

TAI 報 POST

William Yim

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope each of you had a delightful Christmas and enjoyed the New Year's festivities. I am confident many wonderful moments were shared with family and friends. The weather was on our side, enabling us to revel in outdoor activities like barbecues and hiking.

As per tradition, we celebrated Christmas with our annual party, which was held at an Italian restaurant this time. The food was delectable, the gift exchange was heartwarming, and the camaraderie made for an unforgettable evening. It was particularly heartening to reconnect with members we hadn't seen in a while, especially our dear Benjamin Wong. Catching up with him was a joy.

I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the organizing team for orchestrating such a successful event, with a special shout-out to Natalie and Armstrong for their exceptional work. Also, I cannot go without giving a round of applause to our Santa Claus, PP Louis, who infused the party with sheer delight.

Following our splendid gathering, Bebe and I headed to Shenzhen to join the 國情班 study group. Although we missed the first part due to our Christmas festivities, we were eager to participate in the second half, which was incredibly insightful. The tutor presented a wealth of data and analysis on the recent developments and challenges within the Greater Bay Area. His vision for the future was both enlightening and inspiring, and it is thrilling to witness the progress our nation has made.

I must mention the "Wish Wagon" service project, which was a deeply meaningful endeavor. While IPP Danny will provide a detailed report, I must commend PE Jules and IPP Danny for their extraordinary efforts in bringing this project to life. The meticulous planning and rehearsal ensured a smooth operation for the event, which included over 40 participants, 15 of them children. Despite a tight schedule, the joy and smiles at the end made it all worth it.

Reflecting on 2023, we have faced numerous challenges: wars, geopolitical and ethnic conflicts, extreme weather, natural disasters, industrial accidents, and personal tragedies that have impacted many lives. My hope is that love, faith, and truth will heal and bring peace to our world.

Here's to a prosperous and serene 2024 for all of you.

*Cheers,
William*



Claire Mak

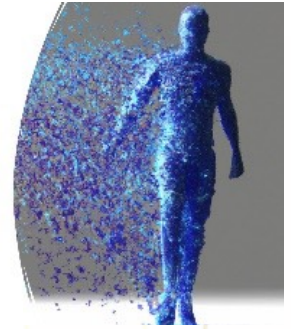
EDITOR SAYS



"Artificial intelligence is becoming more human; but humans are becoming more like machines"

I read the above saying recently online. It is undeniable that AI is becoming more human-like because its acts and responses are tuned to be more natural. As for humans, they seem to have become more and more 'robotic'. Ethics, courtesy, compassion ... seem to have been seriously eroded.

AI Becomes
More
Intelligent
than Humans



A teacher friend once told me that the school where she worked had a teacher-student advisory council, which was a platform for teachers and students to exchange opinions. In recent years, students have always questioned or indeed criticized the school. The example she gave is like this: Her school has installed an advanced electronic water fountain that provides hot and cold drinking water to every floor. As the school did that for the good of the students, she believed the students would show appreciation. To her surprise, the students complained that the hot water was too hot and the cold water was too cold! Not only was the effort not being appreciated, it was a source for complaint!

We all hope that the next generation will care not only about themselves but people and things around them. In the recent Star Reaching Closing Ceremony, we learned that in the past year, all events steered towards the year's Theme 自定「義」, which is to encourage the 'lesser-achieved' young people to perform Voluntary Community Service. They set their own service goals and they worked for it. As they went along their road of voluntary service, they are made aware that there are many others in the society who are much less fortunate. This led them to reflect on their own abundance and they are glad to be able to help others.

I should think that if they look even further, they will appreciate that children like them who grow up in Hong Kong are much happier/luckier than those in other places like Gaza. As war rages in the Middle East, the Gaza region has been under constant and violent bombardment. A lot of civilians were hurt and many children have not only lost their parents and relatives, but also lost their lives to ruthless artillery fire. I saw a TV reporter interviewing a child whose home was bombed and lost his family. The child looks only 11 or 12 years old. Staring into the camera for a long time, he said slowly, "We children here have no chance to grow up." There were no tears in his eyes when he spoke, and there was no sadness on his face, only a disturbing indifference.



Photograph: Majdi Fathi/
NurPhoto/Getty Images

For children in Hong Kong at least they, or for that matter adults as well, do not have to experience war. We do not have to worry about being in precarious environments due to war, nor do we have to worry about being sent to the battlefield as soldiers. Now against such backdrop, who complains about hot water being too hot and cold water too cold?

As we step into the new year, let us wish that there be Peace and Harmony all over the world and that everyone will be more understanding and compassionate.



巴勒斯坦12到15岁士兵
愤怒和不愿震撼世界

Rotary projects around the globe Oct-Dec 2023

From Rotary Magazine & RI website



Italy

Each year, the Rotary Club of Morimondo Abbazia dedicates a medal to a charity in honor of the late Ambrogio Locatelli, one of its charter members. In March 2023, the 33-member club designated the Italian office of the nonprofit *Rise Against Hunger* as the award recipient. In collaboration with the organization, the club gathered 140 Rotarians, family members, friends, and Rotaractors to assemble 17,000 meals for a school in Zimbabwe. The volunteers sorted and weighed rice, soy, and dried vegetables and packed them into bags, which were boxed along with drawings and notes from local children. The effort, which cost about \$9,000, was funded by Rotarians and the Locatelli family, says Davide Carnevali, a member of the Milan-area club.



Portugal

The Rotary Club of Almancil International takes an active approach in its mission to serve children, notably those with autism spectrum disorders or Down syndrome. Members sponsor activities including surfing lessons and animal therapy. In June the club unveiled a sensory room at a school to serve students ages 5 to 16. "The room is now complete, with state-of-the-art equipment including a soothing waterbed, music, and many sensory light and tactile objects," says club member Peter Hinze, who coordinated the project. "[It] can provide a sense of calm and help improve [students'] visual and auditory skills and help regulate their behavior." The project cost more than \$16,000. The club provided about \$5,000, with businesses and friends donating the remainder.

Philippines

With two club leaders being registered nutritionist dietitians, the Rotary Club of Lucena University District takes healthy eating seriously. The club paired with the Quezon chapter of the Nutritionist-Dietitians' Association of the Philippines to offer lessons at a jail on how diet can prevent disease, the importance of exercise, sleep, and drinking enough water, and other topics. Club President Joey Kathlyn Samonte and Past President Bella Castro also explained a food chart on optimal portion sizes for various food groups. And aspiring chefs tested their skills in a cooking contest using the organic vegetables grown at the jail. Club member Jasper Panganiban lauds the pair's devotion. "These types of projects to encourage healthy lifestyles and diets in the community are close to their hearts," Panganiban says.



Finland

Rotary members are working with the *Finnish Environment Institute* to collect, categorize, and measure trash in the Baltic Sea. "Scientists have little time for this kind of work," explains Liisa Stjernberg, a past governor of District 1420 and a member of the Rotary Club of Helsinki City West. Stjernberg, the Finland country coordinator for the *Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group*, leads a group of volunteer members from her district who monitor blue algae blooms, raise funds for research, and promote marine conservation. In September the group enlisted 22 *Rotary Youth Exchange* students to join a measurement outing off the islands of Suomenlinna. They fished out trash including polymer fibers and shock tube detonators used in construction, Stjernberg says. Afterward they took up their oars for another cause: the Rotary-led "Rowing for Herring" longboat regatta, which drew 300 participants.

Peter Lam

ROTARY
INFORMATION



Jamaica

Advocates in Jamaica highlight a shortage of housing that meets the needs of people with limited mobility. The Rotary Club of Kingston funded a nearly \$23,000 refurbishment of Cheshire Village, a transitional housing facility associated with a rehabilitation center. "Rotarians were instrumental and involved in the three town halls we had with residents," says Karsten Johnson, the club's immediate past president. "Our plans were made based on their priorities." The Kingston club, supported by donations from the Rotary Club of Naples North, Florida, raised the height of toilets and added support bars and railings along restroom walls. The club installed new kitchen cupboards, sinks, and faucets to improve accessibility for people who use wheelchairs. A first phase, to install six solar streetlights, was completed in February, with the retrofit finished in June.

HELLO THERE!

THIS IS : Claire MAK

Name: **Claire Mak 麥嘉恩**

Nicknames: **鐵面無私無面俾麥嘉恩**

Dated inducted to Rotary / RCTP: **23 August 1999**

Year Inducted to Rotary: **1999**

Year as President: **2005-06 Service Above Self**



Post in Club: **Tai Post Chief Editor, Advisor to RAC WYS College CUHK**

Classification: **Law Practice**

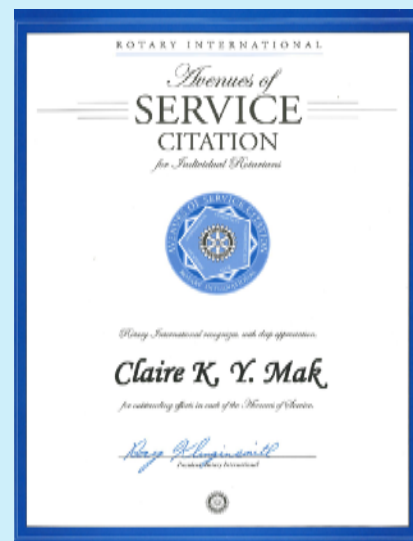
Schools: **Maryknoll Covent School (Primary Section)
Diocesan Girls' School
University of Hong Kong**

Qualifications: **LL.B, PCLL, Solicitor, Civil Celebrant**

Rotary D3450:

- **2006-07 District General Secretary**
- **2007-08 Assistant Governor of Area 6**
- **2008-21 Deputy District Rotaract Chairperson**
- **2008-09 DG's Special Representative to Rotary Club of Central**
- **2009-10 District Conference Chairperson**
- **2012-13 District Installation Party Chairperson**

Passions and
Hobbies:
**Swimming,
Sprint Running,
Softball,
C-Drama**



Rotary International Avenues
of Service Citation for
Individual Rotarian 2010-11

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#rctaipo



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GPO Box 7142, Central, Hong Kong

PP Claire Mak Rotary photos



Inducted as RCTP member by 1999-2000 President Matthew Yum at club meeting Aug. 99. Former member Ada Wu was also inducted on the same day.



At 1999-2000 District Sports Day Lady's Team champion prize giving ceremony. Right: Individual Champion at 2002 Sports Day. Our sportive lady had captured many champions in the 100m Athletic events at our District Sports Day for many years. Too bad Sports Day has ceased to be held since 2010 and Claire claimed she is a sprint athlete, not interested in the 10K Race or Ultramarathon events we have in the past 10+ years and so no chance yet for her to reclaim her glory!



As key lady member of our Champion team at 2020-01 District Swimming Gala. So, Claire excels both on land & in sea!



2005-06 President Claire made home visit to elderly in Tai Po to support our "Elderly Home Improvement Scheme" project with Salvation Army in May 2006.



At Star Reaching project Pizza making outing in Dec. 2017. Claire has been a keen supporter of this project and attended most of the activities for many years!



At District Tree Planting Day April 2002 with former member Ada Wu, Rotaryannes Wanda & Tomomi



At welcome dinner for our Youth Exchange Programme Scottish Girls during her Presidency in Sep. 2005 and at our regular meeting Oct. 2019 when the Scottish girl Kayleigh Miller visited Hong Kong again.



As 2010 District Conference Chair and as Cinderella at DG Banquet in Disney Hotel.



In action at our 「同見愛心村-鄉郊長者關愛計劃」 medical checkup service in Fanling for elderly in Jan. 2015



At Global Grant Project site visit during visit to sister club RCMSL in Manila in Feb 2016.



Witnessed the installation of CU WYS Rotaract Club President Louie Yan and her team in Jul 2016 as its Club Advisor.

“Job, On Your Mark!” Tai Po Career Expo 2023

5 December 2023
Mac Chan

On 5 December 2023, our members (including P William, PDG Anthony, PE Jules, PP Peter, PP Louis, PP Natalie, PP Wilson Woo, IPP Danny, Rtn Mac) attended “Job, On Your Mark!” Tai Po Career Expo 2023 at the Confucian Tai Shing Ho Kwok Pui Chun College.



大埔職業博覽
JOB, ON YOUR MARK!

2023年12月5日
(星期二)
1:45PM - 6:30PM
孔教學院大成
何郭佩珍中學

生涯發展服務介紹
時間: 1:45PM-6:30PM

行業攤位
時間: 3:30PM-6:30PM

1. 啟動禮
時間: 2:30PM-3:00PM
地點: 禮堂

2. 專題分享
時間: 3:00PM-3:30PM
主題: 青年人生涯規劃與
未來香港的發展機遇
HKSTP
黃克強先生
香港科技園公司行政總裁
講者

1. 行業體驗及分享
超過30個不同行業，行業包括:
物理治療師 言語治療師 護士 電影後期制作 警察
中醫 寵物美容師 舞蹈員 DJ/RAPPER 程式開發師
足球評述員 泰拳教練 資訊科技工程師 幼兒教育
獸醫 海關 電力工程師 消防員 助理文書主任、文書助理
醫生 數碼營銷 空中服務員 模特兒中介 花式單車運動員
配音員 會計師 舞台劇演員 遊戲測試員 髮型師
事務律師 電競賽車手 調酒師 工料測量 歌唱導師
花藝師 本地眼鏡設計師

2. 求職面試及履歷工作坊
• 分享面試前準備工夫
• 分析面試常見問題
• 模擬面試環節及CV360履歷表撰寫

• 有關行業分享及職人體驗工作坊的安排將會持續更新，最新資訊請參閱活動詳情
• 參加者必須遵守主辦方安排
• 本活動有機會因應其他因素而有所改動
• 主辦方將保留最終決定權，如為參加者帶來不便，敬希原諒
聯絡及查詢: 2653 8514 (香港青少年服務處 宗小姐)

活動報名 活動詳情

合辦 大埔區青年發展及公民教育委員會 鳴謝 大埔區青年網絡 民政事務總署 承辦機構 為港青服務處 合作伙伴 Rotary Club of Tai Po

Such an Expo was organised by Tai Po District Office, and successfully attracted over 1,000 secondary school students from the various schools in Tai Po district, creating a lively atmosphere. The event was conducted with career orientation activities, including industry sharing and booths.

In addition, P William, PE Jules, IPP Danny and Rtn Mac have been invited to serve as speakers for industry sharing, interacting with students to deepen their understanding of different professions and career options.



Meeting at 7PM every other Monday @ Regal Kowloon Hotel

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Star Reaching Project Award Presentation Ceremony

9 December 2023
Claire Mak



The Star Reaching Project Award Presentation ceremony held on the Saturday afternoon of December 9, 2023, was a remarkable event celebrating the achievements of the participants. The theme of this year's project was “自定「義」”, which aimed to inspire and encourage under-achieved youth in Tai Po to engage in voluntary service.



Throughout the year, the students received comprehensive training sessions in various areas of interest and skills. They learned portrait photography, worked with therapy dogs, and even acquired knowledge on creating environmentally friendly insect-repellents. These newfound abilities were put into practice during their visits to the elderly, homeless individuals, and pet homes, where they selflessly offered their assistance. For those of us who attended the ceremony, we had got the chance to ‘sample’ the fruits of what they had learned.



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The students themselves acknowledged the privilege they had compared to the individuals they served, and they expressed their gratitude for being able to make a positive impact on the lives of others. The recap video showcased during the ceremony provided a heartwarming glimpse into the students' journey, highlighting the challenges they overcame and the valuable lessons they learned throughout the project.



In recognition of their dedication and efforts, the students were presented with well-deserved certificates. The award ceremony concluded on a high note with district dignitaries, including our President William, painting colorful bears. This creative gesture symbolized the students' diverse and noteworthy achievements, leaving a lasting impression on everyone present.



The Star Reaching Project is a long-standing project which Rotary Club of Tai Po has been doing with the Tai Po Hong Kong Children & Youth Services since 1996. The project serves as a testament to the power of community service and the transformative impact it has on the 'problematic' youths. This year, the added element of the students' voluntary service helped celebrate the compassion, resilience, and commitment of the young participants, which hopefully had made a difference in the Tai Po community and beyond.



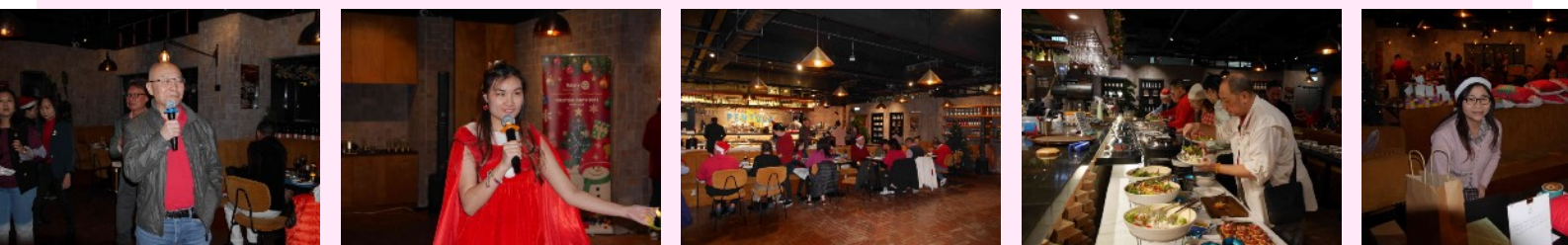
Rotary Club of Tai Po Christmas Party

16 December 2023
Natalie Kwok

Ho! Ho! Ho! The RCTP Christmas party, an annual event filled with joy and merriment, once again graced us with its presence. The committee spared no effort in preparing a plethora of warm gifts for all members and guests. A big thank you to our Advisor PP Armstrong Shea for all the support and help! It was a delightful occasion, and we hope that everyone had a heartwarming and happy Christmas celebration with their family and friends.



This year, the party took place at an Italian restaurant located in the Tai Po Arts Centre. In September, a menu-tasting session was held, and the delectable dishes won everyone's approval, leading to the booking of this charming establishment. Everyone wore Christmas hats, creating a truly Christmassy atmosphere. PP KF Tam, as the floor manager, ensured a smooth flow throughout the night, and our Executive Secretary Salina's help at the reception desk was invaluable. Additionally, a live band performed captivating renditions of beloved Christmas songs, further enhancing the joyous spirit of the occasion. Moreover, the talented special guest Miss Lau invited by PP Louis Tang, gave an exceptional performance which added an enchanting touch to the evening.



Rotarian Mac Chan took charge of organizing several entertaining games that brought smiles and laughter to everyone. Everyone received Christmas-related gifts from the games, such as Christmas-themed socks, cushions, mugs, etc. These engaging activities added an extra layer of enjoyment to the festivities, fostering a sense of camaraderie among the participants.



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Rotarians and guests had the opportunity to share tokens of appreciation and extend their warm wishes to one another through the gift exchange session. Thanks to President William Yim, the session was well organized. Everyone was grateful for their lovely gifts. In addition to the gifts exchanged, each Rotarian received an extra Christmas gift prepared by the club. The spirit of giving and generosity filled the room, creating a joyful and festive atmosphere.



No Christmas celebration would be complete without a special encounter with Santa Claus himself. A dedicated photo-taking session was arranged, and everyone had the opportunity to capture cherished memories with the jolly man in the red suit. Rotarians and guests stood next to Santa, shared their Christmas wishes, and posed for pictures that would serve as lasting mementos of this joyous occasion. A shout-out to our reliable photographer, PP Peter Lam, for capturing the joyous moments, adding to the holiday cheer.



The success of the event was further amplified by the presence of our esteemed MCs, Wilson and Angel. Their charming personalities and lively hosting skills contributed to the overall ambiance of the party. A special mention goes to Angel, who played the role of our very own "Christmas Little Angel." In addition to assisting Santa Claus in distributing presents, Angel added an extra touch of magic and cheerfulness to the evening.

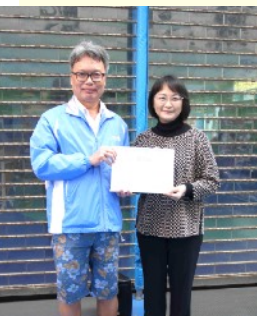


Wish Wagon 2024

6 January 2024
Danny Lau

What a fantastic day we had on January 6th! The Rotary Club of Tai Po teamed up with the Social Welfare Department of both Tai Po and North District, along with Tai Po Baptist Church Social Services, to roll out a car-picnic for 10 families. I'm here to give you the report on our "Wish Wagon" event, which was all about spreading the joy and exploring the hidden gems of Hong Kong.

Bright and early at 9 am, we gathered at Tai Po Baptist Public School, buzzing with excitement. The families, along with our friends from the Social Welfare Department and Tai Po Baptist Church Social Service had a briefing on the day's itinerary. We snapped some group photos – those are keepers!



We cruised along Tolo Highway, through Tate's Cairn Tunnel, and before you knew it, we were soaking in the breathtaking views at the Fei Ngo Shan lookout. Next up, zipping back down and around, we hit the Visitor Center at Tsing Ma Bridge.



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The highlight of the day for many (especially the foodies among us) was our lunch at the Regala SkyCity Hotel near the airport. We arrived there soon after noon and indulged in a buffet that was nothing short of grand, with delicious food and laughter.



We took a cozy drive back, taking families back to their home. This was the perfect moment for some heartfelt sharing and, of course, a few more snaps for the album.

Throughout the day, we doubled as tour guides, sharing fascinating tidbits about Hong Kong's landmarks and their history. But it wasn't just about the sights; we chatted, shared stories, and provided emotional support to our guests, making sure it was a day to remember.

We couldn't have pulled off such an event without the incredible planning and coordination by President William and Service Chair Jules. They are the real MVPs!

This Wish Wagon event marked that we overcome the pandemic and symbolized much more than just a day out. It was about connection, community, and creating memories for those families.

Let's keep the wheels of kindness turning!

2023.12.18 Regular Meeting



Members and spouses attended to hear out PDG Kenneth.



PP Armstrong promoted the long-awaited and well thought **Xiamen Trip** in March 2024.



PP K F introduced the **District PPE Mangrove Sapling Plantation & Ecological Conservation** event.

PDG Kenneth said he had waited for a long time before getting this chance to speak to our club about “**Virtual Vocational Exchange**”. He described how past international visits were made and which had been changed with the onset of the pandemic. Zoom or other on-line meetings solved the travelling problem while at the same time fulfilled the aims of promoting international understanding. He said that leveraging on the online platforms, the number of participants could be hugely increased and further, participants got to choose the type of speakers and the format of the talks and discussions. The enhanced Virtual Vocational Exchange makes international exchanges a lot more wide-spread and cost effective.



PP Wilson Lam volunteered a **Vote of Thanks** to PDG Kenneth in view that PDG Kenneth had referred to Chloe’s close affinity with RCTP.

The bottle of **Ardbeg Islay Single Malt Whisky** given by William for raffle draw found its deserved winner **PP Peter Lam**.



Courtesy of Pres. William, members took away boxes of **Covid Check Test kits** (as Christmas presents).

Date	Time	Event	Venue
20 JAN (Sat)	16:30	District Grant Project “心繫大埔壁畫創作” 14:30 – 16:30 painting 16:30 – 18:00 ceremony	林村公立黃福鑾紀念學校 (大埔太和邨)
29 JAN (Mon)	19:00	#1429 Regular Meeting Speaker: Natalie Chung “From Antarctic to Asia – Reimagining a Sustainable Blue Economy for Carbon Neutrality”	Regal Kowloon Hotel
5 FEB (Mon)	19:00	#1430 Regular Meeting Speaker: PP Wilson Lam “中國酒團年夜”	Regal Kowloon Hotel
19 FEB (Mon)	19:00	#1431 Regular Meeting “龍年新春團拜”	Regal Kowloon Hotel



Rotary Club of Tai Po

Regular Meeting #1429
29 January 2024 (Mon)
Regal Kowloon Hotel, TST East
7:00pm Reception | 7:30pm Meeting

TOPIC
From Antarctica to Asia - Reimagining a Sustainable Blue Economy for Carbon Neutrality

Antarctica is a microcosm of the world, as the last frontier with least human interference. With her experience at the Antarctic Climate Expedition, climate advocate Natalie Chung shares a brand new perspective to unleash the potential of oceans to accelerate carbon neutrality in Asia.

SPEAKER
Natalie Chung
Key Opinion Ambassador
Dr Sylvia Earle Antarctic Climate Expedition 2023

Dinner Fee:
\$700 Visiting Rotarian / Guest
\$350 Honorary Member / Spouse
Sign up at BAND or Salina 66800928

Rotary Club of Tai Po

Regular Meeting #1431
19 February 2024 (Mon)
Regal Kowloon Hotel, TST East
7:00pm Reception | 7:30pm Meeting

龍年新春團拜

Dinner Fee:
\$500 Visiting Rotarian / Guest
\$350 Honorary Member / Spouse
Sign up at BAND or Salina 66800928

100% ATTENDANCE

DEC 2023

Rotary International

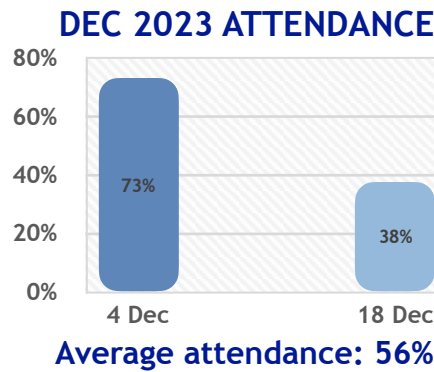
Mac Chan
Anthony Hung
Jules Jiu
Natalie Kwok
Peter Lam
Wilson Lam
Danny Lau
Claire Mak
Armstrong Shea
KF Tam
Vicky Tam
Louis Tang
Henry Wang
Kenneth Wong
Wilson Woo
William Yim

Rotary Club of Tai Po

Regular Meeting #1430
5 February 2024 (Mon)
Regal Kowloon Hotel, TST East
7:00pm Reception | 7:30pm Meeting

中國酒團年夜
SPEAKER PP WILSON LAM

Dinner Fee:
\$500 Visiting Rotarian / Guest
\$350 Honorary Member / Spouse
Sign up at BAND or Salina 66800928



miss you

CM Yu
Ronald Chung
Sally Luk

JANUARY

Anthony Hung (14th)
Mac Chan (31st)

Got something to say?

Tai Post wants to hear from you. Write in to clairemak.rctp@gmail.com. Tai Post reserves the right to edit articles for length and clarity.

The editorial board
Claire Mak, Peter Lam

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