

# ◆ Fragile Earth ◆

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## President Elect Bhichai Rattakul of Thailand

Bhichai Rattakul, former Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, has been elected by Rotary International to serve as President in 2002-03. In March 1998, he addressed the United Nations meeting in Bangkok to review the implementation of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference of Population and Development (ICPD). A summary of his comments follow:

Rattakul observed "population is a subject very dear to my heart, because every population is made up of individual people — human beings just like you and me — not impersonal numbers." He praised the ICPD process for shifting the focus away from numbers and placing the individual at the center of the development process... "to forge a new international consensus that population concerns should be at the center of all economic, social, political and environmental activities." He articulated this concept as it applies to Asian/Pacific region, noting that governments are "moving away from birth control targets toward more positive and broader target-free family planning and reproductive health considerations, with the emphasis now on the needs and well-being of individuals — real people who have feelings and emotions, as well as the ability to produce children." He commented further that women must become the subjects — not the objects — of population and development policies if those policies are to be effective.

Rattakul expressed pride in Thailand's progress in the population area. In the early 1990s, the average woman was giving birth to six or seven children in



Rotary International President  
Elect Bhichai Rattakul

her lifetime; now it is two children, or replacement level numbers. This has allowed a greater focus on Human Development. Instead of building new schools to keep up with an ever-larger population, ... "we are now focused on finding ways to ensure that each and every child — boys and girls — will have the opportunity to benefit from twelve years of education. More years of better education will equip these young people to take better jobs and give them a quality of life far beyond what their parents had."

President-elect Rattakul also challenged leaders at all levels to make the fruits of development available to all people. "Developing countries — even those which have made progress — cannot do this alone. They need help from donor governments and non-governmental organizations. We are expected to think through complex development problems and come up with solutions that will make a meaningful difference in the quality of our lives at present and in the lives of our children and grandchildren in the future. We must be willing to invest in people at least as quickly as we do in factories and skyscrapers. We owe it to the billions of people who are depending on us for showing them the way."

Although these thoughts and words were for another audience, they express a keen insight by our President-elect into the population issue. Over the past few years, under past leadership, Rotary International has seen an intensifying focus on the population issue. Rattakul plans to have a Rotary International Committee on Population & Development for 2002-2003.

◆ Buck Lindsay

## Model For Micro-Business Revolving Loan Fund Now Available

We've all heard about the importance of micro-enterprise loans in helping poor people pull themselves out of the poverty trap. The Grameen Bank, the largest rural lender in Bangladesh, has become the global leader in pioneering the success of making small business loans to poor people in developing countries. But how does a Rotary Club become involved in this dynamic opportunity for service, helping those in need? Consider the following model that was recently set up at a Rotary meeting in Virginia.

At the Rotary meeting, a program was given on Micro-Enterprise loans, describing the multiple benefits of making small, short-term loans to poor women in developing countries. Programs like Grameen have proven in clear terms that such loans are repaid on-time and in full; that borrowers become self-sufficient; that they tend to have smaller families they can care for and love; and they tend to educate themselves and their children to higher levels of school. Such loans are usually not available to the poor from commercial lenders. Micro-enterprise loans typically include a higher interest rate than commercial loans, so that the original loan can be repaid and the loan fund can grow to become more broadly available to the community.

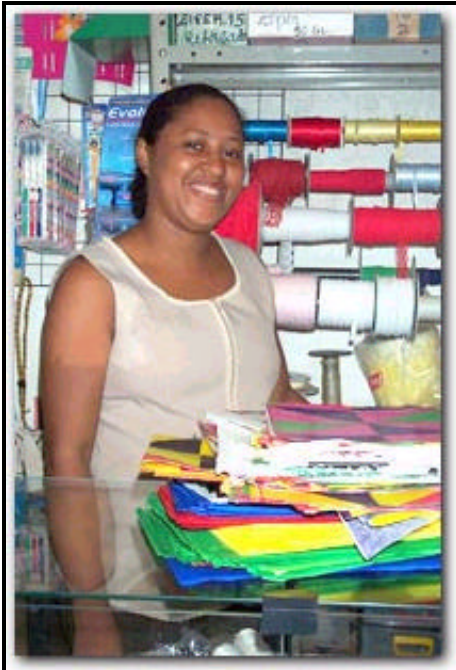
Following the Rotary meeting, 25 Rotarians each contributing US \$10.00 to establish a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) of \$250.00. The Rotary club and an individual agreed to further increase the RLF by adding US \$1,000.00 each, raising the total RLF to US \$2,250.00. A Rotarian visiting from Haiti agreed to establish a RLF Committee in his Rotary club in Port-au-Prince, to solicit and manage the

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## Model For Micro-Business Revolving Loan Fund

*Continued from Cover*

micro-enterprise loans. The loans will be made to poor women in Haiti to start small enterprises in the production of goods or services. The loans will be for three to six month terms, and for amounts not exceeding US \$250.00, and will be repaid with interest. Within two years, the Rotary Club in Haiti must repay the principle of US \$2,250.00, with interest. Enough money will have been earned from loan interest on the micro loans during that period so that the RLF can continue growing in size even more over time.



In this plan, the individual borrowers will form a Solidarity Committee, which as a group, guarantees each individual loan. No loans for a subsequent cycle of loans can be made until all loans of the preceding cycle have been repaid in full with interest.

This RLF project has just been organized, so the results and specific benefits cannot yet be shared. We will, however, follow the progress of this exemplary project in the future with updates in *Fragile Earth*. If your club is interested in an RLF project, contact the RIFPD office for details and partnering opportunities.

❖ Buck Lindsay

## Population and Development: To Be or Not To Be, That Is The Question

“This is a world changing event,” Rotary International (RI) Director Hipolito S. Ferreira stated in his opening statement at the Presidential Population and Development Conference in Brasilia earlier this year. Director Ferreira later said, following the last RI Board meeting for the Frank Devlyn’s Rotary year, that the change in attitude of the RI Board toward ideas of population and development had made a 180 degree turn in acceptability and need.

The vast majority of Rotarians in the world accept the need to educate women, and their spouses, about the availability of methods for child spacing. Adolescent pregnancy is a major problem in all parts of the world. Society can no longer tolerate large numbers of orphans and abandoned children. These children become a society outside our society that are poorly fed, unloved and not educated. They are outside of the influence of normal civilized community activities. It is a challenge to reach them with programs for health, hunger or education, even if nations had the money to implement programs for their benefit.

Some Rotarians fret that during this Rotary year, 2001-2002, nothing can be done to implement population matters. This is not true. Rotary clubs are free to have population projects that are sensitive to the religious, cultural and ethical mores of their own communities. President Richard King has said that he will not disband, or in any way financially punish, Rotary clubs for meeting the population needs of their areas. Each Rotary club is an independent unit working for the benefits of their own people.

President Rick King is in favor of things that can be done to preserve the lives of mothers and their children. Maternity clinics are in great need in poor nations and Rotarians must help to improve their viability. Pre-natal and post natal health clinics are vital to communities for the stability of families. It is impossible to have a stable family life when a mother has died in childbirth or children who are

ill occupy large amounts of time of the overworked mothers. Micro-credit is a vital tool for family stability as mothers are enabled to put food on the tables to feed and improve the health of their families. Micro-credit is, as it has always been, a centerpiece of any population and development program.

HIV/AIDS has also become a valid and important part of the Population and Development movement. The same educational and counseling efforts are needed for both AIDS prevention and child spacing. If AIDS is to be controlled, it will only be controlled when AIDS testing becomes acceptable and people can know their status, and how it effects their relationship with others. HIV/AIDS is like all sexual matters; everyone must deal with it in a responsible manner.

Rotary clubs and Rotary districts are active in population projects this year. Counseling programs for AIDS prevention are being organized for AIDS testing programs by using Rotaractors. Rotaractors are the age group that are most effective in reaching needy people. Rotaractors are happy to take on this responsibility.

New micro-credit programs are continually being devised, especially after the extremely successful discussion group at the San Antonio Convention. (See Cover Story)

Rotary Happy Family Centers in India are popular, as families are educated about responsible family living. Indian Rotarians continue with their population concerns, which will span many different Rotary years.

Population and Sustainable Development: “to be”; a rational world cannot exist without programs for its implementation. “Or not to be”: Rotarians will not turn their backs on women in need and deny them the fundamental right of all women in developed nations; the control of their bodies and the size of their families.

❖ *By William P. Cadwallader, Jr.,  
Past Rotary International Director*

## A Glance Into the Future...

The world population numbers 6.1 billion today and is currently growing by a net increase of some 77 million people per year. The United Nations Population Division, in its 2000 Revision of the world's population prospects, estimates that total world population will be of the order of 9.3 billion by 2050. This growth and its impact will be focused mainly in less developed countries, where currently some 1.2 billion people, the majority of whom are women and children, are living in extreme poverty (less than US \$2 per day).

By mid-century, the 80 percent share of the world's population living in less developed countries in 2000 will have expanded to 88 percent. The bulk of this population growth will thus accrue in the regions of the world least able to absorb large population growth. This will threaten sustainable development and produce further deterioration in standards of living and quality of life. Without realizing the goals of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), especially gender equality and universal access to quality reproductive health services, it will be impossible to achieve a workable balance between population and available resources.

Fifty percent of the world's population will be urban by 2010. This indicates not only that high levels of rural to urban migration are expected to continue, but that the issues of population growth will have to be dealt with in two distinct contexts. The urban environments are often characterized by overcrowding, substandard housing, underemployment and unemployment, and an undeveloped infrastructure, especially in relation to the provision of basic social services. The rural environments are frequently characterized by landlessness, inequitable land-tenure systems, subsistence or lower incomes, and a paucity of basic social services. Both create their own particular version

of poverty and deprivation which constitute a major challenge to governments and agencies in the provision of a reasonable living environment.

Life expectancy is increasing worldwide, except in those countries that are most seriously affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemics. This offsets shrinking fertility rates as the important factor contributing to population growth. The implications of this trend is significant, because of the changes it will produce in the composi-



tion of the population. As fertility declines and people survive to older ages, the composition of the population will mature. This increases the share of adults in relations to young people, and eventually increases the proportion of older persons in relation to children and working-age adults. Accompanying this shift in age structure is a change in the gender balance. Women survive longer than men on average, and will comprise an increasingly large proportion of total and especially older population.

Environmental degradation takes many forms. The element of immediate consequence to most of the world's population today is simple day-to-day survival relative to available land, air and water (see box on page 7). Shortage of usable land gives rise to acute problems of income and shelter. In the rural environment, land fragmentation, eroded slope and degraded soils, contribute to poverty, under nutrition and out-migration. In the

urban context, overcrowding, high rents and pollution lead to unhealthy or to hazardous living conditions, this is most often seen in poor areas, lacking the basic elements of physical infrastructure. The two most serious infrastructure deficiencies in both the rural and the urban contexts are contaminated water supply and heavily polluted air.

Food and water security is becoming an increasingly critical issue in many developing countries, especially where poverty and environmental degradation are endemic. Pressure of population numbers creates a demand for increased food production. Rural communities in many poor countries attempt to meet these increased demands themselves, threatening delicate environmental balances and the natural resource base by overproduction and expansion into forested or marginal areas. Under nutrition and malnutrition are also prevalent in many urban areas, creating the need for access to and affordability of preferred foods in order to maintain healthy and productive lives.

The widespread extreme poverty of those living in least developed countries is being exacerbated by rising population pressure on accessible resources and the deterioration of the natural and built environments. This in turn impacts the resource base and prospects for work and income. The efforts of governments and agencies are therefore becoming progressively more important for the opportunities they can create, the enhanced security only they can offer, and the empowerment they can bestow on these large, poor, highly vulnerable populations. Government support is essential in order to improve the living conditions, maintain the physical and social environments and uphold the dignity of the poor.

❖ *from UNFPA's Population, Environment and Poverty Linkages: Operational Challenges*

## Inner Wheels Support RIFPD

“The Inner Wheel Germany is concerned about the problems of world population growth and unsustainable development. They have appealed to their members to join RIFPD, since RIFPD members receive better support in their interest to take on population-based projects as recommended in the ‘Rotary International Menu of Service Opportunities’. Inner Wheel Germany will support RIFPD as long as Rotary International does not have a program in place that specifically focuses on ‘Population & Development.’”

The following Resolution on Population & Development was passed by the Board of the Inner Wheel Germany.

“Inner Wheelers recognize that population and development is a women’s issue. As mothers, women must understand that child spacing benefits the health of children and reduces infant and maternal mortality. Women must have access to health and AIDS education. The improvement of literacy rates empowers women, especially those in developing countries, so they can freely make their own decisions as to the number and spacing of children.”

Two Inner Wheel members serve as members of the Committee of the Ger-

man section of RIFPD. Inner Wheel Members have disseminated the information received from RIFPD and have invited Rotarians to make presentations on Population and Development to their clubs in past months. As a result, many Inner Wheelers have chosen to join the German chapter of RIFPD, some as lifetime members.

The former National Representative of Inner Wheel Germany, Ina Beckurts, was recently elected to the Board of Directors of Inner Wheel International. Ms. Beckurts participated in the Rotary International/UNFPA Conference on World Population Growth and Sustainable Development in July 2000 in Zurich. Ms. Beckurts and Past District Governor Ingeborg Knabbe, Inner Wheel District 85, both members of the RIFPD Committee of the German Section, are actively promoting population and development as a service opportunity for Inner Wheel clubs. Both will educate their fellow Inner Wheel members on the population issue and encourage their support of projects that address the unmet needs of women and children around the world.

During Rotary’s Annual Conference in San Antonio, RIFPD Vice-Chair Dr. Robert Zinser discussed the need for Inner Wheel involvement in the population issue. Zin-

ser found the Inner Wheels representatives very open to the issue and RIFPD.

In support of the population issue, the majority of Inner Wheel Germany clubs have contributed to funding one or more population-based Matching Grant projects. Ms. Ute Schell, of the Inner Wheel Club of Bonn, is translating various written materials into German for use by *Der Rotarier*, the German Rotary magazine. As a result of Ms. Schell’s efforts, *Fragile Earth* will soon be available in German.

As we all know, much work remains to make a difference in the lives of the poorest of the poor living today. We need the support and assistance of all members of the Rotary World — including Inner Wheels, Interactors and Rotaractors to make a lasting change.

If you are an Inner Wheel, Rotaractor or Interactor and would like more information on how you can help, please contact Dr. Robert Zinser at robert.zinser@t-online.de or via fax at 49621 682872.

❖ by Robert Zinser  
Vice Chairman, RIFPD

### RIFPD Officers and Country Chairs

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Austria	Karl-Heinz Wolff	Hong Kong	William Benter	Solomon Islands	David Quan
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Bermuda	Augustin Hardart	Italy	Piero Marcenaro	Switzerland	Joseph Roos
Botswana		Japan	Tario Kanno	Tanzania	J. K. Chande
Brazil	Adelia Villas	Kenya	Eric Krystall	Tonga	Dianne Warner
Canada	Rob McLeod	Korea	Kee Hyong Kim	Turkey	Turgut Gokyigit
Canada	Laetitia DeWitt	Lebanon	Gilbert Boghossian	Uganda	Jotham Musinguzi
Congo	Victor Kanyinda	Malaysia	Kewg-Bin Lee	Ukraine	Anatolly Shyrokov
Cook Islands	John Fallon	Mali	Amategue Dolo	USA	Buck Lindsay
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Denmark	Niels Falkenberg	Mozambique	Ismael Amade	Venezuela	Pedro Figuero
Ecuador	Hector Plaza	Nepal	Lachhe Bahadur K. C.	West Indies	Dave Maharaj
Egypt	Salem Mashhour	Netherlands	Warner de Putter	Zambia	Patrick Chisanga
		New Zealand	John Birbeck	Zimbabwe	Robin Evans

## *The State of World Population 2001 Footprints and Milestones: Population & Environmental Change*

How can we ensure the well-being of growing human populations and still protect the natural world? By implementing—and adequately funding—internationally agreed actions to reduce poverty, empower women and promote social development, says *The State of World Population 2001* report from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Increasing population and consumption are altering the planet on an unprecedented scale. Signs of stress are everywhere—destroyed natural habitats, threatened species, degraded soil, polluted air and water, and melting icecaps from global warming.

Both rising affluence—resulting in unprecedented resource consumption, pollution and waste—and persistent poverty contribute to environmental problems. Both are linked to population concerns.

World population has doubled since 1960 to 6.1 billion. With this growth mostly in poorer countries, it is projected to increase to 9.3 billion by 2050. More people are using more resources with more intensity—and leaving a bigger “footprint” on the earth—than ever before.

The richest countries, with 20 percent of world population, account for 86 percent of all private consumption; the poorest 20 percent account for just 1.3 percent. At the same time, poverty and limited land availability are causing many poor people to increase their pressure on our fragile natural resources to survive.

Women are more than half of the world’s agricultural workforce and typically manage household resources, yet they are often denied the right to own or inherit land. Many women are trapped by the vicious spiral of environmental degradation, poverty, high fertility and limited opportunity.

Educating women and enabling them to have only the number of children they want would lead to smaller families and slower population growth. This would ease pressure on the environment and buy time to make crucial decisions. Water use has grown six-fold over the past 70 years. By 2050, 4.2 billion people will be living in countries that cannot meet the minimum daily requirement of 50 liters of water per person.

Some 800 million people are chronically malnourished and 2 billion people lack food security. Food production capacities in poor countries are deteriorating due to soil degradation and water shortages. Carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel use grew 12-fold in the 20th century, contributing to a global warming trend that will have severe environmental and social effects. Deforestation rates have reached the highest levels in history.

*The State of World Population 2001* examines these problems in depth, and notes that recent global agreements (“milestones” on the road to sustainable development) point to some solutions. The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994 linked environmental protection to individual decision-making, gender equality and the right to reproductive health. Implementing the ICPD recommendations for development will help defeat poverty and protect the environment.

Next year’s “Rio +10” review of the 1992 Earth Summit agreement will present an opportunity to incorporate the social agenda of the ICPD and other 1990s conference—including education for all and universal access to reproductive healthcare and family planning—into an initiative to promote sustainable development.

*The State of the World Population 2001* is available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Russian. The full report and press kit is available at UNFPA’s website at [www.unfpa.org](http://www.unfpa.org).

❖ *From UNFPA Press Releases*

### THINK ABOUT IT....

“In these strange times, virtually any economist, industrial leader or politician making wildly speculative pronouncements on the global economy, the stock market or the price of gold gains immediate attention in the popular media. **Yet when more than half of all Nobel Prize winners (1,600 imminent scientists in the World Scientist’s Warning to Humanity) suggest that we may have as little as one decade to get off our inherently unsustainable path,** the same media find this statement ‘unworthy’ of coverage. The media mantra, repeated over and over, is that the real bottom line must be the marketplace, free-trade and the global economy. When the media are dominated by wealth and large corporate interests, this economic faith is like religious dogma and is seldom challenged.”

From *The Sacred Balance*  
by David Suzuki

### Numbers, If You Please...

- ◆ Additional billions of dollars per year necessary to enroll every child in primary school worldwide in ten years: 7
- ◆ Billions of dollars per year spent by Europeans on ice cream: 11
- ◆ Percentage of world’s population whose drinking water is dangerously polluted: 23
- ◆ Number of countries in which at least half of the children are no longer in school by the age of eleven: 11
- ◆ Chances that a teenage boy in Botswana will die of AIDS given current infection rates: 9 in 10
- ◆ Estimated percentage of Tibetan children whose growth has been stunted by malnutrition: 50

❖ *From Harper’s Index*

## Matching Grant Application Tips — Getting It Right the First Time

The approval and funding of a Matching Grant is not an overnight process. It usually takes six months to one year. If the application is not complete or The Rotary Foundation requires additional information, the approval process can take longer. By following the guidelines the Rotary Foundation has established for Matching Grants and ensuring applications are complete, the Matching Grant stands the best chance of being approved most promptly. Following is a summary of key items that are critical in the preparation of a Matching Grant application.

In Section 1 of the Matching Grant application, *Project Description*, list as many details about the proposed project as possible. Remember to answer “who, what, when, where, why and how?”. It is also essential to include the number of people who will directly benefit from the project. All Matching Grants must benefit at least six people and serve the community in need. If necessary, attach a separate sheet that thoroughly explains the project details.

Section 2 is *Coordinating Co-Sponsor* or the Rotary Club in the country where the project will take place. When assigning the Primary Contact for a project, please keep in mind this person must be a member of the project Rotary club and will receive all paperwork concerning this grant. It will be necessary for this person to gather any further information The Rotary Foundation requires, answer any questions that relate to the grant and return the agreement forms/payee information promptly. He or she must be detail-oriented and provide prompt responses to any requests for additional information. Make sure e-mail, phone and fax numbers are correct and include country and city codes for phone and fax numbers.

Section 3 lists the *Primary International Sponsor Outside the Project Country*. This is much the same as Section 2. When assigning the Primary Contact from the Sponsor club, keep in mind that he or she will be receiving all paperwork from the Rotary Foundation. This person also needs to be detail oriented and ready

to quickly return any and all documents to The Rotary Foundation.

If the grant will use Rotary Foundation Funds to purchase any equipment, *Section 6* must be completed. When purchasing equipment, it is critical to clearly state who will own and maintain the equipment. Rotarians and Rotary Clubs cannot own or maintain any equipment purchased with funds from Matching Grants. Typically, the beneficiary (for example, a school would own and maintain computers purchased with a Matching Grant) owns any equipment purchased. If the receiving organization is a school, hospital, non-governmental agency, a letter from the organization stating they will accept full responsibility for the maintenance of the equipment is recommended.

*Section 8* indicates how Rotarians will actively participate in the project. This section is a critical part of the application. Both the project (right hand side) and sponsor clubs (left hand side) must complete this section.

Typically, the Rotary club from outside the project country (left hand side of the section):

- Promotes the project to local media and at Rotary district and zone meetings
- Contacts the local Rotary co-sponsor monthly
- Shares expertise and technology via correspondence
- Maintains a relationship with the project country Rotarians

Typically, the Rotarians in the project country (right hand side of the section):

- Manage the project on-site
- Provide volunteer service and train volunteers
- Frequently visit project sites
- Manage grant funds
- Promote the project to local media and at Rotary district or zone meetings
- Design project or assist in design of project

Optional for the Project Country club

(right hand side of the section):

- Provide Funds
- Act as liaison with government agencies and customer officials
- Provide technical expertise in implementation of project

**Both club presidents must sign and date this section. If both club presidents do not sign this section, the grant will be delayed or returned to the project club.**

The total dollar amount of the project should be listed in *Section 9*. A detailed budget for all expenditures of the project should be attached to the application. Any item with a accumulative cost of over US \$1,000 must have a pro forma invoice/estimate attached detailing the cost of the item. The budget must equal the total Grant amount, and supplies listed in the budget must match the project description. For example, a project description to supply girls with books and uniforms with a budget detailing the purchase of benches and toilets will be rejected by the Rotary Foundation.

Example:

Project Budget for Girl Child Education Project  
 \$1,463.41 for 100 set of books = pro forma invoice attached  
 \$2,536.59 for 200 school uniforms (2 per girl) = pro forma invoice attached  
 \$56.00 for slates and chalk = no pro forma invoice attached

Important Note:

- Salaries or administrative expenses cannot be paid by Matching Grant funds.
- Rotarians cannot directly benefit from a Matching Grant (for example, a Matching Grant to train Rotarians on a particular task or topic will be rejected).

*Section 10* indicates how the project will be financed. The Rotary Foundation will “match” half of the project’s total value. This section shows where the other half of the project financing will come from. The application must indicate what Rotary year the funding request is for. The Rotary year

**Continued on Page 7**

## Matching Grant Tips (continued from pg 6)

run July 1 through June 30<sup>th</sup>. The Primary International Sponsor Rotary club is the Rotary club from OUTSIDE the project country. The Project Club is listed under "Other Rotary Clubs/Districts". If at all possible, the Project Club inside the country should contribute towards the funding of the project – even if it is a small amount. Then, subtotal the amounts of the contributions from the two clubs. The Rotary Foundation will only match funds contributed by Rotary clubs and districts. Any funds coming from outside agencies will not be matched by the Rotary Foundation.

### An Example:

Primary International Sponsor:  
Rotary Club of Any Town = \$1,000  
Other Rotary Clubs/Districts:  
Project Rotary Club = \$1,000  
Subtotal = \$2000  
Amount Requested from The Rotary  
Foundation = \$2,000  
Total Amount = \$4,000

If District Designated Funds are used to fund a Matching Grant, *Section 11* must be completed and signed by the CURRENT District Governor. If the District Governor is not able to sign the actual Matching Grant application, he or she must write a letter stating support of the project and the amount of District Designated Funds authorized for use in the project.

District Designed Funds (DDF) are typically available in most districts. To determine if District Designed Funds are available, please check with your District Governor or District Office. If District Designated Funds (DDF) are used to fund a project, they should be listed on a separate line as "District District Funds = amount.

### Final Notes:

Keep copies of all information submitted with the Matching Grant application and a copy of the Matching Grant application itself. Pages can be lost and information misplaced. This will allow the prompt replacement of any missing information.

### THE TIME LINE:

The Rotary Foundation has established a Matching Grant cycle to expedite the approval of Matching Grants. New Matching Grant Applications are accepted from July 15<sup>th</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>. Any applications received after March 31<sup>st</sup> will be returned to the project club. NOTE: The Rotary Foundation has, in past years, allocated all funds before the March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline, so the sooner an application is submitted, the better chance of approval.

Matching Grant applications are reviewed by TRF Project Coordinators from August 15 to May 15<sup>th</sup>. TRF has geographically assigned Project Coordinators to work in specific countries/areas. The Program Coordinator will review and approve each grant. Learn who the Project Coordinator is for your project and address all correspondence to his or her attention. Project Coordinators are eager to work with both the Project and Sponsor clubs. Please feel free to contact your Project Coordinator by e-mail, phone or fax if you have questions concerning your Matching Grant. Project Coordinators are responsible for thousands of Matching Grants, so always refer to your Matching Grant number when contacting them.

Grants are paid from August 1st to May 30<sup>th</sup>. This applies ONLY to Matching Grants that are deemed complete and approved by the Rotary Foundation. If your grant complies with Matching Grant guidelines and is complete and submitted early in the cycle, it will be funded.

Matching Grant applications and instructions for completing the applications can be found on Rotary International's website at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org). Matching Grant applications can also be obtained from the Matching Grant department by e-mail at [grants@rotaryintl.org](mailto:grants@rotaryintl.org) or via fax at (847) 328-8554. Applications are available in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French.

❖ *Vicci Cornette*

## Population Project Summaries Available at [www.rifpd.org](http://www.rifpd.org)

RIFPD's website is a useful resource for both RIFPD members and non-members. The site features such information as the history of RIFPD, upcoming events in the Rotary World that pertain to the population issue, facts and figures on population and unsustainable development and up-to-date information on available projects on the Population projects database. Membership information can be updated and additional information can be requested.

If you haven't already, take the time to visit our website.

## By Land, By Air, By Sea

- ⇒ **Land:** Human activities have destroyed 11% of the globe's arable land, the size of China and India combined. The loss of land and soils challenges the world's ability to provide food. Every year because of population growth and environmental degradation, the world's farmers must feed 77 million more people with 27 billion fewer tons of topsoil.
- ⇒ **Air:** The burning of forest and fuel wood (to heat homes and cook food in the developing world) and fossil fuels (to run cars and industries in the developed world) is causing unhealthy pollution as well as rapid build up of carbon dioxide, the cause of heat-trapping greenhouse gases and global warming.
- ⇒ **Water:** The per capita supply of fresh water is a third lower than in 1970. Already, 80 countries with 40 percent of the world's population suffer from water shortages at some time during the year and at least 300 million people live in regions with severe water shortages. By 2025, that number could be 3 billion.

❖ *From POP Briefs / US AID 10/99*

## Lifetime Members

### Australia

Margaret Congram

### Canada

Laetitia de Witt

### Finland

Mauri Paunikallio

Matti Ponteava

### India

Raja Ramakrishnan

### Switzerland

Ferdinand

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## In Memorandum

**Alan Bruce**, England, died September 7th of a heart attack. Alan was an Advisor to the RIFPD Board and one of our first active members, having worked at the RIFPD's International Convention booth in most of the last nine years. Alan had also been involved with Marie Stopes International, doing population work in India over the years.

**Neil Hoffman**, California, died September 24th, of injuries from a private plane crash. Neil had assumed a leadership role in the San Francisco Bay area as District Governor by including population as one of the priorities of Rotary. He participated in the 1998 Rotary International—UNFPA meeting and opened doors for much for the success RIFPD has enjoyed in California.

Please keep the families of these two dedicated RIFPD leaders in your prayers.

## Fragile Earth

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