



Rotary International President's CONFERENCE OF COOPERATION AND GOODWILL

DHAKA, BANGLADESH : 17-19 APRIL, 1992



The Daily Star 7

Special Supplement

Friday April 17, 1992

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT'S GOODWILL CONFERENCE IN DHAKA

Martha Wilson
International Media Specialist
Rotary International

ROTARY is a non-political, non-governmental organisation. But that does not mean it lacks a global voice.

Individual governments and international agencies, like the UN, listen to Rotary. For good reason: Rotarians are the leaders of their communities and the grassroots conscience of their communities. They achieve what government often cannot — through inter-country volunteer efforts and world-wide conference.

For example, through Rotary's US\$230 million Polio-Plus Program, Rotary volunteers continue to work alongside UNICEF and the World Health Organisation (WHO) to achieve eradication of polio, and other childhood diseases, shortly after the turn of the century. In South Asia alone, the Rotary volunteer force potential is close to 150,000, including youth groups. 80% average immunization coverage has already been achieved as a result of this massive cooperative efforts.

In the area of regional conferences, one of the success

stories can be found in South Asia. In December 1981, a Rotary goodwill conference in New Delhi generated an informal peace declaration.

During 17-19 April, in Dhaka, the Rotary International President's Conference of Cooperation and Goodwill will focus on current issues of concern to South Asians: illiteracy, technology transfer, environmental problems and other socio-economic issues. Dignitaries from India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh will address the issues. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh herself has acknowledged the importance of this meeting and will provide opening words to the participants.

Rotary International President Rajendra K. Saboo will bestow upon the Prime Minister of Bangladesh the Rotary International Award of "Paul Harris Fellow" named after the founder of the Rotary movement.



Message

I am very happy to know that Rotary International conference on cooperation and goodwill is going to be held in the historic city of Dhaka from April 17 to 19.

International cooperation and goodwill is an imperative to bring about the emancipation of the people from the clutches of illiteracy, malnutrition and diseases. Frequent visit of the cataclysmic natural disasters to our soil and omni-present economic constraints of the country also warrant international cooperation. I also appreciate the Rotarians for their commendable role in arresting these problems.

I congratulate the Rotarians of Bangladesh for hosting such an international conference participated by India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Let me express optimism that the deliberations of this conference would play a very significant role in eradicating the social problems and help the country achieve the cherished goal of progress and prosperity.

I wish the conference a grand success.

Abdur Rahman Biswas
President
People's Republic of Bangladesh
Dhaka

Message

Dear Fellow Rotarians:

It is a great pleasure for me to extend my very best wishes to each and every one of you who are participating in the Rotary International President's Conference of Cooperation and Goodwill in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The great humanitarian, Mahatma Gandhi, once said that, "civilization is the celebration of our differences." By that definition, Rotary is the most civilized association in all the world. It is through these differences that Rotarians come together from all over the world, united in fellowship and service.

As we gather for this conference, we are dedicated to the vision that if we work together we can truly build "a better tomorrow" in all aspects of our lives. It is through the cooperation and mutual understanding of the peoples of all of our nations that we have the best hope to achieve this goal. I encourage each of you to LOOK BEYOND YOURSELF, as we join in fellowship, to make this a successful, thought-provoking conference.

Rajendra K. Saboo
President



PROF JALAL U AHMAD

District Governor, District 3280/Bangladesh
Rotary International 1991-92

ROTARY'S ROLE IN SERVING HUMANITY

Message

Dear Friends in Rotary:

It is a pleasure to send my warmest personal greetings to all the Rotary friends and guests attending the Conference of Cooperation and Goodwill in Bangladesh. I commend our President Raja Saboo for his foresight in planning the important conference which focuses on goodwill, understanding and mutual cooperation of peoples and nations of Asia.

Your goal to meet "together for a better tomorrow" is indeed a symbol of promise for all persons. Congratulations to the Rotarians of Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka for your dedication to the Object and Vision of Rotary International.

I wish you a most successful conference and know that from your spirit of friendship and thoughtful deliberations, the conference objective of goodwill and understanding will be achieved.

Clifford L. Dochterman
President-Elect, R. I.
1992-93

Message

Dear Conference Participants:

Welcome to Dhaka and the R. I. President's Conference of Cooperation and Goodwill. Your participation in this important meeting will strengthen the bonds of friendship among you and enhance Rotarians' efforts to achieve greater understanding among the peoples of our Earth. For this, I salute each of you for having the vision made possible when you Look Beyond Yourself, the vision of a world united in its love of peace.

During this historic conference, you will discover there are many bonds between you — as you share your experiences and concerns on subjects that affect the countries of India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. And you will realize that the hopes and aspirations that you share are common to the citizens of all other nations — for those hopes are good, and they are just.

As you meet "Together for a Better Tomorrow," I wish you much success and happiness.

Spencer Robinson, Jr
General Secretary

Founded on 23 February 1905 by Paul P. Harris and some of his friends, Rotary is a world fellowship of business and professional persons who accept the "Ideal of Service" as the basis for success and happiness in business and community life. In Rotary, thoughtfulness of others is regarded as the basis of service, and helpfulness to others as its expression. Together they constitute the Rotary "Ideal of Service". To attain this ideal, Rotary encourages men and women to develop their abilities to render service through their vocations in their communities. Rotary is an ideal in action.

Each Rotary Club is a group of business and professional persons representing different vocations who meet together once a week in fellowship and are united in the practice of the "Ideal of Service". A Rotary Club selects its membership on the basis of one active member from each recognised business and profession in the community. In this way each Rotary Club has in its membership a representative of cross-section of the business and professional activities in the community.

Rotary International is the association of all the Rotary Clubs of the world in 172 countries and geographical regions with a membership of over 25,000 clubs. These Rotary Clubs have approximately 1,100,000 members who are known as Rotarians.

The motto of Rotary is "Service Above Self". Rotary is what Rotarians do. Being a Rotarian means a strong commitment of time, energy and resources. Rotarians render service to humanity through four avenues: viz club service, vocational service, community service and international service. Through club service, Rotarians associate themselves with their clubs' projects and programmes in addition to other organisational obligations. Vocational service concerns about an individual Rotarian's exemplification of service through his/her profession or vocation, and personal enrichment through service. The community service, often called the heart-beat of Rotary, is the greatest public relation. Through this avenue

of service, Rotary reaches the common people and in particular comparatively less fortunate people in the community. The type of project a Rotary Club undertakes depends on the specific needs of the community and the club's financial resources. Through this avenue, a Rotary Club sponsors a Rotaract Club or an Interact Club — clubs for young adults and younger people respectively. Through these organised groups of future leaders, Rotary Clubs also undertake many humanitarian projects. International Service is the avenue through which Rotary Clubs all over the world endeavour to enhance international understanding, goodwill and peace through their members, as well as by involving other people who believe in the ideal of service.



In addition to the normal humanitarian projects of helping the needy like organising eye/dental camp, providing safe drinking water, giving sanitary latrines, donating blood, helping and giving relief to the distressed people affected by natural calamities, adopting villages for gradual overall development, arranging vocational training for unemployed youths, organising literacy centres for underprivileged children and adults etc., Rotary undertakes some major projects through The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. This Foundation is the largest privately managed trust in the world. The formation-process of this great trust began in 1917 and today. The Rotary Foundation spends huge amount of money through its programmes globally. The

programmes of The Rotary Foundation cover in the fields of (1) Ambassadorial Scholarships, (2) Group Study Exchange, (3) Grants for University Teachers to serve in developing countries, (4) Special Matching Grants, (5) Health, Hunger and Humanity Grants, (6) Rotary Volunteers to serve in countries other than their own, (7) Polio Plus and (8) Peace Forum.

The Rotary Scholarship Programme, which began in 1947 has awarded scholarships to about 20,000 men and women since then, about 25 million US dollars are spent annually for this programme. The Group Study Exchange programme arranges for teams of outstanding young business and professional people to spend several weeks in another country actively studying its people and institutions. Since the introduction of this programme in 1964, more than 11,000 young people have taken advantage of becoming members of the GSE Teams. Rotary Grants for University Teachers to serve in developing countries enable college or university faculty members to teach for six to ten months in developing nations, thus bringing their special knowledge and expertise where it is most needed.

In all the above three programmes, only those persons not related to Rotarians can participate. Through the programme of Special Matching Grants, projects of an educational or charitable nature can be undertaken by Rotary Clubs in more than one countries jointly for furthering international understanding.

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of Rotary in 1979, The Rotary Foundation introduced a multi-million US dollar world-wide programme under Health, Hunger and Humanity, popularly known as 3-H programme to improve health, alleviate hunger and enhance human development.

The most gigantic programme in Rotary's history taken so far is the Polio Plus programme. Through this programme, Rotary raised 226 million US dollars to help governmental and private health organisations world-wide to immunise children against poliomyelitis and to wipe out this

terrible disease globally by 2005, the centenary of Rotary. Under this programme, the plus identifies the support that is given by Rotary internationally to UNICEF, WHO and the EPI programmes for immunising the children of the world against the six deadly childhood diseases, namely poliomyelitis, pertussis, measles, diphtheria, tetanus and tuberculosis.

Through the programme of Peace Forum, Rotary arranges Peace forums in different parts of the world to enhance international understanding, goodwill and peace amongst the countries and to bring them closer to establish world peace.

In addition to all the programmes, Rotarians by way of international fraternity, help each other to embark upon projects through World Community Service Projects. WCS enables Rotarians in one country to pool the resources of their club or rotary district to conduct service projects in another part of the world. Through these endeavours and efforts Rotary plays a vital role to face the challenge of building a better world and serving the suffering humanity.

Now, let us discuss about the role of Rotary in our part of the world. The subsequent paragraphs will briefly portray the role played by the Rotarians in alleviating the sufferings of humanity in Bangladesh.

Rotary started its journey through the soil of Bangladesh with a humble beginning in 1937 by organising Rotary Club of Dhaka. From this one club up to the emergence of the sovereign and independent Bangladesh in 1971 only seven Rotary Clubs and were founded. The growth, though not fast, was steady in spite of difficulties and setbacks at times. The second World War, the partition of British India and the War of Liberation of Bangladesh together, retarded the growth of Rotary in this part of the world. But in sovereign Bangladesh, particularly when an independent Rotary District was formed with the geographical and political boundaries of the country in 1984, the growth of Rotary got an added momentum. Now in District 3280



Message

In the backdrop of the rapidly changing international scenario, the need for cooperation and goodwill among nations is more pronounced than ever before for building a better and more humane world system. In Bangladesh we are relentlessly striving to achieve that objective and determined to meet the challenges of national development with courage and commitment.

In this context, the holding of the Rotary International President's Conference of cooperation and goodwill is, indeed, a happy augury.

I wish the conference all success and extend my heartiest felicitations to the participants.

Khaleda Zia
Prime Minister
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Message

Peace, Goodwill and Co-operation between the peoples of the world, especially between neighbouring countries, are fruits which can be plucked from the Orchard of International Understanding.

It is an article of faith with Rotary to bestow its loving care on gardens and orchards, where such fruit trees can be grown.

Ever since its inception, the great organisation, the worldwide movement to which Rotarians belong, has practised service to humanity. The Fourth Avenue of Service of every single Rotary District and Club is International Service. In their mission, Rotarians have hearkened to President Raja Saboo's call: "Look Beyond Yourself," which touches a deep chord in the peoples of Asia. They are reminded and inspired by a simple, age-old theme: "Real Happiness is Helping Others."

The Dhaka Conference of Co-operation and Goodwill will undoubtedly be a major milestone in the history of the region.

M. K. Panduranga Setty
R. I. Director 1991-93

Bangladesh of Rotary International, we have 79 Rotary Clubs, 81 Rotaract Clubs, 27 Interact Clubs and 101 Rotary Village Corps and over 2,000 Rotarians, their families and a good number of Rotaractors, Interactors which means, we have a sizable Rotary force to render service to humanity.

Rotary has always been playing pioneering role in the field of service during these five decades in Bangladesh. It is not possible to go into the details of five decades of Rotary in Bangladesh. Only a few activities can be highlighted in the avenues of community-cum-international services, by the Rotarians of Bangladesh.

The first school for the blind was established by Rotary in 1955. Almost at the same time, Adult Literacy Centre, Night School for the adults were established. The first Passenger Shed in Dhaka (near the National Press Club) was constructed in 1956. Such bus passenger sheds were later on constructed by different Rotary Clubs in other parts of the country. The Leprosy Centre at Narayanganj, Rotary Schools in different towns/cities, adoption of villages are other activities of Rotary in Bangladesh.

Welcome

You are in Dhaka to LOOK BEYOND YOURSELF.

We are pleased to have you with us. For many, Dhaka would provide surprises. For all Dhaka would provide a new experience.

In the R. I. PRESIDENT'S CONFERENCE OF COOPERATION AND GOODWILL, we all would discover the eternal goodness in human nature and the sterling qualities of man, on which can be founded a BETTER TOMORROW.

In a Conference of this kind, expectations soar high but human spirit and dedication always soar higher. It would, therefore, be quite pragmatic to hope that, the Conference would produce meaningful result.

You are here to respond to the irresistible charm of fellowship and to share the richness of your talent with fellow-members for creating a world of harmony. Every session of the Conference is designed to seek your participation. Your best will make others better.

Rotarians of Bangladesh are privileged to have been given the honour of hosting the Conference by President Rajendra K. Saboo despite their limited resources. They have given their soul to the Conference.

I welcome all delegates from four corners of the sub-continent to a memorable Conference ... YOUR Conference.

Iftekhar Alam
Chairman
Conference Planning and Promotion Committee

Delhi Declaration

The Rotary International President's Conference of Goodwill for South Asia assembled at Delhi from 12th to 14th December, 1981:

Firmly believes in world peace and particularly emphasises that furtherance of peace and cooperation in South Asia will make a major contribution towards generation of World Understanding and furtherance of the cause of global peace.

Has firm faith that the people of this region have many a common value of culture and historical experience and are inherently peace-loving.

Realises that tensions and conflicts divert attention of the people from urgent national tasks of economic development aimed at improvement of quality of life of the people in various countries of South Asia.

Notes that economies of our countries have suffered immensely in the past and they now require wholehearted attention and single-minded efforts on the part of administrations and peoples to work for causing improvements aimed at banishment of poverty and backwardness.

Is convinced that a positive approach to peace requires better understanding on people-to-people level and that sustained programmes in this direction can bring forth positive results.

Appreciates that economies of countries of the region are inherently complementary and, therefore, programmes aimed at economic cooperation can be immensely beneficial.

Requests the leaders and the governments of South-Asian countries to undertake bilateral and multilateral discussions for working out programmes for economic and cultural cooperation for ushering in South-Asian détente.

Calls upon the Rotarians of the Region to mobilise opinion in their respective countries in favour of cooperation and understanding and settlement of all differences by negotiations.

Suggests to Rotary Clubs in the Region to formulate practical programmes for non-official cooperation in spheres of economy, culture, education, tourism, and youth welfare aimed at achieving friendship and cooperation.

Declares our joint determination to dedicate our efforts as individual Rotarians and citizens of our respective nations and through our Rotary Clubs and programmes to work for the achievement of our objectives of improved understanding amongst peoples of South-Asian Region, leading towards more peaceful relationships and the goal we all share of peace in our Region and the World.

(Declaration adopted by the Rotary International President's Conference of Goodwill for South Asia).