



Rotary CROSSROADS

by Rotary Club of Singapore



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Lifetime Achievement Award Winner for 'Best Bulletin in District 3310'



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6 August 2025

WEEKLY MEETING

By PIPR Vice Danielle Jiang

Navigating Global Trade in a Complex Geopolitical Landscape

A speech by Punit Oza, Founder and Director of Maritime NXT

Punit Oza, a veteran with 30 years of experience in dry bulk shipping and founder of Singapore-based Maritime NXT, delivered a comprehensive analysis of how geopolitical risks shape global supply chains. His expertise, cultivated through teaching at institutions like World Maritime University and Singapore Management University, provided a unique perspective on the evolving trade landscape.



Oza structured his analysis around six key lenses affecting modern trade:

- **Trade Barriers and Free Trade:** He highlighted two types of barriers – financial (tariffs) and non-financial. While financial barriers can often be overcome through price adjustments, non-financial barriers like export bans pose more significant challenges to trade flows.
- **Critical Pathways:** The world currently faces 56 active conflicts – the highest since World War II. Despite this, oil prices remain relatively low due to America's emergence as a major supplier through shale oil production.
- **Demographics:** Oza emphasized the concept of "demographic dividend" – when a country's working population (15–64 years) exceeds its dependent population. While many Asian and Latin American countries are entering this profitable phase, European nations and Japan have exhausted theirs.

- **China's Economic Dominance:** The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) represents a massive shift in global trade patterns. With \$1 trillion already invested and \$10 trillion more planned, this 50-year project encompasses 151 countries. Oza illustrated this through Africa's example, where China has established a colonial-style trade pattern - importing raw materials and exporting finished goods.
- **New Trade Alliances:** The expansion of BRICS to BRICS+ (including Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, Ethiopia, and Iran) now represents a significant portion of global GDP and population. This bloc's growing influence challenges traditional trade structures, particularly through increased barter trade arrangements.
- **Technology:** Emerging as both enabler and disruptor, technology has become a geopolitical weapon. Oza cited examples like Microsoft's sanctions-related shutdown of services to Russian-owned companies and the critical importance of lithium for electric vehicle batteries.



For managing these complex dynamics, Oza recommended five key strategies:

1. **Knowledge Management:** Understanding both known and unknown aspects of trade patterns
2. **Historical Analysis:** Learning from past crises like COVID-19
3. **Technology Utilization:** Leveraging tools for real-time trade visibility
4. **Contract Robustness:** Ensuring agreements account for geopolitical risks
5. **Calculated Risk-Taking:** Making informed decisions based on comprehensive analysis

He illustrated these principles with a fascinating case study of J. Lorentzen, a Danish shipping company that creatively used seismic data to track Chinese steel production during COVID-19. By analyzing earthquake data near steel plants, they identified patterns in truck movements, gaining valuable market insights that led to profitable trading decisions.

Oza highlighted Asia's strengthening position in global trade, noting that 65% of the world's middle class will reside in the Asia-Pacific region by 2030. This demographic shift, combined with increasing energy consumption and strategic alliances, positions Asia favorably in future trade negotiations.

The presentation emphasized how traditional trade patterns are evolving, particularly in developing regions. For instance, in Nigeria, 85% mobile penetration has transformed how trade occurs - mobile wallets replace traditional banking, online marketplaces supersede physical retail, and drone deliveries challenge conventional logistics.

Oza concluded with a powerful metaphor from Chinese language, where "crisis" (Wei Ji) combines the characters for "danger" and "opportunity," suggesting that every geopolitical challenge presents potential opportunities for those who can navigate the complexity effectively.



Building Youth Through Football: Borussia Dortmund's Social Impact

A speech by Mohammed Kabuche, Borussia Dortmund Youth Development

Mohammed Kabuche, a Frankfurt native who spent 26 years in his hometown before joining Borussia Dortmund (BVB), offered unique insights into the club's youth development and social impact programs. While acknowledging that BVB may never be the world's top professional club, he emphasized their exceptional strength in youth development.

The club operates on a balanced model: 50% focuses on performance and talented player development, while the other 50% supports social projects for low-income families and children with disabilities. This approach drives their work with projects like Football Plus in Singapore and similar initiatives in Chennai, India.

Drawing from his own background in a low-income family, Kabuche expressed his passion for working with children facing challenges. While these young players might not always be the most technically skilled, he emphasized the greater importance of developing their personalities and providing support. His current work in Singapore with Football Plus, alongside Tom Wolf, exemplifies BVB's commitment to using football as a tool for positive social change.



2ND CSC MEETING

By Rtn ST Sammel

7 August 2025 – The Community Service Committee convened for its second meeting of the 2025–26 Rotary year on August 7, driving forward a packed agenda with purpose and momentum. Building on the groundwork laid in the first meeting, members reviewed recent successes, advanced ongoing projects, and explored bold new initiatives to expand the club’s reach and impact. From healthcare appreciation efforts to innovative technology collaborations, the discussion reflected both the committee’s commitment to continuity and its readiness to embrace fresh opportunities for meaningful service.



Celebrating Past Successes

The committee reflected on recent accomplishments, starting with a heartfelt salute to approximately 13,500 nurses across eight hospitals during Nurses Day 2025. The “Vision for All” project brought eye screenings and blood glucose tests to seniors and migrant workers, thanks to a fruitful partnership with Singapore Polytechnic’s Optometry Centre. Excitingly, discussions are also underway for the committee’s involvement in a prestigious national award ceremony later this year.

New Opportunities to Serve

Looking ahead, several fresh collaborations are on the horizon. Food From The Heart initiatives may soon expand with new collection points, an “I Can” Award for deserving students, and sustainable practices to cut down on plastic waste and community-led fundraising ideations.

Technology is also taking center stage. Two mobile learning apps promise to bridge communication gaps while boosting digital literacy, and are being explored. Additional activities for migrant workers—ranging from essay competitions to sports and charity events—are also in discussion.

Continuing Core Commitments

Regular service efforts remain strong. Monthly food packing with FFTH, festive celebrations at the Sri Narayana Mission, and bowling outings with St Luke Eldercare are all ongoing. The Society for the Aged Sick will once again welcome Chinese New Year celebrations at their home, filled with entertainment and community warmth.



Fresh Initiatives and Community Impact

The committee is also exploring exciting projects such as cricket for guest workers, a blood donation drive on October 5, and participation in the Cancer Society Night Walk. Possible collaborations with NParks, a senior-run café fundraising effort, playground maintenance, and global grant applications are in consideration and motion. In healthcare, a potential youth mental health triage project with KKH is awaiting confirmation.

Due Diligence & Visits

The Rotarians engaged in several visits to ensure ongoing initiatives are still running smoothly, while exploring new opportunities, including, among others, in-person visits at the FFTH warehouse and checking the FRCS facility at Bukit Batok

The committee’s dedication and creativity are paving the way for a vibrant season of service under the guidance of Director Varun Gulati.

HWA CHONG INTERACT CLUB INSTALLATION

By Rtn Ronald Wong

6 August 2025 – Hwa Chong Interact Club hosted its 41st batch's Installation last 6 August. Under the theme of Equinox, ensembling the harmonic change in leadership as the new batch of Interactors took over the beacon passed down by their seniors, the event was a celebration of the achievements of the past year and the promise of the incoming year.



GIIS INSTALLATION: CHARTING NEW CONSTELLATIONS

By YSC Director Mukund A P

11 August 2025 – Under a sky full of stars – both on stage and in spirit – the GIIS Interact Club came together for its Installation Ceremony 2025. The event marked not just the transition of leadership, but the continuation of a legacy built on service, unity, and compassion.

The chosen theme, Charting New Constellations, perfectly captured the vision for the year ahead: forging new connections, discovering fresh opportunities, and shining brighter together.

The ceremony began with moving speeches from the outgoing leadership, each carrying stories of perseverance, impact, and growth.



However, the most anticipated moment arrived as the new Board of Directors took the stage. Department by department – Services, Design, Marketing & Publicity and Communications, Finance & Logistics, and Secretariat – members were introduced to warm applause. Each pledged to uphold Rotary's values of Service Above Self, to lead with integrity, and to work together towards a year of impactful action.

The incoming leaders shared their aspirations with conviction, and their words set the tone for a year of purpose-driven leadership.

The ceremony closed with a high-energy student dance performance, igniting the room with joy. Guests were invited to enjoy refreshments, continuing the evening in fellowship and celebration.



The chosen theme, Charting New Constellations, perfectly captured the vision for the year ahead: forging new connections, discovering fresh opportunities, and shining brighter together.



RC SINGAPORE GOES TO THE PHILIPPINES!

By Rtn Anson Dichaves

7-11 August Philippines Visit

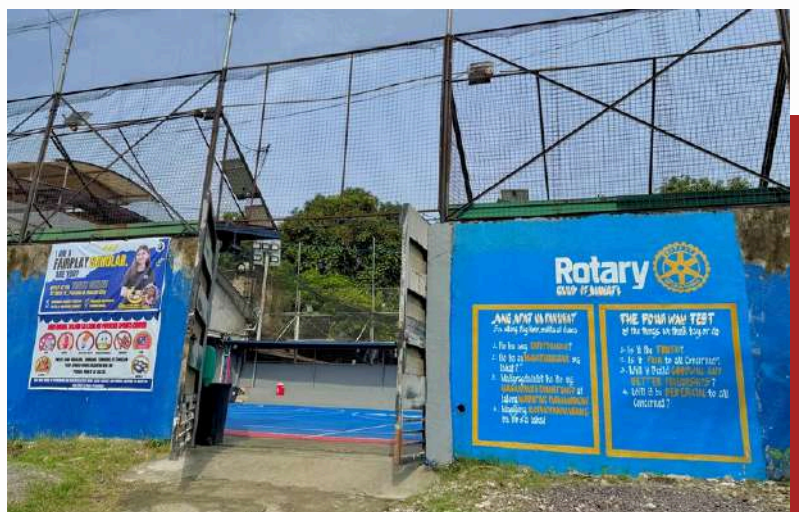
On 7-11 August 2025, the International Service Committee organized visit to Philippines led by DG Dr. Shahul Hameed and President Sonali. In four and a half days, they were able to cover:

- 8 clubs visits
- 3 club meetings
- 3 Inspiring talk by DG Dr. Shahul
- 6 project visits
- 2 potential global grants projects
- 2 installations
- 1 End Polio Now walk

7TH AUGUST 2025

RC Makati Project Visit: Fairplay Football and Community Program

Payatas Quezon City used to be landfill, Fairplay provide opportunity for indigent kids of the community to change their life through possible sports scholarship, they also provide livelihood opportunity for graduate of program as coaches.





RC Manila Club Lunch Meeting

RCM is a sister club of RCS, it is the first and oldest club in Asia (Chartered 1919, 106th anniversary). We run global grants project of conducting eye tests and eyeglasses for 15 elementary and high schools in Manila. Group photo with RCM 2025-2025 President Raoul Creencia.



RC Makati West Visit

RC Makati West is chartered 1968. Where we run a global grants project of pediatric heart surgery for indigent children through Gift of Life. Group photo with PDG Jay





RC Rizal West Club Meeting

RC Rizal West is a sister club of RCS, it is chartered in 1980. Current club President is Cherry "Ino" Russell.





8th AUGUST 2025

GG Project Visit with RC Makati Central: Renal Transplants for Indigent Patients

National Kidney & Transplant Institute is the leading medical specialty center for renal health and organ transplant in the Philippines with 99% success rate. Discussion with Director Dr Jose Dante Dator with potential GG project of machine prolonging organ during transport.



RC Makati Central Club Lunch Meeting

DG Dr. Shahul is the guest speaker of the meeting with topic: Rotary Vision Creating Lasting Change



RC San Pablo Fellowship Dinner

RC San Pablo was chartered in 1927. Today, the third generation of members are running the club. Members lead by PP Dr. Noel Alidio travelled more than two hours one way to meet us for a sumptuous Filipino dinner.



9th AUGUST 2025: CAUAYAN

RC Cauayan is a sister club of RCS. It was chartered in XXXX, where PP James and DG Dr. Shahul are honorary members. Our delegation annually send delegation to their installation. We run several global grants projects with RC Cauayan.

Warm Airport Welcome by RC Cauayan Members



9 August 2025: Koronadal City (Marbel)

We were greeted and escorted by Brigadier General Claro Lozada (father-in-law of incoming President Jun Fresco) from the airport to a quick lunch at a local restaurant before heading to the accommodations so kindly provided by incoming President Jun.

The highlight of the day was of course the moving, colourful, and musical pageantry of the induction of President Jun and his Board.

The theme was aligned with President Jun's professional background as a ship captain. Decorations, decorum, and attire were consistent with the theme. No expense was spared as the food and entertainment were top notch!



GG Project Visit: Covid 19 Pandemic Response

RC Cauayan together with RCS provided Santiago City their first PCR machine to help combat the pandemic.



Pre-installation welcome event at their new Rotary Club House



10 August 2025: Koronadal City (Marbel)

The following morning, a large contingent of RC Marbel led by IPP Janine Pring, RC Johor Bahru, and I headed to the site of Project Agos.

We were escorted by the team from the City of Koronadal Water District as they are the local experts supporting the project.

We were able to do a bit of morning exercise (yes hiking after a feast the night before was a challenge) to reach the 60 cubic meter water tank. This activity helped provide all the rotarians a good idea of the massive effort involved to plan, execute, and maintain the future Project Agos 3.

Nothing is impossible with Rotary, and the three clubs are committed to make Project Agos a reality, thereby making water (a basic and life giving necessity) accessible to 100 households.



10th AUGUST 2025: CAUAYAN CITY

End Polio Now Walk

This is the first End Polio Now walk organized by RC Cauayan together with their Interact Clubs and police cadet academy. District 3770 was the pilot for the fight against polio for Rotary.



RC Cauayan Project Visit: Deep well water supply project + classroom donation

Before the project, the community had to travel far to get clean water. Now they are supplying clean water even to the residences of other areas and the mountainous region of the communities. The well is more than 74m deep.



Potential new GG Project: Cauayan District Hospital Additional Dialysis Machine

More than 100 patients die annually without receiving dialysis due to shortage of dialysis machine in the hospital. This is RC Cauayan Sherlon Gonzales potential major project and gg with RCS.



Installation of RC Cauayan 43rd President with DG Dr. Shahul as Inspirational Speaker



11th AUGUST 2025: CAUAYAN CITY

Global Grants Project Visit: Blood Bank

This is the first blood bank in Cauayan city. Before this blood bank, health care workers have to drive all the way to another city Iligan. Now this blood bank serves 1500 patients annually, helping doctors save time and lives.



11th AUGUST 2025: CAUAYAN CITY



RC PENANG INSTALLATION

By Rtn Kishin Aswani

PP Mark Wang and I attended the RC Penang Installation last 9 August 2025.

It was a grand event, and we got to meet their members, especially AG Stephanie, who was very helpful.

We exchanged banners with the new President Chandra and were even given mementos (as shown in the photo).

The last photo is of PP Mark and myself at lunch before the evening's installation.



OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

THE FOUR WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendship?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

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 2025-26



Sonali Sinha
President



Tom Wolf
Immediate Past
President



Rajkumar PS
President Elect



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Vice President &
Major Project Chair



Suzanne Ng
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