

# ◆ Fragile Earth ◆

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## EXPLORING THE LINK BETWEEN RI POPULATION WORK & HUMANITARIAN SERVICE

The world is a system – call it an ecosystem – which has an infinite number of interdependent subsystems, of which humanity is one. The world is like the human body in that sense – a major system composed of subsystems.

In the human body, when one subsystem goes awry, it usually has subsequent impacts on the other subsystems. If our heart becomes ill, that condition leads to the demise and failure of other organs, and eventually failure of the entire body – the total system. We look for ways to deal with our subsystems so that they don't fail us, but instead remain healthy and viable. Two ways of dealing with these subsystems include:

- **Interdiction** – something is wrong and we fix it. We cure the problem.
- **Prevention** – we do the things necessary to avoid the subsystem becoming a sick in the first place.

Although medicine has made incredible progress in the last few hundred years, it is still revealing to notice how humans act with



respect to these two available options in keeping their subsystems healthy. Approximately 90% of what we spend on medicine today is related to interdiction, or cure, and only 10% to prevention. Meanwhile, the recognized ratio of effectiveness between interdiction and prevention is about 10 to 1; that is, \$10 spent on interdiction does as much good as \$1 on prevention.

Without apparent reason, we often act in ways that lead to failure of our subsystems. In developed countries, we have obesity, drug

abuse, smoking, and lack of exercise. Then, our subsystems fail – as in heart disease, diabetes, clogged arteries, arthritis, lung cancer, and so forth. Curiously, we then look to medicine to fix us, and to insurance to pay for the fix and to guilty parties to blame, other than ourselves. It is only in the last few decades that we have begun to think of good diet, safe behavior and exercise as preventative habits that lead to the well-being of our sub-systems, and ultimately overall health.

With the world, it is the same. Humans tend to think in terms of what subsystems are failing – flora, fauna, water, etc., - and then look for the culprits and cures. Insufficient attention is given to why the subsystems fail in the first place, or what could have been done to prevent the failures, or what to do to avoid them in the future.

When we speak of the current-day threats to the world – including nuclear holocaust, global warming, ozone holes, acid rain, terrorism,

(continued on page 6)

## CLUBS NEED TO SPONSOR ENACTMENT FOR THE RI STANDING COMMITTEE ON POPULATION CONCERNS

By June 18, 2004, we'll know whether a Standing Committee on Population Concerns is or is not to be. Today, there are only seven RI Standing Committees: Communications, Constitution and By-Laws, Conventions, Districting, Election Review, Finance and Rotaract. Aside from Standing Committees, the president of Rotary each year names other committees and task forces, as he sees fit to carry out his plans and objectives. Standing Committees are committees at the RI level that exist continuously, by virtue of being so designated in the RI Bylaws. For new standing committees to be designated, the Bylaws of Rotary International must be amended to name the new committee. And that can only happen through the legislative process mounted every three years called the RI Council on Legislation. The Council is composed of 529

voting delegates – past District Governors from each Rotary district – who convene for a 3-5 day meeting to consider all proposed Enactments (changes to the RI Bylaws or Constitution) and Resolutions (statements or ideals that help refine Rotary's direction). Each Council considers 400-500 such issues. It was the 1998 Council on Legislation in New Delhi, India that nearly unanimously passed the Population Resolution (98-231), calling for Rotary attention to the global population issue.

The 2004 Council will consider among many other proposed enactments and resolutions an Enactment for a RI Standing Committee on Population Concerns. The draft Enactment request from [lpbatlanta@aol.com](mailto:lpbatlanta@aol.com) or download directly from the RIFPD website at [www.rifpd.org](http://www.rifpd.org) has already been endorsed by

a number of Rotary clubs, and will be endorsed by their respective districts, and forwarded on to the Secretary General of RI by June 31, 2003, as required by the Manual of Procedure. Between now and then, it is expected that many more clubs will endorse the Enactment. Then at the Council, if approved by a majority vote, the new standing committee will become part of Rotary's permanent organizational structure. **The Population Enactment is needed to bring consistency to the population work of Rotary.**

In just the last two Rotary years, the word population has attracted spotlight attention from one president, and condemnation from another – which is no way to run a business.

(continued on page 6)

## SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS IN TANZANIA

Although Tanzania is the fifth poorest country in the world, Faye Cran, the RIFPD Country Chair/Tanzania has motivated Rotarians there to make a difference in the country. Using contributions from local and outside Rotary clubs and The Rotary Foundation (TRF), these projects have helped the residents learn more about AIDS awareness, literacy, reproductive healthcare and girl child education. Here are a few snapshots of these impressive and innovative projects.

**HIV/AIDS Awareness** - An HIV/AIDS Awareness Calendar was distributed to 72 Primary Schools and Secondary Schools, which included an art contest to color the calendars. The top six calendars were then auctioned off to raise funds. The auction yielded \$5000, and another \$4500 has come from local contributions.

**Dormitories** - As a result of raffles and craft fairs, sufficient funds were raised to build a dormitory for 38 former street girls. The furniture in the dorm was built by former street boys who were also enrolled in a program to get them off the streets and to teach them life skills.

**Water Projects** - with support from the Rotary Club of North Harbour, New Zealand and TRF, \$18,500 was used for a water project which pipes water to a school at Makiba. It also covered a rain harvesting project for the town of Olturmet. With the help of a 3-H grant, another project piped safe water from springs 15 miles away and built storage tanks to hold 90,000 gallons water.

**Gas and Electricity** - Through the Rotary Club of Port Angeles and a Matching Grant from TRF, \$15,600 worth of bio-gas cooking units are being supplied to Makumira College for their students. Another 3-H project sponsored the installation of electricity in a remote area of 14,500, people so that the schools can run computers, and the clinic can hold blood and vaccines.

**School Projects** - A secondary

school science laboratory was given \$5000 worth of chemicals this year from a 3H Grant as well as the Rotary Clubs of Brampton, Canmore, Guelph and Arusha. Additionally, RC Arusha has become a sister club with the Rotary Club of Guildford, which is sponsoring 30 needy children through four years of secondary school at a cost of \$6000 and building two kindergarten classrooms for an additional \$7500.

**Health Care Clinics** - RC of Arusha sponsored the clinic equipment, pharmaceutical supplies, and furnishings to a remote area clinic. This clinic also teaches Child Care, Family Planning and HIV Awareness. Through this clinic, the staff has identified children with parasites and provided them with medication. The clinic has also identified children that are suffering from malnutrition and supplied them with a special diet.

**Micro-Enterprise** - a milk processing plant was properly equipped through a 3-H grant to enable the poor women to market their milk for a reasonable price.

**Malaria Education/Prevention** - Malaria is still the biggest killer in Tanzania. Over 1,000 mosquito nets were provided to local children with the requirement that each child plant and care for 5 fruit trees for the local Rotary Club's Roots and Shoots project. Plans are also underway to work together with RIBI President-elect to build a Community Centre and Library next year, and to take further steps on malaria prevention throughout Tanzania.

To show their personal commitment to their club and to RIFPD, the RC of Arusha has agreed to start on a club diet, where by the participating Rotarians pay \$1 per kilo of body weight lost over the next 3 months. The funds raised from this will go to purchase Braille paper for a blind school in a rural area of Tanzania. ◆

- *Faye Cran, RIFPD Country Chair, Tanzania*

## Bangladesh Country Chair Holds Annual General Meeting

The first Annual General Meeting (AGM) of RIFPD Bangladesh Section was held after the concluding session of the 2003 RI district 3280 Conference on January 11. The participating members were enthusiastic to promote the RIFPD Population programs. They also consider RIFPD to be a most important program for District 3280, since Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated countries in the world.

The following agenda was covered:

- 1. Membership** : The total paid membership is now 88 after the program was started on 27 September 2002. Members are encouraged to bring in more members.
- 2. Constitution** : A draft constitution for RIFPD Bangladesh Section was circulated among the members and adopted.
- 3. Executive Committee** : The Executive Committee was announced and confirmed:  
**Chairman** : PDG Emdad Ul Haq (Dhaka)  
**Vice-Chair**: PDG Jamaluddin (Narayanganj Midtown)  
**Treasurer**: PDG Abdul Ahad (Chittagong)  
**Secretary**: PP Shakur Choudhury (Motijheel)
- 4. The Proposed Population Enactment** : The members

appreciated the idea and recommended the draft received from RIFPD Chairman Adedolapo Lufadeju for adoption by Council on Legislation (COL). A few clubs will send the proposal formally to different clubs for acceptance to the district and then to RI by June 31, 2003.

**5. Programs**: One MG Application prepared by Padma Rajshahi Rotary club was forwarded to the USA office of RIFPD. The members were asked to develop more MG projects. Vice Chairman PDG Jamaluddin explained about his ongoing project to motivate the members.

**6. Miscellaneous** : 1) Members wanted greater support from RIFPD for approval of projects. 2) Members wanted some printed publications like other RI programs to better explain the programs of RIFPD at club levels.

3) Chairman thanked all members for their active support and interest.

The members present appreciated the progress RIFPD has achieved in Bangladesh and look forward to doing substantial and sustainable programs/projects.

*Emdad Ul Haq, Chairman* ◆  
*RIFPD Bangladesh Section*  
*RI D 3280*

## Salzburg Conference Conclusions

Dr. Dolapo Lufadeju, RIFPD Chair, Dr. Robert Zinser, RIFPD Vice Chair and Dr. Peter Neuner, RIFPD Austria Country Chair presented papers on three topics on population at the RI Presidential Institute in Salzburg in November 2002. They found the following:

- Medical Counseling, Child Spacing and Professional Aid are the most important medical aspects of sustainability.
- Child Spacing increases family health and welfare. Mothers pass on child spacing methods to their descendants. Child Spacing projects are sustainable much more than many other projects.
- More progress needs to be

made by clubs and districts, by implementing sustainable projects on population and development. Sustainable development is not possible without population projects. Sustainable development contributes most to our ultimate goal: World Understanding and Peace.

PRID Tony Serrano concluded in his *Report on the World Summit on Sustainable Development* "...little progress has occurred since Rio 1992 and that progress has been so far too slow... the current state of the world's environment is still extremely fragile... This is the opportune time for Rotary to stand forward in leadership". ◆

## REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING & POPULATION PROMOTE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

*The 2000 UN Millennium Peace Summit attempted to address and consolidate the findings of all recent Global Conferences. The Summit published the Millennium Development Goals, presented in condensed form as follows:*

### GOAL 1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

- Voluntary family planning can help people to have as many or as few children as they want and to decide when they will have them.
- Large families dilute the assets of poorer households. Unwanted births deepen household poverty.
- Smaller families allow more investment in each child's health and education.
- Improved data on people and their needs will advance policy development and the targeting of development programs —and improve accountability.
- Migration within and between countries can bring benefits and pose challenges in both sending and receiving areas. Policies can help maximize the gains to poor communities and individuals.
- Better child spacing reduces competition for food within the household and improves children's nutrition.



### GOAL 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

- Attempts to achieve universal education have left out poor children.
- Large numbers of children in poor families mean that some children get no education. For others, education may be delayed, interrupted or shortened.
- In poor families, girls are more likely than boys to be deprived of education.
- Educational continuation depends on avoidance of unwanted pregnancies. Early initiation of sexual activity increases the risk of school dropout. In sub-Saharan Africa between 8 and 25 per cent of dropout rates is the result of pregnancy.
- Early marriage interrupts girls' schooling.

### GOAL 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

- Progress towards gender equality starts with the common indicators of literacy and education. It continues with health care, including personal, voluntary control over fertility. It is important that families and societies accept women's wider social participation, and remove obstacles to it.
- Girls and women need environments where they are safe from gender-based violence, including on the way to, from and in school.

### GOAL 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

- Infant and child mortality are highest for the youngest mothers and after closely spaced births.
- High fertility reduces the provision of health care to children.
- Unwanted children are more likely to die than wanted ones.
- A mother's death increases the risk that her children will die.

### GOAL 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

- Care in pregnancy, during and after childbirth, and emergency obstetric care save women's lives.
- Pregnancy is riskiest earliest in life. Over 100,000 women are at risk of obstetric fistula each year, and over 2 million women have already been

injured and stigmatized.

- A woman's lifetime risk of maternal death and illness depends on the number and safety of her pregnancies.
- Family planning saves women's lives. It reduces unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion and maternal death. Women's empowerment will enable them to address the social conditions that endanger their health and lives.

### GOAL 6 : COMBAT HIV, AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

- Half of new HIV infections are among young people. Preventing infection means enabling young people to protect themselves from sexually transmitted diseases. This includes teaching abstinence outside marriage, fidelity within it and responsible behavior at all times, including the responsible use of condoms.
- Male and female condoms must be available as needed. Poor countries need systems to guarantee an adequate supply of reproductive health commodities, and support in establishing and supplying the system.
- Integrated reproductive health programs that serve a variety of needs through the life cycle will encourage health service use and provide additional opportunities to address health needs holistically. Changing age structures will require long-term adjustments in health systems.
- The pandemic has serious implications for the attainment of the other goals, particularly 1-5.

### GOAL 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Balancing resource use and ecological requirements will depend critically on population growth, location and movements, on patterns of resource consumption, and management of waste.
- Rapid growth of poor rural populations puts enormous stress on local environments. Poor people need technologies to mediate their demands on resources. They also need better education and health services, including reproductive health to improve well-being and bring down fertility. Appropriate policies will reduce urban migration and promote sustainable rural population growth.



environments. Poor people need technologies to mediate their demands on resources. They also need better education and health services, including reproductive health to improve well-being and bring down fertility. Appropriate policies will reduce urban migration and promote sustainable rural population growth.

- The sustainable improvement of the lives of slum and shanty dwellers will depend on policies to address high urban growth rates, the result of natural increase and migration.

### GOAL 8: DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

- Population and reproductive health programs have lagged in the least-developed countries, with their high levels of mortality and unwanted fertility. They will benefit most from higher international assistance and debt forgiveness, and domestic resources for health and education —and their effective use. They need affordable prices for essential drugs for treating HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, and a secure supply of contraceptives.
- Between 2000 and 2015 nearly 1.5 billion young men and women will join the 20-24 age group. They and hundreds of millions of teenagers will be looking for work. If they have jobs, they will drive economic growth; if not, they will fuel political instability.



- from UNFPA State of World Population 2002

## With a Little Help from 34 Million Friends

In July-2002 when the United States administration withdrew \$34 million that had previously been approved by the U.S. Congress for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Lois Abraham of New Mexico and Jane Roberts of California sprang into action. They initiated independent and separate campaigns to help UNFPA continue its work to save the lives of women in developing countries by getting 34 million people to donate a dollar to UNFPA. It's called the 34 Million Friends Campaign. They are reaching out to people across the country to send a clear message: that providing family planning and reproductive health care to women in need is a humanitarian issue that cuts across political lines and is supported by millions of Americans.

Checks have begun to arrive at UNFPA's office in New York. One person sent a check for \$25,000 from Maine. So far the fund has collected over \$250,000.

"This is an example of the commitment of the American people to be part of international efforts to improve the quality of life of families in developing countries, especially of women who are the immediate beneficiaries of UNFPA-supported programs," said Thoraya Obaid, UNFPA's Executive Director. "We wholeheartedly welcome this support



**Lois Abraham (left) and Jane Roberts look at letters of support at UNFPA offices**

from the American public for the joint efforts of many countries to provide health services and prevent diseases."

"A reduced budget for UNFPA means that more women will struggle to deliver and take care of their babies because the help they need cannot be provided. We can't let that happen," explained Abraham.

The 133 members of the "Group of 77" developing countries in the United Nations have declared that the loss of the \$34 million in United States funding will harm the global effort to prevent HIV/AIDS. It also jeopardizes programs in developing countries where UNFPA's support is critical for poverty eradication and sustainable development.

The \$34 million represented 12.5% of the U.N. family planning budget. It could have prevented 2 million unwanted pregnancies, nearly 800,000 abortions, 4,700 maternal deaths, nearly 60,000 serious maternal illness, as well as over 77,000 infant and child deaths.

Its loss also cripples efforts to discourage female mutilation and distribute safe-birth kits to poor women.

Since 1995, overseas development assistance, including in the population field, has dropped by about 25 per cent. Today, the largest youth population in human history is reaching its reproductive years. They need education, health care and reproductive health care. One half of the 14,400 new HIV infections each day are young people under 25. There are still 350 million women who do not have access to a full range of choices for family planning and almost one half of the world's mothers bear children without skilled help. If you are interested in helping, contributions can be sent to:

The United States Committee for UNFPA  
220 East 42nd Street, Suite 2800  
New York, NY 10017. For online information or donations, go to [www.unfpa.org/support/34million.htm](http://www.unfpa.org/support/34million.htm).



## RIFPD OFFICERS AND COUNTRY CHAIRS

### Officers

Chairman	Adedolapo Lufadeju
Vice Chairman	Robert Zinser
Secretary	Buck Lindsay
Treasurer	Hari Reddy
Communications	Rekha Shetty
Public Relations	Salem Mashhour
Latin America	Pedro Figueroa

### Country Chairs

American Samoa	Micheal Dworsky	Egypt	Salem Mashhour	New Guinea	Richard Knox
Australia	Glenda Hedley	Ethiopia	Yemane Bistrat, Ahmed	Nigeria	Adedolapo Lufadeju
Austria	Peter Neuner	Eritrea	Hussein, Masresha Yazew	Norway	Bernt Gulla
Bangladesh	Emdad Ul Haq	Finland	Girmay Haile	Pakistan	Zaema Alvi Ahmed
Belgium	Hessel Danser	France	Mauri Paunikallio	Phillippines	Jun Nolasco, Jr.
Belize	Marcelo Coyi	Germany	Pierre Badere	Russia	Alexandre Makatsaria
Bermuda	Augustin Hardart	Ghana	Robert Zinser	Samoa	Marco Kappenberger
Bostwana	Derek Hudson	Guam	Mike Asafo-Boakye	Senegal	Alassane Mar
Brazil	Adelia Villas	Guatemala	Abi Adigun	Singapore	Rosy Nakhoda
Canada	Laetitia De Witt	India	Steve Dudenhoefler	Solomon Islands	David Quan
Cook Islands	John Fallon	Indonesia	Hari Reddy	Spain	Jose Maria Tortosa
Cote D'Ivoire	Paulin Claude Danho	Israel	Natalia Soebagio	Sri Lanka	Janaka Edirisinghe
Denmark	Torben Folmer Bech	Italy	David Neumann	Sweden	Rolf Svensson
Ecuador	Hector Plaza	Japan	Piero Marcenaro	Switzerland	Urs Herzog
		Kenya	Tario Kanno	Tanzania	Faye Cran
		Korea	Eric Krystall	Tonga	Dianne Warner
		Lebanon	Kee Hyong Kim	Turkey	Turgut Gokyigit
		Malaysia	Gilbert Boghossian	Uganda	Robert Ssebunnya
		Mali	Kewg-Bin Lee	Ukraine	Anatolly Shyrokov
		Mexico	Amategue Dolo	USA	Buck Lindsay
		Mozambique	Andres Robles	Vanuatu	Shirley Randall AM
		Nepal	Ismael Amade	Venezuala	Pedro Figuero
		New Zealand	Hartmut Bauder	West Indies	Dave Maharaj
		Netherlands	Mark Tregidga	Zambia	Patrick Chisanga
			Wamer De Putter	Zimbabwe	Peter Naude

## Infant Girls in Peril in Rural India

India has slowed rates of population growth in urban areas, but is lagging behind in extreme rural areas, especially with regards to female infanticide. Female infanticide continues to rise in India's rural districts.

Dharampuri is considered one of the most challenged districts in the state of West Bengal. Female infanticide is a common occurrence and the numbers are increasing daily. Awareness programs have proved futile and new approaches are needed.

In remote areas, cruel methods are adopted to kill a baby girl. Often the baby is overfed and made to lie on her stomach. Death comes within minutes. Poverty is the main reason poor villagers commit infanticide. Villagers do not have access to health services to learn how important it is to take care of infants. Age-old notions and beliefs are responsible for feeling that the life of a girl child is

insignificant. Warrior tribes in particular believe that boys are required for society and that girls are expendable. As a result, in 20 years, there will be a shortage of women of marrying age, and these rural areas will face the reality that remote parts of China are seeing today - married women being abducted from their own families and married against their will into other families.

In West Bengal, a goal exists to bring the fertility rate to 2.1 children per woman by the end of the Tenth five-year Plan, which covers 2002-07. The last survey showed the fertility rate to be 2.29 per woman - down from 2.92 in 1992-93. The state wants to bring down the infant mortality rate from the present 51 per thousand births to 30 per thousand and maternal mortality from the present 2.66 per thousand to one per thousand. ♦

- *Madhumita Bishnu, RIFPD Area Coordinator, District 3290*

## ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF GERMAN RIFPD IN FRANKFORT

PDG Zinser has achieved an enviable feat of enrolling 37% of all Rotarians in his district in RIFPD. Every club in the district has at least one RIFPD member and 83% of all the German clubs have RIFPD members. RI Board Member Peter Krön presented the key address at the German RIFPD Annual Assembly in Frankfurt on November 23, 2002. Also addressing the group was PDG Eberhard Zur, Chairman of RI Multi-district organization German Governors Council. Robert Zinser reported that:

- The German Rotary Magazine has dedicated a regular column for RIFPD news and produces a newsletter summarizing current development twice yearly.
- The goals of RIFPD are listed under "Population Issues" in the RI Menu of Services.
- Representatives of Rotaract and Inner Wheels presented their population projects. Working with Plan International, families in the slum districts of Alexandria, Egypt were able to



RI Director Peter Krön

obtain microcredits for training and starting their own businesses. Similar projects are planned for Nigeria and Nepal.

Gen. (ret.) Bruno von Mengden reported that the first phase of the Child Spacing project has been accomplished with the \$1.2 million from the Packard Foundation and \$500,000 from TRF. Roughly one third of Nigeria (approximately 30 million) had been reached by this project. With the

benefit of additional European Union funding, 3,600 health stations will be equipped with scales, stethoscopes and blood pressure monitors.

Director Krön expressed his approval for the directive that the Fellowship and Friendship Committee so that it might be check the credentials of RIFPD to be included in the Official Directory. This committee is the ideal platform to bring about official recognition of initiatives aimed at social projects outside of professional and recreational activities. ♦

- *Norbert Schreiner, RIFPD German Section Webmaster*

## NEPAL AND GERMAN CLUBS JOIN FORCES

In 2002, the German Section of RIFPD presented a program on the hardships faced by the poor in Nepal at a club meeting of the Rotary Club Schwäbisch Hall, District 1830, Germany, to which a member of the rotary Club Kathmandu Midtown was invited. The participants agreed upon a joint population project to contribute to the alleviation of poverty of the Nepali people. Following this agreement, The Rotary Club Schwäbisch Hall and the German Section of RIFPD received a Matching Grant from The Rotary Foundation for the development of the project in Nepal, to be executed by The Rotary Club of Kathmandu/Midtown. UNFPA/Nepal has agreed to match resources for the implementation of the project.

RC Kathmandu has selected the Hospital and Rehabilitation Center for Disabled Children in Banepa to implement the project. This Hospital has large-scale activities in the area of orthopedic surgery and rehabilitation for children up to the age of 18. While surgery is performed only at the hospital itself, rehabilita-

tion takes place both in the hospital as well as in the clients' home surroundings. There is a system of follow-up of every patient through home visits, continuing with many years of physiotherapy. In addition, approximately 50 Mobile Camps are conducted every year in 27 districts, bringing the total coverage to 55 districts of 74 districts in Nepal. A team of 17 field workers follow up the patients after surgery in their homes. While home visits cover more than 3,200 patients per year, more than 2,000 new patients are seen during Mobile Camps. Together with patients treated at the hospital itself, more than 6,700 patients are treated every year. And every child is accompanied by 1 or 2 adult family members.

This project is crucial since Nepal is one of the world's poorest countries. The efforts of Rotarians in Germany, Nepal working with UNFPA will go a long way in giving disabled children a chance to get the medical treatment and surgery they need to have a healthy future. ♦

- *Hartmut Bauder, RIFPD Country Chair, Nepal*

## A NEW COUNTRY CHAIR IN SWITZERLAND

The RIFPD Charter Country Chair of Switzerland Josef Roos, has passed the torch to Rtn. Urs Herzog. Urs is a surgeon who has extensive experience working in developing countries. Urs is Assistant Governor of District 1980 and member of RC Allschwil near Basel, Switzerland. Outgoing Country Chair Josef Roos made presentations in 20 clubs and was continuously in contact with the Swiss DGs. He has acquired over 100 Swiss lifetime members for RIFPD.

Josef gave an insightful speech on the Catholic perspective on the population issue at the RIFPD-UNFPA in Evanston last year. After successfully launch-

ing RIFPD in his country, Josef sought to put the reigns of RIFPD/Switzerland into younger hands. His final official act as Country Chair was to select the most qualified successor to continue to motivate Rotarians in Switzerland to embrace the population issue. Congratulations to PDG Josef Roos for providing the an outstanding example for establishing a country section of RIFPD and for finding the successor who will further improve RIFPD activities in his country. Best wishes to Urs Herzog, as he takes on his new position as Switzerland's RIFPD Country Chair. ♦

- *Dr. Robert Zinser, RIFPD Vice Chairman*

## Kids Corner

### Helping our Fine Feathered Friends

#### Make a Pine Cone Bird Feeder

Here's a great project for the whole family that welcomes back all types of birds for spring. It's environmentally safe, biodegradable and 100% fun.

#### Supplies

- \* Pine cones
- \* Peanut butter - the cheapest, sugarless that you can find. For every pound of peanut butter you can make 10 pine cone bird feeders!
- \* Popsicle or craft sticks
- \* Bird seed
- \* Cookie sheet or a pie plate to hold the seed
- \* Heavy string, twine or yarn
- \* Wax paper or wax paper bags



bird seed. The bird seed will stick to the peanut butter. Gently shake off the excess seed.

3. Tie the string or yarn tightly around the base or top of each pine cone.

4. If you are not going to use all of your pine cone bird feeders at once wrap the extra feeders in wax paper or wax paper sandwich bags.

You can hang your feeders outside your window or in a tree. It won't take long for the birds to discover the tasty treat. Sit quietly and enjoy all the birds at your feeder. Can you name the different birds that you see? Keep a journal of the birds you see and the time of day you see them.

This project was inspired by: *Earthways: Simple Environmental Activities for Young Children* by Carol Petrash, a book about hands-on nature and seasonal activities for children to enhance environmental awareness. ◆

-Kelley Cody-Grimm,  
Executive Director

#### What to Do

1. Using the craft sticks, apply the peanut butter to the pine cones. Make sure to press it in to all the little nooks and crannies!
2. Roll the peanut butter-covered pine cones in the pan of

## EXPLORING THE LINK...

(continued from front page)

and resource depletion, to name a few – we generally look for the quick fixes that do not cost us our comforts of today. Or even more curious, we ignore them altogether.

So where does the concern for Global Population fit into all this? First a quick definition of overpopulation: it is the condition when a geographic area has more people than resources available in that area to support them. Countries whose people suffer from hunger, disease and poverty are by definition countries with too many people and too few resources. Sadly, these same countries fuel the fire of pain with fertility rates averaging 6 to 8 children per family, and country population doubling times of 20 years, insuring that bad conditions will only get worse. We can then see that Population Concern is a "preventative" approach to many of the problems with the world today.

Understanding and accepting this idea carries a good and bad consequence:

**The Good** – the Global Population issue is an approachable problem which can be addressed, with beneficial results.

**The Bad** – we humans seem reticent to recognize and undertake preventative solutions – greatly preferring cure approaches. Let's not worry about it until it's broken, and then we'll fix it.

When the population subsystem of the world is out of balance – meaning that there are more people in certain geographic areas than there are resources to support them – people's well-being decline, and they suffer, and often die. The TV coverage of Ethiopians dying of starvation during their famine in the early 1990's was not about hunger, but instead it was about imbalance between number of people and their nutritional resources, compounded by civil strife and conflict. This cause and effect relationship is apparent upon close examination, but also easy to ignore. Hunger – a most obvious result of overpopulation – leads to a legion of related diseases – most of which are not so obviously related to overpopulation. Armed conflicts between countries are

usually charged to political differences and rarely to the actual underlying cause: one country coveting another's resources, be it land, water, oil, protein, or other critical resources.

By embracing the Global Population issue, the 1998 Council on Legislation and the RI Board of Directors from 2000 to the current board have recognized that if Rotary's humanitarian work focused on prevention, it would be significantly more effective than work focused on cure. For example, one micro-enterprise project lifting 50 women out of poverty in Bangladesh protects their families from hunger, disease and illiteracy, indefinitely. One reproductive health care class in rural village of Nigeria enables mothers to only have the children they can love and support. This frees them from the endless burden of scavenging for food and water for their children.

Well-meaning Rotarians criticize Rotary's work in this area, but usually from a position of not understanding the program. Others criticize for reasons that cannot be resolved, but they are a slim minority. Rotary has adopted a proactive set of Guidelines for Population projects carried out by clubs and districts. It declares in its Population Position Statement that, in our Population work: 1) we will be respectful of all cultures and religions; 2) we will not include abortion in any way in our programs or projects; 3) our projects will be designed by the local Rotary clubs, thereby insuring their appropriateness to the local values, and 4) all programs and projects will involve voluntary participation, without coercion, pay or incentive. These guidelines have proven through hundreds of Rotary population projects to be valid principals with which to work.

Balance between people and resources means a sense of well-being for both the people involved and the environment in which they live. This is why attention to global population issue is critical to Rotary's accomplishing its objective of, "The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace..." ◆

- Buck Lindsay, RIFPD  
Secretary

## POPULATION STANDING COMMITTEE..

(continued from front page)

As one the most important global concerns, if not the most important, the population program of Rotary needs a rudder to steer evenly through the choppy waters. A Standing Committee on Population Concerns will perform that function. RIFPD members are urged to contact their district Representative to the 2004 Council, to make sure

they know about the Population Enactment, and to be sure that they will support it when the vote is called. Without a Standing Committee on Population Concerns, we can not maintain the focus that is required to address an issue of such complexity. We need this Enactment. Do what you can to make sure it is adopted. ◆

- Dolapo Lufedaju, RIFPD  
Chairman

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### \$10,000 to \$5,000

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### Project Donors

#### \$500 to \$1,000

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1. To sponsor Project P\_\_\_\_\_ (See Project Summary Sheet)\*
2. To a Separate Fund for sponsoring population projects (you will be notified which)
- \*Paul Harris credit desired. You will be sent RI Foundation Donor Contribution form. Money sent in for population projects is eligible for Paul Harris Fund credit.
3. General fund of RIFPD for administrative expenses (RIFPD is self supporting).\*\*
- \*\*Paul Harris Fund credit is **not eligible** for donations for RIFPD General Operating Funds.

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

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**RIFPD is a 501 (c)3 tax deductible organization.**

## RIFPD SEMINAR AND AGM IN BRISBANE

RIFPD will be holding a the program for Rotary Clubs Population and Development will also be available and Seminar in Brisbane on May 31 prior to the opening of the Rotary International Convention. The seminar will address developing Matching Grant projects, micro-credit, and RI's cooperation with UNFPA and the Presidential Celebration on Population and Development, in August 2003 in Abuja, Nigeria. The RIFPD presentation CDs with

the program for Rotary Clubs will also be available and demonstrated at the seminar. The RIFPD General Annual Meeting will also be included in the seminar. Please check the RIFPD website ([www.rifpd.org](http://www.rifpd.org)) for more information on how to register as well as additional updates on the location and times of the event. Stop by the RIFPD booth at in the convention center for a look at our current list of Matching Grants. We hope to see you down under!



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### RIFPD NAIROBI AND ABUJA AFRICAN POPULATION CONFERENCES

On February 20, 2003 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm immediately preceding the Presidential Conference in Nairobi, Kenya (Feb. 21-23), RIFPD will hold a seminar on "**World Understanding and Peace for Population and Sustainable Development**". Seminar Speakers will include: RI President Bhichai Rattakul, RI In-coming President Jonathan B. Majiyagbe and RI Director Sam Okudzeto, and Population Institute President Werner Fornos.

The seminar will cover topics ranging from Child Spacing, Microcredit, Developing Community-based projects as well breakout sessions in which participants will be able to actively discuss these topics.

**President-elect Majiyagbe has announced that he will hold a Presidential Celebration on Population and Development on August 9, 2003 in Abuja, Nigeria.** For more information or to register for the February or August conferences, please contact RIFPD Chairman Dolapo Lufadeju at [dolaluf@skannet.com](mailto:dolaluf@skannet.com). Plan to attend!

## Fragile Earth

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To join RIFPD, send US \$10 for Annual Membership or US \$100 for Lifetime Membership along with name, address, phone and fax numbers, Rotary Club and District to address above if in the Americas. For other regions, please contact:

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