

Tai Post 大報

Monthly Bulletin of Rotary Club of Tai Po (Jan 2013 Issue)

President's Message

Ronald Chung



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

May I wish you and your family a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

2012 is now behind us. I certainly hope you've had a fruitful 2012. How did you ring in the New Year? See the picture, that's how we did it – me, Alice, our 3 kids and a significant part of our family (I have 3 younger brothers, so one is missing.)

Back to Rotary affairs. I guess the big one to report would be the upcoming **1000th millennium meeting**. When I point everyone's attention to it, I thought it would be a nice occasion for us to look back and be proud of. Then, it's gotten bigger – much bigger. When I reported this at our monthly Area 6 Presidents' meeting, it almost turned into "RC Tai Po cum Area 6 Spring Dinner," (thanks to the support of the Area 6 Presidents.) There also have been different ideas being explored – CP inviting his friend the Honorable Anna WU Hung Yuk (thanks CP for the effort, unfortunately, Anna will be out of town – not surprisingly with **Feb 18** being a day very close to the Chinese New Year;) hosting it at Asia Society (a really nice facility, PE tried making the booking, but the date was taken;) etc. Finally, all the ideas were to be routed back to Team 2, the members that are to be in charge of the event.



The team rationally decided that – this is a special event for the club and should not be overshadowed by Area 6 Spring Dinner – good call! It has also been decided that no external speaker is necessary, as this is OUR club's special event (external guests can certainly be invited, but they will not be taking over our platform – nice all!)

Would this be just another dinner gathering by RC Tai Po then? Well, not really, cause we are still inviting our family clubs, Area 6 clubs, Rotaract Club etc. to join us with the celebration (I do not have any number at the time of the writing, but the board of our newest baby RC SoHo HK has voted to come and have a joint meeting with us.)

So..., here we are, please stay tuned.

Other events that we have planned include:

Jan 28, club visit to RC Shatin (at the Mira Hotel). Of course, the AG of Area 6 this year is from the RC of Shatin, so I dub this our "AG Visit"

Feb 4, another Club visit, this time to RC Kowloon Tong (at Kowloon Regal.) From what I understand, RC Shatin and RC Tolo Harbor will be joining this meeting too. Why is this meeting so special? Well the speaker is going to speak on organ transplant and there is a cross-border initiative that has Rotary 3450, led by our own DG Ken, working with the Central Government. This is BIG, REALLY BIG – in the history of District 3450, and may be in Rotary International (if this results in the opening up of Rotary to China.) So, this is BIG.

I can go on, but let's stop here with this BIG potential hanging over us to start our 2013.

May I wish you all a Healthy Happy and Prosperous New Year of 2013.

Editor Says

Claire Mak



Tai Post wishes every reader a healthy and meaningful 2013 !

I read it somewhere that you know you are living in 2013 if:

1. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.



2. You e-mail / WhatsApp the person who works at the desk next to you.

3. Leaving the house without your mobile phone, which you didn't even have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it.

4. You get up in the morning and go on line before getting your coffee.

5. You accidentally enter your PIN on the microwave.



(The List goes on ... I cannot really remember the lengthy items.)

(Sigh) ...the PIN...



You know I am not talking the needle-like object but your **Personal Identification Number**. It is the password which is essential for email accounts, Facebook, on-line transactions, insurance, mobile phone, credit cards, teller machines; even office door or home gate.

You need passwords and need to remember them. Otherwise, you risk being locked out – virtually and literally.



The volume of passwords is so huge that it already exceeds my memory capacity. I need to write them down: some with the password itself, some on the key prompt questions. This is not the worst part yet. Just when you think you have committed the password to memory, you are requested to change your PIN and change it periodically! This added to the already heavy burden! And if you think you can manage even that, ha, on the pretext of upgrading security, some Banks require dual passwords!

Some systems reject PINs which they consider unsatisfactory. Passwords like "1234", "0000", or birthdays, anniversary days, your own name, the word "password" etc are frowned on. A standard password requires 8 units and good passwords are usually longer, with 14 or more units to be considered safe. Some systems insist on a combination of numerals and alphabets; some systems have the added hurdle of not allowing a repeat of the same numeral or same alphabet! Sure such a password is difficult to decipher but at the same time it is also very difficult to commit to memory.

(Sigh again) I want to check my TRF contribution from the web ... It is time to pay my tax on-line...



I need to withdraw a few hundred bucks to spend...

I hope to download new Apps to my phone...Where are my PINs? Where is my security device? Gosh! As its synonym goes, a **PIN** may prick you when you least expect it to.



Rotary Information

Peter Lam



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Our Rotary International leader this year, Sakuji Tanaka is from Japan and Rotary has a strong presence in Japan. Let's take a look at the history of Rotary in Japan which in fact dated back way before the 2nd World War in 1921.

Historic Moments: Rotary in Japan

By Susan Hanf, Rotary News -- 13 December 2012

The first Rotary club in Japan grew out of a meeting, in the United States, between two Japanese businessmen, Kisaji Fukushima and Umekichi Yoneyama.

The Rotary Club of Tokyo was chartered on 1 April 1921, a few years after their meeting. Fukushima was working in Dallas and had joined the Rotary club there. Yoneyama, who was managing director of Mitsui Bank Ltd., was in the United States periodically during 1917-18 as part of a special financial delegation organized by the Japanese government to explore economic and industrial opportunities between the two countries. During one of those trips, Fukushima introduced him to Rotary.

By early 1920, Fukushima had returned to Japan, and the two men joined 22 others in organizing the Tokyo club. Fukushima was the club's first secretary and Yoneyama its president.



Rotarian Umekichi Yoneyama teaches Paul Harris to use chopsticks at a lunch in Tokyo during Harris's February 1935 visit to Japan.



RI Assistant Secretary George Means presents a charter to Masakazu Kobayashi, president of the Rotary Club of Tokyo (far left), in April 1949, with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida in attendance. A month earlier, the club became the first chartered in Japan following World War II.

A second club was chartered, in Osaka, in 1923, under the direction of Fukushima. Three more followed in 1925 -- Nagoya, Kobe, and Kyoto -- largely through Yoneyama's efforts as special commissioner for Japan. When Rotary founder Paul Harris and his wife, Jean, visited Japan in 1935, the number of clubs had grown to more than a dozen.

There were 48 clubs in 1940 when the advisory committee for Japan's districts notified the Secretariat that the clubs could no longer function in an organized way because of the political situation. With great regret, the Board terminated the clubs and disbanded the districts.

However, the Rotary spirit remained strong in Japan, and during World War II, many former Rotarians continued to meet in "day of the week" clubs, including the Wednesday Club in Tokyo and the Friday Club in Osaka. In 1948, when RI Assistant Secretary George Means went to Japan to investigate the possibility of reestablishing Rotary clubs there, he found the office of the Wednesday Club stocked with copies of *The Rotarian* and other Rotary literature. Club members sang Rotary songs and wore name badges that bore a striking resemblance to those used by the former Rotary Club of Tokyo.

When Means returned to Chicago and shared his findings in January 1949, the Board decided to reintroduce Rotary to Japan as soon as possible. Means headed back to complete the task, and the Tokyo club received its charter on 29 March.

The Rotary clubs of Kyoto, Osaka, Nagoya, and Kobe were chartered by the end of April. By the start of Rotary International's golden anniversary year, 1954-55, the number of clubs in Japan had reached 140. In July 2012, when Sakuji Tanaka of the Rotary Club of Yashio began his term as Rotary president, there were more than 2,200 clubs and 89,000 Rotarians in Japan.



Japan has hosted three international conventions, two in Tokyo (1961 and 1978) and one in Osaka (2004). With more than 45,000 paid registrants, the Osaka gathering holds the record for the largest Rotary convention.



Trip to India - Part 2- The Golden Triangle (Dehli, Agra and Jaipur)

Charles Chan

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The last day at Dehli was spent visiting the cultural center of Sanskriti Kendra and the Aksharadam Temple. These two locations are a bit out of the way from the city central. You should allow three hours including transit time for each of these locations. We spent the morning visiting the cultural center, came back to the hotel for lunch then went to the Temple in the afternoon.

The cultural center consists of a number of Museums. The Sanskriti Museum of Terracotta and Everyday Art has on display over 1500 works of art created by Indian master craftsmen from all over India. This is the richest collection of such art in the world. After the visit it certainly gave us a better appreciation of this type of Indian arts and its development over the years. The Museum of Everyday has on display functional and exquisitely crafted objects that are used in Indian daily lives. The Aksharadam Temple visit was the highlight of our Dehli tour. We were able to see, appreciate and learn about the rich heritage and beauty of India from different angles through its monuments and exhibits. We walked away with a better understanding of Hinduism. This is the one that is not to be missed. Attached is a YouTube link that should give you an appreciation of what it is all about.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69PIMDGv4Bg>

In Dehli, there are many remnants of Mughal architecture. The Mughal rulers are known to be great builders of distinct Persian style structures. They built beautiful mosques, forts, gardens, mausoleums and even cities! Core to the Mughal building was its meticulous adherence to uniformity and character.



A typical Mughal building.

We visited the Redfort and the Humayun's tomb that exemplified this type of Indo-Persian style.

AGRA

The next stop for us is Agra. The 205 KM journey took more than four hours. One interesting observation while in Dehli was that we did not see any cow but many dogs. We were told that the dogs are there to chase away the cows. Once we left the city proper, we found them everywhere. We saw cows, buffaloes, pigs, and monkeys etc all seemed to be living in peaceful coexistence.

In Agra, we visited the world famous Taj Mahal and the Fort Agra.

Agra was the capital of India during the 16-17th century Mughal period. The city had expanded under the different rulers at that period. It seemed each of them tried to out do the other on leaving a legacy behind. Lucky for us, most of their work survived the years in fine shape. This allowed all of us the opportunity to see the great work that each one of them had done.



Taj Mahal



Look at the marble work!



Inside the Taj compound

Called "tear on the face of eternity" by the Indian poet Tagore, the Taj is amongst the eight wonders of the world. It was built over 22 years using a work force of 22,000 artisans.

It is a big complex with buildings; gardens etc...word really cannot describe the beauty, the meticulous design and the detail of the craftsmanship. You have to see it in person!

Due to our schedule, we were unable to spend the night in Agra. As such we missed the morning sunrise scene at the Taj. I was told it is something that should not be missed. Perhaps we will do it next time if we ever go back again.

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Fort Agra



The outside



The inside

Akbar built Fort Agra on the bend of the River Yamuna with 70-foot high-fortified walls in 1565 A.D. Within the complex, it houses the Pearl Mosque and numerous palaces with beautiful gardens. The most amazing thing is the generous use of gem inlaid marbles throughout its buildings.

A general note for the ladies! The restroom facilities are quite Spartan and the one at the Taj is better than the one at the Fort!

After Agra, we moved on to Jaipur (the Pink City). It took another four plus hours to cover the 250KM. This is definitely the longest day for us.

Jaipur

The Pink City got its name because of the Terra-cotta-colored lime plaster that covers many of its old buildings. In addition to its many heritage sites, it is well known for its cottage industry in making fine jewels out of precious and semi-precious stones as well as both cut and uncut diamonds. We visited a few shops that will duplicate anything from a picture. Indeed on display in the shops were replicas of Van Clef, Cartier, and Bulgari etc... We were told genuine stones were used and with better workmanship! We didn't buy. They were also famous for hand block printed textiles, pashmina, carpets and handicrafts. This is a great place for souvenir hunters. There are two types of shops in Jaipur. In addition to the traditional ones that you have to negotiate hard, there are also shops in government buildings that sell everything on fixed price. The one we visited is:

Cottage Emporium on MI Road (Rajasthani), it sells textiles, and jewelries.

Amber Fort

There are many Heritage sites in Jaipur. We spent two full days in Jaipur and visited many of them:



Palace of Mirrors



Hall of Public Audience

Amber Fort sits on the hill and can be reached by elephant ride or car. We took the car and pictures of other tourists riding the elephants. Inside the fort is the Palace of mirrors, Hall of Public Audience and the beautiful gardens. It gave us a glimpse into the majesty of days gone by.

City Palace



Inside City Palace where the harem lives



giant silver jars



The outside wall where the harem can see the outside world through the openings

This is almost a miniature version of 故宮 in Beijing. It shows how the 後宮 functions. The harem lived very well but in very protected and secluded life and served absolutely at the pleasure of the ruler. Supposedly the highlight of the day for the women was to peek out of the tiny holes on the walls so that they could see what was going on the outside world. They were served by the eunuchs. Within the complex, it also houses the largest silver vessel in the world.

Jantar Mantar (the Observatory)

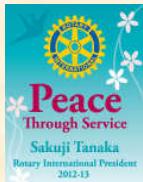


The scaled down model of the Observatory



This is a world Heritage site. It incorporates many structures with unique geometrical forms for astronomical measurements. It was built in 1726 and they still make accurate predictions even to this day.

We left for Hong Kong after Jaipur. Clara and I had a good time and certainly saw and learnt a lot of new things during this trip. We did not get Dehli Belly by adhering to hotel food and branded bottled waters.



Inter Club Golf Tournament 19.12.2012 at Fanling Club

Frankie Wu

From: "Peter Lam" <plam@netvigator.com>

Date: Wed, 19 Dec 2012 18:05:46 +0800

Subject: Photos for Inter Club Tournament #1

Dear Simon Goh & dear golfing friends from mother club and Tai Po club,

Thank you again for the nice arrangement by Simon, Charles from mother club; and Matthew, Francis which gave us great fun at our 2nd inter-club tournament. Of course I am particularly lucky to have won those very nice trophies which again must thank mother club for such fantastic prizes! It has always been my dream to play at my beloved Fanling club esp. Eden course like the 18 hole which I always enjoy watching the pro in the HK Open in this exciting finishing hole!

It is too bad one of your top players Dicky could not make it this time which gave us better chances to win so I look forward to our game next time !

Attached photos from my collection for your good memory
... more to come in next email !

cheers,
Peter Lam



From: simonchan@pan-pacificapparel.com.hk
Date: Wed, 19 Dec 2012 11:13:14 +0000

Dear Peter Gor and golfers of our baby club and Peninsula,

Congratulations again on your club's outstanding performance! You and your fellow members deserve to win the trophies. We will practise harder and hopefully will play better next year! Thank you! I enjoyed so much today's game and fellowship. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to you and all members of our baby club!

Best regards
Simon Chan



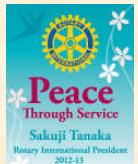
From: Charles Gmail [mailto:changcl721@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2012 12:12 AM

[interclub golf\golf with RC Pen-13.jpg](#) Dear Peter Gor,

Thanks for the nice photos. We did enjoy your company and the fellowship developed with your club in these years. Yes, we should practice harder and get prepared for the next year!(would that help, I wondered !!!!)

Charles





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Area 8 Joint Meeting

19 Dec 2012

On 19th December, RCTP joined Area 8 Clubs in their joint meeting to welcome RIPN 2014-15 Gary Huang. There was the usual reporting from the presidents; followed by the speech of the Guest of Honour - frankly, nothing much which one may not find in the District Directory. The menu, which was thoughtful and delicious... saved the evening. The most important item on the agenda of the evening for us was, of course, the induction of our new member K F Tam. It was a joyful moment and a praiseworthy achievement for our club.



New Member: K F Tam



KF, Trix and Chloe



(Back row) Trix and KF
(Front row) Chloe, Chloe's friend and Ray

Kin Fai Tam (譚健輝)



Personal Details

Date of Birth: 23 August

Family

Wife - Trix Har
Children - Ray who is studying in US and Chloe in Hong Kong



Occupation:

Project Director of Gammon Construction Limited

Association:

Chartered member of The Institution of Hong Kong Engineer; and Chartered Institution of Highway and Transportation

Classification: Civil Engineering

Induction Date: 19 December 2012

Membership Group: Team 4



RC TAI PO CHRISTMAS PARTY

15 December 2012, Auditorium, Heung Yee Kuk Building



RCTP hosted its 2012 Christmas Party in an unusual venue: Heung Yee Kuk Building which was said to be of unique architectural design. Unfortunately as the Party was in the evening so it was already quite dark and PP Ping being absent on the day, we did not have the chance to explore the Building.



We were only given a generic hall - so the Rotaryannes' superpower was fully exploited. As food has to be brought in by caterers, Connie san lined up catering facilities from Café de Coral which also provided abundant staff to ensure the food was duly served. Thanks and praises also go to all Rotaryannes who brought along yummy home-made desserts. The festive decorations were the concerted efforts of Rotaryannes with the help of children, Rotaractors and Interactors. VP Natalie even brought along the Christmas tree which should be standing in her parlour. PP Dennis also supplied the cooler baskets for the drinks.

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As far as entertainment goes, we were transported back to the good old days of barn dance or school balls. How long ago was it that you joined a game of stepping balloons? Or sang *Yesterday*



More unconventional was our Santa Claus who inadvertently torn his new pants and had to grey instead of red ones. What Mr. Santa did draw the recipients of gifts who had to draw and fetch his/her own gifts. Now, how's that for a change?

The Party was well attended by family members and also guests from fellow clubs. We had had a good time and a few good laughs. Look, everyone busied themselves with clearing debris and left-over, dismantling decorations and what not soon after the Party ended



At your Service

Sunshine Teens Camp 13 and 14 December 2012

Patrick Yung



Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Tai Po, the Sunshine Teens project was co-organized by the Salvation Army Taipo Social Services Centre and the New Territories Heung Yee Kuk Tai Po District Secondary School.



On 14th, December, 2012, Department of Orthopaedic and Traumatology, the Chinese University of Hong Kong offered a health talk and fitness test session to 80 F.1 teenagers. The aim of the session was to increase the awareness of youth to live in a healthy way, through regular exercise and eat healthy. The session included an exercise talk, a nutrition talk, group exercise demonstration and a health-related fitness test, in which all the students had an enjoyable and meaningful session.

Exercise talk & Nutrition talk

Each talk lasted for 15 minutes. Practical guidelines on how to exercise and how to eat well were taught. A Questions and Answers session relating to the talks was arranged which received very good response from students.

Group exercise

To build up their habit of doing exercise regularly, the audiences were invited to join a 15 minutes exercise session. Interesting and useful exercises were introduced to improve their fitness. Exercises including aerobic footwork and stretching exercises were introduced.

Health-related fitness test

Comprehensive fitness test were conducted, including body mass index measurement (body composition), sit and reach test (flexibility), single leg balance test, standing broad jump (leg strength), and hexagon jump test (muscle coordination). Test result inspired audiences to gain fitness, and hence, reduce the risk of disease occurrence.



Regular Meeting

7 January 2013



DDS Bonnie Wong promoted "The ONE".



Rtn. William Yim shared his knowledge and personal experience about "Patent Infringement".



Long-time-no-see DS Peter won the ceramic horse ornament given out as raffle gift by PP Man.



January birthday boys Roger and Francis cut the birthday cake amidst well-wishes from members.

14 January 2013



PDG Anthony who was having his birthday on the day celebrated it with January birthday girls Mary and Jackie as Pres Ron and PP Man accompanied them.



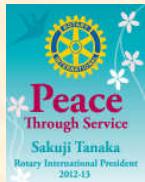
Rotaractors Gary Yeung and Tsang Lok Chi gave a detailed presentation on the 2012-13 Rotaract District Service Project "Rotary In Service 36".



The 3 'really' young people Stanley, Gary and Lok Chi were flanked by RCTP "New Generation- related" people.



How come it was Francis AGAIN?!! He won the exquisite Whisky given by IPP Tsubaki.



Dec Winners (100% attendance):



FRANCIS AU, CAREN CHAN,
RONALD CHUNG,
PEARL DANG,
ANTHONY HUNG,
NATALIE KWOK,
TIMMY KWONG, PETER LAM,
WILSON LAM, DENNIS LO,
CLAIRE MAK,
JACKY SUNG, VIKKY TAM,
MASAYUKI TSUBAKI,
KENNETH WONG,
WILLIAM YIM

We Miss You
in Dec

MANABU KIYAMA,
ROGER SO,
MAN MO LEUNG

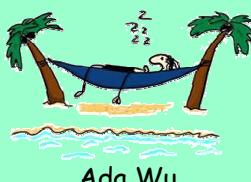


% of attendance of regular meetings (inclusive of make ups)

3/12 66.7%
10/12 70.0%
19/12 73.3%

Average attendance :
70%

On leave in Dec
I'll be back soon



Ada Wu

Upcoming Events

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Venue</u>
27 Jan 2013 (Sun)	9:30 a.m.	3rd HK Bowling Tournament for All cum 2nd Blind Bowling Tournament	Hong Kong Bowling City, G/F, Hong Kong International Trade & Exhibition Centre, Kowloon Bay
28 Jan 2013 (Mon)	7:00 pm	Club visit to RC Shatin (AG VISIT)	The Mira Hotel, Nathan Road, TST
4 Feb 2013 (Mon)	7:30 pm	Joint Meeting with RC Kowloon Tong & RC Tolo Harbour Speaker: 張淑斐 Topic: The success factors and future of Organ Transplant in Hong Kong	Regal Kowloon Hotel or Sheraton Hotel
18 Feb 2013 (Mon)	7:00 pm	RC Tai Po Millennium meeting cum 2nd theme night	Junior Ballroom, Royal Plaza Hotel, Prince Edward Road W.
20 Feb 2013 (Wed)	6:30 pm	Rotary Centenary Challenge Cup	Happy Valley Stand, 3/F, Happy Valley Racecourse

Rotary Centenary Challenge Cup

扶輪百週年挑戰盃

WEDNESDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2013
HAPPY VALLEY RACECOURSE



Venue: Happy Valley Stand, 3/F, Happy Valley

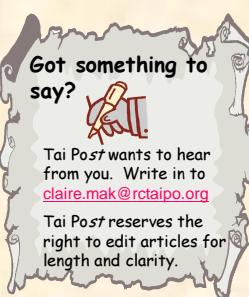
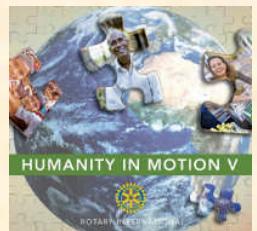
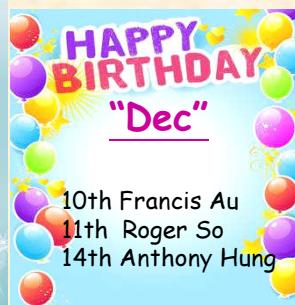
Time: 6:30 pm until 11:00 pm

Costs: \$700 per person
\$8,400 per table of 12 persons

Package: Buffet dinner with unlimited supply of house wine / soft drinks and free admission badges.

Contact Person: PP KL Cheng at 9093-2448 or email: klcheng@hkjc.org.hk

Booking Deadline: Wednesday 6 February 2013



Tai Post wants to hear from you. Write in to claire.mak@rctaipo.org

Tai Post reserves the right to edit articles for length and clarity.

