

William Yim



President's Message

I love to celebrate Winter Solstice when families take rest on this day, and enjoy the harvest after non-stop labour in the year. Also, I surely love Christmas. It was awesome to celebrate this great day in numerous parties. Apart from the Christmas Parties organized by my company and family, I have attended a few wonderful parties by different Rotary clubs.

Our Rotary work wouldn't be stopped even the New Year was coming. I joined the Rotary-JCIHK Networking Fellowship and Service Collaboration at an outdoor area of German Restaurant. Junior Chamber International Hong Kong (JCIHK) is keen to collaborate with Rotary Clubs on service projects in the areas of "POP": Peace, Organ Donation and Poverty Alleviation. I greeted numerous young, energetic Presidents from different JCI clubs. They welcome Rotary to join hands with them. Also, I took this opportunity to promote Rotary and hopefully JCI members would become Rotarians someday. Coincidentally I met my long lost friend Phyllis, the Executive Director of JCI, in the event! We have lost contact for 25 years!

PDG Kenneth, VP Patrick and I met with the Vice Principal and teachers from NTHYK Tai Po District Secondary School and social workers from the Salvation Army at KCC on 29 Dec. It was confirmed that the Exchange Tour of "Strive for the Summit Project" will be held on 8-10 May. Please mark your calendar for this important community service event. You don't want to miss it.

I was totally surprised when Community Investment and Inclusion Fund informed me that our club was awarded Social Capital Builder Logo Awards 2016! It accords recognition to individuals and organizations which have contributed to the development of social capital in Hong Kong since 2012. Our long-term service partner, Hong Kong

Children & Youth Services, nominated our club because of our tremendous effort in "Step Up Infinity" and "Star Reaching" projects since 1990s! It was indeed an honor to be nominated for this award! It is



something we should be proud of! Thank you to the PPs, Community Service Chairs and RC Tai Po Members for your contribution. Let's keep it up!

Not less to be mentioned is the 6th HK Blind Bowling Tournament on 15 Jan. We have 4 teams this year: RC Tai Po, two from RACs, and one from my company. We hoped to encourage the visually impaired persons to have more involvement in the community and sport events. Besides, it was an excellent chance to build up team spirit of our club. We all did our best. It was not a matter of victory or defeat. Fun was the only thing we cared.

It was the RC Tai Po Family Reunion Dinner on 16 Jan. Ms. Lily Chung from ICAC talked about the latest trend of corruption status in Hong Kong to us. It was an interesting topic. The club had prepared little seasonal gifts to celebrate the CNY. Members were happy to select their favourite Fai Chun. Rtn. Wilson Woo prepared a funny game for us and we really enjoyed. The winners were awarded CNY blessing couplets. Of course we took a lot of photos for this joyful moment.

Lastly, RC Tai Po joined the District Vocational Seminar 2017 on 17 Jan. Dr. Ko Wing Man BBS JP, the Secretary for Food and Health, shared his insight of the future development of the health care system in Hong Kong. His words were inspiring indeed.

This is the last issue of Tai Post in the year of the Monkey. I wish all of you a prosperous year of the Rooster!

TRF Centennial Celebration Exhibition was held at Exchange Square from 9 to 14 Jan. It aims to increase public awareness of Rotary and TFR, and recognize major achievements related to Rotary Foundation programs. The Kick-off Ceremony was held on 9 Jan, DG Eric and OC Chair DGN Dr Ho gave speeches to the public. Government officials, service partners, Rotary leaders, and media were invited to attend. There were also celebrities acting as Rotary Spokespersons to publicize "End Polio" and "Six Areas of Focus". The specially designed TRF Centennial T-shirt looks really great. Our club was one of the main sponsors, so our name was really eye-catching on the backdrop, and two of our services projects were also exhibited. Apart from financial support, we Tai Po Rotarians always contribute ourselves to service. PP Francis was the person-in-charge of production, and IPP Vikky was one of the event promoters. Besides, Area 6 was responsible for the operation on 12 Jan. I was acting as a Rotary Ambassador to guide and explain TRF to the visitors. It was a pleasure meeting a Canadian Rotarian. She shared her Rotary life and experience in organizing activities in Hong Kong and China.



It was "Star Reaching" project visit on 14 Jan. 12 members and spouses participated in the event. Our club has been coordinating this meaningful project since 1993. The theme of this year is 「港」·呢啲 which aims to promote environmental protection and waste utilization and recycling in Hong Kong to the teenagers. We shared our thoughts, played collective games together, and learnt from the past. It was significant indeed.

Claire Mak



I think it will be a good idea that in addition to having the UV index or Pollution index, we shall have a *Grumpy* index - to report on how foul people's mood is.

Similar to the pollution index, grumpiness affects one's health badly. When the grumpiness index stands high, the relationship between people will be pretty bad. Bosses will scold staff; wives will find fault with husbands; lovers will likely shout and fight;

friends turn against each other. There will be an increase in traffic accidents, scuffles, disputes ... So this index is very important to alert people of the vice.

How to measure one's grumpy index? Simple. Grumpiness is the negative energy oozing from within oneself and affected by extrinsic factors like the environment, the weather, unjust happenings... Merging the two factors together and one comes to the *Grumpy* figure.

It is ideal to have a small gadget or an app to keep check of one's *grumpy* index. Once a person's grumpy index reaches a certain (high/dangerous) level, that person should better stay home and not venture out. This is because negative energy is highly contagious. When a negative (highly grumpy) person comes into contact with a positive (pretty cheerful) person, unless the positive energy is more than double the negative one, the positive guy will absorb the negative energy and be made grumpy and negative.

Negative energy will easily knock-out positive energy because the marriage of positive and negative will only result in the negative. So the grumpiness in a city will only be on the increase to the extent it might embrace the whole city.

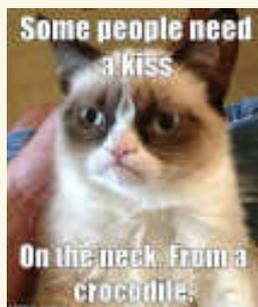
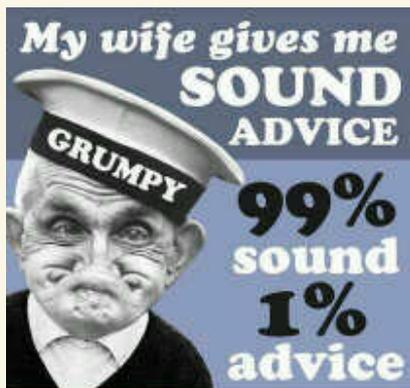
The *Grumpy* Index can thus be seen as the sum of all the city's negative energy. It affects every aspect of the society including its economy and its welfare. Just think: at a time when the *Grumpy* index is high and everyone in the city wears a dark gloomy face, who would want to come visit the city? When tourism withers, so will retail sales and other businesses ...

On a lesser, more personal level, yours truly has just gone through a period of grumpiness to the extent that I had seriously contemplated quitting the Club and yes, quitting Rotary altogether. The qualities which had made me proud to be an RCTP member seems to have eroded and the Club appears rather unfamiliar. After each regular meeting or event, certain unpleasantness and inequities always induced the surge of grumpiness within me.

Of course, I treasure the friendship I have made in Rotary and indeed most of my best friends are in Rotary. This is the factor which has dragged my feet from tendering my membership withdrawal. There was this difficult thinking process and struggle which had grumpiness consumed me further.

To eradicate grumpiness is not impossible but it must start with lowering the negativity from within oneself and in its place, inject something positive. Deliberate promotion of positivity will not work. The only way to do it is to gradually diffuse grumpiness to nothingness. When one is full of negative energy, it is like a person having gone down sick. One cannot immediately inject supplement and hope for miracle. Rather, gradually easing or taking away the negative elements can pave way for absorbing the positive elements.

For me, the potion is time and friendship. Together they have lowered the grumpy index and I have decided to stay. It takes time for all the analysis from good friends to sink in before they show impact. Of course empathy from those who had similar experience is a great help. So here is to thank PP Charles, PP Peter, PP Ron, IPP Vikky, VP Patrick, Incoming VP Dorothy ... for all the wise words and also PP K L (Kwai Chung) and PP John Ware (Callington) for the candid sharing. I just hope the new found equilibrium can last.



Peter Lam

Rotary Information



Guatemala Literacy Project and Nepal Teacher Training Innovations (NTTI)

On Carolyn Johnson's second visit to the central highlands of Guatemala, she met a first-grade teacher who made a shocking confession. Before taking part in the Guatemala Literacy Project, the teacher was convinced that her students could not learn to read.

"She said 'We were willing to go through the program because it was a day out of class and you gave us books and you provided us with a nice lunch, but we knew that you were crazy,'" says Johnson, a Rotarian who helped design the curriculum for the project and now serves as a technical adviser for the Guatemala Literacy Project.

That teacher and more than a hundred of her colleagues each received several in-classroom coaching sessions over eight months. They learned how to replace rote memorization drills and repetition of words on a blackboard with exercises that engage their students in critical thinking. "She went on to tell me excitedly how 45 of her 50 students were moving on to second grade because they had learned to read," Johnson says. "The program has made believers out of 90 percent of the teachers we have worked with. They are excited about being teachers again, and they go into their classrooms believing they can make a difference."



Teachers receive a certificate of completion after finishing the Nepal Teacher Training Innovations program. The program is transforming classrooms into centers of active learning.

After decades of investing in literacy projects, experts have realized that simply getting children into the classroom — either by removing attendance barriers or providing supplies — is not enough. Before students can succeed, the quality of the teaching in that classroom needs to improve.

Learning outcomes over enrollment

Rotary projects like the Guatemala Literacy Project and Nepal Teacher Training Innovations (NTTI) in Nepal are leading the effort to advance childhood reading by empowering teachers to teach better.

Rotary, the United Nations, USAID, and other organizations are shifting their focus to helping teachers plan lessons that ensure students will actually learn. The entire effort is part of a larger goal to reduce extreme poverty, because knowing how to read and write increases a person's earning potential and ability to build a better life.

Quentin Wodon, a lead economist at the World Bank, has studied education projects both from a professional standpoint and as a member of the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill (Washington, DC), U.S.A. Wodon agrees that teachers are critical to any attempt to improve learning. "The best way to enable children to learn is to think broadly about teacher policies," says Wodon. Training is one of eight key goals set by the World Bank, along with setting clear expectations for teachers, attracting the best candidates, matching teacher skills with student needs, having strong principals to lead teachers, monitoring, providing ongoing support, and motivating teachers to perform.

Wodon's club is working with the Rotary Club of Kathmandu, Nepal, to support NTTI and the nongovernmental organization PHASE in transforming classrooms where students are silent, passive learners into centers of active learning. "Improving teaching methods is not an easy task, but programs like this are making inroads," says Wodon.

For example, before taking part in the NTTI program, one teacher relied heavily on memorization, having her students copy words off the blackboard. After training, the teacher made her lesson on animate and inanimate objects more interactive, says Ashley Hager, NTTI's director. The teacher asked children to point to objects and describe how they were different. She then listed the differences on the board and paired students up to discuss them. As a final exercise, the class went outside to find examples in nature.

One student approached the teacher with a live ant in her hand and inquired, "This is an animate object, yes?" The teacher agreed. The child then squashed the ant and asked, "Is it still an animate object now?" Caught by surprise, the teacher asked the rest of the students what they thought, and a lively conversation followed.

Other teachers agree that the training taught them the value of interactive teaching.

"It's transformed my way of teaching and given me brilliant ideas to employ the best teaching practices I have learned," says Goma Khada who teaches fourth grade at Shrijana Higher Secondary School in Thumpakhar.

Rotary Foundation Centennial Information Page PP Peter Lam



Peace and conflict resolution is one of the AREAS OF FOCUS in Rotary Foundation. Our PDG Kenneth Wong should be familiar with this subject as “Peace through Service” was the Rotary theme during his year (2013-14) as District Governor under RI President Tanaka and our Rotaract Club of Tai Po 2013-14 President Iki Chan also served as one of our district Peace Ambassadors that year. Let’s learn more about the peace programme of our Foundation – Rotary Peace Center Fellowships.

Rotary Peace Center Fellowships



Through academic training, practice, and global networking opportunities, the Rotary Peace Centers program develops leaders who become catalysts for peace and conflict prevention and resolution. These fellowships cover tuition and fees, room and board, round-trip transportation, and all internship and field-study expenses.

In just over a decade since 2002, the Rotary Peace Centers have trained more than 1,000 fellows for careers in peacebuilding. Many of them are serving as leaders at international organizations or have started their own foundations. Today, six Rotary Peace Centers at seven universities are preparing students from a variety of backgrounds for a career dedicated to making our world safer and more peaceful.



More than 900 Rotary Peace Center graduates are now working throughout the world in a variety of capacities. Some are teachers, passing on their knowledge to a new generation of peacebuilders. Others work for nongovernmental organizations that address the root causes of conflict – poverty, inequality, ethnic tension, and lack of access to education. And some work for United Nations and governmental agencies, creating policies designed to address issues that cause conflict. Most recently, Rotary Peace Fellows are filling the escalating needs generated by the refugee crises, which affects more than 60 million people forced from their homes by conflict.

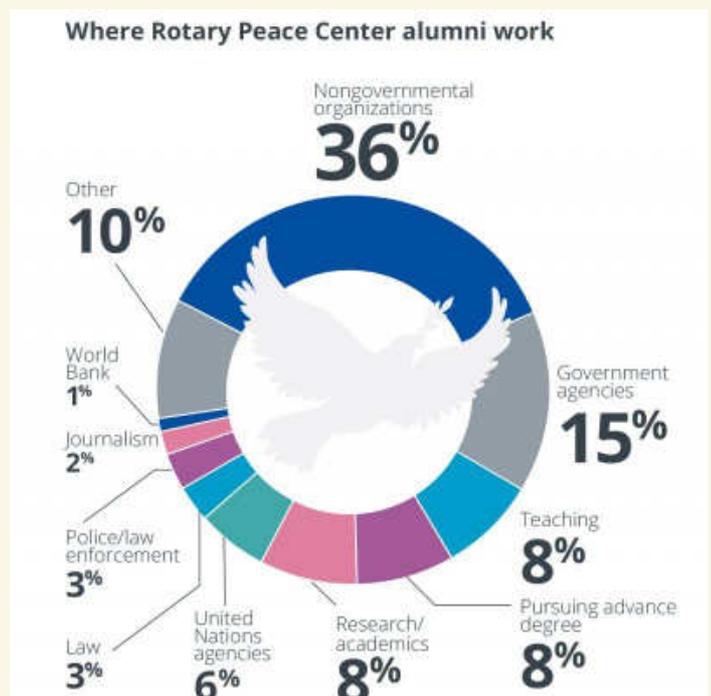
Our fellowships

Each year, Rotary awards up to 50 fellowships for master’s degrees and 50 for certificate studies at premier universities around the world.

- **Master’s degree programs:** Last 15 to 24 months and require a practical internship of two to three months during the academic break.
- **Professional development certificate program:** For experienced professionals and lasts three months with two to three weeks of field study.

Rotary Peace Centers

1. Duke University and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA
2. International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan
3. University of Bradford, Bradford, UK
4. University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia
5. Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden
6. Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand (3 month intensive program in peace & conflict resolution)



2016-17 Project GEN-Y: Drug Fighter Elite Scheme Phase 3 preparatory training for mock trial

Katherine So

On 20 Dec, I was invited as an observer to a pre-mock trial training workshop conducted by my father Roger. The purpose of the workshop was to train a team of secondary school students from Ling Liang Church M H Lau Secondary School on criminal procedure and the basic trial and advocacy skills, including the examination of witnesses in court. This is part of the activities under the Project – Y Gen project and the details of this project can be referred to the article entitled “2016-17 Project GEN-Y: Other Learning Experience (OLE) – Drug Fighter Elite Scheme” in the December 2016 edition of the Tai Post.

The project now comes to its phase 3 preparatory training for mock trial. The students were given a moot case to experience what it would be like in a court trial. Based on the given materials, students from Ling Liang Church M H Lau Secondary School are acting as the defence team for a drug trafficking defendant during the mock trial.

In this workshop, the Hong Kong criminal justice system was briefly introduced, including how rule of law and presumption of innocence operate as the fundamental principles. The burden of proving guilt would be on the prosecution to the legal standard of beyond reasonable doubt. Next, each of them was to explain his/her understanding of the assigned role ranging from defendant, defence lawyers and researchers. To prepare for the mock trial, my father went through the case materials with the students, identifying relevant source of information in particular the material facts and discrepancies, and to formulate questions for cross-examination. They learnt that lawyers (no matter prosecutors or defence counsel) were not allowed to ask leading questions when a party's witness was giving his/her evidence-in-chief; but the counterparty's lawyer can do so when doing cross examination. In fact, a lawyer should be able to use leading questions either to extract useful facts from the counterparty's witness, or destroy his/her credibility by highlighting inconsistencies in his/her testimony during cross-examination.

Following cross-examination will be the stage of re-examination by a party's lawyer on his/her witness. The purpose of re-examination is to repair the damage done to a party's case during cross-examination of the witness concerned by giving an opportunity for such witness to explain why an unfavourable answer has been given in cross-examination, through asking non-leading questions similar to examination-in-chief.

During the workshop, the students were taught the questioning techniques for examination-in-chief, cross-examination and re-examination. They were also asked to try them out by questioning the processing witnesses (whom my father played the role) and the defendant (acted by one of the students). At first, the students were a bit nervous and timid so they were reluctant to speak. But with encouragement both from their teacher and my father, they started asking really impressive questions. In the end, they were told to prepare for the “real” mock trial by identifying supporting evidence from the case materials and formulating questions for examination and cross-examination. It seems that they will be more confident for the mock trial.



Discussing the case material with the students.



A happy group photo at the end of the workshop.



New Member

Benjamin Wong 黃家傑

HR Director Asia Pacific, Knorr-Bremse

Spouse: Juliette
 Daughters: Ashley and Renee
 Date of birth: 5th May

CAREER PROFILE

20 years of expertise in HR management role, a CPA and an MBA with experience and knowledge in various renowned multi-national companies. Industrious, mature, charismatic, pragmatic and hands-on leader who always has an eye on creativity & innovation but possesses human factor of a caring supervisor. Prominent in HR labour contract laws in China and broad range of real life people management experiences in Asia Pacific. Good government relationship in Suzhou, China and understand “quanxi” management.

QUALIFICATIONS

MBA – Victoria University, Australia	1995 -1996
BA in Information Management and Accounting, University of Melbourne	1991 -1994
Victorian Certification of Examination, Australia	1989 -1990



PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

7/2013 – Current	Knorr-Bremse Asia Pacific holding Ltd, Regional HQ in HK HR Director Asia Pacific, based in HK
2012 – 2013	Otis Elevator Company China (Tianjin HQ)
1999 – 11/2012	Vesuvius Advanced Ceramics, Suzhou China
2004 – 11/2012	VP HR Asia Pacific
1996 – 1999	Celki Medical Company, Hong Kong
06/1994 – 07/1996	Boardwalk Images Pty Ltd, Australia / ANZ Bank, Melbourne China Town
12/1992 – 02/1994	Outboard Marine Corporation Asia / Hong Kong Telecom Co., Ltd, Hong Kong

Professional Memberships

- Member of Australian Human Resource Institute
- HK HR Institute International & China Committee member
- CPA Australia

Sport / Leisure

Hiking, Badminton. Social learning and networking

Publishing / Seminar Speaking / Panel Judging:

- HK Vocational Training Counsel : “Regional Talent Development Challenges” (2016 July)
- Futurist – HR Magazine (both Singapore / HK) : “HR to be both strategic and hands on at the same time” (2016 June)
- Shanghai HRoot (Human Capital Magazine) Interview (2015 July) – Insights on New Generations
- Best Employer by HR Asia (2015)
- Smart HK - HK Productivity Counsel in Nanjing : “Evolving China in modern and change management”
- HR Innovation Awards Asia - Judging panels HR Magazine (2015/2016)
- HR Vendor Awards Asia – Judging panels HR Magazine (2015/2016)



Classification: HR (Rail & Truck)
RCTP Membership Team: 3
Inducted: 19 December 2016

New Member



Jun Xie 謝俊

Spouse: Liena
Daughter: Chloe
Birth Day: 1 July

Work Experience

- Since 2012** **Founder and CEO, Shenzhen TMS Investment Management Co. Ltd.**
Focuses on the Non-performing Loan and New Energy Investment
- 2009 - 2011** **Vice Financial General Manager, Xinyuan Real Estate Company**
Manages cash flow of the group and arranges domestic and foreign finance in this company which was listed on New York Stock Exchange.
- 2004 - 2008** **Senior Asset Manager, Leihua Asset Management Company**
As core member of Lehman Brothers distressed China team, participated in deal origination, structuring and executing transactions, financial analysis and valuations, terms negotiation and transaction supports
- 2001 - 2004** **Team Leader, Beijing Kaili Asset Servicing Company**
- 1993 - 2001** **Senior Manager, China Construction Bank, Jiangxi Branch International Dept.**

Education

Master of Finance, University of International Business and Economics
Bachelor of Business Administration, Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics

Interest / Hobbies

Travel, golf, reading, making friends

Classification	Financial Investment
Membership Team	4
Inducted	19 December 2016



Beijing And I Part Three

Charles Chan

1984-1994 saw an explosive change in Beijing and China that forever changes the life of the people that lives in the world's most populist nation and anyone that has anything to do with it.

China was opening-up for business, but the journey forward was nothing but smooth. Things that are taken for granted today were major obstacles for any foreign investor doing business in China then. Bench marking after the developed countries in the world, China has probably the most comprehensive set of laws and regulations governing commerce. The problem has always been execution and consistent interpretation. In those days, rules and regulations to operate a plant was significantly different from city to city. To be more precise, it was dependent on the government officials at where the facility was located.

All key executives for our company had to sign a pledge that we would not violate any act of corruption which included payment of bribes, any illegal act contravening US laws and standards etc....under the pretext of the Sherman Antitrust Act when conducting business. This was pretty much standard procedure for all Fortune ranked US companies. We soon found out we were not playing on a level playing field. For example, duty rate on imported products could change dependent on the customer official's determination of the code to be used. In the market place, there were similar product that came in illegally without paying any duty and sold at a substantial discount. Most of us probably still remembered the booming cross border trade using the illegal 大飛 to import anything from raw material to finished products including automobiles, particularly Mercedes. [Indeed, older RCTP members would remember that PP Eric Mok's Mercedes was stolen/snatched from the garage of the Royal Park Hotel where we were having our Monday evening meetings. Rumours had it that it was probably smuggled to mainland, the car being the most sought-after model then. The car was never recovered!] In typical US corporation approach, many trips were made to Beijing talking to supposedly relevant departments to seek clarification and but to little avail. Luckily, at the early going, majority of our customers were US or International Corporations that required their suppliers be abided by the same high ethical standard. With better products, we managed to gain a foothold in the China market.

Although we did not receive much tangible support from Beijing, the introduction of relationship was helpful and so was the promise that things would improve over time which indeed happened. We were also told at the time that China was entering phase two of their development plan. China needed to replace import and to develop its own technical capabilities within China. That was the mid '80s. And things were looking up. Our multinational clients were all eager to tap the new market, and we were doing great business selling into China.

However, the writing was on the wall, if one wanted to tap into the China market one would need to produce the product in China. While it all made sense, the decision to proceed was not that straight forward. We were essentially a camp follower hanging on to the cloak tail of our multinational clients. The supply chain posted the major challenges. While we had our issues to tackle, it was a much bigger challenge for my clients. For example, to setting up restaurants in China, McDonald's had to resolve the issues of sourcing majority of the material locally. The meat, the condiments, the bread, the French fries etc. Relationship suppliers like us were invited to make pledge that we would produce locally at a given time line and sell to them at a great price. It was a tough decision to make as there were no guarantee of success in the uncharted water. At the time McDonald's did not have a single restaurant in China. Many meetings were held in Beijing and we received very warm reception from the ministries as essentially we were helping China to enter the fast food and packaged food world! Directionally, the first site picked for McDonald's was to be in Beijing.

While things were progressing well then came the big bomb shell. June 4 Tiananmen incident. Most if not all US corporations operating in China were affected one way or another. Furthermore, in the late '80s a major financial revolution took place in USA. "Junk Bond" was born. Together with it was the financial play of taking a cash-rich or strong cash-flow listed company private and sell off the pieces to achieve a superior return to the investors. Fort Howard was taken private in 87 and the transaction completed in 88. Because of the Tiananmen incident no one was interested in the Asian portfolio. I put myself and the family on the limb by becoming the owner of the Asian assets by teaming up with Prudential Asset Management, a PE firm headed by Victor Fung. The completion was on December 24, 1989.

The atmosphere was very tense in Beijing in early 1990. A lot of the direct investment projects were on hold. We had several meetings in Beijing trying to have better handle on what to expect moving forward. In one of the meetings, WuYi showed up and talked about the positive future of China. Quite an amazing woman.

McDonald's decided to proceed with opening their first restaurant in Beijing in 1992 and Coke will continue its expansion plan, and we signed the paper to build a factory in 天津塘沽 industrial estate in mid 1990 with very favorable terms. And Rotary returned to Beijing in 1996 starting with regular informal meetings. I bought my Beijing home and finally I have real roots in Beijing. I kept my home even after I exited from this investment in 2006 and took retirement from managing day to day business.

Aside from the metamorphosis of the commercial world in Beijing, the city has also changed dramatically. Gone are the armada of bicycles, old buildings, 四合院 and scarcity of certain goods particularly those imported ones. It became a world class city with everything one can expect from a capital city. What has not changed is its rich cultural heritage. Something that I could explore in depth after my retirement.



There were over 70 museums within the Beijing Proper, quite a few AAAA, AAAAA and world heritage sites. The cultural scene is amazing with continuous visit by world class performing artists, troupes, singers and not to mention performance by the superb local artists in 京劇, 昆劇 etc.. The diversity of what is available in any given time has few rivals in the world. For sport fans, CBA is coming of age. At the games, I found quite a few foreign players in each team. Money talks, the caliber of these overseas players are improving every year. High quality basketball games indeed! The other areas of interest are Food! Yes, food from every province and every part of the world. Other than fresh seafood and Cantonese cuisine, you will not be disappointed. A lot of upmarket restaurants have opened their doors. Lambs, ducks and authentic AnHui and Yunnan cuisine are my favorite. Beijing residents took their appreciation of flowers very seriously. Every year during 踏青time (Late March to mid-April), there are so many beautiful flower displays in the field as well as exhibitions (Peach, Pear, Apricots, Cherry Blossom etc...) something not to be missed. Indeed, that is the reason why Clara spends that time of the year in Beijing. In autumn, it is beautiful when the leaves turned color with a clear sky backdrop. It is nice but I have seen better ones in North America.



We all heard and perhaps witnessed the terrible smog problem in Beijing. The issue has certainly received attention and much work is being done to alleviate the problem but it will take time. However, it does have its good moment with blue sky and white clouds in Spring and Autumn and worth a visit to explore.

I like Beijing not just for the things I mentioned. I also like the vibrancy and enthusiasm displayed by many of the young people I met in Beijing. The can-do attitude and entrepreneurial spirit will help shape the future of China. Better things should follow for China if this continues.

Clara and I will normally be in Beijing in March and April and frequently in September and October. Do let us know if anyone of you will be visiting and we are happy to be the guide.

Hope to see you in Beijing! It could be well worth your time.

1. Spring in Beijing - <https://www.icloud.com/sharedalbum/#B0sGqkRUiptgQR>
2. Autumn in Beijing - <https://www.icloud.com/sharedalbum/#B085nhQSTGXWQ8B>
3. Some interesting places to visit in or near Beijing - <https://www.icloud.com/sharedalbum/#B0s53qWtHGjphwc>

Chloe's Graduation

Wanda Ngan

Dec 14, 2016 was a big day for the Lam's family. Chloe has earned her bachelor degree from Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University. She was lucky enough that both grandparents, Kenneth, Lucia and all of us flew to Melbourne to attend the ceremony. Beside Lucia and Kenneth, Polly from RC of SoHo was there too. We had a pre celebration dinner at one of the famous pizza house in Melbourne.

My feeling was very different from the time when I attended Ivan's graduation in 2013. I was in the battle fighting the cancerous disease at that time and the mood was quite low. This time, I came to the ceremony with a healthy body. I am so blessed.



Instead of taking traditional graduation portrait from studio house, Chloe brought us to her favorable garden, Carlton Gardens in Melbourne to take the photos. Inside the garden, Royal Exhibition Building was the popular spot for photo shooting. There were a few students doing the same.

After dressing up with cap and gown, we all realized that time flew by. Chloe is really grown up. She is not the little girl anymore. She will work soon and contribute to the society.



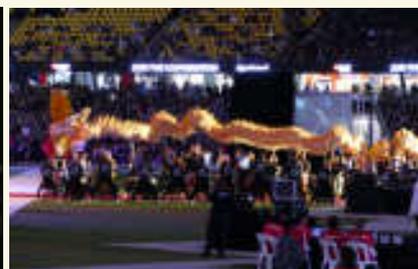
The ceremony of RMIT is different from other universities. It has two parts, day and night. During the day, we went through a 1.5 KM Parade starting at 10am. We walked from the school campus to the Flinders Train Station. Over 5000 people, including students and parents, joined the Parade. Policemen with smiling faces blocked half of the Swanston Street to let all the students and parents from all over the world go along. Policemen became models in their photos. Cameras and video shooting were everywhere to catch the happy moment. There was a live band playing music at the end of the Parade.



Part two started at 6pm at Etihad Stadium which is the biggest stadium in Melbourne. Over 7000 graduates attended the ceremony of the night. Apart from the usual opening with guest of Honor and speakers, there were Chinese lion and dragon dancing, Aboriginal performance and Choir singing.

The school divided the graduates into 19 groups and presented the diplomas at the same time by the Head of the Department. Students were named one by one and went onto the stage to receive the diploma. The size of the diploma was as big as a piece of A3 paper.

We all left for Singapore the day after the ceremony and continued to have a celebration weekend in Singapore. However, it was not fun for Ivan at all as he lost his wallet during the visit to Gardens by the Bay.



Tai Po Rotarians joined the celebration. Further, PP Francis designed and helped set up the exhibition and IPP Vikky strongly promoted it as a keen organizing committee member.



Joint Meeting with RC HK Harbour 19 Dec.

Peter Lam

Our club has been having joint meetings with Rotary Club of Hong Kong Harbour in the past several years and we were glad to continue this good tradition at our regular meeting on 19th December at our own venue KCC this time. About 44 members and spouses from our two clubs turned up at the event and we were most honoured to have the presence of several district dignitaries including DG Eric Chin, District Membership Chair PDG Eugene Fong, DAG Brendon Wong, and DS Bee Chan. President Maxine and President Louie and Scarlet from our two Rotaract clubs also attended so altogether there were 5 full tables. After the standard formality of each club's report by President William and President Dennie Yuen, Sandy Chan, Programme Director of The Zubin Foundation (Charity), gave us a brief talk on the online HospitalAdvisor.org.hk medical info and advice service they offer. Then came the first highlight of the evening which was the induction ceremony of our two new members, Xie Jun and Benjamin Wong. Our two new faces must felt excited and proud to have their induction witnessed by DG Eric and PDG Eugene and they received warm welcome from many Rotarians.

Our last highlight of the evening was the keynote presentation by our PP Chan Kai Ming, (JP, Emeritus Professor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong and Specialist in Orthopaedics & Traumatology) who gave us a talk on a very popular and useful topic "Exercise is Medicine 運動是良藥." PP KM not only gave us many tips and advice on how and why we should keep up doing more exercise for good health, he also gave our guests several of his publications on various topics focusing on different exercise like jogging, cycling, gym exercise etc. It was most appropriate that our PDG Kenneth Wong gave the Speaker Introduction and let us know that such a prominent figure in the medical field - PP KM was in fact our club's 3rd President in the Rotary year 1993-94 and he was the founder who spearheaded the StandTall (站起來) medical mission to help the victims of the 512 earthquake in Sichuan in 2008 which our club was also involved in supporting the relief efforts. The meeting ended after the usual raffle draw prize presentation and the lucky winners of 2 prizes went to new member Benjamin Wong and our good friend from RC HK Harbour PDG Belinda Yeung! We were also delighted that our CP Donald arrived at the latter part of the meeting to match the presence of CP Patrick Poon from RC HK Harbour; so this joint meeting was truly well represented from both sides. But perhaps everyone were so happily chatting and mingling with each other after the meeting that we forgot to take the Group Photo . . .



Welcome DG Eric Chin, keynote speaker PP KM Chan, Rotarians from RC HK Harbour led by President Dennie Yuen and CP Patrick Poon, and our Rotaractors!



Club reports by two Presidents and talk by Sandy Chan on HospitalAdvisor.org.hk



Induction of new members Xie Jun & Benjamin Wong witnessed by DG Eric Chin & PDG Eugene Fong.



Introduction of speaker by PDG Kenneth Wong and keynote talk by PP KM Chan on "Exercise is Medicine".



Vote of Thanks by PP WT Wong of RC HK Harbour and our two lucky draw prize winners with gifts donated by PDG Kenneth and DGN YC Ho.



Members from two clubs enjoyed wonderful fellowship during dinner.

Star reaching project “港·呢啲” Event, 14 Jan 2017

Chloe Lam

Growing up Rotary, is something I find myself saying a lot. As a recent graduate visiting the Star Reaching Project group, I felt a little different this time around. Of course, without my parents there, I was able to be a little more carefree and learned a thing or two from an eye to eye level with the marginalised teenagers from the program.

Attending these service trips with my parents is always a way for Ivan and I to spend more time with our parents and to realise how fortunate we are as their kids. Where without my parents there this time, the teenagers at the centre saw me as one of them, with no generation or age gaps, making it much easier to learn about them and their backgrounds as we separated into smaller groups for the main activity of the day.

The main theme of the day was about recycling and up-cycling, something that is often ignored or 'too much of an effort' for us to take part in on a day to day basis. Starting with a presentation from the volunteers on site, we learnt that the community as a whole, overshops for clothing. In Hong Kong we averagely own and shop for clothing ten times more than what we actually need. Along with a team member from the project, we raced to put on the most layers of clothing with what was supplied. In time, we both put on exactly ten layers, making the round a draw. This exercise was then followed by Uncle KF's probiotics drinking challenge, comparing the differences between a “used by” date and “best before” date. Lastly, Uncle Jacky's skilful separation of products that could be recycled and those that shouldn't be recycled.

These simple games and exercises led us to the main questions and consideration points that were provided by the volunteer's about recycling and up-cycling:

- are you making a necessary purchase?
- is there a cheaper or more basic option?
- is this a simple replacement of an item or something to keep for an extended period?
- how much waste will this item produce?

After the presentation on recycling, the up-cycling part of the day began. We were all given a used drink carton from the centre's Christmas party, and were told that we will be able to make a coin bag or small wallet out of it. In our groups, we were taught step by step on how to make this wallet. As I sat down, the teenager from the centre who I was next to was rather protective of himself and was being quite fidgety in a bad way with the tools provided. Working with him one on one without my parents being there, led him to tell me about himself as he simply thought of me as another teenager at the centre.

Having met him this second time, he has taken me as his 'crew' member. Not just as 'another Rotarian's kid'. Encouraging him to finish his product, he ended up doing it just a little slower than the main group and started using it right that instant by placing his headphones inside. The day soon came to an end, and after taking the group photo, he walked over to me and asked when I will be back next?

Telling him that I will surely be back with dad on the next service trip gave him a smile and that I was still calling him 'big brother' ensured that I was fully recruited as a crew member. Coming to these service trips will always be something fun and eye opening as the community being served each time is unique and vibrant in their own ways.

Being a Rotary Kid has opened many doors and opportunities for me, but with this day out and a pat on the shoulder from my new big brother - an 11-year old teenager, they reminded me for all the doors that my parents and family friends had opened in younger years. It has reminded me to always make sure that I give back to the community and provide others with open doors and opportunities just like I was provided with when possible.



R

egular meetings

9th January 2017



1st Speaker of the evening CP Tony Hui telling us about his club's project on "Holistic Elderly Community", a project close to his heart.



2nd Speaker PDG Eugene Fong imparted to us the new directives from Rotary International about "Membership Growth".



Vote of thanks aptly delivered by Rotaractor-turned-Rotarian Wilson Woo.



KF won the raffle draw of a mug given out by PDG Anthony who presented him with the prize. Cheers!



January birthday girl and boys, Mary, Anthony and Roger were wished many happy returns with birthday song and birthday cake.

16th January 2017 Tuen Nin Meeting



Couples with couplets.



The "all-for-draw" game winners with their prizes - lucky couplets.



PP Wilson Lam gave out 2 sets of Australian Olympic medal sets for raffle draw. Ada Wu and PP Peter Lam emerged as the cheerful claimants of the special prizes.



Speaker Lily Chung told us about the interesting "Work of ICAC and Recent Corruption Trend" with lively examples and scenarios.

We missed you

Sasha Chu
Masayuki Tsubaki
Sincere Yip



Pearl Dang
Jason Lo
On Leave

Withdrawal of membership

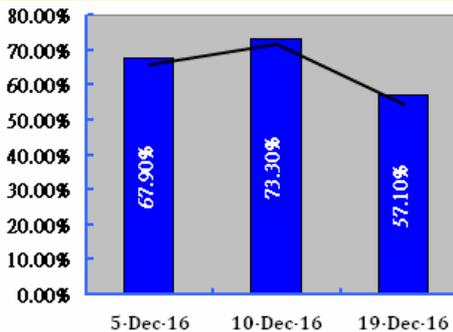
Ada Wu

December Attendance

CAREN CHAN,
ANTHONY HUNG,
NATALIE KWOK,
PETER LAM,
DENNIS LO,
CLAIRE MAK,
ROGER SO,
K.F. TAM,
LOUIS TANG,
FRANKIE WU,
WILLIAM YIM



Average attendance: 66.1%



Up coming events

Day	Time	Event	Venue
6 FEB (MON)	7:00 p.m.	Meeting cum 開年飯	Hong Kong Chiu Chow Chamber of Commerce 1/F, 81-85 Des Voeux Road West, Hong Kong
10 FEB (FRI)	5:00 p.m.	Installation Ceremony of the Interact Club of Tai Po Schools	Rm G01 Activity Room, Carmel Holy Word Secondary School, 10 Tai Wo Road, Tai Po
11 FEB (SAT)	9:30 a.m.	Rotary Mock Interview Workshop Life Planning Programmes	Lung Cheung Government Secondary School, 1 Ma Chai Hang Road, Wong Tai Sin, Kowloon
11 FEB (SAT)	9:00 a.m.	CNY Outing with Elderly	Gather at: HKSKH Tai Wo Neighbourhood Elderly Centre Unit 124-130, G/F, Hei Wo House, Tai Wo Estate, Tai Po (太和邨喜和樓地下124-130號)
15 FEB (WED)	7:00 p.m.	4 Gen Joint Meeting Speaker: Mr. Benjamin Tang JP	8/F, The Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, Connaught Road, Central
20 FEB (MON)	7:00 p.m.	Area 6 Spring Dinner	Royal Plaza Hotel, Prince Edward Road W. Kowloon



New members inducted:

Benjamin Wong & Jun Xie
on 19th December 2016



Happy Birthday

January

10th Francis Au
11th Roger So
14th Anthony Hung



Rotary Centenary Challenge Cup

扶輪百週年挑戰盃

Wednesday 22 February 2017

Happy Valley Racecourse



Venue: The Millions, 3/F, Happy Valley Stand, Happy Valley Racecourse
Time: 6:30 pm until 11:00 pm
Costs: \$800 per person
\$9,600 per table of 12 persons
Package: Buffet dinner with unlimited supply of house wine / soft drinks and free admission badge
Contact Person: FP & L Chung at 9093-2443 or email: hicheng@hbhc.org.hk
Booking Deadline: Wednesday 8 February 2017



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GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

Tai Post wants to hear from you.

Write in to claire.rctaipo@gmail.com

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

