



Rotary International

Governor's Newsletter

ISSUE 5 / NOVEMBER 2012

CYPRUS

ARMENIA

BAHRAIN

LEBANON

PALESTINE

JORDAN

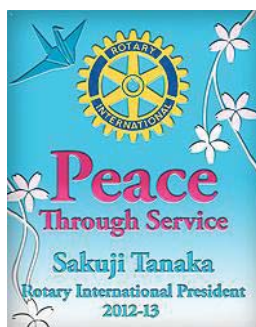
DISTRICT 2450

EGYPT

GEORGIA

SUDAN

UAE



DISTRICT GOVERNOR

2012-13

Kevork Mahdessian

RI PRESIDENT

2012-13

Sakuji Tanaka



Governor's Message

Dear fellow Rotarians in our great District 2450,



As you know, **November** is dedicated to The **Rotary Foundation** in our yearly calendar. The mission of The Rotary Foundation is “to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty”. The Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation supported solely by voluntary contributions from Rotarians and friends who share its vision of a better world.

I urge you to reaffirm your commitment to contribute to its programs, especially in order to meet the pledge by Rotary to eradicate polio worldwide. We are “this close,” with only three countries remaining, so your donation is of vital importance.

At the same time, Clubs should focus on making fuller use of the programs of our Foundation for the benefit of our communities and on getting acquainted with the Future Vision Plan, which updates TRF’s mission and creates a more effective and

efficient way to help Rotarians develop diverse projects with greater impact and sustainable outcomes.

The new grant model under the Future Vision will be launched worldwide on 1 July 2013. While the Foundation's primary service opportunities – humanitarian projects, scholarships, and vocational training – will remain, this new model streamlines its programs and helps clubs and districts make a more sustainable impact.

Before, the Foundation spent about 20 percent of its annual programs budget on large scale, high impact grants. Under Future Vision, the target percentage is 80 percent – a change that will help promote Rotary as a leader in global development and humanitarian service. Aside from PolioPlus and Rotary Peace Fellowships, which will not change, the model simplifies the Foundation's grant options, offering three types instead of 12. See the [Foundation Grants FAQ](#) for details about the new grant model.

While discovering the new possibilities offered by the Future Vision, do keep in mind that “doing good” has just got easier. Rotary Direct, Rotary's recurring giving program, makes it easy to contribute to The Rotary Foundation. The program allows faster processing and quicker achievement of your club and personal charitable goals. Watch [“Doing Good”](#) now.

I urge every Rotarian to consider enrolling in The Rotary Foundation's [recurring giving program](#), Rotary Direct, and save lives through your generous contributions. Select an amount, frequency (monthly, quarterly or annually), and contribution method that is convenient for you. You may even direct your contributions to one of Rotary's six areas of focus. Enrollment is integrated with the Foundation's secure [online contribution system](#) and contributions can be made in euro. The Rotary Foundation will send you an annual statement.

God bless you for doing good in the world, especially in these hard times.

Yours in Rotary

Kevork Mahdessian

Governor

District 2450 (2012-2013)

Message from
RI President 2012-13
Sakuji Tanaka
November 2012



Dear fellow Rotarians,

There are many ways to describe our Rotary Foundation. But I think of our Foundation literally – as the foundation for all of Rotary.

We do not often think about the ground beneath our feet. We do not often think about the walls that are holding up our house. We take them for granted. We think about them only when they are not there.

Not long ago in Japan, the ground fell out from under our feet. On Friday, 11 March 2011, a magnitude 9 earthquake shook Japan to its very core. More than 15,000 people died, nearly 6,000 were injured, and another 4,000 are still missing. The total losses of the disaster are estimated at over US\$300 billion.

In a matter of hours, half a million people in one of the world's wealthiest and most developed countries lost everything. They went from living in comfort and security to facing an uncertain future in school gymnasiums, tents, and ruined buildings.

In Japan, we are used to earthquakes. We thought we were ready for anything. But no one ever expected anything like this.

What happened on that day changed Japan, and everyone who lives there. It has made us realize how fragile our lives are. And it has made me realize how little separates me from the people I help through Rotary.

It is easy to look at the people we help through our Foundation as somehow different from ourselves. They live far away. We do not know their language or their culture. We do not know what it is like to have no running water, no sanitation, no health care, no education. We look at pictures, and we read stories in the news about poverty, wars, and disasters. We see, from so far away, the people who are living through such terrible times. But it is hard to put ourselves in their place.

Today, I tell you that there is nothing at all separating us from the people we help. We are all the same. Only the circumstances surrounding us are different.

Through our Foundation, we have the power to live the words of our Foundation's motto: Doing Good in the World. Through it, we can do so much more good than we could ever do alone. And it matters so much – to people just like us.

Message from
Foundation Trustee Chair 2012-13
Wilfrid J. Wilkinson
November 2012

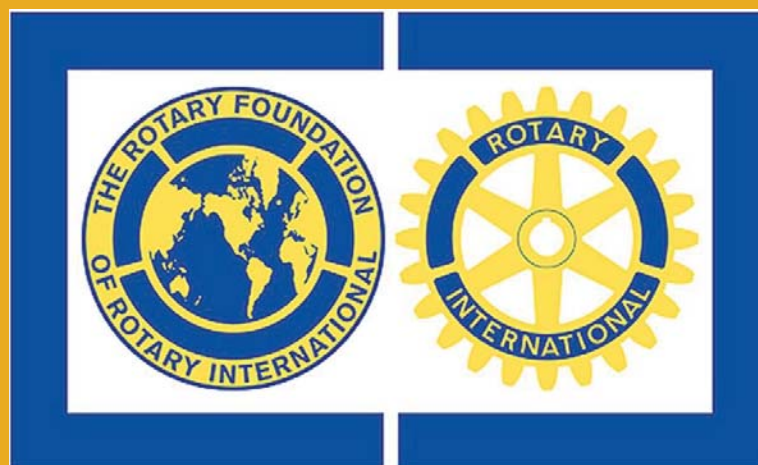


Taking the long view

As the clock ticks down to 1 July, we are in the final stages of preparing for the full rollout of the Future Vision Plan. Our goal is simple: enabling our Foundation to continue Doing Good in the World, and ensuring that we make the best use of every dollar, euro, yen, and peso that we have.

In everything we do in Rotary, we strive for the greatest impact. This means focusing on sustainability – on projects whose effects will go on for years, and on work that will continue to change lives even after Rotarians' involvement has ended. When polio is eradicated, every child who will ever be born will benefit, long after the last drop of vaccine has been put into a child's mouth. PolioPlus is, of course, a unique Rotary program – but it is time to bring that kind of long-term perspective to all our service.

Part of our goal in Future Vision is making sure that we focus on the long view in everything we do. Accordingly, part of that mindset is making sure that we make it a priority to support The Rotary Foundation and its Annual Fund. Our goal is Every Rotarian, Every Year: for every Rotarian to give a gift each year to the Annual Fund, with an average donation of US\$100. Meeting that goal would mean \$120 million per year for Rotary service. It would also mean an organization in which every single member is supporting, and is invested in, the Foundation's success – making The Rotary Foundation truly Our Foundation.



District Governor's Official Visits
September/October 2012

R.C. Amman Philadelphia - Meeting



R.C. Amman Jordan River



R.C. Amman Ammon



R.C. Amman Citadel



Dinner hosted by Jordanian Rotarians



District Governor's Official Visits
September/October 2012

NEW R.C. Amman Citadel - Charter



R.C. Amman Petra



OFFICIAL VISIT TO H.E. PRIME MINISTER OF ARMENIA DIKRAN SARKISIAN



Selection of Director for Zone 20 A+B / Limassol



Training for Armenian Rotary Clubs / Yerevan



District Governor's Official Visits
September/October 2012

Vocational Training Seminar Jordan Amman



R.C. Coura - Meeting



R.C. Gyumri - Meeting



R.C. Gyumri - Dinner Party



District Governor's Official Visits
September/October 2012

R.C. Gyumri - Project - Arts & Crafts College



R.C. Gyumri - Project Children's playground



R.C. Amman West - H.E. PRINCESS BASMA BINT ALI of JORDAN



R.C. Zgharta - Zawie



R.C. Zgharta - Zawie - Rotaractors



District Governor's Official Visits
September/October 2012

R.C. Yerevan - Meeting



R.C. Yerevan - Project



R.C. Yerevan International - Meeting



R.C. Yerevan International - Rotaractors



Joint Dinner - R.C. Tripoli, Tripoli Elmina and Tripoli Maarad



District Governor's Official Visits
September/October 2012

R.C. Tripoli - Meeting



R.C. Tripoli - Rotaractors



R.C. Tripoli Elmina - Project



R.C. Tripoli Maarad - Project



R.C. Nicosia Sarayonou



Joint Dinner R.C. Kyrenia St Hilarion, Kyrenia Liman and Nicosia Sarayonou



District Governor's Official Visits
September/October 2012

R.C. Kyrenia Liman



R.C. Kyrenia St Hilarion



R.C. Nicosia Aspelia



R.C. Kyrenia



R.C. Limassol Berengaria



R.C. Nicosia Ledra



District Governor's Official Visits
September/October 2012

R.C. Larnaca - Meeting



R.C. Larnaca Kition - Meeting



Joint Dinner by R.C. Larnaca and R.C. Larnaca Kition



Cyprus Rotaractors



R.C. Nicosia - Meeting



R.C. Nicosia-Salamis



Thank You

My spouse and I would like to thank most sincerely all the Rotary Club Presidents and Members as well as the DDG and AGs for their warm hospitality and support during our official visits

DG Kevork Mahdessian

District 2450 News

Let's do it!

The Let's do it! campaign is the biggest volunteering project in the world that was initiated in 2008. Since then, it has been organized in 91 countries with 22.128 points of garbage dumps mapped on the world trash map. This project is engaging and brings together millions of volunteers from over 100 countries cleaning up their countries.

Cyprus participated this year for the first time in this campaign. On 29th of September 2012, the 'Let's Do It Cyprus' team took the initiative to clean up waste from the island's countryside in a single day with the help of volunteers from all over the island.

Rotaract Club Nicosia Aspelia and Rotaract Club Nicosia joined their forces for this cause. Early Saturday morning



all Rotaractors from Nicosia got together and cleaned up waste in a designated area in Aglantzia near the buffer zone.

In this way both Clubs helped to raise awareness, educate and improve attitudes of Cypriot citizens towards waste, recycling and environmental protection. Moreover this project aimed to improve the recycling habits of citizens and support a sustainable society in Cyprus. The cleaning session was followed by a fellowship lunch where both Rotaract clubs had the opportunity to bond and exchange their experiences on past and future projects.

Let's do it again next year!



District 2450 News

Dear Rotarians, Rotaractors and Friends,

I am writing to encourage all of you to participate in the island-wide collection of used and unwanted spectacles (no cases) in conjunction with Vision Aid Overseas (UK) and our own District initiative 'Reach Out to Africa'.

The collection will be held between 15 November and 15 December and on completion all the pairs of glasses collected will be sorted and recycled by Vision Aid Overseas and redirected to their clinics and eye centres in Burkino Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia where there is an urgent need for spectacles. Children often do not go to their local school simply because having been born with partial blindness and/or poor eyesight; they are unable to read the blackboard or school books. This could be rectified by having a pair of spectacles. Similarly some adults' employment prospects would be improved by being able to see to read.

Each Club has been asked to make a collection box for used spectacles available at all meetings and dinners during November and December. I would ask ADGs, Presidents and Rotaractors to supplement this with local collection points in opticians, chemists, supermarkets, etc.

This is the first opportunity and, if successful, will not be the last for Rotarians in Cyprus to work together on a local and international community service project helped and assisted by Rotaract.

Many thanks in anticipation of your help.

DG Kevork Mahdessian