

## **Rotary and the Rotary Club of Beijing**

A message to potential, new and existing members

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### **Introducing Rotary and Rotaract**

Rotary International is the world's largest member charity organization with over 1.2 million members belonging to approximately 35,000+ clubs in over 200 countries and territories.

Founded in 1906 in Chicago, IL by Paul Harris and a group of Chicago business philanthropists, it has its current headquarters located in Evanston IL and administers the world's largest charity trust fund with more than \$2 billion which has been significantly boosted by major contributions from the Gates Foundation and Warren Buffet; both of whom have historical family ties to Rotary.

Rotary International's current Global Flagship Project is called 'Polio Plus' which is in its 36th year and has successfully reduced the global headcount of Polio sufferers from more than 350,000 at the campaign commencement to close to zero globally today and zero cases in India for more than 5 years.

### *Projects*

All Rotary projects are expected to fall under one of the seven areas of focus:

- Peace & Conflict Resolution
- Disease Control & Prevention
- Water & Sanitation
- Basic Literacy & Education
- Maternal & Child Health
- Economic Development
- Protecting the Environment

Any member of any Rotary Club can develop a project proposal; it can be a local or an international project to be undertaken by the members club or in partnership with another club, again locally based or international. Whatever money is raised for the project internally, it's funding can be doubled by applying to Rotary International in Evanston for a matching grant that immediately doubles the projects funding and likely effectiveness.

The organization can work highly effectively to address major disasters such as the Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004 which devastated thousands of Oceanside villages, towns and cities in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Thailand. Within a year more than 60% of these devastated communities had benefited from Rotary Clubs mobilizing in a coordinated way to provide the funding and resources to rebuild shattered people's lives.

In India, where a concerted effort for decades eradicated polio and there has been no cases for 5 years, Rotary is taking on the massive challenge of providing quality education for all hugely supported by major corporations such as Ayturla Birla Group providing its own source of funding support to Indian Rotary Clubs.

### *Meetings and Commitment*

For each Rotarian, there is an automatic right to attend any of the world's 32,500 clubs weekly or regular meetings and undertake a banner exchange between clubs to symbolize the interchange and camaraderie of the world's finest organization.

Rotary has a tag line of "Service above Self" and most Clubs have a weekly statement of the 4 way test of our core values which are of the things we say or do:

- Is it the truth
- Is it fair to all concerned
- Does it build goodwill and beneficial relationships
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned

### *Organizational Structure*

One of the most significant aspects of Rotary is its efficiently organized global structure with each of the 32,500 clubs having for each year a single President, an elected board whose role can be to chair a sub-committee comprising of individual members. Each Rotary Club belongs to a district and these regional districts have a Leader referred to as a District Governor. Above this is a Global Board of 24 people that sit for 3 years in Evanston under the direction of a Global President who is the figurehead of Rotary and takes over each year at the Global Convention where up to 30,000 Rotarians attend.

### **Rotaract & Interact**

Finally Rotaract is for Rotary followers under 30 years old (or in Beijing, 35) and Interact is for those under 18 years old and is usually at Schools.

Rotaract clubs bring together people ages 18-30 to exchange ideas with leaders in the community, develop leadership and professional skills, have fun through service. What are the benefits?

Connect with leaders in your community and around the world to:

- ✓Take action locally and internationally to create sustainable change
- ✓Expand your professional network and exchange ideas with proven leaders
- ✓Develop your professional skills through leadership training
- ✓Have fun and make new friends from around the world
- ✓Connect with the global community of Rotaract

There are 10904 Rotaract clubs around the world in 189 countries with 203.000 Rotaractors.

There are 14,911 Interact clubs in 145 countries with 342,953 Interactors.