

# Tech Talk



Newsletter of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers • October 2013

## 2013-14 Technical Coordinators

### CADRE CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

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Francis Tusubira (Uganda)

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Jos Nolle (Canada)

### ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Deniel Banks (USA)  
Chalermchat Chun-In (Thailand)  
Jean-Claude Piers de Raveschoot  
(France)

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### WATER & SANITATION

Brian E. Foley (Australia)  
John Kevan (Australia)  
Vishwas Sahasrabhojane (India)

## Message from the Chair

Michael Webb

We are now in the middle of this quarter's assignments, and I thank those of you who have given your time to this important work. In recent years, the number of cadre members has increased, making more expertise available for evaluation assignments. And with sustainability now an essential element of any Rotary Foundation grant, this is a particularly exciting time for the cadre. As a result, we are looking for members, both new and existing ones, with professional experience in monitoring and evaluation. If you have such experience, please contact [Christian Pepera](#).

I have often referred to the wide and deep skill base of the cadre and how it can best be used to benefit Rotary. I am pleased to report that we have been asked to supply auditors to evaluate some Rotary partnerships as well as Rotary's effectiveness within the new grant model.

Since I started my two-year term as an RI director on 1 July, I have had occasion to discuss the cadre with fellow directors and with trustees. I am pleased at the high regard in which the cadre is held, and with the willingness to expand its work as a steward of Foundation funds.

All of this is a consequence of the high standard of work carried out by everyone involved in cadre assignments. My sincere thanks to you all.

Mike Webb

### Remember to visit the cadre's shared site

If you're a registered cadre member, you can use the site by signing in to My Rotary at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) and visiting the Rotary Workgroup section in your profile. The site serves as a document resource, survey tool, and news and information center. Contribute to discussion groups, download training documents, access the *Tech Talk* archive, view photo galleries, and more.

### Recent Cadre Visits



Jos Nolle tests out the dental equipment while visiting the site of a 3-H Grant in Brazil.

Ramesh Karkare meets with the beneficiaries of a global grant that is providing dental care in Kenya.



## In Our Own Words

### An Interim Monitor Site Visit on Remba Island, Kenya

PDG Mike Parry, Rotary Club of Cardiff Bay, South Glamorgan, Wales (District 1150)



Past District Governor Mike Parry (standing) traverses Lake Victoria en route to Remba Island, Kenya.

*Editor's note: Some identifying details, such as names of the project location and sponsors, have been omitted, to ensure confidentiality.*

**“Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance,”** known as the 5P’s, is a well-known principle whose application is fundamental when anyone is planning, implementing, or assessing a project in a remote part of the world. That principle was in evidence at a global grant project to which the cadre asked me to perform an interim monitor site visit.

Imagine an island of dense volcanic basalt rock of some 35 hectares (about 86 acres) located in the world’s largest tropical lake and surrounded by water heavily polluted by open defecation, washing, and food preparation.

Imagine no resources except local lake water, no local labor, no materials, no reliable fresh water source, and no sanitation facilities.

Imagine a two-hour, weather-dependent boat ride to the mainland and an additional four- to six-hour journey to a significant population center.

Imagine a transitory community of 8,000 to 10,000 people with no “home ties” to the island, lacking access to fresh water and sanitation.

Imagine a group of knowledgeable and dedicated Rotarians some 6,000 miles away, as well as equally knowledgeable and dedicated local Rotarians some six hours away who are prepared to oversee a project while running their own businesses.

Imagine a cadre site visitor with limited time and opportunity to talk with the transient residents, benefactors, and contractors.

Add a large dose of real practicalities to this scenario and you have a global grant project to supply fresh water and sanitation and a tailored education program to the transient population of Remba Island, just inside the Kenyan border on Lake Victoria.

The community needs assessments involving local government and health officials, nongovernmental agencies, and residents were extensive. Fresh water and sanitation, along with a focused education program, were seen to be key, and the size of the population necessitated a phased approach that incorporates the principles of self-reliance and sustainability.

This particular phase — a grant project

that includes a water pump powered by solar panels, five filters, a tank for raw water, three tanks for clean water, and a pipe network to two water kiosks with associated latrines — might sound quite simple.

But the notion of simplicity quickly evaporates when one remembers the 5P’s, as well as the need to commission a multiskilled contractor and to line up laborers prepared to live, as well as work, on the island. Also, there was the fact that every nut, bolt, and washer, let alone the large fabricated metal structures, needed to be ferried to the island and offloaded at a temporary docking area.

The sustainability mandate required preparation through consultation, hands-on training in daily maintenance routines, and the establishment of a water tariff system to provide funds for repairs.

My limited time on the island began with predawn departures to allow for a return to the mainland before the winds generated hazardous waves...

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Water tanks on the island.

# Technical Coordinators: Goodbye and Welcome

Technical coordinators are cadre members with extensive experience in their sectors and strong familiarity with the grant programs of The Rotary Foundation. Three technical coordinators for each of seven technical sectors are appointed by the trustee chair-elect and serve three-year terms. These six technical coordinators who had assisted the cadre since 2010 ended their terms on 30 June:

- Kurt Bay, District 1980 (Switzerland), water and sanitation
- Sylvia Byers, District 9455 (part of Western Australia), basic education and literacy
- District Governor-Elect Maurice Amégnizi Edoth, District 9102 (Benin, Ghana, Niger, Togo), economic and community development
- Stan Fike, District 5060 (part of British Columbia, Canada, and part of Washington, USA), maternal and child health
- Abu Mohsin, District 3271 (Pakistan), financial auditing
- Cecilia Reyes, District 3810 (Philippines), economic and community development

Cadre Chair Mike Webb and the Stewardship Department have worked to expand and redefine the role of the technical coordinator to support both new and ongoing Rotary grants. Technical coordinators are asked to provide guidance to the technical advisers in their sectors, consult with Foundation staff on projects within their area of expertise, complete complicated or sensitive evaluations, and assist with the

cadre's recruitment efforts.

The following six technical coordinators began their roles on 1 July and will serve through 2015-16:

- **Himansu Basu, of the Rotary Club of Northfleet With Ebbsfleet, Kent, England (District 1120), maternal and child health.** Basu, a past district governor, is a surgeon and consultant gynecologist with a doctorate in maternal mortality from the University of Liverpool. His areas of specialization include fertility, population growth and development, gynecological endocrinology disorders, and reproductive health. Basu is involved in efforts to reduce maternal and newborn mortality rates, serving as a master trainer and program director of [CALMED](#) (Collaborative Action in Lowering Maternity Encountered Deaths), a Rotary project. He is the medical director for the Rotarian Action Group for Population Growth and Sustainable Development, and served as chairman of the International Fellowship of Rotarian Doctors from 2009-10. He has over 30 years' experience in medical education and mentoring. Since joining the cadre in 2006, he has completed four site visits of 3-H grants in Kenya, Nepal, Turkey and Ukraine as well as an operational audit. Basu is fluent in English and Bengali.
- **Chalermchat Chun-In, of the Rotary Club of Kanchanaburi, Thailand (District 3330), economic and community development.** Chun-In, who is in the agricultural business industry, has bachelor's degrees in agriculture and management and master's in

business administration degrees in agribusiness and agriculture extension. He has over 25 years' experience with food production and farm operation and management, and he previously owned a tree farm and rubber-processing factory. A cadre member since 2006, he has completed a technical review, six site visits of 3-H projects in the Philippines and Cambodia, and a Matching Grant in Thailand. Chun-In is fluent in Thai and English.

- **Maureen Duncan, of the E-Club of the United Services, San Diego, California, USA, District 5340, education and literacy.** Duncan is an educational consultant with bachelor's degrees in Spanish and Portuguese and a master's degree in educational psychology. She also holds certificates in special education and computer information systems. A former U.S. Peace Corps volunteer who worked on community health projects and the organizing of elementary schools in Brazil, Duncan also has over 15 years' experience with special education and working with ESL (English as a second language) students. A cadre member since 2011, she has completed one technical review and visited five grant projects in Honduras as part of the Foundation's sustainability check. Duncan is fluent in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

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## Technical Coordinators

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- **John Kevan, of the Rotary Club of Applecross, Western Australia, Australia, (District 9465), water and sanitation.**

Kevan, a past district governor, is a mechanical engineer with over 40 years' experience in water and sanitation construction projects. He holds three bachelor's degrees: in mechanical engineering; in population, resource development, and demography; and in environmental science. He also earned a master's of business administration in business strategy and development. Kevan joined the cadre in 2008 and has completed three technical reviews and three site visits of Matching Grants in Uganda, Thailand, and Nepal.

- **Jean-Claude Piers de Raveschoot, of the Rotary Club of Ferney-Voltaire, Ain, France, (District 1710), economic and community development.**

A past club president, Piers has 30 years' experience with development aid programs and has worked for organizations such as the United Nations and the International Trade Center. He has degrees in political and social sciences and development economics as well as a certificate in international studies. He has 10 years' experience in monitoring and evaluation and has worked in Africa and Haiti with the UN Development Program and the UN Disaster Relief Organization. Since joining the cadre in 2007, Piers has completed one technical review and five site visits of 3-H and Matching Grants in Uganda,

Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Ghana, and Morocco. He is fluent in French and English.

- **Alan "Michael" Pollard, of the Rotary Club of Ardres-Audruicq-Guines, Pas-de-Calais, France, (District 1520), financial auditing.**

Pollard, a past club president, is a retired chartered accountant and auditor with experience as an information technology consultant and financial adviser. He joined the cadre in 2006 and has completed a combination of nine audits and site visits in Nigeria, Tanzania, and several other East African countries. Pollard is fluent in French and English.

We would like to thank the outgoing technical coordinators for their three years of service and give a warm welcome to the new team. We look forward to utilizing their expertise and guidance! For a full list of technical coordinators, see page 1.

## Remba Island

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...on Lake Victoria. While I had assumed that I could use the transit time (a total of about 18 hours over the course of three days) to ask questions, the engine noise virtually eliminated all opportunities. The programming of discussions with the island's multinational inhabitants required detailed planning in an environment where the traditional timepiece is not the norm. And, taking into account that a small percentage of the population is Muslim, securing the assistance of a local female Rotarian elicited more-detailed responses from the women on the island than I would otherwise have

obtained.

It is clear that the project, once fully implemented, will greatly enhance the community's access to, and knowledge of, clean water and sanitation.

The 5P's is a state of mind. It is a dynamic thought process that begins with your preparation and continues through the life of a grant project or site visit. I found that Rotary is certainly engaged on Remba Island, where the current project has the potential to change lives for the better.



Did the 5P's work all the time? One noticeable lapse was the underestimation of the predawn insect population!

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