

# PRISM

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3850  
GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY LETTER  
SEPTEMBER 2014

## CRACKING THE GEN Y CODE



Rotary



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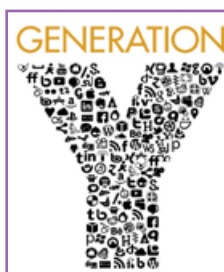
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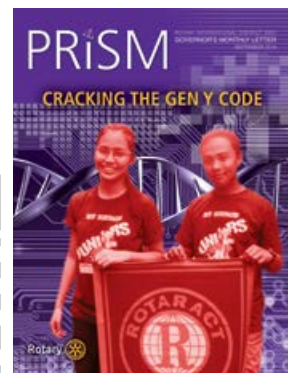
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## Learning from the young

*By Maté Espina, Rotary Club of Bacolod Central*

**I**n our cover story for this month, I started the article with Jose Rizal's famous quote "the youth is the hope of our fatherland, our future."

This was significant in my recent experience here in California where for the whole month of August, I took part in the restaging of Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere, The Musical."

The musical was a creation of award-winning director, Felix "Nonon" Padilla, Ryan Cayabyab and National Artist, Bienvenido Lumbera and was first staged at the Cultural Center of the Philippines more than twenty years ago along with another Rizal novel and sequel of Noli, "El Filibusterismo."

My sister, Nenen, and I were part of the original cast at the CCP but this time, in the LA production, we took on roles behind the curtains as part of the production group – Nenen as musical director and me as stage manager and marketing director.

Early this year, I was part of the audition panel and one of our requirements for the hopefuls was to sing a Filipino song. Since most were Filipino-American kids, the songs were sung, if not with an American slang accent, without passion since they could barely understand the words they were uttering.

We picked a few from the lot, mostly seasoned Filipino theater performers who are now residing in the US. But since many of them were full-time employees, we were left with a cast of lead stars and very few for the chorus roles.

When rehearsals started, the Fil-Am kids of the lead actors would accompany their parents and soon after, expressed interest to join. Despite the language barrier, they persevered and months later, they were still not speaking the Filipino language but they were singing

from the heart.

This is the point raised by Michael Mc Queen in his article on how to engage the youth in joining Rotary. Do not focus so much on the process, but on the outcomes. The young today are more on-the-go and prone to use their own methods for as long as the output desired is met.

They are also more inquisitive and would press for answers, particularly for traditional processes that they may not fully understand. The full article of Mc Queen talks about the possibility of them asking why we bang gavels, why we choose a particular project, or why the need for a weekly meeting when other civic organizations meet twice or once a month only.

We, Rotarians, should patiently answer all questions. We must allow them to introduce their methods for as long as the desired outcome is met. We must give them the freedom to express themselves and more importantly, particularly for Rotarians who have been gung-ho on protocols and traditions, we must meet them halfway and understand the generational gap in ideas and processes the young are accustomed to for as long as the Rotary values are not compromised.

Just like the Fil-Am kids I've worked with in the LA production of Noli, we had to adjust and use a different method. Whence before we will be given scripts to memorize and be ready for rehearsals, this time around, much were devoted to script analysis and we had to patiently wait for the kids to ask why a particular scene asked for a certain emotion.

In the end, after receiving a standing ovation, after the applause stopped, none were prouder than the Fil-Am kids who not only developed their craft in performing arts, but more importantly, acquired knowledge and love for a culture they never knew....until now.





## September 2014

*Gary Huang, Rotary International President 2014-15*

One of the great privileges of being president of Rotary International is having the chance to visit so many parts of the Rotary world. Usually I travel to participate in Rotary events; speak at Rotary clubs, conferences, and institutes; and encourage Rotarians in their service. But as president, I am responsible for all branches of the Rotary family. This means that it is also my privilege to support the service of Rotary's youngest generations: our Rotaractors, Interactors, Rotary Youth Exchange students, and Rotary Youth Leadership Awards participants.

When I see the work Rotarians do, I am always impressed, always excited, and always inspired. When I see the work of our New Generations, I am all of this – and frequently I am surprised as well. Not by the quality of their work – for I have learned to expect great things from them – but by the creativity and ingenuity of their thinking. I look at what they have done and think not just “What a great job!” but “What a great idea!” Because every generation sees the world in a unique way, and every individual has a unique point of view. Faced with the same problems, we arrive at different solutions. This is why, in Rotary, our diversity – of culture, language, expertise, gender, and age – is our strength.

In Rotary, we try to take the long view in our service. We aspire to serve in ways that will make a lasting difference, that will continue to have an impact after our participation ends. Our younger generations, in my experience, share this sentiment, and apply it globally, by focusing on environmental issues in new and innovative ways. When I became a Rotarian, environmental issues were barely on our radar. To young people today, these concerns are front and center. Their perspective is a valuable contribution to the world of Rotary service, and it is one that we should all encourage and support. Just as they are learning from us, so should we be learning from them.

The young people who are serving in Rotaract and Interact, and participating in Youth Exchange and RYLA today, are the Rotarians of tomorrow. When we support them, we are supporting the future of our entire organization. We are helping to train the men and women who will be the club presidents, district governors, RI directors, and RI presidents of tomorrow.



## It's all about desire

*Joe Jay "Jude" Doctora, District Governor 2014-15*

**N**ot too long somebody asked me what is really the purpose of having Rotaract and Interact clubs. My answer was simple...they are our future Rotarians. They are our youth partners therefore our programs and mentoring should be tailored to prepare these Interactors and Rotaractors to become Rotarians; which led to the thought that it is time to check who among your current members are alumni of these Rotary Youth Programs. And if your club maintains some records, it would be also nice to know who among the alumni of these youth programs ever became Rotarians, not necessarily with your club. It would be interesting to find out our conversion rate; and if the figure is not encouraging enough, then I think it's time that we review how we manage and mentor them.

My fellow Rotarians, as we usher in the month of September, let us keep in mind that September is designated as the New Generations Month. This month, we welcome and celebrate the youth and young adults in our communities.

If your club has not done it yet, this is the time that we give them special attention; this is the time that we do a three (3) years strategic plan about our partnership with them; And this is also the time that we review our engagement with them. And let us be reminded that when we talk about New Generations Programs, we must remember our RYLA and Rotex, two wonderful programs designed for the youth.

It is our pride that in the Philippines, we are one of the only two Districts authorized to do Rotary Exchange. Ask ourselves if what we have envisioned for our Rotaracts and Interacts are really coming to form. Ask ourselves why we have not participated in

the Rotex Program and our RYLA; or ask ourselves why our clubs have not sponsored an Interact or a Rotaract club.

Again, my fellow Rotarians, I know that what I am suggesting will entail your precious time and some works and as busy people, some may look at this as an added burden. As your District Governor, I can only appeal and say to you...*it's all about desire*.

Just like many things we have and will accomplish in life...*it's all about desire*. The same holds true in Rotary. If we want to be a good Rotarian, true to our motto of Service Above Self; if we want to be a good Club President; if we want to be a good committee chair; If we want to be a good Past President; if we want to be a good District Team Officer; if we want to be a good Past District Governor; if we want to be a good District Governor; or if we want to serve humanity well...*it's all about desire*.

To all the Rotarians in our District, I encourage you all to continue reaching inside your heart and keep that DESIRE burning to make sure that we impart to the youth and young adults Rotary values and principles as we engage with them through our Rotaract, Interact, RYLA and Rotex programs.

A good start would be to go to [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) and download the manual "An Introduction to New Generations Service" where you can fully appreciate the rationale behind these programs. The manual likewise offers many suggestions on how you can design an effective New Generations Service programs for your club.

Again, my fellow Rotarians, *it's all about desire*. Cheers!

# Rotary-Inner Wheel Village Elementary School



The movement of Gawad Kalinga 777 housing project started it all for the Rotary – Inner Wheel Village Elementary School way back in RY2007-2008.

PP Edilberto E. Yorong who happened to be the project chair for the Gawad Kalinga-Pagadian City tapped the Rotary Club of Pagadian to support this endeavor intended for the poorest of the poor in our community.

It was suggested that we adopt a Rotary Lane where 10 houses will be built but since the club has no budget, we appealed for individual sponsorship of donor Rotarians in the name of the Rotary Club of Pagadian. Among the first to respond was PP Rene Luy who sponsored one unit along with PP Ed Yorong.

It was just a start of something beautiful. Both PP Ed and PP Rene appealed for eight more housing units but instead, through the persuasion of then President Bert Pollsico, Charter President Jun Bacolot donated one hectare of land at Mt. Diwalwal which will be turned into the Rotary-Inner Wheel Village, a joint project of our Rotary club together with the Inner Wheel Club of Pagadian led by President Ann Pollsico.

Similar to the Gawad Kalinga concept, the Rotary-Inner Wheel Village though brought in a twist, making it into transition homes. Apprehension was high since none from the club have experience in housing projects but ultimately, the club built two duplex-4 units house

donated by President Bert and President Ann Pollsico, PP Joy Hinoguin, PP Jing Barnido and PP Rene Luy.

However the project halted soon after the initial construction after contributions came to a standstill as the country was hit by a financial crisis.

RY 2008-2009 was a hard start for Pres. Ed Elumbaring since no more funds came but an opportunity came when portion of the lot was donated to the Department of Education so that a school can be constructed especially since most, if not all the people and children, were not getting education with the nearest school about five kilometers away.

While the idea was noble, many Rotarians were cautious because it would mean the club may be saddled to build classrooms continuously for students who will go up to the next grade level.

A makeshift nipa hut structure was built to house the first 33 grade I students for that year, this despite the warning that it may not withstand bad weather. True enough, before the school year even ended the nipa hut classroom collapsed due to strong winds. We were lucky that the students were not there anymore and the assigned teacher abandoned the structure an hour before it collapsed. Had it been otherwise, the club would have faced disastrous damage and misery.



The clubs were divided whether to continue with the project or not but since an agreement has already been inked with DepEd and we do not want to quash the hopes of the students, a fund raising was held and P100,000 was collected to replace the old structure – this time with a concrete one.

The problem did not stop there though since every year thereafter, there is a need to build an additional structure for students accelerating to the next level. The amount though was not enough and for the second time the project halted.

Hope came though when then District Governor Nominee Edgar “Diotay” Sy visited the club and asked how he can help. Without hesitation he promised to allocate funds needed to complete the project provided it must be finished before the school year starts.

The promise was realized and when PDG Edgar went back for the turnover in the presence of local DepEd officials and then Mayor Samuel Co who was also a Rotarian, he challenged the local government to make the area more accessible by improving infrastructure leading to the village. Although it took some time, the road too was eventually build.

Since then, every year thereafter, a donor with a big heart came forward to help the club build more classrooms. Maria Goolsby of the Union Bank of the Philippines donated a classroom, PDG Edgar again donated another one, and the last classroom was donated by PP Christine and Oscar Toledo over a cup of coffee and bottles of beer during the 2011 Discon in Bacolod.

Despite the challenges, the club’s commitment to build an

elementary school in the village has been fulfilled, thanks to their member’s perseverance, networking and the generosity of the donors.

The club insisted that the school be named the Rotary-Inner Wheel Village Elementary School to preserve the legacy of Rotary and their donors. They also instituted an annual “Children’s Party,” free haircut and the annual bath for the populace with the help of the Pagadian City Water District since the village remains without potable water due to its remoteness.

Last year when DepEd instituted the K-12 program, the clubs converted one of the housing units into a kindergarten school. That same year, PN Sandi Pranza chanced upon PDG Edgar who again committed to build the kindergarten structure provided she will provide the tables, chairs and other school implements. When the school year started, the kindergarten school was ready to accept students.

Last year too, both clubs attended the graduation of the first batch of 20 graduates from their village school and the top five students were promised scholarships with the help of the Saint Columban College High School Batch 87 for their high school education.

It was a long road with tough challenges ahead but because of faith and fate and the big-hearted Rotarians and friends we have, the dream of giving access to education for children in far-flung areas have been realized.

This is one legacy that the Rotary Club of Pagadian and the Inner Wheel Club of Pagadian are proud of.





# Let's Regreen the Earth

By Pres. Virgilio Geroso, RC Escalante

Our country has been inundated with floods, landslides, and other disasters which are partly caused by deforestation and other human activities that cause harm to our environment.

Government's effort have doubled but despite the recovery and reconstruction in areas heavily devastated by calamities, there is still much to be done. As such, we in RC-Escalante launched our Coastal Reforestation project as our signature program for the next three years.

A 3-hectare land has been identified as our project site located along the coastal village of Cervantes, Escalante. Our club is hoping this program wil somehow help re-build and re-green our Earth and we encourage all Rotarians in the District to undertake a similar project to help address and in our own way, resolve the earth's ecological imbalance.



Rotarians of the Rotary Club of Escalante planting 21,000 Mangrove seedlings in the 3-hectare site of their coastal reforestation project at Barangay Cervantes, Escalante, Negros Occidental.

# The Rotary Club of Kalibo cares for the children



President Arnold Ibarreta Jayme of the Rotary Club of Kalibo D3850, gives a dose of Multivitamin Supplement to a child beneficiary of the "Rotary Cares for the Children" program, held in August 9,2014 at the coastal community of Barangay Fatima, New Washington, Aklan.



## Zone 1

### AG Jigger “Jigs” Latoza



*Zone 1 Assistant Governor Jigger “Jigs” Latoza, PHF is the Immediate Past President of the Rotary Club of Iloilo. He also served as Vice-Chair of the Council of Presidents of the Rotary*

*Clubs in Zones 1, 2 and 3 in RY 2013-2014. His engagement with the Rotary Family began in 1989, when he served as President of the Rotaract Club of the University of San Agustin, Iloilo City, and subsequently as Zone 1 Rotaract Representative. In 2006, he was chosen as a member of the Group Study Exchange (GSE) Team that visited Rotary Clubs in Western California, USA. He joined the Rotary Club of Iloilo in 2010.*

### Rotary Club of Iloilo



*The Rotary Club of Iloilo, under the leadership of Pres. Steve Contreras begins the Rotary Year with a donation of computers, a printer and books to the students of San Isidro Elementary School in Jaro, Iloilo City.*

The Rotary Club of Iloilo (Chartered 1933) holds the distinction of being the first Rotary Club in the District and the third oldest Rotary Club in the Philippines. Club president, Esteban Angeles Contreras, PHF, is the first among the Best Class Presidents in the district to make a donation to The Rotary Foundation. The “mother club” has continued its long legacy of community service for over 80 years now, starting the Rotary Year by donating computers, a printer and books to the San Isidro Elementary School in the relocation site for informal settlers in Jaro, Iloilo City. With 14 doctors and 5 lawyers in its roster of members, the Club has scheduled medical-dental-legal missions in areas that most need these services.

The Club is further expected to play a key role in a post-Yolanda community socioeconomic rehabilitation project in three coastal barangays of Carles, Iloilo in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Timog (D-3780), the Rotary Club of Carlingford, Australia (D-9680), and the University of San Agustin,

Iloilo City, where the Club's sponsored Rotaract Club is based. Under the leadership of President Steve, the club would also like to work on the area of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

### Rotary Club of Iloilo South



*RC Iloilo South. PP Dan Balagtas (left) and Pres. Liberty Camaya (extreme right) facilitate the Deed of Donation for the school lot in Brgy. Sua, San Dionisio, Iloilo. Also in photo are the Brgy. Captain and the donors.*



*One of the 10 fishing boats donated by the Rotary Club of Iloilo South to Yolanda victims in San Dionisio, Iloilo.*

The Rotary Club of Iloilo South (Chartered 1971) has often been cited for outstanding community service projects. President Liberty Camaya has continued many of her predecessors' good projects, such as the Operation New Face, which has brought back smiles on the faces of more than 411 persons with cleft lip and palate in Guimaras and Passi City, Iloilo. The Club also provides livelihood programs for the poor and just recently, it distributed 10 boats with nets to victims of super typhoon Yolanda in San Dionisio, Iloilo, in partnership with the Feed the Hungry, Inc. Washington, DC, USA and the OFW Community in Saudi Arabia. More significantly, it has successfully facilitated a donation to the community of Brgy. Sua, San Dionisio, Iloilo of a 1-hectare lot from the Dofeliz Family for the construction of a primary school so that schoolchildren wouldn't have to walk three kilometers to school every day. With

the support of the Feed the Hungry, Inc. and the Philippine-American Foundation for Charities, the club will initially construct a two-classroom school building on the donated property.

In addition to the distribution of slippers to schoolchildren, and the mounting of an annual inter-school oratorical contest on the Rotary International theme, the Club has sustained material and financial support to institutions it has adopted: Dalayunan Home for Boys in (Lapuz, Iloilo), Raymondville Daycare Center (Tabuc Suba, Jaro), Brookside Daycare Center (Cubay, Jaro), Iloilo Rehabilitation Center.

### Rotary Club of Antique



*Rotary Club of Antique. PDG Melvin de la Serna and Pres. Miguel Labrague and fellow Rotarians spend time with the kids of Dalipe Day Care Center.*

Meanwhile, the Rotary Club of Antique (Chartered 1975), under the leadership of Pres. Miguel A. Labrague, is one of the early birds to heed the call of DG Jude for the establishment of a Rotary Health Center. The only Rotary Club in the province of Antique, the club inaugurated last August 17, 2014 its Rotary Health Center in Tibiao, a town with only three medical doctors. Since the President is a doctor of medicine, the efforts of the Club towards community service are directed towards health: free immunization against flu and pneumonia; coordination with the Rural Health Units for the immunization of children against measles, tetanus and other illnesses; free blood pressure reading during the Hypertension Month, among others.

In the field of education, on top of feeding kids and distributing school supplies, the club focuses on diseases prevention – the latter it does in partnership with the US Peace Corps Volunteers. The Club has also scheduled a series of lectures on current health issues like the Ebola Virus and Sexually Transmitted Diseases in the University of Antique. Furthermore, the Club is currently host to a Rotary Exchange student studying in Antique National School, and is set to send out one student from Antique for

the Youth Exchange.

## Rotary Club of Iloilo West



*Rotary Club of Iloilo West members, led by Pres. JLo Ong, with their sponsored Rotaractors from JBLMU and IDC-School of Dentistry after a successful dental mission.*

The Rotary Club of Iloilo West (Chartered 1991) is known for its regular—sometimes every two months—medical-dental missions, which have recently been directed to Gawad Kalinga (GK) communities in Iloilo. The Rotarians of Iloilo West significantly draw support from the two active Rotaract Clubs under their auspices, namely, the Rotaract Club of John B. Lacson Maritime University and the Rotaract Club of the Iloilo Doctors' College-School of Dentistry.

President Joanne Lyn Ong is prioritizing service in the field of education. Under her leadership, the Club will work on establishing a Rotary Library in a public school in Villa Arevalo, Iloilo City, and probably another one in a town in Capiz. Plans are also under way to help repair some school buildings severely damaged by super typhoon Yolanda in Northern Iloilo. A unique project of the Club is "Sea and Sail," which annually brings the children of rebel returnees to the beach for a day's treat. The children are given entertainment—through games, films and storytelling sessions—and gifts, as well as education on dental hygiene and nutrition. They are also taught how to swim and survive at sea.

## Rotary Club of Miagao



*The Rotary Club of Miagao, led this year by second time-Pres. Hector Tejado, is nearly a hundred percent composed of Past Presidents.*

Lastly, the Rotary Club of Miag-ao (Chartered 2002) is the Club where almost all members are Past Presidents. This Rotary Year is the second time for Pres. Hector Tejado to lead the 13 members of the Club.

Though small in size, the Club has carved a niche in the landscape of community service in Miag-ao, in Southern Iloilo, home of the iconic Miag-ao Church, a UNESCO-listed World Heritage Site. The Club areas of focus are water system installation and maintenance in two schools in the town, and continuing nutrition program in Miag-ao Central School. The Rotarians of Miag-ao have likewise set up a library in Miag-ao Central School, which they just need to re-brand as their Rotary Library, consistent with the priorities of the District in this Rotary Year. Last month, in partnership with the 3rd Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army and the Local Government of Igaras, Iloilo, the Club undertook a tree-planting project in that neighboring town, where the Rotarians of Miag-ao also sponsored a feeding activity for school children.

## Zone 2 AG Rebecca Maravilla



## Rotary Club of Iloilo City

Among the clubs under Zone 2, the Rotary Club of Iloilo City (RCIC) continues to bring pride and honor to Rotary District 3850 through its signature projects, many of which were started forty years ago.

RCIC was created by RC Iloilo South under the leadership then of PP Tony Hechanova. To date, RCIC has 30 members, three of whom are charter members, and have recently been upgraded to a medium-sized club.

Among their honorary members are Senator Loren Legarda and Past District Governor Edgar Sy.

RCIC's signature project is the Boy's and Girl's Week in Iloilo City which they started 40 years ago and have produced notable men and women of Iloilo.

Another ongoing program RCIC has is

the yearly Christmas party for some 500 elementary students in partnership with the Western Visayas Sanitarium Elementary School and the harelip and palate operations for numerous children whose lives have been changed by this project through the years.



*19th Porma Balas Iloilo Sand Sculpting Competition April 6, 2014 at Villa Baybay  
Major Projects of Rotaract Club of Iloilo and Rotary Club of Iloilo City.*

RCIC's Rotaract Club has worked wonders for the club's image as well with their "Porma Balas" annual activity started 19 years ago and which has been tagged by the local government as "one of Iloilo's tourist attraction."

RCIC has also forged partnerships with other clubs, in particular a sisterhood with RC Sae Goyang in Korea. RCIC is on of the biggest donor to the Disaster and Risk Management Program, and we thank Dir. Danny Brunner for his tireless effort, actively helping in the relief work and raised funds which RCIC donated.

RCIC has also produced a District Governor in Oscar Nava and for this year, President Totong Montejo's project includes setting up a Rotary Library in an elementary school in Leganes, Iloilo and a scholarship program for poor but deserving students.

Zone 2 is composed of small clubs except for RCIC and my plan is to bring all these clubs together to implement programs where they can share skills and resources and will have significant impact on our communities. We believe that combining resources will produce better results and will ensure sustainability.



# District 3850 Rotaractors: Bringing smiles to children

*District Rotaract Representative—PP/PCC Ilorah V. Dulieco, RN*

**N**ew Generations is a newly-adopted avenue of service in Rotaract, started in RY 2012-2013, and since then, the Rotaract clubs in our district has focused so many of their projects and activities under this avenue.

In line with District Governor Jude's thrust and this year's RI theme "Light up Rotary," I am encouraging all Rotaractors to conduct a "Children's Party" or a similar activity that focuses on needy children who, because of their situation, may not have had an opportunity to experience the fun of childhood life.

Aside from this, I also would like Rotaractors to focus on providing simple health assistance programs like teaching community children and their mothers the proper way of hand washing and tooth brushing. Teaching them basic hygiene practice will go a long way in preventing their exposure to different kinds of bacteria and viruses.

Two years ago, during my term as Club President of the Rotaract Club of Iloilo South, we started a project called "I Learned: Hand Washing and Tooth Brushing Invasion." This simple, high impact but low cost, project grew and expanded into three phases in Iloilo. It benefited more than 400 children including those belonging to the Indigenous People like the Tribal Leong in Cabatuan. After introducing the same program to the Council of Rotaract Clubs in Iloilo, the same project was adopted for the indigenous tribe in Guimaras.

In addition, as the District Rotaract Representative, I announced during our Turnover ceremony last June 28, 2014 that I am looking forward for all Rotaract Clubs in our District, to conduct a "Children's Party and Feeding Literacy Program" for Day Care Center children or Elementary students (limited to Grade 1 up to Grade 3) in their respective com-

munities. There will be no limit on how many times they will conduct a Children's Party but they are encouraged to conduct at least one and in case funding for such project is minimal, collaboration or partnership with other Rotaract Clubs or Rotary Clubs is encouraged.

Aside from this, I am also encouraging Rotaract Clubs in the District to conduct a Pediatric Medical Mission specifically for children with special needs (with disabilities) capped by a children's party. Most of these children have less medical attention and most of them have probably never experienced attending children parties, brought about by the continuing stigma of having disabilities. Thus, I have identified the need for our Rotaractor's and the whole Rotary Family to "light up the lives" of these "special kids." They could tap their local Associations for Disabled Persons or any organization of the same nature who will help identify who to invite. These projects do not only fall under New Generation, but also on Health & Sanitation and Maternal & Child Care.

## A Rotaractor then, a Rotarian today



PP Ernesto "Ernie" Rivera, Jr. (RC Iloilo South), our Lead Rotaract Adviser, was a Rotaractor himself and who greatly benefited from the New Generations Program. He joined Rotaract through his cousins

who were members of the Rotaract Club of Iloilo City, the oldest Rotaract club in Panay.

Within a year of joining, Ernie was elected as the International Service Director, eventually becoming their President and mentored by PP Ricardo "Ric" Provideo, the Rotarian Rotaract Adviser then.



Ernie's club became one of the long standing multiple awardee in the District and his exposure to the various activities and meetings he attended including getting to know distinguished community leaders from within the Rotary Family greatly influenced and molded his character.

Ernie eventually graduated from being a Rotaractor to a Rotarian, joining the Rotary Club of Iloilo South in 2008, the same club which his grandfather, the late PDG Ignacio "Nene" Salazar, helped organized in 1973 and where his father, PP Ernest "Erning" Rivera is also a charter member of the club.

Ernie was elected as Treasurer in RY 2009-2010, then as vice-president the following year and finally as President for RY 2011-2012.

During his vice-presidency, with more time on his hands, Ernie helped organize the Rotaract Club of Iloilo South which since then, has received multiple citations and awards including Best Rotaract Club for RY 2010-2011, twice awarded as Rotaract MDIO Most Outstanding Club in the whole District 3850 among other awards.

With these accomplishments up his sleeves, Ernie is proud to be noted as one of the few Rotaract Presidents who eventually became a Rotary Club President, a rare feat in our district. Until now, he likes to combine Rotaract's Motto – Fellowship Thru Service – with that of Rotary's motto – Service Above Self – as the perfect formula to make one's journey in Rotary an enjoyable and fulfilling one.

Polio still cripples thousands of children around the world. With your help, we can wipe this disease off the face of the earth forever.

Visit [rotary.org/endpolionow.org](http://rotary.org/endpolionow.org) to help



We Are to <sup>This</sup> <sub>Close</sub> Ending Polio



**PP Maria Isabelle "Beng" Climaco-Salazar**  
Mayor of Zamboanga City  
Rotary Group Study Exchange Alumnae





# Come in, Zoom In and Discover Zamboanga!

By Perro Loco

**M**any are afraid to come but the Queen of Spain felt at home when she visited the City. The president even went on a spiritual retreat and found peace in this bustling seaport metropolis when he ultimately decided to run for presidency last 2010—a turning point in our political history that unfolded in the comforts of a Carmelite Monastery that stood humbly in its picturesque boulevard that gives a romantic view of the sun kissing the sea.

“Don’t you go to far Zamboanga” may be the fitting words for those who are scared, but the song echoes more the hearts of those who have fallen in love with El Ciudad Hermosa.

Ride in her waves, roll in the pink sand and swirl yourself into a riot of colors are just some of the many ways to experience Zamboanga – and there’s still more in store for everyone to do in this vibrant City at the tip of Zamboanga Peninsula.

Last September 7, 2013, a few days before the armed siege happened, Zamboanga City leveled up the ante in tourism promotion as it launched its new advertising campaign at the 24th Philippine Travel Mart at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City. The latest drive is an invitation for visitors and locals alike to zoom in again and take a closer look at the many reasons, some still unknown, why people love Zamboanga and why many call it their home.

The Subanens, who are riverfolks called her Jambangan meaning “land of flowers”, others called her Orgullo de Mindanao until recently, it was branded as Asia’s Latin City to highlight its Spanish-based Creole Chavacano and other Hispanic influences in its culture. The old Spanish fort now home to the miraculous image of Nuestra Senora La Virgen del Pilar and the National Museum

are recuerdos de la presencia de España in the City’s vivid past.

The City is called by many names. Zamboanga’s titles are indeed as colorful as its history, as rich as its culture and traditions and as diverse as its people. The new ad campaign invites you to come, zoom in, and celebrate the City’s unique fusion.

## Zoom In To Every Face

A highly urbanized city with more than 800,000 inhabitants, Zamboanga is home to native Chavacano speakers, tribes of Tausug, Yakan, Sama and Subanen as well as migrants from the neighbouring provinces of the Peninsula and Visayan islands. It is the bastion of Christianity in Mindanao when the first Catholic diocese was established in the City but Mosques and their minarets also dot the skyline including Chinese temples too that reflect a lively Filipino-Chinese community. Its multiculturalism is its identity as a City and this is evidently woven into its tapestry, food, language, and the daily bustle of people in this busy City with an international seaport and airport to welcome guests and visitors.

## Zoom In To New Adventure

A visit to Zamboanga is not just about its cultural and historic attractions but you need to also pack up your things and be ready to get wet in an eco-trek to see the curtain-like cascades of the Merloquet Falls in Barangay Sibulao in the east coast of the City. The scenic falls is now becoming a popular destination flabbergasting many visitors with its pristine waters gushing down her tier while surrounded by a lush canopy of trees. But the west coast also has its own natural hidden treasure to boast of. Barangay Pamucutan offers you the majesty of their Kambal Falls in its hinterlands that is now becoming an admired picnic destination too.



Last February 2014, the City hosted the 9th Philippine Bird Festival bringing in birdwatchers from across the country and around the globe to zoom in to the wild birds of Zamboanga in their natural habitat.

If you love spelunking though, a Cave Summit is also underway to press for the preservation of natural caves and promote eco-tourism. The Latuan Cave in the east coast of Zamboanga City offers almost a kilometre stretch of rock formations with an underground river. But if island hopping is your thing, then you can kick off a trip to the Great Sta. Cruz Island with its famous pink sand by taking a boat from its berthing point in Paseo del Mar. The island was named as one of the top ten island paradise in the country by the travel site CNNGo with some good snorkelling sites, an old burial ground and a mangrove forest teeming with giant bats. You can also go on an extreme adventure by trying the zipline at the Zamboanga Economic Zone and enjoy their newly constructed waterpark and gamezone.

## Zoom In To Every Color

When DOT Secretary Ramon Jimenez went on an official visit to the City last October 2011 when Zamboanga celebrated its grandest fiesta – the Hermosa Festival, he described Zamboanga as “the most colourful City in the Philippines” as a kaleidoscope of colors and smiles envelope him during the street dancing festivities. The annual competition converge together contingents from various schools to showcase the strong faith of Zamboanguenos to the City’s patroness.

If nature and its bounty is something that you want to zoom in, you can check the vegetable gardens and flower beds high up in La Paz or take a trip to Pasonanca Park and visit Jardin de Maria Clara that houses a flower and butterfly garden including an aviary with birds of every color and size.

You can zoom in even farther to the Climaco Freedom Park in Abong-Akong to see a World War Memorial and pay respects to Zamboanga’s most revered hero, the late Mayor Cesar C. Climaco and climb up to the scenic Way of the Cross that offers a breathtaking view of Zamboanga City and nearby island of Basilan.

## Zoom In To Every Pattern

Her ancestors handed to her a plethora of stories and legends woven in every tapestry. A visit to Zamboanga wouldn’t be complete without zooming into intricate patterns of the Yakan Cloth woven by the tribe in their village in Calarian. Go farther and visit the Badjao Village for colorful banig of various colors and sizes done by the locals in their houses on stilts.

October is also a time for the City to showcase Zamboanga’s Mascota that features a fashion show of period dresses of women in the late 1800s. But if you want something more ethnic, head towards Barangay Canelar and check the barter trade heaving with Malong of different design variations and styles.

## Zoom In To Every Flavor

Zamboanga City is also branded as the “Sardines Capital of the Philippines” due the presence of more than a dozen canning factories manufacturing canned sardines and other processed seafood products for local and foreign markets. As a seaport City, it offers you a smorgasbord of the sea’s bounty bannered by the in demand deep-sea crab called Curacha. Hispanic influences also made waves in its local cuisine with dishes such as Paella, Pochero, Ropa Vieja, and Callos de Andalucia became part of the mouth-watering selections.

Another local favourite is Satti that offers you skewered meat with a spicy sauce similar to the Malaysian Satay. Other must-try products include lokot-lokot, the famous Knicker Backer dessert of fruit slices topped with ice cream, and the lychee-based milkshake named Zamboanga White.

## Zoom In To Endless Opportunities

Zamboanga as a City is indeed blessed. All you need to do is to zoom in to every color, sound, flavor, pattern, face, scent, and corner of the City and be enchanted by her many charms. Bigger things lie ahead of you when you come and visit La Bella Zamboanga. Rediscover this diadem of the Philippine South through the Perro Loco blog. I will capture each moment of discovery and will share my experience. Vamos a Zamboanga and zoom in to endless opportunities!







# Cracking the Youth Code

By PP Maté Espina

Our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal's famous quote is, "the youth is the hope of our future."

This simple line, though spoken centuries ago, still holds true to this day and which is why, we in Rotary, have finally given value to the youth by institutionalizing an avenue of service solely dedicated to them—the New Generations.

It was past RI President Luis Vicente Giay who coined the term New Generations at the 1996 RI Convention in Canada saying, "Our vision for the future, now more than ever, is the difference between success and failure. The New Generations are our investment in the future. Let us begin to build that future today."

It took about four years later after the idea was floated that RI named New Generations as the fifth avenue of service and defined in the Rotary Constitution as an avenue which "recognizes the positive change implemented by youth and young adults through leadership development activities, involvement in community and international service projects, and exchange programs that enrich and foster world peace and cultural understanding."

But even prior to institutionalizing New Gen as an avenue of service, Rotary has been involving the youth in countless activities and has targeted the young in most of their programs.

In our district alone, most, if not all, of the clubs have been working on this sector years before Rotary declared New Gen as its newest avenue of service.

The RYLA Youth Camp of RC Bacolod-North, the Rotaract Club of Iloilo City, the New Gen Leadership Training of RC Bacolod-Central and the activities of other rotaract and interact clubs in our district are just some examples that we put value in our youth and we understand their vital role in Rotary.

RI stressed on this saying, "every Rotarian has a responsibility to support the personal and professional success of young people while recognizing the diversity of their needs."

"Reaching out to New Generations is a commitment to the future of your Rotary club. Clubs that build ties with youth in their communities cultivate future members and become rejuvenated by the energy and new perspectives that young people have to offer," it further said.

In fact, there have been areas where New Generations Rotary clubs have been established to offer young adults an alternative to existing clubs where perhaps, the presence and ideals of older Rotarians may not be attuned to their concept of what Rotary in Service should be today.

Michael McQueen in his article "Engaging the Next Generations in Rotary" said that Generation Y (the youth) "actually represent exciting news and huge opportunity for Rotary."

"Gen Y want to be a part of something bigger than themselves. This is a group who crave community, truly want to make a difference, and have been raised with the confidence and self esteem to believe that they really can. Contrary to their self-centered reputation, a study in 2005 indicated that over 70% of Gen Ys actively volunteer on a weekly basis. What's more, they are an ambitious cohort who are actively looking for opportunities to network and connect with mentors in order to gain a competitive edge in their careers. What all this means is that Rotary represents many of the things this group are looking for—it's just that they don't know it," McQueen further added.

His article is a must read for clubs who want to start a New Gen extension club or improve on their interact and rotaract clubs. (see page 16)

With RI now stressing on strongly engaging the youth as they are indeed the future of Rotary, let us all work together in providing them opportunities, making our clubs exciting for them, and strengthening our programs that fit their needs. It may take years and even decades but if we are resilient in finding the right formula in cracking the youth code, these new generations of Rotarians will eventually be the one to continue and sustain our legacy.

# 5 Strategies for Growing Your Club with Young Members

By Michael McQueen

## 1. Look Back to Plan Forward

The most common question I am asked by Rotarians as they look to attract young members is ‘where can we look to find them’. My response is that the young people you should be looking to invite to join your clubs are not somewhere ‘out there’—in fact, you probably already know them!

In theory, there need be NO shortage of young people coming through as new Rotarians. After all, every year thousands of youth are involved in a myriad of programs run by local clubs and districts. Whether it is past participants in youth exchanges, RYLA camps, interact or Rotaract clubs, I would urge you to think about all the young people in your local community or district who have been positively impacted by Rotary. Where are they today? Are they members of your club? If not, why not? Could it be that they were never invited to join?

## 2. Start Small

It is true that young people today are often very hesitant to make long-term commitments. Regardless of why this may be the case, if you are looking to attract younger members to your club you may find it more effective to start by inviting them to be a part of small, short-term projects rather than trying to persuade them to lock into a long-term membership commitment.

Many young people will be more than willing to help out with short-term targeted projects. As they do so, they may well ‘catch’ the vision and DNA of Rotary and build relationships with other club members which will make the choice to become a full member a less daunting one.

## 3. Focus on Outcomes rather than Process

Although both outcomes and process are two sides of the same equation, many organizations and businesses can easily fall into the trap of losing sight of why they do what they do (the outcome) and purely become focused on what they do and how they do it (the process). Over time, these historical practices get embedded in culture and become traditions, rituals or sacred cows—the things no-one dare question or change.

Naturally, young people come into organizations where there is a heavy emphasis on practices, traditions or protocols and the first question they ask is WHY? If local clubs are simply going through the motions of Rotary, meeting for meals once a week and achieving very little, it is highly unlikely that young people will want to join. Gen Y are action-orientated—they want to know what the tangible benefits and outcomes of be-

ing a Rotarian are long before they look to make a membership commitment. Whether these benefits are for them personally or for the broader community through service projects is beside the point—what does matter is that the outcomes and purpose are explicitly clear from the outset.

## 4. Use Stories to Get Your Message Through

Generation Y are highly experience-driven—their mantra is don’t tell me it is right, show me it works. As a result, if you are looking to encourage a young person to consider joining Rotary, simply giving them impressive statistics or logical reasons for becoming a member will not be enough. Rather, what will impact and inspire them most are the stories and experiences you can share of the impact Rotary has made in your life and the world at large. If you are looking to attract young people to your clubs, get good at telling your Rotary story—the facts and logic may impress them, but your stories and experience will inspire them.

## 5. Concentrate on Common Purpose not Common Interests.

One of the things that makes Rotary so unique and powerful is that way in which it’s guiding purpose and core values bring together people who would otherwise have very little in common. Rotary transcends ideological, political and cultural divides in a way few organizations can. While Rotary is very effective at building communities that bridge continents, in the coming years the challenge you face is to build communities that bridge generations too.

With currently only 2% of Rotary’s membership worldwide being under the age of 30, there is enormous room for growth in attracting the next generation of Rotarians.

Young people truly do represent a huge opportunity for Rotary in the years and decades ahead. I assure you, there is a generation of passionate, talented and inspired young people in your communities who are ideally placed to join your ranks and continue the amazing work of Rotary. However, it is up to local clubs and members to make sure they have the invitation and opportunity to do so.

*(Michael McQueen is recognized internationally as a leading authority in youth trends & strategies for engaging with Gen Y. Known for his upbeat and entertaining conference presentations, Michael was featured as a plenary speaker at the 2011 Rotary International Convention in New Orleans.)*



# NEW GEN: Better Guardians of the Future

By Rtn. Ma. Antonieta "Toks" Lopez, Bacolod-Central

When we talk about today's youth, nothing beats our national hero Jose Rizal's words that they are this country's, or the world for that matter, future.

Taking off from this reality, Rotary International puts premium on this sector and continuously supports initiatives to further demonstrate the organization's respect and concern for the youth.

Hence, when the Rotary Club of Makati Paseo de Roxas launched the New Generations program in 2010, its counterpart at Bacolod-Central did not hesitate when collaboration was offered. It was an opportunity to undertake a noble project to provide young people with valuable leadership training.

The project kicked off with the theme, "Wisdom of Winners," and participants, student leaders from various high schools and colleges in Bacolod City, were able to simultaneously link up with their counterparts in several chosen sites in Palawan, General Santos City, Cebu and Tarlac on telecast via the internet.

Supported by the 303rd Infantry Battalion of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Negros Island, about 80 student leaders went through teambuilding exercises and drew inspirations from young political leaders in the province including 6th District (Negros Occidental) Representative, Atty. Mercedes Alvarez, then one of the youngest solons in the country.

While intended as a one-time project, Bacolod-Central adopted it as an annual program and sustained it since by injecting new dimensions. The following year, it was "World of Wonders" where a new batch of participants were provided with a venue of self-expression through a painting session conducted by the La Consolacion College's Arfien Department and through movement by the Performance Laboratory group, a local theater company.

Last year, the program evolved into "Women Warriors," with focus on sexuality, health and wellness and empowerment. The activity has since gained popularity among high schools in the city as a worthwhile event for young leaders that school administrations sent their own delegations. A powerhouse of young women achievers – a Regional Trial Court judge, a dermatologist, a premier ballerina and the country's top certified EQ trainer – composed a distinguished line-up of speakers for the day-long activity.

Centralians promised to carry on the project, with relevant modules designed to provide these young leaders a venue to develop skills and awareness essential to guide them through challenges of teenage life and emerge better guardians of our future.



RC Bacolod Central's first New Gen Leadership Training in 2010



New Gen 2010 graduates with Rep. Mercedes Alvarez, one of the youngest legislators in the country.



2013 New Gen participant shows her artistic ability through finger painting



More than 100 female student leaders participated in RCB-Central's NEW GEN training entitled "Women Warriors."



## RC Bacolod North's RYLA/Youth Camp



Rotary Club of Bacolod North is known for their annual Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) and Youth Camp on Values.

Every year, they gather selected second-year high school students from the different schools in Bacolod and Negros Occidental to participate in their youth camp which lasts for three days.

During the event, several speakers are invited to talk about values such as love of God, love of family, love of community, love of environment. A highlight is the servant leadership training with the hope that their graduates will become ambassadors of these principles to their fellow students in their respective schools when they re-echo the training and practice the values they've learned.

The youth camp also provides a venue for young leaders, coming from different background, status and ideals to share their thoughts and bridge friendship with their colleagues.

Rtn. Romy Lopez, Chairman of this year's RYLA conducted the three-day seminar with the help of PP Bobby Tinsay, PP Louie Gonzaga and Rtn. Lito Sion who acted as facilitators. Other Rotarians and Rotary Anns also came and joined the group dynamics and helped out with logistics and general preparation.

The camp ends with a mass attended by the students, the Rotarians and Rotary Anns. Special awards are given to participants who stood out and distinguished themselves during the seminar.

The youth participants always leave the camp with mixed emotions, particularly saying goodbye to their Rotarian mentors and new found friends.







## RC DIPOLOG: Expanding the child's mind through the Rotary Library

The Rotary Club of Dipolog under the leadership of Best Class President, Dr. Stephen "Nonoy" Calunod is among the first in the district to inaugurate their Rotary Library Project which is among this year's thrust of Gov. Jude Doctora.

The club, through its adopted school, Dicayas Elementary School, in Dicayas, Dipolog City, turned over 1,000 books for the school's new Rotary E-Library, including a computer package donated by the District 3850.

RC Dipolog provided the bookshelves, painted in standard Rotary blue color and turned over the same to the school in the presence of Gov. Jude and school principal, Ferdinand Dimampo.

RC Dipolog, in collaboration with the Children International Philippines, Inc., a foundation in Manila, donated a total of 75,000 books to 14 towns in Zamboanga del Norte, to the provincial libraries and to the city library of Dipolog through the help of the provincial government.

Going beyond the Rotary Library Project, RC Dipolog, through Rtn. Raymond Maribojoc, is also implementing the "Read-Along" project, a tutorial and literacy program at the Dicayas Elementary School every Tuesday and Thursday for the entire school year.

"This is part of our continuing literacy program," said Pres. Nonoy, adding that this activity is being implemented in partnership with St. Vincent's College.





New Generations Chair  
**PP LORENZO DELA CRUZ**  
Rotary Club of Metro Bacolod



Youth Exchange Chair  
**PP EMILIO AQUINO**  
Rotary Club of Zamboanga City West



Interact Chair  
**PP MONROE CHUA**  
Rotary Club of Metro Bacolod



Rotaract Chair  
**PP JOHN MICHAEL NG**  
Rotary Club of Metro Iloilo

## Rotary Exchange Students RY 2014-2015

OUTBOUND	INBOUND
<p><b>SARABIA, Miguel Antonio Nicanor Villarosa (Mikkie)</b> Sponsoring Club: Rotary Club of Bacolod East Host District: District 1620 BELGIUM</p>	<p><b>OVENS, Jodie</b> Sponsoring Club: Rotary Club of Lessines District 1620 BELGIUM Host Club: Rotary Club of Bacolod East</p>
<p><b>BANTUG, Angelica Emmanuel Dizon (Laica)</b> Sponsoring Club: Rotary Club of Bacolod- Marapara Host District: District 1620 BELGIUM</p>	<p><b>KIECKENS, Camille</b> Sponsoring Club: Rotary Club of Le Roeulx District 1620 BELGIUM Host Club: Rotary Club of Bacolod-Marapara</p>
<p><b>NOLASCO, Nicole Villanueva (Nic)</b> Sponsoring Club: Rotary Club of Iloilo South Host District:</p>	<p><b>PETER, Noah Elia Jeremiah</b> Sponsoring Club: Rotary Club of Luzern District 1980 SWITZERLAND Host Club: Rotary Club of Bacolod-East</p>
<p><b>WEE, Angelie Nika Antienza (Nika)</b> Sponsoring Club: Rotary Club of Zamboanga City West Host District: District 1970 FRANCE</p>	<p><b>JEANNE, Gaultier Lilian</b> Sponsoring Club: Rotary Club of Saint-Dizier District 1970 FRANCE Host Club: Rotary Club of Zamboanga City West</p>
<p><b>JACINTO, Bernadette Fernandez (Eny)</b> Sponsoring Club: Rotary Club of Bacolod North Host District: District 1750 FRANCE</p>	<p><b>PHILIPPE, Soline</b> Sponsoring Club: Rotary Club of Metz District 1750 FRANCE Host Club: Rotary Club of Bacolod North</p>
<p><b>TACOGDOY, Franz Edana Zapanza (Franz)</b> Sponsoring Club: Rotary Club of Antique Host District: District 6360 USA</p>	<p><b>EHANNO, Thomas Claude Michel</b> Sponsoring Club: Rotary Club of Jules Verne District 1510 FRANCE Host Club: Rotary Club of Antique</p>
<p><b>REYES, Alexander Kate Enicola (Lexa)</b> Sponsoring Club: Rotary Club of Bacolod North Host District: District 1900 GERMANY</p>	<p><b>LOOSE, Tom Liam</b> Sponsoring Club: Rotary Club of Bielefeld-Sud District 1900 GERMANY Host Club: Rotary Club of Bacolod North</p>





## Interact Clubs

Interact Club Name	Sponsoring Club
Aklan Catholic College-High School	Kalibo
Aklan National H. S. for Arts & Trade (ANHSAT)	Kalibo
Antique National School	Antique
Ateneo de Zamboanga High School	Zamboanga City North
Bacolod	Bacolod
Bacolod Metro	Metro Bacolod
Bacolod West	Bacolod West
Basilan National High School	Basilan City
Begang National High School	Basilan City
Brgy. Feliza	Metro Bacolod
Brgy. Nalook Nat'l. H.S., Andago Ext.	Kalibo
Capiz National High School	Metro Roxas
Central Iloilo City	Central Iloilo City
Claret College Of Isabela	Basilan City
Claret School of Zamboanga City	Zamboanga City
De La Cruz Institute Of Business And Industry	Kalibo
Dipolog	Dipolog
Ferndale International High School Zamboanga	Zamboanga City Central
IJA-Kalibo	Kalibo
Iloilo	Iloilo
Kabankalan	Kabankalan
La Consolacion College	Metro Bacolod
Marapara	Bacolod-Marapara
Metro Iloilo	Metro Iloilo
Metro Roxas	Metro Roxas
Miagao	Miagao
Midtown Iloilo	Midtown Iloilo
Negros Occidental High School (NOHS)	Metro Bacolod
New Washington National Comprehensive H.S.	Kalibo
Numancia Integrated School	Metro Kalibo
Pagadian City National Comprehensive H.S.	Pagadian
Pagadian West Napolan National High School	Pagadian West
Panaon Community H S	Jimenez
Patalon	Metro Zamboanga
Pilar College	Zamboanga City Central
Regional Science High School	Zamboanga City North
Regional Science High School - Region VI	Kalibo
Roxas	Roxas

Interact Club Name	Sponsoring Club
Southern City Colleges	Zamboanga City West
Southern Mindanao Colleges - High School Dept	Pagadian West
SSGSNHS	Metro Roxas
St Joseph High School	Zamboanga City
St. Joseph School	Zamboanga City
Trinity Christian School	Bacolod East
University Of San Agustin	Central Iloilo City
Zamboanga Chong Hua High School	Zamboanga City
Zamboanga City	Zamboanga City
Zamboanga City High School	Zamboanga City
Zamboanga City Polytechnic College	Zamboanga City West
Zamboanga City State Polytechnic College	Zamboanga City Central
Zamboanga National High School	Zamboanga City
Zamboanga National High School West	Zamboanga City
Zamboanga National High School West	Zamboanga City West



## Rotaract Clubs

Rotaract Club Name	Sponsoring Club
Ateneo De Zamboanga University	Zamboanga City East
Bacolod North	Bacolod North
Bacolod West - La Consolacion College Bacolod Chapter	Bacolod West
Central Iloilo City	Central Iloilo City
Dipolog	Dipolog
Iloilo South	Iloilo South
J.B.L.F.M.U. Molo	Iloilo West
Marapara	Bacolod-Marapara
Silay	Silay
Southern City Colleges	Zamboanga City West
Southern Mindanao Colleges, Pagadian City	Pagadian West
STI	Zamboanga City Central
University of St. La Salle - Metro Bacolod	Metro Bacolod
West Visayas State University	Metro Iloilo
Zamboanga City Central	Zamboanga City Central
Zamboanga City State Polytechnic College	Zamboanga City Central
Zamboanga City West	Zamboanga City West



## My Favorite Rotary Program

*PP Alberto "Jun-Jun" Arceo III, RC Bacolod East, District Secretary*

September is New Generations Month and my favorite Rotary program is the Rotary Youth Exchange Program. I was a Rotary Exchange student to Zanesville, Ohio, U.S.A. in 1983 and I clearly remember the day I left Manila – August 21, 1983. My plane to the U.S.A. had just taken off when Ninoy Aquino was assassinated a few minutes later.

During my year-long exchange, I stayed with four foster families and learned how to adapt, be responsible and independent. The exchange program had a long-lasting effect on me, and it was one of the best and most memorable experiences I've had in my life. I thank my parents for encouraging me to join the exchange program and for introducing me to the wonderful world of Rotary.

Every year, over 8,000 students around the world participate in the Rotary Youth Exchange Program and are given the opportunity of a lifetime to learn a new language, meet new people and assimilate a new culture. Of the 10 districts in the Philippines, our District 3850 is one of only two districts that are active in the exchange program. This year, our district will have seven outbound Rotary Exchange students who will be going to countries such as the US, Belgium, France and Germany. Our district will likewise be hosting seven inbound Rotary Exchange students from Belgium, France, Germany and Switzerland.

I have been involved with our district's Rotary Youth Exchange Program for several years and I have noticed that year-in and year-out, it is the same Rotary Clubs that are sponsoring and hosting Rotary Exchange students. I encourage you my fellow Rotarians to grab the opportunity to share in a young student's hopes and ambitions by hosting a Rotary Exchange student. You can start by inviting a Rotary Exchange student for lunch with your family, or for an out-of-town trip, or to spend the weekend at your home. Rotary Clubs can start by inviting a Rotary Exchange student to be a guest speaker during your weekly meetings. Invite your spouses and your children to the meeting so that they too will get to know the Rotary Exchange student. Who knows, your child might also want to be a Rotary Exchange student one day.

Hosting a Rotary Exchange student can be a wonderful experience and it allows a host family or members of a Rotary Club to be familiar with another culture. It not only enriches the life of the Rotary Exchange student, but the lives of every member of the host family and of the Rotary Club as well. I remember what Ina Legaspi said a few years ago after she came back from her exchange to Brazil: "I thought the Rotary Youth Exchange Program was just one year in my life. I was wrong. It was a lifetime in a year"



Arrival of Rotary Exchange student Tom Louse of Germany (5th from left) at the Bacolod-Silay Airport last July 26, 2014 where he was met by members of the Rotary Club of Bacolod North led by Club President Robert Cerada (1st from left) and Rotary Exchange student Soline Philippe of France (4th from left). Also at the airport were Tom's first host family Dr. Romeo and Sarah Reyes and their daughter Lexa, outbound Rotary Exchange student to Germany and Eny Jacinto, outbound Rotary Exchange student to France.



Arrival of Rotary Exchange student Noah Peter of Switzerland (3rd from right) at the Bacolod-Silay Airport last July 28, 2014 where he was met by members of the Rotary Club of Bacolod-East led by Club President Sonya Verdeflor (3rd from left). Also at the airport were Noah's first host family VP/PE Benjie Sourbio and his son Byron, and PP Mike Sarabia and his son Mikie, outbound Rotary Exchange student to Belgium.



<b>1 MON</b> 7PM CLUB VISIT & <b>GOVERNORS ADDRESS</b>  <b>• RC ANTIQUE</b>	<b>2 TUE</b> 7PM CLUB VISIT <b>• RC LA PAZ</b> FEEDING PROGRAM @ DIVERSORIA ELEM. SCHOOL <b>• RC ZAMB. CITY NORTH</b> DISTRIBUTION OF 100 SOLAR LAMP @ SAN CARLOS <b>• RC BACOLOD NORTH</b>	<b>3 WED</b> LAUNCHING OF MOST OUTSTANDING CITY GOV'T EMPLOYEE  <b>• RC BACOLOD</b>	<b>5 FRI</b> 12NN CLUB VISIT <b>• RC ILOILO SOUTH</b> 6PM CLUB VISIT <b>• RC MIAGAO</b> CHILDRENS PARTY @ CANSILAYAN <b>• RC DUMANGAS</b> CLEANUP DRIVE & FEEDING <b>• RC BACOLOD</b>	<b>6 SAT</b> <b>ROTARACT AND INTERACT DISTRICT ASSEMBLY</b> AT HOTEL DEL RIO	<b>7 SUN</b> FAMILY DAY @ DAMIRES HILLS <b>• RC ILOILO</b> MEDICAL & DENTAL OUTREACH AND LEGAL COUNCELING AND CHILDREN'S PARTY <b>• RC ZAMBOANGA CITY WEST</b>
<b>8 MON</b> 5PM CLUB VISIT <b>• RC MIDTOWN</b> LAUNCHING OF BOYS & GIRLS WEEK <b>• RC BACOLOD</b>	<b>9 TUE</b> 12NN CLUB VISIT <b>• RC MOLO</b> 5PM CHARTER ANNIVERSARY <b>• RC JARO CENTRALINE</b> FEEDING PROGRAM @ DIVERSORIA ELEM. SCHOOL <b>• RC ZAMBOANGA CITY NORTH</b>	<b>10 WED</b> 12NN CLUB VISIT <b>• RC ILOILO</b> FEEDING PROGRAM @ ESTAFANIA <b>• RC BACOLOD</b>	<b>11 THU</b> 12NN CLUB VISIT <b>• RC ILOILO CITY</b> 6PM CLUB VISIT <b>• RC JARO CENTRALINE</b> CHILDRENS PARTY @ PALOC BIGQUE <b>• RC DUMANGAS</b>	<b>12 FRI</b> 12NN CLUB VISIT <b>• RC JARO SOUTH</b> 7PM <b>• RC JARO-ILOILO CITY</b>	<b>13 SAT</b> 12NN CLUB VISIT <b>• RC GUIMARAS</b> 7PM CLUB VISIT <b>• RC ILOILO WEST</b> CHARTER ANNIVERSARY <b>• RC DUMANGAS</b> LAUNCHING OF GIRLS & BOYS WEEK <b>• RC KABANKALAN</b>
<b>14 SUN</b> 12NN CLUB VISIT  <b>• RC METRO PASSI</b>	<b>15 MON</b> CHARTER ANNIVERSARY <b>• RC BACOLOD SOUTH</b> OVP MASS IMMUNIZATION @ LEON, ILOILO <b>• RC MIDTOWN ILOILO</b>	<b>16 TUE</b> 12NN CLUB VISIT <b>• RC BACOLOD SOUTH</b> FEEDING PROGRAM @ DIVERSORIA ELEM. SCHOOL <b>• RC ZAMBOANGA CITY NORTH</b>	<b>18 THU</b> 7PM CLUB VISIT  <b>• RC BACOLOD</b>	<b>19 FRI</b> 7PM CLUB VISIT  <b>• RC VICTORIAS</b>	<b>20 SAT</b> <b>JOINT GOVERNORS ADDRESS</b> ILOILO CLUBS SEPT.21-22 FIRST GOLF TOURNAMENT <b>• RC ZAMBOANGA CITY WEST</b>
<b>21 SUN</b> SEPT.21-22 FIRST GOLF TOURNAMENT OF <b>• RC ZAMBOANGA CITY WEST</b>	<b>22 MON</b> TREE PLANTING ACTIVITY  <b>• RC ILOILO SOUTH</b>	<b>23 TUE</b> FEEDING PROGRAM @ DIVERSORIA ELEM. SCHOOL <b>• RC ZAMBOANGA CITY NORTH</b>	<b>24 WED</b> ROTARY FAMILY DAY WITH DSWD FAMILY @ BRGY. BALANTANG <b>• RC ILOILO SOUTH</b>	<b>26 FRI</b> CHILDREN'S PARTY @ DIVISORIA ELEM. SCHOOL <b>• RC ZAMBOANGA CITY NORTH</b>	<b>27 SAT</b> MEDICAL MISSION @ DON SALVADOR WITH ROTARACTOR <b>• RC BACOLOD</b>

# ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



**SÃO PAULO**  
**BRAZIL**  
**6-9 JUNE 2015**

Rotary



EXCHANGE IDEAS: [www.riconvention.org](http://www.riconvention.org)