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HOLGER KNAACK

DISTRICT GOVERNOR
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DR.AJAY MAHAJAN

SECRETARY (2020-2021)
CA TEJAS GANDHI

EDITORS (2020-21)
NEHAL SHAH
PP KAMAL GANDHI

ISSUE 15 09 October

Community Economic Development

Report for Joint Meeting with Rotary Club of Vallabh Vidyanagar dated 09.10.2020.

- 1) Meeting was called to order by President Dr. Ajay Mahajan.
- 2) The Four Way Test was recited by Rtn. Kamal Gandhi
- 3) President welcomed all and gave a brief report of activities done in the previous week.
- 4) The introduction of the key note speaker PP RtnNimish Mehta was done by Rtn Bhasker Bhatt President of Rotary Club of Vallabh Nagar.
- 5) Rtn Nimish Mehta gave an elaborate presentation on the importance of Water & Sanitation. In his presentation he shared with the members the targets laid down by Rotary India for building check dams and conserving water bodies. He also reminded that "Once you carry your own water as is done by communities living in arid areas, you will realize the importance of each drop of water. He also shared ideas of recycling of water as well as ways and means to use a vital resource like water more judiciously. Rainwater harvesting is also important for recharging of underground water tables.
- 6) Secretarial Announcements were done by Hon. Secretary Tejas Gandhi.
- 7) Rtn Bhavaniben Mehta Wished Birthday & Anniversary Greetings.
- 8) Vote of thanks was done by Hon. Sec. Tejas Gandhi.
- 9) Meeting was adjourned by President Dr. Ajay Mahajan.

INCOMING PROGRAMMES

Incoming Programs

16 Oct 2020 – Weekly Meeting
Kavita – Kavita nu New Normal



- 17th Oct – Rtn. Bhanuchandra Gokani
- 18th Oct – Rtn. Chandresh Sheth
- 18th Oct – R'Partner Pankti Niket Shastri
- 19th Oct – R'Partner Mitul Shah
- 19th Oct – R'Partner Sonal Ashish Choksi
- 22nd Oct – Rtn. Tushar Shah
- 22nd Oct - R'Partner Reshma Nilesh Jariwala





THE MAGIC OF ROTARY: TOUCHING LIVES IN INDONESIA

By Eva Kurniaty, Rotary Coordinator, Past District Governor, and member of the Rotary Club of Jakarta Sunter Centennial, Indonesia

When I was a district governor in 2013, there was a Rotary club in my district, in Cilacap, Central Java, that only had a few members. My senior leaders advised me to terminate the club since they were inactive, held no meetings, conducted no projects, and never contributed to The Rotary Foundation. But I was determined not to end it; I knew it was possible to revive it.

During a visit, I found out this club was project-oriented, and their members said they were interested in serving their local community. Yet, they were not engaged in any service projects which would help keep members or attract new ones.

Cilacap is a rural area with over 2,000 households in 12 villages, whose residents are dependent on fishing in the Segara Anakan lagoon. The monthly household income is only around \$80.

Over the years, the water started to dry up, turning the area into swampland that also became breeding grounds for mosquitoes that spread diseases such as Malaria and Dengue Fever. With the water dried up, the fishermen became farmers with an assurance of a more regular income. However, this "appeared" land was not productive, so we needed to transform it.

I decided to help the club set a long-term strategic plan for conducting a service project that would use existing members' skills and expertise in agriculture and engineering. The plan was to build canals from Cimeneng River to reclaim the fertile mud (sediments) brought down by runoff water from the mountains to the river. This mud would act as a fertilizer for the unproductive land. We decided to start with our first [global grant](#) in one of the 12 villages.

I managed to secure enough [District Designated Fund](#) from International Partners and with their support, the Rotary Club of Cilacap's first global grant was approved. We worked together with the villagers, local government, and a Catholic foundation. As the club members got involved with building the canals and monitoring the project, they became engaged, active, and vibrant. Eventually, they began to attract new members as well.

The project was a huge success; the land became productive, and the villagers soon turned them into paddy fields. During its first year of harvest, these new-formed paddy fields yielded an income of over \$1 million. As more sediment was reclaimed and the total area of productive land grew, the income also slowly increased and it now yields over \$3 million per year. With this new income, families in the village are now prospering and able to afford basic needs such as education for their children. The value of land has now also increased to 20-times its original price.

This project also enhances Rotary's public image in remotes areas. I love visiting Cilacap hearing, the villagers tell me "**Long-live Rotary!**" Everywhere you go, you can see paddy fields that stretch far and wide. The Cilacap Rotary club is now a **cause-based club** focused on expanding this livelihood project to the remaining villages, and they regularly contribute to the Foundation.

So, what happened next?

I made a promise to the local community that I would continue to help all remaining villages in Cilacap. We have since replicated this global grant project in two more villages, with the fourth village's global grant application pending approval.

I am so happy and feel fulfilled that I was able to **transform a dying club into a healthy and vibrant club**. It brings me tears of joy to see all the changes and positive impact we've brought through this project. We should always try and help clubs that are struggling rather than giving up on them.

This is the Magic of Rotary. I hope this story can inspire and motivate you all to do more good in the world.



WAY TO GROW ROTARY

By Tory Paxson, vice president, Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club, District 7780, Maine, USA

What's life like for people between the ages of 18 and 35 in the Boothbay Region of Maine? Through Rotary, young people take on leadership positions that expand their skills while they serve. Rotary does more than help during a crisis like COVID-19; it provides experiences that translate into a better future in any career.

The Rotary Club of Boothbay Harbor created a new membership level to make joining more accessible for those under the age of 35. In addition, generous club members have chosen to pay the first year membership costs for the first five new members in this category.

We call it the Rule of 35 and it reduces dues by more than 50% for those under the age of 35. It's a commitment by our club to keep growing and learning, and to keep inviting young people to see what skills they can develop and add to their own resumes. It's an invitation to make a difference.

Through Rotary, I have discovered what is possible when a group of like-minded individuals get together to make a difference. It matters not at all that we come in many shapes and sizes, backgrounds, or age-ranges. After a short few years, it's apparent to me that what we have in common is more important than our differences. We believe in Service Above Self. It's more than a motto, it is what compels our club. While we're known for our annual benefit auction (on hiatus, due to the pandemic), our club works year-round to help our local community and communities around the world. We have given out bikes to seasonal and international workers, organized the Soup Bowl Supper and Derby Party fundraisers, run mock job interviews for high school seniors to practice for future careers, and created care packages for veterans, among many other things.

Rotary has also enabled me to become capable, confident and powerful as I worked alongside change-makers. I have gained project management skills that you can only get through organizing and managing a 200 plus person event with three different organizational crews and over 40 donors and vendors. I've become a better, more confident public speaker and learned to use my voice to create change both in Rotary and in my career. I used that voice to convince my fellow members to support our new club membership level for other young professionals like me, the first of its kind in our Rotary district.

At age 25, joining Rotary changed the trajectory of my life. Now 30, I am vice president of our club and have discovered the many ways that I can make a difference.

More than that, I joined a family of people who have rich histories, have a lot of love to give, and are committed to their community. Many of them are business leaders with fascinating careers. I learn and laugh with them at our meetings, taking a break from my busy life to connect with people that I would have never had the chance to get to know otherwise. It's the reset button I need after a challenging day. Some of my best friends are twice my age, and my life is twice as rich for having them in.

Declaration of Rotarians:

The Declaration of Rotarians in Businesses and Professions was adopted by the Rotary International Council on Legislation in 1989 to provide more specific guidelines for the high ethical standards called for in the Object of Rotary:

As a Rotarian engaged in a business or profession, I am expected to:

- Consider my vocation to be another opportunity to serve;
- Be faithful to the letter and to the spirit of the ethical codes of my vocation, to the laws of my country, and to the moral standards of my community;
- Do all in my power to dignify my vocation and to promote the highest ethical standards in my chosen vocation;
- Be fair to my employer, employees, associates, competitors, customers, the public and all those with whom I have a business or professional relationship;
- Recognize the honor and respect due to all occupations which are useful to society;
- Offer my vocational talents: to provide opportunities for young people, to work for the relief of the special needs of others, and to improve the quality of life in my community;
- Adhere to honesty in my advertising and in all representations to the public concerning my business or profession;
- Neither seek from nor grant to a fellow Rotarian a privilege or advantage not normally accorded others in a business or professional relationship.



Community Service – Vatsalyapuram – 10 Oct 2020

A weekly service project of the club of providing healthy meals to children of Vatsalyapuram was sponsored by R'Partner Nupur & Rtn. Nimit Shah.

Community Service – Pal Anganwadi – 10 Oct 2020

A weekly service project of the club of providing healthy meals to 45 children of Pal Anganwadi was sponsored by Rtn. Indravadan Shetranjiwala on Saturday 10th October.



Rotary Club Of Surat Dist 3060 Rotaract Surat Community Think Young

DISTRICT 3060

RYLA

THINK. CREATE. INNOVATE.

24TH OCT - 3RD NOV
TIME : 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

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Setbacks are a part of life you cannot wish them away. I think you have to deal with them so that you can come back stronger.

- Saina Nehwal, Badminton player