

# THE BREAKFAST CHATTER

The Weekly Bulletin of the **Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town** - Volume No. 10/01 for # 836 May, 19<sup>th</sup> 2006

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

Last week we had no birthday or anniversary. Accordingly no sunshine. Last Friday we had Sushil Bajracharya as our speaker. As a fellow of the Indian Institute of Insurance and senior manager of HGI he knew his topic very well. He not only presented us the past and actual development of insurance in Nepal, but also possible future developments. No doubt there are many chances, which have up to now not even been touched. However, the sector faces one heavy problem. This is manpower, as trained people are missing while the number of insurance companies is shooting up. What we have done in the banking sector and for some time in the hydropower sector we still have to do in the insurance sector. That's extensive training, not only for the expertise of the subject but also on the matter of how to handle people. May our business people get aware that making profits means having the right people and nursing them. More you can read at the minutes.

In the meantime it seems we have good news on our fellowships. William started a food fellowship last week, where 9 of our members and 4 of our spouses shared the exotic food experience. Hopefully this will go on.

Last time CK brought informally the proposal to start eventually with a table tennis fellowship. Could be also very nice. Who joins?

Let's have some more ideas and put them into reality. In this way all of our members can get active. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June we will have an extended dinner meeting. Our picnic this year is off due to circumstances, every one knows. This dinner meeting should not be seen as a substitute for the picnic, but belongs to the events proposed on a monthly basis.

This time our RI chapter is focused on the forthcoming convention. If you have the time and the resources it seems very attractive to join. Other topics present some ideas not to save but to create homemade energy. May be you have some more ideas.

Hope you will enjoy reading. Until next time,  
**Walter**

## SPEAKERS OF THE WEEK ► **MR. PRASAI**

### THEME

On coming **Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> May** our speaker will be Mr. **Prasai** CEO Everest Bank. His topic will be the banking sector in Nepal, importance and development. The topic has to be seen in the circle of Nepal's economy at the present stage. Hope it will be interesting

Below you'll find our planned activities. As you must have found out meanwhile, this has always been a tentative schedule. So don't be surprised if changes are taking place.

## UPCOMING **SPEAKERS** ► PREVIEW

DATE	SPEAKER	THEME
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Ram Prasad Humagai, Deputy Chief Editor Gorkhapatra This meeting may eventually take place in Dwarika as a dinner and late afternoon get together. We will raise this point next Friday.	The role of the state owned Media in the present surrounding
11 <sup>th</sup> June	Meeting with Rajdani, Sunday Morning in Radisson	Topic to be fixed. Eventual "How to advance Rotary"
16. June	Sangeeta Thapa, MD Siddharta Gallery	Art scene in Kathmandu

## THE MIDTOWN CLUB ► NEWS AS THE COME IN

### **20<sup>th</sup> May 2006 Rota Quiz**

Venue: NCCI Conference Hall Narayangarh

Time: 2PM

Registration: Rs 300/- For Rotarians, Rs 500/- with Ann, Rs 250/- For Roctractors

### **26th May PETS and SETS** hosted by RC MT. Everest Lalitpur

*Mandatory for all Incoming Presidents and Secretaries*

### **27th May District Assembly** hosted by RC Patan

All Rotarians and Club Officials are invited to attend the District Assembly where they will receive advice for successful implementation of the RI themes and Club Activities. **DGE Debashish Mitra** has requested all Rotarians to take a proactive and new role to "Lead the Way" in meeting the challenges of the Incoming Year 2006-07 and make PETS/SETS and District Assembly a success.

**PETS/SETS and District Assembly 2006** will be very important for Leadership Building in Nepal and consolidating solidarity with First DGN Dr. Tika Man Vaidya for Nepal District 3292 starting July 2008.

Registration 8-9 AM

Program: 9AM-5PM

Venue: *Park Village Hotel & Resort*, Budhanilkantha, Kathmandu

Registration Fee: NPR **650**/person/day including Lunch and Seminar Kits

Transport available from *Rotary Hall Thapathali*

Confirm your participation to Rtn. Nugal 98510 39703 <nugal\_vaidya@info.com.np>

Rtn. Gyanu 98510 38196 <vision@wlink.com.np>or Rtn. Badan 98510 25400 <badan@multinepal.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. Dr Rabindra Shrestha (4469063, email: drs@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

### **RI convention 2006 is near** (12th -14th June)

2006 RI Convention is not only the first in the Nordic region of Europe, it's also the first to use the hospitality of two host countries. The 97th annual RI Convention kicks off the second century of Rotary and presents an opportunity to build friendship with fellow Rotarians

Most convention attendees will arrive at Copenhagen's Kastrup International Airport, the largest airport in the Nordic region, one of the best in the world. Malmoe Sturup Airport is a regional airport, offering connections from other European cities and may be your arrival airport, if you come via Frankfurt or London.

For travel to and from the airport, taxis are abundant. Both cities offer also efficient train systems accessible from the Copenhagen airport. Registering for the convention will be in Copenhagen, Denmark at the Bella Center or in Malmoe for preconvention meeting attendees.

You can stay in a hotel. But part of the excitement of any RI convention is exploring the charm of the host region. What better way to do that than to stay in a Danish cabin, a quaint Swedish cottage, or a cozy bed and breakfast? For those with a sense of adventure, try a campsite.

If you want to know more about alternative accommodations in Copenhagen, Denmark, or Malmoe, Sweden, and surrounding areas you can contact the official tourist organization "Wonderful Copenhagen" 1, Gammel Kongevej, DK-1610 Copenhagen V Denmark [www.visitcopenhagen.dk](http://www.visitcopenhagen.dk) or e-mail: [touristinfo@woco.dk](mailto:touristinfo@woco.dk)

Have you ever passed a time in a camping hut or a caravan? If no test it, you can be sure it's comfortable. In this case DCU-Camping Absalon is available. Absalon is very much Copenhagen's campsite, with lots of people on the move, close traffic connections and an international atmosphere. It is a modern site with restaurant and cafeteria within 1 km and good transport links to the Convention Centre, Bella Center and Copenhagen.

If you want to know more you can contact the website [www.camping-absalon.dk](http://www.camping-absalon.dk) or you can also contact per e mail [absalon@dcu.dk](mailto:absalon@dcu.dk)

The Convention shuttle bus system will service Camping Absalon

### **Who will give the keynote addresses?**

Monday, 12 June (10.00)

The keynote address is on literacy by Sister Ethel Normoyle, an Irish nun who worked in South Africa, since 1988.

Tuesday, 13 June (10.00)

Keynote address is delivered by Kristine Binzer and Markus Granlund. Both are highly active Rotaracts. Markus, a 31-year-old lawyer, was a Youth Exchange student and later a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar through The Rotary Foundation. His focus is on building bridges between different cultures as well as between the genders. His volunteer work is focused on increased interaction between Rotary and Rotaract by creating projects where both can work together. Kristine Binzer is a 26-year-old student of Medical Science, active in different developing countries in medical research. Her Rotaract activities are manifold.

Wednesday, 14 June (10.00)

Keynote address is delivered by Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs, earlier one of the hottest discussed directors of World bank and now Director of The Earth Institute, Quetelet and Professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University. He is also Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan

### **What can you do outside the official program?**

Special events, tours, and outings will help to make your Nordic excursion enchanting and memorable.

### **Pre- and Post-convention Tours**

You can explore Norwegian fjords and Finnish lakes, you can wander through Swedish castles, or you can go for cruising to Greenland, Even seeing the treasures of St. Petersburg, Russia is in the outside program.

### **Nobel Dinner**

You can join it Saturday 10th June or Monday 12th June in Malmoe

It is said to be a unique dining experience for Rotarians. Held in beautiful and historic Malmö City Hall, the event will re-create Sweden's annual Nobel Banquet, featuring the original Nobel menu and tableware settings.

### **Youth Exchange Officers Banquet Friday 9th June in Malmoe**

Open to all Youth Exchange Officers Preconvention Meeting participants, this convention tradition celebrates one of Rotary International's most popular youth programs. The banquet is slated to take place in the foyer of the Konserthuset in Malmoe

### **Convention Match Race 2006, Saturday, 10th June in Copenhagen**

Rotarian sailing enthusiasts won't want to miss a thrilling day of boat races on Oeresund. Match races are one-to-one duels between two identical sailboats. Each boat in this event will be crewed by seven Rotarians and an experienced skipper. The event will include a gourmet box meal, exhibits, and fellowship at harbor side.

### **Tivoli Day, Saturday, 10th June Copenhagen**

Convention goers will spend a day in Tivoli, a 160-year-old amusement park. Events will include performances by the Pantomime Theatre, the Tivoli Guards marching in review, a symphony concert featuring famous Nordic musicians, and a fantastic fireworks finale with the Rotary and convention logos. A special convention menu will be served throughout the day. Guests can come and go from Tivoli at their leisure.

### **Paul Harris Fellows Meal Event, Sunday, 11th June Copenhagen**

Will be held at the Bella Center and is open to all convention registrants, but designed especially for Paul Harris Fellows and their spouses.

### **President's Recognition Luncheon , Monday, 12th June, Copenhagen event**

RI President Stenhammar will honor Rotary's senior leadership during this event, to be held at the Bella Center. This event is open to all convention registrants. Current RI officers, district governors, RI committee members, club presidents, and spouses are encouraged to attend. (sold out).

### **Swedish Night, Tuesday, 13th June Malmoe**

In mid-June, the sun stays up for 17 hours and will turn the spotlight on Swedish Night, a celebration of the country's rich traditions. Video screens will introduce attendees to a virtual sightseeing tour from Lapland and the mountains of the north, through the 25,000-island archipelago near Stockholm and beyond. Revelers will then join in celebrating four major Swedish festivals and enjoy a tantalizing Swedish smorgasbord and traditional drinks.

### **President-elect's Leadership Luncheon, Tuesday, 13th June, Copenhagen**

Designed for incoming RI officers, district governors, club presidents and spouses, but open to all convention registrants, this luncheon, to be held at the Bella Center will serve as a great opportunity for networking and fellowship for 2006-07 Rotary leaders (sold out)

### **Bridging the World Luncheon , Wednesday, 14th June 2006 Copenhagen**

Open to all convention registrants, this luncheon in Bella Center will be one of the final highlights of the first convention to be held in two cities and two countries.

## **OTHER TOPICS**

### **Energy, can we make it?**

We have heard in the past repeatedly that NOC has payment problems and we have made the experience that electricity was cut off at time most needed. That led us recently to a coming together of friends where some brainstorming on this topic was done. The results of the brainstorming were so interesting, that it seems worthwhile to present some of the ideas, which came up.

### **Ethanol -- if the Brazilians can do it, why can't we?**

Brazil runs over 50% of its vehicles on ethanol. Ethanol can come from many sources It can come from corn, but that is expensive. Therefore expand sugar cane fields. Sugar cane requires less fertilizer than corn and is easier to make ethanol out of. Even lawn grass can be turned into ethanol. There is no reason that ethanol cannot be our primary fuel.

A gradual increase of ethanol/gasoline mixtures at the pump until the standard fuel is 80%-90% alcohol can be a real possibility within the next 8 to 10 years if someone starts getting it going. With latest developments in international markets cars with flex fuel use will get over the next years the norm. Furthermore, the flex fuel vehicles should be engineered to burn methanol as well as ethanol-based fuels. That would allow for more types of fuel to compete to fill the demand. (Ethanol for diesel use can already now be imported from Mumbai)

### **Biodiesel -- Proven power from garbage**

Why not use every bit of waste, i.e., paper sludge, slash piles, veggie by-products, potato skins, beet peelings, etc. to make more fuel? Biodiesel can provide a major new energy source. If it is made with non-food crops, the yield is far higher than with soybeans. All we really need is more cars with diesel engines. The second part of this has to be Bio diesel stations.

Biodiesel fuel can easily be made at home from used vegetable oil. Somebody of our friends knew even someone who makes his own biodiesel for a cost of NPR 40 per gallons. There is no reason, other than distribution, why every truck, tractor, or piece of construction equipment with a diesel engine should be burning straight petroleum-based diesel.

### **Solar energy could do the job just by itself**

The whole of Terrai receives enormous amounts of sunlight every day. According to estimates 100 square miles of solar panels, or a modest multiple thereof can generate enough electricity to accommodate all electric energy needs to the country.

We could make it mandatory that all new houses have solar roof tiles instead of regular tiles and give tax credits if people replace their tiles with solar tiles on their existing homes. Solar panels could easily be used to run all the electricity a house needs. Furthermore Terrai is so sunny that the excess electricity could either be sold back to the electric companies or the solar package could come with a power supply to use in charging an electric-powered vehicle. Reminds on one of our recent speakers

### **So where do we go from here?**

It's necessary to have a more careful and critical look at the assumptions and facts about each of these supply-side solutions. The energy crisis/solutions debate has generated a lot of heat, but not much in the way of facts and quite some questions have still to be answered and more brainstorming is needed.

## **NOW READY FOR A HEALTY LAUGHTER?**

### **Potential & Reality**

A kid comes home from school with a writing assignment. He asks his father for help. "Dad, can you tell me the difference between potential and reality?"

His father looks up, thoughtfully, and then says, "I'll demonstrate. Go ask your mother if she would sleep with Robert Redford for a million dollars. Then go ask your sister if she would sleep with Brad Pitt for a million dollars. Then come back and tell me what you've learned."

The kid is puzzled, but decides to ask his mother. "Mom, if someone gave you a million dollars, would you sleep with Robert Redford?"

"Don't tell your father, but yes, I would."

He then goes to his sister's room. "Sis, if someone gave you a million dollars, would you sleep with Brad Pitt?" She replies, "Omigod! Definitely!"

The kid goes back to his father. "Dad, I think I've figured it out. Potentially, we are sitting on two million bucks, but in reality, we are living with two sluts."

### **Soy Toy**

While going through his wife's dresser drawers, a farmer discovered three soybeans and an envelope containing \$30 in cash. The farmer confronted his wife, and when asked about the curious items, she confessed:

"Over the years, I haven't been completely faithful to you."

"When I did fool around, I put a soybean in the drawer to remind myself of my indiscretion," she explained.

The farmer admitted that he had not always been faithful either, and therefore, was inclined to forgive and forget her few moments of weakness.

"I'm curious though," he said, "Where did the thirty dollars come from?"

"Oh that, " his wife replied, "Well, when soybeans hit ten dollars a bushel, I sold out!"

### God Is Missing

Two 6-year-old boys were attending religious school and giving the teachers problems. The teachers had tried everything to make them behave - time outs, notes home, missed recesses - but could do nothing with them. Finally, the boys were sent to see the priest.

The first boy went in and sat in a chair across the desk from the priest. The priest asked, "Do you know where God is?" The little boy just sat there.

The priest stood up and asked again, "Son, do you know where God is?" The little boy trembled but said nothing.

The priest leaned across the desk and again asked, "Do you know where God is?"

The little boy bolted out of the chair ran past his friend in the waiting room, all the way home. He got in bed and pulled the covers up over his head. His friend had followed him home asked, "what happened in there?"

The boy replied, "God is missing and they think we did it!"

### Beans & Onions: Delicious

What do you get when you mix beans and onions? Tear gas!

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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