



BE A GIFT

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3850
GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY LETTER
MARCH 2016



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DG Oliver and his spouse Lady Carol opening the Discon 2016 Fellowship Night with their dance production number along with members of Rotary Clubs of Zamboanga City.

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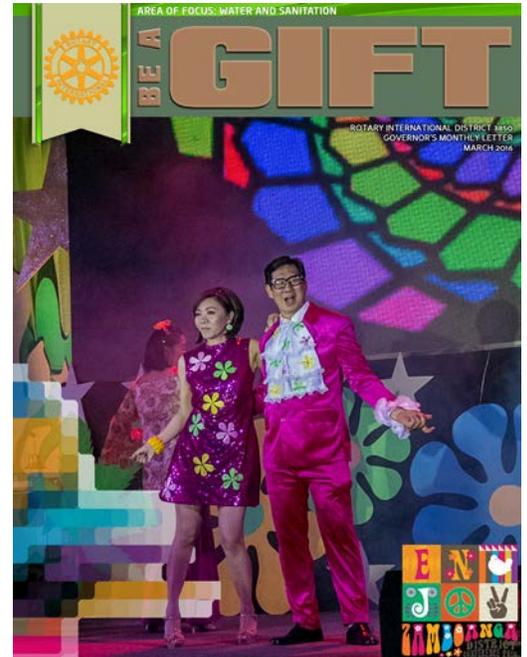
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Be a GIFT
is the official Governor's
monthly newsletter
of District 3850

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The month of March was indeed a rustling month for all Rotarians. Rotarians had their hands full for the entire month-- the District Conference, the Presidential Conference of W.A.S.H. in Manila, and re-affirming ties with our sister Districts in Korea.

It then goes without saying that March embodies a kind of re-igniting of the hearts and consciousness of human kind.

Our District Conference 2016 reinvigorated Rotarians to continue to serve the community with unwavering passion and be a gift to the world. On the other hand, the Presidential Conference of W.A.S.H. held in Manila en-kindled the consciousness of Rotarians of teaching the young on the importance of proper hygiene.

Talking about the District Conference 2016-- our Conference, it was a blast in all four corners of preparation. The preparation of the Discon Committees, under the stewardship of PP Edwin To, was a hallmark of success.

The District Conference enriched the proverbial learning curves of every Rotarian in attendance. New paths were created. Objectives were re-affirmed.

The speakers surely affected every Rotarian present with their unqualified fervor in serving humanity, continuing the infallible call to service. Of course, it was a different matter when renowned psychologist specializing in sex therapy Dr. Margie Holmes-Sinco took the podium and regaled her audience with her insights. I know you get my point. 😊

The performances during the fellowship night surely had everyone to their feet—every beat felt and every rhythm absorbed. Everyone have had a good, a real good time!

It was a gargantuan of a task to choose photos of the Discon 2016 for this issue. There were thousand of photos taken and posted in the social media and thus, photos for print were chosen at random from the shared and tagged photos. Muchas gracias a todo!



RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Some years ago, I was asked to speak at an Interact club in my home city of Colombo, Sri Lanka. I have always taken my interactions with Rotary youth very seriously, so I prepared my remarks carefully and put the same effort into my presentation that I would for any other event. After the meeting, I stayed to chat with a few of the Interactors, answering their questions and wishing them well.

I came out of the classroom where we had met into the autumn afternoon. The bright sun was shining directly into my eyes, so I found a bit of shade behind a pillar where I could wait for my ride.

As I stood there, hidden from view, I overheard a group of the very Interactors who had just listened to my speech. Naturally I was curious: What would they be saying? What had they taken away from my presentation? I quickly realized that what they had taken away was not at all what I had intended.

They were not talking about what I had said, the stories I had told, or the lessons I had come to their school to impart. To my astonishment, the major topic of conversation was my tie! I listened with amusement as they chattered about my Western clothes, my background, my business; every aspect of my appearance and behavior was dissected and discussed. Just as they began to speculate about what car I drove, my ride arrived and I stepped out into view.

They were perhaps a bit embarrassed, but I just smiled, got into the car, and drove off with a wave.

Whatever they learned from me that day, I learned far more. I learned that the lessons we teach with our examples are far more powerful than those we teach with words. I realized that as a Rotary leader, and a prominent person in the

community, I had, for better or worse, become a role model for these young people. Their eyes were on me in a way that I had never before appreciated. If they chose to emulate me, they would model themselves on what they saw, not what I told them.

All of us in Rotary are leaders, in one way or another, in our communities. All of us bear the responsibility that comes with that. Our Rotary values, our Rotary ideals, cannot be left within the confines of our Rotary clubs. They must be carried with us every day. Wherever we are, whoever we are with, whether we are involved in Rotary work – we are always representing Rotary. We must conduct ourselves accordingly: in what we think, what we say, what we do, and how we do it. Our communities, and our children, deserve no less.

“ I learned that the lessons we teach with our examples are far more powerful than those we teach with words. I realized that as a Rotary leader, and a prominent person in the community, I had, for better or worse, become a role model for these young people. ”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ravi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

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

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

A MEMORABLE MARCH!

What an awesome District Conference we just had! Almost 600 Rotarians, Anns and guests, came to *Enjoy Rotary and Enjoy Zamboanga!* I'm so glad that you had fun and returned home happy. Thank you so much for making our District Conference very successful.

You charged our fellowship night with your enthusiasm and colorful performances. You captivated us with your elegance during the Governor's evening. Best of all, I was glad to see happy faces all over enjoying yourselves, renewing acquaintances, making new friends, and learning more to be better Rotarians.

Zamboanga rolled out her very best for you ... from the world-class venues to the delectable menu and her brand of hospitality, with the overwhelming support of Mayor Beng Climaco-Salazar. *You deserved no less and only the best!*

We have invited credible leaders to inspire us more to *be a gift to the world* - from the R.I. President's Representative, PDG Bob Gallagher to Senator Bam Aquino, Ms. Margie Holmes, DG Pepito Bengzon, PDG Raffy Garcia, PDG Robert Kuan and other inspiring Resource speakers.

My sincere appreciation to our *Discon Team* chaired by PP Edwin To for their remarkable leadership and teamwork. Nothing was left to chance and every detail was looked into to ensure a memorable Discon. Thank you for your heartwarming feedbacks and high ratings, and we also noted the areas for improvement.

Our District Conference was the perfect time to celebrate our achievements and show gratitude to those who have left an indelible mark in our District's history as well as for those who will shape the future of our District.

We honored our Past District Governors in a special tribute for their selfless service, dedication and steering leadership that contributed much to the growth and stability of our beloved District. *Thank you so much to our PDGs for your inspiration.*

With pride, we presented Incoming DG Ronnie and Lady Sanda Gabalda, DGN Jundad Legislador and DGND Lindon See Diet during the Governor's Night, who will chart the course of our District with continuity and dynamism for the next 3 years.

We're blessed with many treasures. I am gratified to have 11 hardworking Assistant Governors and responsive District Officers who did a great job in their respective assignments and in helping me run the District very well. What a great honor and a privilege for me to work with them closely.

A **BIG** thanks to you all for accepting the invitation *to be a gift to the world*. I'm ecstatic to see all figures up. PDG Bob Gallagher was truly



“ A BIG thanks to you all for accepting the invitation to be a gift to the world. I'm ecstatic to see all figures up. PDG Bob Gallagher was truly impressed on how you addressed community concerns as featured in the “House of O”. ”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Oliver Ver Ong".

Oliver “Ver” Ong, MPHF
District Governor 2015-16
Rotary Club of Zamboanga City

impressed on how you addressed community concerns as featured in the “House of O”. The future’s looking good and I will be very happy to turn over a stronger and vibrant district to IDG Ronnie! ***Cheers!***

The District Awards was designed to encourage and inspire you to do your best in our quest to make District more vibrant and responsive to community concerns. Many responded and did exceptional well. ***My warmest congratulations*** to all the clubs and Rotarians who garnered the well deserved District Awards. ***You are awesome and inspiring!***

Water is life and God’s precious gift to us! That was the central message during the WASH Presidential Conference at Marriot Hotel in Manila last March 18-19, 2016.

But it is becoming a scarce resource in the world and Rotary has taken keen interest as it is one of the areas of focus. Many are denied clean water and suffered from diseases and health problems, which are all preventable if water is available. ***Let’s get involved and be active partners in water management.***

During the conference, R.I. President Ravi Ravindran called a meeting with all the Philippine World Class District Governors for an update on how we are doing in our respective Districts.

I was just too happy to report to him that ***everything is up in District 3850*** - Membership, TRF contributions, Number of Global Grants, Rotary Community Corps, Interact Clubs and Rotaract Clubs. We are very active in Rotary Youth Exchange program, just had a great Discon and 117 registered for the Seoul Convention.

Flashing a smile, R.I. President Ravi replied: ***“Thank you for a great job”*** and I dedicate it to all of you!

Thank you for being World Class Rotarians!



**Be a gift
to the world**

Rotary International President’s Representative, PDG Bob and Spouse Mary Jean Gallagher, My fellow District Governors: DG Jung Man Hwa, D-3600, Korea; DG Kim Jeung Im, D3610, Korea; DG Mai Ocampo, D-3780; and DG Pepz Bengzon D-3830, Philippines.

Our esteemed Past District Governors and their lovely spouses, DGE Ronnie Gabalda and Spouse Sanda, DGN Jundad Legislador, DGND Lindon See Diet.

My World Class Assistant Governors, Club Presidents and District Team. My ever-supportive and loving Carol, children, Kit, Inna, Jacky, Jacob. My Fellow Rotarians, indispensable Rotary Anns, family, friends and partners of Rotary, Distinguished guests!

Good afternoon!

I am so delighted to see each one of you here today. Thank you so much for coming. Your presence and enjoyment are everything to us. Thus, the Discon team has worked tirelessly, hoping that you will have a memorable experience ***Enjoying Zamboanga*** as much as you ***Enjoy Rotary*** in our 3-day District Conference.

Thank you too PDG Bob for being here with us as President Ravi Ravindran’s personal representative, to our District Conference. What a delight to have you back after 25 years since you led the GSE Team from D-6400 way back in 1991. We are glad to know that you and Mary Jean enjoyed your short vacation in Boracay. Happy Homecoming!

When President Ravi rolled out the RI theme ***“Be a gift to the world”*** during the International Assembly in San Diego, it got everyone excited because the theme was ***inspiring, motivational and a call for cheerful action.*** It was a timely reminder **TO US** of the many gifts we have, and **FOR US** to share those gifts, all of our 366 days together, to make our world a better place to live in.

STATE OF THE DISTRICT ADDRESS

by
DG Oliver N. Ong

When we share our time, talents and treasures, we invest IN and FOR a better future. When we do anything in the name of Rotary, we send out messages of trust, love and hope to the people we serve and to the world. By our actions, we show that Rotary cares and cares deeply, fighting poverty, illiteracy, diseases and other community concerns.

Coming home EXCITED and INSPIRED from San Diego, I lost no time in getting our World Class Team ready for OUR YEAR TOGETHER. Fired by a sense of mission, we focused on continuous trainings for

It is only possible to get Rotarians together during the District Conference such as this.

To address these challenges, we have brought the trainings closer to you. From one District Training Assembly done in other Districts, we did 5 Sectional Trainings in different areas in our District (Zamboanga, Pagadian, Bacolod, Iloilo and Kalibo). From one seamless seminar on Membership, Public Image, RCC and TRF, we had 5 in different areas.

Our District Trainer, PDG James Makasiar, showing his exemplary dedication to Rotary, came up with

excellent training Modules for our Assistant Governors, club presidents and the District Team. Even when he fell ill from his trip to Sydney, he still travelled to Kalibo, come hell or high water, and gave his talk on Public Image. PDG James, my gratitude and that of our District's.

As promised, no clubs will be left behind and



us to gain more Rotary knowledge and for us to be aligned with R.I. thrusts. Informed and motivated Rotarians are always crucial to the success of our programs.

No less than President Ravi came to inspire our club Presidents and the District Team during the Multi-District PETS in Cebu last February, 2015.

As we all know, our District faces geographical challenges that make travels expensive and inconvenient. It is difficult to gather Rotarians in one place for an event, much less for training seminars.

we will continue to make those trainings available to you. Thank you PDG Ernie Choa, PDG Mac Hermoso, PDG Ed Alvarez (May he rest in peace), PDG Toto Cupin and PDG James Makasiar, and PP Mon Dacayo from the Regional Coordinating Groups, and DG Pepz Bengzon for the support you have extended to District 3850.

With our Rotarians well informed and motivated, guided by President Ravi's citation criteria and our own District vision, each club sets out to make a real difference and ... demonstrates inspiring actions.

Books and computers for students score victory against ignorance and illiteracy. Proper skills trainings get people out of poverty. WASH projects keep diseases away.

An “academic excellence” contest brings out the best among our youth, making them future leaders. Feeding the hungry and restoring their health give them the strength to face the future more confidently.

We are fortunate to have generous international partners from Taiwan and Korea. The Foundation points used to match your \$500 contribution to TRF, making you a Paul Harris Fellow came mostly from friends of PDG Ramon Cua Locsin in Taiwan.

Four districts in Korea are our international partners in various Global Grant projects.

RC Metro Bacolod partnered with D-3690 and D-3740 for the 2 Rotary Library projects worth \$50,000 each.

RC Dipolog teamed up with D-3590 for a \$45,000 Vocational Technical Training Project.

RC Bacolod worked on a \$48,000 E-library project for public libraries in Bacolod with D-3740.

RC Zamboanga joined with D-3610 for a \$65,000 Maternity Lying-in Center.

RC Roxas got a \$170,000 Vocational Technical Training Project for a public school from Korean Districts, and from Spain and Sweden.

RC Iloilo is speeding up its \$30,000 Artificial Reef restoration project with D-3600.

I encourage you to apply for Global Grant projects. Together, we look forward to continue improving the lives of people in the communities we serve.

You are the key! You are the spark! You are the force ... why positive changes are happening.

From Antique to Aklan, Boracay to Bongao, Bacolod to Basilan, Iloilo to Ipil, Passi to Pagadian, Miagao to Mindanao and throughout the District, there’s always a reason to celebrate.

Rotary different meanings to different people - Rotary cares. Rotary shares. Rotary gives. Rotary helps. Rotary feeds. Rotary uplifts. Rotary saves. Rotary transforms. Rotary assures. Rotary

educates. Rotary fights. Rotary is beautiful and Rotary is here to stay... because of you.

They define Rotary by their experiences or by what they become.

Each club visit is special and a wonderful experience for me. While a few clubs need more push, many of you are doing great and move with purpose. When I visit you, I get to appreciate your big hearts when you share your plans and accomplishments.

After 8 months of inspiration, passion and hard work, allow me to report to you how we are doing and what WE have accomplished:

We started with 60 Rotary Community Corps as of July 1, 2015. With the leadership of PP Jerry Olson, we have added 6 new RCCs for a total of 66 RCCs. RCC is designed to establish Rotary’s presence at the grassroots level to help people for self-reliance and community development.

We grew the number of Interact clubs from 61 to 79, an increase of 18 new clubs. 73 school based and 6 community-based. Cheers to IPP Chris Sorongon!

We should be proud of our Rotaractors for having successfully hosted the 5th Pilipinas Rotaract Convention held in Bacolod City last February 19-21, 2016. Thanks to our New Gen Chair, PP Louie Gonzaga and Rotaract Chair PP Kano Ng for their constant guidance. We have a deep pool of young leaders here who can be Rotarians.

We started with 26 Rotaract Clubs, and gained 5 new clubs for a total of 31 clubs.

In spite of the implementation of K to12, we are happy that our Youth Exchange program is active and dynamic. We have 8 inbound students from Belgium and France while we sent out 7 to the same countries.

The future belongs to our Youth and for them to embrace with confidence and responsibility. It is therefore our responsibility to mentor them and mold them to be future leaders for *Responsibility for tomorrow starts today (Author unkown).*

MORE EXCITING NEWS!

We are making good progress with our Public Image campaign showing what Rotary is doing, creating

positive image and awareness in the communities. I see the vital role of a good Public Image to our Membership growth, in Interact, Rotaract, RCC, support to the Rotary Foundation. Keep spreading the good news about our great organization.

We all know that Membership is the lifeblood of any organization and Rotary has made Membership its second highest priority program after End Polio Now and Forever.

Our membership numbered 1,281 in July 1, 2015. We now have 1,366 for a gain of 85 new members. We would like to see 34 new members to reach our goal of 1,400 by June 30, 2016.

Thank you so much for the top 13 clubs that registered the highest gains: RC Boracay tops with 11 new members; RC Bacolod - 10; RC Bongao - 8; RC Pagadian - 8; RC Dipolog - 7; RCZC West - 6; RCZC East - 6; Iloilo West - 6; RC Bacolod North - 5; RC Central Iloilo City -5; RC Iloilo - 5; RC Iloilo City - 5; and RC Jaro Centraline - 5.

While we are delighted on our membership growth bringing us to within reach of our target, allow me to remind you of the need to focus on membership retention to keep our gains, and to do so, we must continue to engage our members through trainings and their meaningful participation in club activities and projects.

I am extremely gratified by the results of our TRF campaign. You have responded positively, generously and cheerfully. Your support will continue the works of TRF to do more good in the world.

There are two things that I begged in my entire life: The love of Carol and the love for Rotary!

Every cent counts in bringing HOPE, A BETTER LIFE, A BETTER FUTURE to the people and communities we touch. Every contribution to the Polio-Plus Fund goes to eradicate POLIO and no one should suffer from this crippling and preventable disease.

I am therefore very pleased to announce that, that our per capita contribution as of today is \$114.07 and we have raised a total contribution of US\$148,502.43 (\$146,123.23+2,379.20) SO FAR, exceeding our TRF goal of US\$140,000.

I'm confident that we will surpass the \$150,000 mark once we open the cans by May 31, 2016.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND CONGRATULATIONS to the 6 new Major Donors, over 200 new PHFs and all the contributors for your generosity and support.

Even as we celebrate our collective accomplishments, let us forge ahead in adding new members, retain the current ones, organize new clubs, enhance Rotary's image to the rest of your communities and achieving the goals set for our District.

My term as your District Governor is marked with Continuity, Harmony and Pure Enjoyment in serving our District. I share the vision of a strong, cohesive and responsive District 3850. And I, like the other Governors before me, is committed and will work hard for it and will fight any attempts to weaken it.

There will be more travels for me visiting clubs and forging international partnerships after Discon. I will keep working until I hear the fat lady sings. We still have 120 days left in OUR YEAR TOGETHER and as Pres. Ravi put it – Let us not waste our time because there are still many things to be done.

As your Servant leader and Head Volunteer, you will see me playing the role of an Orchestra Conductor, ensuring different roles and responsibilities are carried out smoothly and in harmony rather than me barking orders like a staff sergeant. This is one valuable lesson I learned from PRIP Cliff Dochterman during my training at the International Assembly.

I am proud, excited, and grateful. I came to inspire but instead you all inspired me. This is a great year with many accomplishments that will strength our District.

In closing, No one gets poor by sharing. We all have something to give as we are all blessed abundantly with many gifts. By sharing, it makes us richer. As Erich Fromm once said "Not he has much is rich, but he who gives much." Thank you for being a gift to the world.

(Delivered during the District Conference at the Garden Orchid Convention Center, Zamboanga City last March 3, 2016)



WATER AND SANITATION

SANITATION AND HYGIENE

2.5 billion people

lack access to improved sanitation.

TAKE ACTION

Improve sanitation facilities by providing toilets and latrines that flush into a sewer or safe enclosure.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- 1 Avoid prescribing a solution for a community. Instead, work with the community to determine what is most appropriate.
- 2 Remember sanitation and hygiene: Very few people die from thirst; millions die from preventable waterborne diseases.

1,400 children

die each day from diseases caused by lack of sanitation and unsafe water.



TAKE ACTION

Promote good hygiene habits through education. Proper hand washing with soap and water can reduce diarrhea cases by up to 35 percent.



IMPROVE WATER QUALITY AND ACCESS TO WATER



TAKE ACTION

Build wells

to extract groundwater from underground aquifers.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- 1 Work with the community to establish a water committee and a fee system to allow for ongoing operation and maintenance of the water system.
- 2 Before digging or drilling a new well, plan carefully to ensure that the water will be safe and the well is environmentally sustainable.
- 3 Utilize government-approved technology and equipment so that spare parts and repair work will be readily available.

TAKE ACTION

Implement rainwater harvesting

systems to collect and store rainwater for drinking or recharging underground aquifers.

6 hours

per day is what women in some rural parts of Africa spend collecting water from a remote source.

TAKE ACTION

Promote low-cost solutions, such as chlorine tablets or plastic bottles that can be exposed to sunlight, to improve water quality.

TAKE ACTION

Provide home water treatment capability

through the use of filters, solar disinfection, or flocculants, to make drinking water safe.

748 million people

don't have clean drinking water.





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

- Worldwide, 2.6 billion people — 72% in Southern Asia — lack access to improved sanitation facilities, and 884 million — 37% in sub-Saharan Africa — do not use improved sources of drinking water. (*WHO/UNICEF*)
- Women generally are the ones burdened with the task of collecting water, which can take up to 26% of their time. (*WaterAid*)
- In sub-Saharan Africa, 18% of the population relies on an improved drinking water source that is more than 30 minutes away. (*UNICEF & WHO*)
- This year, 2.2 million children will die from diarrhea and related diseases, and 80% of them will die within the first two years of life. (*Rehydration Project*)



What you can do

- Install rainwater harvesting systems at schools, clinics, and community health centers
- Provide training to community leaders on management and maintenance of water sources
- Sponsor a scholar studying water and environmental management
- Implement a sanitation project in a rural village to construct latrines and provide hygiene education to residents

Learn more

IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre
www.irc.nl

Rural Water Supply Network
www.rwsn.ch

USAID Hygiene Improvement Project
www.hip.watsan.net

Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council
www.wsscc.org

WHO Water Sanitation and Health
www.who.int/water_sanitation_health

Goals for Water and Sanitation

- Increasing equitable community access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation
- Strengthening the ability of communities to develop and maintain sustainable water and sanitation systems
- Educating communities about safe water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Supporting studies related to water and sanitation





18-19 MARCH 2016
Grand Ballroom - Marriott Hotel
Pasay City



Editor's Note

Photos were culled from social media archive of Rotarians who attended the conference. For highlights of the Presidential Conference on W.A.S.H., kindly visit, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=anBDUk5BpXw>



*Vaya!
Zamboanga!*

discon 2016

MARCH 3 - 5, 2016
GARDEN ORCHID
CONVENTION CENTER
ZAMBOANGA CITY
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3850

























Rotary
District 3850



gracias por tu visita ♥

Highlights

District Governor Nominee-Designate Lindon See diet and PP Christopher Mah of RC Dipolog represented our District 3850 at the District Conference of District 3590 in South Korea.



RC VICTORIAS

RC Victorias, under the able leadership of Pres. Nathaniel Villazor and its active members, turned over comfort rooms to the Day Care Center of Brgy 6-A of Victorias City, Negros Occidental. The project was funded by Mr. Mark Ethriem and Friends of the RC of Wisconsin, USA.



RC BORACAY

Under the auspices of RC Boracay, Dr. Jamie Berry gave a lecture and talk about Depression. The lecture was well-attended. It was held at Sea Wind Resort Boracay. *(Photos culled from the public social archive of AJ Barrios)*



**I'M
A
PROUD
MEMBER**



www.rotary.org