



WEEKLY MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF ROYAL HUA HIN – AMARI HOTEL
TUESDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2021

DR ANDRA DEGEN – RC ZURICH LIMMATTAL

Present: 21
Members: 18
Guests: 3

SSA Rick Rees opened the meeting with the National Anthem.

The following guests were introduced:

Dr Andrea Degen – guest speaker from RC Zurich Limmattal
Bruno Spornburger – RC Khon Kaen International
David Watson - Managing Editor Royal Coast Review

P Phil Lawrence then welcomed everyone and briefly reviewed the previous week's DG visit to the club. He said the DG had been given a warm welcome and hopefully went away with a positive impression of our club.

Phil then ran through upcoming D3330 events.

Friday 3rd December – Presidents' Party

Saturday 4th December – Vibrant Workshop and DG Installation (five members attending)

13-18th December – District Conference and Presentation evening – Kanchanaburi (three members attending)

Phil then presented some information on the empowerment of girls as, discussed by the DG last week and is one of Rotary President, Shekar Mehta's goals for his year in office.

Why empower girls?

- It makes families healthier.
- Educated girls have better-educated children and earn higher wages, helping get their families out of poverty.
- Women participating in the labour market at the same rate as men would add up to \$28 trillion to the annual global gross domestic product in 2025, shares the World Economic Forum.
- Every girl should be in charge of her own future. We have an obligation to protect girls' rights and promote their well-being

Education and Skills

- The United Nations says 60 million girls worldwide have no access to basic education.
- Of the 960 million people who are illiterate worldwide, two-thirds are women.
- In many regions, schools do not meet the safety, hygiene, or sanitation needs of girls.
- Globally, 1 in 4 girls ages 15-19 are neither employed nor in school, compared with 1 in 10 boys.

What can Rotary Do?

- Rotary clubs and districts can participate by creating and implementing projects that enhance the quality of life for girls and improves girls' chances of enjoying safe, healthy, and productive lives. They can also modify existing projects to include components that focus on empowering girls.
- What challenges do girls face in our community?
- How can our club work with communities to find solutions to these challenges?
- What cultural norms in our area might keep girls from attending school?
- Which local organisations can we work with on projects that empower girls?
- How can we raise awareness of the need to empower girls within our communities and among our partners?
- Does our club empower women to take leadership roles?

D3330 have been requested to let us use the Lizzy Education Project as our contribution to this scheme, as it is still ongoing and has certainly empowered two young girls – despite them both being over 18. Decision awaited via Mummy.

Upcoming events:

4 December - Club Vibrant workshop
7 December - Fellowship Evening – Chateau Popham
14 December - RCRHH Annual General Meeting
18 December - District Conference and Awards Ceremony
21 December - Board Meeting
2022 events are being planned and appear on Club Runner

Phil also reported that Elsa Wyss, Werner's husband was now recovering from a broken and replacement hip. She was very grateful for the flowers sent by the club.



Phil then introduced the guest speaker Dr Andrea Degen from D2000 RC Zurich Limmattal. Service Project Chairman International Charity Projects

Andrea began by saying that it was the recent Zoom conferences imposed by the lockdowns that had enabled her to become involved with the RCRHH – 'Rotary Connects the World'

Andrea talked about Rotary enabling young entrepreneurs. Many poorer counties have a poor record of post-secondary education advancement.

Andrea used Tanzania as an example a country where they have recently undertaken a very successful empowerment education project.

Population 55.6 million

Population growth 3.1 million

Life expectancy 64.9 years

Urban population 32.3%

Gender inequality 0.544%

Poverty 79%

Aid per capita 47.9

A very high childbirth rate.

Generally, many of the population cannot afford basics such as transporting children to school, food etc and so education can fail, resulting in ongoing poverty and restrictions on life.

Rotary, headed by Andrea set up the Start Up Academy in St Jude's School, Arusha, Tanzania that ran from 9th – 13th December 2019, just before the Pandemic. She was helped by a district grant and other sponsors amounting to \$34,000. The grant was applied for in May 19, approved in June and the project began a few weeks later in summer ready for the December course.

Andrea invited like-minded teachers and trainers from the Rotary world and these included people from Germany, concentrating on Rotary areas of focus – Entrepreneurship, Employment, Economic Growth, Civil Society and Political stability. RC Arusha in Tanzania also became involved, vital for the local connection as did Aiducation, a Swiss organisation involved with education and Civic leadership development.

The course lasted for one week and focussed on the entrepreneurship training, business planning, business models, strategic competence, teamwork, funding and one to one mentoring sessions. Children all over the country were invited to submit their ideas for business cases to be worked on during the course. 50 children were then selected to attend from the submissions received and five business ideas for discussion. Included in the trainers were young people from Kenya who had become successful with their businesses because of a previous course run there. A crucial part of the week was constant feedback.

The top five ideas for discussion, expansion and team brainwork during the week were:

1. Setting up a Pig Farm
2. Safe mother and child including an app to assist with general hygiene
3. Fruit Juice producing company
4. Horticultural plan – with an app offering advice and immediate support for farmers
5. All Together -a community village that cared for its residents from birth to adulthood

Andrea then gave an example of a success from the week, but one that had arisen from the one to one bilateral coaching sessions, rather than the five main ideas.

David – suggested collecting human hair from various sources including hairdressers and producing fertiliser. He has now expanded, discussed and begun putting his plans into practice, currently producing 200 litres a week and is now looking to increase this to 2000 litres. He has recently been granted \$11,000.00 to help his business and awarded a silver medal for entrepreneurship. He currently employs 30 people and is still a student, but clearly very sharp minded and an example of the week's course being a success.

Andrea also said that working with the students during the week actively enriched her personally, being able to share the future visions of the children and help them to expand their thoughts.

Andrea then discussed how the project might be extended in Thailand and used the Bamboo School as an example, this having been previously talked about by **Dr Mowae Apisuttippanya** from the Be Well Clinic.



Dr Mo had decided very young that he wished to better himself and had found the Bamboo School Orphanage run by a New Zealand lady called Catherine and offering shelter and accommodation for up to 60 children at a time. <https://bambooschoolthailand.com/>

This might be an ideal project for Andrea to work on with RCRHH as they had already got the links with Dr Mo and Jungle Aid and the Bamboo School would be a great place to begin a similar entrepreneur academy project. Any co-operation or support would be very helpful. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2lfHLVv0Qo>

Following questions, Phil thanked Andrea for her detailed and passionate presentation.

Lunch was served and the raffle won by Rick Rees who kindly re-donated the bottle of wine enabling Eric Lunstrum to win.