

**Report on workshops 4, 5, and 6 (English)**

By PDG Yu Beng L. Chua, D3870

*Fourth Plenary Session**The Auditorium (10th Floor)**Sunday, Oct. 19, 2008 / 0945-1020***Workshop Topic 4: Practical and Effective Water Management**

There are 27 participants in the workshop on Practical and Effective Water Management.

Due to lack of potable water a child dies every 15 second.

Matching grants have been made in most districts in 4B, 6B, 7B Zones for water projects such as following :

1. UV Tubes
2. Ceramic Filters
3. Bio Sand Filters
4. Chlorine Disinfection

Due to lack of safe potable water children suffer in

most developing countries with diarrhea diseases, dysentery, skin diseases, scabies etc.

While Rotarian put up projects they should made aware sustain and maintain. Lack of water in Africa and parts of Asia makes women taking many hours daily to fetch water for their family no time for literacy. Districts in Philippines have made matching grants to provide drinking water to a large number of schools when there are no facilities for the students.

Conservation of water is one of the most important issues which was discussed. The Board is recommended to create awareness to Rotarians for emphasis of the conservation of water.

Management of water from industries should be made for irrigation purposes.

Rotarians should contact authorities that no new housing estates be built without the effective management of waste water and rain water harvesting which is successfully carried out in parts of India.





**Workshop Topic 5: How Health & Health Issues are Affecting Child Mortality**

Participants – 29

The moderator spoke on RI President's emphasis on issues relating to child mortality. Health & Hunger concerns assisted by The Rotary Foundation Funding, Government assistance and sister clubs assistance to reduce the under 5-child mortality rate was discussed.

Under Hunger:

Nutritional and education programs were discussed

Under Health:

- Providing of surgical equipment to hospitals
- women and child care assistance to care centers
- donation of vehicles for blood donation
- health equipment for polio victims
- medical care to the blind
- dental care

were discussed.

The group felt that the child mortality rate for children under 5 can be reduced by addressing poverty. Determining the threat, involving the community and building on the resources that exist in the community were suggested. In Africa care groups with Rotary assistance have been able to reduce 66% of child mortality. Children's rights, child abuse, and child labor were addressed in some countries.

Feeding programs in communities greatly assisted children under 5. Programs like involving the mothers

in cooking to improve the reduction of consuming junk food. Adopting families helped poverty eradication. Improved education, improved living condition, improved hygiene, district simplified grants and the Future Vision Plan should assist further on the funding projects. Involving neighboring clubs, along with overseas partner clubs was essential. Every project and every funding opportunity needed a champion to make it a success.

Half a million women die every year during child birth. Ten (10) million children die before their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. We may not be able to solve all their problems but we can assist in some of them. We are moving in the right direction. Rotary must be congratulated for their forward thinking.

Reporter: PDG Datuk N Lakshmanan, D3300





**WORK SHOP TOPIC 6: LITERACY IS A KEY TO A PROMISING FUTURE OF THE NEXT GENERATION**

The workshop started at 1640 HR in Song Bo Room 10F

- Moderator: PDG Krit Indhewat, D3350  
 Panelists: DGE Isidro G. Garcia, D3830  
 PDG Saowalak Rattanavich, D3350  
 PDG Jason C.H. Yeung, D3450  
 PDG Chris Y.C. Chen, D3310

Resource: PDG Paul C.K. Lee, D3300  
 Rapporteur: PDG Yu Beng L. Chua

No. of delegates in attendance: 28

Moderator Krit started by briefly introducing himself, the rapporteur, the panelists, and the Resource person.

The inputs were provided by the panelists, and **the first to speak was DGE Sid**, who spoke in place of PDG Jaime A. Cura, D3830:

He started by defining literacy and gave examples of literacy projects done in the Philippines such as:

- 1- Adopt a school project;
  - books were donation
  - supplemental feeding program
  - financial assistance
  - donation of toys.
- 2- Rotary Training centers
  - training of specific skills for oversea workers
  - livelihood training for out of school youth
  - computer training
  - training for disabled or handicapped persons
- 3- Health and Literacy forum

- 4- Cooperation with other private corporation to provide resources and in return avail of tax credits.
- 5- The pilot project with the use of Megumi readers
  - started with 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students

**2<sup>nd</sup> Panelist : PDG Chris Chen**

The literacy rate of Singapore is very high because developing human resource is the only way Singapore is able to compete and develop as a City State. The government allocate substantial resource to ensure that education has the highest standard. The poverty rate is very low. Singaporeans are also bi-lingual. They have to learn to speak English and a mother tongue, either Mandarin or Hindi, in order to preserve their cultures. These are also advantageous, as China and India are the emerging economy today.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Panelist: PDG Jason C.H. Yeung**

Define Literacy as the ability to read and write.

- More than 80 million school age children are not attending classes
- Women and girls account for more than 64% of all illiterate people in the world
- Approximately 800 million people over the age of 15 do not have the literacy skills needed to hold a job or obtain a better one
- 98% of the world's illiterate population is in developing countries
- 50% of the world's illiterate people live in India and China

- More than 50% of the population of Africa is illiterate

Literacy and poverty are closely related, where literacy rate is low, it is always accompanied by poverty. Education is a route out of poverty.

Government policy in the allocation of resources for education is detrimental to lowering illiteracy rate.

**4<sup>th</sup> Panelist: PDG Saowalak Rattanavich**

- Where literacy rate is low, one can always find poverty and all its related social illness
- The core program for literacy is in how to read and write properly
- Supplementary program can incorporate other tools, equipments and teaching methods.
- The process of learning starts with the human mind in thinking and reasoning

The Concentrated Language Encounter method has been successfully used to provide formal and informal education. It can be adapted for use in other languages and cultural differences.

**PDG Herman Gamboa, D3830**

- Describes the Megumi reader developed in the Philippines
- It is in its phase 1 of development, in testing the viability of the unit
- A test was conducted in four sections of the third grade with the approval of the Government having one test group in the better students and one control group and one test group in the slow students and one control group
- Test results after six months shows that in the group of better student the test group gains 5% over the control group, while in the slow students group, it shows a remarkable improvement of 120% over the control group.

**PDG Datu Mustapha Ma**

- If ever Rotary is going to do literacy projects, it should set a standard of 100% literacy rate.

**PP Max Babri, D3270**

- It is more effective to do literacy projects where the rate is low.
- Literacy projects done in poor country is more effective in changing the lives of the people.

**PP Sylvia L. Comendador, D3860**

- Make sure that there is a teaching component in every literacy project
- Books donated can only be useful when the beneficiary knows how to read

**PDG Dave Villanueva, D3850**

- District 3850 started a CLE project in Pagadian City
- After six years, they already have graduates
- They planned to do a 3H project, but was not able to follow through
- The Literacy Resource Group should emphasize on CLE

**PDG Tony Puyat, D3800**

- Unless there are trained good teachers, there will be problems in learning

**Resources Person: Paul C.K. Lee**

- Unless something is done about the discussion, it will result to nothing
- Suggest to make resolutions as an output of this workshop and this institute

**The group recommends to the Institute the following resolutions:**

- 1- Literacy shall be the program of the Rotary Foundation after Polio-Plus
- 2- CLE should be emphasized by the Literacy Resource Group
- 3- Rotary should set 100% as the standard for Literacy rate.