



CHARTER NO. 4377
23RD AUGUST 1937
R.I. DISTRICT 3201

OFFICE
ROTARY CLUB OF COCHIN
BALBHAVAN
PANAMPILLY NAGAR, KOCHI- 682 036
PHONE: 0484 7963023
email: rotarycochin2013@gmail.com
website: www.rotarycochin.com

PRESIDENT
Rtn. MPHF Rajesh Nair

**VICE PRESIDENT &
TREASURER**
Rtn. PHF Michealle Niaz

SECRETARY
Rtn. PHF Gayatri Krishnan

BULLETIN COMMITTEE
Rtn. PHF Prathik Nayar- Bulletin Editor
Rtn. PP MD Dr. Sujit Vasudevan
Rtn. PHF Varghese Eapen
Rtne. Gita Krishnan
Rtn. PHF Shantha Mathew
Rtn. PHF PP Joseph Malieckal

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday
19th March 2025
at 07.00 PM
at Rotary Cochin Balbhavan



BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF COCHIN

Volume 89, Issue 35, 12th March 2025

THE COCHIN ROTARIAN

GOVERNOR'S OFFICIAL VISIT & DINNER MEETING



On March 5th, our club had the honor of hosting the District Governor's Official Visit, marking a significant occasion in our Rotary calendar. The visit commenced with the DG's Club Assembly at 4:30 PM at Balbhavan, attended by Past Presidents, the Board of Directors, and distinguished guests, including PDG Venugopal C. Govind and AG Rtn. Sanjeev Samuel. During the assembly, a select group of board members presented an overview of the club's activities and service projects for the year. The District Governor, Rtn. Adv. N. Sundaravadivelu, reviewed the presentations and commended the club for its meticulous reporting and exemplary accomplishments. He recognized our club as a role model for others to follow and expressed his satisfaction with the club's achievements throughout the year.

The highlight of the day was the Governor's Official Visit (GOV) Dinner Meeting, held at Avenue Centre Hotel at 7:30 PM. The meeting commenced with the administration of the "4-Way Test" by Rtn. Gautam Sreedharan, followed by President Rtn. Rajesh Nair's address.

President-Elect Rtn. Michealle Niaz warmly welcomed the club guests, setting the stage for a memorable evening. An important moment of the event was the presentation of the Vocational Excellence Award to Mrs. Sreelekha, Head Mistress of South LP School, Perumbalam. Her outstanding leadership, dedication, and invaluable contributions to the field of education were recognized with this prestigious honor which was handed over by the District Governor himself.

Governor's Official Visit...

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Adding to the occasion, GGR Rtn. Ramesh Kongattil also had the privilege of releasing the 34th issue of the club's weekly bulletin and addressed the members, followed by remarks from AG Rtn. Sanjeev Samuel. He also had the privilege of introducing the District Governor, who, in his address, applauded the leadership of President Rtn. Rajesh Nair Secretary Rtn. Gayatri Krishnan, commending their efforts in aligning the club's initiatives with the District Priorities under the theme "Blossom."

The evening concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by the



Secretary Rtn. Gayatri Krishnan, expressing gratitude to all attendees for their participation and contributions. The meeting was then adjourned for a time of fellowship and dinner, strengthening the bonds

within our Rotary family.

The Governor's Official Visit was a testament to the club's commitment to service and excellence, reaffirming our mission to create a lasting impact in our community.



PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

Stephanie A. Urchick, President 2024-25

March is here, and for Rotary International, that means celebrating Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month — a time to shine a spotlight on one of the most transformative areas of our work.

This month is an opportunity to reflect on The Magic of Rotary and the profound impact we create when we come together with determination and purpose.

Years ago, I experienced this magic firsthand in the Dominican

Republic. When a group of members helped people install water filters, three children watched with amazement as dirty water entered one end of a filter and clean water emerged from the other. When we paused the demonstration, one child tugged at my sleeve and pleaded, "Show me the magic again."

To them, it felt magical. It was also the result of countless hours of effort — planning, transporting, and installing the filters — along-

side local partners who were dedicated to making clean water accessible. In that moment, I realized that what seemed like a small act could change residents' lives. That is The Magic of Rotary.

This story is a testament to the incredible potential of our global family to create change. Water projects exemplify our reach, our partnerships, and our unwavering commitment to improving lives. Consider Rotary's work with US-

AID. That partnership has enabled us to work with communities and governments to improve access to sustainable water and sanitation services for thousands of people in the Dominican Republic, Ghana, the Philippines, and Uganda.

Partnerships remind us that Rotary's impact is amplified when we work together. Through our strategic alliance with the United Nations Environment Programme, we're advancing the Community Action for Fresh Water initiative. This program equips Rotary members with the tools and resources to protect, restore, and sustain freshwater ecosystems.

When we make use of Rotary grants and advocate for clean water in our communities, we create a ripple effect that extends far beyond individual projects.



As we embrace the spirit of the month, I encourage every Rotary member to seek out new partnerships. Collaboration multiplies our efforts and helps us reach more peo-

ple in need.

Whether it's joining forces with local organizations, forming alliances with international agencies, or mobilizing your community, every step we take together brings us closer to a world where everyone has access to clean water and safe sanitation.

The Magic of Rotary shines brightest when we work in harmony with others to create lasting good. Together, we can turn dreams into realities that transform lives and communities. The result may feel like magic at times, but we know it's from the power of our collective commitment and compassion. Let's harness this magic to make a difference this month and beyond.

Source: <https://my.rotary.org/en/news-media/office-president/presidential-message>

RI PRESIDENT STEPHANIE A. URCHICK HOSTS MEMBERS, SCHOLARS, AND OTHER PEACEBUILDERS TO OUTLINE STRATEGIES



Building peace requires thoughtful, sustained efforts and meaningful partnerships, Rotary International President Stephanie A. Urchick told attendees at a peace conference in Istanbul. The presidential conference, held 20-22 February, focused on "Healing in a

Divided World."

In her opening address, Urchick described the dedication required for true healing to take place.

"Our time together here is a testament to our shared belief in the power of peacebuilding," she said. "But let's acknowledge something essential: The act of 'Healing in a Divided World' is not something we can achieve quickly or easily. It takes an intentional commitment over time."

Participants from various backgrounds outlined how that commitment could take shape.

At a session focused on technology and media, speakers discussed how technology can reinforce both peace and conflict. They highlighted the impact of artificial intelligence, the ways technology can bolster

peacebuilding efforts, and the expansive threat of misinformation.

Sheldon Himelfarb, an award-winning filmmaker and the founder of PeaceTech Lab, called for peacebuilders to forge a global response to misinformation. The danger it poses, he argued, is comparable to that of war, pandemics, and climate change.

"Misinformation [is] a problem so serious, and so far-reaching, that I believe it is rapidly becoming (if it's not there already) an existential threat to the planet," he said. "Fortunately, each day there are more and more people working on this new existential threat, developing tools for fact checking, content labeling, media literacy, AI for peacebuilding, and more."

Healing the environment and humanity

Other sessions focused on environmental issues in peacebuilding. Nada El Agizy, president of the Rotary E-Club of Egy-International and director of sustainable development and international cooperation at the League of Arab States, emphasized a particular threat in the Middle East.

“Climate change poses one of the most significant challenges the Arab States region has ever faced,” she said. “The region is considered one of the world’s foremost climate-change hotspots, and it is highly vulnerable to the negative impacts of global warming.”

Yana Abu Taleb, the Jordan director for EcoPeace Middle East, said it will be impossible to forge a sustainable peace in the region without doing more to fight climate change. Taleb’s organization brings together environmentalists from Jordan, Palestine, and Israel to promote sustainable development and advance peace efforts in the region.

“Peace will come, but we have to work for it,” Taleb said. “We have to understand that there will be no lasting peace between countries throughout the Middle East if the protection of our shared environment is not put at the center of conflict resolution.”

In the final session, attendees heard from a survivor of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. Freddy Mutanguha was 18 when his parents, four sisters, and nearly 80 members of his extended family were murdered. After this unimaginable loss, he dedicated his life to preventing such atrocities and building a more peaceful world. Mutanguha, a member of the Rotary Club of Kigali-Mont Jali, Kigali, Rwanda, is now director of the Kigali Genocide Memorial and CEO of the Aegis Trust. He said the Kigali Genocide Memorial represents a decision to heal.

“We made a choice that in Rwanda, remembering should also mean healing,” he said. “Our generation needs to break the cycle of hate and build foundations for peace and prosperity. Peace is not a theory for us. It is real, urgent, and requires resolve.”

A new Rotary Peace Center welcomes scholars

Attendees at the conference included the first 13 Rotary Peace Fellows at the Otto and Fran Walter Rotary Peace Center at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul. The newest of Rotary’s seven global peace centers, it offers

peacebuilders based in the Middle East and North Africa the opportunity to earn professional development certificates in peace and development studies.

“Through its Peace Fellowship program, the center will equip a new generation of leaders with the knowledge, skills, and networks they need to address the root causes of conflict and to build sustainable peace in their communities and beyond,” Urchick said.

The Rotary Peace Fellows come from countries including Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Pakistan, Sudan, Somalia, and Yemen. During their fellowships, they will pursue projects such as aiding migrant single mothers, creating peacebuilding content for social media, strengthening grassroots organizations, and educating youth through sports programs.

Several of the fellows’ projects aim to empower refugees.

“Climate change and unsustainable agricultural policies contribute to the number of people involuntarily displaced,” said fellow HavvaŞeydaBodur in her biographical statement. “Humanity must find comprehensive solutions immediately. Otherwise, one day, everyone from all walks of life has the risk of being a refugee.”

In concluding the conference, Urchick called on the participants to forge partnerships to work for peace and said the new peace center reflected the essence of Rotary.

It “is more than just a physical space. It is a symbol of what we can achieve when we work together,” Urchick said. “Rotary’s success has always been rooted in partnerships, whether it’s between clubs, with local communities, or with global institutions. The challenges we face today demand nothing less than the combined efforts of governments, nongovernmental organizations, academia, and grassroots organizations. By fostering collaboration and sharing resources, we can amplify our impact and drive real progress.”

Source: <https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-peace-conference-seeks-to-heal-in-a-divided-world>



Rtn. PP A.S. Narayanamoorthy	14 Mar
Rtn. Naveen Philip	15 Mar
Rtn. Mathew Chakola	17 Mar
Rtn. PP Paul John	18 Mar