



# Rotary Club of Sonarpur

Rotary District : 3291



**PRESIDENT :**  
Santanu Ghosh

**SECRETARY:**  
Sajal Kumar Dutta



**RI PRESIDENT:**  
Kalyan Banerjee

**DISTRICT GOVERNOR**  
Angshuman Bandopadhyay

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## Polio eradication shifts into emergency mode

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Although this child in Chad has been immunized against polio, others in the central African nation -- and those everywhere -- remain vulnerable to the disease until it is eradicated worldwide.

*Photo by Jean-Marc Giboux*

Despite the dramatic drop in polio cases in the last year, the threat of continued transmission due to funding and immunization gaps has driven the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) to launch the Global Polio Emergency Action Plan 2012-13.

The plan aims to boost vaccination coverage in the three remaining polio-endemic countries -- Nigeria, Pakistan, and Afghanistan -- to levels needed to stop polio transmission. Health ministers meeting at the World Health Assembly in Geneva adopted a resolution on 25 May that declared "the completion of polio eradication to be a programmatic emergency for global public health."

Polio eradication activities have resulted in several landmark successes since 2010. India, long regarded as the nation facing the greatest challenges to eradication, was removed from the list of polio-endemic countries by the World Health Organization (WHO) in February. Outbreaks in previously polio-free countries were nearly all stopped.

During that same time span, however, polio outbreaks in China and West Africa due to importation from Pakistan and Nigeria, respectively, have highlighted the continued threat of resurgence. Failure to eradicate the disease could lead within a decade to paralysis of as many as 200,000 children per year worldwide.

"Polio eradication is at a tipping point between success and failure," says Dr. Margaret Chan, director-general of WHO. "We are in emergency mode to tip it towards success -- working faster and better, focusing on the areas where children are most vulnerable."

Eradicating polio would generate net benefits of US\$40-50 billion globally by 2035, with the bulk of savings in the poorest countries, based on investments made since the GPEI was formed, savings from reduced treatment costs, and gains in productivity.

"We know polio can be eradicated, and our success in India proves it," says Rotary International President Kalyan Banerjee. "It is now a question of political and societal will. Do we choose to deliver a polio-free world to future generations, or do we choose to allow 55 cases this year to turn into 200,000 children paralyzed for life, every single year?"

**Global emergency action plan**

The GPEI's emergency action plan was developed in coordination with new national emergency plans. The plan builds on India's success and outlines a range of new strategies and initiatives to better support polio eradication efforts, including:

Intensified focus on the worst-performing areas of Nigeria, Pakistan, and Afghanistan to increase vaccination coverage by the end of 2012 to levels needed to stop transmission

New approaches tailored to each country to tackle persistent challenges and improve polio vaccination campaign performance

Heightened accountability, coordination, and oversight to ensure success at every level of government and within every partner agency and organization

A surge of technical assistance and social mobilization capacity

Full funding of new plan critical

Already, funding shortages have forced the GPEI to cancel or scale back critical immunization activities in 24 high-risk countries, leaving more children vulnerable to the disease and polio-free countries exposed to the risk of reintroduced transmission.

"All our efforts are at risk until all children are fully immunized against polio -- and that means fully funding the global eradication effort and reaching the children we have not yet reached," says UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake. "We have come so far in the battle against this crippling disease. We can now make history -- or later be condemned by history for failing."

Full implementation of the emergency action plan is hindered by a funding gap of nearly \$1 billion through 2013.

"We are all responsible for creating a polio-free world while we still can," says Chris Elias, president of global development at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. "Achieving this goal is a critical step in protecting all children from vaccine-preventable diseases."

**Working in emergency mode.**

Since the start of 2012, the GPEI has moved its operations into emergency mode. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has activated its Emergency Operations Center, UNICEF has officially activated an Interdivisional Emergency Coordinating Committee operating directly under the deputy executive director, and WHO has moved its polio operations to its Strategic Health Operations Centre.

Such measures are reserved for responding to global health emergencies, such as the H1N1 pandemic and the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami -- and will generate a massive surge in technical capacity, real-time tracking of program performance, and immediate implementation of corrective action plans as necessary. In March, The Rotary Foundation Trustees reaffirmed that polio eradication is the Foundation's urgent priority. In addition, Rotary senior leaders have launched a series of one-on-one meetings with the heads of state of the polio-endemic countries.

"We need everyone's commitment and hard work to eradicate polio and cross the finish line," says Dr. Thomas Frieden, director of CDC. "It won't be easy, but together we can eradicate polio forever and for everyone."

**RLI One Day Rotary Orientation Course Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2012

**Venue:** Rotary Prakash Bhavan, DD 18/3, Sector-I, Salt Lake Registration

**Charges:** Rs. 400/- only. **Time:** 9am to 5-30pm

## Why Congress' support for polio eradication means so much to me

-By Grant Wilkins, past RI director and member of the Rotary Club of Denver, Colorado, USA.

In 1951, as a young father of three children ages 5, 2, and 3-months (the youngest born prematurely and still in the hospital), I contracted Bulbar Polio.

My throat and vocal cords were paralyzed, and I couldn't talk or swallow. A tracheotomy and intravenous feedings kept me alive for two weeks until the paralysis started letting up.

My wife came to visit me for the first time after those two weeks, and mentioned she wasn't feeling well. A spinal tap found she had the Lumbar Polio virus, and she was immediately admitted to the polio ward. Within 24 hours, she was completely paralyzed from the neck down and could not breathe on her own.

I recovered from the virus within a few months following voice lessons, therapy, etc. But my wife remained in an iron lung for two and a half years. In 1954, a chest respirator was invented that helped her to breathe, and she was allowed to come home. We built a house equipped with a hospital bed and other medical equipment, and hired an around the clock nurse to help care for her.

She never regained any movement, but was able to breathe and talk when her respirator worked. Power failures caused anxious moments many times during the 13 years she lived after contracting polio. Our three children grew up with a mother who couldn't do anything physical for them, but gave them vocal guidance the best that she could. She couldn't hug them, feed them, go to school with them, dress them. They learned how to help with their mother every day, as well as help me with daily chores.

Polio is a horrible and devastating disease which can ruin individual lives and greatly impact the lives of families.

Through Rotary's Polio Plus program launched in 1985, I have been able to be active in a worldwide effort to eradicate this dreaded disease from our planet. It is an historic endeavor and the U.S. Congress has been a leader through contributions of over US\$2 billion to the cause. Rotary International's investment exceeds \$1 billion, with additional funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and many other governments.

Of course, this program would not have been possible without the technical oversight of the World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF. I am also proud to say that my Denver Rotary Club is among the clubs that have contributed the most toward polio eradication.

(Grant Wilkins is a member of Rotary's Polio Eradication Advocacy Task Force for the United States, which works to encourage the leadership of the U.S. Government to support polio eradication. This week, Wilkins attended the 2012 reception to recognize Congressional Champions of Polio Eradication held in the U.S. Capitol on 24 April.)



## Minutes of the Meeting

Meeting no 1054

Dated 25.05.2012

President called meeting no. 1054 to order.

President welcomed members of RCC, Santyasree Ashram & Rtn.

Debkumar Mitra from Rotary Club of Charnock City.

National Anthem led by Rtn. Sripati Pradhan

Minutes of the last meeting confirmed.

### Discussions:

- President and the members of the club discussed with the members of the RCC about their activities through out the year and about the requirements of the ROTA school.
- President informed the club that the application of Mr. Sambhunath Tarafdar for financial support for getting his 1yr. 4mth. Daughter, Baby Rikta Tarafdar to be operated for a heart disease, has been forwarded to Rotary India Heart Foundation for approval and execution.

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

Having no other business, President terminated the meeting.

Members Present: 8 Sunshine Collected : Rs. 160/-

## Thought of the Day

*Everything comes to us that belongs to us if we create the capacity to receive it. - Rabindranath Tagore*

## DISTRICT 3291 UPCOMING EVENTS

1. 9<sup>th</sup> June : Rotaquiz at Rotary Sadan from 3 to 6.30pm.
2. 16<sup>th</sup> June RCC district Award Ceremony from 3 to 6.30pm

## 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 ?**

**GLOBAL  
POLIO ERADICATION  
INITIATIVE**



**every last child**