

# Fragile Earth



## What's in this Issue?

Call of World Leadership, *pg. 1*

COL Action Needed, *pg. 1*

Chairman's Report, *pg. 2*

Nigeria's population doubles since 1991, *pg. 2*

Call for Projects, *pg. 2*

RFPD Activities at Salt Lake City RI Convention, *pg. 3*

RFPD Germany wins 2006 Best VCT award, *pg. 3*

Blame for Global Warming placed firmly on Humankind, *pg. 4*

A Mexican Experience Teaching the Desperate Pleading for Child-Spacing, *pg. 4*

Indonesian Population Growth alarming, *pg. 5*

North America Zone Coordinator Update, *pg. 6*

Projects List, *pg. 6*

Training Project for Parents = A Healthy Future, *pg. 7*

A New Rotary Strategy: Working together to help people help themselves, *pg. 8*

New Lifetime Members, *pg. 10*

Charging Towards the Big Melt, *pg. 10*

"No Vacancy", *pg. 11*

Join RFPD!, *pg. 11*

RFPD Officers, *pg. 11*

Country Chair List, *pg. 12*

Fragile Earth

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## Call of World Leadership

Nominations are now being received for World President. Forward to Nominating Committee at RFPD.

Yes – we do already have some global leadership, like the United Nations, the World Bank, the Olympics, Disney World and popular tunes like, *It's a Small, Small World*, and *We are the People*. But really – who is in charge of the World? No one?

Don't we all think predominately in National terms? I am an American, you are a Kenyan, she is a Russian. And we order our lives, morals, ethics and other priorities to suit what is best for our respective nations, and even to another degree, what is best for our own personal circumstances. We place into a distant second position the values that have important effect on our World. Even the ones that have major impacts on the globe – like global warming, climate change, carbon emission, etc. We prune and care for our individual gardens, while the storm of garden destruction approaches. And for those who ask that we now render proof that such a storm is approaching, this article is over for you.

Then there is the 'Global Economy', which is a modern term. On the surface, it is instant financial trading, mobile phones, McDonald's, Starbucks, holidays booked on the net. Beneath, it is the globalization of poverty, in a world where most human beings never make a phone call and live on less than two dollars a day, where 6,000 children die every day from diarrhea for lack of access to clean water. *cont. on pg. 3*

### **Attention Members & Friends of RFPD: COL Action Needed !!!**

Your support is needed for the Council on Legislation, RI Proposed Enactment for a Standing Committee on Population Concerns, item 07-168. Please contact your District COL Representative to urge their vote for this important piece of legislation. If you don't know who your District COL Rep is, contact your District Governor to find out. Let RFPD know whether your Representative will support COL item 07-168.

Your pro-active help is critical to the passage of COL Enactment 07-168. Please act immediately! If you have questions, contact Jennifer Hendrickson at [rifpd@aol.com](mailto:rifpd@aol.com) or 770-963-3252, ext. 200.

**FROM THE DESK OF CHAIRMAN  
SALEM MASHHOUR  
AND VICE-CHAIRMAN ROBERT ZINSER**

**Nigeria's population  
doubles since 1991**

*CNN.com*

"A Call to Action" to contribute to the UN Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) was the title of the message from Jeffrey Sachs, Director of Earth Institute, and author of "The End of Poverty". At the 2006 RI Convention, Jeffrey Sachs called upon Rotary to use its network for that purpose, stating, "the fact that we can do it is not only a motivation, it's not only a call to action. It is our existential necessity". He challenged us with the question: "If we can do it, how can we afford not to do it?" He asked us for our commitment, our guidance, our example, our proof of success "in helping the world achieve the Millenium Development Goals".

To contribute to the Millenium Development Goals is a primary goal of the Rotarian Action Group for Population & Development (RFPD). Safe Motherhood is an essential program in countries like Egypt, India, Nepal and Nigeria, where RFPD initiated and supports corresponding projects of clubs and districts. Our activities contribute directly to MDG No. 5 "Improve Maternal Health". Sachs speaks of "Awareness of sexual reproductive health so that half a million mothers, are not dying in child birth every year - the most tragic and wasted deaths". In 2006, the UN General Assembly added the target "To achieve universal access to reproductive health" to the MDGs. In February 2007, the UK Parliament issued a report saying there is overwhelming evidence that the MDGs will be missed if population growth is not curbed. "Urgent action must be taken to ensure family planning provision becomes an integral part of all efforts to reduce poverty, improve mothers' and children's survival and health, and to obstruct further damages to the natural environment" ([www.appg-popdevrh.org.uk](http://www.appg-popdevrh.org.uk)).

The health of children is closely tied to the health and well-being of their mothers. Women's ability to make decisions about their fertility has a profound effect on their prospects for education, employment, political participation, and their empowerment. Poor reproductive health and greater vulnerability to HIV/AIDS infection share common roots, including poverty and discrimination based on gender. With the problems of our climate and environmental degradation, the existing links with the population growth can not be overlooked anymore. Population concerns are linked to all MDGs.

Rotarian Action Groups have proven to be effective in their support clubs and districts in their World Community Service, and in their potential to make an impact on achieving the MDGs. Sachs wants us to act - now! Without detracting any efforts and funds from our PolioPlus campaign, which has top priority, Rotary should at the same time support their Action Groups in helping the world to achieve the MDGs. Action Groups in their field of experience, expertise and enthusiasm can LEAD THE WAY. By leading the way in contributing to the MDGs, we show that ROTARY SHARES!



Salem Mashhour  
Chairman, RFPD



Robert Zinser  
Vice-Chairman, RFPD

*For additional information on this topic, see: Powerpoint Presentation  
"RFPD contributes to the MDGs" at [www.rifpd.org](http://www.rifpd.org).*

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) -- Nigeria's population has nearly doubled to an estimated 140 million people since the last count in 1991, according to census figures released December 29, 2006.

Population growth in Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, is running at 3.2 percent, said Samu'ila Danko Makama, chairman of the National Population Commission.

Four censuses have been aborted since independence from Britain in 1960, due to logistical difficulties and allegations that ethnic and religious groups had sought to inflate their numbers. Such groups hold political sway in a country where the federal government controls regional distribution of funds from the oil industry. Nigeria is Africa's biggest crude producer.

Makama said detailed population figures, like state breakouts and average income, would be released within eight months.

Egypt, with about 80 million people, is Africa's second-most populous nation.

**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 promote your project and will assist in finding 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 Maternal and child health, child spacing, reproductive health and education, vocational training, girl-child education and micro-credit for women.



## **RFPD Activities: SAVE THE DATE!**

Country Chair & Zone  
Coordinator Training:  
Sunday, June 17th  
1300-1730 (1-5:30pm)

Annual General Meeting:  
Tuesday, June 19th  
1730-1900 (5:30-7:00pm)

Visit the RFPD booth in the friendship  
hall for the latest Population Projects  
and Information.

RFPD office: 770-963-3252, ext. 200 or  
visit: [www.rifpd.org](http://www.rifpd.org)

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### **RFPD Germany-sponsored project wins Best VCT Award in Kenya for the year 2006**

On November 30, 2006, The Rotaract Voluntary Counseling & Training Center (VCT) was officially named as the Best VCT in Kenya for the year 2006, following a countrywide survey conducted by the Ministry of Health via NASCOP - National AIDS and STI Control Programme. This project is the best out of 559 VCT's in Kenya.

The Rotaract Family in Nairobi is very proud of this achievement. The VCT staff, led by Past District Rotaract Representative Leonard Nyamai, deserves special recognition for the achievement. PRIP Radikul Bichai visited the project, along with RFPD Vice-Chairman Robert Zinser.

The achievement comes at a crucial time when the Rotaract VCT is seeking local and International Partners to fund their Project and keep it running. At least four Rotaract Clubs depend on the VCT for their weekly meetings. It also acts as a centre for coordinating Rotaract activities in Nairobi.

## **Call of World Leadership**

- continued from pg. 1 -

Lester Brown, President of Earth Policy Institute (who is my personal nominee for World President), says that restructuring the global economy according to the principles of ecology represents the greatest investment opportunity in history. He calls what is needed the 'Environmental Revolution'. It is comparable to the Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions that preceded it. The Agricultural Revolution transformed the earth's surface, and the Industrial Revolution is transforming the earth's atmosphere. The additional productivity that the Industrial Revolution made possible has unleashed enormous creative energies. It also has given birth to new life-styles and to the most environmentally destructive era in human history, setting the world firmly on a course of eventual economic decline.

The Environmental Revolution resembles the Industrial Revolution in that each is dependent on the shift to a new energy source. And like both earlier revolutions, the Environmental Revolution will affect the entire world.

There are differences in scale, timing, and origin among the three revolutions. Unlike the first two, the Environmental Revolution must be compressed into a matter of decades. The other revolutions were driven by new discoveries, by advances in technology, whereas this revolution, while it will be facilitated by new technologies, is being driven by our need to make peace with the World.

There has not been an investment situation like this before. The \$1.7 trillion that the world spends now each year on oil, the leading source of energy, provides some insight into how much it could spend on energy in the eco-economy. One difference between the investments in fossil fuels and those in wind power, solar cells, and geothermal energy is that the latter are not depletable.

For developing countries dependent on imported oil, the new energy sources promise to free up capital for investment in domestic energy sources. Not many countries have their own oil fields, but all have wind and solar energy waiting to be harnessed. In terms of economic expansion and job generation, these new energy technologies are a godsend. Investments in energy efficiency will grow rapidly simply because they are profitable. In virtually all countries, saved energy is the cheapest source of new energy.

No sector of the global economy will be untouched by the Environmental Revolution. In this new economy, some companies will be winners and some will be losers. Those who participate in building the new economy will be the winners. Those who cling to the past risk becoming part of it, Brown says.

Rotary International is already a respected World Leader. Maybe Rotary can be the World President. It has lead the eradication of Polio – a global disease. It has a program called Preserve Planet Earth. And it tends to the needs of the poor and the suffering around the world with its World Community Service projects, and its Rotary Foundation. But has Rotary looked lady destiny squarely in the eyes, and decided to confront the real threats to humanity – overpopulation and unsustainable development? Not yet. Can it do that, and should it do that? Yes.

Until there is a World Leader who helps us see and give primary value to the serious needs of the World, we are not likely to avert the dangers before us. We desperately need World Leadership today.

- by Buck Lindsay, General Secretary, RFPD

(parts of content adapted from Lester R. Brown's, *Plan B 2.0: Rescuing a Planet Under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble*)

## Blame for Global Warming placed firmly on Humankind

Catherine Brahic, Paris  
NewScientist.com

Friday, February 2nd, 2007 may one day be remembered as the day the question mark was removed from the debate on whether or not human activities are driving climate change, said the head of the UN Environment Programme, Achim Steiner, at the launch of the most authoritative scientific report on climate change to date.

The just-released Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report says there is 90% certainty that the burning of fossil fuels and other human activities are driving climate change.

"The word 'unequivocal' is the key message of this report," said Steiner, adding that those who have doubts about the role of humans in driving the climate "can no longer ignore the evidence".

The IPCC report says the rise in global temperatures could be as high as 6.4°C by 2100. The report also predicts sea level rises and increases in the intensity of hurricanes. It is the work of 1200 climate experts from 40 countries, who have spent six years reviewing all the available climate research. It was released in Paris, France, on Friday.

The last IPCC report, issued in 2001, predicted that temperatures would rise by 1.4°C to 5.8°C by 2100, relative to 1990 temperatures.

But the new report says temperature rises by 2100 could, in the most extreme scenarios, range from 1.1°C and 6.4°C. The most likely range is 1.8°C to 4.0°C, with the report predicting that 4°C is most likely if the world continues to burn fossil-fuels at the same rate.

**Melting, moving ice** - Rises in sea levels are predicted by the new report, threatening low-lying areas of land around the world. As the oceans warm, their waters expand, while rising temperatures also increase the melting of the ice sheets that cover Greenland and Antarctica. *continued on pg. 5*

## A Mexican Experience Teaching the Desperate Pleading for Child-Spacing

- by Bill Cadwallader, PRID -

Unless one has lived in a small village, and made dear friends with the women and the families, it is nearly impossible to understand the desperate cry, out of a desperate need for being able to put space between the children of a poor mother who knows that she will not be able to feed, let alone clothe and properly educate, the children that she loves. The following is a personal story of Bill and Jean Cadwallader.

Bill and Jean moved to Mexico in 1965 to live in the small village of San Luis Coyotzingo for two years with their two children, and one on the way, to work with the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). The Cadwalladers were leaders of an international group with various vocational backgrounds from seven countries in Latin America as well as Canada and the USA.

Little did Jean realize how important to the women of the village her pregnancy with their daughter Deborah was to be; even though the Cadwalladers knew that they lived in a "fish bowl" with the villagers, who were watching every move that they made. Jean and Bill arrived in San Luis in July 1965. On 27 December 1967 Jean gave birth to their daughter Deborah.

By June the women of the village began to come to Jean for advice. The first lady said, "Juanita (Jean), you had Deborah the same time that I had Juancito. You still have a flat tummy and now look at me. I am pregnant again. What do you know that I do not know?"

The mother said this was her 13th pregnancy in 16 years, and she had 9 living children. She said that her husband did not own property so he could not grow their own corn or beans for tortillas or frijoles. Her husband, when he could work, only earned \$1.00 per day. The only way she knew to not have more babies was to send her husband off with another woman, and she did not want to do that. Could Jean help her?

The second mother who came to see Jean was a mother who helped our group by washing our clothes. She too had noted that Jean was not pregnant still six months after Deborah was born. This mother said that her first baby boy was born with a birth defect of the spine and could not walk. The second child had hit his head on a table and injured his eye and had a detached retina. Her third child was born and she did not have enough milk, and at 10 months could not sit nor stand; and now she was pregnant again. If she had to have another baby after this one, she thought she was going to die. What could Jean do to help her?

The Cadwalladers lived in a fortunate situation. Their employer had been doing work for the Ford Foundation in Mexico for Family Planning. Physicians had not been trained in the methods of child-spacing, as it was not allowed in the medical schools at that time. Nevertheless, nearly every physician who had a family practice was familiar with the lament of frustrated mothers who would come to them and plead for help. Hardly a day would go by that some frustrated mother would say she felt that she would die if she must have another child. There were a number of physicians who wanted to change the situation if at all possible. The Ford Foundation gave the leader of the AFSC a grant to locate these willing doctors and to organize a continuing education program for them to teach the methods of child-spacing, so that they could make the methods available to their patients. These highly literate physicians had not been educated for one of the most demanding aspects of their family practice to serve mothers. The Ford Foundation provided that education. *continued on pg. 7*

## **Blame for Global Warming placed firmly on Humankind**

*(continued from pg. 4)* In 2001, the IPCC predicted that sea levels would rise by between 9 and 88 centimeters by 2100, relative to 1990 levels. The new report says rises could range from 18 cm to 59 cm. The top end of the range corresponds to a fossil-fuel intensive future. But predictions of sea level rise are one of the most contentious areas of the report, since very recent research has suggested that rises of up to 140 cm are possible.

The problem is that the understanding of how warming affects Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets remains limited, and they are predicted to be the most important contributors to change. Estimates of the straightforward melting of ice are incorporated in the IPCC report. But warming may also accelerate the movement of ice in glaciers into the ocean, perhaps by meltwater lubricating the undersides of ice streams.

Susan Solomon, one of the report's lead authors, said there was no published research that quantified this effect, and so it was not included. But she added: "If temperatures exceed 1.9°C to 4.6°C above pre-industrial temperatures, and were to be sustained for thousands of years, eventually we would expect the Greenland ice sheet to melt. That would raise sea level by 7 meters."

Climate change is also expected to affect the frequency and strength of tropical storms and hurricanes. The latest IPCC report says the activity of tropical cyclones is "likely" to increase over the 21st century. It says "likely" indicates a probability of more than 66%. This is a bolder statement than the World Meteorology Organization issued in January.

Precipitation patterns will change too by 2100, according to IPCC predictions. Mid-to high-latitude regions will see up to 20% more rain and snow, while the tropical regions will see less.

**Humans to blame** - Considering the human role in causing climate change, the IPCC report is damning: "The understanding of [human] influences on climate has improved since the [2001] report, leading to a very high confidence that human activities" are responsible for most of the warming seen since 1950, says the report's summary for policymakers. "Very high confidence" is described as "at least a 9 out of 10 chance of being correct".

Before the industrial revolution, human greenhouse gas emissions were small, and the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide – the main greenhouse gas – was about 280 parts per million (ppm).

Thanks largely to the burning of fossil fuels and changes in land use, such as agricultural exploitation and deforestation, the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide reached 379 ppm in 2005, says the IPCC.

**Gold standard** - The IPCC draws together the world's leading climate experts to review and assess all available research, under the auspices of UN Environment Programme and the World Meteorology Organization.

The result of their assessment, which is done every five to six years, establishes what is considered the gold standard of consensus on climate change science.

The latest IPCC report was written by hundreds of experts and reviewed by hundreds more, from 113 countries. It is being released in stages during 2007. The first chapter, released on Friday, deals with the scientific basis for climate change.

The next two parts of the IPCC's 2007 assessment, plus a synopsis, will be released throughout the year. Part 2, dealing with the impacts of climate change and our vulnerability to those impacts, will be released in April. Part 3, to be released in May, deals with how we might mitigate these impacts.

## **"Indonesian population growth alarming"**

Jakarta, Nov. 12 (Xinhua): Indonesian President, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, said that the country's population growth reaching 1.3 per cent per year was alarming, and must soon be lowered by the promotion of family planning programmes.

"The population growth rate has reached 1.3 per cent per year. This figure is higher than that before the reform era. It is cause for alarm as it will have an extensive impact, among other things, on staple food availability, education, healthcare and jobs," Antara news agency on Saturday quoted the President as saying at the opening of a National Congress on Indonesian People Development here Friday.

If serious efforts to tackle the population growth rate are not made, it will be impossible to reach the target of people's welfare improvement, the President said.

"We must find new breakthroughs to control the population growth through family planning programmes. Therefore I call on the National Family Planning Board, regional administrations and non-governmental organizations to intensify the familiarization of family planning to the people," he said.

Yudhoyono recalled what he had found during his visit to villages, cities, fishermen and remote areas across the country. "I found so many children there, and I think about their education, health, jobs and so on," he said.

I found so many children there, and I think about their education, health, jobs and so on," he said.

He asked all the relevant authorities to take part in supporting the successful implementation of the family planning programme so that the Indonesian people became more intelligent.

Prosperity can not be achieved if the population growth rate high.

Indonesia is the fourth most populous country in the world with a population of 220 million.

## North America Zone Coordinator Update: RFPD Welcomes New ZC's

On behalf of the Rotarian Action Group for Population & Development (RFPD), we extend our sincere thanks for the work of Wanda Cooksey (Zone 22) and Ben Eubank (Zone 25). Both have retired their positions as Zone Coordinators and we thank them for their advocacy and hard work over the past years. RFPD's challenges are great and we hope they will stay fellow members and friends of RFPD. The board of directors wish you the best! The new Zone Coordinators are:



**Raju Paul, RFPD Zone Coordinator for Zone 22:** RFPD welcomes Raju Paul, who resides in Alberta, Canada and is currently the District Governor for D5360. He has been a Rotarian since 1990, and a charter member of the Rotary Club of Calgary Heritage Park. He was club President (2001-02), has received the RI President's Citation, was District 5360 World Community Services Chair from 1997 to 2001 and is currently coordinator of Canadian Rotary Historical Hall being built in Calgary to be opened in June 2007. Raju has served on committees including International Services, Fund Raising, and Membership Development & Retention. He has led over 14 mission trips, managed over 30 World Community Service Projects and is overseeing the building process of the Canadian Rotarian Museum in Calgary. Rtn. Paul is Immediate Past President of the Canadian Rotary Collaboration for International Development and is a member of the Rotary Foundation's Technical Cadre. He has received the Service Above Self Award and the APEGGA

(Association of Professional Engineers of Alberta) Summit Award for Community Service. Raju and his wife, Asha have been married for 33 years and have a son and a daughter – son, Paulose is an Orthopedic Surgeon and daughter, Ria is a Lawyer. Both Raju and Asha (a Rotarian) are Paul Harris Fellows, Major Donors, members of the Paul Harris Society and charter members of the Bequest Society.

**Lucinda Rose, RFPD Zone Coordinator for Zone 25:** RFPD welcomes Lucinda Rose, who resides in Mesa, Arizona, and is a member of the Rotary Club of Mesa West. She was first inducted to the Rotary Club of Hartford Connecticut in 1990. In 1993 Lucinda was honored to become the first female Rotarian with Club Rotario de Rohrmoser, Costa Rica. Since her 1996 move to Arizona she has been a member of Mesa West Rotary. At various times, Ms. Rose has led the Club Service, Vocational, and International Avenues in her respective clubs. Lucinda served as Mesa West president in 2001-2002. That year she earned the District 5510 Achievement Award and RI Presidential Citation. At the district level Lucinda co-presented a program at a District 7890 conference on Rotary Village Corps and worked in District 4240 on its Feria de Proyectos. In District 5510, Lucinda has assisted on the district ethics committee, served as Group Study Exchange Chairman, Membership Development chair, District conference chairman, and was an Assistant Governor. Lucinda was D5510 Rotarian of the Year in 2001-02. She currently serves as GSE chairman and assists on the RYLA, Youth Exchange, Ambassadorial Scholars and District 5510 Foundation Board committees. Ms. Rose is the owner of Simplified Expansions, Inc., serving several small businesses in the Phoenix area. Her interests include scuba diving, gourmet cooking, photography, and travel. Lucinda is a multiple Paul Harris fellow, Benefactor, and Bequest Society and Paul Harris Society member.

### RFPD Population Project List (as of 2/9/07) Please check the RFPD website for the most current updates.

RFPD#	Project	Club, Country/District
P421	Reproductive Health Education	Bahcesehir, Turkey/D2420
P451	Women's Empowerment Center	Shimoga North, India/D3180
P452	R.H. Educational Institution for Girls	Silk City Rajshahi, Bangladesh/D3280
P453	Saheli Women's Health Center	Patna, India/D3250
P454	Poverty Eradication/HIV/AIDS Project	Kalomo, Zambia/9210
P455	Girl-Child Education Project	Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, India/D3160
P458	Saheli Women's Health Center	Koderma, India/D3250
P462	Women Empowerment Village Project	Shimoga North, India/D3180
P463	Micro Credit for Women Empowerment	Shimoga North, India/D3180
P464	Mobile Computer Lab for Women & Girl Child	Shimoga North, India/D3250
P465	Reproductive & Child Health & HIV/AIDS	Shimoga North, India/D3250
P466	Integrated Women Development Project	Shimoga North, India/D3250
P467	Family Planning & Maternal Health Training	Chipata, Zambia/D9210
P468	Maternal & Parental Health Education & Micro-Credit	Kaduna State, Nigeria/D9120
P470	Literacy & Vocational Training Center for Women	Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, India/D3160
P471	Reproductive Health Training Program for 3 ANM's	Mt. Everest, Lalitpur, Nepal/D3290
P472	Instruments/Equipment for Reproductive Health/ANM's	Mt. Everest, Lalitpur, Kavre Banepa, Charumati Nepal/D3290
P473	Reproductive Health Training Program for 3 ANM's	Kathmandu, Mt. Everest, Lalitpur, Nepal/D3290
P 474	Revolving loans for Micro projects & Vocational Training	El-Shorouk, Cairo, Egypt/D3250

All projects have completed Matching Grant Applications. Grant cycle is July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007. For more information, contact: Jennifer Hendrickson, Executive Director, RFPD, Phone: 770-963-3252, ext. 200, Fax: 770-822-9492, Email: rfpd@aol.com, Website: www.rfpd.org

## TRAINING PROJECT FOR PARENTS = A HEALTHY FUTURE

-CO-SPONSORED BY D6910 AND D2420-

A Matching Grant project co-sponsored by D6910 and D2420 has been started in Istanbul, Turkey, in which future parents are being trained on reproductive health.

The work is being carried out with parent training programs covering three districts; three cities in Rotary District 2420, two cities in Rotary District 2430 and two cities in Rotary District 2440. Parent candidates are being trained on subjects such as pregnancy and health, birth, growth and development of the child, communication, STDs, family planning, role of the father, family law, baby care and nutrition. Thus, not only women, but also men are being informed on these family issues and safer pregnancies.

The project total amount is US \$36,366, it aims to inform parents completely about reproductive health, to encourage individuals and people to take responsibility for protecting their health, to enhance women's status along with participation of men, and finally to promote the quality and compatibility of health and health services.



**Training Activities**



**Parents Training**

The training activities were organized by the İstanbul Bahçeşehir Rotary Club at the İstanbul Sürmeli Hotel, May 4-7 2006. The participants represented seven Rotary clubs. Included were seven nurses, four medical doctors (one of them was Rotarian), one psychologist (also a Rotarian), two business women (President of Gocek Rotary Club and the wife of Marmaris Rotary Club's president), and one lawyer (President of Goztepe Rotary Club). They were all trained by the academicians of İstanbul Marmara University.

Training included communication skills, positive training atmosphere, adult training, presentation skills, decision-making techniques, assessment of health, mental health, educating techniques, family law, presentation practice and evaluation. Participants presented their action plans in a very ambitious and active manner, and made presentations concerning pregnancy and other issues. The presentations recorded were watched and evaluated by the project committee.

In the same week as the training program was held, District Governor of 2420 and all participants met at the Rotary Club of Bahçeşehir on May 5, 2006. In this meeting, the outcomes of the training program were presented and trainers were evaluated. Useful discussions and plans were made for future training.

So far, five Rotary Clubs from three districts participated in the project. All have organized the parent training seminars as they were planned. As a project leader, I joined all training seminars. The project will be completed after conducting the two more seminar programs, to be organized by Samsun and Gocek Rotary Clubs.

- by Mithat Kiyak, RFPD Country Chair, Turkey

## A Mexican Experience Teaching the Desperate Pleading for Child-Spacing

*continued from pg. 4*

There was a Ford Foundation physician near San Luis Coyotzingo. Jean asked the women who had visited her if their husbands knew of their desire. They said yes. We agreed we would take them to see the trained doctor. After their babies were born it was arranged for them to go to the participating health center.

The women of San Luis Coyotzingo were illiterate ladies, who wanted to do the best they could for their families. They did not need to have even a first grade education to learn from the physician the alternatives available to them to put space between their children. It was not necessary to take more ladies to see the doctor, but soon, all the women in town knew where to go to learn how to put space between their children so their families could be better fed, clothed and educated. The women all washed clothes at the local lavadera. They did not even need to have a telephone, television, movies, radio or town crier to spread the news of a new life for their families. The news spread like wild fire every time they washed their cloths. The morals of this story are that:

1. Being literate is not as important as being educated about child spacing.
2. The fear of death due to pregnancy motivates mothers to put space between their children.
3. Husbands do not want to loose their wives, nor their children, from unnecessary pregnancies.
4. Women of San Luis Coyotzingo expect to have 1-3 children today for more stable families. The same is true for all the women of the Puebla Valley of Mexico, and most of Mexico.

- by Bill Cadwallader, PRID

# A New Rotary Strategy: Working together to help people help themselves

- by Bill Register, RFPD Zone Coordinator, Zone 33 -

Rotary has the leaders and tools to build and/or rebuild public health, educational and development systems so desperately needed by millions around the world. However, this opportunity is completely disguised and camouflaged as it masquerades as unsolvable problems in developing countries. High child mortality rates, exploding populations and lack of family planning, HIV/AIDS, infectious diseases, illiteracy and poverty are rampant.

Rotary is unique in having a worldwide network of diverse professionals committed to *Service above Self*. Their bond in Rotary allows them to work together for common good. Rotary programs, especially Rotary Community Corps (RCC), bring other people together to focus on common interests. RCC members put their own skills to work to improve their quality of life.<sup>1</sup> Rotarians and RCC offer a powerful model to build the strong systems needed in developing countries.

## **Inadequate systems and institutions**

The root cause of many major problems in developing countries is primarily inadequate systems and institutions.<sup>2</sup> Without these building blocks of civil society, tasks that ought to be simple - providing safe water, protecting against infectious diseases, education and development - are incredible challenges. The good news is that leaders can rather rapidly remold national cultures of pessimism and improve political institutions.<sup>3</sup>

Programs financed by United States, other wealthy nations and philanthropies have recently raised awareness of enormous health needs in developing countries. However, Dr. Margaret F. C. Chan, World Health Organization's director general, says there is a need to assure that donations are met with strong political will within affected countries.<sup>4</sup>

More money is being directed toward the world's poor and sick than ever. But

unless these efforts start tackling public health in general instead of narrow, disease-specific problems, poor countries could be pushed even further into trouble, in yet another tale of well-intended foreign meddling gone awry.<sup>5</sup>

Dr. Pedro Sanchez of Columbia University's Earth Institute says that the vast majority of hungry people suffer from chronic issues best addressed not by food aid but rather programs designed to help farmers produce more food. "The development paradigm has to change" so that more help reaches farmers and others "on the ground."<sup>6</sup>

Experts agree that quality public schools share common characteristics. They include: high expectations for every student; parent and community support; a rigorous curriculum and fair assessments; sufficient resources to help all students achieve; safe, healthy and supportive learning environments; schools and classrooms equipped for teaching and learning; qualified teachers in every classroom and strong school leadership. But efforts to promote school autonomy and professionalism are doomed to fail unless accompanied by fundamental reform of the institutions that control education.<sup>7</sup>

## **Strategic comprehensive approach**

Rotary can *Lead the Way* in guiding a strategic and comprehensive approach to sustainable development. Rotary will, of course, continue excellent World Community Service projects of clubs, districts, multi-districts and Rotary Action Groups (RAGs) to help combat each overwhelming problem. At the same time, we must work together to embark on a long-term, strategic and comprehensive approach to the critical issues in developing countries. Because each issue heavily impacts the other critical issues, Rotary's World Community Service Summit on Sustainable Development in Cairo, December 2004, concluded:

1. a comprehensive approach is needed to effectively address international development;

2. sustainable development is fundamental to, and inseparable from, a comprehensive approach;
3. cooperation/partnerships with government, NGO's, private sector and local communities are needed.

The UN Human Development Report 2006 emphasizes that governments have a responsibility to ensure safe, affordable and reliable water and sanitation.<sup>8</sup> The report concludes that strong national planning is the foundation to universal access to water and sanitation. It can also be concluded that strong national planning is essential for public health, education, and development.

Renowned economist Jeffrey Sachs, at the 2006 Rotary International Convention in Copenhagen, said that the "only route to peace on the planet" is the Millennium Development Goals.<sup>9</sup> He also said the biggest obstacle to accomplishing them is "defeatism" on the part of the world leaders. Rotary's humanitarian work, especially its leadership in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative is a fine example of positive attitude and progress.

"The Millennium Development Goals, particularly the eradication of poverty and hunger, cannot be achieved if questions of population and reproductive health are not squarely addressed. And that means stronger efforts to promote women's rights, and greater investment in education and health, including reproductive health and family planning" Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General. "Governments should look beyond the scarcity equation to wider human development issues, giving equity and empowerment more prominence. Empowerment requires challenging the norms and power structures that entrench disadvantage based on gender and wealth."<sup>10</sup>

## **Vision & Mission**

The vision of Rotary International is to have a strong and visible presence  
*continued on next page*

*continued from pg. 8* worldwide. A strategic goal of Rotary International is to sharpen the program focus. What could possibly focus Rotary work more than coordinating our efforts to deal with the major issues of people in developing countries? It is time to *Lead the Way!*

Goals are essential but we need to remember what Tom Landry, famous football coach, said: "Setting the goal is not the main thing, it is deciding how you will go about achieving it and staying with that plan".

Helene-Marie Gosselin, Director, UNESCO office in New York, spoke eloquently at the 2006 Rotary-UN Day about how Rotary was there when the United Nations was formed. Now we face our greatest opportunity in building workable health, education and development systems: Rotary can *Lead the Way to:*

1. Develop a global action plan.
2. Build national strategies.
3. Establish strong state/national institutions capable of renewal.
4. Evaluate with performance as the criterion.

### **Work with People / Help them help themselves**

Training of Rotarians to utilize the Rotary Community Corps (RCC) concept on the state/national level is necessary. The state or national level RCC's would encourage, support and/or build health, education and development institutions as necessary. Doing things for people is nice, but when you work with people to help them help themselves, they accept ownership and responsibility. That makes development sustainable and leads to establishing health and education as a human right!

Organizing the appropriate stakeholders in state and/or nation RCC's will empower them to take necessary action to build excellent health, education and development institutions. For example, the RCC's will insure that the mission of public health is fulfilled to assure conditions in which people can be healthy. "Doc-in-a-Box" is one idea for delivery of public health services. Abandoned shipping containers are converted into compact transportable clinics suitable for use throughout the developing world. They

are staffed by paramedics, linked to a central hub via wireless communications and monitored by nurses and doctors.<sup>11</sup>

To address poverty, Nobel Winner Muhammad Yunus says "nations must cultivate grassroots enterprises and the human impulse to do good." Micro-credit was called "a liberating force" against poverty.<sup>12</sup> State and/or nation RCC's can encourage and support the establishment of micro-credit systems.

Community projects, supported by local RCC's, will remain important in Rotary's humanitarian work, but are not a substitute for government action. State and/or national RCC's will support health, education and development institutions and advocate for citizens. There is no universal formula that will work in all situations. However, members of the RCC's will understand their culture and know what to do to make their institutions effective, accountable and transparent.

Just as with Polio Eradication, committed leadership is essential. Hopefully, Rotary International will initiate and implement the strategic comprehensive approach. A summit of RAGs and partners to develop action plans may be needed.

### **Evaluate**

Evaluation of long-term strategic and comprehensive sustainable development is straight-forward. Benchmark data is available on the current status of health, education and development in developing countries. Simply compare the annual statistics for various diseases, number of children in school and micro-credit loans, etc. to the benchmark data.

The Human Development Index (HDI) would be a useful tool in evaluating a comprehensive health, education and development approach. It measures life expectancy, literacy rate and standard of living (gross domestic product).<sup>13</sup>

### **The Bottom Line**

The scope of a comprehensive approach to health, education and development may seem daunting. Undoubtedly, some felt that Rotary had no role to play in establishing the UN. Rotarians, in their own country, have a vital role in working

with people to encourage and support strong health, education and development systems. It is necessary to see the big picture, think positive, muster courage and take action. The process is really quite simple, but it requires committed leadership.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead, cultural anthropologist.<sup>14</sup>

It is time to *work together* to develop a global strategic comprehensive approach to health, education and development. Our task is to *work with people* to build state and/or nation level RCCs. That process will *empower people to help themselves*.

If Rotary does not *Lead the Way* in a comprehensive approach in dealing with inter-related issues, who will? If not now, when?

- by Bill Rogister, PDG 7720  
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<sup>1</sup> "Rotary Community Corps (RCC)" 20 Jan. 2007 <<http://www.rotary.org/programs/rcc/index.html>>

<sup>2</sup> Steven Levitsky and Maria Victoria Murillo, *Argentine democracy: The Politics of Institutional Weakness*, (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2006)

<sup>3</sup> Consuelo Cruz, *Political culture and Institutional Development in Costa Rica and Nicaragua*, (Cambridge University Press, 2005)

<sup>4</sup> Lawrence K Altman, "New U. N. Health Chief Sets Her Priorities," *The New York Times* 5 Jan. 2007

<sup>5</sup> Laurie Garrett, "The Challenge of Global Health," *Foreign Affairs* January/February 2007 14

<sup>6</sup> Dee Shore, "Sanchez highlights African Green Revolution during inaugural Borlaug lecture," *Perspectives*, the magazine of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, NC State University winter 2007 66

<sup>7</sup> John E Chubb and Terry M Moe, *Politics, Markets and America's Schools* (Washington: The Brookings Institution, 1990)

<sup>8</sup> "Human Development Report 2006," 20 Jan. 2007 <<http://hdr.org/hdr2006/report.cfm>>

<sup>9</sup> "UN Millennium Development Goals" 20 Jan. 2007 <<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>>

<sup>10</sup> "Human Development Report 2006"

<sup>11</sup> Laurie Garrett, 36

<sup>12</sup> Walter Gibbs, "Nobel Winner Warns of Danger of Globalization," *The New York Times* 10 Dec. 2006

<sup>13</sup> "Human Development Report 2006" 283

<sup>14</sup> "The Institute for Intercultural Studies" <<http://www.interculturalstudies.org/mead/biography/html>>

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*\*Dr. Kohn is a Noble Prize  
award-winner in Chemistry*

## Charging Towards the Big Melt

- by Stephen Leahy -

Record retail store sales during the holiday season in North America is one reason 2007 is predicted to be the hottest year on record. And it's well past time that people began to connect the dots between what they buy and the resulting environmental impacts such as global warming, experts say.

In other words, consumption has consequences: big, nasty environmental consequences that inflict suffering, mainly on the world's poor.

That North Americans, and to a lesser extent Europeans, are extravagant consumers is well known. If everyone consumed like North Americans, we'd need five planets to support us — only three planets are necessary if we all lived like Europeans, according to the World Wildlife Fund's Living Planet Report.

The world collectively overshot the Earth's capacity to support us in 1984, the report notes. In the 22 years since reaching that crucial tipping point, rates of consumption of resources have accelerated. Not just in North America and Europe, but China and India, not to mention other parts of Asia and Latin America.

While this ever-accelerating consumption of resources the sign of a healthy global economy according to economists, it has also resulted in climate change, amongst many other environmental and social ills.

"People don't appreciate that their purchases have real environmental impacts," said Monique Tilford, acting executive director of the Centre for a New American Dream (CNAD), a Maryland group promoting environmentally and socially responsible consumption.

"They also don't think their individual actions make much of a difference," Tilford told IPS.

A Chinese-made computer desk that can be bought for 40 or 50 dollars at a U.S.

or European retail store is likely to be the product of illegal clear-cutting in Indonesian rainforests. Such clear-cutting not only fuels crime syndicates, it results in the loss of biodiversity, releases huge amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and drives indigenous people off their lands.

"We need a shift where people become environmentally and socially conscious consumers," said Tilford.

That means buying less stuff, and also being willing to spend more on products that are better for the environment or societies in other countries.

"And for those willing to be more conscious, they often don't have the knowledge or information to know what's better and that's the role of NGOs like ours," she said.

CNAD started a Responsible Purchasing Network for state and local governments in 2000 which has been successful in creating a large market for environmentally-friendly products, Tilford said.

"It is very complicated for public to know what's from where or how products in the stores are made," noted Lester Brown of the Earth Policy Institute, a U.S. group focused on environmentally sustainable economy.

China makes about one-third of the world's furniture, quite surprising in a country that strictly protects its few remaining forests. Imports of foreign timber have skyrocketed and are well over 40 million cubic metres per year. Reports show that re-exports of forest products from China to the United States and Europe have increased by about 900 percent since 1998.

"Scarcity quickly crosses national boundaries," Brown said in an interview. "If the Chinese furniture makers can't get trees in China, they get trees from Siberia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia." *continued on next page*

## “NO VACANCY”

If current world population trends were to continue, human numbers could more than double, hitting 13 billion sometime in the 22nd century. A population explosion of such magnitude would be ecologically disastrous.

“No Vacancy” is that rare chronicle of sobering optimism in a world more accustomed to thinking about population as a dilemma with little hope of positive reversal. Family planning professional Bob Gillespie journeyed the world in search of answers, and provides an extraordinary window on those remarkable changes occurring in country after country; new currents that have resulted in smaller family sizes, and the empowerment of women and children.

From Iran, Mexico, Ghana and Nigeria, to countries across Western Europe, as well as the U.S., India, China and Indonesia, “No Vacancy” paints an emotional, at times provocative, portrait of a global transformation, a fertility transition that may well prove to be one of the most important ingredients in humanity’s survival, and the survival of the earth. “No Vacancy” was produced with principal funding from the Fred H. Bixby Foundation. A book version by the same title, edited by Michael Tobias, Jane Gray Morrison, Bob Gillespie and Elizabeth Hughes, is available from Hope Publishing.

“No Vacancy” won the Environmental Sustainability Award at the EarthVision 2005 International Film & Video Festival in Santa Cruz, California. It has been submitted to the Sundance Film Festival and accepted into the Anchorage International Film Festival. It’s world premier took place at the Bay Street Film Festival in Canada. “No Vacancy” was screened for friends and colleagues of the filmmakers at Loyola Marymount University, Pasadena Art Center, the Population Council (New York) and the Goethe Institute (DC).

To order the book or DVD, visit [www.novacancythemovie.com](http://www.novacancythemovie.com).

**Charging toward the Big Melt** (cont. from pg. 10) Greenpeace, Global Witness and other NGOs have documented extensive illegal logging operations in these countries, with China the main receipt of the illegal timber.

Over the past decade, China has become the world’s leading manufacturer of low-cost products. More than 80 percent of all toys, including electronic goods, sold in the U.S., are made in China. “If we weren’t consuming all the stuff China manufactures, they wouldn’t be growing so fast,” Brown pointed out.

That over-consumption has reached such an absurd level that the average U.S. citizen, living in the world’s richest nation, spends more than they earn every year.

Tilford admits that at the individual consumer level, people are often so busy they don’t want to know or ignore the evidence that their behaviour is resulting in environmental impacts like global warming. “It is sometimes stunning that people will not make the most minimal effort to change,” she said.

The huge societal shift needed to find ways to live sustainably will likely not happen without some kind of disaster, that will generate enough suffering that people will make the shift, she says.

Both Tilford and Brown believe that the U.S. public needs to elect people who will put policies in place to ensure products sold on U.S. shelves are made sustainably, no matter what country they come from.

“People in other countries are putting their lives on the line so we can buy gourmet products,” Tilford says. But unless there is enough popular support, there will be no action.

- Published January 16, 2007 by *Inter Press Service*

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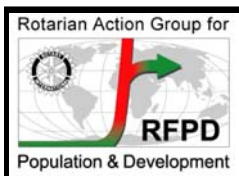
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