

Fragile Earth



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Fragile Earth

June 2010

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Population Growth & Sustainable Development (RFPD)*

RFPD operates in accordance with Rotary International policy but is not an agency of, or controlled by Rotary International.

From the Desks of Chairman Harald Marschner, Vice-Chairman Rekha Shetty and CEO Robert Zinser

This recent issue of Fragile Earth reaches you just before the Montreal Convention and the RFPD's Annual General Meeting (AGM). We hope to meet many of our RFPD members and officers serving as Country Chairs and Zone Coordinators. Please use this opportunity to attend our AGM to tell us your success stories in your countries and to discuss RFPD's future.

We inform you that Bill Cadwallader, our Area Coordinator for Northern America and Eastern Russia, resigned his position for personal reasons. We thank Bill for his tremendous contributions to RFPD for many years. He has promoted the RFPD message about the advantages of smaller families and the empowerment of women. Bill has initiated and organized projects (especially in Latin America), and promises to continue working on projects in the coming years. We wish Bill and his wife Jean the very best for the future. At the same time, we are happy to present Frank Wargo as the new Area Coordinator. Frank will be appointed at the AGM in Montreal. Please see the article on page 2.

In Montreal, we will promote RFPD's key messages that have been developed and refined for over 15 years. Our targets "...to increase awareness and undertake even more projects that directly impact population growth and sustainable development", issued by RI in 1999, are becoming more important year by year! Many Rotarians, grass-root and leaders, ask RFPD to advance with this crucial topic, and suggest more and more for RI to implement Population as the main focus of Rotary. Our two Breakout Sessions, the RFPD booth and the RFPD AGM will provide opportunities to spread this message. We also invite you to a special cocktail reception (for further details see page 2). We appreciate your participation at the Convention, and ask you to speak out about the population issue, the empowerment of women and family planning in your countries. Our sincere thanks for your support.

Harald Marschner, *Chairman*

Rekha Shetty, *Vice-Chairman*

Robert Zinser, *Chief Executive Officer*

Thanks to Bill Cadwallader and Congratulations to Frank Wargo

After four years as Area Coordinator for North America and Eastern Russia, Bill Cadwallader, PRID has resigned his position with RFPD. Bill has been a great advocate for population issues and has been involved with RFPD for more than 10 years. He has accomplished many things for our organization, and he will be missed.

Bill took on this position with strength and motivation. He was the chairman for the RFPD/UNFPA Conference in Ft. Lee, New Jersey in 2006. He also coordinated tasks/presentations for Rotary Population Conferences in Cairo, New Delhi, Brasilia and Zurich. He has put in many hours of tireless efforts to make presentations to various clubs around the US and Latin America. The projects that Bill mainly developed benefited thousands of adolescent teenagers. His contributions to "Fragile Earth", RI Convention work and donor advised fund establishment is commendable. These are only a few of the long list of objectives that Bill has accomplished for population and development.

The RFPD board of directors, members and friends thank Bill for his past work and wish him the best of luck in all of his endeavors.



RFPD is pleased to announce the appointment of Frank Wargo as the Area Coordinator for North America and Eastern Russia. Frank has been the Assistant Area Coordinator for the past two years, and has been involved with RFPD for many years as a Zone Coordinator. He has been a Rotarian since 1983, serving as Club President (1996-97), AG Chairman of Alumni, Permanent Fund and Grants Committee, and District Governor for D 7890 (2000-01).

Zone Activities include serving for four years on the Promotion Committee for the International Convention culminating as Zone 31-32 Chair for the International Convention in Chicago.

Frank has served abroad on the Rotary Leadership Institute as its Vice Chairman for two years, and has taught faculty as far away as India and Nepal. He has also served as DGE coordinator at two Zone Institutes and was General Program Chair in 2004. Frank has also represented the President of Rotary International at three district conferences and has been a key note speaker at two district conferences in India.

Frank and his wife Priscilla have traveled to every continent on the globe observing projects of The Rotary Foundation, including India, Nepal, Peru, Honduras, Costa Rica and Malawi, Africa. Frank has worked with other Rotarians to develop and implement many matching grants in these countries.

In his capacity as Rotary Leadership Institute International Training Coordinator, Frank has traveled to Canada, Indonesia, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Serbia, Turkey, Lebanon, Egypt, Bulgaria, and Israel. On future trips, Frank will be visiting Taiwan, Bali, the Phillipines, India and Australia.

In his community, Frank has served on the Board of Education, Planning Commission and Board of Finance. Frank was a Special Education teacher for 10 years before founding Fire Control Service Co., Inc. His hometown is New Milford, where he and his wife Priscilla raised their two sons, Scott and Todd, and now enjoy time with their grandchildren Ashley, Tyler and Sofia.

RFPD Activities at the 2010 Rotary International Annual Convention in Montreal, Canada

*All events take place in the Palais des
Congres de Montreal*

RFPD Booth #2404 & **Maternal Health Booth** **#2305:**

Saturday, June 19 - Wednesday,
June 23, House of Friendship

RFPD Breakout Session: **"Successful Funding of World** **Community Service Projects** **with Funds from Other Sources"** Monday, June 21 from 13:45 to 15:15, Room 518

*This 90-minute workshop encourages clubs
and districts to apply for grants from other
sources, including governments and
foundations. Club contributions & Matching
Grants serve as seed money. Examples,
concepts and application forms will be
presented.*

RFPD Cocktail Reception: Monday, June 21 from 16:00-18:00, Room 525

*Free admission - Complimentary Hors
d'oeuvres & Cash bar*

RFPD Annual General **Meeting:**

Tuesday, June 22 from 13:30-15:30,
Room 521

RFPD Breakout Session: **"How to Make a World** **Community Service Project** **Sustainable"**

Wednesday, June 23 from 13:45-15:15,
Room 515

*Rotarians are challenged to implement
sustainable projects. This workshop will
present how sustainability has to be the
guideline when planning, conceiving,
implementing and monitoring projects.
Examples of sustainable projects and risks in
the implementation of expensive,
unsustainable projects will be demonstrated.*

RFPD & Population-based Projects

Many Rotary population projects sponsored by RFPD have been completed since 1995, which provide direct benefit to less developed parts of the world. RFPD has initiated a total of 267 projects, totaling \$10,755,572. In 2008-09, RFPD initiated 58 population projects, which are running or phased out, that total \$6,955,686. Among the exemplary population projects conceived and implemented by RFPD members are: "Improvement of Mother's Health" and "Child Spacing" projects in Nigeria; "Saheli Women's Centers" in Eastern India; "Responsible Parenthood, Skill Development & Micro-Credit Loans" in Egypt; and "Zero Adolescent Pregnancy" in Latin America.

RFPD is interested in partnering with you and your club. Rotary Clubs who would like to sponsor a project need to first establish a committee for the project, obtain their president's signature and if District Designated Funds are included, submit with the District Governor's signature. RI's World Community Service Coordinators look to us as a vital resource in helping develop these club and district projects.

RFPD has prepared Modules (or sample packages) of five population-based Matching Grants. These are excellent starting points for a club to design their own project and to seek international sponsors. Included are:

- 1) Completed sample Matching Grant applications with suggested wording (the project host club must modify the wording to describe its own project).
- 2) Suggested budget with possible costs for various projects.

For more information or to start your next Rotary Club project, visit:

www.rifpd.org
or email

jhendrickson@rifpd.org

The Sustainable Living Planner: Creating your own sustainable living scenarios

The Population Institute, a Washington DC-based population advocacy group who's Board I am a member of, is beta-testing a program called *The Sustainable Living Planner*. It is an interactive computer-based program loaded with an abundance of relevant demographic and ecological data. The program allows users to make assumptions about discretionary future choices we may make, that ultimately will determine the sustainability of our planet. The user then sees the resulting national, regional or global population number that it would take to live sustainably, given those assumptions. At the results page of each query, the user is allowed to tweak the earlier assumptions, and see the new results, as allowable population ranges change. Another way to look at this same picture would be to show the results in the form of how many of our world's worth of productive capacity would the various assumptions that we might make require, need to sustain our biodiversity.

The *2008 Living Planet Report* (see http://assets.panda.org/downloads/living_planet_report_2008.pdf), published by a consortium of groups lead by the World Wildlife Fund, shows that in about 1985, humanity was using about one planet to sustain itself. Today, 2010, we are approaching using about 1.5 planets. If everyone in the world today lived at the same standards as the USA, we would need four worlds to live sustainably. In this sense, the USA has one of the most unsustainable life styles of any country in the world. And if current trends continue, China and India (37% of the world's population today) will be approaching the USA standards of living before long.

This is a clear and urgent indicator that our global biodiversity is declining and we are falling rapidly down the sustainability ladder. For all the hoop-la and rah-rah we hear about sustainability, we are failing miserably at it. Another obvious way to look at this phenomenon is to just look at the simple numbers. There are 13.4 billion hectares (a hectare is a piece of land 100m x 100m, or about 2.47 acres) of biologically productive land and sea on the planet. This is a fixed number that in concept is stable. But humanity can reduce it by using it unsustainably. Today, there are 6.8 billion people in the world. So hectares divided by people = 1.97 hectares per person. In 1985, the world population was 4.8 billion, so then, each person had 2.79 hectares to live off. So because we've added 41.6% more people to the world, we all have to live off 30% fewer hectares. Or, said another way, the average person must use 30% fewer resources – that is food, technology, fuel, waste deposit, etc.

For the average global person, this consequence is not optional; it is mandatory. No choice. But we all know that of the world population, about 20% is rich, 20% is abjectly poor, and the rest live in the middle. - *continued on page 5*

Deprive the third Baby of services and assistance: Dr. Ali Al-Moselhi, Minister of Social Solidarity for Egypt, announced that for the first time in his country, the third-born child will be deprived of services and other assistance such as free schools during the coming period, since many people use children to get free support and assistance. He has described the increase of population as a time bomb affecting the future of Egypt.

He also offered that the Prophet Muhammad said that boasting is not with the flaunt number and not poverty, unenlightening, disease or poverty, but rather science which people have. He added during his visit to the village of East Timor at the Center for the Abu Kabir-Sharkia in March 2010, that the upper class of society have controlled their fertility to two children, the middle class is at 3 to 5 children and the poor classes are from 7 to 9 children. This forces their children to leave educational institutions in order to work and raise money. This is a humanitarian crime and should be illegal. He pointed to the importance of education relative to progress and development in the community. Without education, we cannot improve.

- *AlAhrām Newspaper, Egypt, May 2010*

15 Years: Rotary Project 'Child Spacing' in Nigeria

- by Dolapo Lufadeju & Robert Zinser -



- Mothers Wait in Line for Obstetric Care -

In 1995, we started a Matching Grant project "Child Spacing, Family Health and AIDS Education" in Kaduna state, Nigeria between districts 1860 and 9120 (now 9125). As DGEs, we used the coffee breaks at the RI assembly a year before to discuss the 'real needs', as the late RI President (1994/95) Bill Huntley taught us. As DG Robert Zinser visited Nigeria in February 1995, we received project support from the Emir, the government and the hospitals.

We regarded our project right from the beginning as a pilot project for tackling population concerns. In this regard, we co-founded the action group RFPD, together with Buck Lindsay, whom we met at the Peace Conference on 'Population and Development' in Senegal mid-1995. We aimed our pilot project to be followed in 2000 by a major 3-H project, in the amount of \$3 million. The 3-H project replicated the pilot project in six states of Northern Nigeria. For both projects, we received funds from other sources, such as the German government and European Union. During the 1998 RI Council of Legislation, about 95% of the delegates from all over the world voted for population issues to be included in the service programs of Rotary. Since we met first at the assembly in 1994, our acquaintance turned into a close friendship in which we exchanged views, learned from each other, visited families and have since been doing continuously project work. Since 2005, Dolapo has been senior advisor and Robert project coordinator of the German-Austrian Matching Grant project "Improvement of Maternal Health - Prevention and Treatment of Obstetric Fistula" in the states Kaduna and Kano, Nigeria.

The Child Spacing Matching Grant project (initiated and supported by RFPD) is a model of how to achieve MDG 5 and a [pilot project for Rotary's Future Vision Plan](#) and its important area of focus "Maternal and Child Health". In the last two years, the lives of 70 pregnant mothers were saved through this project. In the next years, the results of this project will prevent hundreds of mothers from dying due to pregnancy.

The 2009 Hospital Report for this project is available at: www.rifpd.org/Projects/MaternalHealth.shtml. You will also find two videos that show parts 1 & 2 of the project. Our website www.maternal-health.eu gives you even more details and information about the project and has proven to be very popular. Please use this as a tool for your next Maternal and Child Health project.



- Young Woman to receive Check-up & Maternal & Child Health Information -

The United Nations on Gender Equality and Child Spacing

In 1945, the United Nations was founded, with 49 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 this first document in history to embrace a universal value – the common understanding of achievement for all people and all nations. It is also remarkable in that it was conceived by authors from different cultural and religious regions of the world. They sought to incorporate these values common to the world's principle legal systems, religions and philosophical traditions, into a common statement of aspirations and a shared vision of 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 presented in 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 its adoption, 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 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.

- continued on page 6

VISIT TO THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FAMILY & POPULATION IN EGYPT

by

Ahmes Gabriel, Country Chair for Egypt

On February 23, 2010, PDG Harald Marschner (RFPD Chair), PDG Salem Mashhour (Past RFPD Chair), Ahmes Gabriel (Country Chair, Egypt) & Rot. Amr Ismail met with H.E. Moushira Khattab, the Minister of State for Family & Population, in Egypt. We had discussions about Rotary International & Rotaract Clubs working in Egypt in the field of Literacy, Vocational Training, Family Planning, Maternal Health and Microcredit.

Minister Khattab was asked to cooperate with Rotarians and she offered that her ministry will help us with our projects. She asked us not only to have our projects with women that are already married, but with younger women (teenagers), to teach family planning techniques before getting married. She stated that in villages, family planning should be taught to all women and taught by professionals. She also indicated that both women & men should receive this information, as men sometimes in the villages are obstinate with their women and teaching men and women is important.

The group left the meeting satisfied with her promise to help Rotary and RFPD in these efforts.



- Salem Mashhour, Mrs. Moshira Mahmoud Khatab (Family Planning Minister, Egypt), Harald Marschner, Ahmes Gabriel, Amr Ismail -

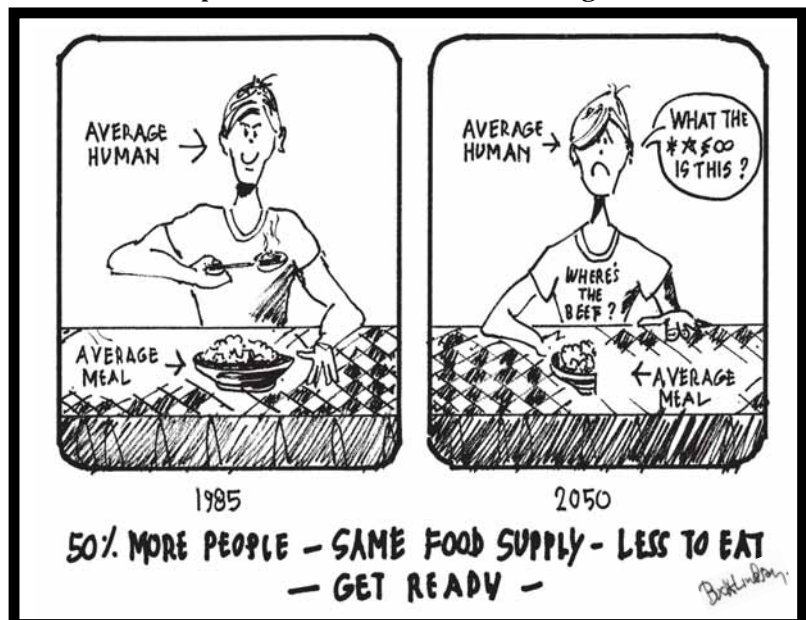
Continued from page 3 - The only reason the rich are rich, is because the poor transfer, either voluntarily or involuntarily, the use of a portion of their hectares to the rich. This is expressed clearly in *The Sustainable Living Planner*, when we observe that the average rich person actually uses 6.4 hectares (about three times the hectares he has) and the impoverished farmer in a low income country lives on 0.3 hectares.

The choices *The Sustainable Living Planner* put at our discretion are:

- **Affluence** – how lavishly and wastefully do we choose to live?
- **Wildlife Allocation** – what portion of each of our hectares will we reserve for wildlife to exist sustainably?
- **Capacity Utilization** – what percentage of our actual hectares will we chose to live off of? Will we live within our own hectares, or will we covet our neighbors' hectares, and use more than we actually have?
- **Safety Factors** – all scientific models must have factors to account for the un-accountable; what do you think is the right factor of safety to be sure you get the results you want?
- **Technology Trends** – what advances in agricultural productivity and in clean energy deployment will be achieved in the short term and in the long term, to improve our resource yield per hectare?

Some refer to this inter-relationship between numbers of people and their resulting impact on the sustainability of the bio-productive capacity of the world as our Ecological Footprint. A few decades ago, scientists expressed it in the formula $I = PAT$ (Impact on Environment = Population X Affluence X Technology). *The Sustainable Living Planner* inverts this formula to place P alone, as in $P = I / AT$. The point is the same: our environment is the victim. Since very few will chose to be less affluent, and technology (as in the Green Revolution, etc.) will be severely challenged to further improve productivity, population is the big variable. Population is the trump card. Robert Malthus, 18th century Irish economist, first expressed this predicament when he wrote: "Population, when unchecked, increases at a geometric ratio. Subsistence increases only in an arithmetical ratio."

With your assumptions entered, you then see the consequences of your choices. In almost all cases, the results are predetermined, and not pretty. The function of *The Sustainable Living Planner* is really more intended to reveal how the choices we make determine the future of the world we will be left with. This is the urgent and pivotal question for humanity, since we are all prone to ignore the tough decisions in front of us in order to preserve our well-being today. But as the global population heads towards 9 billion (1.48 hectares per person) to 12 billion (1.11 hectares per person) by 2050, our chance to act, by changing our choices, is disappearing. A section of RFPD's Annual General Meeting in Montreal will be used to demonstrate the power of *The Sustainable Living Planner*.



RFPD OFFICERS

Harald Marschner, *Chairman*

Rekha Shetty, *Vice-Chairman & Area Coor., India/Asia*

Robert Zinser, *Chief Executive Officer & Area Coor., Europe*

Buck Lindsay, *General Secretary*

Adedolapo Lufadeju, *Public Relations Director & Area Coor., Sub-Sahara*

Salem Mashhour, *Treasurer & Area Coor., N. Africa*

Frank Wargo, *Area Coor., N. America & E. Russia*

Luis Serra, *Area Coordinator, Latin America*

Charles Bull, *Advisor*

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

We welcome your comments on **Fragile Earth**, address to Jennifer at jhendrickson@rifpd.org.

JOIN RFPD!

To join RFPD, send US \$100 for Lifetime Membership or \$25 for Annual Membership along with name, address, phone, fax, Rotary Club and District to address below (if in North America):

Buck Lindsay
email: blindsay@rifpd.org
-OR-

North America & Eastern Russia:
Frank Wargo
email: frank.wargo@snet.net

For other regions, please send to:

Africa Sub-sahara: Adedolapo Lufadeju
email: dolaluf@gmail.com

Europe: Robert Zinser
email: robert.zinser@t-online.de

India & Asia: Rekha Shetty
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Continued from page 4 - 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 subjects, 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. The 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, set of eight specific objectives adopted in 2000 that define what we, as a global community, must do to ensure the well-being of our future generations. These specific and measurable goals include:

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.
- 5a. 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.
- 5b. Achieve universal access to Family Planning.
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.

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 two specific items: Gender Equality and Child Spacing.

- by Buck Lindsay, General Secretary

RFPD Advocating Publicly for Maternal Health

Several European countries arranged public “Mother’s Nights,” pushing towards the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 5, ‘Improve Maternal Health’. At the events in Berlin and Marburg, Germany, in May 2010, our senior advisor Dr. Hadiza Galadanci from the Kano University Teaching Hospital presented the Rotary Maternal Health Project in Nigeria, advocating support from government and civil society. These “Mother’s Nights” were organized by several NGOs, including RFPD. Even outside the European Union the concept of Mother’s Night has gained recognition. Dr. Galadanci also delivered a speech at a meeting of the Rotary Club Berlin-Nord.

The World Bank in their new five-year plan stated that *“A mother’s unnecessary death in childbirth is not just a human tragedy. It’s also an economic and social catastrophe that deprives her surviving children of nurture and nutrition, and too often of the chance of education. Maternal deaths are both caused by poverty and are a cause of it. The costs of childbirth are often the single biggest cause of casting a family into poverty. And, if the mother dies in childbirth, the chances of her baby surviving the first year of life are drastically reduced.”* They also mention the first step to avoid maternal deaths is to ensure that women have the ability to plan their families. In 2008, women prevented 188 million unintended pregnancies, 1.2 million newborn deaths and 230,000 maternal deaths.

Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, UNFPA Executive Director, said recently that countries and their development partners had to work even more closely together to make greater progress. *“With Millennium Development Goal 5 to improve maternal health lagging behind, greater investments are needed to achieve the two targets to reduce maternal mortality and achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015.”*



- Dr. Hadiza Gladancia interviewed at Mother’s Night, 2010 -

RFPD LIFETIME MEMBERS

Total Lifetime Members - 2,381

Africa/Sub-Sahara - 22
N. Africa/Egypt - 128
Europe - 1,746 (Germany - 1,703)
India/Asia- 43
N. America - 418
S. America - 10
C. America - 14

New Lifetime Members

(2/20/10 - 5/25/10)

N. America

Paul Falvo

South Africa

Alan Isdale

Publishing of RFPD Report

A 24-page, full color gloss report has been produced that illustrates the history, organizational character, effective advocacy, educational efforts and projects of RFPD. The booklet is entitled “RFPD’s Contribution to Sustainable Living: A Summary of Activities, Projects and Population Advocacy.”

Sign up as a member today, or renew your membership, and receive a copy of this important report. See page 11 for membership form.

Activating the Sunshine Program in Egypt to Erase Illiteracy for Millions of Girls

“Al Ahram” Egyptian Newspaper - Page 15, May 15, 2010

Mohamed Gamal Abo Zaied wrote: The Ministry of Family and Population has signed an agreement of cooperation with the National Council for Youth and the International Council for Population to activate the Sunshine Program in 30 villages in Quena, Souhag and Fayoum. The program will improve the lives of girls (between 12 to 15 years old) who have no education. Dr. Safi El Den Kharbosh, President of Youth National Council declared that the first stage has succeeded. Also the program will work towards eradicating illiteracy of one million girls during the next years.

A Better Slogan

It is interesting to note what is believed to be important during different periods of time. Just go back in time a short while to remember when slavery was still accepted. Many values have changed during the last couple of centuries, including social judgement. At the beginning of the industrial revolution in the 18th century, no one cared for the manually working people. Life was difficult for the common man, and today the same problems now hamper the developing countries as in the industrial nations in the earlier days.

Colonialism, mainly practiced by the leading European states, meant that these states did not care for the people whose countries had been taken for benefit of the ruling nations. Such benefits included raw materials and markets for their industrial products. Progress was generated, such as building of infrastructure and promoting education, but political tension was caused through the system of "rule and divide".

Today, one country taking undue advantage of another, has been to overcome, although not entirely. Instead, there is now international loyalty. Wealthy countries assist poor countries which still have obstacles to overcome. It will be awhile before they will be able to enjoy a notably higher standard of living than what most of the citizens in those countries presently have.

International support works in the form of development aid, offered by governments and official organizations, such as UN and the EU. There are also the NGOs, such as the Rotarian Action Group for Population Growth and Sustainable Development. Rotarians contribute to reducing the ongoing population increase and tenacious poverty, by educating women and girls, including instruction about family planning, and by promoting the empowerment of women in general. We also help them find opportunities for work outside their home. They are taught vocations, since that will uplift the living conditions of their families. And by making micro-credit loans available, the housewife and the daughters can set up businesses of their own.

Population projects for mothers' and children's health should stress the importance of fewer pregnancies, better facilities for childbirth and efforts to treat children's curable deceases, such as diarrhea, measles and various kinds of infections. There are steps that can be taken to avoid malaria. The issue of HIV/AIDS is a matter of its own that also has to be tackled. Clean potable water is a significant element of better health.

During their revolution, the French formulated the slogan "Liberty, Equality, Brotherhood". These words have become self-evident, at least in the democratic countries. It might be more more appropriate now to declare a slogan "*fairness, moderation and honesty*". Those words could lead to a happier world.

By employing these concepts, we could avoid much dissonance, many disputes and clashes regarding international, national and cultural issues, especially regarding relations between individuals at grass-root level. Through such understanding, we could escape conflicts, violence and crime, and corruption. When peaceful and harmless circumstances prevail, we have the best opportunities for furthering understanding about Population Concerns and Sustainable Development.

- by Harry Blässar, Country Chair for Finland

COL Rejects Proposed Enactment for a Standing Committee on Population Concerns

- by Buck Lindsay -

By a vote of 97-408, the 2010 Council on Legislation overwhelmingly rejected the Belgium proposal for a Population Standing Committee. The rejection was significantly stronger than at the 2007 COL, when the margin of rejection was only 22 voters. But with the RI Board of Directors standing adamantly opposed to any other standing committees, the Board speaking its position at the COL and the Board squelching support of the enactment through un-official communications, gaining approval in the future will be unlikely. Of greater concern is that RI and the Rotary Foundation still need a meaningful working policy regarding population. Yes, there is the Population Statement adopted by the RI Board in 1999, following the 1998 COL's near-unanimous passage of The Population Resolution (non-binding legislation). It suggested a Rotary emphasis on Population Concerns. The Population Resolution has not provided a consistent level attention toward population concerns.

The long-range vision of any global humanitarian organization should squarely address population concerns. The global population today is 6.8 billion. In 2050 when it is somewhere between 9 and 12 billion, a completely different approach to humanitarian work will be needed. We will all be fighting to eek out our subsistence from half the land per person that we have today. The rich will not possibly be able to maintain their status, and the armies of poor will swell. Under any set of demographic assumptions, the average quality of life in the world will be significantly reduced. Rotary can be in the forefront of recognizing these future conditions. A leader will arrive soon, hopefully, who sees the sense in Rotary addressing population concerns. Who will guide Rotary, one of the world's leading humanitarian service organizations, in addressing the role of population growth in damaging humanity's life support systems, and who will guide us in developing policies that will help prevent that damage.

Global Networking Groups of Rotary International

Overview:

Global Networking Groups allow individual Rotarians from several countries to join together to focus on common interests. Through these groups, you can:

- Share fellowship and friendship with thousands of Rotarians;
- Meet other Rotarians with similar hobbies or vocational backgrounds;
- Collaborate with Rotarians from around the world who are dedicated to a particular area of service.

There are two types of Global Networking Groups - Rotary Fellowships & Rotarian Action Groups:

Rotary Fellowships:

Rotary Fellowships offer Rotarians the opportunity to make friends with others in Rotary who share a common vocation, hobby or recreational interest.

Rotarian Action Groups (RAG's):

Rotarian Action Groups initiate and support international service projects that further the Object of Rotary.

The Rotarian Action Group for Population Growth & Sustainable Development (RFPD) falls into this category. RFPD's service activities, are approved by the RI Board of Directors and are specified in the Menu of Service Opportunities under Population Issues. They are also supported by the RI Board Statement. RFPD also works within the framework of The Rotary Foundation's Future Vision Plan, with its work on Maternal & Child Health projects.

Rotary International distributes a quarterly update on Rotarian Action Groups. Visit www.rifpd.org/RI/GlobalNetworking.shtml for RAG updates, directories and more.

CALL FOR POPULATION PROJECTS

RFPD finds International Sponsors for population-related Matching Grant projects. RFPD will promote your population project and will assist in finding a sponsoring Rotary Club to provide support. Matching Grant application forms can be downloaded at www.rotary.org. Complete the Matching Grant form, with the correct and current signatures. Send your TRF MG Applications to: Jennifer Hendrickson, 344 West Pike Street, Lawrenceville, GA, 30046, fax to 770-822-9492, or email to jhendrickson@rifpd.org. If you have submitted a project to RFPD and the signatures have expired, or your club no longer wants to do the project, please inform us. Each project is very important and we will treat it as such. See below for current available RFPD projects.

RFPD Population Projects (as of 5/25/2010) Please check the RFPD website for the most current updates.

RFPD#	Project	Club, Country/District
P452	R.H. Educational Institution for Girls	Silk City Rajshahi, Bangladesh/D3280
P455	Girl-Child Education Project	Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, India/D3160
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
P467	Family Planning & Maternal Health Training	Chipata, Zambia/D9210
P468	Maternal & Parental Health Education & Micro-Credit	Kaduna State, Nigeria/D9125
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
P475	Micro-Credit Program for Small Entrepreneur	Yogyakarta, Indonesia/D3400
P486	Musoya Women's Vocational Center	Bamako-Amitie, Mali/D9100
P487	Women's Skill Development & Microfinance	Karachi, Pakistan/D3270
P488	Population, Sustainable Development & Safe Water	North Alexandria, Egypt/D2450
P489	Population, Sustainable Development & Safe Water	South Alexandria, Egypt/D2450

*For more information, contact: Jennifer Hendrickson, Executive Director, RFPD
Phone: 770-407-5633, Fax: 770-822-9492, Email: rifpd@aol.com, Website: www.rifpd.org*

Voucher System to Improve Maternal Health Opportunities in Northern Nigeria

The Voucher system was introduced to Northern Nigeria in 2008 to complement the existing “Maternal and Child Health Project” for the treatment of Fistula* patients. The voucher system provides access for women to accredited hospitals of Kano and Kaduna states of Nigeria.

Methodology:

The voucher service targets the economically disadvantaged areas of population in these selected States. It is considered to be a bridge program for medical services, until the National Health Insurance Scheme is fully operational from the present coverage of 5 million to anticipated population of 140 million people (80% of the total). The system has already improved the Reproductive Health Care Services in the two states.

At present, Vouchers are distributed by the Rotary project committee to Fistula patients, who in turn present them to the accredited hospitals. The patients then access medical treatment, free of charge.

Five hospitals in the states of Kano and Kaduna provide services in treatment of Fistula, Counseling, Rehabilitation, training of Surgeons and Family Planning services. So far, over 170 Fistula surgeries have been provided.

Claims Procedure:

The voucher entitles each patient to receive treatment and counseling from accredited health service providers. Accredited providers then examine and appropriately treat patients who present the vouchers, at no cost to the patient. The hospitals submit the diagnosis and treatment to the Rotary project committee and duplicates it to the Rotary Voucher Committee.

The major duty of the committee is the monitoring and supervising the approved providers and their services, soliciting patient feedback, organizing trainings and assisting the patients.

Funding:

Funds for the project come from Rotary Clubs under TRF Matching Grants and other institutions. What distinguishes this voucher project from all previous suggestions is that it makes a single, constant payment for Fistula repair. This empowers Nigerian physicians and hospitals to address the problem of the supply of drugs, training, logistics and ‘hostel’ costs for long stays, in the most appropriate and flexible ways possible.

Projection for the future:

The long-term project objective is to support the existing Federal Government of Nigeria’s plans for a wider coverage of the National Health Insurance Scheme, by increasing the target population from the present five million people currently accessing the National Health Insurance scheme, to a nationwide coverage of over 100 million people. This will be achieved by exploring means of developing the sale of the voucher system through subsidizing essential health activities under an integrated out-put based approach. This could be folded into the National Health Insurance Scheme as it develops.

- by Rot. Chief Godwin Athia, RC Kano/Nigeria

**Obstetric Fistula is a break in the wall between the bladder, vagina, or rectum which occurs when there is protracted labor. It most often occurs in mothers under age 20 who are not fully developed. As a result, the baby dies and the mother is left with holes (fistulas) which become infected. Such women are ostracized and often abandoned by their husband and families.*

Tackle the Big Issue

The following letter to the Editor of the Rotarian was just published in the June 2010 edition of the magazine.

Paxson is both a Rotarian and the Founder and President of World Population Balance, an organization focused on population issues.

RI President John Kenny’s appeal to promote the End Polio Now campaign [November] is one more reminder of why I am thrilled to be a Rotarian. We have no peer when it comes to our worldwide membership, our grass-roots involvement, and our global impact for humanitarian good.

At the same time, I do not understand why an organization that does such incredible humanitarian work in every corner of the world is not even touching the core, mega-issue of our time on the planet. If we really do envision a world where no one suffers in dire poverty and misery for lack of enough food, water, and other basic needs, then it is crucial that we also envision a world where all species thrive and where consumption and population are in balance with the earth’s resources. We humans cannot keep overconsuming topsoil and farmland, fresh water, rainforests, ocean fish stocks, and many other vital resources.

It is crucial that wealthier nations reduce consumption. However, the poorest two billion people are in desperate need of increasing their consumption. Of course, that will cause already declining resources to drop even faster. A vital part of the answer is reducing birthrates in all countries, so the total population can decline to a sustainable range. The longer we overconsume, the more disastrous will be the eventual decline.

If you wish to learn more, here is a website:

www.worldpopulationbalance.org.

- by David Paxson
Rotary Club of Minneapolis,
Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

3rd RFPD Academy in Germany

- by Talke Schaffranek, RFPD Rotaract Germany -

More than 40 Rotaractors, Rotarians and Innerwheelers met in Erfurt, Germany, from March 12-14, 2010 to discuss topics of sustainable development and population growth, reproductive health, and to learn about existing projects and opportunities for their involvement.

Special highlights included the presentations of Robert Zinser, Ingar Brueggemann (DSW, former WHO and UNICEF), Paul-Werner von der Schulenburg (RFPD German Section) and Nik Raupp (Social Affairs Rotaract Germany Committee) and Katrin Jorke. The workshops dealt with the Future Vision Plan and RFPD project planning. It was the first RFPD academy that was designed for Rotaract, Rotary and Innerwheel. It helped to strengthen the joint efforts for RFPD. It was also the first "international" academy, as we welcomed Rotaractors from Austria. We will continue in this direction when we design the 4th RFPD Academy in Germany!



- Lucas Corzilius, Harald Marschner,
Linda Sigloch -



- Ingar Brueggemann, formerly WHO,
UNICEF, Director General of International
Planned Parenthood Federation -



- Academy Participants -

Rotarian Action Group for Population Growth & Sustainable Development (RFPD) Membership • Donor Advised Fund (DAF) Donation Form

Membership: ___ Lifetime Member (\$100.00) ___ Member (\$25.00)

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Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State/Country: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Rotary Club & District: _____ Zone: _____

Complete and return with payment to: **Rotarian Action Group for Population Growth & Sustainable Development (RFPD), Attn: Jennifer Hendrickson, Executive Director, 344 W. Pike Street, Lawrenceville, GA 30046 OR Fax to: 770-822-9492.**

Payment (circle one): **Check** **MasterCard** **Visa** **AmEx** Amount: _____

For membership, checks should be made payable to: The Rotarian Action Group for Population Growth & Sustainable Development or RFPD - for the DAF, checks should be payable to The Rotary Foundation.

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. _____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

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