



Rotary crossroads

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Proud of our Heritage, Committed to our Future

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R I President John Germ

1 IN FOCUS

Presidential Message
– May 2017

4 LAST WEEK

Report on Wed, 3 May
2017 Meeting

7 MARK YOUR DIARY

What's ahead? Don't miss
the forthcoming events and
Birthday / Anniversary
celebrants and more...

Presidential message – May 2017



*John F. Germ
President 2016-17*

As you read these lines, final preparations are well underway for our 108th Rotary International Convention, 10-14 June in Atlanta. We're looking forward to one of the biggest and best Rotary conventions yet, as we celebrate not only a wonderful year of *Rotary Serving Humanity*, but a full century of Doing Good in the World through The Rotary Foundation.

If you haven't already made plans to attend, it's not too late to register at riconvention.org. There is simply no better way to round off another great year in Rotary than by coming together with 40,000 or so of your fellow Rotarians to share ideas, find inspiration, and have a great time together.

We're excited to have Bill Gates, a friend and partner in our work to eradicate polio, speaking at our convention this year. And it's worth arriving early to attend a special Presidential Peace Conference, scheduled for 9-10 June and featuring Bernice A. King, daughter of Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King.

I'm proud to host a convention that is practically in my own backyard: Atlanta is a vibrant, modern state capital just a two-hour drive from my home city of Chattanooga, Tenn., and it's a great place to experience the famous hospitality of the American South. Our Host Organization Committee has a great week planned, starting with the "Blue Jeans and Bluegrass" kickoff event on Saturday night.

Come on over to Centennial Olympic Park, right across from the House of Friendship, and get in a dancing mood with Grammy Award winner Ricky Skaggs and his Kentucky Thunder band. Meet up with friends old and new at the Centennial Celebration Block Party or on the Peace Tour of Atlanta. Roll up your sleeves for the Habitat Home Build, or tie up your laces to take part in the 3K Walk/Run to End Polio Now. And before you say goodbye, come back to the House of Friendship for one more party: our Foundation's 100th birthday party, with (of course!) cake and ice cream.

It's going to be an incredible experience, and Judy and I are looking forward to celebrating with you – or, as we say in the South, with y'all! See you in Atlanta!



In Memory of

Dr Robert Loh Choo Kiat



Text by Prof Chew Chin Hin, Honorary Advisor, Division of Graduate Medical Studies, National University of Singapore; Emeritus Consultant, Tan Tock Seng Hospital

Dr Robert Loh Choo Kiat (25 May 1925 – 31 January 2017) was born in Singapore in 1925. Despite having his education rudely interrupted by World War II, he graduated in 1949 with a MBBS from Bombay's top medical school – Seth Gordhandas Sunderdas Medical College and the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital. He returned to Singapore soon after, joining Singapore General Hospital (SGH) and initially serving as houseman to Prof ES Monteiro for Medicine and Dr BM John for Surgery (which then included otorhinolaryngology). However, ophthalmology was to be his career-long discipline. After postgraduate training and learning under top surgeons, including the doyen Sir Stewart Duke-Elder at Moorfields in London, he returned to SGH and joined Dr AD Williamson's eye department at Norris Block as a registrar in 1954.

I have known Dr Robert Loh, affectionately addressed as Bob by his dear friends, since 1956, when I was posted to Prof Gordon Ransome's Medical Unit (which was also housed in Norris Block). Over the years, we became firm friends, having a common interest in advancing the standards of professional and ethical practice.

In 1958, Bob was awarded a scholarship. He soon secured the FRCS in Edinburgh and returned hardly a

year later to head the ophthalmology department, following the retirement of Dr Williamson and Dr Wong Kin Yip. Bob and Dr Wong were the first Singaporean heads of ophthalmology in the government sector; the doyens in the private sector from the early years were Drs SH Tan of The Eye Hospital and TH Oh of Eye Clinic.

Bob's contributions to ophthalmology in Singapore have been immense. Starting out with only a handful of trainees, he built up the unit and trained numerous expert eye surgeons within a decade. He transmitted his clinical skills and instituted in them his ideals and values in the treatment of patients, regardless of their social station. It was he who established the first eye bank, as well as introducing micro and laser surgery, implants, retinal detachment surgery, corneal grafting and other innovative procedures.

In 1963, Bob set up the Society of Ophthalmology with only 13 members and he was elected as the Founding President from 1963 to 1976. Over time, the society established close ties with the Chapter and the College of Ophthalmologists of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore (AMS). They also collaborated closely with regional fraternal bodies and brought several regional and global conferences to

Singapore. Today, the membership comprises over 240 ophthalmologists.

In 1964, Bob was elected President of SMA and had the unique honour of delivering the SMA Lecture – twice – in 1976 and 1995, an award reserved only for persons of eminence and distinction. In 1999, he was conferred SMA's highest honour, the Honorary Membership. In 1968, he presided over the third Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Congress successfully held here with delegates coming from all over the world.

He retired from Government service in 1969, and for his contributions to the Government, he was among the first to be appointed honorary consultant to the Ministry of Health, alongside Profs Benjamin Sheares, Ernest Monteiro and Yeoh Ghim Seng.

Friendships were renewed in the 1960s when Bob and I were elected to the AMS Council, where we worked closely with the School of Postgraduate Medical Studies to advance Singapore's postgraduate specialty training programmes and our own higher examinations. I will always be grateful for the immense support he gave to me when he and I were Assistant Master and Master of AMS, respectively, from 1973 to 1975. It was he who proposed that Mr Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's first prime





minister, be conferred AMS' honorary fellowship. On the tenth anniversary of our young nation in 1975, Bob personally brought this to fruition at the tenth Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine. In 1978, when AMS was invited to attend the Conference of Presidents of the British Commonwealth Colleges of Physicians in Glasgow, I was happy to witness Bob as master, AMS, and other presidents being conferred the College's Fellowship by Prof Tom Gibson, then president of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

His professional qualifications included MBBS (Bombay), 1949; DO (London), 1954; FRCS(Edin), 1959; FAMS, 1959; FACS, 1966; FRACS, 1973; FRACO, 1973; FRCP(SGlasg), 1978; and FRCOphth, 1988.

Charity was another lifetime commitment, a passion Bob inherited from his parents, Dr and Mrs Loh Poon Lip. He led the Young Men's Christian Association, a Christian charity, from 1970, where he served wholeheartedly for over 20 years despite his busy professional schedule and thriving private practice. He was conferred the title President Emeritus in 1993. The Rotary Club was another charitable body which demanded his leadership. Thus, he was appointed president in 1976 and the district governor or serving the region from 1991 to 1992.

For his dedicated commitment in service to the community, he was appointed by the Government in 1992 to lead and be the first president of the

newly restructured National Council of Social Service. For a full decade, he virtually gave his all in this national service to our fellowmen, especially the poor, disadvantaged and disabled, retiring only in 2002.

His enormous contributions to the public service were duly recognised by the award of numerous national honours, including the Public Service Medal in 1982; Public Service Star in 1991; Public Service Star (Bar) in 1996; and Meritorious Service Medal in 2002. He was appointed a Justice of Peace in 1989.

Sports had always been an important part in Bob's life. During his youthful years, he played badminton, table tennis and cricket in school. He excelled in tennis, becoming the medical school champion during his university days. In later years, to quote him: "the passion for golf prevailed over the years" and he achieved a hole-in-one in 1968. He served the golfing fraternity by being president of Singapore Island Country Club in 1979 for three years and travelling widely with his *kakis* (slang for friends) to play in leading golf courses around the world.

In Bob's book, *An Eye on Life*, he testified: "I've always been a Christian... and on retirement later, my realisation of how much I owed to God heightened my sense of fulfilment". I was much heartened when he told me from the hospital bed that over the last few years, despite having great difficulty in

walking, he had been conscientiously attending bible study fellowship. He was not only a man of faith, but also a family man – a devoted and loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He is survived by his dear wife Mary, sons Stephen and Andrew, daughter Pat, five grandchildren and three great-grand children.

Dr Robert Loh was a completely wonderful gentleman and an exemplary Singaporean. I'm sure all who knew him will be thankful for the eight decades of service he gave so unstintingly. 🍀

Legend

1. Past Masters of AMS with the late President Wee Kim Wee
2. The fifth SMA Council (1964/1965) when Dr Robert Loh was President
3. Masters of AMS with the late President SR Nathan at AMS's Golden Anniversary 2007



Last Week

Last Week – Report on the Wednesday Meeting – 3 May 2017

OPENING REMARKS

Vice President (VP) Dr Hoon Sing Keow chaired the meeting in the absence of President Garry Taylor who was away. She welcomed members and Guest Speakers Ms Jocelyn Garcha and Ms Natasha Garcha to the meeting.

WELCOME OF GUESTS & VISITING ROTARIANS

Duty of welcoming guests of members and Visiting Rotarians fell to Rtn Omkar Shrestha :

Guests

Ms Susanne Hunger
Mr Tee Ah Heng
Mr Madhu Khana
Dr Suresh Mahtani
Dr Hans Schniewind

Visiting Rotarians:

Maximilian von Raben – Bangkok, Thailand
Connie Ho - Shanghai



Rtn Omkar Shrestha

TOAST

Toastmaster, Rtn Uttam Kripalani advised that the Rotary Club of Bangkok was located at the outskirts of Bangkok; formed in 1967 and has 37 members. Rtn Uttam added that the Bangkok club was represented by Rtn Maximilian “Max” von Raben, whom members may recognise as he visited the Club regularly when he was a Rotary Youth Exchange scholar from Germany.

Rtn Max advised that it was 10 years ago that he last visited the Club when he left Singapore after completing his business course at National University of Singapore as a Rotary Youth Exchange Programme (YEP) scholar. He added that he particularly enjoyed the cosy family feeling with Rotary and the warm welcome. Rtn Max advised that he has since become a Rotarian with the Bangkok club and looked forward to visiting the Rotary Club of Singapore often.

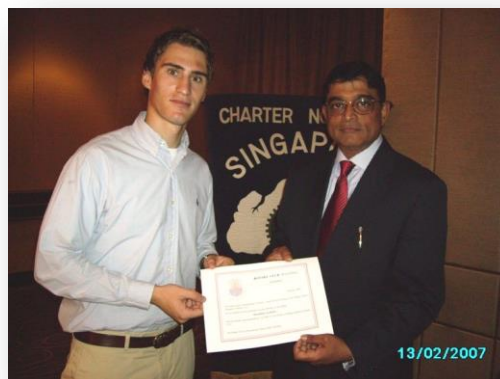


From left: VP Sing Keow, Rtns Max & Uttam

EXCHANGE OF BANNERS



VP Sing Keow & Rtn Max exchange banners



Snapshot from the Past (RY 2006/2007):

YEP scholar Max presented to then ISC Chair, PP Tapan Rao, a certificate of appreciation from R C Wasserburg, Germany for the Club's hospitality extended to him during his stay in Singapore.



Last Week

ROTARY DISTRICT 3310 ALUMNI NETWORKING GROUP (DANG)

PP Perlita Tiro advised that this networking group was chartered as at 2 January 2017 and called on members to invite the Club's sponsored Rotaract and Interact Clubs to participate in the inaugural installation and networking session to be held as follows:

Date & Time: Saturday, 20 May 2017 from 2pm – 5pm

Venue: NUS LT35, (Peter & Mary Fu Lecture Theatre) 14 Medical Drive, S17599

PP Perlita advised that DANG was created as a platform for current and past members of the Rotary family to be connected and form a network with like-minded people with a heart to serve community with passion and commitment. She added that DANG would also create opportunities for the Rotaractors and Interactors through Career Talks, Internship and Employment by Rotarians.



PP Perlita Tiro



VP Sing Keow with Rtn Loo

PAUL HARRIS FELLOW (PHF) RECOGNITION

VP Sing Keow called upon Rtn Loo Lian Wee to come forward to receive his Paul Harris Fellow recognition PHF pin +1.

We take this opportunity to thank Rtn Loo and all members who have contributed towards The Rotary Foundation's humanitarian programmes.

INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBER EPORT ON THE ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (RLI) DISTRICT 3310 SEMINAR – 22 & 23 April 2017

VP Sing Keow invited Rtn Dr Rupesh Agrawal to introduce his candidate, Rtn Anindya Dutta, to members. Rtn Rupesh advised that Rtn Anindya has lived in Singapore for the past 4 years and has deep roots in Rotary, with a sister in India who was a past district assistant governor.

Rtn Anindya's classification is "Financial Service – Structured Products" and was recommended to join the International Service Committee.



From left: Rtns Anindya, Rupesh & VP Sing Keow

Last Week

Speakers: Ms Natasha Garcha & Ms Jocelyn Matyas,
Impact Investment Exchange (IIX)

Topic: “Building Inclusive Markets Through Impact Investing”



Rtn Deblina Chatterjee

VP Sing Keow called on Rtn Deblina Chatterjee who introduced the two Speakers, Ms Natasha Garcha and Ms Jocelyn Matyas from IIX. Ms Garcha is the Manager of Business Development & Advisory team and prior to IIX, she worked at D.E. Shaw & Co., a New York-based hedge fund with operations in India, Japan and UK. Whilst the other speaker, Ms Matyas is an associate of the Business Development team and a Rotary Alumni. Ms Matyas has been involved with Rotary in various ways for over ten years. She has served as an

Interact president, been awarded a Rotary Young Leader Award, and was a 2014 Rotary Global Grant Scholar in the UK. Jocelyn has visited over 30 Rotary clubs across the USA and UK and was also a volunteer mentor in a Rotary program in Chicago for at-risk youth in 2013.



From left: Speakers, Ms Jocelyn Matyas & Ms Natasha Garcha

Starting the talk first was Ms Garcha who noted that additional resources must be mobilized to scale and sustain traditional development efforts. She cited facts that an estimated 150 million people exited extreme poverty between 2005-2008 in Asia and the Pacific, however, 30% of people in Asia continue to live under \$1.25/day with limited access to opportunities to help escape the poverty trap. She further added that there was widespread inequality - richest 1% of the

world's population own more than 48% of global wealth. She highlighted IIX's focus in bridging the gap between development and finance, such as through mobilizing capital to expedite the global climate action agenda at the pace and scale required. Ms Garcha also spoke of how IIX redefined the narrative to position women as solutions to development instead of victims of inequality. Ms Garcha cited how IIX has brought access to healthcare, clean energy, agriculture, water and education to marginalized communities.



Rtn Dr Irina Francken (right) with speakers, Natasha & Jocelyn

Next, Ms Matyas spoke of her involvement in Rotary and how it has guided her in the similar work undertaken by IIX and its programmes. Both Ms Garcha and Ms Matyas graciously answered questions posed to them by members.

VP Sing Keow called on Rtn Dr Irina Francken who warmly thanked both speakers for their talk on a subject close to her heart and she invited them to accept the Club's tokens of appreciation.

6 | Crossroads



Mark Your Diary

Birthday Celebrants

RC sends Birthday greetings to celebrants:

14 May – PP Dr Shahul Hameed
18 May – Rasik Singh Ahuja

Anniversary Celebrants

RC sends best wishes to Wedding Anniversary celebrants this week:

12 May – Subhash & Kanak Pritmani
14 May – PP Paliath “Mohan” & Vatsala Mohandas
18 May – Deepu & Mariam Joseph
21 May – Sandra & Joseph Coffman
22 May – PP Tan Chin Ngiap & Irene, Dinesh & Rekha Sharma

Vocational Service Meeting

Vocational Service Committee Meeting will be held as follows:

Date: Thursday, 11 May

Time: 7.30pm

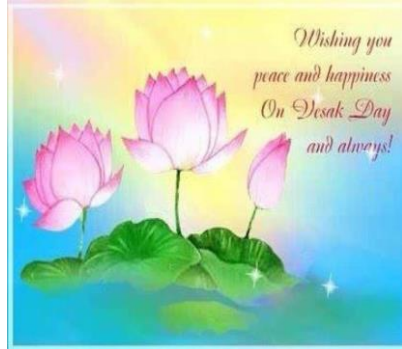
Venue: Myra's @ Fort Canning
5 Cox Terrace, #B1-05/06/07
Fort Canning Arts Centre,
S179620

Hosts: Rtms Vikrant Kanyal, S Malaippan, Dr Tim Philippi & M M Patel

Meeting Cancelled

10 May 2017

Meeting is cancelled in view of public holiday, “Vesak Day”



International Service Meeting

International Service Committee Meeting will be held as follows:

Date: Thursday, 18 May

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: 1A International Business Park #13-01, S609933

Hosts: Hon Member Rtn Mohan Vaswani, PP Dr Shahul Hameed, Rtms Michael King, Atul Merchant, Matei Iurascu & PP Paliath “Mohan” Mohandas

Queries, comments and articles request can be sent to rtynfo@rotary.org.sg

Next Meeting

17 May 2017

Reception Desk duty: Mamta Shahani, Shamin Vaswani

Sunshine Box duty: PP Paliath “Mohan” Mohandas, Brigitte Holtschneider

Speaker: Dr Yvonne Looi

Topic: “Laughter Yoga Pilot Project”

Coming Rotary Events

May

Youth Service Month

12-14 May – Multi District Conference, Bangkok

19-21 May – Guizhou Vocational School project (VSC & ISC project)

20 May – Rotary District 3310 Alumni Networking Group (DANG) at NUS LT35

June

Rotary Fellowships Month

10-14 June – R I Convention, Atlanta, Georgia, USA

24 June – Installation Dinner, Pan Pacific Ballroom





The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build goodwill and better friendship?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

The Guide to Daily Living

Before doing the things we want to do, consider first, the Precepts of the guide. Ask ourselves these 4 questions and act upon them:

First: *Have I spent some time in self-examination?*

Second: *Have I spent quality time with my family?*

Third: *Have I given my best to my work?*

Fourth: *Have I given some time to someone near and far?*

The Guide, in fact, encompasses the 4 parts of the Object of Rotary.

**ROTARY
SERVING
HUMANITY**

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