
❖ Fragile Earth ❖

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The Rotarian Initiative for Population & Development

October 99

Rotary International Board Calls for Population Action

What a Difference a Day Makes muses the familiar Dinah Washington blues tune. July 1st

this year was indeed such a day in the life of Rotary International, now finally turning its attention toward the global issues of over population and unsustainable development. Our past leadership had remained silent on these problems, which are directly interlocked with human suffering. Many have asked over recent years how Rotary, a leading humanitarian organization, could have ignored the population issue, as it carried on its important humanitarian service work, including programs addressing hunger, poverty, homelessness, AIDS, Preserve Planet Earth, and development of water/soil projects. All of these are wonderful programs, but how could we have missed the doubling of the world populations (each 25 years in many countries), rendering much of our work barely noticeable. It is perplexing.

Now at its August meeting, armed with the Population Resolution from the 1998 Council on Legislation and strong recommendations from the RI Committee on Population Growth & Development, the 1999-2000 Board of Directors

has adopted a serious plan for Rotary to address the Population & Development issue. The Board Decision says in part that, "Where population growth exceeds the capacity of economic growth to absorb and integrate the population, the result is a downward spiral of increasing poverty, insufficient resources, urban violence and environmental degradation. The poorest of the poor are most adversely affected. Rotary International encourages clubs and districts to increase awareness and undertake even more projects that directly impact population growth and sustainable development. Projects would include those that promote education on the issues of population, access to family health care, adequate nutrition, and enable individuals to make informed decisions about issues such as child spacing, in a way that is in keeping with their personal values and cultural and religious considerations."

The Board continued by recommending Population & Development as an optional topic to be presented on programs at District Conferences, Regional Conferences, Rotary Institutes, International Institutes, Presidential Conferences and Rotary club meetings. It further recommended that the



Ravizza with RIFP&D Leadership

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President-elect appoint a Task Force on Population Growth & Development, to promote awareness of issues related to Population Growth & Development and advise Rotarians on relevant project development and implementation. The General Secretary (and RI staff) have been requested to support this new direction of Rotary work.

RI President Carlo Ravizza has announced that one of his four Presidential Conferences will focus exclusively on the Population & Development issue. Planned for April 7-9, 2000 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, the meeting will bring the full focus of the President's office onto the population question, in a part of the world where over population and its associated suffering are seen in the extreme.

President Carlo's theme for this Rotary year speaks of **Consistency, Credibility and Continuity**. It will be necessary for Rotary as an organization to prioritize Continuity in its focus on the Population & Development issue, if we are to address it effectively. President-elect Frank Devlyn of Mexico has already indicated an intention to continue strongly in this new direction now set by Ravizza. Will President-nominee Richard King maintain the momentum? One begins to imagine adoption of a multiple year Population Program, lapsing over Rotary years into the future. We occasionally even hear mentioned the idea of Population replacing PolioPlus, as a major program of emphasis, when that program is complete.

There are still important questions for Rotary to answer. When easily one-fourth of the world's 6 billion people today live below the poverty line, how much suffering will we see with 12 billion in the world in 2050? What can Rotarians do to avoid this apparently inevitable condition? Can we increase our resources? Can we produce more grain? Can we possibly keep up? How dense can we get?



RIFPD's Second Conf. with United Nations Population Fund in New York

New York, New York - Over 125 RIFPD members, including 26 Country Chairmen from around the world, convened in New York City May 6-8, 1999 for the 2nd RIFPD-UNFPA Conference. The meeting's purpose was to work with UNFPA to identify our common interests, and to find ways for the two groups to collaborate more effectively in our population work. The gathering was accented with the participation of **RI President Carlo Ravizza** of Italy and **President-elect Frank Devlyn** of Mexico.

Ravizza expressed both caution and optimism in his opening remarks to the group. Noting that Rotary International did not yet (at that time) have policy with respect to the population issue, he observed that the RIFPD must be careful to not be seen as the voice of Rotary itself. He followed by applauding RIFPD for its work, and noting that he believed that Rotary should be actively addressing the population issue, and that during his year as President, emphasis would be given to establishing a Rotary direction in population work.

U N F P A Executive Director **Nafis Sadik** complimented Rotary and the



Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of UNFPA

RIFPD on the progress it had made since the last Conference. She specifically cited the passage of the Population Resolution (98-231) at the 1998 Council on Legislation, signaling from the constituency of the organization that Rotary should direct its corporate attention toward population work. She also challenged Rotary to assume an even

greater leadership role among NGO's around the world and to work for the implementation of the *Cairo Program of Action*.

Key speakers at the Conference included **Betty White**, Assistant Ambassador of the US Mission to the United Nations, **Anwarol Chaudhary**, Bangladeshi Ambassador to the United Nations, and **Prof. Dr. J.F. Radermacher**, noted lecturer on the world population and the global economy. Radermacher, a Rotarian from Ulm, Germany holding doctorates in Mathematics and Economics, delivered a stimulating closing presentation, challenging Rotary to envision a 'global citizenship', where our right to consume resources is linked to our stewardship of the environment.

Panel discussions were also held on **Gender Equality**, led by **Judith Praether** (DG, California), and on **Population Project Guideline**. The *Cairo Program of Action* places high priority on Gender Equality, and its impact on population reduction. Following that Workshop, two women who have had significant, direct involvement in Rotary population projects were honored with **Paul Harris Fellowships: Stella Lufadeju of Nigeria and Indira Reddy of India**. Debate was held over the Guidelines, with attention on how tightly to define abortion in the paragraph excluding abortion from any Rotary Population Project work. See Page 4 for more on Guidelines.

The Conference ended with a **Population Projects Workshop**, where thirteen Population Project partnerships were made, linking Rotarians from different parts of the world in projects designed to directly address the population problem.

RIFPD Annual General Meeting in Singapore Full of Surprises

Singapore - June 14th, during the 96th Annual Convention of Rotary International, RIFPD held its 4th AGM. In addition to the regular business of the the group, the Agenda had a few surprises for the 100-plus attendees.

First, an appearance was made by **Mohammad Yunis**, founder of the **Grameen Bank**, known as the pioneer of micro-credit. Yunis detailed the history of how the bank was started, and how it has stimulated significant improvements in living conditions for so many Bangladeshi, enabling hundreds of thousands to help themselves out of the poverty trap. He also observed the direct correlation between women empowered to provide for themselves and the event of smaller families. Fertility in Bangladesh has fallen from over 7 to 3.3 children per family in recent years, thanks in no small part to **Mahammad Yunis**, winner of this year's **Rotary Award for World Peace and Understanding**.

Other key topics covered:

- o **Dolapo Lufadeju** of Nigeria designated to take RIFPD Chair next year (see Page 4)
- o **Lindsay** predicts RIFPD shift of focus toward population projects.
- o First **Nafis Sadik Award for Courage** presented to **Indira Rana** (see Page 3).
- o **Population Project Guidelines** adopted (see Page 4).

As a second surprise, **President-elect Frank Devlyn** of Mexico dropped in to voice his support and encouragement to RIFPD. Devlyn detailed his personal struggle to reconcile the need for Rotary to act on the population issue, and his views as a Catholic. He indicated that he had consulted with Catholic leaders in Mexico on the population subject, and that he had found a common desire with the two groups to dignify human life, which in a large sense means families being able to have only the number of children that they could care for and love.

Next AGM: Buenos Aires, Arge



Indians Envisions a Better Life with Integrated Family Welfare Centers

Guntakal, India - Over the past few years, this newsletter has focused attention on two model population projects: the Child Spacing project in northern Nigeria, and the Buttonhole Tubectomy Camps in central India. These are not the only Rotary Population projects, but they have been well documented and have been sustained over a long period. (*Ed. note - we look to receive your project reports for future newsletters*)

PDG Dr. Hari Reddy, RIFPD Country Chair for India and organizer of the Buttonhole Tubectomy Camps (over 4,000 tubal ligations and vasectomies provided over the last two years), has now proposed an even broader and more effective program for the 45 Rotary communities in district 3160. Each club will partner with a club in Rotary District 6910 (north Georgia, USA), each providing \$1,000 toward a Matching Grant request to The Rotary Foundation, for a total project value of \$4,000. In existing health facilities in the Indian Communities, local Rotarians will establish **Integrated Family Welfare Centers**. The purpose to:

- ◆ Promote contraceptive use.
- ◆ Provide sterilization procedures.

- ◆ Immunize children.
- ◆ Provide health check ups.
- ◆ Promote girls staying in school.
- ◆ Provide micro-credit to women.
- ◆ Give AIDS awareness classes.
- ◆ Provide daycare to working mother.
- ◆ Provide literacy services to women.

It is difficult to imagine a more comprehensive service program for a community. One might ask how a small Rotary club could effectively sponsor such an ambitious undertaking, but evidence from past projects with District 3160 has demonstrated that the Rotarians there are very willing to roll up their sleeves and to see their project through to completion, with after-action reports demonstrating the results for their partners to see. The Rotarians in India have also taken the initiative to understand and use the Matching Grant process, providing complete and accurate paperwork as a part of their involvement in the project, always communicating promptly.

Dr. Hari Reddy is to be commended for his vision of a better life for the communities in his part of central India.



Population professionals sought

Population Leadership Program, an arm of the US Public Health Institute, in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), recruits, hires and places mid to senior-level personnel to work in Population, Family Planning and Reproductive Health Programs around the world. Those interested in such assignments should apply with a resume to The Population Leadership Program, 210 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, USA. Tel: 831.427.4977, fax 831.458.3659.

An immediate opportunity exists for a Technical Advisor in Asuncion, Paraguay, to assist the USAID Mission with the planning, implementation and evaluation of a Reproductive Health Program in a complex, diverse and changing political environment. Five to ten years experience in the field, as well as a masters or doctorate public health, population dynamics, management, social science or a related field is required. Must be fluent in Spanish and English. Salary based on experience and salary history.



First Nafis Sadik Award to Indira Rena

Katmandu, Nepal - On June 17th, Chairman Buck Lindsay presented the first **Nafis Sadik Award for Courage** to the family of **Ms. Indira Rena**, who was at that time attending a meeting in New York at the United Nations with the Commission on Crimes Against Women. The annual award has been established by RIFPD to recognize individuals who demonstrate boldness and courage in their actions to sponsor change to the conditions of over population. The award is named for Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of UNFPA and leading spokesperson in the population arena.

In 1991, at the death of her mother, Ms. Rena refused to conform to the Hindu ritual which prescribed that only sons can give fire to the cremation of a parent. As a daughter without a brother, she did not want her mothers remains to be left

unsanctified, so she broke the tradition, signaling that families did not need to continue having children until a son arrived, in order to satisfy the death ritual. Now, daughters in Nepal are seen more frequently providing fire to the death body in cremation. This courageous action by Ms. Rena heralded an important change in an old tradition, which will mean higher value to the girl child, and fewer children for many families in Nepal.

Mr. Rena is the first female Judge in her country and is a respected member of the Rotary Club of Kathmandu. Of related importance, the Rotarians of Nepal have formed a National Committee of RIFPD, led by Dr. Tika Man Vaidya, a noted Reproductive Health specialist.



RIFPD ADOPTS GUIDELINES FOR ROTARY POPULATION & DEVELOPMENT SERVICE PROJECTS

While RIFPD can not prescribe how Rotary projects should be handled, as a member of the Rotary family most focused on the population issue, the group has developed its own set of Guidelines for consideration when Rotary clubs are working on population projects. It has been recommended by RIFPD that Rotary International consider adopting these or similar Guidelines, to set common parameters for our population project service work in the future. The Guidelines presented below were adopted by RIFPD at the AGM June 14, 1999 in Singapore:

1. The **Program of Action** delivered from the 1994 Cairo *International Conference of Population & Development*, which was agreed to by 180 governments represented at the conference, serves as a guide for Rotary's Population & Development work. It suggests attention toward:

- Extending and improving family planning and reproductive health services.
- Expanding population policy to include economic development and education.
- Improving the status of women.
- Linking environment and sustainable development to population.
- Investing in the health and development of children, especially girls.
- Emphasizing male responsibility for sexual, reproductive and parenting behavior.

2. Projects should attempt to include participation and support from other agencies and/or foundations involved in the Population & Development area, including international, national and local organizations. Rotarians should remain actively involved in the work,

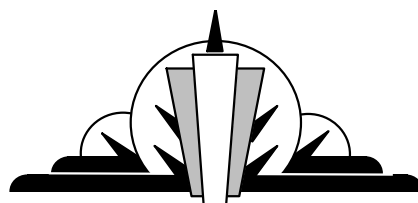
and association should only be with organizations whose published policies are consistent with the ideals contained in paragraphs 3-6 below. Association, where possible, with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Field Representatives is encouraged.

3. Project concepts should be respectful of local cultural and religious customs regarding family values and reproductive health. Toward this end, projects ideally are conceived and detailed by the local Rotary sponsoring organization.

4. Projects should employ child spacing methods including abstinence, natural and all medically approved methods of contraception. Projects must not use abortion or any other form of premature induced delivery.

5. Project beneficiaries should participate on a completely voluntary basis, without pressure, material inducement or compensation.

6. Projects should not specify or target certain numbers of children per family or fertility rates, these things being better left to the discretion of the individual family units. Generally, projects will achieve improvements in these measure areas by directing attention toward underlying causes (availability of reproductive health services, gender equality, literacy, economic empowerment, etc.).



Letter from Vice Chairman Lufadeju

Zaria, Nigeria - *Emmanuel Adedolapo Lufadeju (Dolapo) has served the last four years as Vice Chairman of RIFPD, giving creativity and energy to our work. Next June, Dolapo will assume the Chair, as we enter the next millennium of service. Dolapo sends the following message to RIFPD members:*

Let us congratulate ourselves on the successful completion of two major activities this year. First, there was the successful meeting of the RIFPD with UNFPA in New York. This meeting attracted the participation of Rotary's present and future Presidents, and generated stimulating discussions on the issues of population and development. The presence of our top leaders signaled that we have finally succeeded in calling the attention of the Rotary world to the very important issues of over population and unsustainable development. Secondly, we had a very productive Annual General Meeting in Singapore, again blessed with the attendance of our top leaders.

It has been a long way from the RI Peace Forum in Dakar, Senegal in May, 1994, to the implementation of the pilot population projects in Nigeria and India, to the overwhelming support and approval of the "Population Resolution" by the Council on Legislation in New Delhi in 1998. All these activities have resulted in a response from Rotary's leadership, as seen by the formation of the RI Committee on Global Challenges Human Growth in 1998-99, and the more relevant RI Committee on Population Growth and Development in 1999-2000.

Yet we can not rest our oars, as there is need more than before for intensive RIFPD membership development in all Rotary countries of the world. Our efforts on advocacy must be intensified, and more importantly, RIFPD's Country Chairs must work harder than before on the twin issues of advocacy and membership development.

E.A.L.

E.A.

IFP&D PROJECTS EXCHANGE

For this Newsletter, in lieu of listing projects for which help is requested, we present a summary of the key steps in setting up a Rotary World Community Service (WCS) project with the support of a Matching Grant from The Rotary Foundation (TRF).

WCS Projects are international humanitarian service projects between Rotary clubs and/or districts in different countries. If the project is completely funded by the participating clubs or districts, there is no guiding criteria. But if the project is to include funds from TRF, it is necessary to follow and comply with The Guide for Matching Grants (Rotary Publication 144). The Matching Grant Application is Rotary publication 141, a six-page form for providing information required by TRF. Both documents can be ordered through Rotary Publication office, or online at <http://www.rotary.org>. For complete details, obtain these publications.

A brief summary of TRF Matching Grant conditions follows:

- ◆ Grants are given to partnered Rotary clubs or districts, one being the Project (or local) Country, the other being the International Sponsoring Country, each with a Committee of three Rotarians to oversee the project. Projects must have significant Rotarian involvement.
- ◆ Grants match money contributed by the Project and/or Sponsoring clubs or districts (at least half of which must come from the Sponsoring club or district) on a one-to-one basis, up to \$50,000 (total project value \$100,000). Grants of \$25,000 or less are considered on a continuing basis by TRF, and are funded on a first-come, first-serve basis each Rotary year, as long as funds last. Grants over \$25,000 are considered competitively twice a year, with submittal deadlines of August 1st and January 1st.
- ◆ Benefit at least six individuals,

benefit the community as a whole, and not benefit any Rotarian or relative.

- ◆ Not repeat a previous Matching Grant project.
- ◆ Not be used for the purchase of land, for the construction of buildings, for travel, for salaries, for administrative/operating expenses, nor for the establishment of foundations or trusts.
- ◆ Not be for unskilled labor which could be provided by volunteers.
- ◆ Not be for a project already completed, or already underway.
- ◆ May include cooperation with other non-Rotary organizations, but funds can only be matched from Rotary contributions, and Rotary involvement in and control of the project must be demonstratable.
- ◆ The cost of purchase of any goods or materials covered by the Grant must be supported by pro forma invoices or statements from the intended vendors (the amounts must match the **exact** amounts in the grant application - this is very important).
- ◆ Applications must be signed by representatives from the Project and Sponsoring clubs, and by the District Governors if District Designated Fund's (DDF) are used.

When either the Project or Sponsoring districts have DDF's (earned from earlier contributions to TRF), with the authority of the District Governor, those funds may be used in the project, and can also be matched by TRF in support of the project. Ask your DG.

Pre-project planning costs can not be funded by Matching Grants, but may qualify for Discovery Grants from TRF, which are addressed under separate guides and application forms.

Most Sponsoring clubs seek to fund support of Matching Grant projects from their club's annual budget, meaning that projects involving \$1,000 to roughly \$10,000 from the Sponsoring partner will be significantly easier to find support for

than larger projects. When projects require larger amounts of funding, a number of clubs from the Sponsoring club area or district might pool their support, to achieve the larger amount.

Grants take about 6-8 weeks for review and response. When TRF approval is given, and necessary funding agreements and payments are sent in, another four weeks is required for the disbursement of the funds to the recipient club.

Only five Matching Grant projects can be active by a single club or a district at any time. To close out a project, a Final Report must be received and acknowledged by TRF within two months from the completion of the project. Sponsoring clubs also want to know about the success of the project, to validate their involvement. Not filing final reports of completed projects will stop approval of new projects.

Recognition of the participating Rotarians is critical. For those who contribute, when the funds are forwarded through TRF, Paul Harris Fellow credit is given. Local Rotarians should be recognized in their community. The Rotary Foundation and Rotary International should also be recognized for support of the project.

How do we relate this project process to the population problem? Review the six key points from the Cairo Program of Action (contained at Page 4, para. 1). The creative ways in which we chose to address the population problem are unlimited, but are usually best conceived in the Project Country. Sponsoring club support is available, and through publication of projects in this column of future Newsletters, it can be easily found. Country Chairmen from developing country's are especially encouraged to lead the project proposal process.



The David and Lucile Packard Foundation Recognizes RIFPD with Major Grant to Support Administrative Work

Over the past four years, everything that you have received from RIFPD has been conceived, produced, proofed, printed, packaged, mailed and filed by RIFPD Rotarian volunteers, which is the way Rotary works. But as the group has grown to over 12,000 members worldwide, the work of administering the programs of the organization has grown correspondingly. Keeping up with 12,000 members, or stuffing 12,000 envelopes is not a Thursday evening task, but instead a full time job.

Thank goodness for the **David and Lucile Packard Foundation**, which has seen fit to support RIFPD's work with a major grant to fund an RIFPD Secretariat, to help with the vast administrative chores of the organization. We will now not just barely be able to keep up with newsletters, information requests, brochure updates, and the like; but we will be able to plan ahead, and to operate in a more business-like manner.

David Packard, of Hewlett-Packard fame, recognized that rapid world population growth has dire consequences for the planet and the quality of life of its citizens. The Population program of the Foundation he

established supports programs like RIFPD, groups committed to drawing a better balance between numbers of people in the world, and the resources upon which we all depend. And the

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Packard Foundation is not the only philanthropy that has focused its grantmaking on this issue. So too have the Rockefeller, Turner, Hewlett, Soros and Gates Foundations and many others. The issue seems to attract smart money.

Even from everyday Rotarians and friends, support has shown up at RIFPD in the form of large, unsolicited contributions, and with the commitment of volunteer work. Two Rotarians

owning charitable trusts have made sizable grants to RIFPD, just saying, "Good work. Use this to keep the effort going". Others send periodic checks for dues with an extra zero on the amount, just to help out a little more. These contributions not only keep RIFPD in the black, but are votes of confidence that speak with volume and clarity.

Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation should hear these voices, since they are talking in our universal language of *humanitarianism*. The Rotary Foundation is a proven, highly efficient vehicle for humanitarian work. At some point in the near future, it will adopt and embrace the population cause. The example of how PolioPlus has stimulated our imagination and attracted our support might only be an appetizer of what might be possible. If we devote our energy and resources to the Population issue as we have to combat polio, who knows what we can accomplish? Thanks to the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Caption Box will become true sooner rather than later.



Roster of IFP&D Country Chairmen

Argentina	_____?
Australia	Glenda Hedley
Bangladesh	Habin Khan
Belgium	Hessel Danser
Belize	Marcelo Coyi
Bermuda	Charlie Batson-Syian
Botswana	Mike Lakin
Brazil	Antonio Araujo
Canada West	Gordon Swan
Canada East	Rob McLeod
China (Taiwan)	_____?
Cote d'Ivoire	Claude Danho
Denmark	Niels Falkenberg
Ecuador	Hector Plaza
England	Alan Bruce
Finland	Yrjo Helanen

France	_____?
Germany	Robert Zinser
Ghana	Mike Asafo-Boakye
Greece	_____?
Guinea	Amadou Diarra
India	Hari Reddy
Indonesia	_____?
Ireland	_____?
Israel	David Neumann
Italy	Piero Marcenaro
Japan	Tario Kanno
Korea	Kee Hyong Kim
Lebanon	Gilbert Boghossian
Malaysia	Kewg-Bin Lee
Mali	Amategue Dolo
Mexico	Andres Robles
Mozambique	Ismael Amade
Nepal	Lachhe Bahadur K.C.
Netherlands	Warner de Putter
New Zealand	Mark Tregidga
Nigeria	Adeldolapo Lufadeju
Norway	Christian Eitzen

Panama	_____?
Pakistan	Mohamad Akbar
Philippines	Joseph Arias
Portugal	_____?
Russia	Alexandre Makatsaria
Samoa	Marco Kappenberger
Senegal	Alassane Mar
Scotland	_____?
Singapore	Rosy Nakhooda
Spain	Victor Auz
Sri Lanka	Janaka Edirisinghe
Sweden	Rolf Svensson
Switzerland	Peter Gut
Tanzania	J.K Chande
Thailand	_____?
Turkey	Turgut Gokyigit
Uganda	Jotham Musinguzi
Ukraine	Anatoliy Shyrokov
USA	Buck Lindsay
Guatemala	Steve Dudenhoefter
Venezuela	Petro Figuero
Zambia	Patrick Chisanga

RI Board Recinds Fellowship Status

Evanston, Illinois - At its August meeting, the Board of Directors of Rotary International voted 14-3 to recind its recognition of the *International Fellowship on Population & Development*. The split vote, relegating the group to a diminished status outside the official umbrella of Rotary International, sent a confusing message to the Rotary world. During the same meeting in which it endorsed a positive slate of Population & Development initiatives, the Board's dismantling of the 12,000 member Fellowship (Rotary's largest by far) could not easily be understood. The rationale for the Ravizza-sponsored motion was that IFP&D was neither vocational nor recreational, and therefore did not warrant Fellowship status. While recognizing for the record that the Population Fellowship had played an important role in pushing the Population issue to the forefront of the Rotary agenda, the Board was also known to have been rankled by the Fellowship's independent and aggressive approach to sponsoring that change.

The Fellowship members, representing over 1% of Rotary's total membership, will continue its humanitarian focus under a new banner: RIFPD will continue the same

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work in the same way it has in the past. Although the official title of "Fellowship" will not be used, the common bond of fellow Rotarians who recognize the primal importance of Rotary addressing the global population predicament will grow. As with other important social changes in the world (religious freedom, representative government, women's rights, abolishment of slavery), we know that challenges to the Population Initiative will be a part of the process. But challenges always inspire greater conviction and commitment toward right ideals. So it will be with RIFPD.

Vicci Cornette Assumes Role of Executive Director for RIFPD

Lawrenceville, Georgia - RIFPD has entered into a two-year employment agreement with Vicci Cornette, a marketing / sales professional with over 15 years experience. She has directed marketing programs for businesses in the past, and most recently worked as a national sales manager for a major poultry company.

Cornette grew up as the daughter of a military officer and has travel extensively. She attended Georgia Southern College and graduated in 1985 with a degree in Communication Arts/Public Relations. She is married and is the mother of a six-month-old daughter.

Her duties as Executive Direc-

tor of RIFPD will be to manage the day-to-day activities of the organization, including dialogue with members and Country Chairs, production of publications and newsletters, maintenance of rosters and financial records, resource development and collaboration with other population organizations.

"RIFPD is making positive strides in eliminating human suffering around the world and I'm proud to be a part of this dynamic organization," said Cornette.

Vicci can be reached at the address, phone numbers and e-mail noted on the Newsletter back.

Catholic Vicar General Supports Rotary Funding of Child Spacing Programs

Bonn, Germany - Professor Doctor Ike, Vicar General of the Roman Catholic Diocese Enugu/Nigeria, guest speaker at the recent meeting of the German Section of RIFPD, strongly encouraged Rotary participation in child spacing programs.

Vicar Ike learned of the "Child Spacing and Family Health" project in Kaduna State, Nigeria, a joint effort of Districts 1860 (Germany) and 9120 (Nigeria). He then contacted PDG and RIFPD Secretary/Treasurer Robert Zinser to request sponsorship of a similar program in his area. The Vicar stated this type of program "is exactly what my believers need".

This is very encouraging for RIFPD due to the fact that many Catholics do not support the population cause, due to the Catholic church's stance on birth control. While the Catholic church does not condone "artificial" methods of birth control, it does endorse "natural" family planning methods.

A matching grant application has been submitted by RC Ludwigshafen and RC Tans Ekulu. When funding is approved, the "Education in Responsible Parenthood" project will be conducted in close cooperation with the Nigerian Diocese of Enugu.

The annual members meeting attracted over 100 participants and journalists from across Europe, many who traveled several hundred kilometers to attend. In addition to Vicar Ike, Professor Kunzel, a leading German gynecologist, spoke on the importance of prenatal and postnatal care for both mother and child. PDG Zinser provided an update on the ongoing projects of RIFPD across the globe. A discussion was also held on the importance of the population and development issue.

Uganda Project Receives Support

Kampala, Uganda - At the RIFPD-UNFPA Conference in New York last May, during the Population Project Partner Workshop, **Jotham Musinguzi**, Country Chair / Uganda, proposed an innovative solution for an extreme problem in Uganda.

The country has a 43% teen pregnancy rate, the highest in the world. And in a cruel twist of consequence, pregnant teens are expelled from school. Infant mortality is 122 / 1000, and maternal mortality is 15-20 / 1000 in the project area. Life expectancy is 48.9. Literacy rate is 56.6%. Only 26.6% have safe drinking water, and 1.5% electricity for lighting. Because discussing sexuality with children is taboo, AIDS and STD's are epidemic. Many families still believe in witchcraft, decreasing cure rates.

The proposed project aims to provide

adolescents with information and services to avoid and prevent early sexuality, STD's and HIV/AIDS, to provide services for women in reproductive age group 15-49 years, for safe motherhood to reduce maternal mortality, and to provide children aged 0-5 years with immunization services. Project management, monitoring and evaluation systems are in place. Even gasoline for the motorcycle to deliver the services has been budgeted

An RIFPD member anonymously committed \$5,000, together with local and Foundation money to fund the \$20,000 project. This project is certain to help.

Rotarian Musinguza serves in the Office of Population of the government of Uganda, and has been deeply involved in programs of the United Nations Population Fund. Jotham's expertise in population project implementation is invaluable to Rotary in work of this sort.



Annual RIFPD Membership Dues renewal notices are on their way. Note that a Lifetime Membership, by popular request, is now available at \$100.

Tuesday, October 16, 1999 is the official moment the world population reaches 6 billion. We're now adding France, Greece and Sweden (78 million) more each year. Oct. 10-16 is World Population Awareness Week

RIFPD's now has a new Web Site: <http://www.rifpd.org> The site, created and managed by California Rotarian Charles Bull, will feature information of interest to members.

F r a g i l e E a r t h

**Rotarian Initiative for
Population & Development
270 Langley Drive
Lawrenceville GA 30045 USA**

To join RIFPD, send US\$10 with name, address, tel/fax numbers, and Rotary Club/District Number to above address

Homepage: <http://www.rifpd.org>
E-mail: lpbatlanta@aol.com
Tel. 770-963-8989, Fax 770-822-9492

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