





PEACE AND CONFLICT  
PREVENTION / RESOLUTION



DISEASE PREVENTION  
AND TREATMENT



WATER AND  
SANITATION



MATERNAL AND  
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION AND  
LITERACY



ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT



SUPPORTING THE  
ENVIRONMENT

## RI President Stephanie A Urchick – February's Message

This month, as we come together for the International Assembly and the Presidential Peace Conference, we celebrate The Magic of Rotary — a unique blend of global connection, vision, and action that empowers us to create lasting change.



One of the most inspiring examples is our Rotary Peace Fellowship program, a cornerstone of Rotary's mission to build a more peaceful and just world.

For more than 23 years, Rotary Peace Fellowships have been transforming communities. Our Rotary Peace Centres, hosted at leading universities around the globe, have educated over 1,800 fellows who now work in more than 140 countries.

These centres cultivate expertise in fields like conflict resolution, sustainable development, and peacebuilding, preparing fellows to tackle some of the world's most pressing challenges. This program exemplifies how Rotary turns vision into action, creating a ripple effect of hope and change.

This month during the Presidential Peace Conference, we celebrate a significant milestone with the opening of our newest peace centre in Istanbul. This centre will focus on training leaders to address peacebuilding challenges in the Middle East and North Africa, further extending Rotary's impact.

Peace fellows are dedicated champions of transformation, addressing critical issues such as refugee resettlement, youth and women's empowerment, and reconciliation in conflict zones. Many founded vital organizations or hold leadership roles in governments, nongovernmental organizations, and international institutions like the United Nations and World Bank.

One inspiring story is that of Ntang Julius Meleng, a 2024 Rotary Peace Fellow at Makerere University in Uganda. Through his Social Change Initiative, Julius has worked to empower young people in Cameroon to take active roles in peacebuilding and leadership.

His project provided training in conflict prevention, civic engagement, and leadership to youths and community officials in areas affected by conflict, equipping people to drive sustainable peace efforts.

Julius harnessed Rotary's global network to overcome obstacles, including limited funding and security risks, and make a meaningful impact.

The Rotary Peace Fellowship gave Julius the tools and support to turn his vision into reality. His work embodies **The Magic of Rotary** — the transformative power of connecting people, sharing resources, and uniting for a common purpose.

As we reflect on the achievements of our peace fellows and celebrate Rotary's enduring commitment to peace, let us also recognize the role that everyone in our network of 1.2 million members plays in creating magic through service.

Together, we can amplify our impact, inspire new generations of leaders, and build a brighter, more peaceful future.







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Rotary Garden Reach on January 28th, 2025 celebrated the Vocational Excellence Awards by felicitating Mrs. Munmun Ray of Ramakrishna Gayatri Sevashram, Dongaria for her benevolence contribution towards the less fortunate children & Mr. Ramanna Rao who alone planted 2000 trees in two years. We salute the good work done.

The evening concluded with a deliberation by Rtn. Dr. Purnendu Roy of Rotary Kolkata Benevolence and the Chairman & MD of Genesis Group of Companies. Rtn. Dr. Purnendu's speech was very light-hearted and uplifting. He spoke on various anecdotes from his life.







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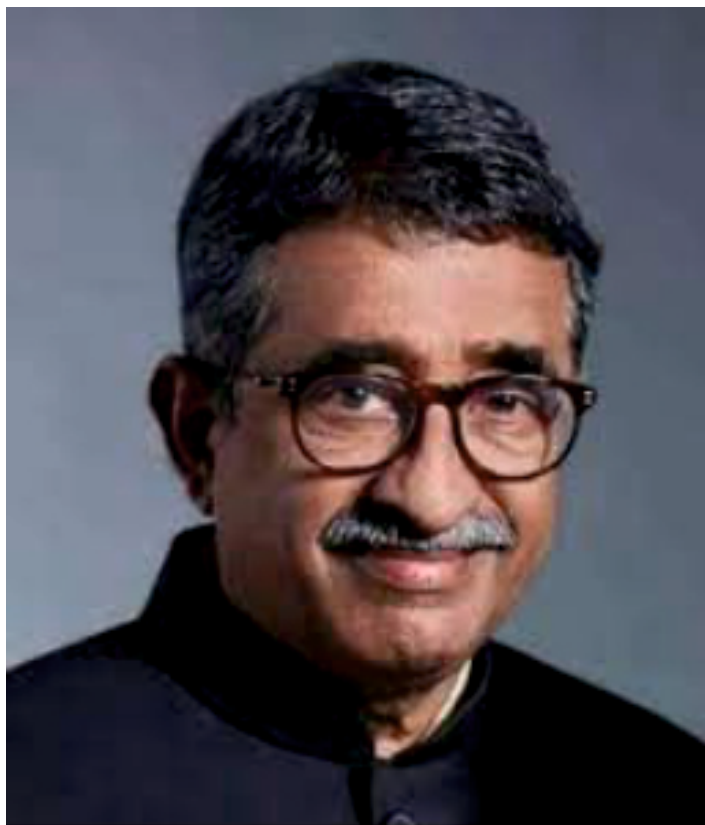
## Rotary's commitment to Peace, growth & giving

Raju Subramanian, RI Director, 2023-25

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

As we mark Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution Month, let's confront the stark reality of conflicts' devastating impact. The numbers are staggering: over 108 million lives lost since World War II, with 2,000 deaths daily. Today, 40 active conflicts have displaced 82.4 million people, including 26.6 million refugees. But beyond the statistics, we must recognise the human toll: families torn apart, communities shattered, and economies crippled. The \$14.3 trillion price tag of violence is a stark reminder of the urgent need for collective action.

As Rotarians, we're part of a global movement that's been championing peace and conflict resolution for decades. Our Peace Fellowships, global grants and grassroots projects empower communities to build bridges, foster dialogue and heal wounds. Let's recommit to supporting initiatives that bring people together, alleviate suffering and create pathways to lasting peace. By working together, we can ensure that Rotary remains a powerful force for good in a world that needs it now more than ever. I am pleased to announce that our next peace centre is being established at the Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul, Turkey. The Presidential Peace Conference is planned to commemorate the setting up of this new peace centre from Feb 20–22 in Istanbul. Let us attend this conference to understand and be a part of the Peace Mission of Rotary. Also, for the first time a South Asia Peace Conference is being held in Bengaluru on March 22 and 23. I encourage you to attend this conference and lend your voice to our efforts to create a more harmonious world.



In today's fast-paced, ever-evolving world, member retention is crucial for Rotary's continued relevance and impact. As our service initiatives grow in stature, attracting committed and successful individuals, it's essential that we meaningfully engage our members to foster a sense of belonging and purpose. By doing so, we can harness their energy, expertise and passion to drive positive change. If we fail to retain our members, we risk losing valuable talent, expertise and institutional knowledge, ultimately undermining our ability to adapt and thrive. However, if every Rotarian takes ownership of retaining just one new member, it will have a profound ripple effect, strengthening our collective impact and ensuring a vibrant future for our organisation. The need is sustainable membership growth to ensure that we have more hands to serve and strengthen our organisation.

The Rotary Foundation is our tree of life, nourished over a century and sustaining us today. To reach our \$2.025 billion target, we must work together, and I'm proud to see Zones 4, 5, 6 and 7 evolve from major recipients to significant contributors. However, with only a small percentage of members contributing annually, I urge you to open your hearts and wallets, recognising every gift, big or small, makes a difference. Let's promote a culture of giving and ensure our Foundation's continued impact, transforming lives worldwide and continuing our journey of creating magic in our communities and beyond.







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Rtn. Shubhayan Sengupta has been unanimously elected as the Club Secretary for the Rotary Year 2025-26 and the Club President for the Rotary Year 2027-28.

The Board of Rotary Garden Reach heartily congratulates PND Shubhayan & Spouse Abhileena and wishes them a 'Golden Year' in Rotary.



## A day with the RI President at the Rotary Peace Center in Japan

Tom Gump, Aide to the RI President & RI Director-nominee

*Much has been written about RI President Stephanie Urchick's initiative of using the Rotary Action Plan to grow **Rotary**. Recently, I witnessed her living another of her major initiatives – “**Healing in a Divided World**,” which focuses on Rotary's peace efforts. Interesting trivia about our president – by the end of her term, she will have visited every **Rotary Peace Center** in the world. Stephanie's trip to the Peace Center at International Christian University (ICU) in Japan on 11 December was a trip I will never forget.*



### ICU's College of Liberal Arts

RI Director Mick Isao Mizuno, from Japan, arranged for our transport to the Peace Center. We were kindly greeted by the Chair of the peace center, Professor Arakaki, members of his staff, a current Rotary Peace Fellow and the Host Area Coordinator. Arakaki gave us a history of the non-denominational private university, established in 1949, after the end of World War II. It came about in part through the efforts of Prince Takamatsu and US General Douglas MacArthur and was the first liberal arts college in Japan.

After a rigorous application and venting process by the Rotary International board, which included a competition with other universities, **ICU became one of the original Rotary Peace Center and the only one in Asia** (home to a little over a third of all Rotary members). ICU provides a Master's Degree Program in fields related to Peace and Conflict Resolution and Prevention and is one of seven Rotary Peace Centers.

### Campus tour

Under a perfectly blue sky, we embarked on a tour of the campus led by Associate Director Walter P Dawson. The campus is nestled in a forest, affording a clear view of snow-capped Mt. Fuji from the top floor of its tallest academic building. Smiling students passed us by as they rode around campus on their bicycles. I had a peaceful feeling just being there. To me it is the perfect setting for a peace center.






But it wasn't always like this. Before it was a university, the site contained an assembly plant for war planes. It is interesting to think how much the purpose of the land has changed. Our tour director shared that at the time the university was founded, there was a big debate whether all the buildings should be demolished or whether some should be kept and renovated. In the end, they decided to leave one building to preserve the area's history.

The remaining building, which used to have a gun turret on each side of its roof to protect the warplane assembly.

### Press interview

A meeting had been set up for Mr. Shigeru Seno, a senior staff writer for Nikkei and Nikkei Asia to interview President Stephanie virtually. Nikkei is the world's largest financial newspaper, with a daily circulation exceeding 1.73 million. The outlet comprehensively covers Asian business, politics, economics, and culture. The interview covered many topics including President Stephanie's plans for the remainder of her term, her perspective on how close we are to eradicating polio, how best to promote female leadership in Japan, the 2025 Rotary Presidential Peace Conference 20-22 February in Istanbul, Türkiye, the importance of adapting to change (a pillar of Rotary's Action Plan), and ongoing issues in the Middle East.

**As we listen, Director Mizuno and I were inspired by her answers to the questions and her main message points:**

-  **Rotary is a forward-looking, diverse, global humanitarian membership organization that does the world's best service.**
-  **People join and remain members of Rotary because they're eager to create positive change in their communities and the world.**
-  **Rotary members make meaningful friendships and grow professionally through leadership opportunities and networking.**
-  **Rotary has made peacebuilding the cornerstone of our global mission. Creating peaceful, welcoming, and inclusive societies is at the heart of what we're about. We believe that when people work to create peace in their communities, it has a global effect.**
-  **Rotary's work is defined through our seven areas of focus, which are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.**

### Final reflections

On the ride back to Yokohama to attend the 53rd Rotary Institute, I could not help but reflect on the current state of our world and realize just how blessed I am to be a member of Rotary with its focus on positive peace. (Excerpts)







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## **Minutes of the 2298th RWM held on January 28th, 2025 at BNR Officers' Club, Garden Reach**

- 1. President Biswajit Saha called the RWM to order and requested the members to rise for the National Anthem.**
- 2. Being the Vocational Excellence Award, President welcomed the awardees to the RWM. We had a guest in Rtn. Dr. Purnendu Roy who was warmly welcomed by the members.**
- 3. The Official AG Visit is scheduled for February 4th, 2025. The project documents were uploaded and the final status of documentation was discussed.**
- 4. The President and the members agreed to have the DG's Official Visit in the Library Hall on March 4th, 2025.**
- 5. President Biswajit requested the Club RCC Chair to evaluate our RCCs and report the same at the earliest.**
- 6. Club Secretary conducted the club business.**
- 7. On confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting, President Biswajit terminated the meeting.**