

Fragile Earth



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Fragile Earth

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Celebrate Rotary

in the city where it all began!

The greatest celebration in Rotary's history — the 2005 Rotary International Convention — will commemorate the organization's first one hundred years of service. It will take place 18-22 June 2005, in Chicago, where Rotary was born.

This Centennial Convention will be anything but conventional. It features an extra day of festivities and a Rotary parade through downtown Chicago!

Visit www.rotary.org for more information.

Plan to visit RFPD at Exhibit Booths
535/537 AND
attend our Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, June 21st!

Population Growth

"The US ambassador to the Phillipines, Francis Ricciardone, said runaway population growth must be curbed to help reduce poverty and boost economy. He said the United States supports the Phillipine government campaign to devolve family planning programs to local government units. A country of some 84 million people with a total fertility rate of 3.5 children per woman, the Phillipines is projected to have a population exceeding 118 million by 2025, and to surpass 147 million by 2050."

World Population News Service - POPLINE March-April 2005

FROM THE DESK OF RFPD CHAIRMAN ZINSER


The Millenium Development Goals (MDG), which are targeted to be achieved by 2015, are at risk. Discussions at all levels emphasize that more has to be done, since the progress achieved in the last five years is unsatisfactory. RFPD promotes club and district projects on population issues, as recommended by "RI Menu of Service Opportunities." Reproductive Health, Child Spacing and Population projects contribute to meeting the MDG.

Here are the details on how RFPD contributes to the MDG:

- Better child spacing reduces competition for food within the household and improves children's nutrition (MDG 1). Example: RFPD projects such as the Women's (Saheli) Centers in northern India.
- Later marriage protects girls' schooling (MDG 2).
- Prenatal and antenatal health care promotes gender equality and empowers women (MDG 3).
- Children from planned pregnancies are less likely to die than unplanned pregnancies (MDG 4).
- Recent RFPD projects, "Improvement of Mother's Health in Northern Nigeria," directly promotes MDG 5, where progress is lacking for years with 530,000 mothers still dying annually (See our article on page 6).
- Aids Education is part of many RFPD supported projects (MDG 6).
- Balancing resource use and ecological requirements is on RFPD's priority list and has been since our beginning (MDG 7).
- RFPD concentrates on population and reproductive health programs in least-developed countries (MDG 8).

NGO's are challenged to contribute to the Millenium Development Goals. Donors are increasingly requiring a clear relation of projects that provide support to MDG before considering for funding. RFPD envisioned this last year when we responded to the requests from Nigerian people for help to prevent and treat obstetric fistula, which is part of the misery of maternal morbidity and mortality in that area. Such projects will no doubt contribute to the MDG. Meanwhile, many other RFPD projects are helping in indirect ways, even if not making direct impact on MDG.

More has to be done. As funds are limited, the efficiency of RFPD has to be improved. This is the aim of our program to "Improvement of RFPD's Organizational Effectiveness," launched in January 2005. The David and Lucile Packard Foundation approved and funded our request for a consultant to advise and support such an effort. Rotarian Prof. Dr. Knut Bleicher, St. Gallen, Switzerland, has been engaged by us to address this challenge. See article on page 3, where he previews what we are aiming for. With this program, we want to educate Rotarians and motivate them to assess real, unmet needs. We will improve our capacity to plan and implement sustainable projects. We also want to identify baselines and indicators for project follow-up and for evaluation of the performance of projects, in alignment with the Millenium Development Goals.



What can Rotarians do for Population & Development?

Programs in Rotary Clubs - Present a program at your Rotary Club or host a guest speaker on the population topic. Use RFPD's CD program.

Inform yourself on issues -

- **The Future of Life** by Edward O. Wilson
- **State of the World Population** by UNFPA
- www.unfpa.org
- www.populationinstitute.org
- www.popcouncil.org
- www.popnet.org

Organize population presentations for Rotary meetings, conferences and conventions - this will help provide accurate information on the subject.

Participate in population World Community Service Projects - with projects between clubs of more developed and less developed countries.

Join RFPD today - donations are welcome and tax deductible. Visit www.rifpd.org for a membership application.

RFPD Welcomes New Country Chairs

Ali Akhtar
of Pakistan

Pat op de Beeck
of Spain

Tryphon Calidakis
of Sudan

Pat Lahusen
of Switzerland

Klaus Meyer
of Ethiopia

Dion Michael Schoorman
of Sri Lanka

Luis Serra
of Latin America

RFPD's Organizational Effectiveness - Grant Update

by Prof. Dr. Dr.h.c. mult Knut Bleicher, St. Gallen, Switzerland

Prof. Bleicher is Professor Emeritus of the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland where he conducted research and taught over the years, published articles in professional journals and many books covering management, organization and leadership subjects. He now acts as the chairman of the advisory council of the St. Gallen Business schools, addressing problems of Executive Education. He has consulted with a number of well-known international businesses and other organizations.

A remarkable body of knowledge has been developed recently dealing with organizational science. But, a comparable knowledge of how to administer volunteer organizations is so far looking to be developed. This is considered a remarkable deficit that must be addressed, since the funds at our disposal are always limited. With limited funds, communities will have increased challenges which can only be solved with the engagement of volunteers in a framework of an efficiently-run organization setup. Outside funds for these kinds of organizations are not abundantly available, so we must use them efficiently. In scrutinizing this economic aspect of RFPD's activities, we step onto new ground, with a challenge to improve our strategies, organization, and working procedures.

The objectives of this study, supported by the Packard Foundation are directed at clarifying and improving the operational focus of our organization, particularly of Country Chairs (CC's). This will be done by providing them additional support for their central tasks. Approaches to improving the cooperation with other NGO's and GO's working in adjacent fields will be addressed. RFPD is doing well today, but we still can do better!

In general, the end result will be a state of-the-art managerial organization covering all aspects of RFPD's work. The organization's management structure will be built to support goals and objectives, with results-based professional outcomes. We will have a reporting structure that is complimented with a rewards system, to give credit to achievements.

(cont. on p.g 6)

CARE Gets it - profiling RFPD's NGO Friends

by Buck Lindsay

There are tens of thousands of wonderful humanitarian organizations around the world, all running about trying to help the poor and the needy of the world, each with a slightly different twist as to how best to do that work. Some actually do the work hands-on, while others pay someone else to do it. Some are conservative, some are liberal. They may focus on eliminating disease, on protecting the environment, on relieving hunger, or on fighting terrorism, etc. – the list goes on and on.

Derreck Kayongo of CARE USA occasionally speaks at Rotary meetings. Derreck is originally from Uganda, but now works for CARE at the headquarters in Atlanta. He tells stories of his troubled childhood in Uganda, with political stress at every corner, and personal safety at risk every day. In one situation, he tells how he and a group of friends were lined up by a few militia soldiers and told that if they didn't tell who shot at the soldiers, one of the children would be shot every five minutes until someone told, or they were all dead. A young boy not from the area realized the desperate nature of the situation and stepped forward with a false confession, and was immediately shot. Derreck and the others left. From this background came a person now dedicated to helping others.



Derreck Kayongo, CARE USA

CARE stands for Cooperatives for Relief and Assistance Everywhere. It was founded in the aftermath of World War II to provide relief to war victims, when hundreds of thousands of "care" packages were shipped around the world, helping those in need. CARE/USA now has an annual budget of \$566 million. Today, CARE is a federation of eleven national organizations whose mission has changed since its conception in 1946. The mission today is to reduce poverty by offering sustainable solutions through a community, rights-based approach. With 12,000 employees worldwide, CARE works to strengthen capacity for self-help, provide economic opportunity, deliver relief in emergencies, influence policy decisions at all levels, and to address discrimination in all its forms. To accomplish this mission, CARE has undertaken a few explicit strategies:

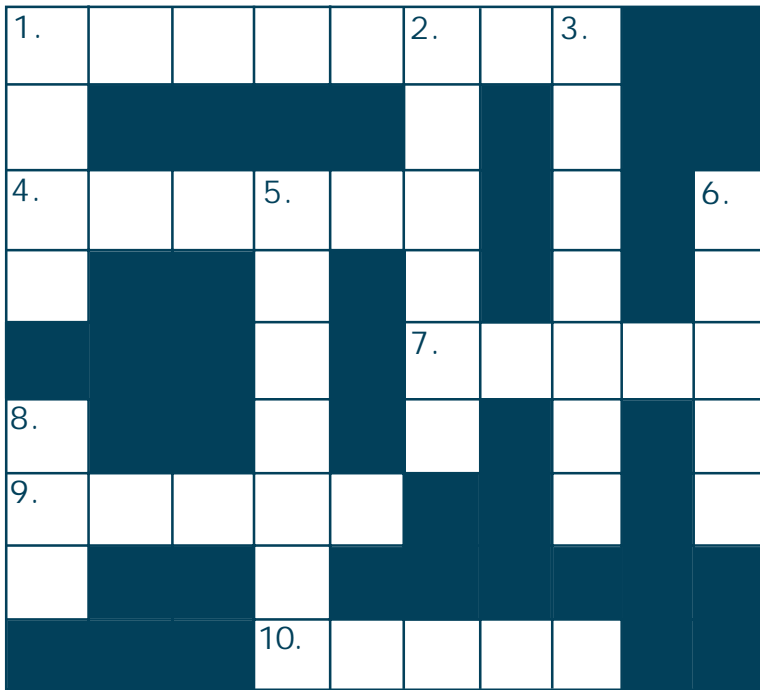
- Education: Knowing that education leads to increased productivity, income and self-reliance, CARE emphasizes providing access to quality education for all children, and is working to establish a framework for education for all by 2015.
- Maternal and Family Health: Knowing that women's health is vital in the fight against poverty, CARE seeks to increase funding for Reproductive Health Programs. This includes access to family planning services for all who need them, healthcare during pregnancy and childbirth, and treatment and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases.
- HIV/AIDS: Knowing that HIV/AIDS is a global catastrophe of immense proportions, CARE fights its spread. Since the 1980's, CARE has implemented 40 HIV/AIDS programs in 25 high-risk countries around the world.

CARE's 2004 Annual Report examines and celebrates women, whose strength and determination are changing lives. CARE understands that investing in women means investing in whole communities. When women succeed, they work side by side with men to teach their children about how to sustain progress and nurture growth. And women show us that they are an immensely valuable resource in the fight against poverty and suffering around the world. Their full participation is key to CARE's shared vision of a better world. It is clear that CARE has transitioned toward a more effective long-term view of how to improve the world, which now requires more integrated and sustainable responses than a box of goods. CARE gets it.

(cont. on pg. 5)

KID'S CORNER

NATIONS CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Bangkok is the capital of this Southeast Asian nation.
4. This nation lies on the Baltic Sea between Lithuania and Estonia.
7. Rome is the nation's capital.
9. The people who use this currency speak French.
10. This nation is an island in the Mediterranean.

(Answers on Page 8)

World Almanac for Kids (www.worldalmanacforkids.com)

DOWN

1. This currency is used in Samoa.
2. Algerians speak this language.
3. \$1 will buy 7 4/5 kroner in this European country.
5. If you visit Hanoi, you'll be this nation.
6. This nation in northeastern Africa is bordered by two seas.
8. Togo uses this type of franc, as do 13 other African nations.

NEW RFPD LIFETIME MEMBERS

(3/1/05 - 5/13/05)

Bangladesh
Md. Rafiqul Alam
S.K. Mawla Baksha
Moshin Belal
Manirul Haque
S.A.M. Showet Hossain
Momena Khatun
Dilara Parveen
Dr. Naseem Rahman
A. Mannan Talukder
A.B.M. Zia Uddin
Selim Ullah

Egypt

Mrs. Soad Alareef Frankaa
Mrs. Eman Ali El Ghamrawy
Mrs. Zeinab El Ghazaly
Mrs. Fatma Abu Hatab
Hussein Abd Elaal Hussein
Tawfik El Mardenly
Amin Fakhry AbdelNour
Mrs. Moshira El Rafey
Amed Sami Saad
Magdi Yousef Amin

Germany

Jürgen Bongards
Isolde Callies
Olav Goehs
Rainer Götz
Martin Gutsche
Christoph Heino
Helga von Graefe
Liselotte Marggraf
Förderverein Hannover Maschsee
Klaus Meyer-Wegener
Inner Wheel Hilfswerk Oberfranken
Ilse Reinhardt
Regina Schöning
Klaus Schuchardt
Paul-Werner von der Schulenburg
Thomas Timmermanns
Margrit Wallmann
Brigitte Wilcke
Thomas Zeit

USA

Tom Bryan
Glorice Phoebus
May Prochnow

CALL FOR POPULATION PROJECTS

RFPD promotes population-related Matching Grant projects. Please send your projects (completed TRF MG applications) to: Jennifer Hendrickson, 270 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, GA, 30043, USA, or fax to 770-822-9492. RFPD find sponsoring Rotary Clubs to provide support.

Provide the correct and current signatures with the Matching Grant application. Provide pro forma invoices to help the project process. Projects RFPD promotes include women's vocational and health, girl education, family planning and microcredit for women. Please contact Jennifer at ripfd@aol.com to provide updates on current projects.

CARE Gets it (cont. from pg. 3) Derreck recognized the common strengths of Rotary and CARE, and has recently become a Rotarian in a suburban club of Atlanta. After hearing Derreck's information about Rotary and its humanitarian and educational programs around the world, Derreck's father Tom, a member of the Ugandan parliament, has also joined Rotary. Derreck and his father Tom have the capacity to improve lives, and through their dual affiliations with Rotary and with CARE, . . . and they are doing it.

by Buck Lindsay

For more information on CARE, visit www.care.org



Fast Facts:

- World population grew by 76 million people in 2004.
- In 2004, 3 million people were added to the Industrial World.
- In 2004, 73 million people were added to the Developing World.
- During 2004, 133 million people were born and 57 million died.

- Earth Policy Institute, 2004

The Road to Adulthood: Stretching Opportunities for Youth in the Developing World

In the past, young people in developing countries often had to jump quickly from being children to adult roles, out of necessity. But the economic, cultural, and demographic influences of globalization have delayed the transition to adulthood — giving youth more time to learn and to engage in civic activities.

Compared with the same age group 20 years ago, young people in the developing world are now more likely to enroll in school and to spend more years there — postponing entry into the labor force and delaying marriage and childbearing. But they are also exposed to more ideas that may clash with traditional values, and to more information about global inequities.

Decisive steps should be taken to ensure that more youth in the less developed World acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive as adults and to compete for a wider array of jobs in the global marketplace, says a new report from the National Research Council and the Institute of Medicine.

Adequate schooling is critical. In developing countries, recent gains in the rate of school participation and in the grade level attained have been historically unprecedented and greater for girls than boys. The economic payoffs have been significant, too. These trends are not universal, however. For example, school attendance rates vary significantly based on family wealth. The dismal quality of some schools also hinders learning and discourages enrollment, the report says.

Although young people are reaching adulthood healthier than before, sub-Saharan Africa remains a region of special concern, the report says. HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death among young people there. The region's poverty rates are also climbing, and studies show that impoverished youth are more likely to engage in risky sexual behavior.

Among young women in many developing nations, mortality and morbidity related to pregnancy and childbirth and to unsafe abortions are still huge health risks, the report adds.

Poverty is the greatest enemy of successful transitions to adulthood, the report stresses. Policies and programs for youth in developing countries should target the poor, particularly impoverished girls. Policy-makers should also boost school quality and expand enrollment in secondary schools to better prepare students who can contribute to their societies. In addition, officials should provide youth with more information about sex and good health practices — and increase the availability of reproductive health services for those who are sexually active.

If they are well-prepared, the report says, adolescents and young adults in developing nations can benefit from the global forces that are transforming their worlds.



by Vaneé Vines, The National Academies

NEW RFPD PROJECT:

"Improvement of Mother's Health - Prevention and Treatment of Obstetric Fistula" in Kaduna State and Kano State, Nigeria

by

PDG's Kola Owoka (Nigeria) and Robert Zinser (Germany)

At the Presidential Celebration on "Population Concerns" in Abuja in August 2003, the authors of this article talked for the first time about the title project. During the Rotary 3-H-Project "Child Spacing, Family Health and Aids Education" from 2000-2004 in six States in Northern Nigeria, Rotarians were asked by their constituents to implement a project to improve mothers health and to develop programs to prevent and treat obstetric fistula (Vesico-vaginal (VV) and Recto-vaginal (RV) Fistulas). One of the speakers at the Presidential Celebration, Prof. Andrew A. Arkuto, outlined in his presentation "Prevention and Treatment of Obstetric Fistula" that 1) Nigeria has more than one million women living with such fistula and that over 5,000 new cases are added every year, that 2) obstetric fistula are preventable, and that 3) ninety percent of fistulas can be repaired at modest costs. RFPD was approached by the World Federation of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians (FIGO) to address the problem of Obstetric Fistulas happening in developing countries. Nigerian, Austrian and German Rotarians subsequently conceived the Rotary project "Improvement of Mother's Health - Prevention and Treatment of Obstetric Fistula" for Kaduna State and Kano State, Nigeria.

THE PROJECT: Fistula represents one aspect of the huge range of maternal morbidity and mortality in countries like Nigeria, which lack of adequate maternity health services. Fistula is a problem that is easily dealt within the developed world by assisted delivery or caesarean section. It is a disastrous condition however without medical help. Fistula is most often a direct result of early marriage. A study on fistula patients indicates that 73% of women are less than 20 years of age, 61% of them suffer the injury during their first pregnancy and 80-90% are divorced and abandoned by their

families. In many developing countries, prolonged and unrelieved obstructed labor occurs, mainly in young under-developed women. The under-developed parts of the young woman's pelvic bones usually causes the death of the child and/or the mother. In small remote villages, the local midwives are unable to perform Caesarean deliveries, even though this may be the only way to save the lives. If the mother survives, the obstructed labor will have ruptured the internal passages of vagina, bladder and rectum, so that she is left permanently incontinent, unable to contain urine or faeces. The mother is shunned by her husband and village, and is left to fend for herself. Experts suggested that we need a comprehensive approach to combat this appalling and inhuman suffering, which at the same time would contribute to a reduction of maternal mortality.

As a first step, project leaders evaluated the various aspects of Obstetric Fistula and Maternal mortality. They conceived the project and applied for funds from TRF, as well as private and government sources. They received a TRF Matching Grant of US \$150,000 with clubs and districts committing US \$300,000. They also received a grant from the Aventis Foundation of US \$390,000 and from IAMANEH (International Association of Maternal and Neonatal Health) of US \$20,000, and finally a grant from the German government of US \$420,000. The total project amount is US \$1,280,000.

The project started in May, 2005. Its components include an Awareness Campaign, Special Training of over 1,000 health staff (ie. of local medical doctors in the special fistula surgery), provision of equipment for hospitals and health clinics, and 1,000 repairs of Obstetric Fistula and rehabilitation of the patients. As "special ambassadors", the treated women who have suffered from either Obstetric

Fistula or Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) are being recruited to disseminate the message to men and women in their remote villages. Their message is that getting fistulas is not a result of marital infidelity or sexually transmitted disease, but that it is caused by poor obstetric management, by FGM and by early and frequent pregnancy when lacking child spacing services. The project is not able to treat all obstetric fistulas in Nigeria, but the target is to achieve the maximum possible reduction of obstetric fistulas by implementing a pilot project and a sustained improvement of the situation for young women and girls.

THE COMMUNITY APPROACH: The different cultural, traditional and religious groups taking part in this program will be able for the first time to approach this subject from a completely new perspective. They will be able to develop innovative approaches to further mutual understanding and tolerance. They will be able to contribute to the betterment of social and public welfare. This is an exciting opportunity. All religions have a positive attitude towards the alleviation of unnecessary human suffering. In making this the prime objective, we create a basis for open discussion, comparison and a gradual release from attitudes based on ignorance. It is of paramount interest to realize that FGM is not demanded in such fundamental religious writings as the Koran, but instead is a ritual based purely on the misunderstanding that the removal of parts of the external genital anatomy is necessary in order to maintain proper hygiene, to prevent the development in females of male genitalia and to discourage unfaithfulness. Better communication is fundamental to any process aimed at breaking down these barriers. However, the instant removal of barriers built on long-standing tradition rarely happens, and such barriers can be resistant to external influence. This project offers an effective way around all these aspects of social life.

(cont. on pg. 9)

FORMATIVE INVESTIGATION: Relevant qualitative information will be gathered from lead Rotarian project participants Dr.Kola Owoka, Kano, Nigeria and Dr. S.O. Shittu Amadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Zaria, Nigeria. To bring about the desired behavioural change at community level, it is essential to completely understand the nature of the existing condition, and to employ all available strategies.

Dissemination Workshop will be conducted with findings from the formative research and the pre-intervention assessment will be presented at a dissemination workshops. Key stakeholders (media personnel, community members such as religious leaders, youth, women, teachers, parents, health professionals, political leaders, and other NGO's working on women's reproductive health issues) will be invited to provide feedback and to validate the finding of the assessment. The study findings will be reviewed and finalized based on the feedback received from the workshop participants. Training of doctors and nurses will be provided by the training centres. In the beginning of the project there will be a close cooperation with the VVF-Centre in Kano (Mohammad Murtula Gen. Hospital) and the Chief Consultant Prof. Dr. Kees Waaldijk (the most experienced Fistula Surgeon in Nigeria).

THE MESSAGE: In the project area, women are subject to health risks due to the lack of access and unresponsiveness to health services and information. Complications related to pregnancy and childbirth are among the leading causes of mortality and morbidity among women of reproductive age.

Radio is the most important media outlet, with a broad appeal to both in urban and rural areas of Nigeria. Radio remains the most powerful, and yet the cheapest, medium for reaching large numbers of people - sending messages on health, family planning and other social and cultural issues. It is an effective intervention to reduce the prevalence of fistulae. Radio programs for the project are produced with local participation and with consideration for cultural traditions.

The project also includes undertaking an information campaign, by reaching the people through different channels of communication at Church, Mosque, at markets and through other community gathering forums. The pre-intervention assessment will gather useful information from different groups or informants, such as community and religious leaders, youth, elders, women's groups, victims of early marriage and fistulae, teachers, parents, etc...The information collected through rapid assessment and from secondary data will be useful in designing an appropriate message for our media campaign using radio serial drama.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES: The first major focus of this project is on the education of the public on the harmful effects of early marriage and early pregnancy. This will use innovative approaches to bring about desired behaviour changes, leading to the elimination of the practice of early marriage and the prevalence of obstetric fistula. It will create awareness on the dangers of early marriage and pregnancy at young ages. It will sensitise religious leaders, policy makers, parents and youth on the harmful effects of early marriage. It will promote girls' education. It will promote the enforcement of appropriate legal age for first marriage for girls, which according to the traditional law is 18 years. It will provide women with adequate and affordable health care information and services, including family planning, antenatal care, delivery and postnatal care. The second major focus of this project is to develop training centres for fistula repair with the involvement of doctors, nurses, Traditional Birth Attendants.

The project is being implemented by the Rotarians of District 9120. They have established a project committee consisting of 20 Rotarians, headed by PDG Dr. Kola Owoka, Rotary Club Nassarawa, Kano and DG Sunny Joe Agba, Rotary Club Jos, Plateau State. Project monitoring is being provided by the sponsoring clubs in Germany and Austria, headed by Rotarians Manfred Gruhl, Rotary Club Weissenburg (D1950), Wolfgang Kuenzel, Rotary Club Giessen (D1820) and Peter Neuner, Rotary Club Linz, D1920). Work is being coordinated by PDG Robert Zinser (RFPD Chairman).

by Kola Owoka and Robert Zinser

RFPD OFFICERS

Robert Zinser, **Chairman**
Salem Mashhour, **Vice-Chairman**
Buck Lindsay, **Secretary**
Hari Reddy, **Treasurer**
Rekha Shetty, **Communications**
Adedolapo Lufadeju, **Past Chairman**
Charles Bull, **Webmaster**

———— ● ————
Jennifer Hendrickson, **Executive Director, RFPD & Editor of Fragile Earth**

For questions or comments regarding
Fragile Earth email Jennifer at
rifpd@aol.com.

Hat's Off!

RFPD's Bangladesh Country Chair, Emdad UI Haq, held a successful RFPD seminar on March 30th. The seminar was held at the Sasakawa Auditorium in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Guest speaker was RFPD board member, PDG Rekha Shetty. The seminar began with the History & Role of RFPD, Population & Global Issues and the Partnership between RFPD and UNFPA. The Role of UNFPA was also discussed.

The Bangladesh seminar included with two very enlightening speeches "How Rotary can Educate on Family Planning," given by Prof. Naseem Rahman and "Improving the Lives of Women," given by PDG Rekha Shetty.

Emdad UI Haq is one of RFPD's most effective Country Chairs. Hat's off to this motivated and hard working individual. Emdad has not only held successful seminar's as the one described here, but he continues to increase his membership each day and now has 112 lifetime members in Bangladesh. On behalf of the board of directors of RFPD, we thank you for your commitment to RFPD. Your accomplishments are so very important to the work we do. Congratulations Emdad!

JOIN RFPD!

To join RFPD, send US \$10 for Annual Membership or US \$100 for Lifetime Membership along with name, address, phone, fax, Rotary Club and District to address below if in North America. For other regions, please contact:

Africa:

Adedolapo Lufadeju
email: dolaluf@skannet.com

Asia (except India):

Rekha Shetty
email: rekhasmindpower@eth.net

Europe: Robert Zinser

email: robert.zinser@t-online.de

India: Hari Reddy

email: pdghariredy@yahoo.com

North Africa

(includes Middle East):
Salem Mashhour
email: info@ectra.com.eg

North America:

Buck Lindsay
email: lpbatlanta@aol.com

Website:

www.rifpd.org www.rfpd.de
Tel: 770-963-3252, ext. 200
Fax: 770-822-9492

RFPD COUNTRY CHAIRS

American Samoa, Michael Dworsky
Australia, Colin Suchting
Austria, Peter Neuner
Bangladesh, Emdad Ul Haq
Belgium, Hessel Danser
Belize, Marcelo Coyi
Bermuda, Augustine Hardart
Brazil, Adelia Villas
Canada, Laetitia De Witt & Rob McLeod
Congo, Claude Mukendi
Cook Islands, John Fallon
Cote D'Ivoire, Paulin Claude Danho
Denmark, Torben Folmer Bech
Ecuador, Hector Plaza
Egypt, Salem Mashhour
Ethiopia, Klaus Meyer
Eritrea, Girmay Haile
Finland, Jouko Hulkko
France, Pierre Badere
Gabon, Josepj Owondault-Berre
The Gambia, Oumou Seydou Tall
Germany, Robert Zinser
Ghana, Mike Asafo-Boakye
Guinea, Amadou Diarra
Great Britain, Peter H. Swift
Guam, Abi Adigun
Guatemala, Steve Dudenhoeffer
India, Hari Reddy
Indonesia, Natalia Soebagjo
Israel, David Neumann
Italy, Piero Marcenaro
Japan, Yoshi Sekiba
Kenya, Eric Krystall
Korea, D. H. Won
Latin America, Luis Serra
Malaysia, Rajindar Singh
Mali, Amategue Dolo

Mexico, Andres Robles
Nepal, Hartmut Bauder
Netherlands, Cees v. d. Berg
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Nigeria, Adedolapo Lufadeju
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Russia, Alexandre Makatsaria
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Singapore, Rosy Nakhoda
Solomon Islands, David Quan
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Sudan, Tryphon Calidakis
Sweden, Bernhard Svanberg
Switzerland, Pat Lahusen
Taiwan, Tony Chen
Tanzania, Faye Cran
Togo, Dianne Warner
Turkey, Mithat Kiyak
Uganda, Robert Ssebunnya
Ukraine, Anatolly Shyrovkov
USA, Buck Lindsay
Zone 22, Wanda Cooksey
Zone 23, Phil Sperl
Zone 24, Judy Prather
Zone 26, Conrad Heede
Zone 28, Meena Patel
Zone 29, John Markley
Zone 30, Henry Crawford
Zone 32, Tam Mustapha
Zone 33, Stuart Fountain
Zone 34, Charlie Rogers
West Indies, Dave Maharaj
Zambia, Patrick Chisanga
Zimbabwe, Mercy Nyepudzayi Nyangulu

FRAGILE EARTH

The Rotarian Fellowship for Population & Development
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Lawrenceville, Georgia 30045 USA

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RI Annual Convention: Chicago, Illinois USA

RFPD Annual General Meeting

RFPD's Annual General Meeting will be held at McCormick Place, Room N228 on Tuesday, June 21 from 3-6pm.
Plan to attend this important annual meeting.

RFPD Exhibit Booth

RFPD and Nigerian Child Spacing Project booths #535 & #537.

RFPD Country Chair Training Session in Chicago

Prof. Knut Dr. Bleicher, consultant for RFPD's Organizational Effectiveness study, will convene a training session on Thursday, June 23 from 8:30am to 3:30pm, location Hyatt Regency, McCormick Place. This is a "must attend" meeting for all RFPD Country Chairs. The session will provide useful information on how to be a more effective RFPD Country Chair in your country. Mandatory attendance for RFPD CC's. Confirm immediately with Jennifer Hendrickson at rifpd@aol.com that you will be present.



Rotary World Fellowships Centennial Banquet & Dance

All Rotary Fellowship members are invited to the Rotary World Fellowships Centennial Banquet & Dance, Tuesday, June 21 - 6:30pm reception and 7:30pm dinner - Hyatt Regency, McCormick Place, 2233 S. Martin Luther King Drive. Guest speaker, Frank Devlyn. Paul Harris expected to attend. Tickets are \$50 per person and can be ordered from the Fellowships Dinner Committee, Attn: Jennifer Hendrickson, 270 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30045. Tel: 770-963-3252, ext. 200, Fax: 770-822-9492, Email: rifpd@aol.com. Tables of ten can be reserved for Fellowship groups at \$500. Credit cards accepted-checks made payable to RFPD. A form is available for download at www.rifpd.org. Reservations must be made in advance by Sunday, June 19.

RFPD Population Project List

(as of 5/20/05)

Ref #	Description	Project Club	Country	Club/TRF	Total Cost
P421	Reproductive Health Education	Bahcesehir/2420	Turkey	\$6,270.00	\$18,807.00
P422	Reproductive Health Education	Dhaka South/3280	Bangladesh	\$7,298.00	\$9,298.00
P423	Girl Child Education	Noonepalli/3160	India	\$10,000.00	\$15,000.00
P425	Family Planning	Rio de Janeiro - Saara/4570	Brazil	\$2,000.00	\$5,000.00
P429	Family Planning	Recife/4500	Brazil	\$2,000.00	\$5,000.00
P430	Family Planning	Recife - Bao Viagen/4500	Brazil	\$2,000.00	\$5,000.00
P431	Family Planning	Joao Pessoa - Sul/4500	Brazil	\$2,000.00	\$5,000.00
P432	Family Planning	Caruaru - Sul/4500	Brazil	\$2,000.00	\$5,000.00
P433	Literacy & Family Planning Center	Alexandria El-Nozha/2450	Egypt	\$6,000.00	\$15,000.00
P434	Heath Care Center	Alexandria El-Nozha/2450	Egypt	\$8,191.00	\$10,191.00
P435	Computer Center for Girls	Alexandria El-Nozha/2450	Egypt	\$5,272.00	\$6,817.50
P437	Vocational Training for Women	Ogomoso/9130	Nigeria	\$15,000.00	\$20,000.00
	Total			\$68,031.00	\$120,114.00

All projects have completed Matching Grant Applications. Grant cycle is July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005.

For more information, please contact:

Jennifer Hendrickson, Executive Director, RFPD, 270 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30045
Phone: 770-963-3252, ext. 200, Fax: 770-822-9492, Email: rifpd@aol.com, Website: www.rifpd.org

There are problems that can arise working in a context of highly committed volunteers who are also well-established professionals. This approach, within an organization that relies heavily on the volunteerism of its members, will require special motivation and commitment to achieve an improvement of our world. Bleicher has now gained a good view of the structure and procedures of RFPD. He expresses his gratitude to all those who contributed to his insights by being available for his personal interviews, who freely discussed problems and possible solutions.

In the realm of the **organizational challenge**, it is appropriate to improve the Constitution of RFPD as it has developed to this point in time. The duties and competencies of RFPD's CC's are in need of some refinement. This is necessary for the management level of RFPD structure as well. A more fundamental advisory capacity could improve the quality of RFPD work on all levels.

In the **managerial dimension** of RFPD, a more systematic approach of defining objectives, operations, milestones for project achievement and rewarding performance is necessary. This includes better reporting lines top down and bottom up, to keep activities coordinated, by monitoring the progress individual units within the organization, and making better use of scarce resources for those units that promise the highest success. Strategic coordination of the funds available and their distribution is advisable, and this demands resource allocation on the global map.

The **cultural challenge** is perhaps the most difficult to address. It is engrained in the values, beliefs, and attitudes of Rotarians. It thus can only be further developed over time, if at all. It maybe appropriate to accept it as it is, but to also add elements that will not deter the beliefs and attitudes that have proven so successful in the past. The elements might change some basics in the future.

The elements that have to be discussed on the RFPD perspective are:

- 1) Bringing into the program- and project-management a stronger element of continuity, viewing the tasks to be accomplished on a longer time scale to achieve a higher degree of sustainability.
- 2) To overcome tendencies of "doing-it-alone," by creating a behavior of openness that leads to a closer cooperation with other organizations that pursue comparable goals to the welfare of the beneficiaries.
- 3) As the world cannot be changed within the time frame of a Rotarian mandate period and the projects undertaken, we will need a longer lasting commitment. This is essential for future success in building a knowledge base, not only for solving today 's problems but for a much longer period of time. RFPD has to become a "learning organization" which can be viewed as a long-term enterprise, to achieve sustainability not only in the outside perspective in regard to the beneficiaries, but as a matter of institutional identity for RFPD itself.

The underlying dimension to all those that have to be attacked, however, is an educational challenge. How to succeed in bringing RFPD activist to approach these organizational and managerial task in a more professional manner. They must add their own professional skills they have acquired mostly in another professional environments. This is perhaps the most crucial underlying challenge in improving the effectiveness of RFPD's operations. It is the necessary education of leaders for bringing managerial skills into the system.

Most RFPD activists are driven by their desire to help change the world, and are therefore willing to give their best in doing so by committing themselves above self to the tasks that have to be performed. This can be considered the highest form of motivation there is. But are they able to perform their tasks within an organizational environment other than the one they perform in their own profession as effectively? Probably

not, as RFPD has not provided education and training for their managerial tasks connected with their humanitarian commitment.

We propose that this gap should be filled, by giving incoming officials – and particularly incoming Country Chair members - not only instruction in regard to the requirements for their volunteer job and useful recommendations in regard to resolving critical issues, but more than this. It is advisable to install an **RFPD Academy**. It will serve the internal needs of the RFPD system, and will also cater to the general public in all matters that are concerned with population and development issues. This might be instrumental for broadening the scope of activities, and to elevate interest within the general public.

The **RFPD Academy** should be conceived in the form of a virtual E-based network, that will be controlled from a small cadre of RFPD experts that develop training programs, create discussion forums on the net and are available for answering questions that arise while running into problems in the field. With this virtual forum, we will also be able to reach new audiences to spread the gospel of our commitment, and create an additional following.

This demanding undertaking will fail if we create it as "stop-gap" measure to improve the immediate situation. In following the recommendations, we have to address the fundamental of our cooperation, which has become imperative as we have grown beyond a pioneering phase of development. We are now looking for a next step, to pursue our goals in a more professional manner, to make it an enduring success. However, we all are still in the same boat. We can not risk what we have already achieved, or the status of RFPD as a worthwhile and laudable activity. A successful completion of our organizational project might enable us to attract more funds from the outside, while we have demonstrated -as a kind of benchmark- what a creatively-oriented organization of motivated and committed group of Rotarians can achieve within this limited framework.

by Professor Knut Bleicher