ongoing community projects, plans for upcoming events, and discussions on strategic goals to drive the club's growth and outreach. The atmosphere was highly collaborative, with members actively engaging in dialogue and contributing to important decisions. This ensured that the club remains focused on its mission of service and continues to foster meaningful community development.

RCS Durian Buffet Party & Fellowship for a Good Cause



The RCS Durian Buffet Party & Fellowship for a Good Cause, organized by CSC Director Raj Kumar, took place on 3rd September at the prestigious Senior Police Officers' Mess, 153 Mount Pleasant Road, Singapore. The event ran from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and provided attendees with a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a delicious durian buffet while supporting a meaningful cause.

Attendees indulged in a sumptuous durian buffet while engaging in lively conversations and strengthening bonds. The evening was filled with laughter, good company, and a shared commitment to supporting meaningful causes.

After the party, over \$500 was raised and donated to Willing Hearts, an organization dedicated to helping those in need.

The 8th Weekly Meeting

ROTARY TOASTS

By Rtn Hitansh Vij

TO

Rotary Club of
Stroudsburgs &
Rotary International



VISITING ROTARIAN DR THOMAS FROM RC STROUDSBURGS



WELCOME OF GUEST

By Rtn Dr Hans Schniewind



Regional President of Evonik Asia Pacific

Dr. Claus Rettig

A successful transformation from old and local industry to modern and global industry

What does a successful transformation from an old, local industry to a modern, global one look like? Dr. Claus Rettig will explore this by demonstrating how the development of the RAG Foundation in Germany has driven the transition from the Coal Mining Industry in Germany to global Specialty Chemicals and more.



Rtn Yogesh Dodani:**A SUCCESSFUL TRANSFORMATION FROM OLD AND LOCAL INDUSTRY TO MODERN AND GLOBAL INDUSTRY**

Our distinguished guest speaker at the Club's meeting on 4th September 2024 was Dr. Claus Rettig, Member of the ext Exec Board of Evonik Industries, Regional President Asia Pacific, and Board Member of the Singapore Economic Development Board. Dr. Claus is a Rotarian (Member of RC Essen-Ruhr, Germany) himself and the husband of our very own RC Singapore member, Rtn. Gabriele Rettig.

Dr. Claus began by providing an overview of the RAG-Stiftung, founded in 2007 and Germany's largest foundation governed by private law, with assets of ~17.5 billion euros.

The RAG-Stiftung pursues the two key objectives of managing the socially acceptable discontinuation of hard coal mining and financing the perpetual obligations. It also supports projects in the areas of education, science and culture, and this focus is generating significant future momentum for the former mining regions. About two-thirds of the support funds flow into educational projects every year and these projects focus on young people with limited opportunities.

Dr. Claus then went on to provide interesting insights into the history of hard coal mining in Germany, which began about the late 18th century in the Ruhr region. He spoke about the first structural revolution when 'mining by the bucketful' shifted to industrial mining, the importance of coal power during the two World Wars and developments in the post-war period when the peak coal level production in 1957 gradually decreased and eventually led to closure of the last mine in 2018. He also threw light on the social acceptability of personnel layoffs, which had been the central issue in the mining industry for decades and the way the entire phase-out process was managed to enable employees to be laid off via early retirement plans.

With this backdrop, Dr. Claus went on to describe and bring out the differences between the concepts of 'inherited burdens' (those having limited duration) and 'perpetual obligations' (which are inherited liabilities with unlimited duration). He further articulated what it means to be responsible for the consequences of mining and the RAG-Stiftung's global, robust, flexible, and impactful model for financing the costs of the perpetual obligations.

The RAG-Stiftung is strongly committed to the mining regions in the areas of education, science, and culture. Since its establishment, the RAG-Stiftung has supported projects in the mining regions with a quantum of ~240 million euros (including funding in 2024). On the education front for example, the RAG-Stiftung collaborates with strategic partners to improve the educational opportunities of young people with limited opportunities in the former mining regions.

Dr. Claus also gave an overview of Evonik, whose tag line is 'Leading Beyond Chemistry' and focuses on speciality additives, nutrition and care, and smart materials. He also highlighted "Grow Beyond Yourself", the CSR initiative of Evonik in Asia which is focused on empowering girls in STEM education and is led by our very own Gabriele Rettig.

The interest in Dr. Claus' speech was clear from the number and range of questions asked during the Q&A session. His insightful replies on how Germany manages its current energy requirements, the way social transformation took place after the cessation of mining, and his views on buying houses in mining areas made the session even more interesting!

We are grateful to Dr. Claus Rettig for this enthralling talk, where he spelt out what a successful transformation from an old and local industry to a modern and global one looks like. He eloquently explained this topic by demonstrating how the development of the RAG-Stiftung in Germany has driven the transition from the coal mining industry in Germany to global speciality chemicals and created positive social impact.

VOTE OF THANKS

By Rtn Jeyanthi





3rd CSC Meeting

Honorary Member Uttam Kripalani:

DINE IN THE DARK
An amazing experience

The CSC held its meeting at the SAVH [Singapore Association for Visually Handicapped] on Thursday 5 September.

As part of the meeting was the experience many of us had for the first time, on how challenging it is for persons with visual difficulties.

I kept trying to remember a poem entitled The Blind Boy which I had read in school. I came back home and found it on the internet. This I felt could have formed a very intensive background of what we experienced.



The Blind Boy

*O SAY what is that thing call'd Light,
Which I must ne'er enjoy;
What are the blessings of the sight,
O tell your poor blind boy!*

*You talk of wondrous things you see,
You say the sun shines bright;
I feel him warm, but how can he
Or make it day or night?*

*My day or night myself I make
Whene'er I sleep or play;
And could I ever keep awake
With me 'twere always day.*

*With heavy sighs I often hear
You mourn my hapless woe;
But sure with patience I can bear
A loss I ne'er can know.*

*Then let not what I cannot have
My cheer of mind destroy:
Whilst thus I sing, I am a king,
Although a poor blind boy.*

Led into a totally darkened room, by someone who faces everyday challenges of being unable to see, with all of us grabbing on to the shoulders of the person in front feeling our way to the chair allocated for us at the dining table, was the first step.

At the table we touched and felt the cutlery placed in a basket along with a glass on a coaster for water and orange juice.

Everything was served by the challenged members of SAVH, in proper sequence with soup and bread followed by the main course and desert. Passing of the jug with liquids was a challenge and more so when we needed to pour the contents into the glass kept in front of our plates.

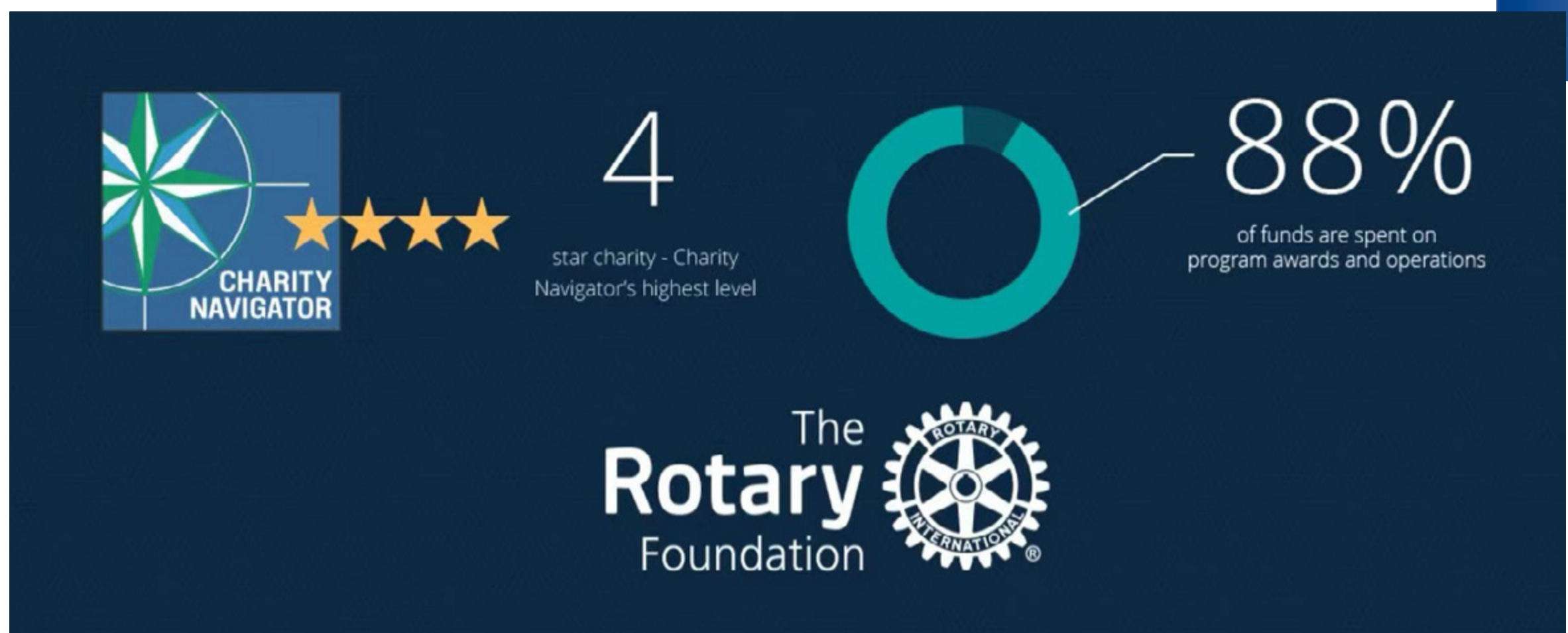
It was so dark that even an involuntary lighting up of the watch or the phone almost ruined the effect of the pitch-black atmosphere.

What an experience where the visually challenged become your eyes and one gets to explore gastronomical experience with touch, taste, smell and hearing.

The hosts were friendly, superb, professional, efficient and very thoughtful of their guests, in spite of the loud exchanges of conversation and friendly banter.

We should consider ourselves very blessed, leading normal lives.

CRFC Column



KNOW MORE ABOUT THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

The Rotary Foundation (TRF) stands as a testament to the power of collective goodwill, with over a century of impact since its inception. The idea for the Foundation was first proposed at the 1917 Rotary International Convention by outgoing president Arch Klumph, who envisioned an endowment “for the purpose of doing good in the world.” With an initial contribution of just \$26.50, this modest beginning has grown into a global movement that has invested over \$4 billion in life-changing, sustainable projects.

TRF’s mission is clear: to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace by improving health, providing quality education, enhancing the environment, and alleviating poverty. This mission drives Rotary members to undertake projects that create lasting change both locally and globally. From eradicating polio to providing clean water and launching antibullying campaigns, TRF demonstrates that even the smallest contributions can have a significant impact.

The Foundation’s work has touched millions of lives, transforming communities and bringing hope where it is needed most. With the continued support of donors like you, TRF remains committed to making the world a better place, one project at a time. Whether through a few cents or a substantial gift, every donation plays a vital role in this ongoing mission of global service.

To make your donations, go here - <https://my.rotary.org/en/donate>

Sonali Sinha
President-Elect

EXCLUSIVE INVITATION

CLASSICS AT THE MOVIES



As the Official Hotel of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Raffles Hotel Singapore is delighted to invite you and a guest to a special concert dedicated to our Grande Dame, as Singapore's national orchestra takes you on a cinematic journey.

Join us at the pre-concert reception before entering the musical world of unforgettable scores that have transcended time and memory through film. Conductor Gerard Salonga will be joined by singing sensation Lara Maigne and violinist Chan Yoong-Han in moving solo numbers by John Williams and Handel.

FRIDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2024 @ VICTORIA CONCERT HALL

6.30 PM Reception
7.30 PM Concert Begins

Please **RSVP by 15 September 2024** to Leenu Tarani
via **leenu.tarani@raffles.com** or **+65 6412 1316**

This invitation is non-transferable.



SINGAPORE
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA



The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

01. Is it the **TRUTH**?
02. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
03. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
04. 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 24/25

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Vice President	Jens Rübberth
Vice President	Inderjit Singh Tulsi
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Director - Vocational Service	Denis Hew
Director - Youth Service	Chng Weilong
Director - The Rotary Foundation	Keizo Fujitake
Director - Major Project	Subhash Pritmani
Director - Membership	Ronald Wong
Director - Public Image & PR	Xavier Lee
Director - Meetings/Events	Ong Ting Yong
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Chair of EYA (Entrepreneur of the Year Award)	Stanley Low
Chair of Standing Committee - Speaker	Gabriele Rettig
Director - Technology Group Selection	Colin Miles
Director - Environment Group	Suresh Hathiramani
Sergeant-at-Arms	Sarah Tabea
Sergeant-at-Arms	Jeff Lim

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