

Tai Post 大報

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

President's Message

Francis Au

Rotary
Christmas
FUN FUN FUN

When?
14 Dec 2013 (Sat)
7pm till LATE LATE LATE

Where?
Courtyard, The Hullett house,
1881 Heritage

What to wear?
Casual with something RED or GREEN

See you there! Whiskey, wine and
a live band all waiting for you.
Of course, we have Santa ready,
just remember to put the
recipients' name of the gift



As Christmas approaches, Rotary Club of Tai Po wishes everyone to Engage Rotary and to Change lives in the New Year!





Editor Says ...

Claire Mak



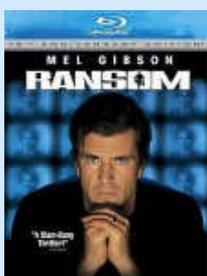
Whenever Mr. Li Ka Shing speaks, he always attracts media attention and discussion. Some viewed what he recently said in the light of *politics*; some pinpointed the *rule of man*; some are mindful of *divestment*. For me, what became indelible is his payment of the HK\$1 billion ransom money – in cash. Mr. Li told the kidnappers, he had only got cash of \$1 billion. If accepted, the sum could be withdrawn right away.



The largest denomination of the HK currency is the \$1,000 note. 10 of the \$1,000 note make ten thousand dollars. 100 of them will make a hundred thousand dollars. 1000 pieces will make the million mark. \$1 billion (1 plus 9 zeros) is 1000 times of a million; and so, \$1 billion in cash will mean 1 million pieces of \$1,000 dollar note! I hope I have counted right.



This is enough to get me dizzy. Can you imagine the physical size of what Mr. Li had paid out for the ransom? No kidding! Imagine: a person walks into the Bank and withdraws one billion dollars (assuming he has sufficient funds in his account),



how many staff will be deployed to do this withdrawal do you think? Not to mention the numerous forms and 'override' authorizations that are required. The scene must be quite compelling! Meaty materials for any film comparable to Mel Gibson's *Ransom*!

Not quite able to count beyond \$10M places me in rather bleak light. At any one time, the cash on me seldom exceeds \$2,000. I usually wait till it is really inevitable that I go to the teller machine and withdraw cash. I also do not trust the big denomination notes. To me, the \$500 note is

already BIG. I try to avoid \$1,000 note if I can. So each time I withdraw from the teller machine, it is likely to be \$400. But in recent years, \$400 won't last much time, so it is \$800 each withdrawal. Still, they seem to disappear as quickly.



In younger days, I had heard the saying that "Money has no value." It seems to ring a bell but I didn't take it in fully. I understand it now but there is nothing much I can do about it.

To people like me who live on several thousand dollars, it is pretty difficult to imagine: the kidnapper taking away \$1 billion in cash; the super-rich spending \$80M on a wedding They are just ... matters from an entirely different planet!



But then, what about the people in poverty? Last year, one of IPDG Kenneth's main service focus is poverty relief. At our club level, several members and family paid visit to the people in poverty in September at a visit organized by the HK Children and Youth. The visit spurs Service Chair William to explore further means to reach out and help people in poverty. More information will be announced soon.



In this regard, we have sufficient sums within the pool to carry out meaningful project. At least, our Funny Sexy Hawaii Fund-Raising Ball sees us better off with more than \$400,000 for doing service projects. Let's put them to good use with some good projects. That will give our money some real value.





Rotary Information

Peter Lam



Here is a story of a young man Daniel Mai who benefited tremendously from his association with Rotary to get out of the ghetto and eventually joined Rotary when he grew up. This support from Rotary to the less privileged group of young people is similar to what our club has long been involved with in some of our youth projects.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT REFLECTS ON HIS JOURNEY TO ROTARY

My father moved us from Vietnam when I was a child to provide us with more than what we'd had under the communist regime. We ended up in a ghetto in Oakland, California, USA. I went to Fremont High School, one of the worst schools in a neighborhood plagued by violence, poverty, and high dropout rates.

Our house was on a busy street, and every night we heard gunshots.

The spring of my junior year, a group of Rotarians visited my class. They told us about the Rotary Club of Oakland's Enterprise Institute, a three-day camp that allows students to develop and test their business skills. Spending time in the Santa Cruz Mountains, creating a business plan with my peers, didn't appeal to me so much as escaping the projects for a few days. In my world, the only businesses I saw were funeral homes, liquor stores, and drug dealers.



Mai (far right, front) joins the team of counselors at the Enterprise Institute, a camp for high school students where they learn to develop and test their business skills.

The Enterprise Institute exposed me to a new reality. I met teenagers who talked about Plato and Shakespeare, not drive-by shootings and AK-47s. It was at camp that I heard the word "entrepreneur" for the first time. Surrounded by high school students from schools that were far superior to my own, I learned just how little I knew. As we considered case studies and came up with our own business plans, I also saw a future that didn't involve assault rifles and prison cells. These kids talked about going to college and starting their own companies, and I realized I wanted the same things. Coming from the

streets, I knew I was at a disadvantage and would have to work even harder to achieve the same goals. That was one of the most important lessons I took away from the Enterprise Institute—not a business outline, but a sense of ambition and self-motivation.

LANDING ON FIRM GROUND

We didn't have much money, so I applied for every college scholarship I could. I filled out 20 applications and received 19 rejections because I was not a U.S. citizen. Only one scholarship program accepted me: the Rotary Club of Oakland's. The Rotarians met with me and my family and listened to what I had been through and where I wanted to go. I know they had many applicants, and when they awarded me the \$5,000 scholarship, it proved they believed in me. The scholarship, along with financial aid, allowed me to go to college.

At the University of California, Davis, I used the scholarship money to pay for rent and books. The first three years I was in school, the scholarship meant that I didn't have to work and could concentrate solely on studying. Whenever I would talk to my Oakland club counselor, Terry Turner, he would always ask how I was doing, and I would tell him truthfully that I was struggling. Fremont High School had not prepared me for UC Davis. Terry offered me advice, and I listened to it. I started at Davis at the same time as three other Fremont High School graduates. By my second semester, I was the only one left. The Enterprise Institute had jump-started my future. The Rotary scholarship kept it in motion.

I spent several years working for a series of small companies before striking out on my own with Novateck PC in 2004. As soon as I opened my business, I joined the Oakland club. Its members became some of my first clients. Novateck has grown since then and now has three employees. My family has also grown. I now have a wife and two young daughters.

Last year I took my wife and oldest daughter to Vietnam. The little fishing village I left as a child 30 years ago is now a bustling metropolis. My childhood home in Oakland has also morphed into something else; the basketball court where I used to play has been replaced with apartment complexes. The Rotary Club of Oakland's Enterprise Institute is one of the things that remain unchanged. Now in its 30th year, the institute continues to take dozens of high school juniors to the mountains and teach them how to make their own future in the business world. I have helped with the institute for the last seven years and am now co-chair of the committee that runs the whole thing. I know that the camp experience will help other teenagers change their way of thinking and give them hope for a better future. That's what it did for me.

By Daniel Mai



CP Donald's Birthday Celebration



Hairy Crab Dinner



16 November 2013, Saturday, Shanghai Min Restaurant (小南國)
10/F, 1 Peking Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon

Consistent with the RCTP spirit, we multi-tasked ourselves even at the annual celebration of Charter President Donald's birthday. A lot were achieved on the evening of 16th November, and they can broadly be divided into 6 categories.

1 Fellowship – rekindling friendship

As was the case every year, CP Donald's birthday celebration is a big draw on attendance as members, friends and family all gather to wish our beloved CP many happy returns. That's why we see Dr. Patrick, Sasha, Charles and Clara, Sincere and son Eugene, Ada, Damien, KL and Christine ... a lot of long-time no-see friends turning up with a total headcount of 85!



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2 Hairy Crab, sumptuous meal and lots of wines

Hairy Crab is of course, also a draw. This year, they were fat and oozing with rich golden creamy roe. Record shows we devoured some 170 crabs. The menu also features tasty delicacies. To top it all were all the drinks and booze: beer, red wine, white wine, sake, huadiao, whisky, champagne, ginger tea



3 New Member Induction

We welcome Dr. Sally Luk with open arms and have now gotten a surgeon amongst us. Sally brings down a great deal the average age in our club! It is apt that she was being inducted by none other than our god father CP Donald.



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4 TRF Recognition

RCTP did very well last Rotary year with our contributions to The Rotary Foundation. As most members gathered on this occasion, it was timely for the major donors be accorded with due recognition and IPP Ron and PP Louis be thanked for their efforts.



5 Sealing the choice of president 2016-17

Each year, amidst the booze and sumptuous crabs, probably being intoxicated by the spirit (pun intended) the choice of new leader is sealed at the Hairy Crab dinner. This year is no exception and RCTP sees a healthy line up of leaders. Who? Well, he who is the most productive of our members!



6 Birthday Celebration

The highlight and of course, the most important event of the evening is the birthday celebration of our most respected CP and of course, the November birthday girls Pearl and Sally as well. The birthday present Chinese Suit fits CP perfectly and he looked quite royal in it. As he turned 75, CP added wisdom and at the same time shed endless happiness. CP promised to celebrate with each of us our 75th birthday!



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New Member Profile

Dr. Sally Luk (陸慧妍)

MB.ChB, MRCS (Edin), FRCS (Edin), FCSHK, FHKAM

Date of Birth: 26 November

Inducted date: 16 Nov 2013

Classification: Surgery





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2013 District Golf Tournament

Frankie Wu

We have always been a great supporter of our District Golf Tournament. I am proud to say that this year our club was as enthusiastic if not even more so. We have 6 members in the Organizing committee in-addition to our 15 members and friends participating in the game. Connie did us proud by winning the prize of lady's longest drive as well as the nearest pin award. Furthermore Tai Po club was the first runner up of Club net and our PP Man was one of the winners of the prestigious District Gross Prize.



[Editor's Note: Well done Tai Po participants: Francis, Frankie, David, Jacky, Kenneth, Man, Tsubaki, Paul, Ping, Jackie Man, Connie Yeung, Simon Tang (Guest), Gordon Yu (Guest) and Gary (Guest)]



RCTP Annual General Meeting and Club Assembly

9 December 2013, Sing Yin, W Hotel

Come December which marks not only 'half time' for the Rotary year, it also heralds the election and formation of the new board and future leadership. Our **Annual General Meeting** was held on 9th December.



President Francis reviewed the activities we had held in the past half year and found that they lop-sided towards fellowship with not less than one big fellowship event a month! Going forward, more service activities will be implemented.

Treasurer Louis then reported on the healthy financial position of the club noting in particular that President Francis had raised more than \$400,000 at our Annual Ball.



Confirmation and election of the club's future leaders and board members followed. This solemn process was overseen by CP Donald and PDG Anthony and amicably completed.



The new 2014-15 board emerged as follows:

- President Natalie Kwok
- President-elect Vikky Tam
- Vice President William Yim
- Secretary Roger So
- Secretary-elect Timmy Kwong
- Treasurer Man Mo Leung
- Auditor Louis Tang
- Directors Patrick Fong, Claire Mak, Wilson Lam, Frankie Wu, KF Tam, Masayuki Tsubaki

At the **Club Assembly** which followed and chaired by PE Natalie, the following were brought out by the various committee chairs:

Service Chair William and President Francis have some new ideas for service. They intend to line up the untapped workforce with small enterprises to enable job opportunities. More details will be worked out. Other than that, the "We Can Code" project will be launched on 18 January 2014 and will continue for 8 Saturday afternoons.



Foundation Chair Louis has worked out an overall strategy and will surely achieve our club goal once he starts 'pounding on chests' soon.

Membership Committee did well and we shall over-achieve the two net gain target as we have already inducted Paul, Jimmy and Sally. A couple more potential members are in the pipeline.



New Generations Committee saw our novel community-based Interact Club of Tai Po Schools and Rotaract Club of Wu Yee Sun College CUHK gaining momentum in formation and are likely to be inaugurated within this Rotary year. On the other hand, Interact Club of Tsung Tsin Christian Academy requires more supervision.



Public Image Committee continues with the monthly issues of Tai Post but the Website does require President Francis to take action.

Club Administration Chair had implemented a structured Speaker program and had received positive feedback. Choice of meeting venue is still on the agenda – whether we move back to Royal Plaza Hotel depends very much on the terms on offer as there had been change in organisation and administration at that hotel. At least for the rest of this Rotary year, there is not much incentive for us to move back there.



Youth Corner

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Provisional Interact Club of Tai Po Schools

Francis Au

Very happy news about our potential Tai Po Interact Club.

Thank you for the great effort of PDG Tony, PP Ping, PP Peter, and IPP Ron!! Our Tai Po Interact club is about to be founded.

PP Ping, PP Peter, William and I joined their first meeting on 6 Dec at 迦密聖道中學 when nearly 90 students from 7 schools were there.



PP Rosa, PP Ping, and myself shared lots of Interact and Rotary information with them. The great thing is this group of students are very energetic and motivated.

Right after the meeting, we sat down with the potential committee members, their teachers and few principals. During this meeting, they were able to form the initial board already. 7 Vice Presidents representing 7 schools raised their hands and took up the responsibilities. A President was elected among these 7 VPs right away.



The newly elected President chaired the rest of election for the following posts: Internal Secretary, External Secretary, Internal Treasurer and External Treasurer. They still need the following post to complete the board with Club Administration Officer, Promotion Officer, Public relation officer and Webmaster.

Since lots of students in the meeting have shown interest in these posts and some VPs said a few of their absent schoolmates are interested as well, President and the VPs were recommended to handle the rest of election and board formation in the coming 2 weeks among themselves.

So ... Our new Tai Po Interact is getting there. Once their board is formed we will start the official charter procedure. Please be ready to join and celebrate the charter of Tai Po Interact Club very very soon.



Postscripts:

(1) Per IPP Ron:

PP Ping put in a lot of special effort in this, I think he deserves a very special thanks. Just imagine who has the connection and the pull to get the schools in Tai Po. Thanks also to PDG Tony (he's the advisor on the structure) and PP Peter (he's always dedicated to the new gens.)

As background to other members. This is a very special Interact club, as currently, in District 3450, there is NO interact club that is multi-school (or community) based. The multi-school setting certainly added another level of challenge, but also could make the club really strong with more participation. But this means they need a lot more oversight and closer guidance. So, please do work with them as much as you can.

(2) The 7 schools include:

- HK & Kowloon Kaifong Women's Association Sun Fong Chung College 港九街坊婦女會孫方中書院
- SKH Bishop Mok Sau Tseng Secondary School 聖公會莫壽增會督中學
- Buddhist Tai Kwong Chi Hong College 佛教大光慈航中學
- Ling Liang Church M H Lau Secondary School 靈糧堂劉梅軒中學
- China Holiness Church Living Spirit College 中華聖潔會靈風中學
- Carmel Holy Word Secondary School 迦密聖道中學
- CCC Fung Leung Kit Memorial Secondary School 中華基督教會馮梁結紀念中學



Regular Meeting

25 November 2013



Speaker Mr Steven Hu gave us ideas on maintaining health by nutrition when he spoke about “健康與營養一天下一病”



Rotarian William gave a vote of thanks to speaker Steven.

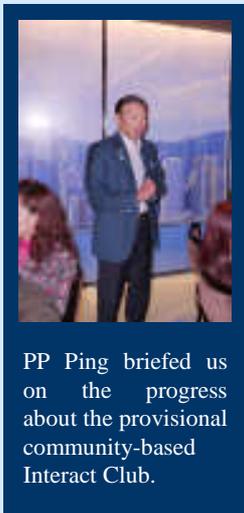


Guest of our Speaker won the raffle prize of a designer silk iPad carrying bag given by PP Wilson.



Members and guests gathered for some health tips.

2 December 2013



PP Ping briefed us on the progress about the provisional community-based Interact Club.



PP Wilson introduced speaker Sara and told us we were about to hear something very cogent and very close to us.



Speaker Sara Wong was presented with our club memento by President Francis to thank her for having spoken to us about “Men’s hair loss prevention and improvement tips.”



Rtnn Annie received the raffle prize of a set of delectable china coasters given out by Sincere.



Upcoming Events

November Winners (100% attendance):



Francis, Anthony, Wilson, Claire, Kenneth

New member inducted:

Sally Luk

Classification: Surgery

Day	Time	Event	Venue
15 Dec (Sun)	1:45 p.m.	Carol Singing Festival 2013 : Non-stop Performance	Venue: Shopping Mall of East Point City(東港城), Tseung Kwan O
6 Jan (Mon)	7:00 p.m.	Speaker: Dr Sally Luk	Sing Yin (星宴), W. Hotel, Kowloon
13 Jan (Mon)	7:00 p.m.	Speaker: Sincere Yip	Hullet House, 1881 Heritage, 2A Canton Road, TST
18 Jan (Sat)	afternoon	Pilot Project "We Can Code" launch day	Apps Lab of City University HK
19 Jan (Sun)	2:00p.m.	Tai Po District Fight Crime Carnival 2014	Tai Po Central Town Square



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

- 4th Nov 48.3%
- 11th Nov 48.3%
- 16th Nov 86.3%
- 25th Nov 55.4%

Average attendance: 59.58%

On Leave in Dec



Roger So



New Year Countdown

31st December 2013 (Tue)
7:30 p.m. till wee hours of 1st January 2014



Private Room, Shop 314, K11, Hanoi Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon.

Theme: Pyjamas Night!



Chief Editor : **Claire Mak**

The Editorial Board : **Peter Lam & Ronald Chung & Francis Au**

Got something to say?



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.