

# THAILAND Rotary

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English issue



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Rotary 

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## ROTARIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

As a Rotarian, I will:

- 1) Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life
- 2) Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect
- 3) Use my professional skills through Rotary to mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world
- 4) Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians
- 5) Help maintain a harassment-free environment in Rotary meetings, events, and activities; report any suspected harassment; and help ensure non-retaliation to those individuals that report harassment

## RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

R. Gordon R. McNally, November 2023



### The road to peace

**T**his month, Rotary takes a step toward supporting peacebuilding in the Middle East and North Africa region.

In November, Rotary and District 2420 are hosting a signing ceremony for our newest peace center in partnership with Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul.

The ceremony is the first in a series of events recognizing the new center at BAU and Rotary's work to promote peace. The 2024 Rotary International Convention in May will mark 25 years since the first Rotary Peace Centers were announced — coincidentally at the Rotary convention in Singapore in 1999. Recruitment for the first cohort of Rotary Peace Fellows at BAU also starts in 2024, and selected candidates will begin their program in early 2025.

Since its beginning, the peace centers program has prepared more than 1,700 peace fellows working in more than 140 countries to create a more peaceful world. That is certainly worth celebrating, but Rotary Peace Fellows are more than statistics on a page. Their actions have helped Create Hope in the World and will continue to do so.

For example, Jennifer Montgomery and Gorett Komurembe — peace fellows from the program at Makerere University in Uganda — are co-founders of Magenta Girls Initiative. The international nongovernmental organization equips Ugandan girls and young women with the support and tools to overcome harmful gender norms, generational poverty, gender-based violence, trafficking, and trauma.

Ndzi Divine Njamsi, another peace fellow who studied at Makerere, has taken lessons learned about Positive Peace and is sharing them with students of his own in Cameroon. He became interested in the Rotary Positive Peace Activator training program after witnessing extremism, online hate speech, and violence in Cameroon. Since completing the program, he has brought his lessons on peace to students at the Yaoundé International Business School and other organizations in the central African country.

The world needs more people like the graduates of the program at Makerere and our other peace fellows. To that end, we can all advance peace by encouraging our local peacebuilders to learn more about Rotary and apply for this impactful fellowship. Rotary members can also mentor candidates for the fellowship. Or you can work with peace fellows who have already graduated. They probably have an initiative or two that would benefit from your help.

Our peace centers in North America, Europe, Africa, Australia, and Asia depend on financial support as well. The program at BAU was made possible thanks to a generous gift of \$15.5 million to The Rotary Foundation from the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation.

This new Rotary Peace Center will offer a one-year professional development certificate in peace and development studies for fellows focusing on peacebuilding within the Middle East and North Africa region.

Peace must be waged persistently; it is the soil where hope takes root. But as with any journey, we take one step at a time. Let's take those steps together.

R. GORDON R. MCINALLY  
*President, Rotary International*

## RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

R. Gordon R. McNally, December 2023



### Unnatural disasters

**In** December, I will attend the United Nations COP28 climate change summit in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. There, I will speak about the convergence of two global crises: climate and mental health. As the World Health Organization has noted, climate change worsens risk factors — such as disruptions to homes and livelihoods — for mental health problems. The emotional distress of a disaster also makes it difficult for people to recover and rebuild.

Rotary partner ShelterBox is an international disaster relief charity that has helped more than 2.5 million displaced people in approximately 100 countries with emergency shelter, essential household items, and technical support. I wish to share this month's column with their CEO, Sanj Srikanthan, who explains that the words we choose to describe disasters matter. — GORDON MCLNALLY

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The term “natural” disaster has long been used to describe tropical storms, floods, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions, but there needs to be an urgent shift in the language we use. While the term may seem harmless, and we've not always gotten it right, we've learned through our work with disaster-affected communities how it perpetuates a dangerous myth that nothing could have been done to prevent people being so badly affected. This misleading and harmful narrative can lead to a lack of action to help people who need it.

The language we use matters. When we frame disasters as natural, we fail to acknowledge the complex interplay between nature and the role of human actions and how they impact communities around the world.

Earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, and extreme storms, drought, and flooding occur because of natural processes on Earth. But it is how these events affect people or the environment that has the potential to make them a disaster — outcomes influenced by human factors like where people live, what types of homes they have, political instability, and the lack of proactive measures to protect vulnerable communities. A disaster is the result of systemic inequalities in access to resources and power. Where we live and how much money we have often determines our ability to recover. The people worst affected are those living in poverty, with the least means to protect themselves and few resources to withstand the next event.

By framing these events as natural, we undermine the need for proactive measures to protect vulnerable communities, masking the underlying social, economic, and political instability that make marginalized and disadvantaged communities disproportionately affected. Our teams see firsthand how issues like inequality, poverty, urbanization, deforestation, and the climate crisis can make communities more vulnerable.

At ShelterBox, we simply say “disaster” or are more specific, describing the extreme weather, earthquake, tsunami, or volcanic eruption. I urge everyone to help us in breaking this cycle by committing to language that accurately reflects why people are affected so badly.

Only then does it pave the way to address the underlying causes of vulnerability and work toward a more just and equitable future for all, with the necessary investment, resources, and proactive measures to help protect affected communities.

Disasters are not natural. Let's stop saying they are.

SANJ SRIKANTHAN  
CEO, ShelterBox

## RI TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Barry Rassin, November 2023

### The magnitude of our impact



This month, as we celebrate The Rotary Foundation, let's recognize it for what it is: one of the world's best humanitarian organizations.

Many charities, relief organizations, and nonprofits do the same type of work, and the public associates them with the causes they work on. But I wonder how many people know that Rotary supports those same causes — seven of them in fact — which we call our areas of focus.

If they want clean water, good health, and a sustainable future for our planet, they support what our Foundation does. If they envision a world where peace, full literacy, and economic opportunities for communities to support themselves exist, they also believe in Rotary's mission. And if they want to see mothers and their babies thrive, their vision aligns with the work we do.

And we have a lot of work in progress through the Foundation. Polio eradication is changing the world, one drop of vaccine at a time. Rotary Peace Centers are training peacebuilders to reduce violence and resolve conflict. And through Foundation global and district grants, we are improving lives in a real way.

The way we work also sets us apart. We have global reach, with more than 48,000 field offices in the form of Rotary and Rotaract clubs. We emphasize good stewardship of your funds and efficient implementation of your projects. And we always aim for sustainable solutions.

During the 2022-23 Rotary year, the Foundation awarded 1,098 global grants. If you think of what a single grant can do, you begin to grasp the scale of our work and the magnitude of our impact — an impact people can see and feel in their daily lives.

Our district supported a global grant project that focused on basic education and literacy in Malawi, where we helped train 38 teachers who are responsible for 4,000 students. We also built two toilets and installed a pump, so they had water for drinking and hand washing.

I will never forget that when Esther and I visited the school, a young boy pointed to my Rotary pin, recognizing it from other volunteers who wore their pins during the project. He said, "I know you helped me. I won't be able to travel to thank the others who helped me, so please thank them for me."

So thank you, Rotary, on behalf of a child in Malawi whose future you made a little brighter, and on behalf of thousands of others you have helped by supporting The Rotary Foundation.

BARRY RASSIN  
*Foundation Trustee Chair*

## RI TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Barry Rassin, December 2023



### What Rotary is all about

“So this is Christmas / And what have you done?” sang John Lennon in the holiday classic “Happy Xmas (War Is Over),” released in 1971 with Yoko Ono.

The holidays are a time of warmth and togetherness but also of reflection. Above all, the season is a time of generosity, especially to those less fortunate.

During your holiday giving, remember that gifts to The Rotary Foundation may not fit nicely in a present box, yet they keep on giving throughout the year.

December is also Disease Prevention and Treatment Month. Just think of all the Rotary efforts that would not be possible without the generosity of you, our Rotary family. Consider the incredible progress we have achieved in our fight to end polio — the countless lives we’ve saved and the hope we’ve restored. Think of all the clinics around the world Rotary has equipped and the medical professionals trained through Foundation grants, helping fight heart disease and Guinea worm disease.

Your gifts to the Foundation also help make health care accessible to underserved communities in a big way through Programs of Scale. Right now, those grant recipients are working to end malaria in Zambia, reduce the mortality rate of mothers and their infants in Nigeria, and eliminate cervical cancer in Egypt.

Of course, our reach extends far beyond disease prevention and treatment. During times of disaster, we must act swiftly to alleviate suffering and offer support. In response to the devastating earthquake in Morocco in September, The Rotary Foundation

Trustees established the Morocco Earthquake Response Fund to support immediate relief efforts led by Rotary members on the ground. You can contribute directly, and your districts can apply for grants from the fund until 21 September 2024 or until the funds are fully allocated. Anyone can initiate a fundraiser for the Morocco fund on Raise for Rotary, opening further avenues for your generosity.

We truly have the gift of giving. There are no limits to the opportunities to give and make a difference through Rotary.

As we approach the end of the year, I invite you to make your gifts before 31 December. Your generosity will have a profound impact on many — people who you may never meet, but whose lives you will change just the same.

On behalf of Esther and myself, we wish you all a joyful holiday season. Thank you for your continued support, dedication, and unwavering commitment to The Rotary Foundation and to what Rotary is all about: helping others.

BARRY RASSIN  
*Foundation Trustee Chair*

## Editorial

PDG Chalermchat Chun-In



Hello members,

This magazine contains various stories as always. I hope that all members of the magazine and readers should be able to share their experiences and be inspired by them.

In this issue, the team of Rotary Thailand magazine presents the interesting stories through text and images. Starting with new messages from the Rotary International President and the President of The Rotary Foundation, it inspires through journeys, experiences and policy guidelines which are passed down to all members. It is very helpful.

We've featured an article from Rotary International in this issue. It is about the traditional cuisine in Singapore which is going to be the venue for the Rotary International Convention in May 2024. Many members will have the opportunity to attend this convention and taste Singapore's delicious food.

In addition, there is an article on "Rotary Protocol" which PDG Chamnan Chanruang has gathered and compiled for new and old members to review and learn more about Rotary formalities. I believe that members will use this issue for further benefit and dissemination in their clubs.

Our clubs and Rotary districts in Thailand campaigned extensively on road safety. Recently, I submitted an article on "Safe roads are saving lives in Thailand" that was published in the Rotary International magazine last month. Therefore we have published this article in Thai to show the results of this useful activity. Then comes the stories and activities of our four Rotary districts, in which the four editors of each district presented, "Polio prevention and eradication activities". Each were chaired by the PolioPlus Sub-committee and district leaders to promote and encourage clubs to collaborate on the activities. The achievement of the various activities has been done very well.

The Rotary Centre in Thailand is the embodiment of promoting and supporting all aspects of our Rotary clubs' operations. It can regularly provide advice and communicate information to all Rotary members. We have PDG Somphop Theerasan who is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Rotary Centre in Thailand, and he has selected articles and content of various committees to be featured in every issue of our Rotary Thailand magazine. In this issue, PDG Anurak Napawan has presented about the Library at the Rotary Centre in Thailand in Part 2, which will help everyone get a better idea of the Rotary Centre's office in Thailand. However, if members would like to take the opportunity to visit the office, you can contact the Rotary Centre's staff to arrange a group or individual visit.

Finally, I would like to thank all members and readers who regularly follow our magazine. I have occasionally met members in different provinces, and they greeted me, enquired about and appreciated our magazine. Thank you again and see you in the next issue.

PDG Chalermchat Chun-in  
Editor in Chief - Rotary Thailand Magazine



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*The irresistible dessert ice kacang is prepared  
at Chinatown Complex Food Centre.*

## Rotary Information

PDG Chamnan Chanruang  
Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North



## Rotary Protocol and Decorum

Every Rotary Club has to organize many functions and meetings. There is a certain protocol to be observed to recognize dignitaries and show them love and respect of the organization. A proper observance of protocol enhances the prestige of the concerned and also brings decorum to the function. Below are certain hints as to how one can observe this protocol:

1. All Rotary meetings hosted by a club – including Intercity Meetings, RYLA, etc. – and regular meetings of the club should be presided over by the president of the club. The meeting will be called to order by the president and not by the master of ceremonies or such other functionary.

2. A Rotary meeting hosted by the district or district committee will be presided over by the serving district governor, and he will call the meeting to order. While calling the meeting to order, the gavel is first gently banged on the table and then the presiding officer says, “This meeting is called to order”. Similarly, while adjourning the meeting the presiding officer announces, “This meeting is adjourned”, and thereafter gently bangs the gavel on the table.

3. The protocol to be observed in order of precedence for greetings is a general rule; present functionary will precede past, and past will precede future (RI Board Resolution 20-23, January 2014). The serving district governor, past district governors starting from senior most, district governor-nominee, serving president, district officers, past presidents, president-elect and so on. If the mayor or the first citizen of the town is present in a Rotary meeting, he should be invited to the podium and should be recognized first.

4. High-ranking, non-Rotarians may be given precedence in ranking according to the local custom. Clubs and districts are encouraged to advise guests if protocol places Rotarians before non-Rotarians.

5. At district meetings, Rotarians visiting from foreign countries may be placed before local Rotarians of the same rank, as a courtesy toward the guests.

6. Once protocol is observed in a meeting initially, the subsequent speakers need not repeat the protocol but get down to business by addressing, “Fellow Rotarians and Guests”. This will help save time and to say the least, avoid possible foul up of protocol.

7. Whatever may be the Rotary meeting, hosted either by the club or by the district, the serving governor, if present and as the chief guest, will speak last. After the speech of the governor, there should be no further speeches, and for that matter, a summing of the speech. The only item on the agenda will be acknowledgements and a vote of thanks. During the official visit of the governor to the clubs, there should be no additional chief guest, with the governor being the only one. Clubs are discouraged to have more than one chief guest at the installation function or such other Rotary functions, or during governor’s official visit.

**Note** – Rotary Code of Policies (May 2023)

## 26.050. RI Protocol

The following order of protocol is recommended for introducing, presenting, and seating all current, past, and future officers of RI and its Foundation, committee members, and their partners at all RI meetings, functions, and receiving lines, and for listing in all RI publications:

- President (or president's representative)
- Past presidents (in order of seniority)
- President - elect
- President - nominee
- Vice - president
- Treasurer
- Director Executive committee chair
- Other directors
- Trustee chair
- Trustee chair - elect
- Trustee vice - chair
- Other trustees
- General secretary
- Past directors (in order of seniority)
- Directors - elect
- Past trustees (in order of seniority)
- Incoming trustees
- Directors - nominee
- Past general secretaries (in order of seniority)
- Rotary GB&I regional board members
- District governors
- Past district governors (in order of seniority)
- Rotary coordinators, Rotary public image coordinators, regional Rotary Foundation coordinators and endowment/major gifts advisers
- District governors - elect
- District governors - nominee

At Rotary functions, officers should be addressed according to protocol only once with partners included at the time of introduction. Individuals holding more than one office or past office, shall be ranked by the highest current or past office held.

After the recommended order of protocol above, the following additional order of protocol is recommended and should be modified to fit local customs and practice:

- Regional and zone-level committees members
- Assistant governors
- District secretaries/treasurers
- District committee members
- Club presidents
- Club presidents - elect
- Club vice - presidents
- Club secretaries
- Club treasurers
- Club sergeants - at - arms
- Other club board members
- Club committee chairs
- Past assistant governors
- Rotarians
- Rotary alumni
- Rotarians' families

(October 2022 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 30)

# People of action around the globe

By Brad Webber

## Peru

Much of the milk produced in Peru never leaves the farm: It's consumed directly by farming families, fed to calves, and used to make artisanal cheeses. The Rotary E-Club of Fusión Latina Distrito 4465 teamed up with the nonprofit CEDEPAS Norte to help subsistence farmers in the country's northern highlands. Last year the club delivered stainless steel presses and molds to open two cheese production facilities. A global grant of more than \$50,000 helped pay for the equipment, training, management, and marketing. "So far there are 21 new employees and 63 families served, and 25 pregnant cows were gifted" through the Peruvian government program Agroideas, says Club President Fernando Barrera, who lives in Trujillo.



## 36,849 tons

Peru's cheese production in 2021



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## United States

Earl Knauss got a lesson in food waste when he received a neighbor's gift of three bushels of red peppers that had been cast aside by a farm because they were misshapen. "I discovered that odd-shaped, blemished, and imperfect vegetables were dumped or destroyed," says Knauss of the Rotary Club of Hamburg in western New York state. He asked the farm's owner for more of the unsalable produce and collected 18-gallon totes of vegetables that he sent to food pantries. The Farm to Family project has since expanded to include three farms, and the Hamburg club formally adopted it in 2018. From May to December, Rotary members and friends work alongside Knauss delivering vegetables to about 3,000 families. In 2022, they provided more than 100,000 pounds of vegetables to 23 distribution sites. Among them is the Resurrection Life Food Pantry in Cheektowaga, where pantry director Kim Reynolds says the site would not have many fresh vegetables without the program. "Our clients rely on Farm to Family to fill that gap," she says.



## \$600 billion

Annual value of food wasted worldwide during or just after harvest

Photographs: Courtesy of Rotary And Rotaract Clubs

## Italy

A rising number of young people with eating disorders prompted the Rotaract Club of Terre Cremasche and the nonprofit Consultorio Insieme Crema to conduct workshops for people ages 20 to 35. Beginning in April, the series covered three topics: body image, mindful eating, and wellness and sustainable dining. The sessions were developed in collaboration with counseling centers and psychologists. “The aim is to guide participants in critically examining their eating habits and the emotional and historical significance of meals,” says club member Emma Prévot. The club funded much of the program with a gala cocktail reception in the town of Crema’s civic museum, housed in a 15th century convent.



# 3 million

Italians with eating disorders

**Rotaract**  
Club of Terre Cremasche

## Philippines

With two club leaders being registered nutritionist dietitians, the Rotary Club of Lucena University District takes healthy eating seriously. The club paired with the Quezon chapter of the Nutritionist-Dietitians’ Association of the Philippines to offer lessons at a jail on how diet can prevent disease, the importance of exercise, sleep, and drinking enough water, and other topics. Club President Joey Kathlyn Samonte and Past President Bella Castro also explained a food chart on optimal portion sizes for various food groups. And aspiring chefs tested their skills in a cooking contest using the organic vegetables grown at the jail. Club member Jasper Panganiban lauds the pair’s devotion. “These types of projects to encourage healthy lifestyles and diets in the community are close to their hearts,” Panganiban says.

# 6.4%

Share of adult Filipinos considered obese

**Rotary**  
Club of Lucena University District



## Papua New Guinea

Protein deficiency is a leading cause of stunted growth, which affects about half of children under age 5 in Papua New Guinea. Working with the nonprofit Kyeema Foundation, members of the Rotary Club of Brisbane, Australia, donated about \$2,900 to construct a chicken shed and yard in the town of Wau. The aim is to conserve indigenous breeds of poultry that are better at resisting disease, require less supplemental food, and produce nutrient-dense eggs and leaner meat. After training the villagers and stocking the farm with native breeding hens, the club created a similar facility in Gabagaba village. Celia Grenning, a club member and a director with Kyeema, says the project is a blessing for the community, which previously relied on the overfished and reef-damaged coast for most of its protein. Today, the club and Kyeema operate on land and sea: They have enhanced their work to include coral reef restoration.



# 1,600+

Recognized chicken breeds worldwide

**Rotary**  
Club of Brisbane



# *‘TO THE PEOPLE,*

**Rotary** THAILAND 12 November - December 2023  
Rotary Thailand www.rotarythailand.org

So goes an ancient Chinese adage — and in Sin  
an extended visit to that culinary paradise



# FOOD IS HEAVEN'

Singapore, Rotary editor Wen Huang paid

Photography by Juliana Tan

## It's half past 5

on a dark Saturday morning in July, and I've just landed at Changi Airport in Singapore. The long flight from New York City has left me a little wobbly, so the sight of a tall young man holding a tablet computer with my name emblazoned across its screen is more than comforting.

His name is Goh, and he's been dispatched by my hotel to collect me from the arrivals gate. I tumble into his car and pose a simple question: "What counts as an authentic Singaporean experience?"

It's a harmless bit of small talk, but I'm surprised by his animated response. "Food, sir," he replies. "Eating is our national pastime. There's a funny saying that we have a population of 5.5 million, and there are 5.5 million serious foodies here."

Now Goh has my full attention. He recommends that I ease into my food journey by visiting a hawker center — an open culinary market near my hotel. "Street food is at the heart of our culture," he adds, before rattling off the names of the famous Singaporean dishes I should try. "The reason our food tastes so good is that it draws its flavors from many regions and countries in Asia."

Two hours later, I'm greeted by Joanne Kam, a vice chair of the Host Organization Committee for the Rotary International Convention that kicks off in Singapore on 25 May. She immediately echoes what Goh has told me. "Singapore," she says, "is the perfect destination for Rotary food lovers."

As Kam explains, Singapore's rich culinary landscape — ranging from street food to ethnic eateries to Michelin-starred restaurants — reflects



*A multitasking vendor tends to her food in a hawker center in Chinatown. Previous spread: The colorful array of culinary offerings at Permata is emblematic of the wide variety of dining experiences available in Singapore.*

the country's multicultural identity, which began to take shape during the 19th century when Great Britain, recognizing Singapore's strategic location at the crossroads of Asia's busy trade routes, established a trading post here. The outpost attracted traders and laborers from China, the Malay archipelago, India, and Europe. Each of these populations brought its own food traditions to the island. Over the decades, those different approaches to dining saturated the Singaporean palate, creating a new cuisine of evolving traditional dishes mixed with a fusion of cultural influences. As a result, Singapore has become a unique crossroads for our taste buds.

Kam and Megan Feng, a young official at the Singapore Tourism Board, have promised me an immersive dining experience alongside several more Rotary members, each of whom will introduce me to one of their favorite dishes. By the time my done, I'll learn that the cuisine of Singapore is a harmonious collision of regional and cultural flavors — and every bite tells an enchanting story about this island nation's rich history and heritage.

I'm eager to start.



## TEA PARTY

At Yum Cha, a restaurant in the heart of Singapore's Chinatown, I'm greeted by members of the Host Organization Committee. Among them is Ghim Bok Chew, an RI director. The host for our gathering is Jack Tan, a past president of the Rotary Club of Changi and the restaurant's owner.

Before I can express my gratitude to the Rotarians for joining me, Feng whispers, "We're using your welcome lunch as a cover for a surprise birthday party for Director Chew."

"Killing two birds with one stone," I joke. "Another example of Singaporean efficiency."

*Opposite:* Durian fruits overflow the shelves at a shop in Chinatown. *This page:* At his surprise birthday party at Yum Cha, RI Director Ghim Bok Chew is offered a plate of longevity peach buns. Right: Meen pollichathu (fish cooked in banana leaves) is accented with Kerala spices at Mugshots Bistro in Little India.

Convention attendees should be sure to check out the East Coast Seafood Centre along the Singapore River and try Singapore's famous chili crabs.

— Elsie Chua, Rotary Club of Pandan Valley



The Chinese phrase yum cha literally means "drinking tea," but in practice it involves tea paired with small plates of snacks such as dumplings, steamed buns, egg custard, and sticky rice. The food itself is known as dim sum, a tradition originated in China's southern province of Guangdong, where tea houses offered a quick breakfast of two or three small dishes with tea. Eventually it spread throughout the region, especially in Hong Kong.

Tan's restaurant offers classic Hong Kong-style dishes, such as savory pork and shrimp dumplings (siu mai or shumai), steamed buns filled with barbecued pork (char siu bao), and chicken feet braised in a flavorful sauce (feng zhao). Tan has expanded his menu to include many local specialties, such as salted egg prawns, but since I'm allergic to shellfish, he serves me deep-fried boneless chicken marinated in soy sauce and Chinese wine and wrapped in parchment.

An hour into this feast, a small, squat robot staggers into the room singing Happy Birthday. Chew, the birthday boy, seems both startled and delighted by the digital serenade. As we join the chorus, a waiter walks in with a plate of longevity peach buns, or shoutao bao: fluffy steamed buns in the shape of peaches and filled with red bean or lotus seed paste or custard. Legend has it that divine peach trees bear fruit every 3,000 years, and anyone who eats a magical peach will enjoy immortality. Symbolism aside, in this very mortal moment, the only thing that matters is that the buns are delicious.



## SIMPLY DIVINE

Lye-Wah Lee, a past president of the Rotary Club of Marina City, claims that the Hainanese chicken rice that she cooks for her Rotary friends tastes better than any restaurant version of the dish. After all, she and her husband, Edward Quek, a member of the same club, are of Chinese descent and have ancestral connections to Hainan, an island province in southern China that's home to free-range Wenchang chickens. Locals poach the chicken in salted boiling water and serve it with a ginger sauce.

Around the start of the 20th century, many farmers from Hainan, like Lee's and Quek's great-grandparents, migrated to Singapore and Malaysia. Those early immigrants brought with them this simple chicken dish and enhanced it with local ingredients. Moreover, frugal families tried to stretch the chicken by cooking the rice with the broth to extend the nutrients and flavor.

*Above: A chef prepares Hainanese chicken, a specialty at Chicken House (opposite).*

*A visit to the Raffles Hotel and its Long Bar is a must for sampling the iconic Singapore sling in the place that popularized it. — Khushroo Dastur, Rotary Club of Suntec City*



Nowadays, the meal is considered one of Singapore's national dishes, and each time I visit, I make a point of sampling it — for instance, at the Tian Hainanese Chicken Rice stall in the Maxwell Food Centre or at Boon Tong Kee, which has multiple outlets throughout Singapore.

On this occasion, Joanne Kam takes me to her favorite chicken house, a stall on Upper Thomson Road. We are joined by Ghim Bok Chew, Quek, and Lee, our self-declared Hainanese chicken expert. When we arrive, rain is pouring down, yet there is a long line at the takeaway counter. Lee warns me not to be fooled by the simple appearance of the famed dish, which requires meticulous preparation. After simmering a whole chicken in a broth flavored with ginger, garlic, and scallions, chefs briefly submerge it in a bath of ice water to preserve the skin texture. And many add extra chicken fat to enrich the taste of the rice.

An American social media influencer once marveled at the simplicity of the dish, describing the delight of eating Hainanese chicken rice as a poetic experience. But after I bite into the moist and textured chicken, the best I can do is to rhapsodize unlyrically: "Oh, so good!"







## A FEAST FOR THE EYES

The halal buffet restaurant Permata is housed inside a stately mansion with a pastel facade in the bustling Malay neighborhood of Kampong Gelam. Next door stands the Malay Heritage Centre, which used to be the royal seat of the Malay sultan in Singapore. Rotarian Tengku Indra, who joins me at the restaurant, is a sixth-generation direct descendant of the first sultan of Singapore, and he spent his formative years at that palace.

The restaurant specializes what is known as Nusantara cuisine, which features dishes from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and other countries in the region. (“Nusantara” derives from an old Javanese word meaning “outer islands” or “archipelago.”) Inside Permata’s cool palatial hall, Tengku Indra introduces me to some of his favorite dishes. There’s sup tulang merah, a vibrantly red bone marrow soup, and nasi

*Opposite: The Sultan Mosque is a landmark in kampong Gelam, a neighborhood with Malay heritage. Left: Singapore Rotary members share a meal at Permata, where they sampled suptulang merah, a bone marrow soup (below).*

Residents and tourists alike feast on local specialties at the Newton Food Centre. Singapore is known for its hospitality and food cultures. The convention is a great opportunity to experience it for yourself. — Anil

Changaroth, Rotary Club of Peace Builders Singapore



lemak: coconut rice drizzled with an anchovy and hot chili sauce and topped with fried anchovies, fried peanuts, sliced cucumber, and hard-boiled egg. Rawon risotto is a thick beef stew infused with nutty buah keluak and served over creamy risotto, while kuih pie tee is a thin, crispy pastry cup filled with sautéed jicama, omelet, and fresh cucumber strips.

I roam excitedly around the food-laden marble countertops. Like a child in a treasure cave, I take in the bright colors, inhale the lush aromas of curries and other spices, and savor the roti jala, a lace crepe served with curry chicken. It’s a sensory experience that’s (alright, I’ll say it) fit for a sultan.

## NIGHT MOVES

In southeast Asia, night markets are social centers: a warren of stalls, umbrellas, and awnings draped in flowers and punctuated by flaming kitchen pots and fryers. In Singapore, food-focused markets are called hawker centers because years ago, peddlers used to travel from street to street hawking the food they carried in baskets suspended from shoulder poles. One of those hawker centers, the Newton Food Centre, rose to fame after its appearance in the 2018 movie *Crazy Rich Asians*, and this year, four of its food stalls made it to the Michelin Guide’s 2023 Bib Gourmand list for Singapore.

The colonial-style main entrance with its red gabled roof leads to an open square surrounded by food stalls. Neon signs depict a dizzying array of dishes, from satay to fried noodles. I make my way to an empty table, though its surface is littered with packets of facial tissues. “This



*Left: Spicy sambal stingray is served wrapped in a banana leaf, which further enhances the flavor of the mild-tasting fish. Right: The Newton Food Centre was made famous by the 2018 movie Crazy Rich Asians.*

table has already been taken,” Kam says. “People place packets of tissues to reserve seats while they go to order their dishes. It’s called chopping,” which rhymes with “hoping,” as in, “We’re hoping someone unfamiliar with our traditions doesn’t try to sweep the tissues off our table.” (Guilty as charged.)

Kam says this Singlish word originates from chop, an official seal or stamp used in parts of Asia to authorize documents. She adds that the practice of chopping — stamping or marking your spot — is ingrained in Singapore’s hawker culture, even though many Singaporeans consider it rude.

After we chope a table in the middle of the open square, my Rotary friends disperse to different food vendors. Kwai Wah Wong, a vice chair of the Host Organization Committee, brings back a plate of lo bak go from one of the Bib Gourmand stalls, Heng, which specializes in carrot cake — though Singapore’s carrot cake, which comes in black and white varieties, is more like a radish omelet. Joe Han Tohkingeo and Clara Tan, members of the Rotary Club of Singapore East, have chosen fried Hokkien prawn noodles, while Kam likes the fried oyster omelet, served with a tangy chili sauce, from Hup Kee.

Another great food and drinks destination is Sentosa, an island resort off Singapore’s south coast that you can reach by cable car. Relax on beautiful beaches and taste authentic Singapore cuisine. — Jona Pang, Rotary Club of Tanjong Pagar





I order beef satay from another popular stand, TKR Chicken Wing & Satay. After being skewered and seasoned in a concoction of spices such as tamarind and galangal, the beef is grilled over a charcoal fire; the rich peanut and chili dipping sauce only enhances the underlying flavors.

One dish that embodies Singapore's multicultural society is a salad called rojak, from a Malay word for "mixed." Each ethnic group has its own spin on the dish. For example, the Chinese combine cucumber, lettuce, pineapple, jicama, and deep-fried bean curd with a special dressing of salty shrimp paste, ground toasted peanuts, sugar, and rice vinegar. Indians use boiled potatoes and deep-fried lentil and prawn patties and top with a spicy dip. Whatever version comes to the table, you can count on it being distinctively Singaporean.

## A PARTING GIFT

The night before my departure from Singapore, I book my travel to the airport through the hotel. The next morning, when the car arrives, I open the door — and am surprised to see Goh smiling at me. "I saw your name on the assignment list," he says, "and I told my boss I would take you."

Once I'm in the car, Goh turns around and hands me a small container with six bite-size cakes in rainbow colors. I bite into the chewy, steamed green cake and am rewarded with a rich coconut flavor. "I got them for you at the market this morning," Goh says. "It's Nyonya kuih, part of the Peranakan culture."

The story goes that, centuries ago, when Chinese traders settled in the Malay peninsula and archipelago, many of them married Indigenous women. Their children were known as "peranakan," which means "local born," as I had learned only the day before when Kam took me to the Katong and Joo Chiat neighborhood, home to Singapore's rich Peranakan culture.

There couldn't have been a better symbol of the diverse, flavor-infused cuisine I enjoyed over the last few days than the rainbow-colored nyonya kuih. "And with this dessert," Goh says, "your feast of Singaporean food is complete."

I take another bite. Heavenly.

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## Register now for Singapore



The deadline for the early registration discount for the 2024 Rotary International Convention in Singapore is 15 December. Don't delay! Register today at [convention.rotary.org](https://convention.rotary.org).

# “Safer roads are saving lives in Thailand”



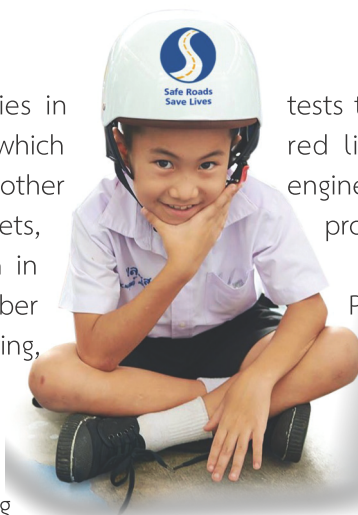
By PDG SANGUAN KUNAPORN  
Rotary Public Image Coordinator, Zone 10 B & C  
Rotary International

**The island of Phuket in southern Thailand** attracts tourists from all over the world with its beaches, food, cultural sites, and vibrant night markets. Unfortunately, one of Phuket’s other notable features is far less attractive: The city had once one of the highest rates of traffic deaths in the region. The problem is not limited to the island. Across Thailand, almost 20,000 people died last year from traffic accidents, according to the World Health Organization. For perspective, England, with a similar population, has about 1,800 traffic deaths each year.

Nearly three-quarters of traffic fatalities in Thailand are related to motorcycles, which are popular and more affordable than other vehicles. Though the law requires helmets, fewer than half the riders wear them in Thailand. For their passengers, the number is even less at 20 percent. Drunken driving, excessive speed, and violating laws and safety rules are also common. Thailand loses more than 7,000 people of working age each year to traffic accidents, making it a huge economic loss equal to 3 to 5 percent of the country’s GDP.

Rotary clubs and districts in Thailand have long been interested in reducing these deaths and injuries. Clubs in Krabi province handed out 99 helmets to young people, and the Rotary Club of Pa-Laelai conducted safety training for motorcycle users. But these efforts have not been enough.

To increase public engagement, all nine Rotary clubs in Phuket came together in 2016 to expand their reach and work with provincial road safety networks of government and private agencies. The goal is reducing deaths and injuries among Phuket’s residents and tourists. Efforts have included equipping police with



tests to check blood alcohol levels, installing red light and speed cameras, and making engineering improvements such as replacing problematic intersections with roundabouts.

A recent project by the Thai Health Promotion Foundation is training 100 women in Phuket on traffic laws and road safety so they can assist police in communities. This project is led by Major General Teerapol Thicpharoen, a former deputy police commissioner who is a road safety advocate. He says the program is intended to raise people’s awareness of road safety as a sustainable measure





to reduce deaths. Michael Woodford, the CEO of the Safer Road Foundation UK, has helped with advising and with budget support of up to \$1 million. Dr. Wiwat Seetamanotch, who coordinates Thailand's road safety efforts with WHO, is another key player who has worked for years on road safety in Thailand. As he puts it, "Saving lives is more laudable than building a seven-tiered pagoda."

Rotary districts in Thailand want to move this project to a national level. In October 2022, all four of the country's districts (3330, 3340, 3350, and 3360) agreed to push forward a project called Safe Roads Save Lives. The goal of the long-term project is reducing deaths and injuries by working with road and safety networks on every level, including with the national parliament.

In December 2022, the four Rotary district governors and several club leaders met with the president of Thailand's parliament for a signing ceremony after an agreement to work together on the campaign. It also involved officials from the WHO and the Ministry of Public Health.

The first campaign is to promote the goal of 100 percent helmet use nationwide. It's estimated that this level of use could save more than 6,000 lives a year. All 400 Rotary and Rotaract clubs will be instructed on tactics to support the campaign. The main strategic action is establishing corporate measures in the workplaces of Rotarians and all network partners requiring employees to wear helmets when riding motorcycles. Organizers will also use social media channels to promote road safety.



Preecha Klinkaeo from the Rotary Club of Phra Nakhon, and Dr. Chuchart Nijwattana, an orthopedist in the Rotary Club of Tongkah, enlisted all Rotary clubs in Thailand's four districts to work together on Safe Roads Save Lives. "People are the real cause of road traffic accidents," Klinkaeo says. "To reduce them, we must focus on people. Saving just one life also means saving the lives of all those who are dependent on that person."

The same campaign was repeated at Bangkok City Hall in March. Chadchart Sittipunt, mayor of Bangkok, joined and strongly supported the project. Yod Sangswangwatana, a member of the Rotary Club of Bangkok Suwanabhum, is another key player in the campaign. "Traffic accidents destroy not only yourself but also your whole family instantly," he says. "We need to be aware and prevent it."

Rotary in Thailand has embraced "World Remembrance Day for Road Traffic Victims" which the World Health Organization (WHO) has set the date on November 19th,















ขอเชิญชวนมวลชนคนไทย  
ทุกภาคส่วน ร่วมชบวนรณรงค์  
**รำลึกถึง  
ผู้สูญเสย**  
จากอุบัติเหตุทางถนน  
เดินรณรงค์พร้อมกันทั่วประเทศ  
เช้าวันอาทิตย์ 19 พ.ย. 2566

# WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD TRAFFIC VICTIMS

เพื่อให้เมืองไทยของเรา  
ถนนปลอดภัย  
ชีวิตปลอดภัย



















ขอเชิญชวนมวลชนคนไทย  
ทุกภาคส่วน ร่วมชบวนรณรงค์  
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ชีวิตปลอดภัย





the third Sunday in November every year as a milestone. It is a massive national campaign inviting all Rotary clubs and Rotaract clubs in every province to co-host with the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, the Ministry of Interior and provincial defense departments to organize activities in the form of marching parades on major roads in the provinces to educate to raise awareness among people including youth, and is presided over by the governors. There is a group of people with disabilities from traffic accidents to help raise awareness among road users. This year 2023 marks the first year that Rotary participated in the event. There are Rotary clubs in provinces such as Bangkok, Tak, Trat, Songkhla and Phuket, and all have already made it great. Many other provinces are planning to hold the event in the coming days in Krabi, Trang, Phangnga, Suphan Buri, Surat Thani, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Prachuap Khirikhan, Udon Thani, etc. This campaign is an important step for Rotary to work with provincial and national road safety network partners to develop projects and methods to achieve further road safety goals.



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Rotary

D3330

## Editorial of District 3330



PDG Paikit Hoonpongsimanont  
Rotary Club of Tubtiang

Dear Rotarians and readers,

I've come to meet with you once again before we bid farewell to the Thai year 2566, or 2023, and welcome the new Thai year 2567 and 2024 together. Even though we are going to celebrate this new year for Rotarians and the Rotary clubs, we have only just traversed through the first half of this Rotary Year 119. We still have another half-year ahead to work towards achieving the goals that we've set for ourselves.

In this issue of the Rotary Thailand magazine, the focus is on Rotary's End Polio Now project to eradicate polio, which has been continuously carried out over the last 20 years, and has played a crucial role in ensuring the safety of people worldwide from the poliovirus. It has helped protect hundreds of millions of individuals, utilizing funds amounting to several billion US dollars.

For District 3330, we invited the District Chair of the End Polio Now Sub-Committee, PP Dr. Somchai Thepcharoennirund of the Rotary Club of Ratchaburi, to provide information about the End Polio Now project for this Rotary year. This includes details about the projects and activities undertaken by the Rotary clubs to contribute to the End Polio Now initiative as well as the clubs' activities that are directly related to the End Polio Now campaign.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my New Year's wishes to all of our readers. May you find joy in the upcoming New Year, and I look forward to meeting with you again in the next edition.

## District 3330 Activities

### Solar Power and Toys for Children

An impressive joint project was implemented by the Rotarians of RC Nongkhaem, D3350 and RC Sanamchan, D3330 who collaborated to sponsor the installation of a renewable energy system on 19 August 2023. A 3.4 - kilowatt solar photovoltaic array with battery storage was installed to provide electricity for the local inhabitants in a remote village of the Khao Chao Sub-district of Pran Buri, Thailand. It is in a mountainous region of primarily dense jungle and rugged terrain and the village is not connected to grid electricity.

A delegation of the Rotary Club of Royal Hua Hin joined the dedication ceremony and donated 30 electronic writing tablets for all children ages three to six years old to help develop their writing and creative drawing skills and four footballs for the older kids' sport and social interaction. It was an exciting day meeting with the local families and Rotarians from the other clubs, and the GPS lead us over many kilometers of a single-lane, dirt track through the mountains.



# World Polio Day Activities

## "The 3 Forests, 4 Benefits Project"



Rotary Club of Thamuang along with its members participated in the tree - planting at Banmakokmoo School (Punsiri Wittaya) on October 17th, 2023.



Rotary Club of Maireang—Nakhon Si in collaboration with temples, schools and the community, engaged in a reforestation activity at Wangsapan temple, Nawae subdistrict, Chawang district on October 23rd, 2023.



Rotary Club of Nakorn Hatyai arranged tree - planting and releasing of breeding shrimp back into their natural habitat at Klong Wae, Moo 3, Maetom subdistrict, Bang Klam district, Songkhla province on October 22nd, 2023.



Rotary Club of Kampaengsan led by P Suttichai Innurak and club members participated in tree - planting at Nakhonpathom province on October 24th, 2023.

Rotaract Club of Ratchaburi Community led by P Thanyathorn Mungmeeephol along with CP Kamonpat Phopirom and Rotaractors, provided gifts and lunch from KFC to children as part of “Share a Smile for Society” on World Polio Day at Wat Huaymoo Special Children Welfare Center, Huaymoo temple, Muang district, Ratchaburi province on October 20th, 2023.



D3330

## World Polio Day

Hello, fellow Rotarians and Rotary Anns,



PP Dr. Somchai Thepcharoenirund  
Rotary Club of Ratchaburi  
Chair, District 3330 End Polio Now  
Sub-Committee

On Friday, August 11th, 2023, I had the opportunity to present the "Soft Power End Polio" project with a new concept on the Rotarian Doctor Talk Show, which aired live on Rotary News Thailand. The purpose was to inform Rotarians and interested individuals that Rotary International, in collaboration with the World Health Organization and its networks, has been working to eradicate polio from our world since the year 1988. The goal is to eliminate polio from our world by 2026.

I would like to share the progress of the global polio situation. Since the beginning of 2023, there have been reports of only two cases of natural polio transmission. As of now, there have been five cases identified in Afghanistan and two cases in Pakistan.

For Thailand, the program of administering the Inactivated Poliomyelitis Vaccine (IPV) to infants at the age of two and four months started on July 1st, 2023. This initiative aims to prevent complications from the Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV), which can lead to Vaccine Associated Paralytic Poliomyelitis (VAPP). Therefore, it is part of Rotary's plan to advocate for parents to bring their infants aged two months and older to receive the injected polio vaccine. The goal is to eliminate polio, even vaccine-induced cases, from Thailand.

According to District 3330's year-round END POLIO NOW campaign, we have facilitated efficient and robust coordination by creating a new LINE group named "PolioPlus Society D3330". Members of this group are Rotary club presidents, Club Foundation chairs and the Rotaractors who are responsible for the activities. The group includes our DG Dr. Chatchawal Telavanich, District Rotary Foundation Chair PP Phatchara Phulphokphol, and many past presidents who are experienced and serve as advisors.

For this year's END POLIO NOW campaign, District 3330 organized a tree - planting activity with the Rotary clubs, Rotaract clubs and the Rotary Community Corps (RCC). The event aimed to plant three beneficial tree species which bring about four positive impacts. The tree-planting activity was scheduled on World Polio Day on October 24th, 2023 with the active participation of all the mentioned Rotary entities.

"The planting of three types of trees which are fruit-bearing, hardwood for construction and firewood trees which have their intrinsic benefits, and the crucial fourth benefit is the ability to contribute to soil and water conservation." This royal endorsement was given by His Majesty King Bhumibol the Great on January 7th, 1981 at the Rin Kham Hotel in Mueang District, Chiang Mai province. This is in recognition of the significance of World Polio Day that takes place on October 24th every year. We, the Rotarians, are well aware that Rotary International, through its PolioPlus Fund, is an organization that actively supports the prevention and elimination of polio from the world.

### Project: 3 Forests, 4 Benefits

#### Objectives:

1. To promote Rotary's public image to the community
2. To promote the clubs' activities for young leadership, vocational service, environmental preservation and community service
3. To promote the clubs' fundraising activities for End Polio Now

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### Participants:

1. Rotarians and Rotary Anns
2. Rotaract clubs
3. Interact clubs
4. Other organizations and interested parties

### Funding:

1. Rotary clubs
2. Rotaract clubs
3. Interact clubs
4. Department of Forestry
5. Donors

### Process:

1. Survey the activity area
2. Cooperate with forest nursery center
3. Purchase rare species of plants
4. Coordinate with the community
5. Place orders of End Polio Now T-shirts from District 3330 for simultaneous use in the activities
6. Present World Polio Day information to the community
7. Live broadcasting of club activities on World Polio Day via Rotary News Thailand
8. Receive donations for the PolioPlus Foundation from the community
9. Register club activities in My Rotary: END POLIO NOW

### Expected Outcomes:

1. Environmental preservation
2. Community education on the benefits of forests
3. Be the district learning center of the 3 Forests, 4 Benefits project
4. The Rotary family participates in activities together
5. Receive donations for the Rotary PolioPlus Foundation
6. Promote both physical and mental wellness
7. Record the willingness to participate in activities commemorating World Polio Day in District 3330



D3340

## Editorial of District 3340



**PP Puttitorn Patthanasintorn**  
Rotary E-Club of  
District 3340

Sawasdee Krub, and Dear Fellow Rotarians,

This is the 3rd issue of our magazine, representing all club presidents that have attentively managed their clubs through the first half of this Rotary year. In this issue, we present the activities that Rotary clubs around the world are proud of and what they organized for World Polio Day. As generally known, polio is a paralyzing and potentially fatal disease that still threatens children in some parts of the world. The poliovirus can destroy the nerve cells in the lower spinal cord that control the function of the legs (anterior horn cells), causing leg muscle weakness and the inability to function normally. Furthermore, for children who are not yet immunized, under six years of age, polio can cause death. As there is no direct medical cure yet, prevention with polio vaccine drops and injections is therefore a safe practice, it reduces outbreaks, and eventually eliminates this disease from our world.

For more than 30 years, Rotary and our partners have driven polio eradication efforts around the world, and thus the PolioPlus project was born. Rotary, as a key partner, has focused on supporting fundraising, recruiting volunteers, and raising awareness about polio. Rotary members have donated more than US\$ 2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect more than 2.5 billion children in 125 countries around the world from this disease.

When Rotary International and its partners started the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in

1988, there were about 350,000 cases of polio in 125 countries every year. Today, we have reduced the polio cases by 99.9 percent, and only two countries are reporting cases, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Even though there are no more infections of poliovirus in Thailand, Rotary members continue to donate and support efforts to eradicate polio from the world and continue working together to do good activities for the community on World Polio Day to express our collective intention.

## World Polio Day Activities

Rotary E-Club of District 3340 and Rotary Club of Muang Klung together with the Volunteer for Underprivileged Club and the Chanthaburi Provincial Blind Association have performed their mission to help and provide consumable items for the disabled in the area of Tapon subdistrict and Khlung city, Khlung district, Chanthaburi province.



## World Polio Day Activities



**Rotary Club of Panas Nikom**, led by President Somjai Sae-lim along with their members brought consumable goods and cash to polio patients at Ban Chang subdistrict, Phanat Nikhom district, Chonburi province.



**Rotary Club of Tharuea Trad** participated in activities to administer polio vaccine drops and injections and gave toys to children at Laem Ngop Hospital, Laem Ngop district, Trat province.



**Rotary Club of Chumphae**, led by President Sinsamutr Khunprathum with their members jointly campaigned to vaccinate children against polio on World Polio Day at Chum Phae Community Health Center, Chum Phae district, Khon Kaen province.

## District 3340 Activities

### Project: “Safe Roads Save Lives”

**Area 1** of District 3340 led by AG Somporn Kraiamut, chaired the group to organize activities on World Day of Remembrance for those who lost their lives in road accidents, with the cooperation of the Trat Provincial Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Office. Approximately 200 people participated in the activities led by the Deputy Governor of Trat province Mr. Narong Thepsena with Rotarians, heads of government agencies, various networking partners, public and private sectors, Miss Grand Trat, and teachers and students. The Deputy Governor presided over the opening ceremony and gave a speech of heartfelt condolences. Afterwards, all participants joined the campaigning parade of “Safe Driving to Save Lives” on November 22nd, 2023.



**Rotary Clubs in Area 2** – Chanthaburi Province, District 3340, consisting of the Rotary Clubs of Chanthaburi, Chantaboon, Chantanimit, E-Club of District 3340, Muang Klung, and Khao Soi Dao, including government and private agencies within the province at Chanthaburi Technical College, collaborated to deliver training “To strengthen traffic discipline” by the Chanthaburi Provincial Police, and released a convoy of motorcycles to drive safely, turning on lights, and wearing helmets, together with 200 college students of Chanthaburi Technical College on November 14th, 2023.



**Rotary Club of Moon River** organized the project activities “Promoting and developing schools in remote areas” at Ban Chadhee School, Phibun Mangsahan district, Ubon Ratchathani province with partner sponsors Baan Sarin Company Limited, Krung Thai Bank, Government Savings Bank, and Government Housing Bank. The activity provided tables, chairs, dining sets, sports equipment and souvenirs, and supported the maintenance of Ban Chadhee School with a lunch and the children had a great time participating in the lucky draw and recreational activities on November 14th, 2023.



**Rotary Club of Koh Chang** organized the service project “Socks for Children” by providing socks to all students in six schools in Koh Chang, Trat province.



**Rotary Club of Sriracha** organized a charity bowling competition at The Wave Bowl, Na Jomtien, Pattaya, Chonburi province, on November 11th, 2023.



**Rotary Club of Khungying Mo-Korat** led by President Chonlada Sirichaikeereekosol and their members, donated 50 sets of tables and chairs with the total value of THB 75,000 to Chum Chon Bannon Sao-Ae School, Wang Nam Khiao district, Nakhon Ratchasima province, where the entire school building was damaged by fire from an electrical short circuit. Coconut milk ice cream was also brought to the students on November 10th, 2023.

**Rotary Club of Ubon**, District 3340 led by President Theerawat Jiangjenjat and club members jointly organized an activity with the Rotary Club of Lumpini, District 3350, providing school supplies, office supplies, computers and books for the five schools in Ubon Ratchathani's Ban Don Ngua School, Ban Phang School in Trakan Phuett Phon district, Ban Na Hin Ngon Na Dong School, Ban Palan School, in Natan district, and Ban Khok Kong Wang Nong School in Kut Khao Pun district on November 8th, 2023.



**Rotary E-Club of District 3340** organized activities such as “Youth Volunteer to Protect the Environment”, as part of the Empowering Girls project at the Aquaculture Research Section of the Kung Krabaen Bay Development Study Center under the Royal Initiative. They released 300 black crabs back to the natural crab bank where they can breed up to 150 million crabs. This activity created awareness and trained youths to conserve and restore the environment. As we saw the potential of the youth exchange students, we asked them to come and support the youths in the second crab-releasing activity and the youth exchange students performed excellently. The project has been continually organized three times per year with 70 participants, spending THB 4,600 on October 1st and 8th, 2023.

D3350

Editorial of District 3350



PP Trong Sangswangwatana  
Rotary Club of Bangkok  
Suwanabhum

Dear fellow Rotarians and Readers,

We are approaching the end of the year and preparing to say goodbye to this year with many holidays. The weather has turned with a cool breeze delighting us now and again. Soon we will reach the half-year mark for this Rotary year.

Club presidents and members are enjoying their numerous activities that they have either organized by themselves or by joining with other clubs, or joining with the district. At the same time, next Rotary year's executive teams have already begun planning for their year. In our District 3350, we have already announced the name of District Governor Nominee. We have also begun training our next year's Club Presidents who will become President in July 2024. Everyone has been eagerly fulfilling their own duties with happiness.

In this issue we offer no special scoop, but offer pictures of activities at district level and club level.

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## World Polio Day Activities

Rotary Club of Bangkok East donated an electric tartar scraper and dental filling materials with a total value of 98,960 baht for the Dental department of Vejkarunrat Hospital, Nong Chok District, Bangkok, and Dr. Surachai Phupiphatphon, the hospital director, welcomed and received the award.



## District 3350 Activities

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) was held on October 21st – 23rd, 2023 at Ban Phu Waan, Sam Phran district, Nakhon Pathom province. A total of 318 students participating in the event included 290 Thais and 28 foreigners from 10 countries. The participants were from 129 schools sponsored by 84 Rotary clubs. In addition, 37 RYLA alumni were selected to be on duty as youth mentors. The participants were trained, refined, loved and cared for and were given the opportunity to fully express themselves and share their opinions. They were prepared to be helpful and generous assistants to become heroes in their families, schools, societies and the nations where they are from.



"Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims" was implemented by the "Safe Roads Save Lives" project, Rotary Thailand and alliances in all sectors, such as Thai Health Promotion Foundation, the Foundation for Thai Jogging Club for Health, Students from the Sufficiency Family Foundation, etc., at Bangkok City Hall on November 19th, 2023. Rotarians and families joined a 1.7-km walk from Kon Muang Square to the United Nations Office. Approximately 100 participants from the Don't Drive Drunk Foundation, UN officials, honored guests, and road victims waited to join the event at the venue. The event participants totaled approximately 800 people.



## District 3350 Activities

**The 2nd Meet-up:** The District Governor Wichai met with the Assistant Governors, Club Presidents and District Committee members on November 18th, 2023 at Dad D Resort in Lopburi province. A total of 98 participants attended the meeting including 10 district committee members, 16 assistant governors, 55 club presidents, and 17 club members. Assistant Governor Juntanee Thaicharoen and four Rotary clubs in Lopburi province jointly chaired the event.



Rotary Club of Nongkhaem joined hands with the Rotary Clubs of Hua Hin, Pranburi, Royal Hua Hin, Sanamchan and the Iradian Solar Company Limited to implement a renewable energy project for a sustainable environment with a solar photovoltaic workshop providing knowledge about maintenance to achieve sustainable development on August 19th, 2023. In total there were 70 participants who were village representatives of the Khao Chao Subdistrict Administrative Organization in Pranburi district and the Bueng Nakhon Subdistrict Administrative Organization in Hua Hin district, Prachuap Khirikhan Province. The trainer was from Pa Teng Subdistrict Administrative Organization of Kaeng Krachan district of Phetchaburi province. In this event, a set of solar panels was handed to the Child Development Center at the Khao Chao Subdistrict Administrative Organization Office in Pranburi. Meanwhile, the Mayor of Pranburi Mr Preeda Sukjai delivered a welcome speech and thank you message to Mr Pisit Suntareerat the Club President of the Rotary Club of Nongkhaem. Mr Pisit is the former deputy provincial governor who initiated the survey and raised awareness of the villagers' hardships on their living in the Khao Chao community of Bueng Nakhon. There were approximately 1,000 households living without an electricity supply. The community is in a military area and as a result, it relies on solar power to generate the electricity supply and the villagers lacked the appropriate knowledge to use solar photovoltaic properly.



**Rotary Club of Bangkok Suwanabhumi** in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Kariya, District 2760 in Japan, and Rotary clubs in District 3330, 3340, 3350 and 3360 handed over medical equipment with the total project value at THB 3,321,732 to Chumphon Khet Udomsak Hospital in Chumphon province. The project was sponsored by the Global Grant project number GG.2342754 with the hospital's director Dr Pattampan Anantapong as the beneficiary representative. The Mayor of Chumphon and members of the Rotary Club of Chumphon joined the event and congratulations moment on October 16th, 2023.



**Rotary Club of Prasrisuriyothai Ayutthaya** organized an activity to provide books to enhance reading skills, stationery, school supplies and sports equipment to the underprivileged hill tribe students. Fellow Rotarians from different Rotary clubs, i.e. Changkol Patumwan, Siam Erawan, Bangkok-Bangkhuntian joined the handover of rice and other items on November 22nd, 2023 at Wat Ban Ao School, Phra Nakhon Si, Ayutthaya province.



**Rotary Club of Prakanong** implemented the “Computers and Devices” initiative for children with the total project value of THB 150,000. The handover was carried out together with a complimentary lunch at Ban San Na Nong Mai School, Wiang Sa district, Nan province.



D3360

Editorial of District 3360



PP Dr. Natthanin Setavanich  
Rotary Club of Phrae

Hello, dear Rotarians,

Many of you may feel the same as I do, that time passes by so quickly. In a blink of an eye, the year is about to end. I hope that you will receive nothing but good things to strengthen and empower you throughout the year of 2023. Whatever challenges come our way, let them make us stronger and better prepared to face various problems. I believe that every year brings changes that make us physically and mentally stronger.

This issue of the Rotary Thailand magazine marks the end of the year 2023. We will continue to share positive stories of our fellow Rotarians from District 3360 to pass on to those around us and to our Rotary friends nationwide. Just this past October, a significant event took place for us, the World Polio Day. This year, the Rotary Club of Chiang Mai Nawarat took the lead organizing activities to promote World Polio Day, including a walk-run event for better health. Articles on World Polio Day and the ongoing beneficial activities of all Rotary clubs in District 3360 are featured.

As we approach the end of 2023, I encourage everyone to contribute to society and our communities to create positive impacts that will resonate in your lives throughout 2024. See you again next year!

## World Polio Day Activities



CP Chalida Ekachaipattanakul  
Rotary Club of Chiang Mai Nawarat  
Chairperson of the PolioPlus  
Committee, District 3360

The WALK & RUN to End Polio event was successfully held on November 12th, 2023. After the event, I took some time to reflect on my position as the Chairperson of the PolioPlus Committee in District 3360 for the year 2023-24. I believe that with any position comes responsibility. Responding to the PolioPlus project involves campaigning to eradicate polio. To achieve this, funds are needed for vaccine research and purchase, to ensure that children aged two months to six years receive vaccinations to prevent polio.

Rotary has been a non-profit organization committed to eliminating polio for over 35 years. We have successfully reduced polio cases by 99.9% since our first vaccination project in the Philippines in 1979. Rotarians and others have donated over US\$ 2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours have been devoted to protecting nearly three billion children in 125 countries from the paralysis caused by this disease. Currently, polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan, but Rotary must continue its efforts to make other countries polio-free. If efforts to eradicate polio were to stop today, within 10 years the disease could paralyze up to 200,000 children annually.

Understanding our role, we proceed with our responsibilities. We organized the WALK & RUN to End Polio event, and I received valuable advice from DGN Dr Jaruwat Techawut, the Governor of District 3360 for 2025-26. Many Rotary friends suggested organizing a walk-run event, which not only promotes exercise but also





fosters camaraderie within Rotary and the community. Fortunately, Dr Jarruwat Techawut recommended a professional running event organizer and with the guidance of senior advisors, both within and outside of the Rotary organization, we received extensive support, making WALK & RUN to End Polio a successful event.

Despite facing challenges such as choosing the color of the event shirts, we managed to cater to diverse preferences. In District 3360, which comprises 70 Rotary clubs, the collective strength of Rotarians and fellow learners who understand their role in eradicating polio has been impressive. Over 60 Rotary clubs supported the event, and every donation made by Rotarians was tripled by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, instantly increasing the total value of our contributions threefold.

We hosted the WALK & RUN to End Polio event at the 7th Infantry Division in the Mae Rim district of Chiang Mai, a beautiful location with mountain views, water reservoirs, temples, and even glimpses of airplanes and tank assembly areas. The morning and evening weather was pleasant and safe. The organizing committee prepared a sumptuous breakfast for all participants, thereby leaving a lasting impression. Moreover, what impressed me the most was that several clubs that did not participate in the Chiang Mai

walk-run event organized their activities simultaneously. For instance, the Rotary Club of Mae Sai organized a walk-run event, while the Rotary Club of Sukhothai conducted a fitness activity, and the Rotary Clubs of Wang Chan and others in Phitsanulok organized clean-up activities.

Though the donation amount may not be exceptionally high, every Thai baht contributed by each individual holds immense value. It is a gesture of kindness that ripples globally, especially in areas facing challenges such as Afghanistan and Pakistan. Recently, when polio patients were identified on the Thai-Myanmar border, the international Rotary community responded by sending funds to District 3360 to coordinate the purchase of vaccines for the children in Myanmar promptly.

As the event concluded, it became a testament to the cooperation and unity of Rotarians in District 3360. Through the purchase of shirts and participation in the WALK & RUN to End Polio, a total of THB 200,000 was donated to the PolioPlus fund this year. I deeply express my gratitude to everyone, especially the club members in the Rotary Club of Chiang Mai Nawarat who collaborated to support the event, contributed to the eradication of polio, and participated to *Create Hope in the World*.



## World Polio Day Activities



For the last 38 years, Rotary has been involved in the project to eradicate polio globally, leading to a significant reduction in polio cases and almost eliminating the disease entirely. This effort has resulted in a remarkable decrease in the number of patients suffering and dying from polio, reducing from around 300,000 people annually to nearly zero cases today. Currently, Rotary clubs worldwide continue to actively contribute to the global campaign against polio. On this year's World Polio Day, the **Rotary Club of Wiang Kosai** and the **Rotary Satellite Club of Wiang Kosai - Phrae Nakhon** led by President S.A. Kittisak Khemphet, organized a meaningful activity. They planted trees and distributed eyeglasses to local residents while also giving away pizzas at Wat Dong Sura, Mae Jua, Den Chai district, Phrae province.

**Rotary Club of Phitsanulok** and the **Rotary Club of Wang Chan** recently joined forces to carry out a community service initiative by cleaning tourist sites in Phitsanulok province. The project focused on enhancing the cleanliness and appeal of popular destinations in the province. In addition to the general cleanup, a special addition to the initiative was the inclusion of Street Art by Thong. Thong's artwork adorns the walls of the ice house located under the Phra Ratchawang Bridge in Wang Chan, directly opposite the Phra Naresuan Shrine.



**Rotary Club of Chiang Mai Thin Thai Ngam** organized the “3 Types of Afforestation with 4 Benefits” activity, led by P Jitmatta Nanthakwang, PDG Dr. Waewdao Limlenglert, PE Thititchaya Yenchai, past presidents and a group of Rotarian friends at Nuantong Organic Park. The activity of planting trees to improve the environment was marked as the Rotary Service Day and World Polio Day. Eradicating polio from the world is one of Rotary's missions, which has been in operation from 1985 to the present.



## District 3360 Activities

**Rotary Club of Lampang** in Rotary District 3360 undertook a project to renovate a pavilion located in the vicinity of Tambon Wetala, Amphoe Hang Chat, Lampang province. This pavilion situated across from the Thai Elephant Conservation Center, was initially constructed by the club several years ago for the benefit of the local community. The renovation project aimed to enhance the functionality and aesthetics of the pavilion, ensuring it continues to serve the community effectively. During the visit, DG Dr. Wathit Tangrapeelear along with spouse Somsamai Tangrapeelear, PP Police Lt. Col. Somboon Buranapira the Chairman of the Service Project, and PP Kittiphan Nuanchanchai invited them to put up signs for the project together.



**Rotary Club of Buddhachinaraj, District 3360 and Rotary Club of Sathorn, District 3350** donated Radiant Warmer machines for newborns under the project GG#2342563 for Nakhonhai Crown Prince Hospital in Phitsanulok province on October 11th, 2023.



**Rotary Club of Chiang Khong** joined the "Release Fish for Merit, Contribute to Medical Equipment Fund" activity in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Chiang Saen led by P Thanwa Liamphan and fellow members. The event took place at Chiang Saen Reservoir in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Chiang Saen.



Author: PDG Anurak Napawan  
Committee - The Library of  
the Rotary Centre in Thailand



The significant stories will continue to fade away from generation to generation if we do not save them and keep the photos on record. This also applies to Rotary International which is currently more than 100 years old and Rotary Thailand will become 100 years old in seven more years. The Rotary Centre in Thailand stores records of all Rotary stories and is a historical contribution to Thai Rotarians nowadays. Searching for information in the Library of the Rotary Centre in Thailand feels like going back and hearing voices telling us stories about the events that occurred and how the pioneer's conceptual way of thinking was in the old days.

In this issue, I have selected some Thai books to look at.

### Rotary Knowledge, Question & Answer, Club Service

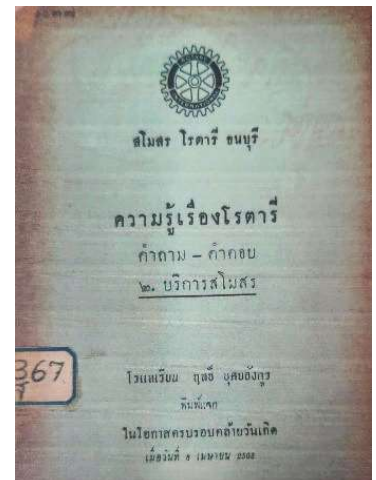
This is a 24-page book published by Rotarian Rit Bootsaya-angkul of the Rotary Club of Dhonburi. The book was published on the occasion of Rotarian Rit's birthday anniversary on April 8th, 1960 and is a copied version from the National Library. The author mentioned in the preface message that, "I had to proof and verify the details late at night for the prosperity of Rotary". In those days, it was difficult to find Thai content of any Rotary information. There was no Thai magazine and only "The Rotarian" was available and published in English. I would like to list two items of questions and answers, which still fulfill our knowledge even today.

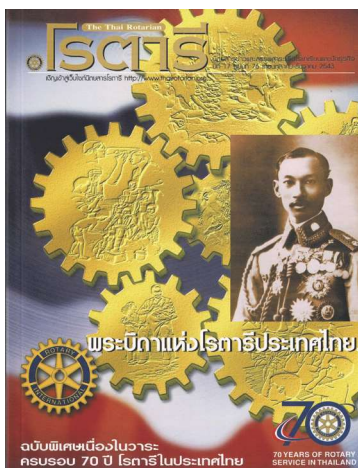
### What does "Club Service" mean?

Club service means any action that Rotarians do to facilitate club activities and to run smoothly and successfully according to the goals that are set. This refers to Rotarians' practice at all times in club meetings, assisting fellow Rotarians, participating in various programs of Rotary clubs, serving in the positions assigned in Rotary clubs, paying club dues, and being a club representative for activities outside of the clubs. For instance, club service represents the explanation given to non-Rotarians to help them have a clear understanding of Rotary objectives, speech delivery in other Rotary clubs, participation in the Intercity Meetings, District Assembly and District Conference attendance, and well as cooperation in their own Rotary clubs and to charter a new club.

### What is a Club Assembly?

A Club Assembly is a meeting of club officers, club committee members, and club committee chairs to drive the cooperation and development of Rotary plans, which are the internal activities of the club.





## Rotary Thailand magazine, October - December 2000 Issue

This is a special issue of the magazine on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Rotary in Thailand. The history of Rotary and its origins in Thailand were covered in the 120-page publication. The magazine presented a biography of General Krom Phra Kamphaengphet Akarayothin, known as the Father of Rotary in Thailand, and is currently a useful resource.

In addition, Frank J. Devlin, the President of Rotary International, traveled to Thailand to participate in the celebration and convey his blessings. Furthermore, in honor of this 70th year, Mr. Bhichai Rattakul was nominated to serve as President of Rotary International in 2002–2003.

Above all, this magazine also published the Royal Letter of His Majesty King Rama IX, which was given to Rotary and Rotarians in Thailand. It is considered to be the greatest blessing and grace.

*"I would like to express my appreciation for the sustainable growth of Rotary activities in Thailand and all the worthwhile work that members of this organization have performed for the community over a very long 70-year period. The stakeholders engaged should take great pride in these achievements and collaborate to ensure that all tasks are completed with knowledge, expertise, intelligence, exactitude, generosity, and selflessness. Honor and prosperity will greatly increase and continue to keep this organization evermore sustained."*

*Piamsuk Villa, Klai Kangwon Palace*

*October 29th, 2000*

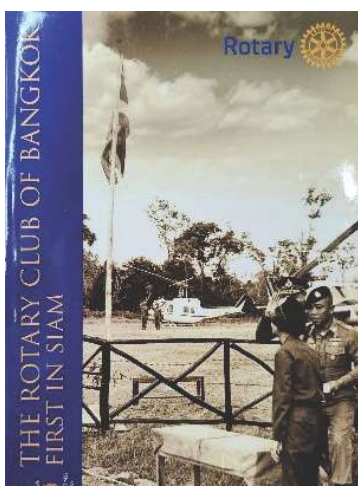


## Rotary Centre in Thailand: the Connecting Point for Rotary in Thailand

A commemorative book for the 10th anniversary of the Rotary Centre in Thailand is a 68-page history of the centre's founding in 1992 as the coordinating centre for Rotary work in Thailand, at the office of PRID Noraseth Patamanand (District Governor 1992 - 1993). Next, a condominium unit on the 32nd floor of the Ocean Tower 2 building was bought at a price of 21 million baht through the strong support of generous Rotarians all over Thailand. The new office operation was opened in 1997. This book recorded all the donor's name lists, the lists of District Governors, the Chairs of the Rotary Centre, and Editors in Chief of Rotary magazines.

And there is a profound and touching poem:

*"Four Districts created the Centre  
as club helper driving work variety  
Looking entirely yesterday, today, the next day  
Serve always through service above self."*



Another book that impressed me very much is the 85th anniversary book of the Rotary Club of Bangkok.

## THE ROTARY CLUB OF BANGKOK FIRST IN SIAM

The entire book was published in four colors and 258 pages. The valuable histories, photos and happenings were compiled, neatly organized and published. The beginning milestone was in 1930 when Rotary in Thailand was started and the Rotary Club of Bangkok was chartered. There are the lists of charter members, various initiatives from the first period till the year of 1985. This book is considered one of the best reference materials worth keeping.

## Rotary Centre Chair's Message

PDG Somphop Thirasan



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Here we are at the last month of 2023. If we look back from the beginning of the year to the present, I'm firmly convinced that we've seen a lot of changes over the past. For men who survive, what do they do? The father of Evolutionary Theory Charles Dawin stated that one who survives is not necessarily stronger or smarter, but he is able to adapt better. So what approach do our clubs take to adapt to change? I read a document translated by the Translation Committee of Rotary Centre in Thailand suggesting that adaptation should be:

- Be well aware of what is happening through observation, exploration and evaluation.
- Be open-minded to new things, such as the use of various technologies and the recruitment of members to promote diversity.
- Use risk management to assure everyone that whatever we adapt to does not cause damage to our membership.
- Develop the club into a learning organization and treat all members equally.
- Know how to control our emotions and maintain a positive attitude.

You can find great information in the archives of the Rotary Centre in Thailand.

See you next year.

PDG Somphop Thirasan  
Chair of the Board of Directors  
for the Rotary Centre in Thailand

## Rotary Membership

Data source: [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

As 1 December 2023 (1 July 2023)

District	Rotarians	Clubs	Rotaractors	Clubs
Worldwide	1,189,281 (1,157,010)	37,103 (36,789)	169,777 (166,541)	11,176 (11,310)
3330	2,313 (2,203)	103 (103)	243 (233)	27 (26)
3340	1,393 (1,316)	65 (65)	76 (76)	5 (5)
3350	3,184 (3,013)	132 (128)	434 (407)	30 (30)
3360	1,439 (1,441)	70 (70)	268 (274)	15 (15)
Total	8,329 (7,973)	370 (366)	1,021 (990)	77 (76)



TOGETHER, WE

**INSPIRE**

The Rotary Club Narathiwat in partnership with the hospital, local Leaders and people in Cho Ai Rong District joined together to grow 3 types of forests to get 4 benefits at the public park in Cho Ai Rong District Hospital to increase the shade area as a recreation service area for people. This strengthens cooperation of all sectors in the preservation of community forests and promotes the public image of the Rotary Club on the occasion of World Polio Day.



# HART SPORT WEAR

บริหารงานโดย  
อน.รสวรรณ จงโมตรีพร  
สโมสโรตาเรียนนิทาณจน์  
จ.กาญจนบุรี



ผลิต และจำหน่าย เสื้อโปโล เสื้อพิมพ์ลาย แจ็กเก็ต เสื้อคอกลม

ออกแบบ ปักลาย พิมพ์ลาย จบในที่เดียว

สาขา 1 แขวงไฟแดงตลาดใหม่ พนมทวน ติดต่อ-ลอบถาม 088-4948227

สาขา 2 ถนนนายพาส ตรบ้นามเทศบาลปากแพรก ติดต่อ-ลอบถาม 091-8422003



ADD LINE