

**INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARIAN DOCTORS
ANNUAL REPORT 24TH MAY 2011**

PRESENTED TO THE AGM BY CHAIRMAN DR JOHN PHILIP

INTRODUCTION

Out of the eight MDG - Goals 1, 2 and 3 relate reduction in poverty, improvement of literacy and empowerment of women. Goals 4, 5 and 6 specifically relate to health issues.

4. Reduce child mortality 5. Improve maternal health 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases

TRF Mission is:

.... to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill and *peace* through the improvement of *health*, the support of *education*, and the *alleviation of poverty*.

There is a remarkable convergence of the MDG and Rotary goals. RI President elect Kalyan Banerjee recently said: '....in the coming year, the first of our emphases will be the family ...and then, we start looking at safe housing, at *water and sanitation, at health care, at all the issues affecting mothers and children.*'

Rotarians have always acknowledged that adequate health care is a necessary prerequisite for world peace. How can there be peace and harmony when there is inequality in the provision of health care? How can there be peace in a community when mothers and children die unnecessarily – where treatable diseases such as malaria and respiratory infections snatch away innocent lives?

The main reason why you and I journeyed the long and sometimes hard road to achieve medical excellence is the empathy we have to our fellow human beings. The reason why we joined Rotary is because it is a vehicle for us to live out our life's mission - to make the world a better place through health improvement. We also believe that we can contribute to the fulfillment of Rotary's objectives – a world where we all live in harmony, a world without Polio, a world where mothers and children have a much better chance of survival than what they have now.

The mission of IFRD is to develop a global association of Doctors and Allied Professionals who support and promote Rotary International and its goals.

A YEAR OF UPS AND DOWNS

I stand in front of you with mixed feelings about my first year in office. I would like to think that as a Fellowship we have taken some tentative steps in the right direction of achieving our objectives. I want to share with you the ups and downs of the year.

We had a successful annual meeting at Montreal and our Fellowship booth in the HoF was visited by many. But we cannot rely on an annual meeting alone to establish contact with like-minded Rotarians. I attempted to organise a meeting in the United Kingdom but failed. I have not yet given up, but I would urge all of you to organise meetings in your region. This should be open to all doctors – not only our members – to show that we are a huge force for good within Rotary. I'll be happy to work with you on a template of such meetings, and wherever possible attend such meetings.

Goal 1: Regional meetings

We've had a successful year in maintaining communication amongst our members through our website and Google group. The regular updates through Google mailing have been welcomed by many. I thank Past Chairman Himansu Basu for this. I've agreed with him that the mailing should remain on the membership part of the website. The website needs to be more interesting, but this is possible only when we receive updates and photographs from you.

Goal 2: Improved communication

We've a pool of dedicated members, many of whom are involved in voluntary work. I would like to urge you to communicate with me, if you are involved in any form of voluntary work.

I would like to share with you a couple of my personal experiences. In 2008-9 Rotary's theme was 'Make dreams real', with a specific charge to Rotarians to do something to reduce child mortality.

I had the privilege of linking with District 9200, and lead two teams of volunteers to improve health care in a remote island in Lake Victoria, Ukerewe. This is an ongoing project and I propose to return to Ukerewe later this year and again next year to undertake a more ambitious project. Child and maternal mortality is one of our biggest concerns.

I hope many of you will find fulfilling voluntary opportunities. I'll seek openings for us to channel our members' skills into volunteering.

Goal 3: Publicise volunteering opportunities

Rotary's first health priority is Polio eradication. We know that we are close to achieving our dream of a Polio free world. I've been involved in enabling three teams of volunteers to go to India to participate in NID's. We'll continue to raise awareness about the importance of the last push to ensure a Polio free world.

Goal 4: Support Polio eradication work

Rotarians are involved in a variety of health related projects: Doctor Bank, Jaipur Limb, Save a child's heart, Vision Aid, Sense International, World Response Medicine Box, Impact, Aid Trust, Feed The Children, Wheel Chair, Riders for Health, Remit – to name but a few. At grass root level many clubs undertake admirable projects to deliver health care to the most needy and many of our professional colleagues find great fulfilment by taking part in such projects. However there is no audit of projects, expertise or achievements.

I am pleased to announce an initiative today of our Fellowship trying to collate a directory of all health related projects with relevant contacts and some details to form a resource. I also believe that we are moving in the right direction to have and advisory role to other Fellowships and Groups, which are involved in health care projects.

Goal 5: Global database of health projects

One of our aspirations are to facilitate exchanges and visits – our efforts to facilitate mentoring of some of our Associate members from ATSU met some formidable difficulties.

I hope that the difficulties will not deter us from continuing to consider exchange visits at all levels a key objective of our Fellowship.

Goal 6: Exchange visits

CONCLUSION

We are a global family. We are our brothers' keepers because we have the ability and skills to help our brothers who need our help. The Fellowship of Rotarian Doctors embody everything that is good in Rotary and we look forward to another successful year.

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