



# Rotary Crossroads

An e-bulletin published by Rotary Club of Singapore  
... Proud of our past, Committed to our future  
District 3310 Best Bulletin Award, 2006-2007

January 28, 2008  
Volume 44-28



## Rotary Club of Singapore Major Project 2007/2008

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# In Focus

## Rotary Club of Singapore Major Project 2007/2008

By Director Rtn. Joseph Chia, Major Project Chairman

### What is Major Project?

Every Rotary Major Project is the flagship project of the Rotary President for the year.

It is the project that a President is remembered for, long after his term of office. The Major Project is also the 'face' of the Club. It is what shows to the community that Rotary cares and Rotary shares. It is the vehicle for members to do their part for the community.

All club members are expected to make voluntary contributions to make it a success.

### Projects Considered

For this Rotary year, we considered projects or activities of seven institutions to adopt as Major Project.

#### 1. National Arts Council

a. Arts Professional Development: \$200,000 per year for 5 years (total \$1,000,000) or \$120,000 per year for 5 years (total \$600,000). Support about 100 of such capability development projects. b. Arts Fellowship: \$120,000 per year for 5 years (total \$600,000) for 3 to 4 applicants per year or \$80,000 per year for 5 years (total \$400,000). The Major Project committee decided not to pursue either of these projects as the commitment is too large and flows into following years.

#### 2. Scholarship for local eye surgeons in India

A scholarship of \$3,000 each for young, newly qualified eye surgeons from Singapore to be trained in India for 3 months.

Project was not pursued, as it needs NUS medical faculty and government collaboration.

#### 3. Society of the Servants of the Lord

Purchase of a second hand passenger van to transport residents (of home for aged and battered wives and husbands) to hospitals and attend functions. Project not pursued as application was withdrawn.

#### 4. MDAS (Muscular Dystrophy Association Singapore)

a. Biz-Power Project: \$40,000 p.a. for job preparation training. b. M-Power Equipment Grant: \$30,000 p.a. as subsidy for purchase of motorized wheelchair, lifting hoist, breathing apparatus. Project not pursued as application was submitted too late for us to invite them to make presentation to club.



#### 5. RSVP Singapore

Formerly known as Retired Senior Volunteer Programme Singapore, the organization was started in 1998 by our own member, PDG Dr Philbert Chin at the request of PDG Dr Robert Loh who was then President of National Council of Social Services. They provide two kinds of client services: keeping members (seniors) active and making their lives meaningful and enjoyable through volunteerism, and serving the community using members' talents and skills. RSVP needs to



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- Director Joseph Chia

## Rotary Club of Singapore Major Project 2007/2008...continued

raise \$384K this year for their activities, expecting \$100,000 to come from our Club.

Their programmes are:

**a. Cyberguide:** introduce computer literacy to seniors, such as basic computer skills, surfing, email, voice-over-internet protocol etc.

**b. Mentoring:** help latch key children who stay back in school, as both parents are working.

**c. Mentally Disadvantaged Outreach:** help former Institute of Mental Patients to get back to society.

**d. Changi Airport Ambassador:** provide assistance to foreign visitors as they land in Changi airport, making their visit to Singapore more memorable.

**e. Public Education:** provide three to four talks per month, open to public. Topics range from IT, retirement planning, health etc.

**f. Polytechnic Students Outreach:** assist in orienting foreign polytechnic students on living in Singapore, such as use of public transport, buying cell phones etc.

**g. Hosting:** host foreign visitors at home at the request of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**h. Partnership In Health:** guide visitors on the exhibits put up by Health Promotion Board at the Singapore General Hospital.

**i. Alzheimer's Training Centre:** in planning stage. We recommend **RSVP** for consideration.



**6. Singapore Association of Visually Handicapped**

SAVH, which we have regularly supported yearly in their International Cane Day celebration, has three basic services.

**a. Low Vision Clinic For Children:** A special school for children who need special facilities and specially trained teachers.

**b. A Vision Rehabilitation Centre:** Rehabilitative care and advisory to overcome the obstacle for not being able to see.

**c. Small Social Enterprise:** A self-help programme and providing public education to create awareness. Activities include a mobile team of 32 certified masseurs, "Dine in the Dark" programme to create public awareness, Braille, Audio, Talking Library, etc

They have not been stated their expectation from us, but they need \$1.2m per year for running costs. We recommend **SAVH** for consideration.



**7. Epilepsy Care Group (Singapore)**

A voluntary welfare organization and a registered charity since 1993, this group provides non-medical services and support for children and adults with epilepsy, along with their caregivers. They have requested us to provide sponsorship for the acquisition of a dragon boat. Team members in the boat include persons with epilepsy and volunteers. Volunteer-patient ratio of 2:1 will be kept in the dragon boat.

Objectives of dragon boat activities:  
 a. Raise public awareness of epilepsy. b. Build confidence and boost self-esteem of people with epilepsy by helping them to overcome their fear of water sports. c. Facilitate social integration of people afflicted with epilepsy with the general public. d. Encourage and foster team building. e. Provide an additional avenue to recruit and nurture volunteers.

Boat Acquisition Cost: \$23,980 vs Rental Cost: \$ 3840 per annum (\$40 per session).

We also recommend this project for your consideration, particularly for the potential publicity our Club will have (eg, boat will show Rotary logo).

**The decisions we have to make:**

Committee suggests **Target Fund to Raise: \$50,000 to \$150,000.**

We invite members to provide input on:

1. Which project (s) to select.
2. How much do we provide for each?
3. How do we raise the fund?
  - a. Members' contributions? How?
  - b. Should we invite outside partners to team up with us?
  - c. Organise a film premiere?

**Please email Joseph at [chiarotary@gmail.com](mailto:chiarotary@gmail.com) soonest for your comments. We shall discuss and finalize the Major Project selection at the Club luncheon meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> February. RC**



# Last week

## Club happenings on January 23<sup>rd</sup>

- Reported by Bernadette Rayney-Ng

### Opening Remarks:

President Peter Tan warmly welcomed President Garry Browne who led a delegation from our sister club – Rotary Club of Sydney to Singapore. He also welcomed Mr. Lee Jong-Kook, who is the Deputy Chief of Mission, Minister & Consul General and Mr. Lee Yong-Hwan, the Commercial Attaché from the Korean Embassy.

### Welcome of Guests & Visiting Rotarians:

Rtn. John Goeres gave a collective welcome to Guests and Visiting Rotarians.

### Guests:

Ms. Anthea Brooks, Ms. Peggy Chan, Mrs. Dao Rochvarger-Wong, Mrs. Zeny Edwards, Mr. Andy Rechsteiner, Mr. Law Wei Seng, Mr. Jeff Winter

### Visiting Rotarians:

President Garry Browne, PE Patricia Harrison, Bruce Edwards, Adrian Pilton, David Smith, Rene Benitez – Sydney, Australia

Len Louis – Woking District, UK

Josh Dirlam – Eden Prairie, USA

### Toast:

International Service Director Rtn. Keith Callinan called upon Rtn. Rene Benitez who is the ISC Director of the Rotary Club of



President Peter receives a token of appreciation from President Garry Browne, as ISC Director Keith looks on.

Sydney to introduce his team members. He advised that the delegation would be leaving later in the afternoon to Manila to visit joint sister club, Makati.

President Garry Browne was invited to address the Club, and he warmly thanked members for the wonderful hospitality, which he hoped to reciprocate. President Garry briefly informed members of his club's activities and projects. He presented tokens of appreciation to Director Keith Callinan and to President Peter. In turn, President Peter presented copies to the *Book of Humour* and *Best of Humour* to President Garry and PE Patricia Harrison, respectively. **RC**



PE Patricia Harrison receives a copy of the *Best of Humour* from President Peter. age 4

# Guest corner...

*“Singapore’s Economy – 2007 Review & Prospects for 2008” by Rotarian Phillip Overmyer and “SDG-Master Technology by Mr. Heinrich Schweizer*

Reported by Bernadette Rayney–Ng



L to R: President Peter, Rtn. Phillip Overmyer, Mr. Heinrich Schweizer and Rtn. Erich Vosschage

### Speakers Introduction:

*Director Joseph Chia* introduced fellow member, **Rtn. Phillip Overmyer** who is the Chief Executive of the Singapore International Chamber of Commerce. **Rtn. Kai Taenzler** introduced the other Speaker **Mr. Heinrich Schweizer**, from Switzerland who is a composer and lecturer at various conservatories in China, Australia and Germany.

### Speakers:

First to address the Club was Rtn. Phillip who noted that with the recent decline in the market, some of the statistics in his presentation material would have to be further revised!

Rtn. Phillip cited Advance GDP Estimates for 2007 and the 2008 Economic Forecast for Singapore. HE spoke of the challenges to Singapore’s evolving economy. He elaborated on challenges such as the high cost of doing business in Singapore as compared to other

countries, MNCs exploring alternative locations for their businesses, and the lack of service workers.

Next, Mr. Schweizer spoke of a new innovation in the field of digital audio technology, a new generation-CD, which had the advantage in that it could be played on all commercially available CD players.

Mr. Schweizer interspersed his talk with excerpts of musical tracks from the SDG master-CD to illustrate the superior sound quality.

### Vote of Thanks:

**Rtn. Erich Vosschage** was pleased to have the opportunity to extend the vote of thanks to two outstanding speakers. He warmly thanked Rtn. Phillip for a very insightful presentation and expressed his hope that the stock market would recover soon. Rtn. Erich thanked Mr. Schweizer for his talk, which gave further information on another groundbreaking technological innovation from Switzerland. **RC**

# Club Activities

## Philippine Medical & Dental Mission

**Date:** February 23<sup>rd</sup> to March 1st 2008

**Programme:**

Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> – Leave Singapore

Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup> – 1 day eye camp in Manila

Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup> – Leave for Isabela

Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday, February 29<sup>th</sup> – Cleft/Lip Palate Surgery Medical/Dental Mission

Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 – Leave Isabela to Manila/Singapore

**Members who would like to participate in the Mission are requested to contact PP Dr. Oliver Henedige urgently at tel. 6344-5315/6345-3125 or email [bibi@pacific.net.sg](mailto:bibi@pacific.net.sg) for more details.**

- Contributed by PP Dr. Oliver Henedige

## RI World Understanding & Peace Day Celebrations

**Date & Time:** February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008 at 12noon

**Venue:** Conrad Centennial Singapore

**Guest of Honour:** Mrs. Yu Foo Yu Shoon, Minister of State, Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports.

**Cost:** \$50 per person (includes a 3-course Western meal)

For registration, please contact the Secretariat at tel. no. 6737-2504 or by email at: [rtynfo@singnet.com.sg](mailto:rtynfo@singnet.com.sg)

Our lunch meeting is cancelled on 20 February 2008. Rotarians are encouraged to attend the World Understanding & Peace Day luncheon.

Tickets for the event are available with PE Paliath Mohandas.

- Contributed by President Peter Tan

## 18<sup>th</sup> R I District 3310 Assembly

**Date:** April 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> 2008

**Venue:** Sutera Harbour Resort & SPA, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia

**Registration Fees:** RM300 (on or before February 28th, 2008), RM350 (from March 1st, 2008)



For registration forms, please contact the Secretariat at tel. no. 6737-2504 or by email at: [rtynfo@singnet.com.sg](mailto:rtynfo@singnet.com.sg)

- Contributed by PE Paliath Mohandas

## Board of Directors Year 2007-2008

**President**  
Peter Tan

**Imm. Past President**  
Stanley Low

**President Elect**  
Paliath Mohandas

**Vice Presidents**  
Perlita Tiro  
Tapan Rao

**Hon. Secretary**  
Dinesh Sharma

**Hon. Treasurer**  
Jayant Gadgil

**Director: Community Service**  
Etienne Chenevier

**Director: Vocational Service**  
Suresh Hathiramani

**Director: International Service**  
Keith Callinan

**Director: Service to New Generation**  
Goh Bock Seng

**Directors**  
Joseph Chia  
Jimmy Ooi

### Bulletin Team

PE Paliath Mohandas  
VP Perlita Tiro  
Narayan Subramanian  
Director Joseph Chia  
PP Raymon Huang  
Haider Nawaz  
Lydia Ang

# Mark your Diary!



- compiled by Bernadette Rayney-Ng

## Birthday Celebrants

RC wishes *Happy Birthday* to birthday celebrants this week!

**January 29** – Sunny Loh

**January 30** – Vikrant Kanyal

**January 31** – Tan Hien Meng

**February 2** – Honorary Member, Jimmy Shaw Vee Meng

## This week

January 30<sup>th</sup> 2008

**Reception Desk duty:** Ghani Mahtani, Atul Merchant

**Sunshine Box duty:** Director Joseph Chia, Vicki Chan

**Speaker:** His Excellency Mr. Paul Madden, British High Commissioner

**Topic:** "The U.K. and Singapore – A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Relationship"

## Service Committee

### Meetings

Community Service

**Date:** Wednesday, Feb. 13th

**Time:** 5.45pm

**Venue:** Modesto's, 24 Mt. Elizabeth #01-05, Elizabeth Hotel, S228518

## Anniversary Celebrants

RC wishes *Happy Wedding Anniversaries* to all celebrants:

**January 26** – PP J K Ong & Beng Hoo

**January 27** – Jim & Laura Pollock

**January 29** – PP JM & Khairuninsha Jumabhoy

**January 31** – David Tai & Lay Swan

**February 2** – Shantha & Renuka De Silva

## Next week

February 6<sup>th</sup> 2008

**Meeting Cancelled  
in view of the eve of  
Chinese New Year Holidays**

## Service Committee

### Meetings

Vocational Service

**Date:** Thursday, February 14th

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Venue:** 34 Merryn Road, S298483

**Host:** PN Dr. Yap Lip Kee

## January

**Rotary Awareness Month**

## February

**World Understanding Month**

February 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>  
Public Holidays–Chinese New Year

February 20<sup>th</sup> – Meeting cancelled in view of the World Understanding and Peace Day Inter-City Meeting/Lunch on February 23rd

February 23rd  
World Understanding and Peace Day

February 23<sup>rd</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup>  
Philippine Medical & Dental Mission

## March

**Service to New Generations Month**

## Maya Angelou's Words of Wisdom on her 70th Birthday

*Contributed by Rtn. P. Balachandran*

**"I've learned that:**

- ❖ *No matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.*
- ❖ *You can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.*
- ❖ *Regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life.*
- ❖ *Making a 'living' is not the same thing as 'making a life'.*
- ❖ *Life sometimes gives you a second chance.*
- ❖ *You shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw some things back.*
- ❖ *Whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision.*
- ❖ *Even when I have pains, I don't have to be one.*
- ❖ *Every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back.*
- ❖ *I still have a lot to learn.*
- ❖ *People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."*