



President's Message

Patrick Fong

Dear Fellow members,

As this is my first presidential forum, please allow me to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks to the members for electing me as the President of RCTP. I am honored that you have placed your trust in me. I would like to thank IPP Roger for his year as the Club President and to express my gratitude to all the board members and officers for their hard work and contribution for the success and achievement accomplished last year.

I would like to thank the new Board of Directors and Officers in advance. With their support, I wish to serve and lead the club in the new Rotary year. The core value for the year to come is Club Fellowship. I shall focus mainly on club matters (以社為本) - membership retention and fellowship, as well as to support the 2 Rotaract clubs, 2 Interact clubs and service projects including community, youth etc. With the continuous support from our members, I am confident that the club will have another great year ahead.



RCTP 27th Annual Charity Ball was held on 9th June 2018 at Intercontinental Hotel, TST. Almost 400 members and guests attended, including 16 present, past and future district leaders. We raised HKD403,100 from selling raffle tickets, together with the fund of HKD140,000 raised by PP Louis at his retirement party, we totally raised HKD543,100 for the year 2018/2019, which is a record high in these years. Thanks again to all annual ball OC members who made this "miracle" happen.

RCTP 28th Club Installation was held on 9th July 2018 at Kowloon Cricket Club. Over 70 people attended, including district leaders & officers, club members & spouses, honorary members, past members & spouses, Rotarians from RC Peninsula, RC Central, RC SoHo HK, Rotaractors, family of Rotarians and guests. Mr. Danny Lau was inducted during the event. We all welcomed him to our big family. I am pleased to report that the amount of red box collection was over HKD16,000 which was another record. All members were glad to donate with smiling faces, so the red box became happy box that evening.



I look forward to seeing you all in the forthcoming meetings, social events and community service projects etc. The Club is ours. Your participation and support will contribute to another successful year of RCTP. Thank you.

Patrick Fong

President 2018-2019
Rotary Club of Tai Po



Editor Says

Claire Mak

The human brain consists of more than five billion to ten billion neurons. It is a super complicated organ which serves multiple functions including thinking, generating emotions and general awareness. Since the brain dictates one's activities, we used to describe intelligent, clever people as "brainy"; while those

foolish or witless ones "brainless". To the Chinese people who believe in "shape complement", they consider taking pig's brain, or even walnut which looks like a brain, will enhance the brain functions! I wonder if they really work.



WALNUT

HUMAN
BRAIN



The brain lays down a lot of its own rules. It is most active working on matters that it likes. Don't you find yourself at your best and most efficient when learning or discharging matters in which you are interested? On the other hand, faced with matters which you are uninterested, that's problematic: for instance, you have read and re-read an uninteresting book, cover to cover; but still, the contents/knowledge just don't seem to stick and you are none wiser.



Sometimes, we may lose control over our brain: unleash our gut feelings with a sudden outburst. Similarly, we may not be able to control our memories. In the past, we might be able to remember matters with just one glance and those matters stay safe in our minds. But now, we may not be able recall what just happened. The more pressure you exert on the brain, the more you are unable to think or remember.

One has to make friends with one's brain or else by the time one really loses control of it, a brainy person may simply go brainless. The unfortunate thing is the 'filing system' of the brain seems particularly cheeky. The matters you wish to recall will escape you; but those matters you wish to forget seem always indelible.



FORGET
THE MISTAKE &
REMEMBER
The LESSON

Upon the turn of a new Rotary year, it should be noted that RI President-elect Barry Rassin wishes to prick our brains. His theme for 2018-19, Be the Inspiration, asks Rotarians to inspire change in the world and in each other. "I ask all of you to **Be the Inspiration** to help Rotary move from reaction to action — to take a hard look at the environmental issues that affect health and welfare around the world and do what we can to help."

What our Rotary leader says seems easy but that's a tall order indeed. It involves changing existing habits and developing new ideas. There is the old but very true saying that "Old habits die hard". Of course, while we are aware that one's life does not get better by chance; but gets better by change; we also know that the inertia to change is simply ingrained in people. It takes a lot of effort to make changes. Let's work hard on it to be the inspiration.

**Old Habits
Die Hard**

Rotary Information

Peter Lam

There is no representative from our club to join the RI Convention in Toronto last month; but let's take a look at this report from RI news and maybe it will inspire some of us to join in the future . . . Hamburg in 2019, Honolulu in 2020 and Taipei in 2021? I believe for us Rotarians, a visit to the RI Convention is a must experience!

A princess, 3 prime ministers, and a former first lady joined 25,000 in Toronto to celebrate Rotary's good work and plan more of it

Toronto, the Capital of Nice, opened its arms June 23-27 to welcome 25,652 Rotarians from around the world, who came to Rotary's annual convention looking for inspiration — and finding it.

Whether it was by seeing old friends in the hallways, making new connections in the House of Friendship, or listening to eloquent speakers at general sessions, attendees found plenty at the 109th Rotary International Convention to remind them of the fellowship that binds them and the diversity that Rotary embodies.

"Now, we are sisters forever," said Rhonda Panczyk, of the Rotary Club of Rochester, Michigan, USA, after spotting and embracing Ijeoma Pearl Okoro, past governor of District 9141 (Nigeria). The two women had met at the West African Project Fair last year, partnered on an immunization drive, and kept in touch on Facebook.

First-time convention goer Serge Sourou OGA from Ghana said that meeting people from all over the world was definitely the highlight of the convention for



him. During the four-day event in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, speakers praised, prodded, and partnered with Rotary. Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Princess Anne, expressed thanks to Rotary for taking a central role in working to eradicate polio. Former first lady of the United States Laura Bush challenged Rotarians to keep early childhood education a priority.

Helen Clark, former prime minister of New Zealand and one of the architects of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, joined RI President Ian H.S. Riseley for a discussion about gender equality and the crucial link between the environment, poverty, hunger, and peace. In a video message, Haitian Prime Minister Jack Guy Lafontant addressed the convention before the announcement of the creation of HANWASH, a collaboration between Rotary and the Haitian government's water agency that will tackle that nation's water and sanitation challenges.



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, accepting Rotary's Polio Eradication Champion Award, thanked Rotary for working with governments worldwide to

eradicate polio. Rotarians play a critical role in the fight to end polio, Trudeau said. "Together we will make that happen."

Monday's general session included powerful personal stories from John Hewko, Rotary's general secretary, and Caryl M. Stern, president and CEO of UNICEF USA. Both had parents who had fled Europe as refugees during wartime. In the sessions that followed, other speakers discussed various aspects of Rotary's six areas of focus.

Rotary is about service, and Rotarians had plenty of opportunities to be inspired to do bigger and better projects during the general sessions and breakout sessions. LeapFrog co-founder Jim Marggraff, of the Rotary Club of Lamorinda Sunrise, California, USA, described the Dari and Pashto versions of the popular education tablet that his company created to teach Afghan women literacy skills. Marggraff also talked about the ways his company has been partnering with Rotary to develop virtual reality technology to advance service efforts.

Dr. Isis Mejias, a former Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar and member of the Rotary E-Club of Houston, Texas, USA, stressed the importance of water, sanitation, and hygiene. And former Rotary Youth Exchange student Dr. Jane Nelson explained how Rotary can work with the business community to make a difference in economic development.

The convention was also filled with enthusiastic young men and women who had gathered to celebrate Rotaract's 50th birthday. The convention concluded Wednesday with an appearance by the Fab Four ever, who sang, in German, two early songs by the Beatles. The Beatles honed their performance skills in Hamburg, the site of next year's convention.

Sixteen former Rotary presidents and their partners appeared on stage, and Rotary's next president, Barry Rassin, motivated convention goers by speaking on his 2018-19 theme: Be the Inspiration.



A look back at our club's activities by topic in the past decade

Club Change-Over

Rotary Club of Tai Po Services

FLASHBACK

Peter Lam



Our 27 June, 2008 Annual Dinner at the former Kowloon Club in New World Centre was probably the only time that we held our Installation Ceremony during our Anniversary Celebration. Does 2008-09 President Armstrong remember?

Our club's most unconventional change-over ceremony cum pool-side BBQ party at PP Man's home in Tai Hang Village, Tai Po on 1 July 2010 when Frankie Wu took over presidency from Dennis Lo.



2012-13 President Ron Chung with his team at the installation night in former Langham Hotel in Mongkok on 25 June, 2012 in the presence of our 2012-13 DG Kenneth Wong and AG Wendy Lee.

Francis Au was installed as 2013-14 President at our Installation Night at Hullet House 1881 witnessed by 2013-14 DG Eugene Fong, AG Andy Li and 2012-13 AG Wendy Lee.



At our 24th Installation Night at Royal Garden Hotel on 30 June 2014, in the presence of 2014-15 DG Belinda Yeung and 2013-14 DG Eugene Fong, Natalie Kwok took over presidency from Francis Au.

2015-16 President Vikky Tam and her team at the 6 July, 2015 Installation Night at Royal Garden Hotel.

Outgoing President Roger's Appreciation Party

30 June 2018

Roger So

In appreciation of all the support from members and spouses during my presidency, an appreciation party was held on the last date of my term, i.e. 30 Jun 2018. It was held in a free, relaxing and disco-like setting, with karaoke, buffet with a full roasted pig and lots of wine. Each participant also received a hand-made gift by my wife May as a token of appreciation.

Members and spouses showed off their singing talents, including those who seldom sing at our previous fellowship events.



The high-time was the game time. The participants were grouped into two teams led by captain PP Louis and PP Frankie to compete in two games. The first game was "Speechless" (有口難言估歌名). The other game was akin to beach volley ball with the volley ball replaced by a balloon (超級無敵頂波波). We all had an enjoyable night as can be seen from the photos.



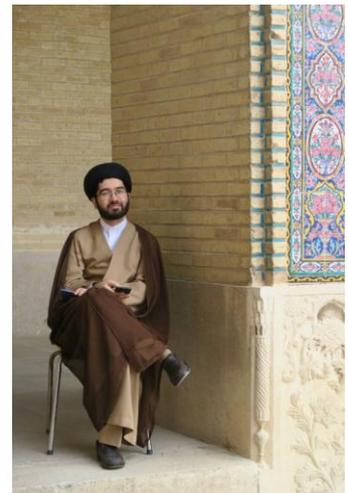
19 days in Iran

Louis Tang

Margie and I had wonderful time in Iran during 5 to 23 May 2018, the longest holidays after my retirement last year. Whilst on the one hand, I did enjoy the trip, but do I have any complaints? Yes, I suffered on the other hand because there is no gourmet and alcohol in Iran and the ladies complained having to wear chadon (headscarf) in public area. Eastern Iran is desert and not suitable for human beings and thus our trip was mainly on western Iran and covered many of the key tourist spots in major cities, namely in the same order, Tehran, Kermanshah, Susa, Ahwaz, Yard, Isfahan, Bandar-e-Anzali, and Zanjan. I would like to tell you in this article about Iran from the perspective of its religion, people's lives, Persian history, and the culture and art.

Iran is nearly the only major country which leaders have been consistently both the religious and political leaders. It is Shia Islam as opposed to Sunni Islam in a lot of the Middle East countries. Accordingly Islamic priests are given very high social status proportional to their seniority. The priest in the picture is just a junior priest after finishing an Islamic degree and is pursuing a master degree on Islamic studies. He was trying his best to evangelize our tour group the Islamic religion with passion.

It was the first time I had been in Iran. Before I came I was told by various people that it is a mysterious country and not safe. However to the contrary, I find the people in this country extremely friendly. We were invited by people on the street to have smart-phone photos with them, including some from beautiful Persian girls. The tour team was so touched by the friendliness of people including the driver, we invited the driver to the dinner that evening to celebrate his birthday immediately when we learned it was his birthday. The driver was touched also and he brought us to his home where three generations lived together in a big house (some 6,000 sq. ft.), which is enviable to HK people. His grandfather was so happy that we had a big group photo in his home.



Religion



Tekyeh Moaven Ol Molk



The Nasir Al-Mulk Mosque



Tomb of Esther



Chogha Zanbil



Shrine Ensemble

Being a religious country, Iran certainly has many temples. We did tour the following famous ones:

- Tekyeh Moaven Ol Molk, made during Qajar era as a Shia mourning site and was as National monument of Kermanshah in Iran well known for its exclusive tiling' s picturing Islamic era Ghazi (warrior);
- The Nasir Al-Mulk Mosque, a traditional mosque built under Qajar rule of Ahwaz, Iran with extensive colored glass in its facade and other traditional elements such as the Panj Kāse ("five concaved") design. It is named the 'Pink Mosque" due to the use of considerable pink color tiles for its interior design;
- Chogha Zanbil (UNESCO), built about 1250 BC by the king Untash-Napirishab in Susa mainly to honor the great god Inshushinak. Its original name was Dur Untash, which means "Town of Untash". Petroleum exploration has been threatening its foundations;
- Shrine Ensemble (UNESCO), the tomb of Sheikh Safi, an eminent leader of an Islamic Sufi order established by the Safavids and born in Ardabil where this complex is located. The Safavids valued the tomb-mosque form and the tomb with its mausoleum and prayer hall is located at a right angle to the mosque. The buildings in the complex surround a small inner courtyard (31 by 16m); and
- Tomb of Esther in Hamadan, believed by some to house the remains of the biblical Queen Esther and her cousin Mordechai and is the most important pilgrimage site for Jews in the country.

Imam Khomeini tomb is the tomb of Ruhollah Khomeini and his family—his wife Khadijeh Saqafi and his second son Ahmad Khomeini—and some political figures, such as former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, former Vice President Hassan Habibi, Lieutenant General Ali Sayad Shirazi, Iranian Revolution figure Sadeq Tabatabaei, and MP Marzieh Hadidchi.



Khomeini's grandson Ayatollah Seyyed Hassan Khomeini is in charge of caring for the mausoleum. It is still under construction, but when completed will be the centerpiece in a complex spread over 20 sq. km (4,900 acres), housing a cultural and tourist center, a university for Islamic studies, a seminary, a shopping mall, and a 20,000-car parking lot.

People



Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System



Tower of Silence



Masuleh



Naghsh-e-Jahan Square



Si-o-se-pol Bridge

Knowing the daily lives of local people is a very important objective of travelling. We certainly bore this in mind and paid visit to following spots which represent old and current community:

- Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System (UNESCO) an island city in Ahwaz from the Sassanid era nearly 3000 years ago with a complex water mills, dams, tunnels, canals and irrigation system which was economically important in the old days. Parts of the system is still in use today;
- Tower of Silence, a circular, raised structure built by Zoroastrians in Yard for excarnation for dead bodies to be exposed to carrion birds, usually vultures;
- Masuleh architecture in Isfahan has a unique feature of having interconnected buildings into the mountain. This spectacular architecture is popularly known as "The courtyard of the building above is the roof of the building below";
- Naqsh-e-Jahan Square (UNESCO) (meaning World Square) constructed between 1598 and 1629, is at the center of Isfahan and is 160 x 560m and is surrounded by buildings from the Safavid era with The Shah Mosque (Muslim Friday prayer) on the south, Ali Qapu Palace on the west, Sheikh Lotf Allah Mosque on the east and Isfahan Grand Bazaar on the north; and
- The Si-o-se-pol, built between 1599 and 1602, is the longest bridge (297.76m) on the Zayanderud, Isfahan with Safavid bridge design.

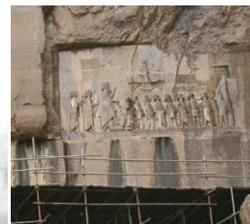
Legacy of Persian Empire



Ganjnameh, Hamedan



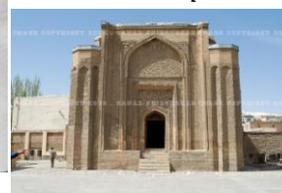
Apadana Palace



Bisotun Inscription



Chehel Sotun Palace



Alavian Dome



Fin garden

*Naqsh-e-Rostam*

Iran was known as one of the four ancient civilized countries (others being China, Egypt and India) and has great leaders (such as Darius the Great, Xerxes the Great) in its history and many famous palaces and gardens to represent their strength. We certainly did not miss them and visited following:

- The Ganjnameh inscriptions on the side of Alvand Mountain in Hamadan, was carved in two sections (ordered by Darius the Great (521-485 BC) on the left and Xerxes the Great (485-465 BC) on the right) in three ancient languages: Old Persian, Neo-Babylonian and Neo-Elamite;
- The Bisotun Inscription (UNESCO), authored by Darius the Great in 522 to 486 BC, is a multilingual inscription on a cliff at Mount Bisotun in Kermanshah of Iran. It was crucial to the decipherment of cuneiform script., It begins with a brief autobiography of Darius, his ancestry and lineage the nineteen battles to put down multiple rebellions throughout the Persian Empire;
- An Apadana belongs to the oldest building phase of the city of Persepolis, Susa, in the first half of the 6th century BC and is a large hypostyle hall reflecting the original design by Darius the Great;
- Naqsh-e Rostam is an ancient necropolis located about 12 km NW of Persepolis, Shiraz, with a group of ancient Iranian rock reliefs cut into the cliff, from both the Achaemenid (c. 550–330 BC) and Sassanid periods. It lies a few hundred meters from Naqsh-e Rajab, with a further four Sassanid rock reliefs, three celebrating kings and one a high priest;
- Chehel Sotoun in Isfahan is a pavilion in the middle of a park at the far end of a long pool built by Shah Abbas II for his entertainment and receptions of dignitaries and ambassadors. The name, meaning "Forty Columns" in Persian, was inspired by the twenty slender wooden columns supporting the entrance pavilion, which, when reflected in the waters of the fountain, are said to appear to be forty;
- Alavian Dome, built by the Alavian family during the Seljuq era (1038-1118), is located in a garden of the same name in Hamadan. The structure was initially a mosque and later became a family crypt; and
- Fin Garden, built in 1590, is the oldest Persian garden in Isfahan, Iran. It contains Kashan's Fin Bath, where Amir Kabir, the Qajarid chancellor, was murdered by King Nasereddin Shah in 1852.

Culture and Art

*Azadi Tower**Saad Abad Palace**Tomb of Baba Taher*

We visited three representative buildings for art museum and cultural value, namely (1) Azadi Tower, built in 1971, is also called Freedom Tower and comprised of eight thousand white marble blocks, in both Islamic and Sassanid style, (2) Saad Abad Palace used as the royal court during 1968 – 1979 and inaugurated as the “Fine Art Museum” in 1983, (3) Baba Taher, described as the first great poet of Sufi love in Persian literature. In the last two decades his do-baytis have often been put to music.

Rotary Club of Tai Po Installation

9 July 2018

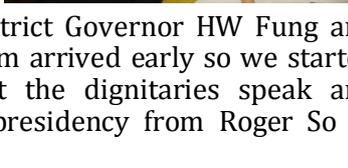
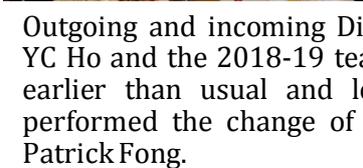
Claire Mak

The leadership changeover in Rotary Club of Tai Po took place on 9th July 2018 amidst well wishes from mother and baby clubs, welcoming back former member dear PP Man and Jackie and also the admission of new member Danny! Of course the joyous event was boosted by good food and lots to drink!

Members, spouses and guests including Rotarians from mother club Rotary Club of Peninsula, sons clubs Rotary Clubs of Central and SoHo HK, our Rotaractors from Rotaract Club of Tai Pogathered for this first meeting of the Rotary year and easily filled the 5 tables in Fincher Room of Kowloon Cricket Club. The menu was especially hand-picked by President Patrick who generously added suckling pig and tiger prawns to the courses.



While the District Team was still there, we invited Governor YC to perform the new member induction ceremony to welcome our newest member Danny Lau and also his lovely but shy wife Kylie to our club. Every member happily contributed red box.



Outgoing and incoming District Governor HW Fung and YC Ho and the 2018-19 team arrived early so we started earlier than usual and let the dignitaries speak and performed the change of presidency from Roger So to Patrick Fong.

After the group photos and seeing off the District Team came the part when our leaders expressed their thankfulness. Roger showed gratefulness to his team of officers by dishing out hand-printed certificates. On the other hand, Patrick thanked the few special people who helped make the Annual Ball a success by presenting each with meaningful souvenirs. He also welcomed on board his new team.

July birdies celebrated in style when birthday boy Armstrong and birthday girl Dorothy received the special gift of name-engraved whisky tumbler.



Of course, RCTP is grateful to those from fellow clubs who graced our meeting to share with us the joy we have upon the changeover. CP Chris Tsang of RC SoHo HK was the most vocal and we heard him shout, nth times, RED BOX, all the while leading by example by contributing red box time and again. It looks like we are inspired enough to start being the inspiration. Cheers!



RCTP 2018/19 Board of Directors



Patrick FONG
President



Dorothy CHAN
President Elect



Kin Fai TAM
Vice President &
Secretary Elect



Wilson WOO
Secretary



PP Louis TANG
Treasurer



IPP Roger SO
Director



PP Dennis LO
Director



PP Frankie WU
Director



PP Wilson LAM
Director



PP Vikky TAM
Director



PP William Yim
Director



Sally LUK
Director

RCTP 2018/19 Club Officers



PP Louis TANG
Foundation Chair



PP Ping LEUNG
Hon Auditor



Kin Fai TAM
Public Image Chair &
Webmaster



PP Claire MAK
Tai Post Chief Editor



PP Frankie WU
Membership Chair



Caren CHAN
Deputy Membership
Chair



Kin Fai TAM
Club Administration Chair



PP Vikky TAM
Club Administration
Advisor



PP Masayuki TSUBAKI
International Service
Chair



PP Vikky TAM
Deputy International
Service Chair



Marco HO
Sergeant-at-arms



Wilson WOO
Youth Chair



Marco HO
Deputy Youth Chair



PP Ron CHUNG
RAC Tai Po Advisor



PP Claire MAK
RAC WYS Advisor



PP Peter LAM
IAC TTCA Advisor



PDG Anthony HUNG
IAC Tai Po Schools
Advisor



PP Dennis LO
Fellowship Chair



PP Wilson LAM
Fellowship Advisor



PP William YIM
Community Service Chair



Kin Fai TAM
Deputy Community
Service Chair



PDG Kenneth WONG
Community Service Advisor

District Installation

14 July 2018 at HKCEC

Claire Mak

Tai Po Rotarians and spouses took up 22 seats at the District Installation on 14 July held at the Old Wing of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The otherwise standard program of the day had presented us with a few surprises.

First, our District did not have the whole foyer to ourselves. That said, Rotary made good use of the area for a stunning showcase of the banners of all the 90 clubs in the District and amply decorated the place.

The photo backdrop and free flow of red wine gave members and guests a leisurely mingling time.



The change-over from Roger to Patrick gave no surprise and we were all glad to witness Patrick putting on the president sash. Similarly, there is no surprise when Natalie was named one of the Outstanding Rotarians. The pleasant surprise is that Roger was crowned President of the Year and Rotary Club of Tai Po, the Rotary Club of the Year! Now, who would have imagined that possible? Nevertheless, we all went for that invaluable photo on stage! We even took in all the congratulatory wishes from fellow Rotarians and in particular, our off-springs RC Central and RC SoHo HK!



The next surprise was that the Ceremony started as early as half past six! Quite a few tables were yet unoccupied when the proceedings began with the March-in of outgoing and incoming presidents. Guest of Honour Chief Secretary Matthew Cheung was invited to deliver a speech and he praised the good works of Rotary and urged members to further care for the underprivileged youths.

Our newest member Danny Lau was amongst those fresh members being recognized. When the evening drew to a close, the night was still young and afforded us sufficient time not to miss the World Cup Semi-Finals!



Past RI President Gary Huang was invited by Governor YC as guest of honour, and the surprise part was that he almost repeated what he said last year and, not surprisingly, once again made us do the Happy Clap.



New Member

Danny LAU, Hoi-ho 劉凱豪



Spouse:

Kylie Man

Date of Birth:

10th September

Classification:

Philosophy Consultant

Date Inducted:

9th July 2018



Education:

M.Phil., Humanities, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (2006-08)



B.A., Philosophy, Lingnan University, Hong Kong (2004-06)



Businesses

CONTEX DIGITAL (Director)
Traditional TV brand renovated into a comprehensive electronics brand.



LOGOS (Director)
Shipping lines founded since 2015.



DOGGIE TASTE (Director)
Founded since 2009. Company vision is to provide good food with good taste and promote well-being for cats and dogs.



Interests:

Akrasia (weakness of will), Art of Reasoning, Ethics, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy for Children, Philosophical Consultation



Recent Academic Posts:

- Part-time Instructor, CUSCS, CUHK
- Adjunct Lecturer, College of Humanities and Law, HKU SPACE, HKU
- Philosophical Counsellor (American Philosophical Practitioners Association, APPA)
- Committee Member, Hong Kong Practical Philosophy Society

Hello Rotarians! My name is Danny H. H. Lau. Nice to meet you!

I am a philosophy teacher in colleges, teaching morality and Critical Thinking, and a businessman, distributing LED TV and household electronics.



As a philosophy teacher, my domain of research is Logic, Critical Thinking and Akrasia, which means weakness of will. My teaching philosophy is teaching as a craftsmanship. Like doing sculpture, students are full of potentials and possibility with limitation. To be a good teacher is more or less like to be a sculptor. A good sculptor should never dominate nor manipulate marbles, but to discover the beauty and inner value of materials.

As a businessman, I like to apply philosophy to doing business. One of my businesses is doing shipping lines from the southern part of Thailand to China. Inspired by Confucian said, "The superior man bends his attention to what is fundamental. With the foundation established, the LOGOS nurtures. (君子務本，本立而道生。)" I name my company LOGOS 本立行 because I want to remind myself that do not forget the original intention, to create a better world for sentient beings.

Besides doing philosophy and business, I also enjoy watching movies. If you want a companion to see movies, please ring me.

International Service Trip to Vietnam 逾「越」生死

RAC Wu Yee Sun College, IS Director Vanessa Yu

Introduction

As university students, we ought to do something meaningful in order to enrich our experience and broaden our horizon, while we still have the time. Luckily for me being the International Service Director of this year's cabinet of Rotaract Club, I was not only given the privilege to have a unique experience in the Vietnam Friendship Village this summer, but was also given the first taste of leading a service trip.

The Vietnam Friendship Village is a facility founded by the retired US Vietnam-American War veterans. With the cooperation of several countries, this is the place to heal the wounds of the Vietnam War and lead a better future for the victims of Agent Orange. The journey was definitely a bumpy ride, yet I could safely assume that all of us have learnt a ton during the process. We were particularly inspired by the vibe of pure happiness in the village, with the laughter of the children and the love and care of the volunteers there. What we have seen has undoubtedly challenged our ordinary way of thinking and how we would think of our lives in the future.

Meeting the Director and Visiting the Village for the First Time

For the very first part of the trip, we met with the director of the Village and had a brief idea of what it is and how it works. There are basically the special education classroom, the life-skill training classrooms and the vocational training classrooms. The special education classrooms target kids with severe intellectual disability who are not able to comprehend most knowledge. They can only do simple drawings and games like connecting dots. On the contrary, kids with much milder disabilities could learn to cook in the life-skill classrooms. Some older ones will learn in the vocational training classrooms. The Village provides embroidery, craft-making, sewing lessons and even computer lessons for them. On first glance, we were all very shocked by the delicacy of their work. And after hearing stories of how people from this village could find jobs and set up companies of their own, even if it was for a very small percentage, we were all very impressed of how their hard work could change their lives.

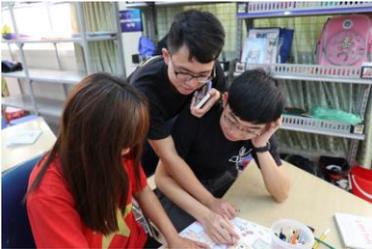


Visiting Museums

As young adults in Hong Kong, we hardly have any chance to talk about wars and chemical weapons, as they are way too far from our daily lives. Thus, during the second half of the day, we went to two famous museums in Hanoi, Vietnam. They include the Hoa Lo Prison Museum and the Vietnam Military History Museum, which both could speak for the history of Vietnam. Boring as it may seem to some people, I believe having certain background information about our service targets before meeting them is paramount. We need to know what to expect when we interact with them. And as anticipated, we have acquired knowledge we have never known before, which would not only contribute to the service with the kids, but also how we look at the world. Such a depressing yet unique topic has made us contemplate our very fortunate lives and the ways of living.

Lessons with Kids

We spent two mornings with the kids to experience their daily lives. These kids were separated according to their abilities. To grasp every opportunity to interact with them, we split up into groups of 4 and take turns to go to a different classroom. In the classrooms teaching more complicated skills, we were fascinated by their delicate work and to see what amazing things they could do with hard work and dedication. On the other hand, in classrooms requiring fewer skills, we were bombarded with the kids' excitement, yet energized at the same time. We have had loads of fun.



Movement Classes with Kids

Originally, we have already rehearsed the games that we have planned before the trip. Yet the reality has shocked us and made us worry about dealing with mentally disabled people. We were really fortunate to have volunteers from Ireland, who have had 3 months of experience interacting with the kids already, to help us with the activities. For the first afternoon, we simply followed the flow of the class to watch and learn. We, as well as the volunteers, joined in the games to guide the kids. In the second afternoon, there were no volunteers to help us. So, we used our experience day before to manage the games with the interpreter. On the final afternoon, we played games with the volunteers again and did a simple farewell dance.



Farewell with Kids

During the last movement class, we had our farewell dance. We used the simple dance routines we learnt during orientation camps to dance with the kids. The kids picked them up very quickly. It was nice for all of us to have something nice as a campfire dance to mark the end of this journey. After the movement class, we played volleyball with them. When we said our final goodbyes with the kids, it was a very emotional experience for all of us, as we have grown attached to the Village and the kids during these 4 days.



Meeting Veterans

In the meantime, we have one morning reserved for meeting the Vietnam veterans who have all served as soldiers for the Vietnam military during the Vietnam War. They have the first-hand experience about what happened then and afterwards. It was quite fascinating to hear stories that we have never heard before if we have not paid any attention to wars. We also found out that most of the kids we met in the Village were children of these soldiers. It made us contemplate how wars could affect the innocent.



Culture Night

This event was an unexpected activity, organised by CSDS Vietnam. This happened because, by coincidence, there was an English learning class near our hostel, organised by three volunteers from several Eastern European countries. The volunteers organised games and quizzes and dance for us to immerse in the Vietnamese environment and interact with them in English, unlike in the Village where we could only rely on interpreters. The vibe of the lesson was like a party and we had lots of fun meeting new people and dancing with them to songs that we can all relate to.



Boat Trip

For the last day of the trip, we went to Ha Long Bay for a boat trip. Going into caves and enjoying beautiful sceneries was part of our plan. What we didn't plan was that we also got to do kayaking. For most of us, that was a totally new experience. Apart from kayaking, we also went to the beaches and went climbing. There was such a variety of entertainment that we could almost forget the long 4-hour trip to the harbour.



Conclusion

This whole trip was a fruitful journey for all of us. We have reflected on our lives through meeting inspiring people and hearing stories outside of our comfort zone. As a person, we have all changed for the better. I hope it serves as a cornerstone as future opportunities to serve in foreign places again, for we are global citizens, and by no means should we neglect issues around us. Once again, I would like to express our sincerest gratitude towards our Mother Club, for sponsoring us, so that these unforgettable experiences become a reality.

Rotary Club of Tai Po - Teams for 2018-19

Team 1

Team Leader	Team Members					
Henry Wang	Anthony Hung	Claire Mak	Ronald Chung	William Yim	Wilson Woo	
						

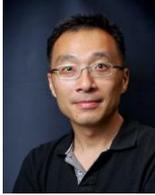
Team 2

Team Leader	Team Members					
Louis Tang	Frankie Wu	Masayuki Tsubaki	Natalie Kwok	Roger So	Sally Luk	CM Yu
						

Team 3

Team Leader	Team Members					
Dennis Lo	Kenneth Wong	Vikky Tam	Patrick Fong	Dorothy Chan	Marco Ho	Danny Lau
						

Team 4

Team Leader	Team Members					
Caren Chan	Peter Lam	Wilson Lam	Armstrong Shea	KF Tam	Sincere Yip	Sasha Chu
						

Regular Meetings

25 June 2018

Roger chaired this last meeting of RY2017-18 and started by thanking members and spouses while Rtnn. May gave out hand-made souvenirs.



Additional course of roasted suckling pig to celebrate this last meeting.



Patrick reported on the success of the Annual Ball and the sister club reception activities.



Henry, KF, Wanda, Creamy and May won the various raffle prizes comprising of special numbered bank notes and embroidered handkerchief.

16 July 2018



With the interesting recount of the formative years of RC Tai Po and the various jokes that he cracked as he spoke, it seems that **CP Donald Yap** is failing his topic of **"Inspiration to avoid being a speaker"**. He is actually attracting invitations to be a speaker; or a round 2!

Immediate Past President Ed Mowrer from Rotary Club of St. Clairvilles, Ohio exchanged banner with us.

Patrick started the first formal meeting on the right footing with cheerfulness at each table.



KF gave out an Aroma Diffuser and Wilson Woo, with ticket no. 911, emerged as the lucky winner.



Members were giving red box for happy incidents and the most encouraging news is that Danny becomes a father-to-be!

Date	Time	Event	Venue
28 JUL to 30 JUL	-	Manila Trip: Rotary Club of Makati San Lorenzo 26 th Anniversary "Vienna Opernball" Fellowship Trip	Manila, the Philippines
6 AUG (MON)	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting Speaker: President Patrick Fong Topic: Club Leadership Plan	Fincher Room, KCC, 10 Cox's Road, Jordan
11 AUG (SAT)	9:00 a.m.	District Grant Management Seminar (GMS)	Room AAB204 & 205, HK Baptist University, Academic & Administration Building
12 AUG (SUN)	2:00 p.m.	District Rotaract Awards Presentation 2017-18 cum District Rotaract Installation 2018-19	To be confirmed
13 AUG (MON)	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting (Assistant Governor's Visit) Speaker: Area 6 AG Natalie Kwok	Fincher Room, KCC, 10 Cox's Road, Jordan
20 AUG (MON)	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting Speaker: PP Frankie Wu Topic: My Ups and Downs	Fincher Room, KCC, 10 Cox's Road, Jordan



28th Armstrong Shea
29th Dorothy Chan

The Board and the President
Rosalie R. Restubog, Jr.
of the
Rotary Club of Makati San Lorenzo
are pleased to invite you to the
26th Induction of its Officers
on Saturday, 28th of July, 2018
at the
Vienna Opernball
an inspired evening of Baroque & Rock
The Marble Hall, Ayuntamiento de Manila,
Intramuros, Manila

Guest attire: Black tie invetero
Beige or taupe colored long gowns

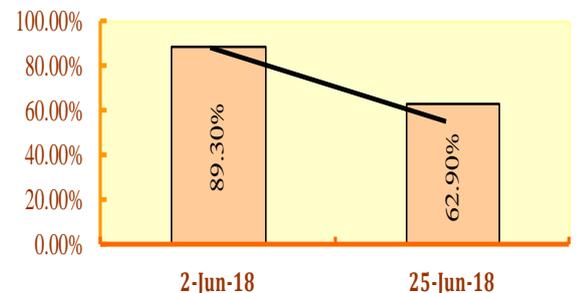
RSVP Betty Centeno: 0906 352 8762

Attendance June 2018

CAREN CHAN,
DOROTHY CHAN,
RONALD CHUNG,
PATRICK FONG,
ANTHONY HUNG,
NATALIE KWOK,
PETER LAM,
WILSON LAM,
WILLIAM YIM

CLAIRE MAK,
ROGER SO,
KF TAM,
LOUIS TANG,
HENRY WANG,
KENNETH WONG,
WILSON WOO,
FRANKIE WU,

Average attendance: **76.1 %**



GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

Tai Post wants to hear from you.
Write in to clairetaipo@gmail.com

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

The editorial board
Claire Mak
Peter Lam

We miss you

Sasha Chu,
Sincere Yip

Termination of Membership

Pearl Dang,
Benjamin Wong