

Rotary Day at the United Nations  
November 8, 2008



Saturday, November 8, 2008, was a truly memorable day. Rotary Day at the United Nations proved to be a great event for Rotary Books for the World. Present were 1636 Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors, and friends from 40 different countries and 26 states in the USA. Also present was the RI President and three Past Presidents along with the majority of the RI Board (and Barbara.) The RI Board had met earlier in the week. The Literacy Panel consisted

of two presentations. One on Reach Out and Read by Dr. Carmen Ramos-Bonoan, a Filipino Medical Doctor and Rotary Books for the World. Carmen's project is providing reading material and readers for children facing medical treatment. She and her husband are well connected in the Philippines. She believes that they can get books into the Philippines without any customs charges. Her husband is asking Filipino Rotarians to establish a center and operate a book distribution facility like the one in Johannesburg.

We want to thank the Rotary U.N. delegation for including Rotary Books for the World in this year's program. The presentation was rated one of the best of the day. We received many good comments and interest from many parties. President Lee is to the left, Eric Falt, Director of the Outreach Division of the Department of Public Information, is in the center, and RI Vice President Monty Ardenart is to the right. Monty served as Governor in the same year as I did.



We got to meet in person the leader of the new New York Booklegger operation, PDG Ward T. Vuillemot, [wardtv37@mac.com](mailto:wardtv37@mac.com). We also got great interest from RI Director Hemistocles A.C. Pinho from Brazil. He was looking for English language books. We asked him for Portuguese language books for Mozambique and Angola. RI Director Thomas Branum was very interested and asked to talk more about the project. Past Foundation Chair Bob Scott and Ann, who have been to the center in Johannesburg, expressed their appreciation for what all of you have done for Rotary Books for the World. President Lee gave us a "Good Job". Past President Frank Devlyn gave us a "two thumbs up" rating.

Probably, the most long term effect may be from an Ambassadorial Scholar from Germany. I threw out the question about how to computer the carbon credits accrued by our actions since our efforts save the books from the repulping process or landfills. Fabian Maximilian Kreuzer is an Ambassadorial Scholar at Columbia University. Fabian had a final paper due for his degree on environmental effects. He took our question to his professor who was delighted with the idea. He now has his final paper assignment. Wish him and us luck as we go through the process. Carbon credits can have cash value.

Submitted By: Charlie Clemmons  
November 13, 2008