



TAI 報 POST

Monthly Bulletin of Rotary Club of Tai Po

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



KIN FAI TAM

Our community has been struck by the panic over the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia for the past 2 months. As Rotarians, we take pride in our ability to work logically to help the community. While the medical professionals are fighting against the virus and treating patients, we can contribute our part to prevent the spread of disease which is also a core value of Rotary.

In support of the District's campaign '*Giving Masks Rotary's Task*', our club had also initiated community services by donation of masks and sanitizers to the underprivileged families. The first donation event was held on March 5 at Christian & Missionary Alliance Church Tai Wo Kindergarten during which 3000 masks and 1000 bottles of sanitizers were distributed. There will be more to come later this month.



In view of the evolving situation of the epidemic, nearly all District events were cancelled / postponed in these months and our club meetings were also affected. We have decided to reduce the number of regular meetings to once a month during this critical period. It was a difficult decision and the meeting arrangement will be reviewed regularly following the latest development and further updates will be announced. Our regular meeting in February was held on 24 February 2020 at a new venue in New World Millennium Hotel as Fincher Room of KCC is not available.



On this note, apart from taking care of our personal hygiene and physical health, it is also important to manage our mental health. During this difficult time, we also need to inject some positive energy by doing more physical exercise and something innovative. Or you could melt away your worries by learning how to cook healthy, well-balanced dishes, meeting your old friends online.... Sunshine always comes after the storms, so let's stay positive and strong, and join hands together to fight this challenge.





EDITOR SAYS



CLAIRE MAK

It is undisputed that human life span continues to lengthen. When our Financial Secretary announced his budget last year (or was it the year before last? I cannot remember which) he made reference that the usual life expectancy is reaching 120 years of age and so people in their 60s are just reaching middle age. I still recall our club members joked with each other that we are all youngsters!

Given this fact, retirement at 65 seems a bit early doesn't it? But the more looming problem is that a huge amount of work is now taken over by Artificial Intelligence. Recent researches suggest that by 2030, intelligent agents and robots could replace as much as 30 percent of the world's current human labour.



Some say that fears and concerns regarding AI and automation, while understandable, are ultimately unwarranted. Their theory is that technological change may eliminate specific jobs, but it has always created more in the process. This, then brings up the critical question: what kinds of jobs are being created and what kinds of jobs are being destroyed?

I surmise that there is little room left for the menial workforce. That is to say, even if one were to collect and sell card paper to gain a few bucks, one would face a lot of competition. Indeed, it is not only a concern that would arise at the retirement age; even young graduates entering the workforce face the problem of AI taking over their jobs.



If you turn a few recreational books or magazines on social studies, the human future looks pretty rosy: there will be more leisure time and thus more opportunities to develop recreational interests; to better oneself and to fulfil a better life. That said, I somehow do not feel that positive. We are at a time when automation penetrates the substratum layer. Have we actually gained more leisurely time? Well, maybe we did, but instead of spending time and money upgrading ourselves, there are just too many distractions for one to spend whatever that we had gained: sophisticated cuisine, fine wines, luxury brands, soaring property prices ... As a matter of fact, it may work the other way: one will be even busier than before on sustaining one's being. Assuming one retires at 65, and lives up to 100 years old, there will still be 35 years to while away. What do we do with those 35 years? How to support the living of those 35 years?

From the Government perspective, that 35 years translates into all sorts of subsidies: housing, medical benefits and mental well-being ... to name but a few. That can be a huge government liability. This is especially so with an aging population and the problem will simply aggravate as time goes by. In fact, we need not look far ahead; a lot of people cannot even withstand the present.



Forgive me if this piece may sound like an insurance propaganda. It is not; but I do not have a ready solution for this big question. I think the likely outcome is to postpone retirement and let oneself to be gainfully (and of course happily) employed for as long as possible. Meanwhile, Rotary plays a role. **Stay Connected** for comradeship and mutual support and not be overwhelmed by the automation tide. Humans have weathered advancement and progress since time in memorial. We shall surely do the same and don't forget: **Rotary Opens Opportunities!**

PERSPECTIVE

65 Years old is still young!

How old is old? World Health Organisation (WHO) had declared that 65 years old is still considered young.

Before, based on the Friendly Societies Act (1875) in Britain, old was defined by age of 50. The UN has not adopted a standard criterion but lately 60 years old was referred as the border age to the word 'old'. However the health organisation had done a new research recently, according to average health quality and life expectancy and defined a new criterion that divides human age as follows:

- 0 to 17 years old: underage
- 18 to 65 years old: youth or young people
- 66 to 79 years old: middle-aged
- 80 to 99 years old: elderly or senior
- 100+ years old: long-lived elderly

Have you been reading your copy of The Rotarian magazine lately? Well, subscription of this magazine is mandatory for all Rotarians so we have no choice but to receive them monthly . . . Many countries around the world have their own version and, in fact, there is a Chinese version from Taiwan which I suppose our Chinese-speaking club can subscribe to replace the official English version. Let us look at some history and basic information about regional magazines.

ROTARY INFORMATION

The Rotarian magazine

From RI News Sept. 2019

From its beginnings as a 12-page periodical, The Rotarian has grown into an award-winning publication with a circulation of over 500,000, inspiring the creation of a host of Rotary regional magazines.

The first issue was published in January 1911 as The National Rotarian. It included news items from existing clubs, announcements of new clubs, and an essay by Paul P. Harris. Rotary's founder discussed the purpose of Rotary clubs and pondered what the response would be if he asked every Rotarian, "What is the philosophy of Rotary as you understand it?"

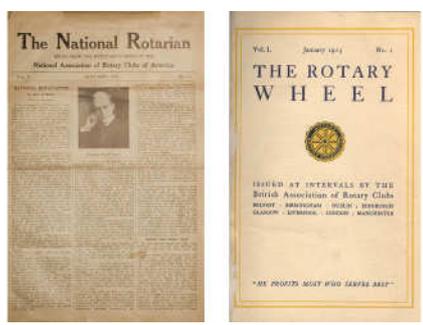
Harris, along with Secretary Chesley R. Perry, launched the publication to share information with a growing number of Rotarians. Perry was the magazine's first editor and held the position until 1928.

The official formation of clubs in Canada and England prompted the magazine to change its name to The Rotarian, starting with the September 1912 issue. Early on, the magazine focused on business ethics, character development, and membership growth. Throughout the years, well-known critics and authors, along with popular artists and photographers, contributed their work to its covers and pages.

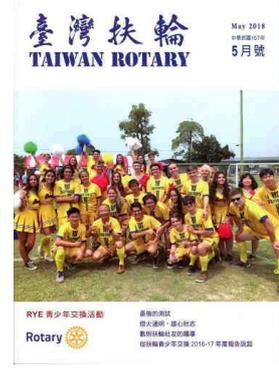
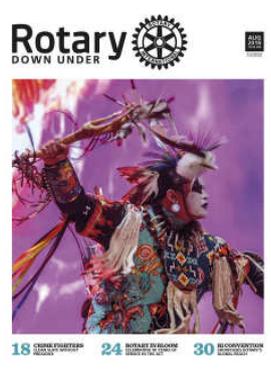
As Rotary clubs formed around the world, regional magazines appeared, each offering Rotary news from a local perspective. The first regional magazine was published in Great Britain and Ireland in 1915. More than half of Rotarians worldwide receive a regional magazine instead of The Rotarian. The Rotary World Magazine Press publishes more than 30 officially licensed Rotary regional magazines. These publications are produced independently by Rotarians, distributed in more than 130 countries, and published in more than 20 languages.



PETER LAM



Countries	Published since	Circulation (copies)	Countries	Published since	Circulation (copies)
Argentina	1955	11,000	Korea	1963	60,000
Australia	1965	43,000	Mexico	2017	2,225
Belgium	1984	10,000	The Netherlands	1927	16,300
Brazil	1924	51,000	Nordic Countries	1936	55,000
Bulgaria	1995	1,900	Peru	1932	3,000
Canada	2009	22,700	Philippines	1978	15,500
Central America	2017	4,000	Poland	2017	2,000
Chile	1927	5,000	Portugal	1984	3,500
Colombia	1970	2,350	Russia		Digital subs. only
Czech Republic	1990	2,500	South Africa	1927	4,300
Egypt	1929	2,400	Spain	2001	5,000
France	1952	35,000	Switzerland	1926	13,000
Germany	1929	63,000	Taiwan	1960	13,500
UK & Ireland	1915	53,000	Thailand	1983	8,500
India	1952	121,970	Turkey	1983	4,300
Italy	1924	41,000	Ukraine	2007	1,000
Japan	1953	93,150	Venezuela	1992	2800





FLASHBACK OLD TIME PHOTOS

A look back of our club's past activities by topic

Elderly Service



2018-19

In 2018-19 we continued our service to elderly with dementia and glad that our young generation and Wilson Lam's daughter Chloe joined the home visit in May 2019.



Lunch and visit to 稻香 restaurant and Exhibition hall in Shatin with the elderly in June 2019.



2017-18

In 2017-18, we started working with Salvation Army Tai Po Elderly Service team to support the elderly with dementia problem (認知障礙症). Members first attended seminar in Oct. 2017 to get familiarized about the subject and paid home visit in Nov. A lunch and day tour to the Science Park was also organized in Jan. 2018.



2014-15

During 2014-2015 under able leadership of then President Natalie and project chair PP Pearl, we worked with YWCA Elderly Service (基督教女青年會青松柏中心) and launched a large scale elderly service "Build our Loving Village" 「同見愛心村-鄉郊長者關愛計劃」. We provided various health check services for the elderly in Nov. 2014, Jan. and May 2015. Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors were actively involved as volunteers during the home visit to villages in Sha Tau Kok and Fanling Ping Che and we were well recognized by our district for this outstanding project.



Mask Donation

K F Tam

Shortage of surgical masks has become an imminent issue facing Hong Kong. **The District is running a 'Giving Mask Rotary's Task campaign.** A mask donation Ceremony was held on 27 February at Regal Hong Kong Hotel during which over 100,000 masks were handed to the NGOs for distribution to those in need including elderly, single parents families, physically and mentally challenged. RCTP are fully supported of the project and had made donation as well.



As advised by DG Wilson, originally this campaign was an ad hoc project to minimize the community infection but it elevated to the District level within a week's time. He expected there will be over 230,000 masks donation in total. The brilliant result is due to the great support of all members and clubs of D3450. For those Rotarians who have difficulties to obtain spare masks, they offered generous support by donating money. The fund raised will be utilized to purchase masks and other necessary epidemic prevention products and distribute to the targeted beneficiary.



Apart from the generous donation, some Rotarians had also spent their valuable time to repack the masks at RIC for the distribution. The campaign had also extended to wider groups of needy such as the disabled, homeless, cleaning workers, those with long-term sickness as well as the taxi drivers and low wages workers who need to work outdoor every day. Together we see the world where people unite and take action.



At the club level, we also sent 3,000 masks to the underprivileged families of Tai Po through the New Territories School Heads Association as a start. The related mask donation ceremony was held on 5 March 2020 during which more than 20 school principals attended to receive the donated masks and hand sanitizers. A big thanks to PDG Kenneth who coordinated with RIC on purchasing the masks; PP Natalie to take up the complicated liaison works as well as the logistic issues; PP Vikky to help sourcing the hand sanitizers; and Wanda to help out the repacking works in her factory. PP Peter, PE Sally, VP Wilson, and Danny had also offered their strong support to participate the ceremony and distribute the materials to the school representatives. RCTP is always dedicated to the community services and campaigns to help people in need.



It was great that we have the support from Mr. Chu King Yuen, the President of New Territories School Heads Association who facilitated the ceremony. An opening speech was delivered by President K F, followed by Principal Kwok of Christian & Missionary Alliance Church Tai Wo Kindergarten who explained to us there are many low income families in Tai Po that could not afford to buy sufficient masks for the children.

We are planning for the second mask donation event scheduled on 14 March and the beneficiary will be the elderly in Tai Po and we target to distribute 4,000 masks and hand sanitizers to four Care Centers for the aged. I am sure our club members will definitely offer support to such a meaningful event.



My Darling Grandchild Number Two - Yuzuki Kwan

Pearl Dang

Whilst hiking with friends on the third day of the Lunar New Year (27 Jan 2020), I received the most anticipated phone call from my son Kevin, delivering the good news of the safe arrival of his daughter - Yuzuki Kwan. Nanasa, Kevin's wife, had given birth to a healthy baby girl at the Shinyokohama Women's and Children's Hospital in Tokyo, Japan.



Yuzuki kept us waiting, making her appearance two days after her due date. Weighing at 3.9kg, she was considered a heavy baby compared to her peers. Yuzuki was even heavier than her Mum and Dad when they were born! Nanasa did an incredible job, delivering Yuzuki naturally. Thankfully Nanasa had recovered extremely well and was able to return home from hospital with Yuzuki after five days.

Yuzuki also has a Chinese name - 關結月. Her name bears the beautiful meaning of fostering good relationships with those around her and fulfilling a happy and peaceful life.



Kevin and Nanasa took Yuzuki to the temple for her first traditional ceremony "Hatsumiya (初参宮)" in Japan with her Grandma Koko and Grandpa Hiroshi.

Before we know it, Yuzuki is now one month old. She has even mastered her charming smile.



Due to the coronavirus situation, I have yet to meet my dearest Yuzuki in person or to hold her, so I don't have any photos with her to share for now. I very much look forward to meeting her soon. I wish Yuzuki a healthy upbringing and great success in life. I hope she will do great things to contribute to her community, country and world. All my best blessings to her.



With two granddaughters, one in England and one in Japan, I will be travelling more to spend time with them in the near future. It is with regret that I will retire from my Rotary duties as I will not be as available as I have been in the past. Thank you for all your support and partnership. Please do update me on the club's activities and I will catch up with you all whenever I can when I am in Hong Kong. I hope to introduce my granddaughters to you in person in the near future. Best wishes from me and Alan, Baby Yuzuki and her cousin Baby Sibi too!

RC Tai Po Spring Dinner

10 February 2020
Claire Mak

Chinese people value the Lunar New Year and make use of the occasion for family gathering and well-wishing greetings. It is unfortunate that the Year of the Rat started with the onset of the Coronavirus epidemic to the extent that a lot of the District and other activities are either postponed or cancelled. RCTP members had been missing one and other since our meeting on 20 January before the Chinese New Year holidays. Other than being 'grounded' at home, the other concerns were where to get enough face masks, hand rub etc. and means to overcome the crazy queues for daily stuff in addition to the fight against the epidemic. In short, it had been bleak, gloomy and worrying.

The Area 6 joint Spring Dinner Meeting which was originally scheduled for 10th February (the 17th day of the Chinese New Year) was cancelled last minute. Rather than wasting the opportunity to meet and greet, President KF, with the prompt help from PPs Wilson, William and Peter, quickly patched together an impromptu yet much needed Spring Dinner meeting for RCTP. The result was a warm and joyful evening for all members and spouses.



The chosen venue was Tom Bar & Grill in Science Park, the same place where we held our Christmas Party. This time, we had sit-down dinner of Chinese-Thai food plus all sorts of alcohol drinks (not alcohol wipes!) like whiskey, red and white wines. PP Wilson jokingly said these are good for internal sanitizing: a good rationalization to all those who heartily drank.



Upon arriving at the venue, everyone was given a secret target for whom to write something auspicious with the Chinese calligraphy brush. The writing got to be well wishing and tailored for the specific target. This was the occasion to witness the calligraphy skills of our members and spouses; or failing that, the talent to explain away the inadequacies.



It turns out that the writings are not bad at all and more importantly the well wishes were meaningful and many of them elicited a good laugh. In the end, Danny's writing – or drawing rather, captured CP Donald's heart and he won the game. President KF awarded him with a bagful of lovely rats!



This was an evening when we had limited formalities and no sergeant-at-arms; so there was no one to enforce red box. Members could speak as freely and as lengthily as s/he likes. That of course was a joke. In fact, we had candid sharing from knowledgeable members about the current situation.

PP Wilson started the discussion and spoke about how the epidemic had affected factory operation in China. Indeed, his workers were required to declare and be examined as free from illnesses before they could be allowed back to the factory. Even then, a factory needed the relevant governing authority's approval before it could resume operation. Such very stringent controls were implemented to curb the spread of the epidemic. Wilson also dispelled some misconception about air borne virus spread and inflight safety.



PP William then spoke from his scientific exploration side and explained why he viewed the current panicky response was a bit of an exaggeration. Relying on available figures, he showed how the epidemic, though widespread, was not really as deadly and incurable as it was portrayed. It was thus reassuring to hear that we should not be over-fearful if we keep good personal hygiene. By the way, 'steaming face mask' is actually not as useless as it was thought to be.



Chemist by profession, PDG Kenneth analyzed the various means to combat the viruses. He also recalled the incidents during the SARS times and the alarming death of Rotarian Dr. James Lau Tai Kwun who was the first Medical personnel to perish then.

Lastly, Dr. Sally Luk spoke about how the medical team is fighting Coronavirus and her observations of daily events from a doctor's viewpoint. She also recounted her times in the hospital during SARS times and gave an optimistic view that the medics are a lot more prepared this time. They are all fighting a good fight against the virus.



Towards the end of the dinner, we celebrated William's birthday and congratulated Pearl and Alan on the birth of their 2nd grand daughter. As we cheered to everyone's good health, we left the Spring Dinner conservatively happier and a lot more reassured.



24 February 2020

REGULAR MEETINGS

Members were supportive of the meeting at the alternative venue of Tao Li at New World Millennium Hong Kong Hotel, TSTE.



Thoughtful **President K F** and **President Elect Sally** gave out **antibacterial spray** and **alcohol hand rub** respectively. Dr. Sally also explained the effectiveness of the various spray and rubs with different alcohol percentages.

Speaker and long distance running trainer **Fung Wah Tim** spoke to us about **"Run for a Healthy Life"** and showed, by reference to different students of his, how it is never too late to start running; and that distance running or marathon is more than a health-enhancing exercise. It is a challenge which can be fun and life-enhancing.



Tim Sir demonstrated to us on the spot how to maintain a **correct breathing rhythm**.



PDG Kenneth, who has benefitted from undertaking distance running, delivered a **Vote of Thanks** and together with President KF, presented to Tim Sir our club memento.



Rtn. **Sincere** gave out a nice **crystal perfume set** which was won by none other than **President K F**.



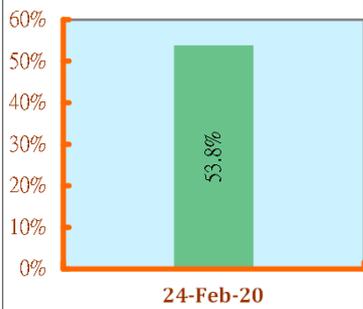
A toast to Rotary the world over, coupled with the Rotary Club of Tai Po.



At the **Board Meeting** which followed, directors decided upon the further meeting arrangements in the light of the novel coronavirus epidemic.

Upcoming Events

Average attendance: 53.8 %



Date	Time	Event	Venue
19 Mar	5:30 p.m.	District Legislation Meeting	Room 301, 3/F First Commercial Bldg, 33-35 Leighton Road, Causeway Bay
20 APR	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting Speakers: Maisie Ho & Felix Ho (Kids of Joe Ho & Annie Luk) Topic: Trip to China experience	Tao Li, 2/F, New World Millennium HK Hotel, 72 Mody Road, Tsim Sha Tsui East

2020-21 RI Theme

RI President-elect Holger Knaack's theme for 2020-21, *Rotary Opens Opportunities*, asks Rotarians to create opportunities that strengthen their leadership, help put service ideas into action, and improve the lives of those in need.



Rotary Opens Opportunities

February 2020

Perfect Attendance

ANTHONY HUNG, ROGER SO,
NATALIE KWOK, KF TAM,
PETER LAM, VIKKY TAM,
DANNY LAU, KENNETH WONG,
SALLY LUK, WILSON WOO,
CLAIRE MAK, WILLIAM YIM,
ARMSTRONG SHEA, SINCERE YIP

SASHA CHU,
RONALD CHUNG,
WILSON LAM,
DENNIS LO,
LOUIS TANG,
MASAYUKI TSUBAKI,
HENRY WANG,
FRANKIE WU,
CM YU



Resignation



Patrick Fong
Pearl Dang

MARCH

19th MASAYUKI TSUBAKI
27th LEUNG WO PING



On Leave

CHRISTIE LIN ZHENG



Got Something to say?

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

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

The editorial board
Claire Mak
Peter Lam

