



## CLOSING REMARKS

AT CLOSING PLENARY SESSION

**Dong-Kurn Lee**

RI President

The Auditorium (10th Floor)  
1140-1230, Sunday, Oct. 19, 2008

Dear fellow Rotarians, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
It is really a very successful convention. As we are approaching the end, I will remind you that we need more Rotarian for our continuance. When I first spoke at this institute, I spoke about my goal of 10 percent net increase membership in this Rotary year. It is not an easy goal. But this one year we care as much as last year. And I know that if you operating forces with the combination that we are going to have upon all the Rotary services, we will certainly succeed. Rotary membership must keep path with world population. In the last five years, the world population has seen a net increase of 500 million people. Rotary net membership increases were almost nothing. These numbers cannot be overseen by us. For hundreds of millions of children were still in the status of under 5 last five years , 15 percent of them did not have a access to clean drinking water , 40 percent of them did not have a access to good sanitation , and 18 percent of them did not ever learn the skill how to write . When I first choose my theme of "make dreams real", I were stunned by under 5 children , the number is 30 thousand , that is the number of children dying every day of preventable causes . Two years later, the figure has been improved with far too many children living by the sickness and poverty. But we will give them hope, because more than 2 million Rotarian are wanting to make dreams real by giving them hope.

I have reason to say because I saw in the last 2 years the number of children death has fall from 30 thousand to 26 thousand . I noticed it in part because of you. All

of you have done something in your club and in your district. I know that in your projects in clean water, sanitation, health and hunger and literacy all have an global impact. I know because I have seen. I have seen how we are helping to make dreams real for the poor family and poor children. But this project that we started last year continues .We understand that the survival of Rotary depends on new members, and we must not forget that membership depends on each of you and new Rotarians each of you brings to each of your clubs . Rotary has many thousands of members, everyone is unique, and everyone has unique talent in every field. Everyone will be found very special to his or her club. Every member makes a close future better and more cheerful. Every member makes a gift and every member is impulsive for him to do, and Rotary continues to grow. Each of us has got equal benefit in your club. We have known how much can be done when you are going to do it together. How much can be done when we pool our talent and resources. And we have learned how valuable diversity is in our club. Our



global people is always very distinctive. It does not have the same capacity to serve or to plant to each community. Every country near in question is communities. And so, over the people from every location, every age, every ethnic group , we Rotary club must never be selfish to serve community , we must be dealing poverty .Only like this , will Rotary's service be effective and be done .The same works that if you need something done at strategic point . I know that each of you has a great number of commitments to that end too.

Each of you has many responsibilities, but remembers each of you the work to help me to get things done. You are the one who can bring new member into Rotary. If we bring someone in, someone with more kind of

business prospects, then it may never be the same and all the Rotary may applaud, If you wish for a hail moment for a right project and proper opportunity to go out and receive new member, then we have to know what makes Rotary special. Because Rotary is a everyday thing that we say, feel and do. It is almost our ethic or our honest and our services .When we invite someone into Rotary, we do not invite them to one project or to one event. We invite them into our way of life .A way of life that we all share. We invite them into service above ourselves. In Korea we has a proverb, that I think is very valuable to keep it. That is "getting started to help the job". This task of raising membership is an important one above all, but when we accepted it ,we are already halfway there . Thank you very much.

