



PROMOTION OF 2009 BIRMINGHAM CONVENTION AT INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP BANQUET

Frederick Lin

Member, 2009 Birmingham Convention Promotion Committee

The Grand Ballroom, (12 F)
1940-1955, Saturday, Oct. 18, 2008

I am very honored to have the opportunity to speak about the promotion of the Birmingham Convention today. On 21st to 24th of June 2009, Rotarians from more than 200 countries and geographical areas with diverse backgrounds and cultures will be gathered together to attend RI Convention in Birmingham, England.

Attendees will be immersed in this grand-scale event filled with enthusiasm, realizing the magic of our organization while developing new friendship and renewing old one. RI Convention also presents an opportunity for participants to exchange ideas and information, and discuss with fellow Rotarians how to realize “Make Dreams Real,” a theme of RI President D.K. Lee.



This Birmingham Convention is historic as it will be our 100th convention. Incidentally Birmingham Convention held 25 years ago in 1984, also marked a milestone celebrating our 75th Convention. Set in the

West Midlands of England with a population of 1 million people, Birmingham is the second largest city in the country.

This is where industrial revolution had begun with James Watt inventing a modern steam engine and Matthew Boulton coming up with new metal processing technique. The city is a strategic point of transportation with railways and canals stretching through. Located in a midpoint between London and Liverpool, the city is 2 hours from London Euston Station and 10 minutes from Birmingham Airport.

This former industrial city now has been transformed into a major European convention site, hosting large-scale international meetings. G8 Summit, International Red Cross meeting, Microsoft meeting and other large exhibitions and conventions were all held at National Exhibition Centre, a venue for RI Convention. Let’s share fun and inspiration in Birmingham, the cradle of industrial revolution and the city with a long tradition.

Rotary’s annual convention offers so much. Meet Rotary leaders, listen to world-class keynote speakers who will surely inspire the audience, enjoy multi-cultural entertainment, collect and exchange information while attending programs and workshops, and learn about successful projects carried out by clubs and districts all over the world to perhaps use as a model for your own project.

Visit Global Networking Group booths to share

common interests about the many vocational and recreational fellowships and action groups, and also visit House of Friendship with Victorian theme to meet new friends and renew friendship with old friends and enjoy events unique to England. Host Organization Committee is planning special events for the convention participants.

These include Concert of Concerts featuring mezzo-soprano Katherine Jenkins with famous Birmingham City Symphony Orchestra, Medieval Spectacular: tour of Warwick Castle, and a grand parade by Rotarians dressed in their own traditional clothes entering into House of Friendship after marching around a lake.

Participate in Night on the Town: Birmingham greets Rotary, a very popular host hospitality program. Enjoy shopping and nightlife at The Bullring, Europe's largest shopping mall, visit Coventry, the birthplace of British automobile industry, or Shakespeare's hometown, Stratford-upon-Avon.

Other exciting events planned for Convention participants include a trip to places in West Midlands county such as the Cotswolds beloved by William Morris. Become fascinated with their histories and cultures along with beautiful countryside scenery.

There are 6 main reasons why you should attend Birmingham Convention:

1. To be a part of history and celebrate the 100th Rotary Convention
2. To learn about service projects and gain fellowship opportunities through workshops and exhibits
3. To make friends among participants from more than 200 countries and geographical areas
4. To visit the heart of England where Industrial Revolution began
5. To introduce Rotary to spouses, other family members and guests and gain new members
6. To meet current and past Rotary leaders to learn

more about future of RI and Rotary Foundation

Annual pre-convention meetings are scheduled as well. I would like to ask you to encourage Rotarians to register for Rotary Institute, the second Rotary Alumni Celebration and the second Rotary World Peace Symposium.

Luncheons, dinner events and other events organized by host district and clubs also will be held as usual. Orientation for the first-time convention attendees will be held twice on Saturday, June 20. First-timers are encouraged to attend to gain new insights.

When you register early, you can take advantage of special pricing of US\$ 280. I recommend registering before December 15, 2008 in order to receive this discount. I look forward to seeing many of you in Birmingham. Thank you very much!

