

# THE BREAKFAST CHATTER

The Weekly Bulletin of the **Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town** - Volume No. 10/01 for # 828 March, 24<sup>th</sup> 2006

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## DEAR MIDTOWNERS ► FRIENDS IN **ROTARY**

This week **Mani** had birthday and we wish him all the best for the coming year and many birthdays more to come.

Last Friday we held our **club assembly**. This time quite a few members came to hear what the club is doing, and what more things are in the pipeline. You all got the reports from the different directors via email, so we don't have to repeat the contents here. It gave definitely a good feeling to belong to a vibrant club, even though some of our members had before the meeting the impression, that nothing much happens with us. But whoever was there at the club assembly got a different view. We are fully alive and this has to be that way. Hoina?

Our **picnic date** still stands for the time being unchanged on the 8th of April, even though it looks as if that day may be the beginning of a power struggle going to the road. If we cannot hold our picnic this year due to the turbulence in which we are in, we will change to a dinner meeting, but we will not sacrifice our fellowship come what may.

Having had a look at Balaju Park with amenities, which cover good and bad weather in a natural attractive surrounding nearby for most of us it might be a good place for our yearly picnic. If we refer to catering with Barbeque and Snacks our costs will be in the range of NR400 / NR 500. (without drinks) KC consequence has still to be checked out.

This time our **Rotary International** chapter looks at the individual volunteer services done within Rotary. In addition, we had a look to health related topics in developing countries to be initiated by private capital. Donations are not what one might call encouraging the receivers to get active. Therefore, it might be more interesting to look in this under the aspect of private initiative for caring but based on economical sound footing. Hope you find the topics interesting. If yes, have a look.

We hope you enjoy reading. Until next time, **Walter**

## **SPEAKER OF THE WEEK ► BIBEK CHAPAGAIN KATHMANDU ELECTRIC VEHICLE CAMPAIGN**

### THEME

On coming Friday, **31<sup>st</sup> March** we will have an interesting talk on the importance of alternate energy in the transport sector. The speaker is a young chap organized by Rabi who sounds quite dynamic if you speak with him. It could be interesting. Bibek Chapagain is the country coordinator of the Kathmandu Electric Vehicle Alliance (KEVA)

## UPCOMING **SPEAKERS** ► PREVIEW

DATE	SPEAKER	THEME
31 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>Bibek Chapagain</b>	Alternate sources of energy in transport sector
7 <sup>th</sup> April	Prakash Amatya	water management
8 <sup>th</sup> April	Yearly Picnic (no further delay)	
14 <sup>th</sup> April	DR RR Koirala	Ayurveda, chances and limitations
21 <sup>st</sup> April	Shrijana Thapa	topic still to be defined

### 8<sup>th</sup> April Picnic

Date still on see above. Alternatives are now Balaju Park or the nearby KC Consequence. Usha, Govindas spouse has been ready to take the initiative to coordinate our spouses, to support a successful picnic event. Thanks to her. Let's hope the best.

### Annual Fellowship Meeting at Syangboche on Nepalese New Year

to observe Nepalese New Year at the highest point we have committed to go to Syangboche at least for another year to give consistency in activities. This meeting was supposed to be called during November end, but due to the schedules of most of the members and clubs; this could be called only now. Like last year, discussions are on to include value additions to this fellowship meeting. Rotarian families and friends are also invited. Participants of last year are requested to promote and join this year's program. Those who missed last year's event are encouraged to join this year.

Details of itenary, costs, programs etc. will be circulated soon and 'Orientation' and 'Interaction Meeting' will be called as well.

For more info please contact **Rtn. Nugal Vaidya**, President Elect, 2006-07 RC of Mt. Everest  
E-mail [nugal\\_vaidya@info.com.np](mailto:nugal_vaidya@info.com.np).

### Rotary World Peace Fellowship candidates for 2007-09

Please begin the process of selecting **Rotary World Peace Fellowship** candidates for Class VI (2007-09). Submission of applications for the Rotary World Peace Fellowship should be forwarded to Evanston by **July 1, 2006**. It is targeted to get overall a pool of 500 applications which will enable the Rotary Centers Committee to select the top 60 applicants with superior qualifications.

**For more information** please refer to the Rotary Centers website for a timeline:

[http://www.rotary.org/foundation/educational/amb\\_scho/centers/application/timeline.html](http://www.rotary.org/foundation/educational/amb_scho/centers/application/timeline.html)

**Ramkot Clinic Visit:** kindly check the **Ramkot Roster** for your turn.

If you have **any question**, contact Rtn. **Rabindra Shrestha** (4469063, email: [drrs@wlink.com.np](mailto:drrs@wlink.com.np))

The doctor is **Dr. Khagendra Gurung**. Mobile No : 98510- 83044 Phone: 4287899

If you have any question, kindly let our fellow Ramkot Coordinator Rtn. **Rabindra** know.

**Doctor** is **Khagendra Gurung** mobile: 98510-83044 phone: 4287899 call him Friday latest.

## A WORD ON ROTARY ► WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

### Rotary and it's volunteers

For Seattle resident Ezra Teshome, volunteer service is a deeply personal matter involving his heritage, family pride, and sense of responsibility. For the past nine years, he has used the opportunities and resources provided by Rotary to lead volunteer teams back to his native Ethiopia to help immunize children against the crippling disease polio. He has also worked through Rotary to provide low-cost housing for the poor, install clean water systems in remote villages, donate ambulances, and establish micro-credit programs to help families become self-sufficient, among other humanitarian projects. His parents live in Ethiopia and are strong supporters of the projects.

Teshome, a member of Rotary Club of University District Seattle, was recognized for his polio work at the Time Global Health Summit held in November in New York City, where he was named one of 10 global health heroes.

It was fitting that Teshome, born and raised in Addis Ababa, went to the conference straight from Ethiopia, where he and his 35-member team had just helped immunize 16 million children under age five.

Teshome was typically modest in accepting the award He described how members of his teams come home with a new perspective and enhanced commitment to service. "We go to the villages and walk door to door and see firsthand what poverty does to people," The journey to center stage at the New York summit began in 1971, when Teshome arrived in Seattle to study law. He intended to return to Ethiopia, but by the time he completed his studies conditions at home had deteriorated. His parents urged him to stay in the United States.

He began working, got married, and started a family. At a colleague's urging, he joined a Rotary club. In 1996, Teshome returned to Addis Ababa to attend a Rotary conference. The trip was a revelation. "Going back, it really opened my eyes to how many children are crippled and their lives destroyed by polio," he recalls. "I saw such extreme poverty and such devastation. People were sleeping on the street. Children were fending for themselves. So many people I knew were living in extreme poverty. I said to myself, 'What can I do to help?' "

Rotary's spearheading partnership in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative provided the answer. Each year since 1996, Teshome has led teams of volunteers to participate in National Immunization Days, massive drives during which millions of children receive the oral vaccine that will protect them for life. The other Rotary-supported humanitarian efforts he is involved with enrich the experience.

Fellow University District of Seattle Rotarian Dave Weaver has been on eight Ethiopia trips. He co-chairs, with Teshome and Rotarian Dave Spicer, a US\$350,000 long-term water access project that will benefit 45,000 residents in 17 drought-plagued villages in the country. But the first humanitarian project he worked on with Teshome was in Guatemala.

"Ezra is committed to helping not only the people of Ethiopia, but people everywhere," Weaver says. "He has a special way of making people feel good about what they're doing when they go on these trips with him. Ezra's just an amazing person."

Teshome says his Rotary-driven volunteerism "has been a life-changing experience." And one not without its occasional perks: He's met with the president of Ethiopia, walked the halls of the National Palace, and basked a bit in the New York limelight. (At the summit he received a warm introduction and a hug from Academy Award-winning actress Glenn Close, not bad for the son of a dairy farmer.) But his true reward is knowing that he is helping improve the lives of people in his homeland, especially when he's immunizing children against polio.

"We are out there impacting one person at a time, and that connects us to the lives of those we help," he says.

It's also made a difference for the Teshome family. He and his wife have made sure their four children – daughters Selome, 26, and Sophia, 21, and sons Hewan, 23, and Zach, 18 – have seen Ethiopia's need firsthand by spending one year of high school there.

"It's important for them to experience the culture and values of our people and to witness the unfortunate circumstances many Ethiopians face because of poverty," Teshome says. "I'm hoping awareness will inspire them to do some of the same things that I am involved in."

## OTHER TOPICS

### Development and Health - new business models required

#### Alex Osterwalder

The last few days I have been wondering what impact a venture capital fund specifically dedicated to development and health issues could have on pressing global issues such as malnourishment, HIV/AIDS or malaria. It might seem like a crazy idea since today's development & health is still mainly dominated by charitable approaches characterized by giving. However, social entrepreneurship characterized by the application of business techniques and principles is on the rise.

I discussed this idea of a development & health venture fund first on a Chiang Mai rooftop bar with a friend who has built up a successful global NGO working on HIV/AIDS. We asked ourselves things like why there is still so little innovation in the development & health field despite decades of meager results, or why management capacities in this area are comparatively weak, or why nobody has taken on disrupting this multi-billion dollar industry or why there haven't been any mergers & acquisitions in this field.

### Business Model Innovation in Development & Health

The reason why I find the idea of a venture capital fund interesting is because it could bring fresh life to an otherwise rusting industry. New, promising, but risky approaches with potentially huge impacts have to be tried out to disrupt this field that is experiencing a fatigue of decades of large amounts of almost sisyphus-like work. So let me oppose the traditional donor-funding approach to a complementary venture funding approach:

*Characteristics of donor-funding in relationship to development & health projects:*

- \* risk averse: failure is unacceptable

- \* as a consequence little innovation: funding of traditional approaches

- \* project oriented with start and end date
- \* fragmented
- \* relatively large administrative overhead
- \* limited support to management
- \* donors often drive/own the project process

*Characteristics of venture funds in relationship to entrepreneurs & start-ups:*

- \* entrepreneur-driven
- \* a strong (financial) interest of the VC to see a project succeed
- \* risk oriented: acceptance of x failures for 1 huge success
- \* innovation oriented
- \* growth oriented
- \* return oriented
- \* extensive help and management support
- \* sharing of VC's partner networks
- \* clear exit strategies

Clearly the former follows the model of providing subsidies while the latter follows the investment model. Of course the real world is not so black and white and we find the investment model also applied in the health and development field. However, I am not aware of any venture fund style investment model applied to this area. Yet, such a fund could be a very powerful complementary tool that could boost impact in the development field by fostering new and innovative approaches. Nowadays these approaches have virtually no chance to find funding.

**Imaginary case:**

Let us imagine an imaginary fund to boost impact in the development and health field: Richard Branson sets up a Global Health & Development Venture Fund worth USD20million. The fund would globally screen new and innovative business models that could potentially make a huge difference regarding some of the world's most pressing global issues (e.g. based on the Copenhagen Consensus). Selection criteria would be:

- a) potential impact on a selection of global issues
- b) potential financial sustainability & growth

Then the fund would invest USD1.0million in 20 start-ups. It would actively coach these ventures and provide them with management support as well as access to valuable partner networks. Because of the risky nature of the innovative ventures many of them will probably fail - yet, while having done good.

But failure is OK for venture capital funds if on the other hand they can get some of their ventures to grow exponentially. Let's say the goal of the fund would be to have 4 of the start-ups succeed while 16 fail. The 4 successful ones would have to show an impressive track record of growth, impact and financial sustainability to really proclaim that the venture approach works - particularly if the other 16 have had little impact on development and health issues. But since the fund has invested in 20 risky and innovative high potential projects there is a big chance that some will make a real difference...

So does anybody out there have USD20million to give me in order to make a difference in the world?

**NOW READY FOR A HEALTY LAUGHTER?**

A young composition student in one of the more prestigious conservatories in Russia is running out of time for an important project. In the coming weekend, the school orchestra will be gathered on stage to read through all the composition students' symphonies for the first time in front of the professor.

In a fit of last-minute genius, he goes to the library and checks out one of his professor's symphonies, and writes out the whole work backwards. That weekend, after his hand-copied parts have been distributed, he waits nervously as the orchestra looks over the music.

The conductor gets into place and readies the orchestra, and on his downbeat, out comes the opening fanfare to Tchaikovsky's 4th.

A virile, young Italian sailor was relaxing at his favorite bar, when he managed to attract a spectacular young blonde. Things progressed to the point where he invited her back to his apartment, and after some small talk, they retired to his bedroom where he rattled her senseless. After a pleasant interlude, he asked with a smile, "So...yousa finish?"

She paused for a second, frowned, and replied, "No-oh." Surprised, the young man reached for her and the rattling resumed. This time she thrashed about wildly and there are screams of passion. The rooting ends, and again, the young man smiles, and again he asks, "Yousa finish?" And again, after a short pause, she returns his smile, cuddles closer to him, and softly says, "No-oh."

Stunned, but damned if this woman is going to outlast him, the young man reaches for the woman yet again using the last of his strength, he barely manages it, but they end together, screaming, bucking, clawing, and ripping the bed sheets. The exhausted man falls onto his back, gasping. Barely able to turn his head, he looks into her eyes, smiles proudly, and asks again, "Yousa finish?" Barely able to speak, she whispers in his ear, "Oh no, I Norwegian."

### Thesis:

Engineers and scientists will never make as much money as business executives. Now a rigorous mathematical proof that explains why this is true.

Postulate 1:  
Knowledge is Power.

Postulate 2:  
Time is Money.

Proof:  
As every engineer knows,  
    Work  
----- = Power  
    Time

since Knowledge = Power, and Time = Money, we have

    Work  
----- = Knowledge  
    Money

solving for Money, we get  
    Work  
----- = Money  
    Knowledge

Thus, as Knowledge approaches zero, Money approaches infinity regardless of the Work done.

Conclusion:  
The less you know, the more money you make.

That's for today and see or hear from you soon. **Walter** and **Navyo**

SEE YOU ALL **COMING FRIDAY** ► YOURS IN ROTARY - CSD RTN. **WALTER** DILLER

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