

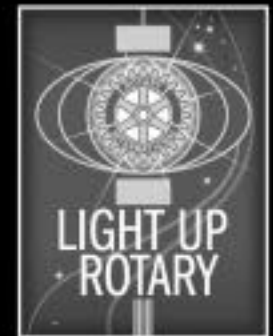
Rotary Peace Conference 2015, Bangladesh

Hosted By: Rotary International District 3281 & 3282 - Bangladesh

Organizing Club: Rotary Club of Dhaka Mahanagar

Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel • February 7, 2015

Rotary



Message

I am happy to learn that Rotary District 3281 is going to organise Rotary Peace Conference in Dhaka on 6-7 February 2015.

Rotary's goal of establishing worldwide peace and tolerance has been a steadfast pursuit for over a century. Rotarians have been working in various areas aimed at reducing sufferings of the people.

Bangladesh's commitment to international peace has been manifested through the proposal of "Culture of Peace and Nonviolence" adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its 68th session.

Our commitment and contribution to global peace is further reaffirmed through our support to the UN as the top troops and police contributing country in its peacekeeping missions.

The present government has been working to establish peace, and strengthen democracy and rule of law through eradicating poverty, hunger, inequality, and deprivation. Our aim is to make Bangladesh a middle-income country before 2021 and a developed nation by 2041.

I hope that Rotary Peace Conference will help establish a peaceful world.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Sheikh Hasina
Prime Minister
Government of The People's Republic of
Bangladesh



Message

I am pleased to welcome you to the Rotary Peace Conference being held in Bangladesh. This is a wonderful opportunity for Rotarians and friends of Rotary to come together for fellowship and inspiration.

I was introduced to Rotary as a high school student. Right away, I saw it was something I wanted to be a part of. Rotary was a prestigious organization in Taiwan when I was growing up, and at first, I mostly wanted the status of being a Rotarian.

But it didn't take long for me to realize that Rotary was about much more than having lunch with important people. Through Rotary, I have made my community and the world a better place. I have been touched by the stories of those we've helped in countries far from my own.

Rotary is something special and it is something I am proud to be a part of-not for what it gives me, but for what it lets me give to others. By putting Service Above Self, we set an example that cannot help but inspire those around us.

My motto is always "be positive, be active, be a friend," and Rotary embodies these values. In Rotary we set high goals, we work hard, and we care. In Rotary we find solutions, not excuses.

Rotary is a light in our communities and a light in our hearts. It creates hope in our world and gives meaning to our lives. It fulfills a basic human desire to reach out a hand to others, to know we have made a difference.

I send my best wishes for a successful year to come, and I look forward to working together as we **Light Up Rotary**.

Gary C.K. Huang
President 2014-15 Rotary International



Message

I am pleased to welcome you to the Rotary Peace Conference being held in Dhaka. Events like this one are a wonderful opportunity for Rotarians and friends of Rotary to come together for fellowship and inspiration. I have been a Rotarian since 1974, and every event reminds me of Rotary's uniqueness. It is not a common occurrence to see such a wide variety of people, from diverse backgrounds and industries and from countries and regions all over the world, join in harmony and fellowship to pursue something greater than their own interests. In Rotary, however, this is the norm.

My home country of Sri Lanka is no stranger to war, poverty, and strife. But since 1929, when the first Rotary club was chartered in Sri Lanka, Rotary has brought peace, health, and hope to my country. When polio raged through South Asia, Rotarians from all around the world gave their time and resources to lead National Immunization Days, with the result that Sri Lanka has been polio-free since 1994. When a terrible tsunami struck in 2004, Rotarians were some of the first people to respond. Today, Rotarians in my country promote education among our children and peace between groups that have been enemies.

These are our stories-Rotary's stories. They are not just our history, but our future as well. I hope that during this event, you have opportunities to share Rotary stories with one another. Rotary has been a gift to each of us, and I am confident that your drive and passion for Rotary service will enable you to Be a Gift to the World.

K.R. Ravindran
President 2015-16
Rotary International



Message

"Rotary was born in a time of peace, but its program of service is even more necessary in a period of world conflict" Tom J Davis, Rotary International President 1941-42

We have been busy this year to Light Up Rotary. Next year we have been challenged to be a Gift to the World through our service to humanity. Our work to help the less fortunate will help to lay the foundation for peace. Selfless acts of kindness is a pre cursor to attaining peace.

This is the reason why Rotary has been continuously involved in establishing and maintain Peace always. Peace Conferences like this are part of Rotary's efforts to involve all cross sections of people who matter in advocacy of peace.

I am extremely grateful to our Chief Guest, Honorable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina for kindly consenting to grace the occasion as Chief Guest. Presence of our Rotary International President Elect K. R. Ravindran as Special Guest will make a great difference. So will the presence of the most eminent International and national Panelists. Peace means different things to different people

I want to recognize the support of all the Rotarians who worked day and night to make this Conference a success. Rotary Club of Dhaka Mahanagar deserves thanks for coming up with this idea and organizing the event.

I wish the Conference makes a difference and help build public opinion in favour of peace in the world.

Rtn. Safina Rahman
District Governor, RID 3281
Bangladesh

Rotary as Peace Builder

PDG Rafiq Ahmed Siddique
Rotary Regional Foundation Coordinator (Zone 6B)

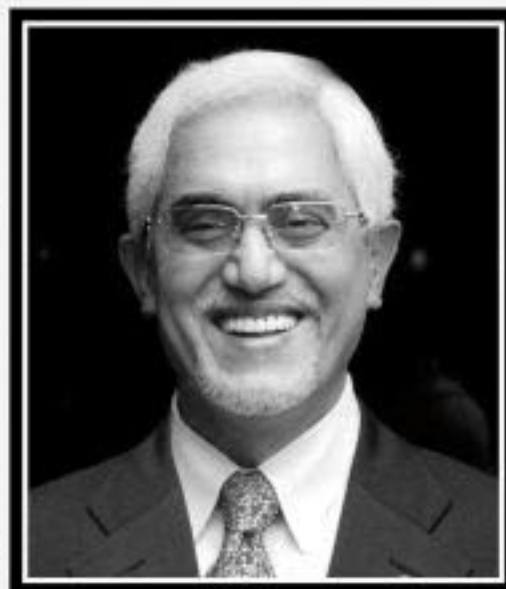
Peace and Conflict Prevention/ Resolution is a prime Area of Focus of Rotary and The Rotary Foundation. Wars, civil wars and persecution destroy peace. 42 million people are currently displaced by armed conflicts or persecution and of this 90% are civilians and at least half of them are children. 300,000 child soldiers (boys and girls under age 18) are believed to be involved in conflicts around the world. But peace is not only absence of war. Peace is defined by what it is and by what it can be. On its simplest level, peace can be defined by what it is not. It is a state of no war, no violence and no fear. It means that you are not in danger of hunger or persecution or the suffering of poverty. It means freedom of thought and of speech, freedom of opinion and of choice, and the ability for self determination. It can mean security, confidence in the future; a life and home in a stable society. In whatever way we define peace, Rotary always worked for peace. **We believe peace is not something that can only be achieved through treaties, by governments, or through heroic struggles.**

One Rotary International President James L. Bomar personally intervened after a border dispute erupted between Argentina and Chile. In 1980, he convened a Presidential Conference, just like one held in Colombo, and invited 45 couples from each country. After initial uneasiness, the attendees started mingling and discussing ways to reconcile the people of the two countries. These two countries have never had bad relationship since.

Same happened between Peru and Colombia in 1947 and again friendship of two men from two countries – one of them being Past R. I. President Fernando Carbajal of Lima, Peru enabled two countries to reach an understanding without shedding a single drop of blood. These are rare cases though. Normally, Rotary cannot prevent or stop wars, but it can smooth the sad consequences of war through the service of individuals.

It did so during the infamous Chaco war between Paraguay and Bolivia during 1932-34 which claimed more than 100,000 lives. No plea of neighboring countries or effort of ailing League of Nations could stop the fighting. In October, 1934 nine Rotarians, three from Bolivia, three from Paraguay, two from Argentina and one from Uruguay took peacemaking into their hands. They started with repatriation of injured prisoners of war (POWs), set up Post office to establish communications among the POWs and their relatives, distributed food, clothing and medicine to all POWs of both the sides and established permanent peace while rest of the world remained ineffective or aloof. In fact, **great things and miracles happen not at government level but at individual and smaller group levels.**

In 1940, long before there was a United Nations, before "human rights" was a term most people even understood, the Rotarians meeting in Havana adopted a resolution calling for "freedom, justice, truth, sanctity of the pledged word, and respect for human rights." When the newly chartered United Nations wrote the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, it used this Resolution from Havana Convention of Rotary as its framework. In 1942, twenty one nations of the world were represented in a meeting in London under the auspicious of Rotary International to find ways and means to stop further Great Wars in the world. Among other matters, it was resolved that people to people contact through cultural and educational exchanges between nations should be encouraged. Later this nucleus augured the formation of UNESCO. In fact,



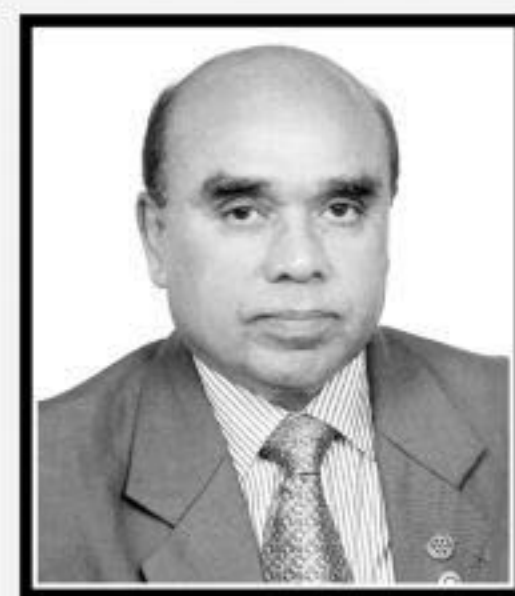
Rotary as an organization and Rotarians individually played an important role in the formation of the United Nations in 1945. "The invitation to Rotary was not merely a gesture of goodwill and respect toward a great organization," declared Edward R. Stettinius Jr., the US Secretary of State. "It was a simple recognition of the practical part Rotary's members have played and will continue to play in the development of understanding among nations."

Rotary is continuing and strengthening these efforts till date. It encourages clubs to offer support to marginalized groups within society that are at risk of violence or persecution, help children who have been traumatized by conflict, provide relief to refugees or internally displaced people who have fled areas of conflict etc. And in doing so Rotary's policy is to engage all community stakeholders and opposing sides in conflicts. Its more prominent role now is prevention of conflicts for peace building. It encourages clubs to incorporate conflict resolution and mediation strategies in service projects; Recruit candidates for a Rotary Peace Fellowship, pursue projects that address the underlying causes of conflict – disease, illiteracy, hunger and poverty.

In 1999, The Rotary Foundation launched the Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution, a partnership with seven leading universities around the world to provide advanced educational opportunities for a group of Rotary Peace Fellows chosen from various countries and cultures. Till now, 700 fellows from over 90 countries had completed the program. They are working for international agencies like United Nations or governments as diplomats, foreign service officers, economists and policy analysts. They are now recognized by world leaders as reservoirs of Peace Makers and conflict solution experts. All other **Areas of Focus of Rotary** also aims at establishing peace through empowering communities in the matter of **Disease prevention and treatment, Water and sanitation, Maternal and child health, Basic education and literacy and Economic and Community Development.**

We also hold Peace Forums and Conferences in District, at country level, Regionally as in Colombo in 2011, as also Internationally, as in Berlin in 2012 and Honolulu in 2013, where we try to educate and inform the people of the importance of peace and how to achieve this as also help and persuade the governments, reputable Non Governmental Organizations and other activist groups to take steps and adopt policies that would bring and maintain peace. Because of this background of Rotary in activities to promote peace and prosperity through humanitarian service, education and active efforts to resolve conflicts, the Rotarians are capable of drawing people in high places, people who are held in high esteem by others as also other important segments of public like journalists, educators and civil society as a whole. Their combined input can emphasize on the importance of mobilizing public opinion as also acting as Advocacy taskforce in respective countries to mould government attitude and policies.

"Why did we get war?" (World war II) asked English educator T. A. Warren. "We got war because our leaders, who wanted peace as much as you or I, lacked the backing of an informed public opinion that would support them in bold and maybe self-sacrificing efforts to keep the peace". T. A. Warren was R. I. President in 1945-46.



Message

This is practically a fortunate occasion and I am very happy that this Rotary Peace Conference is being held for the first time here in Bangladesh. Rotarians, with a commitment to achieve lasting change for over 100 years have joined together from all continents, cultures, and industries to take action in our communities and around the world. Rotarians work together to promote peace, enhance health, empower youth and most importantly to advance the community. Rotary's six areas of focus reflect some of the most critical and widespread humanitarian needs of our time:

Peace and conflict prevention/resolution, Disease prevention and treatment, Water and sanitation, Maternal and child health, Basic education and literacy, Economic and community development.

Since the year 2002, Rotary Foundation has partnered with leading universities around the world to create the Rotary Peace Centers. Up to 100 Rotary Peace Fellows are selected every year to earn Professional Development Certificate in Peace and Conflict Studies or a Master's degree in a range of disciplines related to peace and security. Fellows are chosen on the basis of their ability to have a significant positive impact on World Peace throughout their careers. Rotary Peace Fellows are leaders who promote cooperation, conflict resolution and peace in their communities and around the world.

This Peace conference in Bangladesh is being held at a time when conflict resolution and peace has come out as a major asking of all the peace loving people.

Rotary Peace Centers are supported by Rotarians, Rotary districts, individuals, and foundations worldwide. I hope that Rotary International would uphold Peace Initiatives from this district and the Rotary Foundations would extend significant supports for these peace efforts with the aim to realize peace and prosperity in the community and in the world.

Rtn Engr. M.A. Latif
District Governor, RID 3282
Bangladesh

Moderators:

Mr. Md. Shahriar Alam, M.P
State Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Government of Bangladesh

Rtn. Gordon Crann
Chair-Elect, Rotarian Action Group for Peace

Speakers:

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, KCMG
Founder and Chairman of BRAC

Baroness Shreela Flather
Member of House of Lords, England

Ms. Khalida Azbane
Middle East & North Africa Businesswomen's Network

Brig. Gen. Saleem Ahmed Khan
Bangladesh Army

Major Sinthia Sarmin
Bangladesh Army

Major General Piyal Abeysekera
Former Deputy Chief of Army, Sri Lanka

Rtn. Dr. Ann Frisch
Senior Adviser, Peacekeeper Nonviolent Peace Force

Professor Shirley Randell AO, PHD
Australian Centre for Leadership for Women

DGN Md. Sufi Mizanur Rahman AKS
Chairman, PHP Group

Signature Projects of Rotary



Rajshahi Cancer Hospital : RC Padma, Rajshahi



RC Dhaka North Eye Hospital, Kushtia



**Rotary School & College : Mirpur-14, Dhaka
RC Dhaka North West**



Rotary Limb Center, Khulna : Established in 1991
So far they have provided 5000+ artificial limbs to the amputees from different parts of Bangladesh



Rotary Health Center, Jessore



Thousand Smiles A Day observed by RC Dhaka Midtown



Korail Rota Welfare Center in Dhaka. Signature project by RC Gulshan