

# Fragile Earth



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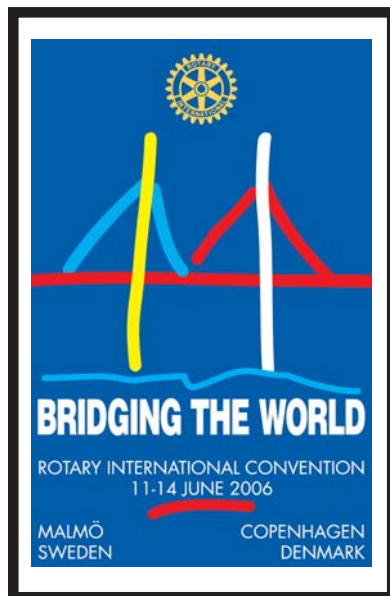
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Fragile Earth

June 2006

Published by the **Rotarian Action Group for Population & Development (RFPD)**

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## 2006 RI Convention

### "Bridging the World"

The neighboring cities of Malmö, Sweden and Copenhagen, Denmark are hosts for the 2006 Rotary International convention. The two cities share a spirit of harmony and cooperation, seen in the bridge that stretches across Oresund sound to connect them. By bringing the two countries closer together, Malmö and Copenhagen also mirror Rotary's mission of world understanding and peace. Visit [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) for more information.

**Join RFPD at our Exhibit Booth and attend our Annual General Meeting, Tuesday, June 13th!**  
*Featured speaker - Bill Ryerson, Population Media Center*

RFPD will host exhibit booths (B4- 055 & B4-059) Sunday through Wednesday from 12-6pm in Hall B of the Bella Center.

**Sunday, June 11th:** RFPD Area Coordinator Training 0900-1100 (9-11am) and RFPD Country Chair Training 1300-1730 (1-5:30pm). Room 20, Bella Center.

**Tuesday, June 13th:** RFPD Annual General Meeting - 1230-1430 (12:30-2:30pm), Room 20, Bella Center. Featured speaker: Bill Ryerson, *President of Population Media Center* - "Soap Operas for Social Change"

*For more information, call 770-963-3252, ext. 200 or visit: [www.rifpd@aol.com](http://www.rifpd@aol.com)*

# Water & Life

The importance of providing safe drinking water to humanity is well recognized by Rotary International. Water is essential for life, and safe drinking water, along with hygienic sanitation facilities, are necessary for the reduction of disease, poverty, hunger, child deaths and gender inequality. Yet, one-in-six people, or 1.1 billion people, lack access to safe drinking water and 2.6 billion people (half the developing world) lack adequate means of disposing of human waste. About two million people a year die from a water-related disease. At any time, about half the developing world population is sick from a water-related malady. Unsafe water accounts for 80% of all illness in the developing world.

Today, almost half of the world's countries have severe water problems. The earth's population has increased from 4.4 billion people to 6.5 billion between 1980 and 2006. If growth continues at this rate, we will increase to 10.3 billion by 2050 and 14.5 billion by 2099.

The greatest natural sources of water in the Middle East and North Africa are the Euphrates and the Nile rivers respectively, and Lake Nasser. This lake in southern Egypt is a man-made reservoir that resulted from the impounding of the Nile water after construction of the Aswan High Dam in 1970. This lake contains 170,000 cubic kilometers (KM<sup>3</sup>) of water and has resulted in a stable and predictable source of water for Egypt all year round, unlike the seasonal floods and droughts that existed before.

Most water in the world is saltwater in the oceans. Approximately 97.5%, or 1.4 billion KM<sup>3</sup> of the total global water is ocean saltwater, and only 2.5%, or 35 million KM<sup>3</sup> is fresh water. Of the 2.5% freshwater, 1.72%, or 24 million KM<sup>3</sup> is trapped in ice and permanent snow; 0.77%, or 8 million KM<sup>3</sup> is groundwater and only 0.3%, or 105,000 KM<sup>3</sup> is available in freshwater lakes and rivers. In other words, if it were possible to fit all the global water on Earth into a one-gallon (4 liters) jug, the relative quantity of freshwater available would be about one tablespoon.

The lack of safe drinking water and basic sanitation leads to adverse health effects. Water-borne diseases are those associated with water contaminated by human, animal, and chemical wastes. Examples include: cholera, typhoid, shigella, polio, meningitis, and hepatitis A and E. Globally, between 1,085,000 and 2,187,000 deaths are due each year to diarrheal diseases attributed to water, sanitation, and hygiene, 90% of them among children below five years of age. Lack of water also leads to diseases. Water-scarce diseases such as trachoma and tuberculosis are those that develop in areas where clean freshwater is scarce.

The availability of clean drinking water is essential for the maintenance of health. Safe drinking water and basic sanitation help prevent water-related diseases. In addition, healthy people can better absorb nutrients in food. Improved hygiene practices at home and health care facilities become possible with the availability of clean water, and improved water availability reduces infant and child morbidity and mortality. Very importantly, improved water reduces maternal morbidity and mortality due to improved hygiene after delivery.

Other indirect health benefits include improved sanitation and decreased overall health care expenses due to reduced burden of water-related illnesses. Improved sanitation also results in improved psychological and emotional health, particularly among women and girls, who have to suffer daily humiliation from the lack of secure and secluded sanitation facilities. A successful Rotary International Matching Grant water-related project can increase the quality of life for 10,000 to 30,000 people in very poor regions. Visit [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) to learn more about available Humanitarian Grants and World Community Services Projects.

Preview this complete story by Ragaie Ahmed El-Gebaly, Ph.D., on water and its relationship to population in the Middle East & North Africa at [www.rifpd.org](http://www.rifpd.org).

## RFPD welcomes New Country Chair for Finland, Harry Blässar

The Board of RFPD thanks out-going Country Chair (CC) of Finland, Jouko Hulkko for his dedication to RFPD and welcomes in-coming CC Harry Blässar.



Harry Johannes Blässar was born in Helsinki and graduated with a Bachelor of Science from the Helsinki School of Economics. His resume includes: Department Secretary at the Ministry of Trade and Industry (1957-58), Attaché at the Finnish Embassy in Cairo (1959-61), Export official at the Finnish Paper Mills' Association (1962-66), Director at Paper Agencies Pty. Ltd. in Sydney (1966-1969), Honorary Vice-Consul of Finland in Sydney, Chairman in the family company Oy Alex. F. Lindberg Ab (1970-1987), and Managing Director of Unilever Company Lipton Oy (1983-1986).

Rotarian Blässar has been the Honorary Consul of Bangladesh in Finland since 1974 and Consul General beginning in 1981. He is the Secretary of the Helsinki Consular Corps, has been a Rotarian since 1974 and was President of the Helsinki-Herttoniemi Rotary Club (1987-88).

He participated in the Zürich Rotary Population Conference in the year 2000. Since then, he has been a member and chairman of the RFPD Committee in District 1420.

Harry will emphasize convincing more Rotarians to join RFPD, and work on finding projects to be taken by clubs in the field of Population and Development.

We are delighted to have Harry on the RFPD leadership team and appreciate the wonderful work of the RFPD Section in Finland.

## HEAD'S UP!

### ATTENTION ALL RFPD COUNTRY CHAIRS & ZONE COORDINATORS

RFPD leaders will assemble in Copenhagen on Sunday, June 11 from 1-5:30pm, Bella Center, Room 20 for training. The RFPD Annual General Meeting will take place Tuesday, June 13 from 12:30-2:30pm, Bella Center, Room 20. All Country Chairs, Zone Coordinators and Assistant Zone Coordinators, along with the RFPD Board of Directors, are expected to participate in both events. If you haven't registered, reply to Jennifer Hendrickson by email (rifpd@aol.com).

### Rotary supporting project in PNG

The Rotary Club of Port of Brisbane is funding a new initiative in Papua New Guinea (PNG) to help men travel to Wewak for vasectomies.

As a result of sexual health awareness programs in local villages, Australia's partner in PNG, Sexual Health and Family Planning (SH&FPA), has identified an increase in men in rural areas who are interested in vasectomies.

However many of the men cannot afford to pay for public transport to travel to Wewak, the nearest urban center, where the service can be performed, free of charge.

SH&FPA is grateful to the Rotary Club of Port of Brisbane for its support.

Through the Rotarian Action Group for Population & Development, Rotarians around the world are working to address the challenge of population growth, unsustainable development and human suffering. For more information: [www.fpa.net.au](http://www.fpa.net.au).

- by Tony Matta

RFPD Deputy, Australia

## FROM THE DESK OF RFPD CHAIRMAN ZINSER

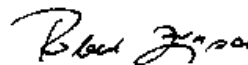
This year, the **Rotarian Action Group for Population & Development (RFPD)** celebrates its tenth anniversary. Two years after its beginning, RFPD was the largest of Rotary's service-related fellowships, as we were called at that time. Since then, RFPD has grown to over 20,000 members.

It's no wonder: Population Concerns were embraced by the 1998 Council on Legislation, which led to the RI Statement on Population & Development. Population Concerns were added to the RI Menu of Service Opportunities for Rotary Clubs, and to the Terms and Conditions of Matching Grant Awards. Population Issues are clearly linked with many other concerns, including poverty, literacy, health, hunger, water, environment.

The interlinkage of our Rotary service opportunities has not been sufficiently explained. A comprehensive, or integrated, approach is always more successful in any endeavor. Our challenge here is to be more innovative, with an integrated approach to our work. When we link population, health, and the environment, we improve our health, our economy, and our children's future. A project linking "Basic Literacy, Child Spacing and Microcredit" in slums of Alexandria, Egypt (see page 8), has just been recognized at the European Rotaract Conference as "Best European Rotaract Project". Rotactors "LEAD THE WAY!"

There are no 'magic bullets', no single solution that will put an end to global poverty. But, achieving the United Nations' Millenium Development Goals (MDG's) will help, and it is only possible if the many needs are addressed simultaneously and at scale. The MDG's, which our RI President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar also emphasizes, are our common goals (listed on page 9 in this newsletter). The MDG's can never be achieved without reproductive health care, as the world community stated last year. Human rights are also covered in this issue (see page 5). Projects initiated and supported by RFPD, like the project "Improvement of Maternal Health" in Nigeria, contribute to both the UN Millenium Goals and to improving Human Rights.

RFPD is informing and educating people on their basic human right for voluntary child spacing and prevention of abortion. The population issue is not the "hot potato," some would have us think. It is rather a precondition issue for sustainable development in the world, according to parliamentarians around the globe. It will be at least another ten years before the Millenium Development Goals will be achieved. RFPD will continue to contribute to these common goals.



### CALL FOR POPULATION PROJECTS

RFPD finds International Sponsors for population-related Matching Grant projects. Please send your completed TRF MG Applications to: Jennifer Hendrickson, 270 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, GA, 30045, or fax to 770-822-9492. RFPD will help promote your project and find a sponsoring Rotary Club to provide support. Provide the correct and current signatures with the Matching Grant application. Download applications at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org).

RFPD promotes projects that include women's vocational training, girl-child education, reproductive health and education, child spacing and micro-credit for women.

**MATCHING GRANT PROJECT NO. 54708**  
**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH/HIV- AIDS AWARENESS and MICROCREDIT FINANCING FOR WOMEN**

- by Rotarian Stella Lufadeju, Chairperson Project Implementation Committee, Rotary Club of Ibadan West, Nigeria

**INTRODUCTION**

Through the efforts of PDG Lufadeju of District 9120 Nigeria and Rotarian Boris Hesser of the Rotary Club of San Francisco, California, Matching Grant No. 54708 was approved by The Rotary Foundation in May, 2005. The host club benefiting from this project is the Rotary Club of Ibadan West, Nigeria. The sponsor club and district are the Rotary Club of San Francisco and California District 5150.

The project is to provide Reproductive health Care/HIV aids awareness classes to two groups of people – Teenagers of secondary school ages, and adult women. The educational awareness on reproductive health care to teenagers will inform them about the importance and benefits of proper reproductive health care and the prevention of HIV –AIDS. The lectures are in form of seminars and symposia, using teaching aids such as projectors, video and audio instruments. In addition to the obvious benefits, women will gain knowledge of the various child spacing options available in their community, and will learn to enhance themselves economically through a microcredit loan scheme which this project also provides. There will be jingles by radio and television. Handbills and promotional materials will also be used.

The Nigerian Rotarians themselves will monitor and provide these services. To this end, a talk/demonstration was given to our club by a representative of ARFH (Association for Reproductive and Family Health). The superintendent of Cooperative Societies in the State ministry gave a lecture to the Rotary Club on how cooperatives function and ways that such cooperatives can benefit from opportunities offered by both governmental and non-governmental agencies. The cooperation received from these sectors was quite remarkable.

**METHODOLOGIES (BACKGROUND PREPARATION)**

Establishing the background preparations and methodologies before the execution of this project was very crucial to the success of the project implementation. Devotion to the cause is also a very necessary factor, because of time involved in implementation. Work included identifying the communities that will benefit from this project; making sure that religious values are not interfered with; making sure that the women's groups are a close knit community, where everyone knows everyone and ascertaining that the family of the beneficiary is totally in support.

The awareness lectures for Reproductive Health/HIV aids education are in cooperation with school authorities and must not be taken for granted. Rotarians must have time to devote to this cause.

The women benefiting from the microcredit loans must already have an on-going trade and must belong to an existing cooperative society that meets on a regular basis. The cooperative, if not already registered with the state government, must register so that they can benefit from other assistance given by the state or local government. Relationships between the members of the cooperative group is emphasized. They are divided into sub-groups of 3 each, so that 2 of the 3 will stand as guarantors for the third. *(continued on page 7)*



# The United Nations on Gender Equality and Child Spacing

by Buck Lindsay

Rotary and The United Nations have been aligned from the beginning. The United Nations was founded in 1945, with forty nine Rotarians serving in 29 of the delegations to the United Nations Charter Conference. One of the first missions of the United Nations was to create a Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted by its 58 member states in 1948.

The Declaration is remarkable in that it was the first document in history to embrace a common global value – a common understanding of achievement for all people and all nations. It is also remarkable in that it was conceived and written by authors from different cultural and religious regions of the world. They sought to identify values common to the world's principle legal systems, religions and philosophical traditions, and to integrate them into a common statement of aspirations and a shared vision for a more equitable and just world. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights survives as the best known and most cited human rights document in the world.

The Declaration was organized into 30 clear and concise articles that set forth civil and political rights to which everyone in the world is entitled. It recognized that a life free from discrimination is essential to a life of dignity. It included condemnation of slavery, torture and arbitrary arrest, and endorsed rights to a fair trial, free speech, free movement and privacy. It addressed social, economical and cultural rights indispensable to free and full personal development, to which all human beings are entitled.

Since the adoption of the Declaration, the United Nations has labored continuously to define and refine our understanding of human rights. Conventions have been convened year-after-year to study the detailed elements of human rights – focusing intensely on topics like Racial Discrimination, Discrimination against Women, Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Punishment, and the Rights of the Child.

In 1968, the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations convened the International Conference on Human Rights in Tehran, Iran. The purpose of this Conference was to formulate a Human Rights program for the future. It addressed new human rights topics, including colonialism, illiteracy and the protection of the family. It published a 19-point program for action. Point 15 declares that discrimination against women around the world must be eliminated, and Point 16, declares that parents have a basic right to determine freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children.

In 1993, The World Conference on Human Rights Convened in Vienna. There, 7,000 participants from 171 countries affirmed the centrality of the Universal Declaration and rejected the arguments that some human rights were optional. It also made Human Rights a first responsibility of Governments, thereby recognizing democracy as a human right.

This brings us to the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDG), a set of eight specific objectives that define what we, as a global community, must do to ensure the well-being of our future generations. These specific and measurable goals are presented at the right.

When mapped, most of these challenges are found in Sub-Saharan Africa and in South-central Asia. They also coincide with where population growth rates are highest. These are the places where Rotary is making the most difference. Rotary is addressing the two specific items mentioned above: Gender Equality and Child Spacing.

Rotary International maintains an office at the New York office of The United Nations, staffed with Rotary volunteers. Each year, Rotary celebrates its close relation with The United Nations on Rotary-UN Day where in leaders from both organizations gather to recognize their

mutual aspirations, and the many great achievements of the two organizations. This year, Rotary-UN Day will be Saturday, November 4, 2006. Rotary International also has a special relationship with The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). This partnership has been formalized by a Memorandum of Cooperation signed by both groups in 2000, and extending through at least 2008. In recognition of this special partnership, RFPD has organized a Partnership Forum to be held the two days preceding Rotary-UN Day on November 2 & 3 (see next page for more details). Mark these dates and plan a special visit to the World Capitol: The United Nations, New York.

## The Millennium Development Goals:

1. Halve the number of people living on less than a dollar a day (1.2 billion) and those who suffer from hunger.
2. Ensure that all boys and girls complete primary school. Today, one in five school age children in the world is not in school.
3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women. Increase the number of primary age girls enrolled in school and give women the ability to live useful, productive lives.
4. Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five. Eleven million children in this age group die every year, from mostly treatable causes.
5. Reduce by three quarters the rate of women dying in childbirth, which is 600,000 per year, or one per minute. A woman in Sub-Saharan Africa faces a 1 in 16 chance of dying in childbirth, compared to 1 in 2,800 in developed countries.
6. Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and the incidence of malaria and other major diseases. This is predominately a Sub-Saharan issue, but exists everywhere.
7. Ensure environmental sustainability: halve the number of people without access to sanitation (2.4 billion today) and safe drinking water (1.2 billion today) and improve the lives of 100 million slum dwellers. This is mainly an urban issue.
8. Develop a global partnership for development. Increase what donor countries do: forgive debt and provide developing country access to global markets and technology.

# RFPD and Millennium Development Goal No. 5 in NEPAL

*by Harmut Bauder, Past RFPD Country Chair for Nepal*

Nepal is among the least developed and poorest countries in the world. Problems that our country face include high rate of population growth; high rate of illiteracy; scant health facilities; and high maternal and infant mortality. Tackling these problems is extraordinarily challenging due to the extreme geographical conditions of the country. Most of the land is covered by high mountains and hills, with limited access to roads.



RFPD is well known amongst Rotarians in Nepal. A committee of dedicated RFPD-members in Nepal has now submitted a 3-H Grant proposal to The Rotary Foundation, consisting of training 60 girls for 18 months to become Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM). These girls come from some of the most remote parts of Western Nepal, and will go back to their villages after training, to practice in their own small clinics. In addition, they will be trained in setting up and running Micro-Credit facilities in their areas, helping to improve the economic situation of women. This 3-H Grant is the follow-up of a successful Matching Grant (51554), running since 2004, which included 30 ANM's.

The project covers the main pillars of a successful Population & Development Project including : 1) Education and training; 2) Improvement in healthcare, specifically of women in remote areas; 3) Education in pregnancy related mortality by trained midwives; 4) Child spacing through Family Planning training and advice; 5) Improving economic conditions of women through Micro-Credit facility; and 6) Self-sustaining project through income generation to ANM.

The Family Health Division of the Health Ministry has confirmed repeatedly that this project is completely in line with the policies of the Government to provide specific health-care to women in remote parts of the country. It is also fully in line with the activities of UNFPA in Nepal, so much so that they have agreed to contribute US \$15,000 to the project. RC Darmstadt-Bergstrasse (D 1860) will be the International Sponsor for the project.

Unfortunately, significant elements of the situation cannot be covered in this project, due to financial limitations. The ANM's will be able to take care of pregnancy-related problems only up to a certain point. For complications (emergency-obstetric-care), a back-up facility is required in a hospital, however, there are only four Zonal Hospitals in Western Nepal which have these facilities. Local Hospitals neither have the physical facilities required nor an obstetrician. To reach a Zonal Hospital, walking through difficult terrain for days or weeks is required. A follow-up project (or one running parallel) is needed to equip a certain number of local Hospitals with facilities needed for obstetric-emergency-care, like anesthesia and doctor's services.

## RFPD/UNFPA EVENT COUPLED WITH ROTARY-UN DAY

In commemoration of the United Nations/Rotary International Day on Saturday, November 4, 2006, the Rotarian Action Group for Population & Development (RFPD) will host a conference on Thursday & Friday, November 2 & 3, to discuss a variety of topics related to the health and empowerment of women. The United Nations Population Fund has agreed to speak about women's empowerment, women's health (safe motherhood), and; HIV/AIDS, including voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) and the prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT). We take this opportunity to invite you to participate at this conference. For registration details, please call Jennifer Hendrickson, Executive Director at 770-963-3252, ext. 200 or email [rifpd@aol.com](mailto:rifpd@aol.com)

## MATCHING GRANT PROJECT NO. 54708

(continued from page 4)

### IMPLEMENTATION

The presentation ceremony for the micro credit loans was conducted on Wednesday, February 1, 2006 during a Rotary Club meeting. 36 women, 18 each from two cooperative societies, were present to receive their registration certificate from the State Ministry along with their first microcredit loan. It was quite a remarkable event which attracted the presence of the Rotary District 9130 Governor, Professor Olurotimi Tayo, the Superintendent of Cooperatives, many Rotarians and guests including the members of the media – radio, television and newspaper. It was an important day in the history of the club and in the lives of the women themselves. On the 5 p.m. news report that same day, the radio aired the news of the ceremony then and on every news report until the following morning. In the national newspaper, a picture of the presentation ceremony was published. It was altogether quite successful.



The lectures to the secondary schools began on the 22nd of February with Rotarians and Health Care providers at the hall of All Saints College, Jericho, Ibadan. Since then, two more schools have been visited: Urban Day Secondary School, and Jericho High School, both within the Jericho area. In both schools, the drama group took the initiative to organize a play depicting the evil that HIV/AIDS presents to the community, even to students. There was remarkable dialogue between the students and the presenters, and many questions were asked by the students. Even the teachers themselves benefited.  
(continued on next column)



All in all, it was certain that although there was pre-existing awareness to a clear extent, the need for clarification and education was there. The local television aired the lecture on the 7:00 p.m. news that same day. The local radio and newspaper also gave a great deal of publicity.

### CONCLUSION

The project is currently seen as a pilot project – a population and development concern which can be modified up in various forms to fit the community. Through the success of this project, the myth that microcredit is not practical in Nigeria will be dispelled. More microcredit loan schemes will be established to enable women to be financially and economically productive, thereby helping to alleviate hunger and poverty.

The project will make the younger generation so knowledgeable of the essence of Reproductive Health Care, that they can become ambassadors in their various schools, communities and social environment. All schools visited either already have a Student Action Group on HIV/AIDS, or are now forming a group to continue the enlightenment on this deadly disease. The project serves as another example that family health education and microcredit loans can fight the root cause of hunger and poverty in a sustainable way. We need to multiply this effect by continuing to add more of these projects. Rotary host clubs with Family Health Education/Microcredit project proposals are looking for sponsor clubs. Please find a club to partner at the website below. It is in your hand!

[http://www.rifpd.org/RFPD\\_Available\\_Projects/rfpd\\_available\\_projects.html](http://www.rifpd.org/RFPD_Available_Projects/rfpd_available_projects.html)

### 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 send to:

**Africa Sub Sahara: 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: pdgharireddy@yahoo.com

**North Africa  
(includes Middle East):  
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**North America:  
Buck Lindsay**  
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**Bill Cadwallader**  
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**South America: Luis Serra**  
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Website:  
[www.rifpd.org](http://www.rifpd.org) or [www.rfpd.de](http://www.rfpd.de)  
Tel: 770-963-3252, ext. 200  
Fax: 770-822-9492

## 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  
on **Fragile Earth** are welcome  
email Jennifer at [rifpd@aol.com](mailto:rifpd@aol.com).

# Rotaracts change lives in Alexandria, Egypt

## German-Egyptian Rotaract project is named "European Best Rotaract Project 2005-2006"

The project "Responsible Parenthood, Skill Development and Micro-Loans in Slum Areas of Alexandria, Egypt" has been named "Best Rotaract Project 2005-2006" by Rotaract Europe. Nici Elshorst and Katrin Jorke – members of the project team and of the Rotaract Club of Mannheim (Germany, D 1860) – received the award during the European Convention (EUCO).

The project is a joint project between the Rotaract District 1860 in Germany and the Rotaract Club Alexandria Cosmopolitan (D 2450, Egypt).

### The Project Draft:

Let's face it: the world population is exploding! Children are being born on and on. The majority of these children, however, will never be able to live a life of the quality we enjoy in Europe, today. This is one of the main issues our generation will have to deal with in the future, so we need to start today to do something about it.



This project of the Rotaract District 1860 (Germany) and the Rotaract Club Alexandria Cosmopolitan (D 2450, Egypt) is one way to face the population explosion. It also addresses the poverty and the lacking health education in countries like Egypt, Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia. From its beginning in 2001, no one could have anticipated the huge success it has become in the recent years. To date, over 1,400 people were able to greatly improve their living situation.

The goal of this project was to help the poorest women living in the slums of Alexandria, Egypt, by providing financial and educational support. The women are not only provided with micro-loans in order to establish a business of their own, but they are also given the chance to attend different kinds of training programs.

### Training Programs:

1) *Literacy classes:* The women learn the basics of reading and writing or improve existing skills in these fields.

2) *Vocational assessment:* The women are trained in the general and special skills they need for their future job.

3) *Population and development classes:* These lessons combine public health education, community health, information about sexual transmitted diseases and responsible parenthood as well as information about adequate nutrition.



After having acquired these skills, the women can use the micro credits to establish their own business and thereby become able to feed their families. There is a variety of businesses to choose from: vegetables and fruit sellers, carpenter, sewing, grocery, home appliances, and electricians, only to name a few.

One micro-credit loan supports one case, which is the woman plus 5 or 6 relatives (e.g. children, parents, and parents-in-law). The women are between 20 and 40 years old.



### Project Management and Financing:

The members of the Rotaract Club Alexandria Cosmopolitan take care of the project's process on the spot. Their job is to select and to support the women. They organize the lessons, together with the NGO PLAN International. The Rotaractors in Alexandria are supervising the repayments, and trading the cash flow. The members of the Rotaract District 1860 participation in the project included the financing. The first part of the project was funded by a New Opportunity Grant of District 1860 (\$5,000) and a grant from the RFPD German Section (\$5,000). For the second part of the project, the Rotaractors of District 1860 raised \$5,000, which was generously matched by RFPD/German Section and brought up to a sum of \$ 20,000 by a Matching Grant (\$ 10,000). So altogether, an incredible amount of \$30,000 is available for this project. Meanwhile, the main job of the German Rotaractors is to mediate between the different project partners, to monitor the project and to promote Public Relations. The project is not only based on the cooperation of two Rotaract Districts from two different countries, but it also provides the cooperation of the following organizations: Rotaract, NGO PLAN International, UNFPA, Rotarian Action Group for Population & Development (RFPD) and The Rotary Foundation. - cont. on next page

# RFPD and the UN Millenium Development Goals

The **Millenium Development Goals** (MDG), which are targeted to be achieved by 2015, are at risk. Everyone at all levels emphasize that more has to be done. 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 RI Millenium Development Goals.

This list to the right gives the details on how RFPD contributes to the MDG's.

- 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, “Training of Auxiliary Nurses and Midwives” in Nepal and “Training of Gynecologists in Bangladesh, Egypt and Nepal” in Germany (MDG 5).
- 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 has partnerships with governments, private sector and pharmaceutical companies (MDG 8).

Rotaract & Egypt - *continued from page 8*

**The Success:** Over 1,400 persons have improved their living situation by being supported by the project. About 24 families were able to expand their business.

Needless to say, that the beneficiaries are very grateful. To our surprise, the project has been widely accepted among all inhabitants of the slums. This shows that the selection of the poorest amongst them was carefully done by the local Rotaractors. German Rotaractors together with German Rotarians visited the project area several times to validate the results.

The project committee expects to have 600 cases closed by the end of the project (approximately 2007-2008), thus having improved the future for more than 4,000 people in Alexandria. While this project will only be one step in the process of reducing the imbalance between North and South, our most important goal is to create awareness for population & development issues among Rotaractors. Rotaractors are young, smart and visionists – these are the resources Rotary needs to establish and support such projects. The project team is looking forward to similar projects being created in the future. People interested in running a similar project, should feel free to contact the team: [alexandria1860@web.de](mailto:alexandria1860@web.de)

- by Nici Elshorst, Katrin Jorke & Kerstin Theilmann  
(RAC District 1860, Germany)

## RFPD Population Project List (as of 5/15/06) Please check the RFPD website for the most current updates.

RFPD Ref#	Project	Country/Club
421	Reproductive Health Education	Bahcesehir, Turkey/D2420
423	Girl-Child Education	Noonepalli, India/D3160
433	Literacy & Family Planning Center	Alexandria El-Nozha, Egypt/D2450
437	Vocational Training for Women	Ogomos, Nigeria/D9130
439	Community Vocational Training	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil/D4570
440	Saheli Women's Health Center	Begusarai, India
443	Saheli Women's Health Center	Gaya Central, India
444	Saheli Women's Health Center	Chandil, India
445	Saheli Women's Health Center	Adityapur, India
448	Saheli Women's Health Center	Dumka, India
450	Saheli Women's Health Center	Patna Midtown, India

All projects have completed Matching Grant Applications. Grant cycle is July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006.  
For more information, 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](mailto:rifpd@aol.com), Website: [www.rifpd.org](http://www.rifpd.org)

## NEW RFPD LIFETIME MEMBERS

(3/1/06 - 5/15/06)

### Germany

*Rotary Club Oldenburg-Graf Anton Günter*

Jörg Auriga  
Hermann Becker  
Jürgen Bosse  
Peter Dyckerhoff  
Armin Dyhr  
Jochen Fischer  
Andreas Grimm  
Harry Herling  
Waltraud Hufnagel  
Hubertus Jansen  
Arnulf von Keussler  
Johann Klupp  
Winfried Lehnen  
Klaus Lenz  
Eberhard Mogk  
Per Momkvist  
Claes Montén  
Michael Morath  
Jörg von Mörner  
Otto Nohlen  
Norbert Nottebaum  
Udo Olesch  
Helmuth Poensgen  
Ralf Sählbrand  
Helga Scheuch  
Wolfgang Schick  
Ludwig Seel  
Jörg Stocker  
Steffen Tiggeler  
Josef Treffert  
Martin Vahlensieck  
Rolf Vieten  
Gisela Zangerl

### USA

Donald Collins  
Preston Hill  
Barbara Pampalone  
James Vlass  
Scott Webb

**A 20-minute Rotary Club Program  
DVD on the Saheli Centers  
is available for \$3.00 each.**

**770-963-3252, ext. 200,  
or email rifpd@aol.com**

The United Nations  
Population Fund and Rotary  
International signed  
its second three-year  
Memorandum of Cooperation  
on November 3, 2005.

To download a copy, visit  
[www.rifpd.org](http://www.rifpd.org).

## Test of Male 'Pill' - Promising Study

Hormonal contraception for men is reversible after a few months, a review of a prototype suggests.

A review of data from 30 trials on the hormonal contraception, involving a total of about 1,500 men, appears in Saturday's issue of *The Lancet*, a medical journal in Britain.

Couples may not accept current methods of contraception for men – condoms, withdrawal and vasectomy – because they aren't reliable or can't be reversed easily.

"Hormonal male contraceptive methods could soon become widely available," said the study's lead author, Peter Liu of the ANZAC Research Institute of the University of Sydney, in Australia.

"These findings thereby increase the promise of new contraceptive drugs allowing men to share more fairly the satisfaction and burden of family planning," he wrote in the journal.

Prototypes of the male "pill" contain the hormone androgen or androgen in combination with progestin. The contraceptives are designed to stop sperm production, similar to the way hormone therapies can suppress ovulation in women. The hormone treatments dropped sperm production to zero, or levels low enough for contraceptive purposes.

All participants regained fertility after stopping the hormonal treatment, according to the review of trials published in the past 16 years. It took an average of 15 weeks for sperm to regain fertile levels, the researchers found.

Factors such as age, original sperm count, length of treatment and ethnic origin affected the recovery rate.

### Not yet on the market

Men participating in the trials reported minimal side-effects, such as acne. Some who had pellets implanted in their arms had difficulty retrieving the pellet once they wanted the contraception to stop.

One potential road block to getting a male contraception on the market is the pharmaceutical industry in the U.S., which doesn't see a big payoff, said Prof. David Handelsman, director of the ANZAC Research Institute.

"The pharmaceutical industry have just been, really, mostly interested spectators, and ... making only very minimal efforts to really do a development," Handelsman told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

He said it could take less than five years to get a hormonal contraceptive on the market, depending on how seriously European pharmaceutical companies develop the product.

The review did not address the effectiveness of the hormonal contraception or its acceptability.

Courtesy of CBC.ca

CBC News

<http://www.cbc.ca/story/science/national/2006/04/28/pill-male060428.html>

## On Truths & Dignity *by Buck Lindsay*

Over the years, I have wondered how those who disagree with the need to address the global population issue do not see the same things I see, and why they are sometimes so adamantly opposed to the population dialogue, even to the point of coloring it to support their position. With the proposed enactment for a Standing Committee on Population Concerns, now on the 2007 COL agenda, these two points of view are certain to be examined again.

I wish I could impart to them the things my eyes have seen in the past ten years, during four Rotary trips to Africa, two to Asia and two to South America. If I could, they would have the embossed image on their retina of the destitute woman lying on a hospital bed in maternity ward in a rural community of Nepal, fatally suffering from lack of prenatal care. Or the 15 year-old mother of three in Nigeria, soon have her fourth. She will develop obstetric fistula, and begin a life of sickness and social rejection, for reasons beyond her control. Or the physically abused woman in the slums of Buenos Aires, with no hope of escaping her inhumane condition. Or any one of the other 526,000 women who die annually from pregnancy related causes, most of whom didn't want to be pregnant to begin with. But since those who hold the opposing position haven't seen these things, they are insensitive to them. They don't exist. Maybe they have seen such sights on TV, but that image is different than reality. It is easier to separate yourself from them, and to act as though they don't exist, and to avoid the need to face them, and to solve them. It's difficult, but I can almost understand this part of it. They haven't seen it.

What defies my ability to imagine is why people who oppose the population issue sometimes paint it as a subversive movement, with a hidden agenda including everything from the promotion of abortion to genocide of the poor of the world. In my ten years of leading and following RFPD, I have only heard two Rotarians suggest that Rotary ought to include abortion in its population activities. RFPD can't control what any individuals might think. But RFPD did early-on adopt a position that RFPD would have nothing to do with abortion work: actively, passively, clandestinely, or in any manner whatsoever. And to my knowledge, since RFPD's inception, abortion and Rotary have never crossed paths. At a recent district conference, a Rotarian opposed to the proposed enactment for a Standing Committee on Population Concerns stood before the conference and said he had "been approached by a priest in his club, who had been questioned by his Bishop, who wanted to know why he was a member of an organization that was aligning itself with an "evil and godless" United Nations, and why there were Rotary subgroups (reference to RFPD, we presume) who were advocating sterilization and abortion to control population." The district rallied to his call, and voted the issue down.

I anguish....

Give me a truth to lean on. And pray that reasonable people will know the truth from the non-truth. When someone can say any reckless thing they want to promote their position, and listeners accept it without question, we are all in serious trouble. It would be one thing if those in favor of the Standing Committee for Population Concerns were up to no good, or really doing the things we are being accused of. But the opposite is true. I know that people around the world are being helped in sustainable ways by what RFPD is doing. It is not band-aid work – it is work that attacks the world's sicknesses at their roots, and fixes problems in ways that last. I know this. I know it.

## WORLD'S FORESTS CONTINUE TO SHRINK

A healthy planet needs healthy forests. Thriving forests regulate the water cycle and stabilize soils. Forests also help moderate climate by soaking up and storing carbon dioxide. In addition to these ecosystem services, forests provide habitat for diverse flora and fauna, offer cultural, spiritual, and recreational opportunities, and provide a variety of food, medicines, and wood.

Nearly 4 billion hectares of forest cover the earth's surface, roughly 30 percent of its total land area. Though extensive, the world's forests have shrunk by some 40 percent since agriculture began 11,000 years ago.

Three quarters of this loss occurred in the last two centuries as land was cleared to make way for farms and to meet demand for wood.

Over the last five years, the world suffered a net loss of some 37 million hectares (91 million acres) of forest, according to data from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

For entire text see:  
<http://www.earthpolicy.org/Indicators/Forest/2006.htm>

For data see:  
[http://www.earthpolicy.org/Indicators/Forest/2006\\_data.htm](http://www.earthpolicy.org/Indicators/Forest/2006_data.htm)

For an index of Earth Policy Institute resources related to Forest Cover see:  
<http://www.earthpolicy.org/Indicators/Forest/index.htm>

For more information on restoring the world's forests, see Chapter 8, "Restoring the Earth," in PLAN B 2.0: Rescuing a Planet Under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble by Lester R. Brown (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2006), posted at:  
<http://www.earthpolicy.org/Books/PB2/index.htm>

- by Elizabeth Mygatt, Earth Policy Institute, [www.earth-policy.org](http://www.earth-policy.org)

## - RFPD COUNTRY CHAIRS -

American Samoa, *Michael Dworsky*  
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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*  
Equador, *Hector Plaza*  
Egypt, *Salem Mashhour*  
Ethiopia, *Yemane Bisrat*  
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Finland, *Harry Blassar*  
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