

BE A GIFT

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3850
GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY LETTER
FEBRUARY 2016



#PROCONBCD2016



Group picture of the participants of Pilipinas Rotaract Convention in front of the Provincial Capitol. The National convention was held from February 19-21 in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental.

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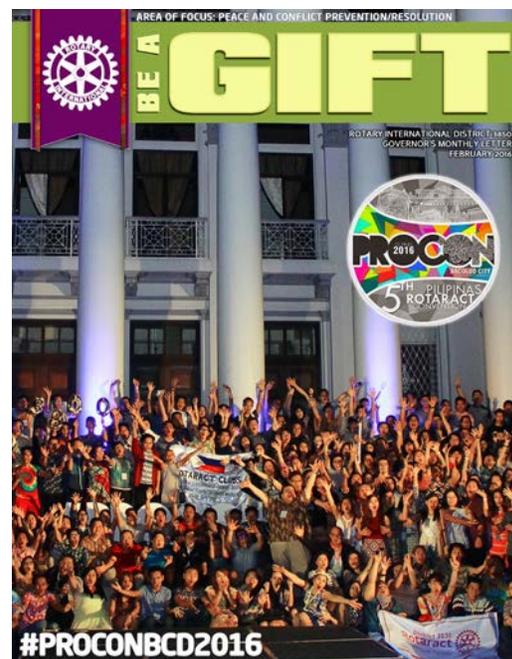
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Be a GIFT
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monthly newsletter
of District 3850

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It verily gives me the opportunity to observe the District Governor and how he actively functions as such. The other day DG Oliver asked me to do a feature of all the Assistant Governors of the District. I was utterly surprised for the AGs had already been featured in the September 2015 issue. The episode of ephemeral void was a strong sign that DG Oliver always has his hands full in administering the District and executing the objectives he swore to uphold at the beginning of his term.

**February 23 marks the 111th year of anniversary of Rotary.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY ROTARY!**



On a side note, 111 has a special connotation to those whose belief pivots on metaphors. The select few regarded the numerical sequence 111 a doorway of golden opportunity, where intentions and goals will manifest extremely quick. More so, the 111 sequence symbolizes uninterrupted flow of energy. Rotary has an overflowing fullness of golden opportunity to make the world a better place and Rotarians have the continual flow of energy in realizing the ideals of Rotary.

The coming month of March will bring about an amazing occasion for our District. The first week of March will lead Rotarians from every nook and cranny of District 3850 to descend and converge in Zamboanga City. It will be our District Conference 2016! Surely, the Discon will be an opportune time for all of us to learn, renew, and rekindle. We will **learn** tested and proven paths from the speakers invited. Embodying the lofty ideals of Rotary, we will **renew** our commitment in improving our community. We will **rekindle** the bond that holds us altogether in our quest to **Be A Gift To The World**.

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



In life, sometimes the experiences that matter the most are the briefest. They pass in the blink of an eye: a few days, a few hours, a few moments. They are the experiences that illuminate the landscape of our memory, shining brightly even years later. They are the moments in which we see, suddenly, something we had not seen; we understand something we had not understood; we forge a connection we had not expected.

For me, this has been a Rotary year like no other. I have been around the world, traversing countries and continents. I have been to places I had never seen before, and I have returned to familiar places and seen them, as for the first time, through the lens of Rotary.

When you travel for Rotary, you travel with a different sense of perspective and a different sense of purpose. There is an awareness of being part of something larger than yourself. When you board a plane or a train, or leave your home in the dark hours of early morning, you may be leaving for lands unknown – but at your destination, there will be no strangers. There will be Rotarians, waiting and welcoming. There will be work to do, something to learn, and perhaps something to teach.

There will be connections to forge, friendships to build, and memories to carry for a lifetime.

This year, I have been the traveler, and I have been welcomed by Rotarians around the world. A few months from now, from 28 May to 1 June, I invite you to step into my experience: allow me to welcome you to Seoul for our 107th International Convention.

The Koreans have a saying: 사람이 나면 서울로 보내라. In English we would say, “When a person is born, send them to Seoul.” For Seoul is a city of opportunities: a wonderful destination with rich traditions, modern conveniences, and a culture unlike any other. But I ask you to join me in Seoul not only for all of this, but also for the experiences you will have there with your fellow Rotarians.

For a brief moment in time, you will experience Rotary as I have experienced it: in all its diversity, all its warmth, and all its potential. You will be greeted as an old friend by people you have never met; you will share your thoughts, even without a shared language. You will learn with wonder of what Rotary has achieved, and leave inspired to achieve even more.

Before this Rotary year comes to its close, I ask you to do what I have done: to leave your homes, to board your flights, to travel toward the unknown with an open heart and an open mind, confident that Rotary will welcome you. Join me, and your fellow Rotarians, as we *Connect with Korea – Touch the World*.

“ In life, sometimes the experiences that matter the most are the briefest. They pass in the blink of an eye: a few days, a few hours, a few moments. They are the experiences that illuminate the landscape of our memory, shining brightly even years later.”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ravi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a horizontal line that starts under the 'i' and extends to the right, ending in a small arrowhead.

K.R. “Ravi” Ravindran
RI President 2015-16
Rotary Club of Colombo
Sri Lanka

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE



MY PEG - PROUD, EXCITED, GRATEFUL!

My hats off to our Rotaractors led by DRR Joy Ardiente and Convention Chair Ron Villanueva! They successfully hosted the 5th Pilipinas Rotaractors' Convention (PROCON) in Bacolod City from February 19 to 20, 2016. There were 366 Rotaractors from 10 Philippine Rotary Districts who joined.

I was there and witnessed how our future Rotarians will be when the right time comes for them to join our ranks. Thanks to the hosts and organizers, it was a dynamic and blissful event.

Beyond bonding with fellow Rotaractors, they were enlightened on youth leadership and empowerment, personal and civic responsibilities, and service to others as inspired by our Rotary's motto.

I am truly impressed on how they handled the entire convention. Perfect execution according to plans, respecting time - 6:30pm is 6:30pm, 10pm is 10pm. You will see inspiring leadership and teamwork at its best. It was really an action of grace under pressure.

A big thanks to our New Generations Chair, PP Louie Gonzaga and Rotaract Chair, PP Kano Ng for their inspiration and guidance while giving our Rotaractors wide room for ownership and minimal supervision. No less than the RIPR, PP Oliver Alvarez, gave them a high rating for the fruitful hosting of the PROCON.

Congratulations and cheers to all!

What a great and special day for us last February 23 too as 1.23 million Rotarians worldwide celebrated Rotary's 111 years of service and doing good in the world. It was commemorated by many clubs with different activities and events.

We came out with END POLIO NOW streamers and billboard placed on strategic places. It was a reminder that we can eradicate polio from the face of the earth. Together with our partners, supporters, and donors, I believe we can do this. No child should suffer from this crippling yet preventable disease.

Thank you for sharing your resources, time, love and care for the less fortunate. Thank you for being a gift to the world. I am grateful.

March they say is Fire Prevention Month. For us

Rotarians, the heat is ON!

Excitement is building up as clubs are now burning midnight oil to complete their bids for the various District awards in the coming District Conference. In my visits, I saw, and I am very happy to feel the enthusiasm and passion of Rotary spirit of services.

Now is the time to inspire others, honor great men and women, relax too, and to rejuvenate in our 2016 Discon in Zamboanga City this March. We have prepared a world-class standard event for you from arrival to departure. Let's learn and have fun. Bring good memories. Be more energized when you go back to your respective clubs.

I am totally PEG (Proud, Excited, and Grateful) for your presence and support to our 2016 Discon. See you in Zamboanga City!

“Now is the time to inspire others, honor great men and women, relax too, and to rejuvenate in our 2016 Discon in Zamboanga City this March. We have prepared a world-class standard event for you from arrival to departure. Let's learn and have fun.”

Oliver "Ver" Ong, MPH
District Governor 2015-16
Rotary Club of Zamboanga City

Dear Club Presidents and Rotarians of RI District 3850,

This is to announce the selection by the District Nominating Committee chaired by PDG Rafael “Biboy” Jocson of Rotary Club of Bacolod North



PP Lindon T. See Diet
District Governor
RY 2018-19

District Governor Nominee-Designate (DGND) Lindon is from the Rotary Club of Dipolog. He is a Paul Harris Fellow and a Major Donor to the Rotary Foundation. He has been a Rotarian for 17 years, since 1998. He served his club as President during the Rotary Year 2003-2004 and remained an officer, serving the club in various positions such as club secretary, director for club service, community service, international service, youth service, membership, public image and The Rotary Foundation.

In the district, he served in various capacities including as Assistant Governor, Chairman in District Sub-Committee Annual Fund Giving, Rotaract, Interact, World Community Service, Club Extension and his latest assignment as TRF Permanent Fund Chairman.

DGND Lindon has attended the RI Conventions held in Chicago, New Orleans, Bangkok and in Sydney. He also attended the RI Zone Institutes held in Bangkok, Taipei and Manila.

Congratulations to DGND Lindon T. See Diet.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Oliver Ver Ong'.

Oliver “Ver” Ong
District Governor, RY 2015-16

ROTARY SERVICE PROFILE OF DGND LINDON SEE DIET

Joined Rotary in 1998 through the invitation of Rotarian Bobby Lim, a family friend and neighbor at Turno. Became Club Secretary for RY 2001-2002, and Club President for RY 2003-2004, Lend A Hand, during the term of PDG Boy Jarantilla. Also serve as Club Public Relation Director for 2006-2007, Club TRF Director for 2008-2009 and 2009-2010

Served in different capacities as the District GML coordinator and GSE Coordinator for Zone 8 & 9 and appointed as Special Assistant to the Governor for the chartering of Rotary Club of Oroquieta Centennial during the term of PDG Nanette Garcia. Also serve as the District Rotaract Chairperson, for RY 2005-2006, Assistant Governor for RY 2006-2007, District GSE Coordinator Zone 8 and 9 for RY 2007-2008, District WCS Chairperson for RY 2008-2009, and District Club Extension Chairperson for 2009-2010. Awarded twice for Rotary Foundation District Service Foundation in promoting Club TRF efforts in meeting 100% EREY and instrumental in club's highest per capita contribution for small club category in RY 2004-2005.

Participated in RI Centennial Convention in Chicago in 2005, 2010 in New Orleans, 2012 in Bangkok, and 2014 in Sydney. Spearheaded several major club projects namely Rotary Smiles the past 7 years – surgical mission giving free surgery to more than 300 cleft and palate for children to date, Book Donations for the whole district of Dipolog City Public School distributing more than 15,000 books. Also Instrumental in Day Care Matching project for zone 8 and 9 as Matching Grant Coordinator. Completed a 3-H Grant project from USAID and RI Water Collaboration project providing clean water and sanitation for 2 barangay communities and schools and 2 additional latrines to public school from the savings of grant money. Received several District Awards and recognition in various capacities as district officers as mentioned above.

PP Lindon is an epitome of a true-blue Rotarian – putting service to others above his own self interest. Within and outside the realms of his club, he is Mr. Rotary to everyone who knows and who have seen him in action. His passion to serve others is evident in the many projects and programs that he has led. He was instrumental in bringing to the Rotary Club of Dipolog the partnership with Children International for the distribution of books to public schools. This is a continuing project which has to date distributed truckloads of books being enjoyed by the schoolchildren of Zamboanga del Norte.

Lindon was likewise the club's livewire for its Rotary Smiles Project. This surgical mission has benefited more than 300 patients -- young children, and the costs of the surgeries are valued at P3 Million. Beyond this, Lindon takes personal joy and satisfaction seeing and knowing that these young children will now have glowing smiles and hopefully a brighter future ahead.

As the past TRF director of the club, Lindon is Mr. Rotary Foundation to the members of RC Dipolog. He has led and inspired the club to achieve its goals for The Foundation such as Paul Harris Fellows contributions and meeting the EREY targets. He is likewise the leading light for the various programs undertaken by the club under The Rotary Foundation.

If there is one single achievement that the RC Dipolog would take pride for this Rotary Year, this would be the approval of its proposal for the International Water Collaboration of the RI and USAID. Lindon was the lead person for this project and he has devoted time and effort to personally look into the poor conditions of the beneficiary communities. This project will be implemented in 2 far flung and depressed barangays and valued at over \$100,000.00

Above all, Lindon is an inspiration to everyone. With his actions, he inspires every Rotarian to continue serving and to continue caring for others. *(RC of Dipolog)*

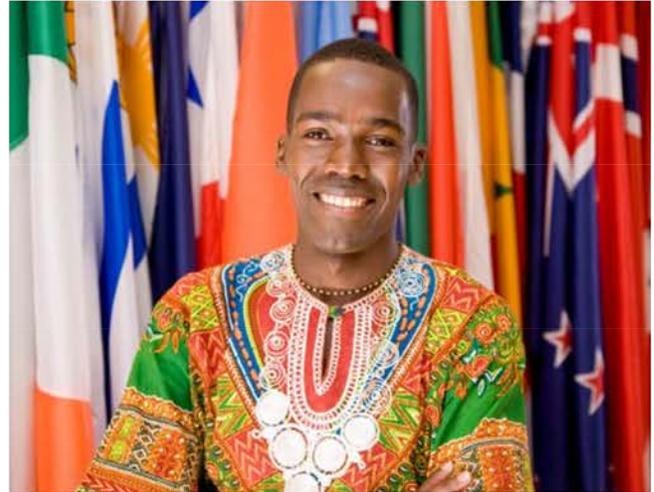


Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution

The Rotary Foundation's six areas of focus reflect the service interests and activities of Rotary clubs worldwide. See how your club or district can get involved.

The challenge

- Since World War II, the number of conflicts between nations has decreased, yet the world has seen more than 50 major armed conflicts since the end of the Cold War. Most of these have been internal clashes over religion, national or ethnic identity, or access to natural resources. (*Carter Center*)
- Of the 20 most destitute countries in the world, 16 have recently suffered civil wars. (*Search for Common Ground*)
- From 1990 to 2004, 3.6 million people — 90% of them civilians — were killed in conflict. About half of the civilian casualties were children. (*UNDP Human Development Report 2003*)
- Between 75% and 80% of the world's 27 million refugees are women and children. (*UNHCR 2006*)
- Education and literacy rates are lowest in conflict zones, but global military spending is 170 times greater than spending on basic education. (*Search for Common Ground*)



What you can do

- Support a peer mediation and conflict resolution curriculum at the elementary school level, along with activities that reinforce peace supporting skills
- Provide training for local community leaders in mediation and alternative dispute resolution
- Provide job training to youth affected by conflict
- Sponsor a scholar studying international peace and conflict resolution who wants to work in a community affected by conflict

Learn more

Conflict Resolution Research Resource Institute
www.cri.cc

Institute of World Affairs
www.iwa.org

UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery
www.undp.org/cpr

UN Peacebuilding Commission
www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding

Goals for Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution

- Strengthening local peace efforts
- Training local leaders to prevent and mediate conflict
- Supporting long-term peace building in areas affected by conflict
- Assisting vulnerable populations affected by conflict, particularly children and youth
- Supporting studies related to peace and conflict resolution



AREAS OF FOCUS POLICY STATEMENTS

With respect to the areas of focus policy statements, The Rotary Foundation notes that

1. The goals of the Foundation are to increase efficiency in grant processing and ensure quality of funded projects;
2. The content of each policy statement is intended to represent eligible and ineligible activities;
3. Eligible activities reflect those that Rotary clubs and districts have most often implemented;
4. Project planning is a bottom-up and host club/district-driven process;
5. All grant requests must comply with the policy statements related to each area of focus.

PEACE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION/RESOLUTION

Rotary supports the training, education, and practice of peace and conflict prevention and resolution.

Area of Focus Statement of Purpose and Goals

TRF enables Rotarians to promote the practice of peace and conflict prevention/ resolution by:

1. Training leaders, including potential youth leaders, to prevent and mediate conflict;
2. Supporting peace-building in communities and regions affected by conflict;
3. Supporting studies for career-minded professionals related to peace and conflict prevention/resolution.

Parameters for Eligibility

TRF considers activities targeting the following to be within the scope of the peace and conflict prevention/resolution area of focus:

1. Community activities targeting non-Rotarian participants, including conferences, trainings, and camps, in support of nonviolence, peace-building, and human rights;
2. Facilitated conflict resolution workshops related to topics addressing community needs such as policy development, business activities across conflict lines, educational reform, and peace journalism;
3. Supporting initiatives addressing psychological effects of conflict;
4. Educating youth on preventive measures to avoid conflict;
5. Training programs or campaigns to address negative social dynamics in a community, including but not limited to anti-gang efforts and those to overcome radical differences;
6. Communication and arbitration among parties previously engaged in direct conflict;
7. Vocational training teams supporting the above activities;
8. Scholarships for graduate-level study in programs related to peace and conflict prevention/resolution.

TRF considers activities targeting the following to be outside the scope of the peace and conflict prevention/resolution area of focus and as such are not eligible for global grant funding:

1. Peace conferences targeting Rotarian participants;
2. Enrollment at a Rotary Peace Center partner university in the same, or similar, academic program as those pursued by Rotary Peace Fellows.

Elements of Successful Humanitarian Projects and Vocational Training Teams

Global grants are:

1. Sustainable – communities are able to address their peace and conflict needs after the Rotary club/district has completed its work;
2. Measurable – sponsors can select standard measures for their area of focus from the Monitoring and Evaluation Toolkit or use their own measures to show the good results of their work;
3. Community driven – designed by the host community based upon the needs they have identified;
4. Aligned with an area of focus – as defined in the policy documents.

Elements of Successful Scholarships

Global grants support graduate-level scholarships for career-minded professionals. TRF considers the following when evaluating global grant scholarship applications:

1. The applicant's previous work experience in the field of peace and conflict prevention/resolution;
2. Academic program alignment with peace and conflict prevention/resolution.
 - a. Examples of preferred academic programs include conflict prevention/resolution, peace and justice studies, and international relations or law with a specialization in peace and conflict;
 - b. Programs that will be considered favorably include those that focus directly on peace and conflict issues;
 - c. Programs that will not be considered favorably include those that relate to general international relations or law.
3. The applicant's career plans as they relate to peace and conflict prevention/resolution.

 **Leaders approach conflict with an eye for resolution.**

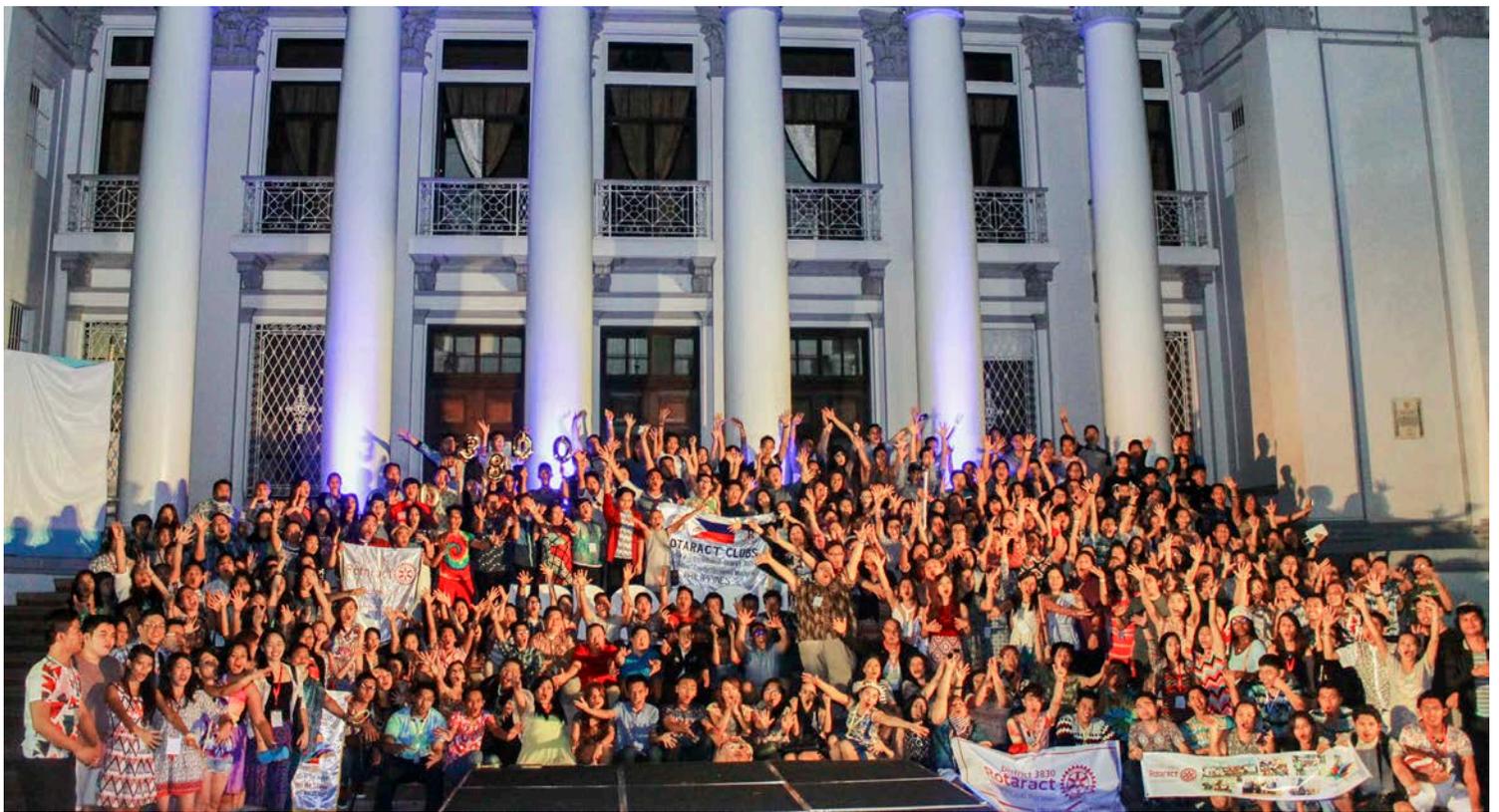
When handled effectively, successful confrontations raise team performance. To manage conflict effectively, you must begin by recognizing there are three sides to every story: Yours / Theirs / The Truth. ”



PILIPINAS ROTARACTORS Hold Successful PROCON 2016

Around 360 Rotaractors in the country have attended this year's Pilipinas Rotaract Convention (PROCON) which kicked off in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental on February 19-21.w

Rotaractors belonging to a certain Rotaract Club are the so called Rotary Club's youth arm,



who rendering various outreach programs and voluntary services to different communities.

The PROCON event, on the other hand, is an annual event of Rotaract Clubs that gathers future leaders all over the Philippines to celebrate the success and accomplishments of Rotaract in the name of service.

It was also an event which served as the culminating activity of another Rotary Year and a turn over ceremony of the chairmanship of Multi-District Information Organization (MDIO).

This year, the Rotaract District 3850 comprising Western Visayas, Negros Occidental and Western Mindanao hosted the event for the first time.

All participants coming from 112 Rotaract Clubs have the chance to dine at The Ruins during the first day of the PROCON. They were also amazed with the captivating beauty of Negros' heritage culture as portrayed in one of the tourist attractions found in the host-district. They were also entertained by a theatrical and interpretative performance showed by Panay Rotaractors.

During the second day at the L'Fisher Hotel, participating young leaders were challenged in plenaries which include team buildings, showcasing of projects and achievements of each 10 districts, and signing of/renewal of sister club agreement between clubs. The closing dinner was staged at the Provincial Capitol along with Rotarians gracing the event. The Rotarians include District 3850 Governor Oliver Ong and District 3850 Rotaract Chairman John Michael Ng, Past District Governor Ernesto Ochoa, Past President Ramon Decayo, Past President Louie Gonzaga and Rotary International President Representative (RIPR) Oliver Alvarez.

The third day featured three separate feeding programs at Cathedral, Abad Parish and Banago Elementary School II. The group provided children and senior citizens with arroz caldo and spaghetti.

District 3850 Rotaract Representative (DRR) Joy Ann Ardiente thanked all the Rotaractors from her district especially PROCON chair Ron Villanueva who have worked for almost a year in preparation for eh event together with District Governor Oliver and DRC John Michael Ng.

"As we started our journey planning for PROCON, i was doubtful if we can live through the expectations of people in the rotary world. However, these doubts vanished when we received positive feedback regarding the activities. Truly, the 112 rotaract clubs from the 10 districts of the Philippines showed the unifying force of Rotaractors as gifts to the world," said Ardiente.

Meanwhile, RIPR Oliver Alvarez said it's just fitting that they celebrated the 5th PROCON in Bacolod as they just recently discovered that the city is the birthplace of the first Rotaract Club in the

Philippines, Rotaract Club of Bacolod.

"PROCON Bacolod 2016 provided an excellent program not relegated to the four walls of a plenary hall, but we were given a great glimpse of what Bacolod has to offer in terms of food, tourism, and fellowship. But what impressed me the most about PROCON is the team work of the members of the Host Organizing Committee. Despite the stress of organizing a national conference, you will never see them frown, living up to the expectations that Bacolod is indeed the City of Smiles. On Sunday early morning, despite having a late night party which ended earlier in the morning, I saw members of the committee busy preparing for the Silay City tour, which is a true showcase of professionalism and leadership which is somewhat an exception, rather than the rule for this millennial generation of Rotaractors," Alvarez added.



PROCON chair Ron Villanueva said the team executed and delegated all the tasks for the successful staging of the event. Villanueva said they are very conscious in time management and they started on time or earlier. "Ang hype sang event was not lost starting sa Rotaract festival, welcome dinner, plenary, simultaneous outside activity, Lacson Street parade with electric Masskara dancers, fellowship dinner, PROCON roofdeck afterparty and heritage tour. I would like to thank all who supported the event, our District team led by DRR Joy and PROCON co-chair Kevin Villavicencio," he added.

(Text by Elyrose Naorbe and photos by Nick Click Photography)

GLIMPSES OF PREPARATION



RC BASILAN

Under the active tenure of its President Norhan Sali, RC Basilan undertook projects within its community, exemplifying "Service Above Self". RC Basilan undertook construction of wash stands in local schools, turned over cash gift for a 6-month feeding program of malnourished children, conducted grocery gift-giving, turned over 2 units of computer desktop for use of Jose Rizal Elementary School in Lamitan. *(Photos culled from the public social account of Norhan Sali)*



RC BONGAO

Starting with 20 large flower pots, RC Bongao of Tawi-Tawi Province initiated a project dubbed “Bloom Bongao!” At the forefront of this project is President Lorenzo Reyes and vibrant Club members. The Club bedecked the airport road of Bongao with bougainvilleas. *(Photos culled from the public social archive of Basil Sali)*





RC BORACAY

Malay National High School (MNHS) was a recipient of a complete computer desktop unit from RC Boracay. Mr. Eliseo Casidsid of MNHS personally received the unit. RC Boracay also gave out books from the Books Across The Seas of RC Makati and RC Makati Olympia.



RC KALIBO

Last February 10, 2016, RC Roxas - D3850 and RC Legazpi City, entered into a sisterhood agreement. The signing ceremony was held during a special meeting of RC Legazpi City. *(Photos culled from the public social archive of Melrose Lunn)*



RC ZAMBOANGA CITY NORTH

RC Zamboanga City North held a Children's Party for the Grade 1 students of Divisoria Elementary School. The students were treated to a sumptuous food, school supplies and games. *(Photos culled from the public social archive of Michael Chiong)*

GRANT UPDATES

GRANT APPLICATION TOOL IS IMPROVED

Check out these recent improvements to our grant application tool:

- *When a final application authorization is complete, the application is automatically sent to Rotary for review, rather than having to wait for the primary contact to submit it.*
- *Scholars may now initiate a report and work with their sponsor clubs to complete it. Previously, only the sponsor club or district could initiate a report.*

These changes, and others, resulted from feedback that many of you provided through surveys and focus groups. We thank you for your participation. Together, we will continue to improve the grant application process, increasing both functionality and speed. Watch for more improvements in coming months, including a significant overhaul of the vocational training team application process. And tell Rotary members in your club and district about these improvements, directing questions to your regional grants officer.

ROTARY CENTENNIAL RECOGNITION

The Rotary Foundation's centennial celebrations in 2016-17 will include recognition for major achievements related to its programs, including the work that Rotary clubs and district accomplish through Foundation grants. At Rotary's 2017 convention in Atlanta, the Foundation will highlight 10 outstanding global grant-funded projects completed in 2015-16. In addition, districts are encouraged to recognize locally outstanding district grant-funded projects completed this Rotary year. We hope that this recognition will encourage even more Rotarians to become involved in the Foundation's work to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

ROTARY/UNESCO-IHE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

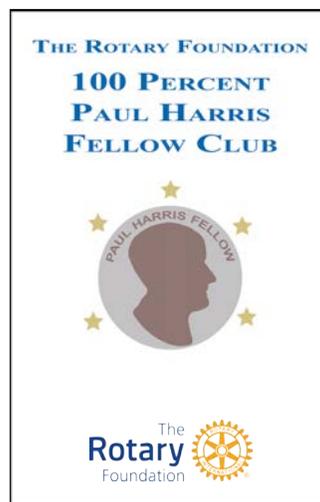
The Rotary Foundation and UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education are offering up to 10 scholarships for graduate study at UNESCO-IHE's Delft campus in the Netherlands. The application deadline is 15 June. Scholars will receive a Master of Science degree in urban water and sanitation, water management, or water science and engineering. Graduates work with their Rotary club sponsors on a related project to benefit their local community. For more information, review the application toolkit and scholarship terms and conditions.

Congratulations!

100% Paul Harris Fellow Club

Rotary Club of Molo

Club President: Recto Jose "Pepe" M. Isada



To be eligible, every active (dues-paying) member of the club must be a Paul Harris Fellow at the time your district governor requests banner recognition. This banner recognition is a one-time-only award, but the intent is that the club will maintain its membership at the 100% Paul Harris Fellows level.

To obtain this recognition:

1. A club representative must contact the district governor after determining that all current, dues-paying club members are Paul Harris Fellows.
2. The district governor must confirm that all members are Paul Harris Fellows by using the Club Recognition Summary, and then notify The Rotary Foundation by email at rotarysupportcenter@rotary.org.

The top of the Club Recognition Summary indicates if the club received the 100% Paul Harris Fellow Club banner along with the date this was achieved.



Rotary 

Years of Rotary