



Rotary International Zones 24-32

Beyond Borders



• Bermuda • Canada • France • Russia • United States

Rotary International Zones 24 & 32
[Special Announcement](#)

Dear Rotary Friends:

I have received communications from many of you inquiring as to the status of our fellow Rotarians and Rotary friends in Japan, and as to what Rotary is doing in response to these tragic events and what your clubs and districts can do to help.

While I regret to advise that we do not have full assurances of the safety of all our fellow Rotarians and their families, we do have encouraging information with respect to a large percentage of our Youth Exchange students in that country. We have received confirmation of the safety of over 70% of the North American students living in Japan, and are aggressively pursuing information on the remaining students. We will continue to keep all of you apprised as we receive further information on both Rotarians and students. In the meantime, please keep all of these friends foremost in your thoughts and prayers as we offer our heartfelt prayers for all affected by this unthinkable tragedy.

Within hours of the first word of the earthquake and subsequent tsunami, The Rotary Foundation took the following action:

TRF Chairman Stenhammar, on behalf of the TRF Trustees, decided on Friday, 11 March 2011 to::

- Immediately establish a *Rotary Japan and Pacific Islands 2011 Disaster Recovery Fund* through TRF to be used in lieu of the regular World Fund match for Matching Grants and Global Grants for disaster recovery projects related to the earthquake and tsunami impacting districts in Japan and other Pacific island nations; this also applies to donations from corporations and non-Rotarians.
-
- Permit the fund to accept both cash contributions and DDF donations.
-
- Clarify that TRF will not provide Paul Harris Fellow recognition for donations to the fund.
-
- Confirm that all Matching Grants and Global Grants related to disaster recovery in Japan and other Pacific island nations must adhere to the policies and guidelines stipulated in the *TRF Code of Policies* and grant terms and conditions; this includes the restrictions on construction.
-
- Request the general secretary to provide a recommendation for consideration at the April 2011 Trustees meeting in regards to how the disaster recovery funds will be utilized among the affected districts, e.g. even percentage split, weighted percentage split, first come/first served, etc.
-
- Extend the 2011-12 Matching Grants application deadline to 30 April 2011 for grants related to these disaster recovery projects.
-
- Waive the minimum percentage of funding requirement of the international (overseas) sponsors for Matching Grants related to these disaster recovery projects, thereby permitting districts in the affected areas to contribute more than 50% of the total DDF and/or cash designated for the grant project.

For those of you with further questions regarding this action, I would encourage you to contact Harvey Newcomb in TRF Programs directly for the most accurate and current information.

All of Rotary's senior leadership is very aware that this action is not totally what you want for our organization's immediate response. It is the very nature of Rotarians to want to help and to be at the forefront of taking the most immediate and effective action possible in response to any need. However, we must respect the fact that we are not first responders, and that we are not equipped to provide the services required in these critical early days. For that, we must all look to and support as each of us sees fit, the agencies that ARE capable of providing crucial aid and services appropriate at this time.

I would encourage each of you to share this message with your clubs, and to in turn recognize the monumental task ahead to rebuild this devastated country. The long term sustainable projects that will restore fundamental infrastructure and human services are what we do better than anyone else. Please promote this awareness and encourage both financial support and programmatic planning by all clubs to be prepared to conduct the rebuilding that will restore some acceptable standard of living for these devastated families in the longer term.

Thank you all for your magnificent display of compassion and urgent desire to help. You demonstrate all that is special about Rotary and the Rotarians that comprise our membership.

Ken Grabeau

Rotary International Director 2010-2012

Rotary International Zones 24 & 32

Kenneth Grabeau

Zones 24-32 Director

Rotary International Zones 24 & 32

Aaron Stein

Communications Officer