



THE CHRONICLE MAY 2018

A JOINT BULLETIN OF
ROTARACT CLUB OF ALUMNI OF UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA
AND ROTARACT CLUB OF NTU



A JOINT BULLETIN OF RAC ALUMNI OF UOM (RID 3220) & RAC NTU (RID 3310)

The Chronicle

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The journey so far

By Rochelle Silva, Director – International Service, Rotaract Alumni Mora

In January 2018, I found myself in a challenging situation: in three months' time, I would have to travel to Singapore for a research conference. However, I didn't have a clue about travelling outside my homeland. It was during this whirlwind of decisions that I decided to reach out.

Within few days of posting in the "Rotaract Couch" I had found an amazing group of people who not only provided me with tips for travelling within Singapore, but also suggested that we meet up to strengthen the bond between the countries. Thus, the idea of a service trip was born and on 23rd of March 2018, eight of us flew to Singapore knowing that there would be a bunch of likeminded individuals waiting on the other end.

After the hustle and bustle of four full days which consisted of the Project HPHP Carnival and Project Exploract, we were invited to a dinner courtesy of the Rotaract Club of Nanyang Technological University.

During Project "YouYi" (the Chinese term for "friendship") we interacted with the NTU Rotaractors and also met DRR Rytha Lew, IPDRR Zen Tan and Rtn. Mok Shao Xian from RID 3310.

In early May 2018, both clubs agreed to take the fellowship one step further by signing a twin club agreement with the best wishes of RID 3220 and RID 3310. "The Chronicle" celebrates this historic union while providing a platform for the two clubs to get to know each other better.



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Message from Rotaract Club of Nanyang Technological University

Dear Members of the Rotaract Club of Alumni of University of Moratuwa,

I trust that this message will find you well.

It is with my greatest privilege and honour to have our Clubs associated with each other as Sister Clubs forming a partnership that transcends borders. When the Rotaract Club of Nanyang Technological University's Executive Committee Members met President Rtr. Himantha Alahakoon and his team during their visit to Singapore, we instantly connected, and the like-mindedness of our club members were a testimony to the ability to work together for a greater good despite our geographical locations.

The Rotaract Club of Nanyang Technological University (RAC NTU) was chartered in 1985 and is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Tanglin (District 3310). We were founded under the basis of the following goals: To develop professional and leadership skills.

- To emphasize respect for the rights of others, based on recognition of the worth of each individual.

- To recognize the dignity and value of all useful occupations as opportunities of the worth of each individual.

- To promote and practice ethical standards as leadership qualities and vocational responsibilities.

- To develop knowledge and understanding of the needs, problems, and opportunities in the community and worldwide.

- To provide opportunities for personal and group activities to serve the community and promote international understanding and goodwill towards all people.

Embracing those thoughts in mind, RAC NTU has activities all year long shaped to serve its purpose. To achieve its goals with utmost efficiency and professionalism, RAC NTU is supported by its seven divisions, particularly the Club Service, Community Service, International Service, Youth Development, Professional Development, Business and Finance and Publicity and Publication, each playing a crucial role in their own field

defined by the names of the divisions. All in all, the Rotaract Club of NTU is a well-balanced club with its purposes serving the community as well as improving its members as individuals.

Even as our respective leadership team passes the baton on to the incoming leaders, I believe that this relationship between our Clubs will continue to flourish and manifest in potential that would bring both our Clubs to greater heights. I am excited for where this paramount and significant symbol of our friendship will bring us in the future.

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"Fellowship through Service"



Message from Rotaract Club of Alumni of University of Moratuwa

Dear Members of the Rotaract Club of Nanyang Technological University,

It is with great pleasure and honour I acknowledge the twin club agreement between our clubs in the spirit of Rotaract. I believe this endeavour will open up new opportunities to our clubs to engage in service beyond borders and uplift the standards of life through fellowship.

Rotaract Club of Alumni of University of Moratuwa was chartered in 2013 by Rtr. PP. Lahiru Gawarammana. The club under Rotaract District 3220 (Sri Lanka and Maldives), is a community based Rotaract Club sponsored by the Rotary Club of Colombo West. The club was founded with the key objective of paving the path for individuals graduating from the Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa (which is our parent club) to continue their engagement in the Rotaract movement and serve the society, as they graduate from the University. In addition to outgoing members of the Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa, the club welcomes Alumni of University of Moratuwa who wish to commence a journey in Rotaract.

With the above primary goal in mind, the main avenues in the scope of engagement of the club spans to Club Service, Community Service, Professional Development, International Service, Environment and Public Relations. This year, the club celebrates its 5th year of service with the year theme "Together, we paint the shades of Earth", striving to embark on a journey in environmental conservation and improve the living standards under the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 'Life on Land', that has become a need of the era, while continuing to extend a helping hand to brighten the lives of our community.

When the concept of a service trip to Singapore was born in January 2018, we did not have a clue about what was on offer. But now the situation is different, where we have found a twin in the land of Merlion, with similar passion and mindset as the Rotaract Club of Alumni of University

of Moratuwa. Even as the baton passes to a new team in the upcoming Rotaract year 2018/19, I sincerely hope that our friendship would strive to breach tougher boundaries. Let us work together to create a better world for the life on earth.

Viva la Rotaract!

Yours in Rotaract,

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Rotaract Club of NTU - World Rotaract Week

By Tong De Fang, Honorary General Treasurer, Rotaract Club of NTU

Every year, Rotaract Club of NTU celebrates World Rotaract Week (WRW) in March to commemorate the founding of the first club in 1968. To increase awareness among students about the mission and vision of Rotary International, the club showcases community service projects, events and workshops held during the academic year. This event also aims to promote community and international service involvement among NTU's students and to provide students with opportunities to be involved in future club events.

This year, WRW was held on 21st and 22nd March at Canopy K, Nanyang Technological University. More than 300 NTU students registered and participated. To entice students to participate in the event, free ice-cream and goodie bags were given out. There were also game booths, lucky draw prizes and band performances. The photo booth and display boards were very nicely

decorated. Students were excited to post pictures on their social media accounts to raise awareness of the Rotaract Club.

We had our first attempt in organizing an acoustic music competition during WRW. It was an island-wide talent search on social media platforms such as Instagram and Facebook, where ten of the most popular and competent acts were invited to compete for a \$1000 music voucher. We were honoured to have DRR Ms Rytha Lew and our sponsors at the opening ceremony. We were delighted to see that our participants were well prepared and incredibly enthusiastic in their performances.

To fund this event, external vendors were invited to participate in WRW. There were five vendors in total and they were satisfied with the traction and sales. Our sponsors were also pleased with the reach and publicity. WRW allowed our members and committee to bond with one another. It also allowed non-members to understand more about the various Rotaract projects and events held during the year.



Marathon towards Greenery

By Vijini Mallawaarachchi, Member of Rotaract Alumni Mora

The Rotaract year of 2017/18 began with the theme "Together we paint the shades of Earth". The project 'Marathon towards Greenery', consisting of three phases was organized by the Rotaract club of Alumni of University of Moratuwa with the goal of creating a green future. As the first phase, "Ganga Addara 17.1" and "Ganga Addara 17.2" were conducted in Agalawatta and Waga areas in Sri Lanka, where trees were planted to address the issue of river bank erosion. "Maga Addara" was the second phase of the marathon focused on improving the urban landscape, where 50 trees were planted along concrete roads at the 'Ape Gama' premises. The third phase of the project was carried out at the school named Kahapola Pangnananda Vidyalaya, where students belonging to grades 6, 7, 8

and 9 were given the responsibility of caring for four separate sections of the school premises. The 200+ saplings for all the phases of the 'Marathon towards Greenery' project

were secured under the generous support of the Deputy Regional Manager (Colombo Region) of the State Timber Corporation, Mr. Gamini Alwis.



Janitor Appreciation Project

By Kam Shu Xia, Vice President
(Service) of Rotaract Club of NTU

Janitor Appreciation Project (JAP) is one of the annual flagship events held by the Rotaract Club of NTU. The objective of this event is to emphasize the respect for the rights of the others based on recognition of worth and dignity of all individuals regardless of occupation and background. This event also gave students a chance to show their appreciation towards the contribution made by the janitors on campus.

JAP can be separated into two parts, namely the Hall Appreciation Tea and School Appreciation Tea. The Hall Appreciation Tea took place on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of March while the School Appreciation Tea took place on 15th of March. For the Hall Appreciation Tea, there were approximately 60 janitors who attended for of these three days.

Volunteers were assigned to different roles such as emcee and game masters. Ice breaking games were carried out which were conducted by our volunteers. There was also a singing performance which was prepared by the volunteers. Goody bags were given out to the janitors and refreshments were served at the end of the event. Interactions between the volunteers and janitors were well established during the activities. The difference between School Appreciation Tea and Hall Appreciation Tea was that more games and performances were carried out during School Appreciation Tea due to the difference in time allocation.

The Janitor Appreciation Project fosters the relationship between janitors and students. This gives the students a chance to initiate and experience casual conversations with people from different backgrounds.



Rotaractors for Global Goals

By *Dasuni Samarakoon, Member of Rotaract Alumni Mora*

A single click can speak a thousand words. Photography has become the universal language. It is so easy to express yourself through a photograph transcending the language barriers.

Rotaractors for Global Goals focused on showcasing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG) in a pictographic point of view and also celebrated how 50 years of

Rotaract contributed to make the world a better place.

The project was for any Rotaract Club (local or international) to submit a photo related to one of their projects which addresses a UN SDG(s). The top 12 photos will be awarded with certificates and featured in a calendar in the coming year.

The winning clubs of the competition (in no particular order) are as follows.

- Rotaract Club of University of Kelaniya (RID 3220)
- Rotaract Agadir Founty (District 9010)
- Rotaract Club of Zenith (District 3232)
- Rotaract Club of Achievers Lanka Business School (District 3220)
- Rotaract Club of eClub of Greater Nigeria (District 9125)
- Rotaract club of Michael Okpara University Umudike (District 9142)
- Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa (RID 3220)
- Rotaract Club of Saraswati College (RID 3142)
- Rotaract Technopole El Ghazela (District 9010)
- Rotaract Club of World Bank Exclusive CB (RID 9142)
- Rotaract Club of K V Pendharkar College (RID 3142)
- Rotaract Club of Halifax (RID 7820)



Glow in the Dark Workshop

By Goh Wen Sheng, Vice President
(Support), Rotaract Club of NTU

The Glow in the Dark motivational workshop was a rather different motivational workshop organized by the Rotaract Club of NTU on the 29th of March 2018. Rotaract club of NTU collaborated with the Glow In The Dark (GITD) organization to bring a few motivational speakers who were physically handicapped to share how they went through different ordeals in their life and how they overcame them. A total of 4 speakers were present on that day, 3 of the speakers were visually handicapped and one of them suffered from muscular dystrophy. They shared their

amazing stories with the fellow Rotaractors about how they were initially struggling to adapt to being handicapped, and then accepting it and finally making the most of it. They taught the Rotaractors that life goes on regardless of the situation

given to you, you just have to make the most of it. Overall it was a very fun and successful workshop, both the Rotaractors and the speakers got a chance to learn many different things from each other.



Together as ONE

By Dinithi Warnasuriya, Editor of Rotaract Alumni Mora

The project "Together as ONE" was organized as an initiative to contribute to social harmony in our society which is highly diverse with different ethnic and religious groups. The focus of this initiative is to create mutual understanding among individuals of our community, because we believe that mutual understanding is the foundation for establishing harmony among us. This objective is in line with the Rotary's area of focus of Peace, Conflict Prevention and/or Resolution.

As the first phase of the project, we hosted a series of discussions with our fellow Rotaractors from Rotaract Clubs of NSMB, Wellawatte and UoC FMF, called "Forum for ONE". The objective of these forums was to create mutual understanding on social harmony among our Rotaractors. These discussions were a huge success even beyond our expectations, as many ideas on ethnicity and religious beliefs were

brought out during these discussions. The basis for different beliefs and faiths, the extent to which our beliefs are embedded in who we are, reasons for misunderstanding among different groups, reasons for conflicts and how individuals can co-exist despite these differences were among the ideas thus shared. During all these discussions, the forums concluded with every participant having more understanding of the beauty of diversity in our society and unanimously agreeing that social harmony is indeed a realistic goal which we can achieve in our society, provided that every member in our community embraces this mutual understanding.

With the completion of the first phase of the project, we have now rolled out the second phase of "Together as ONE", called the "Three Sentence Challenge", an initiative taken to battle the language barrier which is prevalent in our society. The language barrier was identified as one of the main challenges that exist in our community, when striving to promote mutual understanding among us. Thus, in the "Three Sentence Challenge" we invite our fellow Rotaractors and friends beyond Rotaract, to speak three

sentences in a language which is not their mother tongue.

The third phase of the project "Together as ONE" was intended at bridging the two cultures of northern and southern Sri Lanka through the New Year Celebrations of 'Soorya Rashmi'. Rotaractors from Rotaract Club of Nallur Heritage joined with the Rotaractors of University of Moratuwa and Alumni of University of Moratuwa to celebrate the dawn of the New Year, while paying attention to the traditional rituals and enjoying traditional games. 'Kottapora', 'Kana Muttiya Bindeema', Lime & Spoon, 'Avurudu Kumaraya & Kumariya', 'Pani Bambare' & 'Goni race' were enthusiastically contested under one wing. It was a novel experience for the Rotaractors, which united Sinhala and Tamil cultures under a single platform.

We hope to continue "Together as ONE" likewise in consecutive phases, with each one expanding the target groups of benefactors, so that we approach our ultimate objective of contributing to promotion of social harmony in our society.



