

GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY LETTER

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3850



FEBRUARY 2012



Embrace Humanity through
WORLD UNDERSTANDING

CONTENTS

- 5 GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE**
Going the distance
- 6 AROUND THE DISTRICT**
Six pages of projects and activities
- 13 STILLS AND THOUGHTS**
Club Presidents share their thoughts
- 14 EXTENSION**
Starting a new Rotary Club
- 15 DS NOTES**
World Understanding
- 16 FOCUS ON WORLD UNDERSTANDING**
Articles on Rotary Friendship Exchange and GSE
- 18 DISCON 2012 UPDATES**
More updates from DisCon Chair Tres
- 20 FESTIVAL DISTRICT**
A quick look at four festivals in the district



ABOUT THE COVER

On 23 February 2012, Rotary International celebrates its 107th year. It's indeed a long way since it was born out of loneliness by a lawyer from Chicago, Paul Harris. On this World Understanding and Peace Day, may we always remember the Fourth Object of Rotary and establish the goodwill Rotary is noted for.

The cover features DG Melvin and Spouse Fe with other Rotary dignitaries in various international functions. (1) With R.I. President Kalyan Banerjee and Spouse Binota during the 2011 Bali Rotary Institute. (2) With Immediate Past R.I. President Ray Klinginsmith of USA and Incoming DG Biboy Jocson and Spouse Emilie during the 2010 Bangkok Rotary Institute. (3) With IPRI Treasurer KR Ravindran and Spouse Vanathy of Sri Lanka. (4) With Past R.I. President Bhichai Rattakul of Thailand and IPDG James Makasiar and Spouse Tess. (5) With R.I. Director Samuel Owori and Spouse Norah of Uganda during the International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA. (6) With RI Pres. Kalyan and Spouse Binota during the Pre-10th PCRG Conference Dinner hosted by DG Raffy Garcia of D3800, in the occasion of Spouse Minda's birthday.

Happy celebration of World Understanding Month!

ABOUT THE GML

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EDITOR'S NOTES

World Understanding

How can Rotarians belonging to 51 small clubs in our District, help advance a high ideal such as "World Understanding?" On the other hand, how do the efforts of other Rotarians and clubs around the world affect us?

The recent tragedy brought by Typhoon Sendong has shown the strength and the impact of Rotary as a worldwide organization. An outpouring of support coming directly from Rotary Clubs, other districts, and individual Rotarians throughout the world has greatly helped the victims. Cash donations, relief goods, and water were sent thru Rotary clubs and the District leadership of the affected areas. Shelterbox, a global Rotary project, provided immediate temporary shelters.

Even the district's designated fund (DDF) of The Rotary Foundation was used to help the typhoon victims. I'm sure DDFs from other countries were also sources of some donations. After the recent tsunami in Japan, our district donated \$4,000 of its DDF. Many other clubs and districts in the Philippines gave directly, thru Rotary contacts.

It is worth noting that "the mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty" and Rotary's fourth object is "the advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service."

By giving to The Rotary Foundation, we can, as Rotarians and as individuals, give back and pay it forward.



PP Chris

January 5, 2012

Bravo, Governor. Well done indeed!

Every Filipino Rotarian, wherever situated, wanted to help, and many of them did. Only those close at hand, however, were able to participate in helping the victims of the calamity and giving the emergency and life-saving aid needed during the first few days. But the survivors continue to need help in repairing and restoring their damaged homes and properties and to start a new life. It is the kind of help that even we who come from far away can give them. It is the kind of help that all the districts, I hope, will now address with the use of the funds already collected, and the funds that may yet come from overseas. That is a task in which all ten Governors, and Governor Sammy especially, will have to take the lead. I wish all of you well.

The very first international relief fund of Rotary was set up at my instance, and the first grant from it of \$50,000.00 went to Taiwan when I was President-Elect, and Gary Huang was incoming Governor. It underwent changes over the years until we are substantially back to the former way of advising interested parties to send their aid through the Governor of the district affected. The reason given for the changes is the belief that aid in kind, like food and blankets, is really what is needed. I do not buy that entirely because money can buy the needed commodities, but I could object only when I was still in office. Anyway, their reason has some basis, and Rotary aid could perhaps be packaged best as post-emergency assistance for the victims to resume their lives. And individual clubs may adopt some of them for some time as part of their community service.

During my time, British and Australian clubs maintained emergency boxes that contained food, medicine, first aid equipment, and other implements which they could give for immediate help to victims of tragedies and natural calamities in their neighborhood. This is a practice that perhaps all our clubs should adopt, especially in the storm belts of the country. Even more substantial would be for every district to keep at least two Shelter Boxes at the ready for delivery to any part of the country where they are needed. We have already seen the great use of that emergency equipment. Rotary can persuade the country to keep an adequate supply of them at all times so as to minimize the hardships of those whom nature may hurt and damage.

The real reason for my writing this long letter is to suggest that all the ten Governors include two Shelter Boxes among the legacy of their year to the district. I know you are helping your successor to organize the celebration of Rotary's New Year with a nationwide Children's Party, and I hope you will make that a tremendous success. But I think you will be rightfully proud and happy also to hand over to the new District Governor two Shelter Boxes that the district can contribute in relief against future disasters. I hope you will want to do that.

I write to you, Billy, but this is meant for all of your class, to whom I will also send it. I will likewise send a copy to all the Governors-Elect, for they too will have the rare and wonderful opportunity to render the kind of splendid and meaningful service that you have as District Governor. I pray that all of you may do extremely well and make the most of it. God bless.

matc



MAT Caparas (center) with Rotary Coordinator Sawalak Rattanvich of Thailand, and DG Mel during the 2011 International Assembly

Dear President Kalyan,

Thank you so much for the email and the concern.



DG Sam Fontanilla

Indeed, the end of the year is very difficult for us here in RID 3870. The inundation was indeed very tragic. More than a thousand lost their lives, their homes, and properties. We did not expect the tragedy to happen. We were not prepared for it. Cagayan de Oro City and Iligan City traditionally are not in the typhoon path of the country. Moreover, the communities were fast asleep when the deluge happened.

Some Rotarians were themselves victims. We lost two Rotarians—Rtn. Helen, spouse of Assistant Governor Dario Amolata and Rtn. Remy Pador. Rotaract President Tish Yrastorza and both her parents perished during the flood.

The overwhelming show of concern and support from all over the Rotary World, both from far and near, is indeed very reassuring. Those from afar sent their donations and offered their sympathies and prayers. The 23 Clubs in the communities severely affected by the inundation and the Clubs nearby went out of their way to render service and shared whatever little they have to the hapless victims.

We have organized Teams for each of Cagayan de Oro City and Iligan City to coordinate and rationalize the rehabilitation initiatives and relief operations of our Clubs and that of the District and to manage the cash donations and relief goods sent through the District.

All 43 Clubs in District 3870, the other nine Rotary Districts in the Philippines and many of their Clubs reached out to help and sent their donations. RI- SPPO, Rotary Club of Blacktown (Australia) and their partner, the Philippine Community Council of New South Wales and RID 3400 (Indonesia) sent their donations through our District Account. Shelter Box came in and worked with our Rotarians to install the much needed tents. The rest of the Rotary World either sent their donations in cash or in kind directly through our 23 Clubs in the communities severely affected by the floods. Many pledged to send their donations forthwith.

What a show of love and concern! The tremendous show of love, concern, support and help are most welcome relief to our communities in these most difficult and trying times.

And from the bottom of our (RID 3870) hearts, we thank them most profusely!

Our best regards to you and Spouse Binota.

Happy New Year and God bless!

Yours in Rotary Service,

DG Samuel "Sam" Fontanilla
RI District 3870

My dear brothers and sisters in Rotary,

At Arlington National Cemetery outside Washington, D.C., stands a memorial to the Seabees, formally known as the U.S. Naval Construction Force. An inscription reads, "With willing hearts and skillful hands, the difficult we do at once; the impossible takes a bit longer."

In Rotary, we already have our own mottoes. If we didn't, I might be given to nominate those two lines. The power of combined effort, as Paul Harris once wrote, knows no limitation. When we work together, the impossible becomes possible.

I thought of this when I read, a few months ago, an article in the New England Journal of Medicine, the premier medical journal in the United States. Titled "The Polio Endgame," it outlined a strategy for a post-polio era, including managing post-eradication risks.

Thirty years ago, such an article could never have been published. Today, it is a testament to the power of dedication, of persistence, and of combined effort. The

impossible has, indeed, become possible. A post-polio world, once the stuff of dreams, will soon be here.

My friends, the day that polio will be eradicated is close at hand. We have to be ready for it with a powerful Rotary – a Rotary of enthusiasm and confidence, of bold vision and clear ambitions. It is time for us to prepare by taking an honest look at our clubs. Are our projects meaningful, sustainable, and relevant? Are our meetings productive and enjoyable? Are our clubs welcoming to new members, and are our schedules and events friendly to young families? And once people join us, do we welcome them properly, involve them enough? Do we make them a part of the family of Rotary quickly enough?

The figures tell us that while enough new individuals join Rotary every year and everywhere, too many exit Rotary, on an ongoing basis. What unfulfilled hope do they leave with? What expectations are we not meeting? Can we do more and better?



Now is the time to focus our energies on our clubs, and on the way people see them. It is time to show our communities that the Rotary of today is not the Rotary of their preconceptions. Rotary is a way to connect, to do more, to be more – it is a way to take our idealism and our vision, and turn them into reality.

Sincerely,

Kalyan Banerjee

Kalyan Banerjee
President, Rotary International



RI President Kalyan and Spouse Binota Banerjee in Taiwan with other dignitaries

Dear DG Melvin,

Greetings and good wishes. I know that the end of the year 2011 has been unhappy for our brothers and sisters in the Philippines. Are you safe? Are you able to get back on your feet in these difficult days? I'd be happy to have your inputs and thoughts so that we can review the situation and try our best to both help and recover.

Sincerely,

Kalyan

Going the distance

There was once a car builder in my hometown who approached me one day, and told me he wants to see me drive a car. Being a person with a handicap, never in my wildest dreams did I see myself driving. Despite his business motive or otherwise, I will always be grateful to him for letting me go places. The vehicle he customized for me had an automatic transmission and it changed my perception that our shortcomings will forever be barriers. The capability gave me the confidence and the accessibility every PWD has long been advocating. I would leave Rotarians in awe that I drove alone sometimes, around Panay, to Guimaras and Negros Island.

In this month of February, let's all go the distance as we celebrate World Understanding Month. Let's get out of our box and reach the world through the many programs of Rotary in the Avenue of International Service. This month is particularly very important because this is when Rotary was born—on February 23. The founding of the biggest organization was started by a lonely lawyer, Paul P. Harris, who unfolded a dream of service to humanity.

This brings to mind the very commendable deed of our fellow Rotarians and Anns from our District, especially those from Zamboanga City. They selflessly reached out and braved the many miles



Breaking barriers.

just to distribute relief good to the victims of Typhoon Sendong, which seriously hit the cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan. It is but deserving to give a space (page 12) for the heartwarming gesture which made the forgotten and the desolate believe that there's hope somewhere. I also would like to extend my thanks, in behalf of the district, to other clubs and zones that extended financial support and sent relief goods. District Gov. Sam Fontanilla of D3870 can't contain his gratitude to all those who took time to help.

It is but fitting also to congratulate PP Vady Marin for the Club Builder Award from Rotary International. He is also our District Legal Officer, and he will be awarded during our DISCON. It is such a deserving recognition from a pillar of RC Kalibo, who went the distance by devoting his time, and making RC Kalibo into one of the strongest clubs in the district today.

I have always been disturbed by the low turnout of contribution to The Rotary Foundation. Every Governor aims to elevate his District's ranking and be competitive with others. But when the news came out of the devastation brought by the recent typhoon, almost every club was quick to respond. I had a busy time referring and facilitating donations. The gesture made me so proud of our District. For me, no amount of Annual Giving can equal the sincere assistance you showed to our fellow Filipinos in the typhoon-ravaged areas. This is a true example of pushing things to the limits, of going the road less tread, of going the distance.

Melvin de la Serna
District Governor



Deadlines

15 March. For District Governors to submit Significant Achievement Award nominations (one per district) to RI

31 March. For District Simplified Grants

15 April. For Governors to receive forms for the RI Recognition of Membership Development Initiative from Clubs. For Governors to report clubs qualifying for Presidential Citation in Member Access

Other Notices

PR grants application for 2012-2013 will be distributed to District Governors-Elect during the International Assembly in January. Application deadline is **15 August**

Governors must certify to RI by **30 June** who will represent their district at the 2012 Council on Legislation

Districts must vote on all proposed legislation to the 2013 Council of Legislation at a district conference or through a ballot by mail. The deadline to submit legislation is **31 December**

Free Webinars Available

Free webinars can be a source of ideas for clubs. Sign up for upcoming webinars or listen to archived recordings at www.rotary.org/webinars

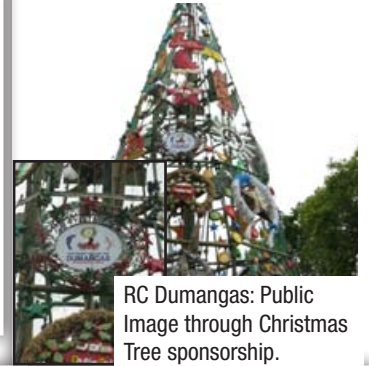
AROUND THE DISTRICT



RC Pagadian: Christmas Party with pupils of school project.



RC Kalibo: Family Day and Christmas Fellowship.



RC Dumangas: Public Image through Christmas Tree sponsorship.



RC Iloilo South: Christmas gift giving and feeding program in Gawad Kalinga, Concepcion, Iloilo.



RC Escalante: Christmas Fellowship with a cause.



RC Zamboanga City West: Christmas fellowship with family and spouses.



RC Zamboanga City North and Spouse Organization: Mi Pascua De Ti Tambien, Year 7.



RC Iloilo South: Gift giving to the Association of Disabled Persons, Iloilo.



RC Bacolod North: Christmas caroling.



RC Bacolod South: Christmas Fun Fellowship.



RC La Paz: Christmas activity with bags and packed lunch distribution.



RC Iloilo South: Rotary Children's Christmas Party.



RC Dumangas: Christmas Cantata.



RC Antique: Christmas fellowship.



RC Kalibo's IJA Interact Club: Christmas carols.



RC Iloilo South: Christmas Fellowship.



RC Jaro-Iloilo City: Christmas Party with the hearing impaired.



RC Zamboanga City Spouse Organization: Ladies in Red and Green.



RC Escalante: Christmas fellowship.



RC Kalibo: Handog Pamasko to the indigents of Brgy. Fatima.



RC Iloilo South: Rotary Holiday Fair.



RC Zamboanga City West: The Greatest Gift, the 18th Year.



RC Metro Roxas: With Smiles Phil. Charity, Pres. Santa visits a village.



RC Kalibo: With Interactors spending Christmas with children and elderly in Missionaries of Charity.



RC Midtown Iloilo: Have a Merry Slippers Christmas.



RC Central Iloilo City: Annual Wish Upon A Star to the children of Banate, Iloilo.



RC Iloilo City: Boys & RC Metro Roxas Central: Christmas party with PWDs.



RC Metro Iloilo: Christmas with pediatric patients of West Visayas Medical Center.



Interact Club of Capiz National High School: Christmas celebration.

AROUND THE DISTRICT



RC Jaro Iloilo City: Children's Christmas Party with PNRC and Tibiao Bakery.



RC Bacolod North: Feeding program.



RC Basilan: Wheelchair donation.



RC Pagadian West: Medical Mission.



RC Miagao: Lakbay Aral.



RC Kalibo: Optical Outreach serving the PWDs.



RC Metro Roxas: Medical Mission.



RC Jaro-Centraline: Book and medicine turn over.



RC Zamboanga City Central: MOA Signing with 530 ABW.



RC Midtown Iloilo: Malipayon Nga PagSikad 2011.



RC La Paz: Optical Outreach with District Team Member, PP Rene Sarmiento.



RC Oroquieta Centennial & RC Ozamiz North: 3K Literacy Program- Kabataang Kapakanan sa Kinabukasan.



RC Zamboanga City West Spouse Organization: Rummage Sale.



RC Bacolod North: Fellowship dinner with RC Kanonji East, Japan.



RC Iloilo South: Pre-Contest Conference for the Annual Academic Excellence Contest.



RC Zamboanga City West:
Fulfilling NGO's wish list.



RC Basilan: Book donation to Kabunbata
Elementary School, Isabela.



RC Kalibo: Eye Care For Your Optical
Mission with PP Rene Sarmiento.



RC Antique: Livelihood project
to inmates of Provincial Jail.



RC Iloilo South: Eye Care For
Life with PP Rene Sarmiento.



RC Central Iloilo City: Certificate
of Recognition from DSWD.



RC Dumangas: Children's
party in Jardin, Dumangas.



Rtns. Ensie Imak and Leonor Eraña
of RC Bongao visit Antique.



Interact Club of Capiz National High
School: Beach Clean Up Drive.



Rotaract Club of Zamboanga
City West: Tree Planting.



RC Bacolod North: Mangrove
Reforestation Project.



RC Zamboanga City Central: Trash
drums donation to schools.



RC Basilan: Public image project.



RC Boracay: Rotary Mobile Library
with Strong Roots Ministry.



RC Kalibo: Visit to yacht made
by VP Jonathan Salvador.

AROUND THE DISTRICT



RC Silay: Responsible Parenthood Seminar in Hinicayan elementary School.



RC Jaro-Iloilo City: Celebration of the National Deaf Awareness Week.



RC Basilan: Media interview.



RC Dumagas: Free used clothing bazaar.



Rotaract Clubs in Zamboanga City Area Joint Meeting.



RC Metro Iloilo: World AIDS Day Poster Making Contest.



RC Bacolod North: Feeding and gift giving project.



RC Zamboanga City Central: With STI Rotaract Club and Interact Clubs of ZCFSPC and ZCSPC.



RC Iloilo City: Public Image project.



RC Iloilo South: Remembering Yesterday reunion.



RC Pagadian: Clothes donation.

RC Midtown Iloilo: New Year Bash with spouses.



RC Bacolod East: VP Miguel Sarabia birthday fellowship.



RC Central Iloilo City: Wish Upon A Star, the 11th Year, Robinson's, Iloilo City with PDG Emma Nava (right).



RC Zamboanga City: Sending Sending Kids Back To School campaign.



RC Pagadian West: Children's Party.



RC Basilan: Book donation to Menzi Elementary School, Isabela.



RC Kalibo: Sisterhood Agreement with RC Makati South.



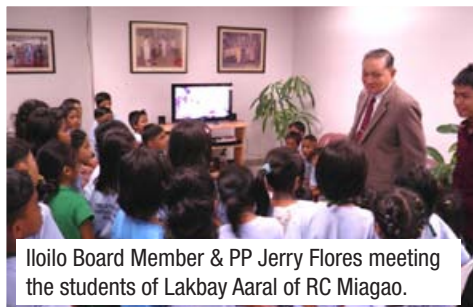
RC Silay: Responsible Parenthood Seminar in Sto. Rosario Elementary School.



RC Jaro Iloilo City: 2011 Outstanding Traffic Aides of Iloilo City-Nelson Castante, Romeo Jusdin, Efren Vicencio, Steve Agraviador, Ryan Magarse, Ely Elen, Leonardo Jorge, Eleazar Paredes, Dennis Ricardo Siosan and Ernesto Agraviador III.



RC Metro Iloilo: Search for Outstanding Day Care Worker.



Iloilo Board Member & PP Jerry Flores meeting the students of Lakbay Aaral of RC Miagao.



RC La Paz: Assistive device distribution.



RC Dumangas: Distribution of grocery goods.



RC Midtown Iloilo: Fun Run to Stop TB.



RC Central Iloilo City: Core Center Relocation Site Foundation Day.



RC Basilan: The Outstanding Public Servants Award—Teresita Rodico, Engr. Tahir Latip, Avelino Diongson.



RC Antique: Literacy Project.



RC Basilan: Turn over of medicines and medical equipment to Colonia Health Center.

Rotary D3850 Disaster Relief Operation for Iligan City

By Area Coordinator PP Emil Aquino

Rotary International District 3850 Disaster Management Team consisting of Rotarians, Anns, Rotakids and Rotaractors went to Iligan City last December 26 to 27, 2012 for their relief operations at the Echavez Elementary School in Barangay San Roque, Iligan City.

Together with their Partners in Service, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office Zamboanga Branch led by Raul Regondola, WESMINCOM, DSWD, APO, the Rotaract Clubs of ZamboWEST and Southern City Colleges and the Rotary Clubs in Iligan City, the Disaster Management Team composed of the different Club Presidents of Rotary Clubs in Zamboanga City, AG Butch Blanco and DMT Deputy for Administration Emil Aquino, was able to serve over six hundred families at the makeshift evacuation center at the Echavez school grounds. Food bags, used clothing, blankets, slippers and bottled water were distributed to the flood victims. Iligan Mayor Lawrence Cruz thanked the group immensely for the relief efforts.

Rotarians and Anns present were: (from RCZC West) Pres. JR Ortega; Ann Pres. Ivy Blanco, AG Butch Blanco, PP Emil Aquino, Ann PP Brenda Aquino, Dir. Raul Regondola and Ann Sec. Gigie Regondola, Rtn. Tonton Alegata and Ann PP Lynna Alegata, Vince and Tongie Alegata, Rtn. Gil Lim and Rtn. Tata Tugao, (from RCZC North) Pres. Eric Basilio and Ann Pres. Carla Basilio; (from RCZC Central) Pres. Lyds Lubaton; (from Rotaract Club of Zambo West) Pres. Aldimin Kali, VP Bryan Callao, Bryan Joseph Alberto, Dionesio Teodoro; (from Rotaract Club of Southern City Colleges) Dir. Alkhabir Lakian, Carlo Canden, Jemark Bolingas, Danilo Balingcasag, Jay-ar Pansalang, Yashira Batausa (from WESMINCOM) Ssgt. Floreno Rentura, PA, S1 Henry Marcos, PN (from PCSO Volunteers) Baby Langcay.



RC Iloilo South: Oplan Sagip Mindanao with PDG Toto Cua Locsin & Rotaractors.



Zones 11-12 Council of Presidents: Planning on relief goods delivery to Typhoon Sendong victims in District 3870.



RC Bacolod North: Medicine donation to Typhoon Sendong victims.



Sec. Martin Sunaz (left) of RC Zamboanga City with staff and volunteers readying relief goods for Cagayan de Oro City.



From Zamboanga City to Cagayan de Oro: Donated goods including those from Zones 10-11. Ateneo de Zamboanga University took charge of delivering goods to Xavier University.



Rtn. Karen Avery of RC Ozamiz North distributing packed goods in Iligan City.

Pres. Moravi Flores

Rotary Club of Miagao

We have a big project in the club and this was a joint undertaking with the 82nd Infantry Battalion of Philippine Army. We gathered forty less privileged children who never set foot on urban community and we gave them the chance to experience it through LAKBAY-ARAL last December 6, 2011. The purpose of this project is to let the children from far-flung barangays see greater opportunities to improve their lives through diligence in their studies.



The children were welcomed first by Miagao Mayor Julieta Flores in her office. She imparted to the children the importance of education and that they must study hard to achieve their dreams. When asked what they wanted to be when they grow up, most of them chose to become teachers.

We visited SEAFDEC (Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center), the new Iloilo Airport, shopping malls and fast food joints. Provincial Board Member and PP Gerry Flores also welcomed them.

It was a very heartwarming experience for the Rotarians, as well. The fund we utilized for this project was from our caroling. We would like to thank all our sponsors who helped us materialize this project, our fellow Rotarians, our *kasimanwas* and the UP Visayas for the 2 school buses we used for the tour.



Pres. Jaresh "Jah" Ng

Rotary Club of Midtown Iloilo

Our club had a joyride of a Christmas when we brought joy to many through Jeep Sang Rotary. This is a monthly undertaking where the members leave their respective cars and ride a passenger jeep to distribute food packs and drinks to street children, senior citizens and persons with disabilities.



We go down the jeep, give our presents and interact with the members of the marginalized sectors. The route included Iznart Street, Muelle Loney, Plaza Libertad and Valeria, Delgado and De Leon Streets.

Last December 1, the club had a unique project called Malipayaon nga Pagsikad sa Inyo Tanan. We distributed groceries to Iloilo City Proper trisikad drivers at the Freedom Grandstand.

Another activity we are proud of was the Have a Merry Slippers Christmas, where we distributed footwear to children. The humble, self-realizing activity made us note that many of our kids can't even afford to have a pair of slippers.

With these projects, may love and concern for people we don't know be born in our hearts. Only then we can all embrace humanity not only during the Yuletide season but every day of the year.



Pres. Lorenzo "Lorenz" Dolar III

Rotary Club of Guimaras

This year's Rotary theme "Reach within to Embrace Humanity" draws a lot of inspiration and motivation. It is one, unique theme to guide us, even beyond this Rotary year.

We could reach within the hero in us. I believe that each one of us is capable of doing acts of heroism, from the simplest acts of kindness, to the ultimate offering of oneself. The only resource that we need is a genuine love for service and the thing that will keep us going comes from God's love through our families and friends.



You can be a hero by being a true Rotarian. Embracing humanity may sound too big, but it can be done by being a true Rotarian who is in the business of serving above self.



To my Rotary family here in Guimaras and also in the District, thank you for your support, encouragement, and inspiration. I can't promise grand things, but if we do service the family way, with God as our provider, we can make things grand!

Let's all be changemakers!

Pres. Ricardo "Ric" Demonteverde

Rotary Club of Dumangas

I am very happy to announce that we had a memorable Christmas celebration. We also have a project called the "Love Reaching Down" in cooperation with other organizations. We had a medical outreach and distribution of a hundred grocery packs to indigent families.



The series of activities also included a clothing bazaar for free. We sponsored a Christmas cantata where the people of Dumangas listened to soothing Christmas carols in the plaza.

Of course, we didn't fail to hold another Children's Party, much to the happiness of Day Care pupils in Brgy. Jardin, Dumangas. We have held a fund raising effort from the previous fight of Pacquiao. The funds raised was able to support our many humanitarian projects.

In the town plaza, our club was one of the sponsors of the giant Christmas tree in the town plaza.



This is one of our public image projects. We have always believed in Rotary awareness, and this is the reason why we have embarked on projects like signages, participation in our local festivals, among others.



Starting a New Rotary Club

By PP Leonardo Raphael "Raphy" Tayco, Jr., Rotary Club of Kalibo, District Extension Chair

For Rotary to continue its vital humanitarian work and expand its service to communities at home and abroad, its membership base must grow. In recent years, charter members of new Rotary clubs have been the primary means of Rotary's membership growth.

Consider starting a new club if

- A local community that can support a club does not have a club
- An existing Rotary club is facing meeting-space constraints
- Alternative meeting times would benefit different groups within the community

Requirements

District governors are responsible for approving and overseeing the process of starting a new club, including appointing a special representative to guide the organization of the club.

Those interested in organizing a new Rotary club should contact their district governor and Club and District Support representative. New clubs should be mentored for two to three years after being chartered.

New clubs must

- Adopt the Standard Rotary Club Constitution
- Have a minimum of 25 charter members
- Elect officers
- Pay a charter fee
- Hold weekly meetings
- Choose a club name
- Be approved by the RI Board of Directors

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is a new Club survey necessary?

Yes, the RI Board requires one before members are recruited for the new club.

2. Does a new club have to have a sponsor club?

No, but the RI Board strongly encourages sponsor clubs because they can significantly reduce the high termination rate of new clubs by helping to establish growing membership, relevant service projects, and enjoyable fellowship opportunities for the new club. A new club may have one or more sponsor clubs, but at least one of the sponsor clubs should be in close physical proximity to the new club.

3. Does the special representative have to belong to the sponsor club?

No. In many instances, the special representative's club acts as a sponsor club, but that is not required. The governor may select any Rotarian to serve as special representative.

4. Is there a minimum or maximum number for a charter list?

The minimum number is 25; there is no maximum.

5. What are the qualifications for membership?

Qualified potential members fall into one of these categories:



- Currently working in professional, proprietary, executive, or managerial positions or retired from such positions
- Community leaders who have demonstrated a commitment to service through personal involvement in community affairs
- Rotary Foundation alumni, as defined by the RI Board

They must also:

- Be able to meet the club's weekly attendance and community project participation requirements
- Live or work within the club's area
- Fit into a classification that is not overrepresented in your club (exception: Rotary Foundation alumni)

6. Are there any restrictions on classifications?

Yes. A club can have up to five members or 10 percent of the active members, whichever is higher, in any one related field. For example, a charter list with 25 members would be limited to 5 members with the same classification. On the other hand, a charter list with 60 members can have up to 6 members (10 percent) who share the same classification.



Paskuhan at Pagadian City Jail

By Pres. Anastacio "Jun" Descallar, Rotary Club of Pagadian West

Almost 300 inmates of the Pagadian City Jail received gifts from the members of the Rotary Club of Pagadian West and the personnel from the RTC and MTCC of Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur and Pagadian City Prosecution Office, IBP Local Chapter, Public Attorney's Office, and Parole and Probation Office.

There were about 100 selected inmates, both men and women, wearing yellow shirts printed with the word "Detainee" who attended the program and contributed songs and dances that really touched the heart of every Rotarian.

One of the highlights of the program was the reading of the Order of Release from the courts of origin which drew cheers, laughter, and tears from the audience.

The gifts given to each of the inmates consisted of printed t-shirts with the word "Detainee" and with small letters printed at the back portion of the shirt with the donor's name—Rotary Club of Pagadian West. Each inmate received a gift consisting of bath soap, toothpaste, laundry soap and rations of food given by the employees of Justice Department and Supreme Court. On this very memorable and touching moments in our lives, we integrated the celebration of RI thrusts in three Rotary-designated months.

Family of Rotary. We included the spouses in reaching out to the least fortunate members of our society.



City Jail inmates received "Paskuhan" gifts from Rotarians and Justice Hall personalities.

Rotary Awareness. Rotarians went hand in hand and with collaborative efforts with the Justice Hall personalities to conduct joint projects in order to boost our public image and promote public relations.

World Understanding. We let everyone understand that "crime does not pay" and word "detainee" connotes something different from a word "prisoner." Every person in society has a role to play and we, Rotarians, have our roles to play, too.

World Understanding

District Secretary Melchor "Cho" Ramos

February is designated as World Understanding Month; one of the most significant celebrations in the Rotary calendar. Each Rotary club is encouraged to have activities related to understanding and unity to achieve world peace. It is in this month that we are commemorating the founding of Rotary by Paul Harris, a lawyer who made friends and started rotating their meetings in residences of the members.

Clubs and districts will have contacts with their counterparts in other countries which aim to promote intercultural understanding among countries. An intercountry committee then promotes stronger ties between Rotarians, clubs or districts. By the district committees on world peace and understanding, Rotarians may visit each other's countries and homes, strengthen friendships and projects which promotes world peace. Activities include

DS NOTES



development of new Rotary clubs, sister or twinning between club of other countries, conducting Rotary Friendship Exchanges or doing world community service projects and vocational service projects.

More could be done if we do our best in contributing to The Rotary Foundation. Our District Governor is appealing for your support to the Annual Giving. We have been receiving a lot, and it is best that we give also. Starting this issue, we will publish the club donors to TRF.

We have barely three months to go and we will have the event of the Rotary year, the DISCON 2012. Please register and let's meet once again to enjoy the camaraderie in Iloilo City.



Rotary Friendship Exchange

By PP Emelito "Emil" H. Masigon, Chair, District Rotary Friendship Exchange

"Friendship Exchange is not simply a way to obtain friendly lodging during a business or vacation trip. The exchange of Rotary families and couples who are motivated by a sincere desire to learn about others and to share international fellowship can be an effective tool in promoting better human relations around the world."



A group of Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Illawarra Sunrise from Australia will visit Bacolod to renew sisterhood agreement with the Rotary Club of Metro Bacolod. These group of Rotarians will stay for two weeks and conduct humanitarian service to several communities as well as fellowship and camaraderie with the host club. Another group of Japanese Rotarians renew old friendship made at an RI Convention with club members from Australia or an Italian Rotarian parents of a former Rotary Youth Exchange student spend time with the family who hosted their son in Thailand.

Experiences like these happen all the time through Rotary Friendship Exchange!

Rotary Friendship Exchange is Rotary's international exchange program for Rotarians and their families. Friendship Exchange provides participants the opportunity to experience other cultures by staying in the homes of Rotarians in other countries. The program aims to advance international understanding and peace through personal contact across borders while developing inter-club relationships for fellowship and service projects.

Three types of friendship exchanges

Visitor Program. Individual Rotarians, who may be accompanied by family members, spend a few days in the home of a Rotarian in another country.

Team Program. Rotarian couples, typically four to six, visit several communities in a host district for up to one month.

Uni-vocational. Host and guest Rotarians of the same occupation observe how their job is done in other countries.

Key features of an exchange

- It is between two Districts, in different countries
- A visitor to one District is not required to host for the return visit (but many want to do so)
- A tour lasts about 15 days
- Each home hosting is about three nights
- Most tour groups have about 5-7 couples
- Many visitors organise "end-on" private tours before or after the actual RFE tour

Visitors pay for:

- travel to and from the host district
- shared cost of any hired internal travel e.g. minibus
- entry fees to tourist attractions
- restaurant meals
- Rotary Club attendances

Hosts provide:

- the usual courtesies accorded to house guests
- local sightseeing and activities

What is the administration?

- The two DGs or DGNs agree to hold one.
- The RFE Chairmen negotiate the actual times and durations,
- The host District puts together the itinerary and hosting list from the host clubs
- The visiting District finds the visitors and assembles their biographical brochure
- Usually one Travel Agent does all the bookings for an outward tour

What are the benefits of participating in a RFE tour?

- You make new friends from another country and culture
- You meet them in a home-stay situation
- You see the places of local interest as well as the "tourist traps"
- You establish firm friendships within the touring group.
- You experience Rotary in action in different places.

For general program information, please go to www.rotary.org > Service and Fellowship > Rotary Friendship Exchange. On the Web site, you may access the following resources:

- Rotary Friendship Exchange Handbook
- Rotary Friendship Exchange Matching Board
- Building Cultural Awareness



GSE: Rotary's Way of Bridging the World

By PP Jundad Legislador, Rotary Club of Kabankalan, District GSE Chair

The Group Study Exchange (GSE) program of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for young business and professional men and women between the ages of 25 and 40 in the initial years of their professional life. The program provides travel grants for teams of participants to exchange visits between paired areas in different countries. For four to six weeks, team members study the host country's institutions and ways of life, observe their own vocations as practiced abroad, develop personal and professional relationships, and exchange ideas. Team members can come from corporations, small businesses, community organizations, medical and educational facilities, government offices, and nonprofit agencies.

GSE enhances the international perspective of the next generation of young leaders that will take your company into the future. GSE participants return with new communication and facilitation skills that promote tolerance and collaboration with professional people of other cultures. GSE fosters a creative approach to problem solving by expanding the employee's skill set, exposure to alternate methodologies, and preparation for addressing community needs. In addition, GSE provides a great public relations opportunity to promote awareness of your business or organization, as local and international media may feature interviews, photos, and articles about the exchange.

The above mentioned benefits of the program have long been enjoyed by the men and women from our District who were given the unique opportunity to be part of. From North America to Europe, from Latin America to our neighboring Asian countries, District 3850, through the years has travelled the world through the young professionals who represented our country with pride, dignity and professionalism.

On September 18, 2010, PP Raymond Padayhag of the Rotary Club of Zamboanga City West led a team with four remarkable professionals, in what was to become a journey of a lifetime. With District 1150, South Wales, UK as the host District and country, the team left no stone unturned as they participated in a whirlwind, yet enriching collision of culture and profession. PP Raymond was never shy in proclaiming how proud he was of his team members as they toured the host district, from Porthcawl to Plymouth, from Cardiff to the City of Swansea. Composing the team were Joanne Marie Pijuan, a media and publishing practitioner from Iloilo City; Dr. Omar John Mejia, a physician from Roxas City; Leo Cajulao, a marketing manager from Zamboanga City; and Michael Saavedra, from the same city, who is working as Director of Legislative Office of a lawmaker.

Upon returning home, PP Raymond and his team shared in



The District 3850 GSE Team (from left to right): Leo Cajulao, PP Raymond Padayhag, Joanne Marie Pijuan, Omar John Mejia, Michael Saavedra



The District 1150 GSE Team (from left to right): Helen Joseph, Sarah Page, Gareth Cheesman, Gemma Bright, Amanda Hodson

every opportunity available, how GSE enriched them, both professionally and culturally. Not to be missed in their tales were the kindness, generosity and hospitality of the people they met in District 1150, particularly the Rotarians and their families. PP Rob Elward, my counterpart GSE Coordinator, made good of his promise to provide the team with a balanced, fun and exciting tour.

This Rotary Year, it is our District's turn to show District 1150 our brand of hospitality and kindness as we receive their GSE Team come March 18. As I ask my fellow Rotarians from District 3850 to go an extra mile in making our "guests" feel at home, I am also expecting that we extend to them the experience that each of them will never forget for the rest of their lives.

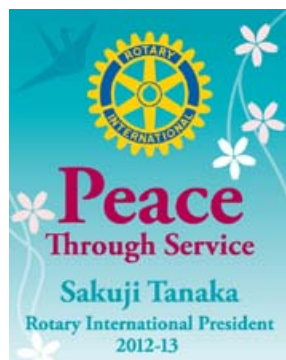
For thirty days, each of us will become hosts to a Team Leader who has devoted a great part of his life in serving others through Rotary, and four impressive young women as they explore District 3850.



TRF Contributions

By PDG Ramon "Toto" Cua Locsin
Chair, District Rotary Foundation Committee

As of January 20, 2012, only a few clubs have made contributions to The Rotary Foundation. Their contributions, broken down into Annual Giving and Polio Plus amounts, are shown in the table to the right.



"Peace, in all of the ways that we can understand it, is a real goal and a realistic goal for Rotary. Peace is not something that can only be achieved through agreements, by governments, or through heroic struggles. It is something that we can find and that we can achieve, every day and in many simple ways."

Sakuji Tanaka
RI President, RY 2012-13

ROTARY CLUB	ANNUAL GIVING	POLIO PLUS
Iloilo City	\$ 4,000.00	
Dipolog		\$ 3,000.00
Midtown Iloilo	\$ 2,000.00	
Central Iloilo City	\$ 1,500.00	
Zamboanga City Central	\$ 1,500.00	
Kalibo	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,186.05
Bacolod South		\$ 1,500.00
Metro Roxas	*\$ 500.00	\$ 700.00
Zamboanga City East	\$ 585.14	\$ 200.00
Metro Zamboanga	\$ 600.00	
Basilan	\$ 600.00	
Iloilo	\$ 600.00	
Iloilo West	\$ 100.00	
Metro Kalibo	\$ 100.00	
Metro Roxas	\$ 100.00	

*Cash restricted donation for Matching Grant

DisCon 2012 Updates

By PP Tres Arandela DisCon 2012 Chair

The DISCON 2012 Committee would like to thank those who registered during the extended period for a lower rate. We also acknowledge the clubs who showed their intention of putting advertisements in our souvenir program.

Here are some of the important information and changes the committee decided for our District Conference.

1) April 12, 2012: Opening Ceremony to start at 4:00 p.m. in Plazuela de Iloilo. Attire: festival costumes. April 13, 2012: Plenary Sessions in Sarabia Manor Hotel to start at 9:00 a.m. Attire: casual, club shirt/uniform. The Governor's Ball will start at 6:30 p.m. at the same venue. Attire: strictly formal, barong or business suit for men and gown or cocktails for women. There will be a Spouse Program and a city tour in the morning. The last day, April 14, 2012 will be a half day affair for the business meeting. Attire: casual, club uniform/shirt.

2) For the competitions, please take note of the following. For the festival competition in the Opening Program, participants should be Rotarians and/or Spouses. For the Ballroom Dancing, pair should be Rotarians and/or Spouses. And for the Rotary Got Talent, contestants should be Rotarians.

3) For clubs who have not yet submitted their

club logos, please do so, as we will do away with banners and instead, flash your club logos during the entrance in the opening ceremony. If you wish to also change your picture, please send to Dist. Secretary Cho Ramos, Gov. Melvin or to Ms. Irene Millondaga.

4) For your hotel accommodations, our Chair is Pres. Jaresh Ng. You can contact him for the list of hotels.



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Email: jaresh_ng@yahoo.com

5) For clubs who want to showcase their projects and other activities, there will booths in the House of Friendship in the ground floor of the hotel. Fee will be P500 a day. It will be a different rate for business booths. We will also award the Best Booth. Please bring also your bannerettes, as we will have a Banner Exchange Area.

6) During the Governor's Ball, please be reminded of bringing your presents to our RI President's Representative Jason Chan and Spouse Alice.



Orientation of Sgt.-at-Arms with PP Arwin Serrano



District 3850: Festival District

Monthly Attendance Report

December 2011

Zone	Rotary Club	Club No.	Chartered	Members	Meetings	Att %	Rank
I	Iloilo	17045	1933	44	3	37.00	47
	Iloilo South	17047	1971	23	4	89.30	10
	Antique	17015	1971	25	5	86.00	16
	Iloilo West	28828	1992	18	2	68.00	36
	Miagao	58693	2002	13	4	88.00	11
II	Iloilo City	17046	1975	29	2	82.00	22
	Jaro-Iloilo City	25131	1988	19	4	80.00	26
	Central Iloilo City	27338	1990	17	3	95.24	3
	Jaro-Centraline	29746	1993	14	5	85.71	19
	Jaro South	31664	1996	10	2	78.00	30
III	Metro Iloilo	17066	1979	61	4	58.20	41
	Midtown Iloilo	24342	1987	31	3	98.60	1
	Guimaras	27277	1990	21	3	51.65	43
	Molo	27939	1991	10	DNR	DNR	
	La Paz	30821	1995	17	3	68.00	37
	Dumangas	31821	1996	28	4	79.80	28
	Metro Passi	76428	2007	17	4	78.00	31
	Roxas	17080	1964	18	4	80.00	27
	Kalibo	17053	1967	51	3	91.50	7
	Metro Roxas	22518	1982	41	5	91.67	6
IV	Boracay	50661	1997	18	4	93.00	5
	Metro Kalibo	54828	2001	12	3	83.33	21
	Metro Roxas Central	74422	2006	27	4	96.00	2
	Bacolod North	17018	1973	57	3	81.48	24
	Silay	17084	1973	18	3	78.00	32
V	Escalante	17037	1976	14	3	88.00	12
	Victorias	17091	1966	18	5	87.21	13
	Bacolod	17016	1937	32	4	86.00	17
	Bacolod East	17017	1983	33	2	77.58	33
VI	Bacolod-Marapara	29076	1992	23	2	73.97	34
	Bacolod Central	31518	1996	26	DNR	DNR	
	Bacolod South	17019	1969	24	3	90.00	8
	Kabankalan	17052	1974	26	4	81.00	25
VII	Metro Bacolod	25280	1988	22	3	82.00	23
	Bacolod West	27374	1990	25	2	87.00	14
	Dipolog	21409	1950	26	4	48.94	44
	Jimenez	17050	1975	20	4	86.00	18
VIII	Dapitan City	25485	1986	16	5	39.00	45
	Oroquieta Centennial	69314	2005	16	2	34.00	49
	Ozamiz North	17073	1974	25	5	87.00	15
	Pagadian	17074	1975	25	5	65.00	38
IX	Pagadian West	17075	1977	30	3	89.70	9
	Zamboanga City	17094	1948	45	3	95.00	4
	Basilan	17022	1960	34	3	59.00	40
	Zamboanga City East	17095	1974	23	4	55.00	42
X	Zamboanga City North	17096	1980	20	2	79.40	29
	Zamboanga City Central	26956	1990	24	3	70.83	35
	Zamboanga City West	17097	1971	55	2	60.00	39
	Metro Zamboanga	22275	1974	22	3	85.00	20
XI	Ipil-Sibugay	59175	2002	21	5	38.00	46
	Bongao	69302	2005	20	3	34.20	48

Top 10 Clubs in Attendance %

1	Midtown Iloilo	98.60
2	Metro Roxas Central	96.00
3	Central Iloilo City	95.24
4	Zamboanga City	95.00
5	Boracay	93.00
6	Metro Roxas	91.67
7	Kalibo	91.50
8	Bacolod South	90.00
9	Pagadian West	89.70
10	Iloilo South	89.30

Top 10 Clubs in Membership

1	Metro Iloilo	62
2	Bacolod North	57
3	Zamboanga City West	55
4	Kalibo	51
5	Zamboanga City	45
6	Iloilo	44
7	Metro Roxas	41
8	Basilan	34
9	Bacolod East	33
10	Bacolod	32

Clubs that Did Not Report (DNR)

1	Bacolod Central
2	Molo

Facts about District 3850

# of Clubs**	51
# of Active Rotarians*	1,288
Average Attendance %**	75.46
Average Membership**	25.57

* As of 30 June 2011

** For December 2011



DISTRICT 3850 PHILIPPINES *Festival District*

ILOILO CITY

Dinagyang Festival

The world-renowned Dinagyang is a religious and cultural festival in Iloilo City held on the fourth Sunday of January. It is held both to honor the Santo Niño and to celebrate the arrival on Panay of Malay settlers and the subsequent selling of the island to them by the Atis. Dinagyang is

divided into three major events: Ati-Ati Street Dancing, Kasadyahan Street Dancing and Miss Dinagyang.

The main part of the festival consists of a number of tribes (tribus), who are supposed to be Ati tribe members dancing in celebration. Performers paint their



skin brown and only indigenous materials are used for the costumes. All dances are performed to drum music. Many tribes are organized by the local high schools. Some tribes receive a subsidy from the organizers and recruit private sponsors, with the best tribes receiving the most.

BASILAN

Lamilamihan Festival

The unique and cultural Lamilamihan Festival is held every second or third week of April in Lamitan City, Basilan. The annual celebration coincides with the founding of Lamitan City.

It showcases the traditional Yakan cus-

toms and traditions, music and dances, and traditional crafts. It is the island's premier festival and is celebrated for the Feast of St. Peter (Fiesta San Pedro). The festival is highlighted by the Yakans, who attend the festivities in full regalia, selling wares and

produce brought in from their farms in the interior.



KABANKALAN CITY

Udyakan sa Kabankalan

A kaleidoscope of festivities is showcased in the Udyakan sa Kabankalan, a pre-Sinulog presentation of its history, culture and development through songs, dances and drama. The festival is one of the highlights of the Charter Anniversary of Kabankalan City, dubbed as the gateway of Negros.

Eighty participants composed of dance

trainers and coordinators attended the dance workshop seminar conducted by Ismael E. Java, artistic director/choreographer of Kalingaw: Ang Teatro Hiligaynon of West Negros University in Kabankalan City recently. The workshop was in preparation for the Making the Udyakan Festival more significant is the inclusion of



the steps of Chotis de Negros, a folk dance created by Petra Yanson, a Kabankalanon who has passed away many years ago.

JIMENEZ, MISAMIS OCC.

Sakay-Sakay Festival

Sakay-sakay is an age-old tradition among Jimenez folks of going to the sea to swim and make merriment. The Visayan word, Sakay, means ride. When repeated, it connotes riding as an enjoyable experience.

The festival opens with a mass and a parade of dancers in costumes and the statues of Saint John the Baptist and Saint Peter, from the Catholic church to the port

where a food exposition and the games are opened. The games feature rowing contests singly or in groups, using fishing boats and small formula boats, coming from Visayas and other Mindanao provinces. The formula race of small home-made boats is the last main event of the festival. At night, the port comes alive with rock concerts, fireworks display, and a search



for the festival queen. The usual food and drinks are offered by entrepreneurs in the stalls installed at the pier.