



Spectrum



RI District 3291

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Viewers appreciate Ambaree's virtual presentation on Environment



About fifty viewers, spread globally, appreciated presentation of Ms Ambaree Majumder, member of Rotary Club of Marina City, Singapore, on "Rotary's Role in 'Protecting the Environment'"

Held on Saturday, August 6, 2022 from 18.30 hours IST onward, when Dr Himansu basu, Past Governor, UK, nearing 90, might had advanced his lunch and the participants of Japan might had postponed their sleeps or weekend celebrations. Rotary members, who joined from Nepal, Pakistan, Nigeria and different places of India, outside Calcutta, had visual and vocal expressions of concern about Environment



Convenor of the program PP Dr Aruna Tantia of RCLSMK, on behalf of zone 9 of RI District 3291, welcomed everyone. She anchored the entire program.



Past Governor Rajkumar Rajgharia, the keynote speaker, began with referring Past Rotary International President Paulo VC Costa, who made the environment one of his primary causes more than 30 years ago.

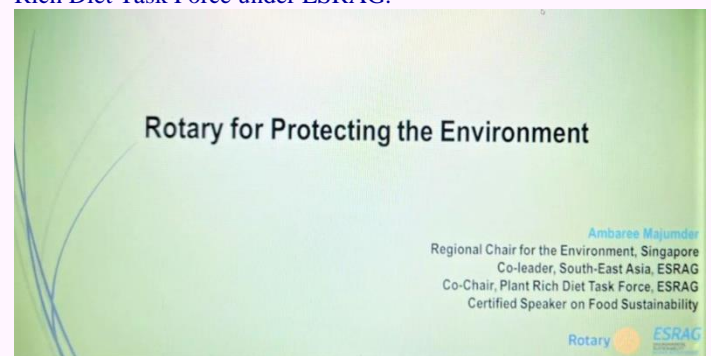
Paulo created a Preserve Planet Earth program and committee to examine ways that clubs and members could plan and carry out environmental initiatives. The program, extended into 1999, led to many environmentally focused projects.

His vision, though lived on in the hearts of many Rotary members like past Governor Rajkumar, took back seat after his death in 2000. Twenty years later, In June 2020, the RI Board of Directors and the Rotary Foundation Trustees unanimously approved adding a new area of focus: the environment.

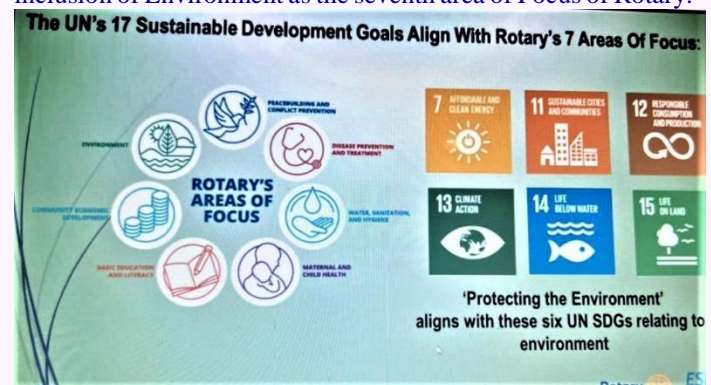
Following that Past RI President Ian HS Riseley, chair of the Environmental Issues task force, which championed the new area of focus said, "We have finally caught up to [his] vision." GM Kapoor, Assistant Governor, Community Service Non-Medical, while sharing District program on Environment, stressed upon planting of saplings of trees in association with Kolkata Municipal Corporation.

Amit Goswami, Zonal Assistant Governor, shared zonal Environment protection initiatives that included, among others, gainful management of electronic and non-biodegradable polymer wastes.

Kusum Chamaria, club secretary and past President RCLSMK introduced Ambaree, the speaker of the evening, to the audience as a Singapore based IT professional from Calcutta, who is a Social Entrepreneur, Speaker and Educator in the field of Plant based Lifestyle. PP Kusum further added that Ambaree is the Regional Environmental Chair of Singapore, Co-Leader of the Southeast Asian Chapter of the Environmental and Sustainability Rotary Action Group or ESRAG and also the Co-Chair of the Plant-Rich Diet Task Force under ESRAG.



Ambaree began referring PDG Rajkumar's expression of Preserve Planet Earth vision of 1990-91 Rotary International President Paulo VC Costa followed by UN's millennium goal and finally inclusion of Environment as the seventh area of Focus of Rotary.



While explaining with illustrations, Rotary's role in respect of sustainable implementation of the seventh area of focus, Ambaree shared the following Rotary Foundation supported ways of enhancing environment:



- Protecting and restoring land, coastal, marine, and freshwater resources
- Enhancing the capacity of communities to support natural resource management and conservation
- Supporting sustainable agriculture, fishing, and aquaculture practices
- Addressing the cause of climate change by reducing the emission of greenhouse gases
- Strengthening ecosystems and communities affected by climate change
- Supporting education initiatives that promote behavior that protects the environment
- Advocating for sustainable consumption to build an economy that uses resources more efficiently
- Addressing environmental justice issues and public health concerns

Responding to a Rotary member from Nigeria on selection of appropriate Environmental Protection Project for his country, Ambaree urged him to identify local Environmental Protection need and its economic and sustainable solution.



As an example, Ambaree cited her club's Global Grant Project on Environment Protection of planting growing and upkeep of Mangrove forests for coastal soil erosion flood that would ensure sustainable economy in local community.

Providing Clean-cooking Technologies: Part Of A Holistic Approach To Reduce Or Eliminate The Burning Of Biomass And Fossil Fuels



<https://www.solarcookers.org>

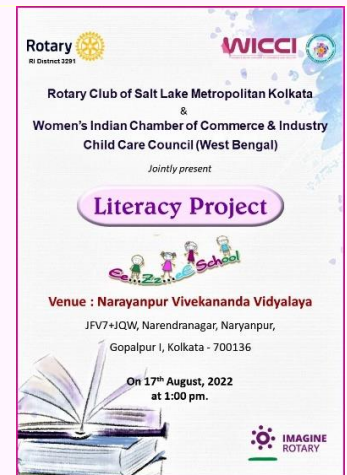
Cleaner, more efficient cook stoves

- use less fuel
- healthier indoor Air
- less money spent on fuel
- reduced burden on women and girls
- reduced deforestation
- safer cooking

Rotary ESRAG

Responding to the dichotomy raised by past Governor Dr Himansu Basu, citing deforestation being livelihood of poor people on the banks of Amazon, environment protection gets compromised with growth of population, Ambaree suggested finding climatic and economic impact of potential solutions to learn which ones would yield the best results for people and the planet
She shared how change of food habit could save environment grossly and feed growing world human population at ease.
Dr Kalpana Roychoudhury of Rotary Salt Lake Downtown offered vote of thanks

RCSLMK's initiative of Health and Literacy Projects at Schools



Post Platinum Independence Day celebration of the nation, RCSLMK shall initiate conducting Eye Screening and Dental Checkup of students in schools in association with WICCI WB Child care council. RCSLMK member Rtn Rajesh Chirimar's effective coordination with some local schools enabled the club, till date, finalize the following dates at the stated herein schools for holding the stated screening and checkup's:

1. At Narayanpur Vivekananda Bidyalay, Narendranagar, Kolkata 700136 on Wednesday, August 17, 2022 from 13.00 hours onward. Target number of students would be about 400.
2. At Siddhartha Nagar Vidyasagar Uchcho Bidyalay, Siddhartha Nagar, Kestopur, Kolkata 700102 on Saturday, August 20, 2022 from 13.00 hours onward. Target number of students would be about 400
3. At Dashadrone Free Primary School on Saturday, August 27, 2022 from 13.00 hours onward. Target number of students would be about 150

Two more Eye Screening and Dental Checkups for students in schools are slated to be held on Saturdays, September 3, 2022 and September 10, 2022. Rtn Rajesh Chirimar is coordinating with target schools to let RCSLMK finalize venues and timings soon.

At the aforesaid venues, under Literacy Project, President Archana and club Secretary, PP Kusum have proposed to drive distribution among students of Note Books and Geometry Boxes respectively, Rtn Rajesh Chirimar shall coordinate with schools for mobilizing students

Rtn Dr Ajit Majumder shall drive Eye Screening and Rtn PP Ankush Bansal shall drive Dental Checkups.

PP Dr Aruna shall coordinate, lead and report the entire project. Further, she has plan to teach girl students on necessity and practices needed for Menstrual Hygiene.

How Rotarians are already fighting climate change

By Diana Schoberg

Rotarians are doers. Show them a problem and they look for solutions. But a global problem such as climate change might seem daunting to even the most resourceful Rotary member.

Break that complex problem down into smaller pieces, however, and you find there are many things Rotarians can do and are already doing, with help from The Rotary Foundation.

A coalition of researchers and scientists led by environmentalist and writer Paul Hawken mathematically modeled the climatic and economic impact of potential solutions to learn which ones would yield the best results for people and the planet. The list, compiled

in a 2017 book called "*Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*," included some surprising possibilities, such as educating girls, promoting family planning, and assisting farmers. As it happens, all of those align with Rotary's areas of focus.

Drawdown researchers ranked solutions from 1 to 80 based on their potential to avert or reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We looked at those rankings alongside global grant projects to see how Rotarians are already helping to fight climate change.

Family planning: Drawdown ranking: 7



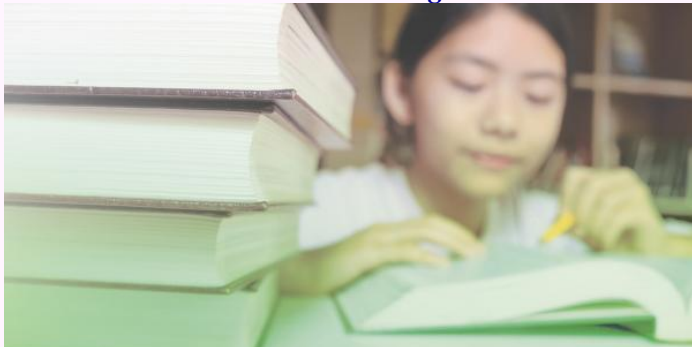
In lower-income countries, the Drawdown authors write, 214 million women who want more control over their pregnancies lack access to contraception, which leads to about 74 million unintended pregnancies each year.

Giving women the health care they want and need also benefits the planet, reducing population growth as well as greenhouse gas emissions.

Pregnant women who gave interviews to Rotarians in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, said that family planning was their top priority - a sentiment echoed by their families and doctors.

This led the Rotary clubs of Finot, Ethiopia, and Darmstadt, Germany, to develop a global grant project that trained skilled birth attendants and midwives in three health centers to provide family planning counseling. Medical staff also conducted home-based counseling for 1,500 women and organized a family planning workshop for 90 women who were receiving obstetric care.

Girls' education Drawdown ranking: 6



A woman with no schooling has four or five more children than a woman with 12 years of schooling, which means that educating girls will have a huge impact on population growth.

While the regions of the world with growing populations are often the ones with the lowest per capita carbon emissions, reducing fertility rates will still have massive benefits - not only for the planet but also in reducing intergenerational poverty. And, the Drawdown authors note, one study found that educating girls is the single most important factor in reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, which occur more frequently with the extreme weather events associated with climate change.

In Bosnia-Herzegovina, about 90 percent of Roma women are illiterate and less than 15 percent of Roma children go to school, leaving them vulnerable to human trafficking, among other things. The Rotary clubs of Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Denver, Colorado, partnered with a local nonprofit on a global grant project that mentored 80 families with at-risk girls. Twenty students from the University of Bosnia volunteered as mentors, and 15 Roma girls enrolled in school as part of the effort. Organizers estimate that at least 1,000 parents, teachers, and girls in 20 communities learned about the importance of gender equality in education through printed materials and workshops.

Regenerative agriculture Drawdown ranking: 11



Regenerative agriculture practices include avoiding the use of plows to keep from disturbing the soil; planting a diverse array of cover crops; and limiting or abstaining from pesticides and synthetic fertilizers. These methods boost the amount of organic matter - carbon - in the soil, improving its health and that of the plants growing in it.

According to the Drawdown authors, regenerative agriculture increases organic matter in the soil between 4 percent and 7 percent over 10 years, representing an additional 25 tons to 60 tons of carbon stored in the ground per acre. That reduces the need for fertilizer - which means regenerative agriculture can help cut carbon in the atmosphere while increasing farmers' production.

Forty people from Meihua village, Taiwan, were trained in organic farming techniques through a global grant project of the Rotary clubs of Taipei Lungmen, Taiwan, and Patumwan, Thailand.

The effort, carried out in partnership with the Organic Farming Association of Taiwan, included creating a training facility and providing internships at organic farms. Organizers expected that growing without pesticides would lower farming costs and that selling organic vegetables at a premium price would improve villagers' earnings.

Reduced food waste Drawdown ranking: 3



One-third of the fruits and vegetables, meat, and other food the world produces never gets eaten. Instead, it rots unharvested in fields, spoils in storage, or sits forgotten in the back of the refrigerator, only to end up in the garbage.

The production of uneaten food squanders resources such as energy, land, and fertilizer. In landfills, food waste generates methane, a greenhouse gas. From start to finish, uneaten food is responsible for releasing the equivalent of 4.4 million gigatons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere each year, the Drawdown authors write.

Centroabastos, a food wholesaler in Bucaramanga, Colombia, generates about 20 tons of organic solid waste per day. The Rotary clubs of Bucaramanga Nuevo Milenio, Colombia, and Woodland Hills, California, are working with the company's nonprofit arm to set up a center that will use the surplus produce to provide training in safe food handling and processing. The project is expected to reduce food waste by 15 percent while creating employment opportunities.

Rooftop solar Drawdown ranking: 10



The sun is an underused energy source: The Drawdown authors note that less than 2 percent of the world's electricity is generated through solar photovoltaic panels. However, the panels have become more widely adopted over the past decade as the technology has grown more affordable.

Homeowners and power utilities are beginning to replace or supplement fossil fuels with solar panels as a source of electricity. And the more than 1 billion people in developing parts of the world who rely on kerosene lamps and diesel generators can now use affordable clean energy instead. That could make solar energy a powerful tool for eliminating poverty, even as it dramatically reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

In Gressier, Haiti, the power grid near the Respire Haiti Christian School is unreliable, so the school for orphans and disadvantaged children used a diesel generator to operate the pump for its well. The Rotary clubs of Leogane, Haiti, and Parker, Colorado, led a global grant project to install a hybrid solar, diesel, and grid power system. The school saved \$4,000 a year in fuel costs and reduced air and noise pollution. The hybrid system also powers interior and exterior lighting, computers, fans, and educational tools. A new water distribution system, which uses the hybrid power, and a literacy program were also part of the grant.

Tropical forests Drawdown ranking: 5



Tropical forests once covered 12 percent of the world's land; today, it's 5 percent. According to the Drawdown authors, that loss accounts for up to 19 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions caused by humans.

Reforestation would enhance the planet's ability to absorb carbon dioxide through photosynthesis while providing wildlife habitat, contributing to flood control, and conserving soil and water. But to be sustainable, the authors note, reforestation must demonstrate immediate social and economic value.

The Maromizaha forest in eastern Madagascar is home to 13 species of lemurs, 77 species of birds, 60 species of amphibians, and a rich assortment of other flora and fauna. But it's threatened by a push for new agricultural lands and a need for charcoal as fuel in nearby villages.

The Rotary clubs of Antananarivo-Tsimbaroa, Madagascar; Torino Mole Antonelliana, Italy; and Annecy Tournette, France, partnered with a local nonprofit on a project to reforest about 125 acres with native species grown from wild seed, creating jobs for area families and a tourism infrastructure. Rotarians also trained women in gardening techniques, constructed toilets, and provided 500 improved cook-stoves that reduced the families' dependence on charcoal.



Anshul Agrawal, President Elect, RCSLMK is felicitated with framed \$-Way Test as Guest speaker at the Rotary Club of Birtamode Midtown Nepal, District 3292

Brief outline of the Global Grant 1991152

Purpose: 'Fight against Anemia in Women'

Objectives: Treat women of Anemia by screening and treatment and prevent by educating them

Title: 'Matri-Raksha' - protection of mothers

Scope of work: Provide screening camps, minor and major surgeries, medicines, awareness training, healthcare professional training and providing diagnostic equipment at community health centers

Coverage: Both districts of 24 Parganas, West Bengal, India

Sponsors: Rotary clubs of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata of District 3291, India and Nidau-Biel, Biel-Bienne, Biel-Buttenberg of District 1990, Switzerland:

Grant Partners: Rotary Foundation India, the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International,

Associates: Related Government and civic bodies, NGO's

QUOTE

"Everything you've ever wanted is on the other side of fear." - George Addair

UNWIND

From Washington DC Airport ticket agent:

I got a call from a lawmaker's wife (Landra Reid) who asked, "Is it possible to see England from Canada?"

I said, "No."

She said, "But they look so close on the map" (OMG, again!)

Birthdays of club members in August 2022

Club President IPP Archana Goyal on August 11, 2022

Club Secretary PP Kusum Chamaria on August 23, 2022

August Is Membership & New Club Development month

TAILPIECE

Stephanie A Urchick is selected to be the 2024-25 president of Rotary International

By Ryan Hyland



Stephanie A Urchick, of the Rotary Club of McMurray, Pennsylvania, USA, is the selection of the Nominating Committee for President of Rotary International for 2024-25. She will be declared the president-nominee on 1 October if no challenging candidates have been suggested.