



THE SPOKE



AN E-BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF JOHOR BAHRU
(District 3310 of Rotary International, Chartered on 27 June 1952)

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END POLIO NOW



Today's Programme:

Last Week :

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Dear Fellow Rotarians,

The Rotarians around the world have contributed towards the initiative to Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) that could prevent more than eight million cases of paralytic polio and save US\$40 billion to US\$50 billion. The study focuses on 104 countries, most of them lower income, that have directly benefited from to GPEI since 1988 through reduced polio treatment cost and the prevention of lost productivity due to disability.

Similarly, Asia is plagued with the fastest emerging infection, namely Dengue fever. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned that 2.5 billion people are at risk of dengue fever which has "grown dramatically in recent decades". The officials at WHO say Asia home to 70% of the at risk population because of higher temperatures due to climate change, rising population and greater international travel. According to data collected by the UN body, the highest number of reported cases in Asia this year to August are in Indonesia (80,065) followed by Thailand (57,948) and Sri Lanka (27,142).

In this aspect, the Rotary Club of Johor Bahru and Rotary Club of Johor Centennial jointly with Ministry of Health (COMBI) and Johor State Education Department launched a major literacy project (Dengue Awareness Seminar) in SMK Khalid on the 26th February 2011 with over 250 participants from the various schools in Johor. The project was mooted by our PDG Ir John Cheah who acted as Adviser of the Steering Committee with President Dr. S. Sivamoorthy as Chairman and President Dinesh Shankar as Deputy Chairman. The others in the Committee are PP Hashimah of Kulai Club and Rtn Cheong Nai Chong. This project is significant as education on Dengue is a long term plan to eradicate Dengue.

Building Communities, Bridging Continents.

Yours In Rotary.

DR. S. SIVAMOORTHY
PRESIDENT 2010 / 2011
ROTARY OF JOHOR BAHRU

EDITORS

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LAST TALK

Rotarians around the world celebrate Rotary's anniversary, 23 February, as World Understanding and Peace Day.

In keeping with the occasion, I share my experience in a humanitarian effort in Chile.

Through the recommendation of my Rotary friend in Penang, I became a volunteer doctor in the disaster relief mission to Chile under Mercy Malaysia.

24th March – 16th April 2010 (24 days)

MERCY Malaysia is a non-profit organisation focusing on providing medical relief, and risk reduction activities for vulnerable communities in both crisis and non-crisis situations.

Within a week, Mercy Malaysia disaster relief mission was on its way to central Chile.

One Malaysia team!



Departing Kuala Lumpur, after 30 hours, arriving at Santiago, Chile

Mobile clinics were different everyday. A table and chair plus a mattress and we were in business!



House calls in remote the village Santa Olga.



From the treasurer: TICKKIE BOTTLE:

COLLECTION ON 22 FEBRUARY 2011

Tikkie Bottle : RM133.00

Happy Fund : - Nil -

Totaling : RM2406.00 (Tikkie Bottle)

QUOTE: For us to succeed, all we need to do is to focus our best efforts on doing what Rotarians are passionate about and what Rotarians are the best in the world at doing, which is *Building Communities – Bridging Continents*

*RI President 2010/2011
Ray Klinginsmith*

FROM THE ATTENDANCE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS LIP :- 22 MARCH 2011

Membership	59
Excused	6
Effective	53
Present	38
Percentage	71.07%

MEMBERS CELEBRATE

MARCH	Birthday	Wedding Anniversary	Induction Anniversary
John Cheah			4
Lee Kim Tiong			25
Francis Gopal		12	
J S Kwang		12	16
Freddie Lee	12		
Leslie Struys			14
Ng Yew Mun		14	
Liang Teh Hai		14	
Tan Chee Seng		19	
Mok Tai Dwan	20		
Francis Ng	20		
Chin Kuei Too	22		
Alan Cheng			21
Roland Choong	27		
Leong Chee Woh	29		

Absent Rotarians On 22 February 2011

1. PP Chang Teck Mark (Excused)
2. PP Dato Francis Ng (Excused)
3. PP Dr. K.N Singh (Excused)
4. PP Dato Singaraveloo (Excused)
5. PP Jit Sehgal (Excused)
6. PP James Ho
7. PP Leslie Struys
8. PDG Lim Hock Teng
9. PP Dato Ir Mokkam Singh
10. PP Dato Francis Ng
11. PP Hj Mohd Hoh Ibrahim
12. PP Yeo Ann Kiat
13. PP Datuk Kuthubul Zaman Bukhari
14. PP S Shanmugam
15. Rtn Cheong Nai Cheong
16. Rtn J S Kwang
17. Rtn Dato Teo Shiok Fu
18. Rtn Liang Teh Hai
19. Rtn Chua Tze-Wei

Attending weekly club meetings allows members to enjoy their club's fellowship, enrich their professional and personal knowledge, and meet other business leaders in their community.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Club officers prepare for the district assembly

From April to May, presidents-elect and incoming club leadership teams attend the district assembly. Participants are encouraged to read the Club Officers' Kit before training so they arrive at the seminar prepared to discuss their goals for the coming year.

The Club Officers' Kit includes manuals for the club president, secretary and treasurer. Club committee chair manuals are also included for administration, membership, public relations, service projects, and The Rotary Foundation committees. All manuals include discussion questions and worksheets to be used at the district assembly.

Each month, we highlight a piece of Rotary history and share an inspirational quote from past Rotary leaders. February's quote:

"The spirit of Rotary is not exclusive; it expands. It is not local, it is universal. And so the wish to understand and to be understood, the wish to see the virtues rather than the faults in others, the longing to find out what we have in common rather than what divides us — these can be widely shared."

— Gian Paolo Lang, 1956-57 RI president, address to 1957 convention

The Rotarian magazine's photography contest debuted in 1928. Since then, we've ditched the box cameras and flashbulbs. We no longer have to remember whether 200-speed film is for indoors or out. But the rules for what makes a great photo are as valid today as when we expounded on them in years past. So take our advice, and enter our 2011 photo contest. The theme is the spirit of Rotary, and the deadline is 31 March.

*Life is like a library owned by the author.
In it are a few books which he wrote himself,
but most of them were written for him.*

Harry Emerson Fosdick

*As I grow to understand life less and less,
I learn to love it more and more.*

Jules Renard

Rotary International is teaming up with violin virtuoso Itzhak Perlman and members of the world-renowned Chicago Symphony Orchestra to present a Concert to End Polio at Symphony Center in Chicago, 7 March 2011. James DePreist will conduct. All proceeds from the event will benefit [Rotary's US\\$200 Million Challenge](#).

Perlman contracted polio at age four and overcame serious physical challenges to become one of the world's most recognized musicians. DePreist is also a polio survivor and was inspired by Perlman. Tickets to the concert are priced between \$50 and \$200. Tickets to a post-concert reception with Perlman are \$150. [Purchase tickets for both events online](#)

In a [letter](#) posted on the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation website today, Bill Gates praises Rotary International for its central role in the fight to eradicate polio, and refers to Rotary as a "key partner" in the global effort to rid the world of the crippling disease.

The annual letter from Gates, cochair of the Gates Foundation, focuses on education and polio, and notes that the eradication effort has benefited immensely from Rotary's support. Rotary launched PolioPlus -- a program to immunize the world's children against polio -- in 1985 and became a spearheading partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative three years later, along with the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF.

"Everywhere I go to learn about polio, I see Rotary members helping out with the hard work," Gates says in the letter. "I feel sure that with continued support, we will be able to show significant progress."

Gates also mentions that he will be taking three trips focused on polio this year, including additional trips to India and Nigeria.

The Gates Foundation has awarded US\$355 million in challenge grants to Rotary for use in the global effort to eradicate polio. Rotary has responded with [Rotary's US\\$200 Million Challenge](#). As of January, Rotary clubs have raised \$160 million.

Gates has also recently joined Rotary's "This Close" campaign, aimed at increasing awareness of and support for polio eradication. More than 20 international and regional luminaries have appeared on billboards, print ads, and in television and radio public service announcements.

More about Bill Gates see page 5

GATES ON POLIO

Charlie Rose Talks to Bill Gates

On the day he released his \$34 billion foundation's annual report, Gates talks about his planetwide battle against disease—and assesses America's economic prospects

Your sights are now set on fighting polio. Why?

Well, the Foundation does work on lots of health issues. The one that's our top priority, though, is polio because we have a chance now—if we stay the course—to drop the number of cases to zero, to eradicate the disease. And if we don't really execute well in these next several years, it'll spread. ... And then we'll be back to having 100,000 or more cases of kids dying or being paralyzed.

How do you define eradication?

It means zero, none, gone. And that's only happened with one human disease—smallpox.

Conquering a disease like that sends a signal, doesn't it?

If you improve health, you do three things for children. You save the lives, and that's big. The second is there's lots of the kids who survive who are damaged; their brains never develop. And finally, the one that's the most amazing is that if you improve health, parents choose to have fewer kids. So instead of better health growing the population, it's actually the only thing we've ever come up with that actually shrinks population growth. That's the only way you get your hands around all the big issues. Can you educate them all? Can you provide them all jobs? So from a human and an environmental perspective, this health stuff is the most leveraged thing there is. Polio would energize that. It would show we can get something hard done.

Let's shift to malaria. Has your opinion changed on that front?

The year I was born, 1955, the World Health Assembly resolved to eradicate malaria. That's partly why people were reluctant to take on smallpox. Malaria made them look bad. With malaria, you have to think in terms of a 15-, 20-year time frame. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is spending hundreds of millions a year on the tools. The tools include a vaccine, and we have one that's in a late-stage trial now. You have to have really cheap diagnostics so you can find out who's carrying the parasite. There's really good progress, [but] you've got to get polio done first.

Education is another target of yours. What are the big hurdles there?

I'm very excited that ... there will be a way of measuring teachers and showing teachers how to improve. I don't know when exactly that will catch on, but by using videos and surveys I feel very good that the work that we're helping to back will make a huge contribution to identify what it is that great teachers do. The difference is awareness of when the kids start to get bored. That interactive element is so strong in these great teachers, and people can learn to do that better.

What do you conclude about U.S. spending on health care vs. the rest of the world?

We spend 17.8 percent of our GDP on health care. And the next highest is at 12 percent. You have some, like Britain, who are down at 9 percent. That is just mind-blowing. And our outcomes aren't better. The incentive system exists to have all sorts of ways of spending money on 70-year-olds and 80-year-olds—spend \$100,000 on this, spend a half-million dollars on that. You're taking resources away from the young. Anything you can invent, we have no metric that would hold us back. So, innovation is inventing ways of taking resources away from the young, whether that's education or anything else.

Do you expect to see an American state declare bankruptcy?

That's tricky. From a pure accounting point of view the answer would have to be yes. If you take Greece's fiscal problems and you take Illinois, New Jersey—it's very, very similar.

Is there the political will to do something about the deficit?

Look, you have to cut spending. We're up to [a deficit of] \$1.5 trillion a year. I wish I was innumerate. These numbers are truly upsetting.

Technology has been good to the U.S. Are we losing our momentum?

We'd have to keep making a lot of mistakes for several decades before we'd lose that edge. It's great that other countries are more innovative. When my child gets sick, I won't look at the pill and say, "Oh, my gosh, it's made in China." If they invent something that can save my child's life, I'll say, "Hallelujah." But the U.S. lead is very strong. Our universities, our funding of research, it's pretty amazing. Smart people still want to come to this country. Do we make it as easy for them as we ought to? I don't think so. But we have time to renew our excellence in how we educate, the excellence of our immigration system, in how we invest in young people.

Emmy Award-winning journalist Charlie Rose is the host of Charlie Rose, the nightly PBS program.

ENLIGHTENMENT

Food is one thing that we interact with daily, perhaps more frequently than anything else. There are also some very obscure as well as fascinating facts about food that we may not be too aware of. Presented here are 8 such amazing food facts.

Coconut Water

Food Fact: Coconut water can be used as a substitute for blood plasma during emergency situations

Coconut water is the water that is found in coconuts and is not to be confused with coconut milk, which is derived from the coconut flesh. Coconut water is actually liquid endosperm, which surrounds the embryo and provides nutrition. The reason it can be used in place of blood plasma is that it is sterile with a pH level that is just ideal.

Peanuts

Food Fact: Peanuts can be used to make dynamite

Processing of peanut oil produces glycerol from which is derived nitroglycerin, one of the constituents of dynamite. However, it's worth noting that there are other ways to make dynamite that does not require peanuts at all.

Worcestershire Sauce

Food Fact: Dissolved fish is used to make Worcestershire sauce

The popular English sauce, the Worcestershire sauce, is made from dissolved anchovies. The method followed is to soak the anchovies in vinegar until they have completely dissolved, including the bones. So the sauce will contain the bones and all.

Popsicle

Food Fact: An 11 year discovered the Popsicle, who had kept it a secret for 18 years

It was Frank Epperson who left a mixture of powdered soda and water out on the porch containing a stir stick. It was in 1905 and temperatures in San Francisco that night reached record low levels. The next morning, he discovered that it had frozen to the stir stick, creating a fruit flavored ice treat that he had named the epsicle. He patented it and called it the Popsicle 18 years later.

Coffee

Food Fact: Civet poop is the source of the most expensive coffee in the world

Civet is a cat-sized mammal and it is from its poo that the Kopi Luwak coffee bean comes from. Civets will gorge on only the finest ripe berries, and excrete the partially digested beans, which are then harvested for sale. Kopi Luwak is the most expensive coffee in the world that sells for about \$120 to \$600 USD per pound. Its traditional market is Japan and the United States, though it is increasingly becoming acceptable elsewhere. However, what most are perhaps curious to know is who or how was it ever discovered that it tasted so good?

Soup

Food Fact: Hippopotamus soup is the first soup ever to be made

Earliest archeological evidence suggests the consumption of soup to date back to 6000 BC and it was made of hippopotamus!

