

Rotary



BLISS



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1615th Regular Meeting

Charter on : 12.06.1986

We meet every alternate Thursday at THE ANTELOPE, 3, Ho Chi Minh Sarani, Kolkata - 700071 at 8.00 pm.

Rtn Subasish Halder
President

Rtn Swapnamita Roy
Secretary

Rtn Sukanta Khan
Treasurer

PP Rtn Chandra Kumar Paul
Editor

ROTARY HEALTHY COMMUNITIES CHALLENGE WILL STRENGTHEN HEALTH SYSTEMS IN FOUR COUNTRIES

By Etelka Lehoczky

The Rotary Healthy Communities Challenge, a three-year, US\$30 million program to combat disease in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Zambia, has officially launched. Rotary International is partnering with the Gates Foundation and World Vision to target pneumonia, malaria, and diarrheal diseases, which are among the leading causes of death for young children and other vulnerable populations in these countries.

“Our goal is to empower communities by strengthening their health systems, ensuring that every child has access to life-saving care,” says Larry Mapani, the program’s lead in Zambia and a member of the Rotary Club of Kitwe, Zambia. “This program not only addresses urgent health challenges but also lays the groundwork for a healthier future, where all children can thrive and reach their full potential.” The Rotary Healthy Communities Challenge aims to reach an estimated 3.5 million people in 700,000 households. In addition to treating the targeted diseases, it will engage communities, raise awareness about the importance of treating disease early, and improve the collection and management of data. The latter are essential for accurate health reporting and informed decision making.

“This initiative marks a significant milestone in our shared fight against childhood health challenges,” says Marc Nosbach, World Vision’s national director for Zambia. “It demonstrates the power of united values and collective dedication when it comes to creating sustainable, lasting change for those most in need.”

Despite substantial declines over the last 20 years, malaria, lower respiratory infections, and diarrheal diseases remain among the leading causes of death for children under five in sub-Saharan Africa. These three diseases killed about a million children in the region in 2017 alone, according to a 2021 study.

The Rotary Healthy Communities Challenge uses an approach similar to that of Partners for a Malaria-Free Zambia, the highly successful recipient of Rotary’s first Programs of Scale award, in 2021. Like that program, the Healthy Communities Challenge will collaborate with local partners to strengthen existing health systems. It will train, equip, and deploy thousands of community health workers to reach children where they live.

“Rotary is committed to improving health outcomes by empowering communities,” says Aloysius Dele Balogun, the program lead in Nigeria and a member of the Rotary Club of Agege, Lagos State, Nigeria. “Through this initiative, we are equipping our community health care workers with the tools and training necessary to deliver life-saving services right where they are needed the most.”

By training health workers and bolstering medical resources at the local level, the program is expected to yield benefits for each country far into the future.

“Community health workers are the heart of a resilient health system. Empowering them with the right tools and information can transform lives,” says Abigail Pratt, senior program officer at the Gates Foundation. “This next phase of our partnership with World Vision and Rotary International will help ensure these dedicated individuals have the resources they need to protect children and build healthier communities.”



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Minutes of the 1614th Regular Meeting of Rotary Club of Calcutta North East held at The Antelope, 3, Ho Chi Minh Sarani, Kolkata - 700071 on 16.01.25 at 8.00 PM.

- ❖ President Rtn Subhasish Halder called the meeting to order followed by National Anthem lead by PP Rtn Sujit Dutt. President wished “a very Happy New year” to all the member and member family in the meeting.
- ❖ President informed about the successfully completion of project “Virangana”. President attended the project along with Club Treasurer Rtn Sukanta Khan. Instructor Anindya Banerjee, Dietitian Albira Aziz, and Psychologist Srijita Kar were present to train the participants.
- ❖ President then informed about that joint project “Kalakranti” with Rotary Club of South Extension on 4th January 2025. Club will contribute Rs. 3000/- towards the same.
- ❖ President then announced about the District Governor election 2027-28 and Rtn Purnendu Roy Chowdhury is elected as the District Governor for Rotary Year 27-28. and PDG Ajay Agarwal is elected as Nominating Committee Member for RI Director. All the club members extended their good wishes.
- ❖ President then announced about the District conference which was held on 3rd 4th and 5th January 2025 at Eastside Pavillion , Nocco Park. President, PP Biswajit Chowdhury, PP Subhasish Ghosh and Rtn Sabysachi Roy attended the District Conference.
- ❖ President announced that Global Grant Project is approved. A meeting is going to be held at Jadavpur University on 21st of January 2025. Club Global Grant team will be attending the same along with President.
- ❖ President then informed about “Hridaya”, a car rally project by RC Calcutta Old City for the fund raising for paediatric open heart operation surgery on 19th January 2025. Registration per vehicle Rs. 2000/-. President requested all the member to participate. PP Rtn Chandra Paul donated Rs. 10000/- and Club President and Club Secretary Rtn Swapnamita Roy have registered.
- ❖ President then informed about the appeal from “Pratham Padakshep for supporting their annual sports day. Club will sponsor the Tiffin cost of Rs. 2500/-.
- ❖ President then informed about the construction is completed Hooghly Hozaghata School project. President will talk to the school authority and fixed up a date for inauguration.
- ❖ President informed about the RLI - Part III is scheduled for those who have already finished Part I and Part II.
- ❖ President then called upon Club Secretary to describe the project proposed by “MONOSCOPE” an organisation working on mental health and psychology. They are organising an awareness program on Child protection and POSCO ACT. They have approached for arranging the venue. President will request PP Rtn Shubadip Roy to provide his banquet for hosting the event.
- ❖ President then informed about the request received by PP Rtn Ramprasad Chattopadhyay to donate 2 nos of Sewing Machine to Mahisbathan Krishnapur Unnayan Samiti for their Self-reliant project. It is decided that out of the 4nos of sewing Machine, 2nos will be donated. This project will be held on 2nd of February 2025 at Kestopore.
- ❖ President then informed that 50 nos of blanket received from district will be handed over to PP Rtn Biswajit Choudhuri for the upcoming project on 18th January 2025. There will be a cloth and Blanket distribution followed by lunch to the people under need on the day of his demise mother.
- ❖ President then announced about the proposal received by Rtn Salil Chandra for Blood Donation camp on 01.02.25 at “Sankalpa” Jawpur, Kolkata - 700028, from 9.00 am to 2.00 pm. President will send a request letter to associate OM BLOOD BANK to make all the arrangement. Rtn Salil Chandra will lead the project.
- ❖ President then proposed PICNIC Day and Holiday trip at Jhargram or, Sundarban, where RCCNE will also organise a project . Dates are yet to be decided.
- ❖ President then informed about the Second Half RI Dues is already due. He requested the entire member to pay their second half dues if not paid yet.
- ❖ President then requests the Club secretary to present secretarial business.
- ❖ President then terminated the Regular meeting with no other agenda left and invited all the members to join for fellowship. Fellowship was sponsored by PP Rtn Sudip Kumar Dutta, snacks were sponsored by PP Rtn Kamal Pal and Bliss is sponsored by Rtn Sabyasachi Roy.

This issue of BLISS is sponsored by : Rtn Arup Kumar Chatterjee