



Rotary Club of Sonarpur

Rotary District : 3291



PRESIDENT :
Santanu Ghosh

SECRETARY:
Sajal Kumar Dutta



R.I. Club No. 23960 Charter dt. 30.06.1986

RI PRESIDENT:
Kalyan Banerjee

DISTRICT GOVERNOR
Angshuman Bandopadhyay

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The land that rain forgot

by Frank Bures

The Rotarian -- April 2012

In East Africa, the rains come twice a year. In the spring, the long rains soak the ground, fill the wells, swell the rivers, and nourish the plants. In the fall, the short rains tide the land over until spring. In good years, farmers can get three crops out of their fields, the nomads' cattle grow fat, and families laugh together over dinner. In bad years, none of that happens.

In late 2010, the short rains failed and hunger came. Early in 2011, people looked at the sky and hoped, but the long rains never came either. The hunger got much worse, very quickly. An estimated 70 percent of herd animals died. It was the region's worst drought in 60 years, and soon refugees started pouring into camps. Across the Horn of Africa, the famine has affected about 12 million people, who face increased risks of armed conflict, human trafficking, and outbreaks of diseases like cholera, in addition to hunger.

On a Sunday afternoon in July, Paula Lanco-Mutua, a member of the Rotary Club of Karen-Nairobi, was at home watching a movie with her three kids when the phone rang. The call was from Abbas Gullet, head of the Kenyan Red Cross, which works on the front lines whenever the country is facing a crisis: flooding on the coast, fires in the city, violence after elections. This time, the situation was one that reached past Kenya's borders. It was also one that some members of the Kenyan government were denying: famine.

The next morning, 25 July, the four Rotarians met at the airport, along with a phalanx of reporters Gullet had also invited. They piled into a twin-propeller plane and headed north. They got their first glimpse of the drought from above.

A proud moment

And so, on a cool morning in August, a hundred or so Rotarians met on the north side of Nairobi at the Visa

Oshwal, a Jain temple and community center, to see the trucks off. The mood was somber but excited. A few people made remarks.

"We are here, we're going to talk about this, and then we're all going to go back to our jobs and forget about it until the next time the famine comes, and we'll be back here doing the same thing," Manek said. "We've got to stop this. We want to make sure we have sustainable projects, because we don't want to do the same thing year in and year out."

When the speeches ended, everyone filed outside. The engines rumbled to life. The Rotarians waved flags, and the trucks rolled onto the road north.

"Rotarians came all the way from Nakuru, from Thika, from Mombasa," Lanco-Mutua says. "We were so many. It was a proud moment. It was one of those times when you could see the power of Rotary at play."

By October, some rain had arrived, softening the edge of the drought. At the end of that month, the famine-relief campaign shifted to a new phase. The focus is now on long-term solutions such as drilling boreholes, purchasing drought-resistant seeds, reviving local health centers, and expanding agricultural training programs. Funds have continued to pour in, and the Rotary Horn of Africa Famine and Refugee Relief Fund is accepting donations through the end of June. Rotary's Horn of Africa committee is working to implement the more far-reaching projects; Manek, who is governor-elect of District 9200 and Paula Lanco-Mutua, a member of the Rotary Club of Karen-Nairobi are among its members.

DISTRICT 3291 UPCOMING EVENTS

1. April 21 : Talent Search & Antakshari at Rotary Sadan from 3 – 7 pm.
2. April 22 : Observing NID
3. April 25 : District Leadership Seminar at Rotary Sadan from 6.30 pm.
4. April 26: Inter City Meet on Future Vision at Rotary sadan at 3pm. Major changes in TRF funding to be discussed and District Drama at Gyan Manch from 6.30pm

We meet every Friday, 7.30pm. at ' HARMONY ', 20A, Kali Mohon Banerjee Lane, Kolkata 700025

Minutes of the Meeting

Meeting no 1048**Dated 13.04.2012**

President called meeting no. 1048 to order.

National Anthem led by Rtn. Sanjib Ray.

President welcomed DG Rtn. Angsuman Bandyopadhyay, First Lady Jaya Bandyopadhyay, Special Aide (Admin.) Rtn. Pradosh Chatterjee Dist. Secretary (Admin) Rtn. Sudip Mukherjee and guest Mr. Uttam Hazra and his spouse to our meeting. President requested DG Rtn. Angsuman Bandyopadhyay to join him on dais.

In the absence of Secretary Rtn. Sajal Dutta, President requested Rtn. Gautam Ray to officiate on his behalf. Minutes of the last meeting confirmed.

Discussions:

- President discussed the progress in regard to the Helping grant Project preparation.
- President thanked all members of the club for making the Scholarship award ceremony at our Interact school a grand success.

President handed over the business to the Secretary.

Officiating Secretary Rtn. Gautam Ray announced the receipt of bulletins from neighboring clubs, upcoming District and club events before handing back the meeting to the President.

President requested DG Rtn. Angsuman Bandyopadhyay to proceed the meeting.

DG Rtn. Angsuman Bandyopadhyay informed the club about his satisfaction regarding the Club's activities during the Year. He also inspired the members to take up bigger fruitful projects with the help of Helping Grant / Matching Grant. District Governor also enlightened the gathering about Rotary's activities in various service projects as well as Rotary's role in Polio eradication. DG Rtn. Angsuman Bandyopadhyay also had a interactive session with the members, clearing doubts on various issues.

DG Rtn. Angsuman Bandyopadhyay handed back the meeting to the President.

Having no other business, President terminated the meeting.

Members Present: 13. Sunshine Collected : Rs. 260/-

Wedding Anniversary

16th April**Rtn. Swapan Kr. Paul****22nd April****Rtn. Sarbendu Kr. Dutta**

Four Way Test

Is it the TRUTH ?**Is it FAIR to all concerned ?****Will it build GOODWILL and better FRIENDSHIP ?****Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned ?**

POLIO GLOBAL
ERADICATION
INITIATIVE



every last child

Experience Bangkok, a city of markets, during the 2012 RI Convention

*By Frank Bures**The Rotarian -- April 2012*

Bangkok, Thailand, is a city of markets, and for many centuries, goods got to those markets by boat. In the 1800s, most people lived in stilt houses along the waterways and bought items from the sampans that floated by.

In the 1960s, Thailand's 3,700 miles of rivers and canals still carried more than half of the country's freight. Today, most canals have been paved over, but if you're in Bangkok for the 2012 RI Convention, 6-9 May, you can get a glimpse of the old Venice of the East at several floating markets. Check with your hotel for hours, and ask whether a market was affected by last year's flooding.

Thailand's most famous floating market, **Damnoen Saduak**, is a solid day trip from Bangkok, and worth an overnight stay. The popular market has several sections, some more crowded than others.

Not far from Damnoen Saduak is the **Amphawa Floating Market**, a quieter alternative once frequented mainly by Thai tourists, but growing in popularity among foreigners.

A bit more remote, but also in Samut Songkhram Province southwest of Bangkok, is **Tha Kha Floating Market**, which continues to function as a traditional market. You can also take a boat tour of the canals.

Just west of Bangkok, **Don Wai Market** is a great day trip for lovers of Thai food. The Tha Chin River is packed with floating restaurants and boats that offer rides.

Scholarship to school Children on 13.04.12



District Governors' Visit on 13.04.2012

