

ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT KALYAN BANERJEE I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE ALL THE ROTARIANS OF DIST 9680 TO THE 2012 CONVENTION “REACH WITHIN TO SERVE MANKIND” TO BE HELD FROM MAY 6 TO 9 AT BANGKOK, THAILAND. THIS IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE ROTARY AND TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ROTARY’S INTERNATIONALITY, ITS GLOBAL CONCERNS AND ITS COMMITMENTS. PRESIDENT KALYAN BANERJEE WILL BE WAITING TO RECEIVE YOU. SO I HOPE TO MEET YOU ALL IN LARGE NUMBERS SO THAT TOGETHER WE CAN CELEBRATE ROTARY IN ITS 107 YEARS OF SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP.

FRIENDS I WOULD NOW LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU THE HIGHLIGHTS OF SOME OF THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF R. I.

AS REGARDS POLIO THE BOARD REAFFIRMS THAT THE GOAL OF THE POLIO PLUS PROGRAM IS THE GLOBAL CERTIFICATION OF POLIO ERADICATION. BY ERADICATION, WHO, THE

GLOBAL COMMISSION ON CERTIFICATION AND ROTARY MEAN THE INTERRUPTION OF THE TRANSMISSION OF THE WILD POLIOVIRUS.”

EFFECTIVE FROM 2012 ADDITIONAL DISTRICTS HAVE BEEN FORMED IN ITALY AND INDONESIA. WHERE AS DISTRICTS IN CHILE AND USA HAVE BEEN MERGED AND REDUCED.

SIMILARLY FROM 2013 ADDITIONAL DISTRICT WILL BE FORMED IN BANGLADESH & EAST AFRICA AND DISTRICTS 7250 & 7260 OF USA ARE BEING MERGED TO FORM 7255.

YOUR OWN DISTRICT 9680, ALONG WITH 9690, AND 9750 ARE BEING REORGANIZED INTO TWO NEW DISTRICTS 9675 AND 9685.

NOTING THAT THE USE OF E-LEARNING, WEBINARS AND OTHER ONLINE COLLABORATION TOOLS CAN IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY AND LOWER THE COSTS OF TRAINING THAT RI PROVIDES TO ITS GOVERNORS-ELECT, THE

BOARD AGREED TO REDUCE THE LENGTH OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY BY ONE DAY, BEGINNING IN 2013.

THIS GENTLEMEN WAS A BRIEF OF SOME OF THE IMPORTANT DECISIONS OF THE RI BOARD.

THE ROTARY WORLD IS ALSO GRATEFUL TO YOUR DISTRICT GOVERNOR DAVID RAND AND ROTARY CLUBS FOR SUPPORTING NUMEROUS MATCHING GRANTS IN INDIA AND BRAZIL. A DISTINCTION THAT WILL GO DOWN IN THE ANNALS OF ROTARY'S RICH HISTORY.

A DISTRICT CONFERENCE IS A KIND OF A CELEBRATION OF GOOD WILL AMONG MEN DEVOTED TO THE SAME IDEALS - A CELEBRATION OF THE VITALITY OF ROTARY ITSELF. OVER THE PAST 2 DAYS I HAVE ADMIRERD THE GREAT EFFORT THAT MUST HAVE BEEN MADE BY YOUR GOVERNOR AND THE ORGANIZERS IN MAKING THIS CONFERENCE SUCH A SUCCESS.

DO WE GET AS MUCH BENEFIT OUT OF A CONFERENCE AS THE EFFORTS THAT GO INTO ORGANIZING ONE? I WOULD SAY A DEFINITE YES FOR ROTARY IS FELLOWSHIP FROM WHICH FLOWS CONFIDENCE, COMMUNICATION, UNDERSTANDING AND SERVICE WORLDWIDE. AS LONG AS THERE IS ONE HUNGRY CHILD, ONE IGNORANT MAN, ONE MISGUIDED YOUTH, AS LONG AS THERE IS A MISUNDERSTANDING OR CONFLICT ANYWHERE, SO LONG AS THERE IS A FRIEND THAT HAS NOT BEEN FOUND YET- THERE IS NEED FOR ROTARIANS TO CON-GRE-GATE AND INITIATE WAYS TO SERVE HUMANITY.

MY CONGRATULATION TO GOVERNOR DAVID AND HIS TEAM FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE BY ORGANIZING ONE OF THE FINEST DISTRICT CONFERENCE. RIGHT FROM THE MOMENT WE ARRIVED EVERY THING HAS BEEN WELL PLANNED. THE PROGRAM FOR THE PAST 2 DAYS WAS EXTREMELY MEANINGFUL AND THE

DELIBERATIONS VERY FRUITFUL. IT WAS A PLEASURE AND A GREAT LEARNING EXPERIENCE.

FOR RITA & ME IT WAS ALSO A DELIGHT TO BE AMIDST YOU.

MY GRATITUDE TO THE FIRST LADY ANN, GOV. DAVID, CONFERENCE CHAIR DAVID ELLYARD AND HIS WIFE SUE AND TO EACH ONE OF YOU FOR THE LOVE AND AFFECTION AND GOODWILL SHOWERED ON RITA AND ME THROUGH OUT MY STAY.

WE ARE ALSO BEHOLDEN TO RTN. BARRY PHILPS AND HIS GRACIOUS WIFE JENIFER FOR BEING OUR AIDES AND LOOKING AFTER US SO WELL. WE COULD NOT HAVE ASKED FOR BETTER PEOPLE.

I WOULD LIKE TO WIND UP WITH THE WORDS FROM SIR BERNARD SHAW. " LIFE IS NO BRIEF CANDLE TO ME IT IS A SPLENDID TORCH WHICH I AM PERMITTED TO HOLD FOR A MOMENT AND I WANT TO MAKE IT BURN AS BRIGHT AS POSSIBLE

BEFORE HANDING IT ON TO THE FUTURE GENERATIONS”.

MY FELLOW ROTARIANS, R’ANNS AS ROTARY ENTERS ITS 108TH YEAR I HAVE NO DOUBTS THAT THE CANDLE EACH ONE OF YOU IS HOLDING WILL BURN AS BRIGHTLY AS POSSIBLE IN YOUR EFFORTS TO SERVE HUMANITY AS WE CELEBRATE ROTARY IN THIS HISTORIC YEAR IN DOING GODS WORK ON EARTH. MAY THE ALMIGHTY BLESS OUR COUNTRIES. MAY HE BLESS YOU ALL. AND A BIG THANKS FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE AS YOU “REACH WITHIN TO SERVE MANKIND”. THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.