

# **About Perseverance**

## ***Talk about a Rotary Sculptor***

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A few years ago, when Past President Li-Ten-Hua returned to Cornell University, he said

***“Be realistic, demand doing the impossible”.***

At the time he was facing major economic and political reforms at home. The Kuamintan’s internal reforms, the first direct presidential elections, plus the outrageous threat and intimidation by the People’s Republic of China across the Taiwan Strait. However President Li unflinchingly faced all these adversity, constantly challenge and achieved what many thought impossible.

Rotary’s Founder Paul Harris had a similar determination. Almost one hundred years ago, He said in Chicago: **“People everywhere but not a friend to be found”**, to express this special type of loneliness in a large city. He took his decisive first step in founding the Rotary club. At the time he may not know where this first step will take him, he may never know the significant of this step. Nevertheless, his perseverance and his idea of service meant that one by one the Rotary members carried on in his footsteps year after year. Like rain drops merging to form little streams, streams joining to form rivers. This flow of ideals, effort and resources gathered to become an endless torrent; a Rotary tidal wave capable of changing history, making history and change the future of mankind for the better.

Recently I read “The Cathedral of Peace” by 1990-91 RI President Paul V.C. Costa, it reminded me of our 1994-95 Governor Decor. He is just like the Cathedral Sculptor. I believed if someone asked: “What are you trying to achieve?” He would wisely answer in a similar way: “I am building a Rotary Cathedral”. I remember when PDG Decor returned from the International Assembly in Anaheim, he immediately summoned all the district officers, not only to reveal to us the theme for next year, he also outlined the plan and the time table for all our activities during his tenure. Even with such complete and beautiful blueprint, there were still

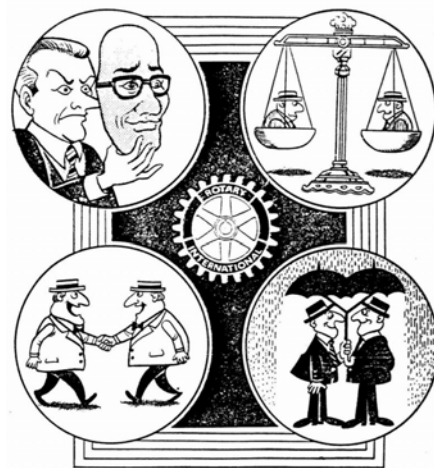
many setbacks and challenges. With his determination and perseverance, PDG Decor successfully accomplished his plan, culminating in two splendid concerts, and brought our District Conference to a triumphant conclusion. At the time the RI Representative PDG Mustapha Ma enthused that this was a five star meeting. I asked the District Secretary PP Falton why he thinks this year was such a success? He replied: "...someone with values, interest and ability, will not only shine, he will also succeed." I believe this only to be part of the reason. I am convinced that it is PDG Decor's perseverance to the "Ideal of Service" that made 1994 such an exceptional year.

The 1985-86 RI President Edward Cadman thought that a myriad of people populate this enormous area in greatly contrasting backdrops, from the snows of Hokkaido in northern Japan to the literally steaming jungles of Malaysia-- from the bitter cold of Korean winters to the constant warmth of the coasts of India. There is a chasm of differences in cultures, religions, understanding, and backgrounds. There is Likeness in the homogeneity of perseverance throughout Asia. Rotarians all over Asia participates in the activities of The Rotary Foundation is staggering. From each sun until each moon, Rotary is active and expanding in Asia. The good things Rotarians do increase daily. As all Rotarians increase their efforts in all avenues of service, we know, "**Even the dry wood will bloom flowers.**" We should ask ourselves if we can live up to such generous praise. 1996-97 RI President Giay said, "**Every Rotarian are the creators of the Rotary destiny**", Therefore as persevering Rotarians, we must use our hands, head and our heart, to build a better future. So that every Rotarian becomes the creator of Rotary Destiny.

### The 4-Way Test

Of the things we think, say, or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



### 四大考驗

我們所想、所說、所做的事  
應事先捫心自問：

1. 是否一切屬於真實？
2. 是否各方得到公平？
3. 能否促進信譽友誼？
4. 能否兼顧彼此利益？