

William Yim

President's Message



There were a lot of great news and exciting events this November and December. Let me tell you all about it. But before that, I would like to speak about a D3450 programme first.

Careers Expo has been a signature project for A6 clubs since 2001. It gives opportunities to the students to understand more about career opportunities and requirement of various business sectors. Speakers were invited for sharing and our club members participated actively. The project was then enhanced by incorporating Mock Interview Workshop echoing the Life Planning Project of Education Bureau of HKSAR. Students were given Mock Interview opportunities by volunteers. PP Louis, IPP Vikky and I were the interviewers last

year. Since the project did well, it was escalated to a district project. Careers Expo and Mock Interview Workshop were combined with Work Experience Movement under Business-School Partnership Programme which has been operating for 11 years. The Kick-off Ceremony of Work Experience Movement was on 18 Nov. The Chief Secretary for Administration Mrs. Carrie Lam GBM, GBS, JP officiated the ceremony and presented certificates of appreciation to all representatives of business partners, schools and organizations. I'm glad to see it grow from a small project to a large scale district programme.

Here comes the great news: we are going to induct 3 new members! 3 potential members were privately met to observe their suitability, and our senior members explained the obligations being a member in our club and as a



Rotarian. The new members are Mr. Xie Jun, a specialist in financial investment, Mr. Benjamin Wong, a specialist in human resources, and Mr. Henry Wang, a specialist in chemical engineering. We will have Jun and Benjamin inducted in December and Henry in Feb or March when he's back from the UK. Please give them a warm welcome to our family! I can't wait to see their performance and contribution to Rotary.

Also, there were numerous exciting events in November and December. It was the 47th Anniversary Annual Ball of RC New Territories on 25 Nov. The theme of this year was "錫住嚟狂歡夜 the Grand Night for Dancing"! You just couldn't miss the dance floor. It was hot, joyful and exciting. The grand finale was the performance by awesome dancers! 10 Rotarians from our club and many of my All Star Team classmates were all on the floor! We all enjoyed it very much. Thank you P Kenneth for the invitation.



In the early Dec, Bebe and I headed to Bangkok to attend the "2016 Bangkok Rotary Institute". It was the perfect time to learn something new and build up network with Rotarians from different districts. Past RI President Bhichai Rattakul gave an address to emphasize the importance and achievements of the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej the Great. The traditional Thai parade and drum performance were stunning. In addition to the official event, we were able to spare some time to discover the mystery of Thailand. Thai food is definitely my favorite. It was an excellent opportunity to take a break from my busy schedule.

It was a very important day to our club on 5 Dec. "2017-18 Directors and Officers of RC Tai Po" were nominated in the Annual General Meeting. Thank you VP Patrick for hosting the first part of AGM, and PDG Anthony for his guidance on AGM proceedings. Dorothy was endorsed to be the President-elect Nominee, which means she will be the President 2019-2020! The new board will carry the important role to keep our club's tradition and provide innovative ideas for the continuous improvement of our club. Let's give them a big hand! PE Roger also shared some of his thoughts to enhance club fellowship by setting up a Fellowship Committee. Fellowship is the essential to strengthen the bond of members, smoothen the club's operation and seek cooperation on the community services. I gave a "Like" to Roger for this great idea.

Last but not least is our club's 2nd Theme Night, the "UnSilent Night" Christmas Party. There were over 110 attendees: District Officers, friendly clubs, Rotarians' families, Rotary friends, incoming and potential members. I must thank Team 2 Leader IPP Vikky for her leadership and her teammates, especially PP Claire for the detailed planning and Minghay for his wonderful design work. My cell phone was overloaded by "thank you", "It's a wonderful party" texts after the party. It was an awesome party. Thank you all for your participation.

Lastly, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Claire Mak



I love the film *Groundhog Day* which is a fantasy comedy with Bill Murray and Andie MacDowell in the lead. For those of you who may not be familiar with the film, Murray wakes up one day to find that he is perpetually reliving yesterday. Each ensuing day plays out exactly as it did the day before, with no one but Murray being aware of the "time loop". He decides to take advantage of the situation and does bad things with no fear of consequences. However, his attempts to get closer to his love-interest, Andie MacDowell, repeatedly fail.



Eventually, Murray endeavors to improve himself. He begins to learn new skills (playing piano, ice-sculpturing, foreign language ...) and uses his vast knowledge of the day's events to help as many people around town as possible. He is able to befriend almost everyone he meets during the day and ultimately impresses and wins the heart of Andie MacDowell. The lead lady finds him very understanding - the sort of soulmate everyone would hope for; without knowing, of course, that he has had the benefit of gathering information and details about her day after day and manipulated such data to his advantage.

This sounds too good to be true and only exists in films. In reality, even if there really are such paradigm shift with strange happenings, it will be beyond our awareness or understanding. All that we do may simply be to exclaim Déjà vu!



Having said that, to gather all there is to know about a person does not require re-living the same day. The internet has already done that for you. If you wish to know about a person, his/her Facebook page may already tell you all: where he studied, what she is interested in, what achievements he has attained, what sort of friends she is associated with, which sports team he supports, where she travels to, his religious beliefs, her political affiliation, his favourite food

With such knowledge, it is not entirely impossible to conjure up an impression of having known someone as if for a lifetime! The question is how much time you can afford to spend on digging up materials about this person and what sort of effort you may spend on luring that person's affection.

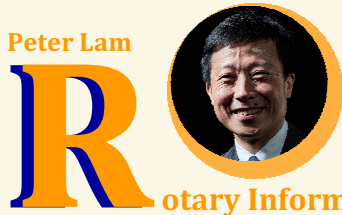


On the flip side, you may also proactively portray yourself as someone with such qualities you wish others to think you possess by purposefully uploading specific materials on your Facebook page. It will not be the real you but, what's probably now the trend, the VR you (you in virtual reality).

How about RCTP? Are we giving a genuine portrayal of our club or who we are? Are we making good use of this Rotary platform to let others know of our deeds? Or are we giving just a façade of harmony and solidarity? If we do not learn from what's gone before, or what presently is the reality, we shall each be living in each one's VR when members' thoughts and directions may not be ad idem. Is that good? I doubt it very much; but some people do like reveling in VR. Adieu!



Peter Lam



Rotary Information

Youth service has always been our club's focus. Let us look at this rather creative youth service by a young Rotarian in the US. This may also be a good idea for our Rotaractors to get inspiration for their services...

This hero's superpower is kindness

He does not leap tall buildings, nor does he scale them with spider webs or respond to bat signals. What he does is far more challenging. He fights bullies, and he does it with a special superpower: *kindness*.

Nicholas Domingo, 25, of the Rotary Club of Twain Harte, Calif., developed his negativity-fighting alter ego, Captain Encouragement, to help young people build self-esteem and break the cycle of violent behavior. Captain Encouragement hopes to take his message to schools and libraries across the United States, with the goal of changing the world "one smile at a time." Domingo grew up in a town of 64 people in Missouri where he became the target of bullies at school. They picked on him for his weight, his teeth, his acne. His anger drove him to get back at the people who were picking on him. "I did, in a way, become the thing I had despised so much," he says. "But bullying bullies still makes you a bully. Being hateful doesn't have a positive outcome regardless of any form of justification."

Domingo channeled his negative energy into contact sports, training to become a semipro football player. At one point, he took up fighting, even competing in a cage match. However, after suffering a brain hemorrhage while weightlifting, he had to consider a new direction. Eventually he became an actor, working in Las Vegas and Los Angeles, including as an extra as a superhero on two TV programs. Within an industry often brutally focused on image, Domingo discovered that many of the talented people around him did not have a strong sense of self-worth. The simple act of paying them a compliment appeared to have a powerful effect.

Those small acts of kindness were Domingo's radioactive spider. The idea for a superhero who solves problems with positivity began to take hold. Domingo, who now works in a day program for adults with special needs, first donned the Captain Encouragement costume in March 2015. While superheroes are universally seen as role models, "paradoxically, they're solving all their problems with violence," Domingo says. But Captain Encouragement teaches kids "that real superheroes don't have to use violence at all and that bad guys come from a really bad place internally, so they're projecting their own pain," he says. "So what we need to do is treat them with kindness and compassion."

During a Captain Encouragement school program, kids go through superhero training, learning important skills such as flying form and smile attacks. Then the bad guy "Rejector" bursts through the door and has a battle scene with Captain Encouragement. "He swings at me, and I tell him to have a great day, and he looks like he's been hit with kindness, and I say, 'You're beautiful!' and he's like, 'No!'" Domingo says. Then the kids shout friendly statements and compliments at Rejector, who is rendered powerless. "They want that action, they want to be the superhero, but it's a way for them to do so with something they can carry on possibly through life," Domingo says.

Mark Dyken, director of the Jamestown, Calif., Family Resource Center and after-school programs through the Jamestown School District, has worked with Domingo to bring the Captain Encouragement program to the district's two elementary schools, and the kids go crazy for it every time. "You combine someone who has creativity, a really big heart, is very intelligent and articulate – and it doesn't hurt his cause that he is movie-star good looking – and puts all of that in a package and uses it in a really good way," Dyken says.

To understand Domingo's influence, just ask his supervillain colleague (and friend), "Rejector," aka Michael Miller. They met at a music festival where they were volunteering – that day, Domingo asked Miller if he would play Rejector at the festival. Miller, who also became co-author of a Captain Encouragement comic, says kids respond to the message of being kind to one another. "At our events, there's always at least one kid that will stay longer than anyone else to ask all sorts of questions about how to use any superpowers, how to be kind," Miller says. "There are still kids mailing us pictures and writing us emails about how they're using their abilities for good. It's really great."

The Captain Encouragement comic was developed to keep the message going beyond the in-person event. Along with the title hero, it features activities for kids and storylines featuring heroes from the nonprofit world, including "Super Rotarian" Jack Warnack, a member of the Twain Harte club who died this year at age 101.

Domingo learned of Rotary after meeting Terry Northcutt, president of the Twain Harte club, on a Habitat for Humanity project. Northcutt brought Domingo to a club meeting, where he presented the Captain Encouragement idea. "Everybody's been working, grooming, critiquing, and helping him get his program going in the right direction, and his association with Rotary has just been incredible, because all the clubs love him," Northcutt says. That outpouring of support led to Domingo joining the club.

The club helped Domingo set up 501(c)(3) nonprofit status and develop a business plan, and they are working on getting the program "to a point where [Domingo] starts visiting all the schools and trying to reach out to as many young people as he possibly can," Northcutt says. "When you think about it, basically everything [Domingo is] trying to do is the epitome of The Four-Way Test," Northcutt says. "And for a young man to have gone through what he has and change his direction, to want to go out and do what he's doing, is absolutely amazing. We're doing anything we can to try and help get him there."



Rotary Foundation Centennial Information Page PP Peter Lam



In our previous articles, we have covered the Rotary Foundation “timeline” major development highlight as well as four AREAS OF FOCUS. As our Foundation involves huge amount of funds, I believe we are all interested to know more about some financial matters. Let’s take a look here! (Based on 2014-15 RI TRF Annual Report figures)

How Funds flow into Rotary

As a membership organization, dues are the primary source of revenue for Rotary International. In 2014-15, the total number of Rotarians grew by approximately 20,000, or nearly 2% compared to the year before. This change, coupled with an additional dues increase of US\$1, resulted in dues revenue increase of US\$2 million.

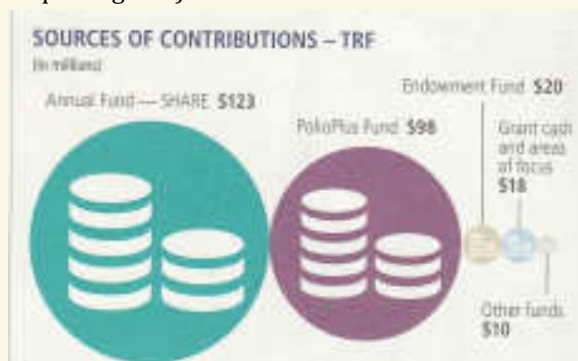
From contributions collected at Rotary club meetings to million-dollar donations from Major Donors, gifts from Rotary members to The Rotary Foundation support the Foundation’s mission. In 2014-15, Rotarians exceeded the Annual Fund goal by raising US\$123 million. They also contributed US\$29 million to the PolioPlus Fund and enabled the

Foundations to continue its partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which together raised US\$89 million for polio eradication efforts. This commitment to grow the Endowment Fund, funds to be held in perpetuity, included US\$20 million in contributions. Investment earnings from the Endowment Fund are used each year to support the Foundation’s long-term mission.

Our Foundation is uniquely structured to weather global economic challenges. The Annual Fund operates on a three-year cycle, which allows time for clubs and districts to work together, exchange grant project ideas, and provide District Designated Funds (DDF) for district and global grants. The investment earnings from the Annual Fund are generally sufficient to support most of our fund development and general administrative expenses. When investment markets aren’t performing well, the Foundation has a reserve fund, developed from previous years’ investment earnings, to ensure its work continues uninterrupted.

How Rotary funds are used

Rotary International’s operating expenses are funded principally by dues and supplemented by net investment returns. The generous support of Rotarians and friends of Rotary enables The Rotary Foundation to provide life-changing and sustainable projects. Foundation program awards were 84% of total expenses, while program operations were 8% of total expenses. This means 92% of the Foundation’s expenses directly supported our mission-critical programs and grants.



HOW DOES ROTARY SPEND MY DUES?



THE ROTARY FOUNDATION'S EXPENDITURES GO TO . . .

(in millions)



Operation Santa Claus – Lamma Enduro

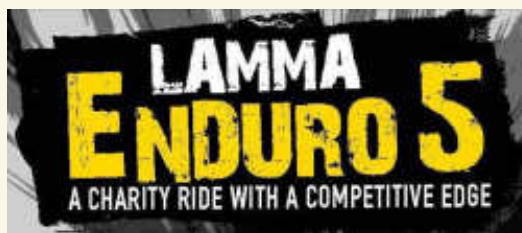
Minghay Yu

Sweat was dripping from my forehead as I got off the ferry on Lamma Island. It was a particularly hot day for early December. As we walked out the ferry terminal, the foreign locals were lined up and warmly received us and guided us to the starting point of the race.

We were, on that day, not the only participants as the organizers of the Operation Santa Claus had two other major fundraising events on the same day as well.

Ride to raise fund

The spirit of giving is growing from strength to strength at Operation Santa Claus (OSC). The charity drive, jointly organized by the South China Morning Post and Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), identifies the changing needs in the community, explains them to the public and channels help to where it is needed at Christmas.



Lamma Island is known to have one of the best mountain bike trails in Hong Kong and many international organizations have used this location to host various action/adventure competitions including the best known ACTION-ASIA race. Unfortunately the spirit of organizing events came to an end as many local Lamma villagers complained about the nuisance that came with all these big races; and since 2010 no major events have taken place. Until 2016, on social media the organizers posted a notice three weeks beforehand and almost 150 riders signed up to ride for charity.

Lamma Enduro race

The character of the race is to do as many as possible laps in the given time of 180 minutes. Each lap is 4 km long and the ascents were short and extremely steep and so were the descents. These have made the race extremely technical and challenging.

As result, I counted 7 laps in 3 hours and the winner of the race did 10! Bravo!



18 days in Italy

Louis Tang

Margie and I had wonderful time in Italy in our 18-days 16-night holiday in October with my good friends. This trip was so good that I have a growing desire to retire early and start travelling. This was the first time I had been in Italy and thus the whole trip was planned by my friends. Throughout the whole journey I had good food, wines and companions.

We spent the whole time in North Italy, travelling the cities/towns in this order: Turino, GranParadiso National Park, Aosta Courmayeur, Stresa Lake Maggiore, Bergamo, Brescia, Sirmione, Bolzano, Cortina d'Ampezzo, Venice, Padova, Ravenna, Bologna, Lucca, San Gimignano, Orvieto and Sardinia. We changed hotels nearly every day but it was good fun because we did not need to handle any luggage.

I was amazed by the well preserved scenery in Italy and the fact that food is all of high quality, as well as wines which are value for money. A bottle of wine costing 3 Euro is very drinkable. I am sure that I will repeat my trips to Italy like what I had done with Japan. Set out below is what I saw during the journey.

Turino –Capital of Piedmont Region

A city surrounded by the W Alpine arch and has rich culture and history. It is known for its numerous art galleries, restaurants, churches, palaces, opera houses, piazzas, parks, gardens, theatres, libraries, museums and other venues. It is well known for its renaissance, baroque, rococo, neo-classical, and art nouveau architecture and is the home of Juventus F.C. Landmarks are: [Museum Palazzo Carignano](#)¹ (Museum of the Risorgimento). I seemed to have gone back to the history and experienced what an ancient Italian enjoyed when I sat down to drink a cup of Irish coffee.



Gran Paradiso National Park and Aosta Courmayeur



Gran Paradiso National Park in the Graian Alps in NW Italy, 703 square km of alpine terrain of which 26.5% is wooded / agriculture / pasture and remaining 73.5% is uncultivated / sterile / glaciers. Altitude is between 800-4,061 meters:

same horizon as Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn which can be seen clearly from its summit. When I looked at the tip of these two mountains I had a feeling that they were only an arm's length away because the sky was so clear.

We went to the high altitude of Mont Blanc massif using the Skyway Monte Bianco, which costs 110m euros and is the most expensive cable car. It was the first time I had been in a cable car which rotates when it is moving and gives me a 360 degree perspective of the scenery.

Stresa Lake Maggiore - In the Piedmont Region

This lake was used to be controlled by the Borromeo family and has been a popular retreat for Europe's aristocrats, who have endowed the town with a number of villas, for centuries. It is famous for its Lake Maggiore which is 2nd largest in Italy and the 2nd largest in southern Switzerland. Its landmark, the Borromean Islands, which comprise a group of three small islands, namely Isola Madre, the largest and famous for its gardens and the 16th-19th century Italian masterpieces and paintings, [Isola Bella](#)² and [Isola Dei Pescatori](#)³, and two islets in the Italian part of Lago Maggiore. I could feel how splendid the Borromeo families were in the old days.



Bergamo – Lombardy Region

NW of Milan. Its older upper district, called Città Alta, is characterized by cobblestone streets, encircled by Venetian walls and has been the heart of political power for centuries and meeting point for friends. The most famous landmarks is [Piazza Vecchia](#)⁴. I felt the peace and comfort when I took a rest in a café.



Brescia

Process a history of over 3,200 years and preserved Roman public buildings and numerous monuments, such as Castello di Brescia, which reflects the whole history of Brescia since Bronze Age in the 9th BC, the renaissance Piazza della Loggie, a rectangular square circled by Venetian buildings, Piazza Paolo Square, and Tempio Capitolino, which is the core of ancient Roman Brixia. I had a feeling that I had gone back to the history.



Sirmione



Beautiful "sights" on Lake Garda formed in the Ice Age, the largest

lake in N Italy and attracting thousands of visitors every day to view the picturesque peninsula. Landmarks are: Rocca Scaligera (a defensive network surrounding Verona), Verona (it is famous for the monument [Statue of Juliet](#)⁵ in memory of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet". Per the legend touching the breast of Juliet would bring good fortune to unlucky lovers. I did not do it because Margie and I are not in this group, and [Verona Arena](#)⁶, a huge 1st-century Roman Amphitheatre which concerts and large-scale opera performances take place.

Bolzano in South Tyrol Province

In a valley amid hilly vineyards. Famous tourist spots are: Castel Roncolo (a medieval fortification and a symbol for the Romantic period), Piazza Walther Square, (an old town and known for the monument of the great poet and bard Walther von der Vogelweide), Lake Carezza ("Rainbow Lake") and Duomo di Bolzano (a gem of Romanesque and Gothic architecture). I had good wines in this city.



Cortina d'Ampezzo in Southern Alps

It is famous for its [Lago di Sorapis](#)⁷ (1925m above sea level) and Lake Misurina (the largest natural lake of the Cadore, 1,754m above sea level). Several films have been shot in the town, most notably *The Pink Panther* (1963), and *For Your Eyes Only* (1981).



Venice



Venice is a well known city and contains many famous landmarks and tourist spots, such as [Piazza San Marco](#)⁸, [The Bridge of Sighs](#)⁹ (connects the New Prison to the interrogation rooms in the Doge's Palace. A local legend says that lovers will be granted eternal love and bliss if they kiss at sunset under the Bridge. Margie and I did not do it because we are shy) and [Burano Island](#)¹⁰ (in the Venetian Lagoon and is famous for its lace work and brightly colored home).

Padova on Bacchiqlione River West of Venice

It is picturesque, with a dense network of arcaded streets opening into large communal piazza and landmarks are The Basilica of Saint Anthony (one of the eight Roman Catholic international shrines recognized as a place of pilgrimage by people from all over the world), and Palazzo della Ragione (a medieval town hall building).



Ravenna in Emilia Romagna

Famous for its colorful mosaics adorning many of its central buildings and churches, all inscribed on the UNESCO world Heritage, such as The Basilica of Saint' Apollinare (basilica church of Mosaics) in Byzantine style with fusion between the western and eastern styles, The Basilica of San Vitale (one example of early Christian Byzantine art and architecture in Europe and The Mausoleum of Galla Placidia (Roman building), and The Baptistery of Neon (a religious octagonal brick structure building). We had seen the best mosaics in the world in this city.



Bologna –historic capital of Emilia Romagna Region



Its Piazza Maggiore is a sprawling plaza lined with arched colonnades, cafes and medieval and Renaissance buildings and was a principal center of Baroque music. It is famous for Tower of the [Asinelli & Garisenda](#)¹¹. The height of the tower reflects the power symbols of the richest families.

Lucca –in Tuscany Region

Well known for the well-preserved Renaissance walls and cobblestone streets. Famous spots are: Lucca Cathedral (a Roman Catholic cathedral rebuilt in the Gothic style in the 14th century) and [Piazza dell'Anfiteatro](#)¹² (a town entertainment center to represent Lucca). I tried very good Italian wines in this city.



San Gimignano in the Province of Siena in Tuscany Region



Known as the Town of Fine Towers in medieval gothic architecture, such as [Piazza del Duomo](#)¹³, Piazza della Cisterna. The Palazzo ("hanging garden" and best Italianate garden), Pienza (known as "touchstone of Renaissance urbanism") and Pienza Cathedral.

Orvieto in Province of Terri



Umbria on the flat summit of a large butte of steep bluff of impregnable volcanic tuff. It was a major center of

Etruscan civilization annexed by Rome in the 3rd century BC. Famous spots are: [Etruscans Grotta](#)¹⁴, which was built in the course of about 2,500 years by the Etruscans who set up an advanced system of underground hydraulic architecture until Etruscan cities were formally absorbed by Rome around 100 BC, and [Civitavecchia](#)¹⁵ a town and commune of the Metropolitan City of Rome in the central Italian region of Lazio.

Sardinia

Sardinia is the 2nd largest island of Italy and is famous for a few tourist spots, namely [Olbia](#)¹⁶ at its NE (very ancient and was possibly founded by Punics, known for the medieval San Simplicio basilica and cafes dotting central squares like Piazza Matteotti) overseeing the Gulf of Olbia), [Costa Smeralda](#)¹⁷ at its N (famous for its most expensive resort for celebrities, business leaders, and other affluent visitors), [Alghero](#)¹⁸ at its NW (Encircled by ancient walls, Catalan Gothic buildings, famous bell tower, colourful tiled dome and red coral display), Neptune's Grotto (a stalactite cave and has military importance at its NW coast), [Barumini](#)¹⁹ (is a commune in the Province of Medio Campidano), Su Nuraxi (a Nuraghe complex listed in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 1997 and circular defensive towers structure in the Bronze Age). Sardinia gave a strong impression that we were in Greece, which is also a Mediterranean country. The resort hotel and food look very much the same.



2016-17 Project GEN - Y Other Learning Experience – Drug Fighter Elite Scheme

Roger So

This project was organized by the Police Community Relations Unit of the Tai Po Police District and co-organised by the Rotary Club of Tai Po. Participants are selected Form 4 to 6 students from 4 short-listed secondary schools in the Tai Po District and the Northern District. The purpose is to let the participants know of the likely consequence of committing a drug-related crime so as to strengthen their civic sense of a law-abiding citizen and to say “NO” to drugs. This programme comprises 4 phases: a mock arrest action; a legal workshop and dialogue with lawyers; a mock trial and a visit to correctional facilities.

Phase 1 was conducted by the Tai Po Police District. The Phase 2 Legal Workshop was held on 19 Nov 2016 at the Wong Shiu Chi Secondary School in Tai Po (王肇之中學). PDG Anthony and I attended this event on behalf of our club. After PDG Anthony gave the welcome remarks, I gave an overview of Hong Kong Legal System and the Criminal Law. Afterwards I exchanged flags with the Tai Po Police District.



Flag exchange with the Tai Po Police District.

In the afternoon I gave a brief training to the students of Ling Liang Church M H Lau Secondary School (靈糧堂劉梅軒中學), which is one of the participating schools of the Interact Club of Tai Po Schools. They took up different roles in the coming mock trial of a drug trafficking case and I went through the case materials with them. They were all enthusiastic and raised a number of interesting questions. In the coming two to three months I will help coach them to represent the Defence Team to defend their case.



Group Photo with the students from LLC M H Lau Secondary School.



Going through the case materials with the students.

Beijing And I Part Two

Charles Chan

On the personal side for this trip to Beijing, I met my uncle and a few cousins and their family members which I had never seen before. Hearing what they had endured during those difficult years and seeing what they owned and how they were living, made me appreciate how lucky I had been from the materialistic perspective. However, after deeper conversation with the younger generation (my age group at the time) in Beijing, I did sense great enthusiasm and a strong belief from the locals that China was starting to change for the better. The most significant of all was the ability for their children to receive a proper education without the concern of their family background. I liked the vibe and the seed was planted on my ultimate return to Hong Kong/China.

At the dinner that I hosted, almost 30 showed up with many cousins and their family members that I had not met before. My uncle did the ordering and I was amazed by the amount of food that were ordered and I thought there must be some very hungry young persons. However, at meal time, some of the food were barely touched. Only at the end, I found out perhaps the real reason behind all these when each family took out the plastic bags they had with them. The leftover food was divided and nothing was wasted. My uncle sounded apologetic by saying that they didn't want to waste any food. He was quite relieved when I told him doggy bag was quite an acceptable practice in USA and we always took our leftover home even when we did not have a dog. This was a great contrast to the recent banquets I attended in Beijing when massive amount of food was thrown away.



Our hotel Room

The next time I visited Beijing was in 1982 right before Christmas. It was cold. Infrastructure within the city was somewhat improved but still quite rudimentary. Clara was with me this time and we stayed at 北京饭店 again. The red hot-water bottle was gone and we had a proper toilet and toilet papers. We moved hotel after a few days to be closer to the venue where we would be spending our next two weeks. I couldn't remember the name of the hotel. It was an old style one with all old and might be antique furniture that offered little modern day comfort. The improved toilet facility unfortunately was only limited to very few places in town and quite tough for Clara although she was pre-warned before our trip.

I had left Boise Cascade by then and was the VP Global Sales of TMB Corporation. I was attending the first ever International Packaging Exhibition organized by China International Exhibition (CIE) held in Beijing.

TMB was an integrated Engineering firm providing turned key manufacturing lines or full scale factory to developing and third world countries. We were riding on the band wagon of a new packaging innovation. For years since the days of Napoleon, food and beverage were packed in three-piece soldered cans (the top, the bottom and the body soldered by lead along the seam). Lead is known to be carcinogen under the very high temperature needed for the retort and hot filling process. It was to be replaced by the safe three-piece welded can or the two-piece aluminum can. Composite Can made of foil laminates etc. was another darling of the industry when it was found that it could hold vacuum for a reasonable amount of time. That made nitrogen flush and certain hot fill process possible.

Many new products were developed. Perhaps the most significant one was the Pringle Potato chips made by Proctor and Gamble. TMB's concept was quite simple, we unitized all components of the production line on "2 X 4" steel I-beams and pre-piped all utilities long the beam (electricity, gas, air etc.) and each component would be loaded onto a 40ft container. For example, a forty million cans a year production line would make up of

approximately "40" forty foot containers; a specially set up Quality Assurance laboratory inside a converted container as well as a container full of essential spare parts for one full year. All the buyer needed to do was to provide factory space with proper loading factor, surface finishing and all the required utilities. We could set up a fully functional operating line within three months by reconnecting the components and the I-beams. To complete the turnkey project, we signed separate contracts to provide management, training, technical support etc.... and whatever the customer needed.

We were invited by 中国包装总公司 to the show to present our concept and the technology involved. China was still very much under planned economy and our host would make the decision on who gets what on new equipment and technology from overseas. The negotiation was not so much on making the sales but rather on how to get paid and to satisfy the insatiable requests on technology transfer, on shore and off shore training and overseas visits by the decision makers to see operating plants. We sold our first line to 长沙 after the show. We were quite shocked when we asked the plant manager for the specific of their key customers so that we could customise the project and was told they were not sure. They would do the marketing after they received the line. I was learning about what planned economy was about.



Taken outside factory with my boss and colleagues, pictures inside not allowed.

It was a very productive exhibition for the exhibitors who were mainly from USA, Europe (lots of Italians and Germans), Taiwan and Japan. The exhibitors signed many contracts at the show but I was not sure how many of the deals ended up making money for the exhibitor or truly needed by the customer.

An interesting observation at the time was that majority of the attendees were technical personnel (engineers, R & D, students, professors etc. ...) and proportionally fewer true end users. Our engineers spent a lot of time holding lectures, answering technical questions and tried to determine what questions would be too sensitive to respond. When I looked back now, that must be the early day Chinese style R & D (Repeat and Duplicate) in play. On our trip back, my technical director asked me if these people were trying to make their own line! I told him all he needed to worry about should be continuous innovation and the customer would never catch up. After thirty years, I truly appreciate and happy that I grossly underestimated the ability and resolve of the Chinese people.



No tourist and No graffiti!

Clara and I visited the great wall, the Forbidden City and a few other attractions in town. They were not as commercialized and one could still find a degree of trueness in seeing something original and historically significant. It must be a luxury to visit these places as very few people were at these popular sites, another big contrast to nowadays. Unfortunately, the weather was not accommodating: cold, damp and the polluted air that smelled of burning coal was terrible. In my recollection, it was a lot worse than today's Beijing.

My life changed dramatically the following year. In 1983, I was recruited to become the CEO Asia (including Japan and China) of Fort Howard Paper Company, a fortune 100 company which was at the time the world's largest disposable food service product provider to the fast food industry. Amongst its customers, it was the sole global supplier to McDonalds for its disposable product needs. Fast food was just starting in Asia. Fort Howard also had a significant share of the edible fat and dairy food packaging market. Its disposable products were traded under the Sweetheart name and few others. I moved back to Hong Kong in late 1983 where the Asian Headquarter was located. Clara and the three children followed in 1984.

A new chapter also began for my association with Beijing.

(To be continued)

3rd Interact Carnival 2016 Interact Club of Tai Po Schools

The Interact Carnival was successfully held on 5th November at Kwong Fuk Estate Platform. Around 50 students from 9 participating schools contributed themselves to the carnival through taking up different roles, from backstage crew to organizing the game booths and performing on the stage. With students serving eagerly to bring fun and joy to the residents in Kwong Fuk Estate, over 600 people of all ages enjoyed the games, shows and food in a loving and relaxing atmosphere. They did not only have fun but also learnt about environmental protection.



The highlight of the carnival lies on the opening ceremony, in which students shined brightly with their talents: from singing, magic performance to juggling. Through their vivid and incredible performance, the whole carnival came to life. With the enlightening speeches by our honorable guests, the carnival is made more meaningful and enjoyable!

Alan Wen Wei Yeh (President of Interact Club of Tai Po Schools)

I'm really grateful to participate in the carnival and witness the success of it as this is an enormous effort by all our members from different schools. I must give thanks to all the Interactors and volunteers for their devotion in preparation and in the carnival. Thinking back, there were quite a lot of difficulties during the process of preparation, and it took us a lot of time and effort to deal with them. For example, we needed to re-schedule everything due to different problems. Also, we decided not to purchase new uniforms for the helpers for the sake of environment protection. All these changes were challenges to our organizing committee, but we did not give up. Instead, we worked hand in hand, considering every challenge as the opportunity to grow. At the end, all of us have gained a better understanding in environmental protection and we become more flexible and experienced in organizing such large-scale event. I hope the next committee of the Interact Club of Tai Po Schools can continue our spirit to contribute to the society.



Lam Yin Wang (Vice-President of Interact Club of Tai Po Schools)

I learnt a lot from the carnival and my horizons are broadened greatly.

Firstly, I learnt how to organize an event with skills and patience. As the Interact Club of Tai Po Schools consists of different schools in Tai Po, collaboration takes a longer time. Also, we needed to think from different aspects when we organize such a large-scale event, both skills and patience are important.

Secondly, I realized the importance of teamwork through this event as the preparation involved cooperation between different schools. Our committee members took up different roles and we worked closely to achieve our goal. We learnt from each other during the whole process. It's a valuable experience for me



Interact Club of TTCA Installation Ceremony

Peter Lam

Our first Interact Club, Interact Club of Tsung Tsin Christian Academy (TTCA) 基督教崇真中學扶輪青少年服務團 installation ceremony for the new school year 2016/17 was held on Monday 28th November 4:30 p.m. at the school Auditorium. The event was well attended by President William Yim, Youth Chair PP Jacky Sung, Deputy Youth Chair Wilson Woo, advisor PP Peter Lam, PP Claire Mak and Caren Chan. We were welcomed by our familiar faces from school, Principal Jenny Kwan, Vice Principal Andra Ng, teacher advisors Ms. Kwok, Wong Sir and 2015/16 President Samuel Chiu. PP Jacky and Wilson presented the certificates to the 2015/16 club officers and President William helped installed Kari Fung as the new President.



After the ceremony with remarks by Principal Kwan, President William, Interactors Samuel and Kari, and photo sessions, Rotarians briefly talked with the Interactors as well as the faculty and exchanged ideas. It was brought to our attention that next year 2017 will be the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the club so we should celebrate and perhaps invite TTCA founding Principal Joshua Yau who was our former member to attend any celebration event.



Rotary Club of Tai Po Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting on 5 December 2016 was convened by VP Patrick before Pres William arrived mid-way. The AGM started with Treasurer Louis's report and adoption of the Financial Statements. Then President William reported on club matters for the past 5 months.



After that, PDG Anthony took over the conduct of the meeting to ensure that election of the Board of Directors is duly undertaken. At the election, it was confirmed that for Rotary year 2017-18:

- Roger So will be Club President
- Patrick Fong as Club President – Elect
- Dorothy Chan as Club Secretary



The following members are elected:

- Dorothy Chan as Club Vice President
- Wilson Woo as Club Secretary - Elect
- Louis Tang as Treasurer



Directors 2017-18

- Wilson Lam
- Frankie Wu
- Dennis Lo
- Sally Luk
- KF Tam
- Minghay Yu



UnSilent Night Theme Night by Team 2

10 December 2016, Saturday

Claire Mak

Team 2 promoted the Christmas Party at New Life Social Enterprise Restaurant with the following promises:

- A very decent 5-course Sit-down dinner
- Singing and Dancing – with Dance Floor and Band
- Games to involve all participants
- Lovely Christmas gifts for all
- Santa Claus to give out presents and
- Photo Opportunities with special photo backdrop

And indeed, these and a lot more were what the 110 participants got on 10th December 2016! Hurray!!

Fellowship

RCTP is known for hosting fun parties. This time, the Party has kind of extended beyond our own club as there were more guests from the District than our own members. Nevertheless, the guests and youth team members integrate well with us and the friendliness and fellowship permeate all faculties.



Game 1 [Happy Noisy Selfie]

Each team used their best endeavour to portray the theme “unsilent” as they took selfies of themselves. Their innovation delighted most and CP Donald had had a hard time being the judge and having to give comments before presenting each team with their well-deserved super prize!



Team 1



Team 2



Team 3



Team 4

Game 2 [Sing a Long]

To enhance the Christmas ambience, each team sang a Christmas song back-to-back. Glad tidings we bring !

Team 1 - Last Christmas



Team 4 - Santa Claus is Coming to Town



Team 3 - Jingle Bells



Team 2 - We Wish You a Merry Christmas



The Band, The Singing and The Dancing

The **Free Way Trio** is the Band who had given us the almost non-stop live music on the day: whether it is the light background music, the fan-fare, the up-beat dance songs or the wooing Christmas songs. They did spike up the atmosphere. The Rotary singers also did us proud as well. We have the good ones singing like HW, Vikky and friends, Francis, Menza ...Wow



And of course the dancing! We cheered dancers from a wide spectrum: from PDG Jones to Interactor Marco; from Rotary presidents to Rotaract President and their members ...



Yummy 5-course Sit-down dinner

- Appetizer- Lobster with Mango & Avocado in Lime Yogurt Dressing
- Soup - Pumpkin Soup with Crab Meat
- Main Course 1 - Roast Spanish Style Suckling Pig in Apricot Sauce
- Main-course 2 - Pan-fried Barramundi Fillet with Potato Fondant and Wild Mushroom Persillade
- Dessert - Christmas Lave Cheese Cake with Cinnamon Ice Cream



Beverage:

- Coffee/Tea
- Unlimited soft drinks
- Red/white wines
- Whiskey

Ho! Ho! Ho! Gifts to all by Santa

A Christmas party cannot go by without presents or the chubby fellow-in-red who gave them out. Kids got their designated presents. The rest of us received the lovely useful ones handed out by Santa Claus whom no one seems to recognize who exactly personified him – other than “Mrs. Santa” Lancy! Anyway, this gave yet another good photo opportunity.



Thank you and Merry Christmas!

If you like the venue and the food, and appreciate the nice decorations on the table, you have to thank Tina and PP Raymond Au (RC Kowloon East) and their team from New Life Enterprise for putting in the extra effort. If you like the poster, backdrops, the signage and what not, give a big hand to Ming-hay and Laura on beautifying the venue.

If you have intoxicated yourself with the booze, do thank Sasha for sponsoring the red and white wines and also PP Frankie and President William for bringing the extras; and VP Patrick the whiskey from India. Yeah!

If you are happy with the arrangements and like the Christmas Party which had kept you unsilent, you have got Team 2 to thank and they are: Team Leader Vikky leading Ron, Tsubaki, Dorothy, Jason, Sasha and Claire. Merry Christmas everyone!



Regular meetings

14th November 2016



IPP Vikky Tam gave us a thorough briefing about all the TRF Centennial Celebrations in Hong Kong.



President William introduced guest speaker Mr. Instant Wan.



Mr. Instant Wan shared his own experience about tenacity and innovation when he spoke to us, not about his hit project Freeing Hong Kong but "The World Beyond borders-tapping on one's potential".



In his Vote of Thanks, Wilson Woo praised Instant Wan for his tenacity in pursuing his goals: a quality we all should strive to develop.



The pen given out by PP Jacky was won by PP Dennis.



The talk attracted the attendance of a few familiar guests, including, (from left 2, 3 & 4 of left photo) Mr. Peter Chan and friend Ruby, Mr. Marco Ho and (first right on right photo) Mr. Leo Lam.

21st November 2016 Club Assembly



President William reported on recent club matters, including Area 6 project which we have not sent participant.



PP Frankie asked Pres. William what he was going to do with PP Man's resignation.

21st November 2016 Club Assembly

Bebe emerged the winner of a "peace" cake which KF had bought for the raffle draw.



PP Dennis updated us on the current membership increase status: with 3 potential members in the pipeline.



Louis reported that RCTP currently comes 2nd in TRF contribution in the District. However, the application for Global Grant for the joint project with RCMSL "Dream to Dance" has been turned down.

28th November 2016



Benjamin Wong explained means to tackle tricky situations when he discussed with us the "Effective Talent Engagement for High Performing Enterprises."



PE Roger delivered a rather lengthy Vote of Thanks.



PP Vincent Ng promoted the meaningful "The One" Award and urged members to submit nominations to give silent heroes their due recognition.



The luxurious bath wash/lotion set personally selected by PP Peter was won by PP Jacky.

We In November
missed you

Sasha Chu
Ronald Chung



Pearl Dang
Jason Lo
On Leave

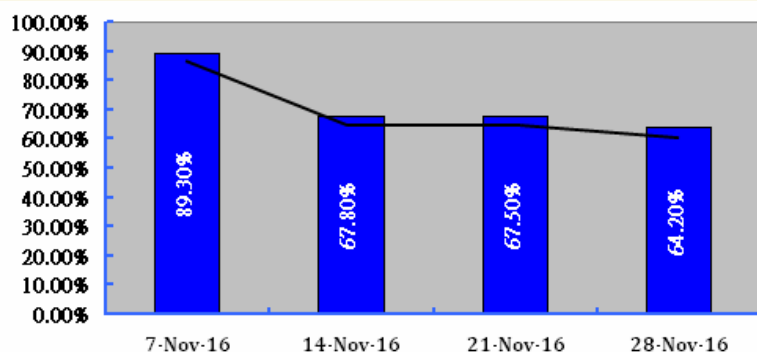
Withdrawal of
membership
Man Mo Leung

A November
Attendance

CAREN CHAN,
PATRICK FONG,
ANTHONY HUNG,
NATALIE KWOK,
PETER LAM,
DENNIS LO,
CLAIRE MAK,
ROGER SO,
LOUIS TANG,
ADA WU,
FRANKIE WU,
WILLIAM YIM



Average attendance: 72.2%



Editorial Team

Chief editor

Claire Mak

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

Tai Post wants to hear from you.

Write in to

claire.rctaipo@gmail.com

The editorial board

Peter Lam

Minghay Yu

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



Up coming events

Day	Time	Event	Venue
7 JAN (SAT)	2:00 p.m.	District New Member Orientation Costs: HK\$200	King Ludwig Beerhall, 8 Kingston Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
9 JAN (MON)	7:00 p.m.	Speaker: Mr. Sam Kuk, Director of Arsenal Consulting Topic: Computer & Internet Safety	Fincher Room, KCC, 10 Cox's Road, Jordan, Kowloon
9-14 JAN (MON to SAT)	11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	District TRF Centennial Celebration Exhibition	Rotunda, One Exchange Square, Central
14 JAN (SAT)	3:00 p.m.	Star Reaching Project 2017 〔港呢啲〕 Visit	Tai Po
15 JAN (SUN)	10:00 a.m.	7th HK Bowling Tournament for All cum 6th HK Blind Bowling Tournament	South China Athletic Association Bowling Centre, 88 Caroline Hill Road, Causeway Bay, HK
16 JAN (MON)	7:00 p.m.	Speaker: Ms. Lily Chung Lai-Tuen, ICAC Community Relations Department, Regional Officer, N.T. Topic: Work of ICAC and Recent Corruption Trend	Fincher Room, KCC, 10 Cox's Road, Jordan, Kowloon
17 JAN (TUE)	12:30 p.m.	District Vocational Seminar 2017 Speaker: Dr. Ko Wing Man Topic: Future Development / Directions of the Health Care System in Hong Kong	Centenary Rooms, Marco Polo Hong Kong Hotel



If you want 2017 to be your year;

Don't sit on the couch and wait for it. Go out. Make a change.
Smile more. Be excited. Do new things. Throw away what you've been cluttering. Unfollow negative people on social media. Go to bed early.
Wake up early. Be fierce.
Don't gossip. Show more gratitude.
Do things that challenge you.
Be brave.

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2017

