

Uniting Rotarians
Across Borders



The BRIDGE

ICC UPDATE

3rd Edition - September 2026



Where Purple Governs

Annemarie Mostert and the architecture of a peace built together

By Pierangelo Panozzo

There is a colour, a visual symbol of peace and reconciliation reserved for those called to serve before they are called to lead: the purple of authority that is earned, not seized. Not the purple of power, but of responsibility — worn by those who accept a role not to occupy the stage, but to keep it open for others. It is the colour that best describes the style of Annemarie Mostert, South African, social entrepreneur, Past District Governor of District 9400, and now, President for the 2026–2028 term, at the helm of the Executive Council of Rotary's Intercountry Committees — the resource network that weaves relationships of peace between nations through Rotary friendship.

An architecture built by many hands

Peace, Mostert reminded delegates at the 2025 ICC summit in Calgary, is not merely the absence of conflict: it is a “positive peace” — an active, respectful relationship between peoples, cultivated day by day rather than declared once and for all. Drawing on her own South African experience, she made a point that few institutional speeches dare address so plainly: peace must reckon with language, culture and regional sensitivity — from Francophone to Anglophone Africa — and demands sustained, long-term commitment, not a single gesture or a well-worded statement. Her Rotary journey began in 1997.

From there came her involvement in various Rotary leadership positions, founding the EClub of Southern Africa, while in business she spent years leading Mila Services. She also serves on various boards, including as advisory on the academic board of Regenesys Business School. Behind every role, though, one conviction keeps surfacing in her public remarks: authentic leadership does not occupy the room — it opens it up.

Between memory and the future Mostert succeeds Nathalie Huyghebaert as President of the ICC Executive Council, the network of Intercountry Committees active across dozen of the countries on multiple continents. It is a transition she has chosen

to frame as continuity rather than rupture: peace, she has repeated on several occasions, is built by passing the baton, not by holding onto it.

This is where her mandate touches the heart of the intergenerational leadership conversation: on one side, the experience of Past District Governors who built the ICC network over the past 76 years; on the other, the energy of younger members now driving e-clubs and digital innovation. Her Calgary address made exactly this point: neither generation can build a lasting peace alone. What is needed is genuine dialogue — the kind that listens before it speaks, and sometimes stays quiet before it listens.

Keeper and builder

There is a distinction, familiar to those who work in conflict resolution, between keeping the peace and building it. The first preserves a balance; the second works to make that balance unnecessary.

Mostert's words and choices place her closer to the second: she does not simply preside over dialogue between committees and cultures, but insists on the need to build the underlying conditions — trust, listening, opportunity — that make conflict less likely to arise in the first place.

At the ICC Peace Forum in Cluj-Napoca, participants singled out her contribution as one of the most valued aspects of the gathering — an event designed to send every delegate home as a small ambassador for peace within their own community. It is their account, more than any adjective of ours, that best captures what her presence meant. Perhaps that is the fairest measure of leadership: not what it says of itself, but what others carry away from it.



THE GOVERNMENT OF PURPLE

It is no accident that the image of purple — a colour of dignity rather than conquest — fits a leadership style that makes no claim to the whole stage, working instead so that others, standing beside her, are seen and heard. It is an authority exercised lightly, and precisely for that reason it leaves behind something more durable than a term of office: a shared culture, able to outlast the individual mandate — and the individual name — that shaped it.

At a time when international organisations often struggle to hold together the memory of those who founded them and the energy of those who will inherit them, Annemarie Mostert's leadership of the ICC remains an instructive case study:

peace, in her own words, is not a slogan for a season, but an architecture built brick by brick, by the hands of more than one generation together.



Beyond Borders: Positioning ICC as Every District's Resource of Choice

By Annemarie Mostert, President, ICC Executive Council 2026–2028

Member of TRF Technical Advisors -CADRE and Past Chair of District International Service Committee –DISC

How Intercountry Committees, DISCs, and CADRES form one connected network to help districts and governors deliver stronger international service.



Where it began: German and French Rotarians meet in Strasbourg, 1950 —the origin of Rotary's first Intercountry Committee.

Seventy-six years ago, in a modest room in Strasbourg, a handful of German and French Rotarians sat down at a shared table. The wounds of two world wars were still raw. What they built that day was not a program or a policy, it was a relationship. Out of that first conversation came Rotary's first Intercountry Committee, and with it, a conviction that has carried through seven decades: when Rotarians across borders commit to working together, peace stops being an aspiration and becomes a practice. I begin here, in 2026, at the start of my term as President of the ICC Executive Council, because our history is not a footnote, it is our operating model. Long before “networking” was a term in any strategic plan, ICC was already doing it: connecting clubs, districts, and countries around shared service, shared expertise, and shared purpose. Today, with more than 800 ICC agreements in place and over 600 active sections in service around the globe, our network is larger, more diverse, and more essential than at any point in our history. And yet I want to speak directly to every District Governor, every District International Service Chair (DISC), and every club

leader reading this: our greatest opportunity is not behind us. It is in the district right next to yours, waiting to be introduced to the mentor, the partner, or the grant expertise it did not know existed just one connection away.

We Are Not Another Committee. We Are Your Resource.

Too often, international service structures are perceived as one more layer competing for a district's time. I want to be unambiguous: ICC does not compete with your district leadership, we exist to strengthen it. Alongside DISCs, District Rotary Foundation Chairs, and the Cadre of Technical Advisers (CADRES), ICC is one part of a single, connected District Resource Network built to answer one question every club eventually asks: who has already done this, and will they help us do it well?

When a club wants to launch a global grant project, they need more than good intentions. They need a partner country, a mentor who has written a winning grant application, and technical guidance in which ever of Rotary's areas of focus they are tackling. That is precisely the intersection where ICC lives: identifying and formalizing partnerships between clubs and districts across the world, so expertise does not have to be reinvented in every corner of Rotary, every single year.



International service in action: the human outcome of a district resource network that works.

Collaboration Is Not a Value Statement. It Is Our Methodology.

This is why our relationship with CADRES matters so much to me this term. CADRES brings deep, credentialed technical expertise, the kind that strengthens a grant application or de-risks a complex project before it ever reaches implementation. ICC brings international relationships and cross-border agreements that let that expertise travel to where it is needed. Neither of us is complete without the other, and neither of us is complete without the DISC, who sits at the center of the district's resource network, or without the District Governor, whose leadership makes this collaboration possible in the first place.

My call to every DG this biennium is simple: appoint your DISC and empower them to build relationships with your ICC chair and your CADRES contacts from day one. My call to every DISC is equally direct: you are the connector. Your job is not to hold expertise; it is to know exactly where it lives and to make the introduction. And my call to every club international service chair: do not wait until your project stalls to look for a mentor. Introduce yourself to your DISC today and ask to be connected to ICC's global network of partners.

Positioning Ourselves as the Resource of Choice

Over the next two years, the ICC Executive Council is committing to making ourselves easier to find, easier to work with, and impossible to overlook. We are strengthening our data on active agreements,

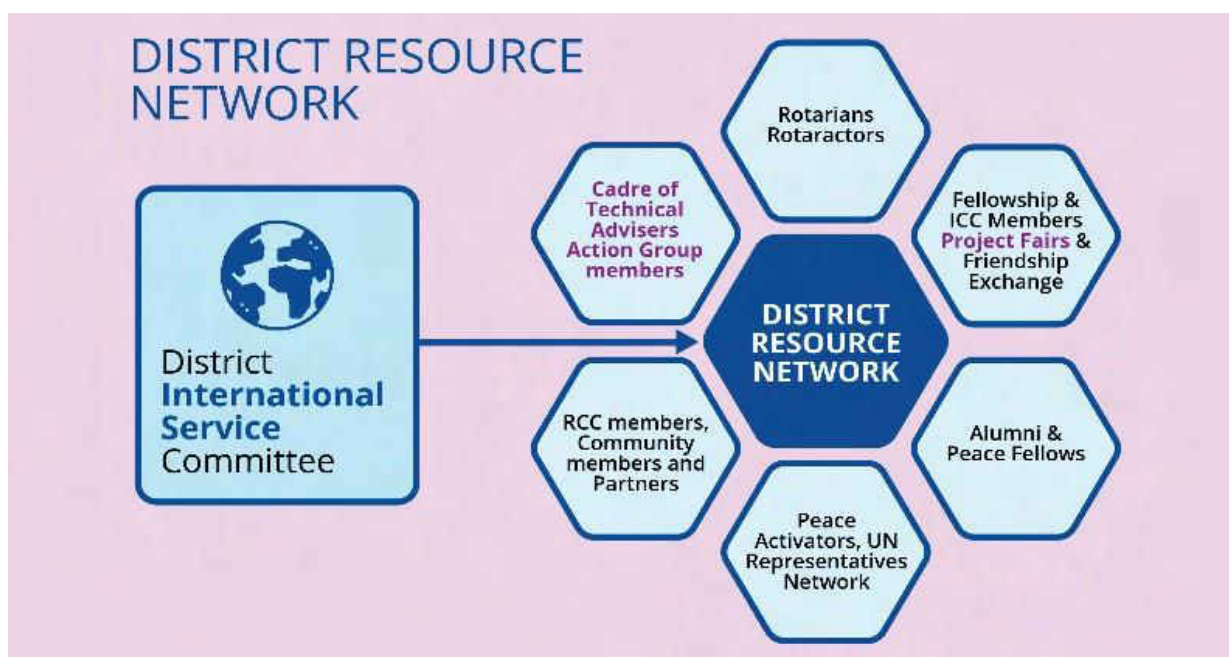
improving how districts discover potential partners and deepening our coordination with CADRES and DRFCs so no district ever must choose between resources. They simply gain access to all of them, through one connected network. This is what "resource of choice" means in practice: not a slogan on a slide, but a District Governor's first instinct, when a club raises its hand for an international project, to say, "Let's call ICC."

"Reach out to your ICC. Let's build this together."

I am motivated by what I see in that photograph from our early years: Rotarians who decided that collaboration across difference was worth the effort. Seventy-six years later, with clubs on every continent seeking partners, mentors, and meaning, that effort is more valuable than ever.

Reach out to your ICC. Let us build peace together.

To learn more visit: rotary-icc.org



The District Resource Network: ICC and CADRES work through the DISC, in service of the District Governor's priorities and every club's project.

From Taipei to Shanghai: How ICCs Keep Rotary Connected for Peace

By Richard Knowlton, Secretary of the ICC Executive Council

The Rotary International Convention in Taipei could easily have been the end of the journey. For a group of us, though, it was only the first stop.

A few days later, on 19 June, we were in Shanghai for a special ICC Conference and Fellowship hosted by Rotary China and ICC China at the Millennium Hongqiao Hotel. It turned out to be a fitting follow-on to Taipei: less about the scale and spectacle of a Convention, and more about something very close to the heart of ICC—people from different countries sitting down together, sharing ideas and looking for ways to work together.

That matters, especially now.

At a time when international relationships are under strain, ICCs have a very practical role to play in keeping Rotarians connected across borders. They do not replace Rotary's formal peace programmes, but they help create the relationships that make cooperation possible in the first place.

And Shanghai was a good example of that.

Our hosts, **Richard Zi, National Chair of ICC China, and Ian Chen, Special Representative for Rotary International Special Area 52**, could not have been warmer or more attentive. They introduced us to Rotary's history and development in China and made clear how keen Chinese Rotarians are to build stronger ICC links with the wider Rotary world.

Their hospitality was every bit as important as their presentations. From arrival to dinner, they and their colleagues made everyone feel genuinely welcome.

A special word of thanks must also go to **Tiziana Richiardi, Chair of the China Section of the ICC between China, Italy, San Marino and Malta**, whose quiet but tireless work liaising with visitors and hosts helped the whole programme run so smoothly.



Participants at the ICC Peace Conference in Shanghai 19 June 2026



ICC Executive Council Secretary Richard Knowlton delivering his speech



Richard Zi (ICC China Country Chair) and Richard Knowlton (Secretary 2026/28 ICC Executive Council)

Different countries, the same idea

What made the afternoon interesting was not just the variety of speakers, but how often their experiences came back to the same basic ICC message: relationships have to be active if they are going to matter.

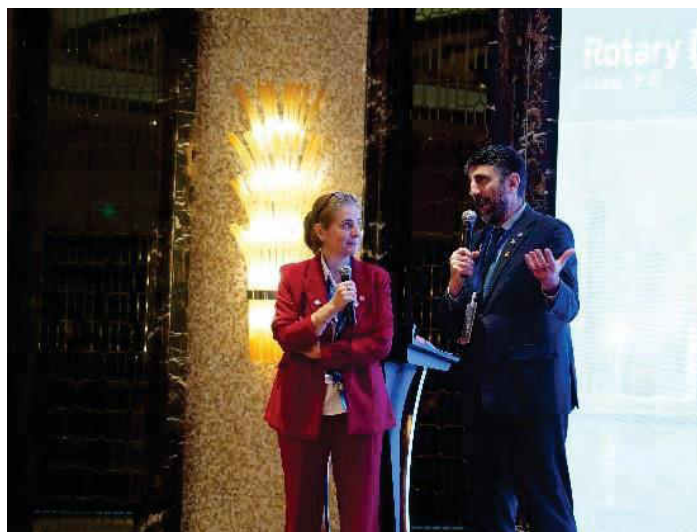
Claudine Schooley spoke about the continuing development of ICCs in the United States, including new links with China and the Philippines around the Taipei Convention. Her message was refreshingly practical: the signing ceremony is only the beginning. What really counts is what happens afterwards —regular contact, projects, exchanges, visits and the friendships that keep an ICC alive.

PDG Andrzej Ludek gave us the longer view. Poland's ICC experience stretches back more than three decades, beginning with Poland-France in 1991 and Poland-Germany in 1994. His examples showed what can grow from sustained relationships: conferences, training, youth activities, humanitarian cooperation and, importantly, friendships that survive political changes and the passage of time.

DG Svetlana Zhukova brought a very different perspective from Russia. District 2223 covers an enormous territory, yet its Rotarians are running practical projects for children with disabilities, supporting flood-affected communities, developing youth programmes and using online training to overcome huge distances between clubs.

Her final appeal could almost have been written for the Shanghai meeting itself: **make friends and unite with Rotarians from all countries for the sake of good.**

That sentence carried particular weight. Whatever the wider political climate, Rotarians from Russia were there in Shanghai, meeting colleagues from China, the United States, Poland, Italy and elsewhere. That is exactly the kind of human connection ICCs are designed to preserve.



Tiziana Richiardi (ICC China-Italy) with DG Guido Giuseppe Abbate (District 2072, Italy)



Andrzej Ludek (Past President, ICC Executive Council) with a German member of ICC China



(LR) Claudine Schooley (ICC Country Chair, USA), David Schooley and Evelina Knowlton (ICC Executive Council)

DG Guido Giuseppe Abbate brought us back to Italy, introducing the scale and variety of Rotary there and the work of District 2072. He highlighted youth engagement and a mobile medical unit providing free health screening, but his closing invitation was perhaps the most ICC like part of his presentation: come to Italy, build club partnerships and develop international projects together.

My own contribution, “**ICCs and Peace in Rotary**”, tried to draw those different strands together. The central point was simple: peace building is not only about formal peace programmes. It is also about the conditions that allow people to trust, understand and work with one another.

That is where ICCs can make a distinctive contribution. Youth exchanges, professional contacts, humanitarian projects, cultural activities and long-term friendships all help create the human infrastructure for cooperation. In that sense, ICCs support Rotary’s wider peace ambitions by keeping relationships open, practical and personal.

Why Shanghai mattered

The significance of the meeting was not that everyone came from countries that agreed with one another. Quite the opposite.

The value lay in the fact that Rotarians from countries including **China, Russia, the United States, Poland and Italy** were sitting together, listening to each other and looking for ways to cooperate.

People were still talking.

They were still exchanging ideas.

They were still looking for projects they could undertake together.

That may sound simple, but in a difficult international climate it is anything but trivial.



(LR) Tiziana Richiardi (ICC China-Italy), Giovanni Venturi (ICC Italy-China) and Evelina Knowlton (ICC Executive Council)

And then came the Fellowship

Of course, no ICC event would be complete if everyone simply listened to presentations and went home.

The conference gave way to fellowship and an ICC China gala dinner, and in many ways that was where the ICC spirit became most visible. Pennants and gifts changed hands, old friends met again, new friendships began and conversations continued long after the formal programme had ended.

The photographs probably tell this part of the story better than words.

Taipei showed that the ICC network is continuing to grow.

Shanghai showed why that growth matters: because keeping people connected across borders, especially when the international climate is difficult, is itself part of Rotary’s contribution to peace.



Richard and Evelina Knowlton with a group of ICC member from China

Rotary Friendship Across Borders: District 2440 Fellowship Groups Strengthen Ties in Slovenia

By District 2440 Slovenia-Türkiye ICC Chair Mert Rüstem

The greatest journeys are not measured by the kilometres travelled, but by the friendships created along the way. When people from different cultures come together with a shared commitment to service, understanding and fellowship, they build bridges that extend far beyond national borders. This spirit was at the heart of a memorable international gathering organised by Rotary District 2440 in Slovenia.

From 2–6 July 2026, members of District 2440's Strong Feet Trekking Fellowship and Shutter Photography Fellowship travelled to Slovenia for an inspiring programme that celebrated friendship, cultural exchange and a shared passion for nature and photography. Organized by District 2440 ICC Türkiye–Slovenia Coordinator Mert Rüstem, the visit brought together 21 participants, including Rotary members and their families, creating an atmosphere of fellowship that reflected the very essence of Rotary.

A defining moment of the programme was the joint meeting between Turkish and Slovenian Rotarians, attended by representatives of Rotary District 1912 and the Carniola Rotary Club. More than a ceremonial gathering, the meeting strengthened long-standing international relationships through the exchange of club banners, the sharing of successful community service projects and meaningful discussions about future collaboration.

The participants also confirmed their intention to renew the official friendship agreement between the two districts and continue reciprocal visits in 2027, reaffirming their shared commitment to international understanding and sustainable partnerships. These connections create opportunities for future humanitarian initiatives, cultural exchange and the sharing of innovative ideas that strengthen Rotary's impact in both countries.

Beyond the meetings, the programme offered participants the opportunity to discover some of Slovenia's most remarkable destinations, including Ljubljana, Lake Bled, Postojna Cave, Predjama Castle, Piran and Kranjska Gora. Through trekking and photography activities, members experienced the country's rich cultural heritage and breathtaking landscapes while building friendships through shared experiences.

The journey also highlighted the unique role of Rotary Fellowships and Intercountry Committees in bringing people together beyond traditional club meetings. By connecting members through common interests and international cooperation, these programmes foster goodwill, promote peace and encourage lifelong friendships that transcend geography, language and culture.

As the visit concluded, participants returned home with far more than beautiful photographs and unforgettable memories. They carried with them stronger international friendships, fresh inspiration for future service projects and a renewed belief that Rotary's greatest strength lies in its ability to unite people across borders. This inspiring gathering demonstrated that fellowship is not simply a Rotary value—it is a powerful force for peace, understanding and collaboration. Through every conversation, every shared experience and every new friendship, Rotary members from Türkiye and Slovenia continued to create lasting impact, proving once again that when communities connect, the possibilities for service become truly limitless.



End Plastic, Build Peace

How a youth workshop in Pristina turned environmental action into international understanding

By Klaus Brodbeck - National Chair for Intercountry Committees, Germany

From 6 to 12 July 2026, the University of Pristina became a laboratory for ideas, cooperation and international understanding. Under the title “Plastic Soup in the City –The Impact of Urban Design on the Environment”, the Intercountry Committee Germany–Kosovo, led by Dr Heiner Grönewald and Erik Mackinlay, brought together 25 young people aged 18 to 25 from several European countries and Mexico.

The participants were united by a shared challenge: How can cities prevent plastic waste and littering instead of merely cleaning up their consequences? Four experts from Kosovo and Germany contributed perspectives from marine biology, architecture and urban planning. Guided by a professional facilitator from Switzerland, the young people used the Design Thinking method to develop practical proposals for improved waste collection and cleaner urban spaces.

Yet the workshop achieved much more than environ-

mental education. Young people from different countries, cultures and personal backgrounds worked side by side, discussed openly, listened to one another and experienced how quickly strangers can become a team when they share responsibility for a common task. Excursions, local history, music, food and informal conversations added an important human dimension. Peace does not begin with declarations. It begins when people meet, overcome stereotypes and discover that cooperation is possible despite different experiences and viewpoints.

This is precisely where the special strength of Rotary’s Intercountry Committees becomes visible. They connect people across borders and turn international understanding into practical experience. The seminar combined two central Rotary priorities in a convincing way: protecting the environment and promoting peace.



Young participants and organisers at the University of Pristina after a week of intensive work and international exchange.
Photo: ICC Germany–Kosovo.

A particularly encouraging sign of sustainability was the visit of three participants from the previous seminar in 2019. Their return showed that such encounters do not end with the closing session. They create relationships, memories and networks that continue to grow.

The Pristina workshop should therefore be more than a successful individual project. We want to advance comparable formats in other regions of Europe as well—especially where history, borders or current tensions make personal encounters particularly valuable. Bringing young people together around a shared challenge can create something lasting: ideas for a better environment, trust between nations and a new generation prepared to build peace.



Design Thinking in action: young participants develop practical ideas to prevent littering and improve waste collection. Photo: ICC Germany–Kosovo

Friedensradler–Giro della Pace: Cycling cross borders for peace and hope

By Gerti Gruber - RC Gastein / Birgit Grupp-Fischer - RC München-Lehel / Tiziano Rosani - RC Meran / Gunther Gröss - RC Klagenfurt-Lindwurm

Peace begins where people can build a future

What happens when Rotarians from different countries ride bicycles across borders for people they may never meet?

For the fifth time, the “Friedensradler” —the Peace Cyclists —brought together Rotarians and friends from across Europe for a shared mission: Building peace through friendship, solidarity, and humanitarian action.



In 2026, around 50 cyclists traveled more than 500 kilometers from Bavaria across the Austrian Alps to the Adriatic coast in Italy. Along the route, Rotary clubs welcomed us with meetings, sponsorships, and extraordinary hospitality. In total, 51 Rotary clubs supported the initiative this year.

The project is organized by the ICC Austria–Germany–Italy–Malta–San Marino, an Intercountry Committee dedicated to strengthening international friendship and cooperation through Rotary.

But the „Friedensradler“ is about much more than cycling. Every year, the tour supports an international humanitarian project. This year, together, we raised around EUR 25,000 for a project supporting water access, irrigation systems, and sustainable agriculture in villages in the Kafountin region of southern Senegal. The local partner coordinating the project is the association Diamani Kouta.

The project focuses especially on improving opportunities for women and their families through access to water and sustainable agriculture.



For us, helping people create a dignified future in their own homeland is one of the greatest peace projects of our time.

When communities have access to water, agriculture, education, and economic opportunity, people are not forced to leave their homes in search of survival. They can stay, raise their children, and build a future with dignity.

With this project, we feel that we are part of this larger peace movement.

During the five-day journey, we crossed borders, languages, and cultures. What started as a cycling quickly became something much deeper.

We shared mountain climbs, heavy rain, mechanical problems, meals, and long conversations late into the evening. Many participants met for the first time at the start of the tour. Five days later, they felt like old friends.

The „Friedensradler“ is not a race.

Nobody wins medals.

**But there is still a victory:
a small victory over poverty and
hopelessness,**

and a small contribution toward making this world a little better.

The real success is seeing how quickly trust, friendship, and solidarity can grow between people from different nations when they work together for a meaningful cause.

And this spirit continues to grow every year.

Over the past five years, the Friedensradler initiative has already raised more than EUR 170,000 for international humanitarian and peace-related projects.



Together, we supported:

- ambulances for Ukraine (2022)
- educational projects in Cuba (2023)
- water infrastructure projects in India (2024)
- a school project in Ethiopia (2025)
- water and agriculture projects in Senegal (2026)

In addition, the initiative helped raise EUR 54,000 for End Polio Now through sponsorships linked to the kilometers cycled during the tour.

What began as a small idea between friends has become an international movement connecting Rotary clubs and people across Europe through friendship, service, and peace building.

Again and again, we experience the same thing: People are willing to help when they feel personally connected to a project and to each other.

That is exactly what happens during the Friedensradler.

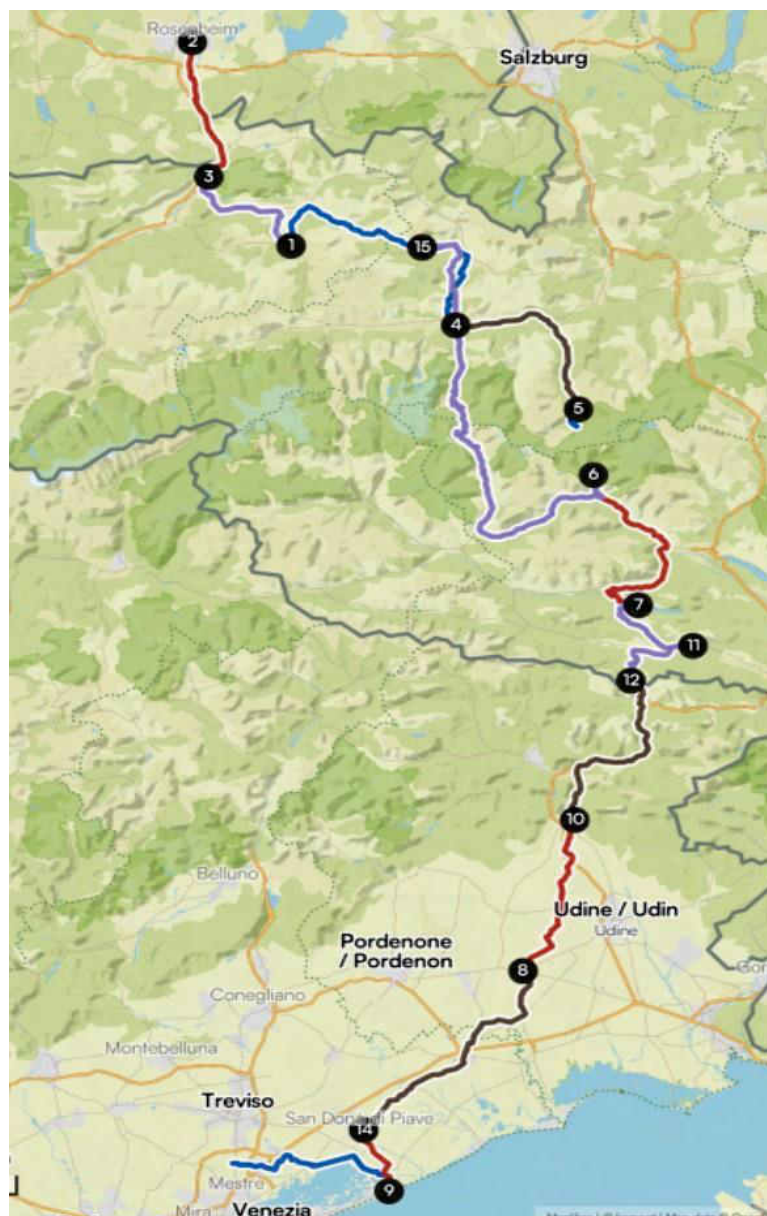
Peace is often discussed at political levels. But sometimes peace starts much smaller: with hospitality, with friendship, with solidarity, and sometimes simply with people riding bicycles together across borders.

We believe peace grows through personal connection, shared experiences, and concrete action.

If you would like to follow the Friedensradler journey, support future humanitarian projects, or connect with our international initiative, we invite you to join us.

[More about the project:](#)

[Follow our journey on Facebook:](#)



Der Friedensradler 2026

RC Rosenheim + RC Rosenheim-Innstadt
RC Kufstein + RC Wörgl
RC Kitzbühel + RAC Kitzbühel
RC Saalfelden
RC Zell am See + RAC Pinzgau
RC Gastein
RC Weissensee
RC Hermagor
RC Gemona - Friuli Collinare
RC Codroipo - Villa Manin
RC San Donà di Piave
RC Jesolo + RC Caorle + RC Lignano Sabbiadoro Tagliamento
RC Treviso-Nord

5 Tage	6 Tage
19 Clubs	30 Clubs
478 km	525 km
4.580 hm	4.640 hm

Awarding Speech at the Bergamo ICC Meeting

By D1690 PDG Anne-Marie Mouchet

This Peace Award Recognises Actions That Foster Understanding, Tolerance and Contributions to Peace Building

Promoting peace through Rotary and the ICCs has a meaningful and lasting impact throughout the world.

The initiatives carried out by the Intercountry Committees demonstrate every day that intercultural dialogue, international cooperation, and human connections are essential foundations for building lasting peace.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Nathalie, with whom I had the great pleasure of working on this ICC Peace Award project, as well as to her entire team. I would also like to warmly thank the members of the international jury for their commitment and dedication during the final selection process.

Thank you for this wonderful initiative and for the trust you placed in me throughout this journey. The primary objective of this ICC Peace Award was twofold:

- to recognize, through the awarding of a €5,000 prize, an original and exemplary initiative promoting peace, intercultural dialogue, and international cooperation led by the ICCs;
- and also to highlight and promote the remarkable work carried out by ICCs around the world.

It is important to emphasize the historic significance of this edition, as this is the very first time such an award has been organized.

We had the honor of receiving 21 applications from several continents, which we considered a very encouraging result for this inaugural edition. Each application reflected a sincere and inspiring commitment to peace. While some projects met the established criteria more comprehensively than

others, every initiative deserves recognition for its quality and dedication.

All applications were carefully reviewed by a truly international jury, using a detailed and rigorous evaluation framework to ensure a fair and thorough selection of the laureate, who will officially be celebrated on May 30, 2026, during the ICC World Peace event.

The First Prize of the ICC Peace Award 2026 is awarded to the project:

“Cycling for Peace – Building Peace Through Personal Encounters Across Borders”

This project fulfilled all the required criteria. Beyond its outstanding contribution to peace building and fostering connections between people, the initiative also supports Polio eradication efforts and The Rotary Foundation.

The project was presented by the Intercountry Committee Austria –Germany –Italy –Malta – San Marino (ICC AGIMS), led by ICC Austria as the founding and coordinating chapter, in rotating cooperation with Germany and Italy.

It is now my great pleasure to invite **Gerti Gruber** to join me for the official presentation of the **Peace Award 2026**.

Allow me to conclude with a personal reflection: as someone deeply committed to international cooperation and friendship among peoples, I truly believe it would be invaluable to continue and further develop this remarkable initiative in the years to come.

Thank you very much for your attention, and I wish you all a wonderful evening.

Across the Ocean, United by Friendship: A New Chapter for Rotary in Moldova and the United States!

By Irina Rusanovschi- Intercountry Committees Chair –Moldova -Rotary D2241 –Romania and Republic of Moldova

The Republic of Moldova is a small country in the heart of Europe, situated between Romania and Ukraine. It is a country with a rich cultural heritage, warm and welcoming people, and a strong desire to build a better future. At the same time, Moldova remains one of Europe's lower income countries and continues to face many challenges in healthcare, education, social development and community life.

For Moldova, international friendship and cooperation are not simply words. They are opportunities to learn, to grow, to share knowledge and, most importantly, to make a real difference in people's lives.

This is where Rotary has an extraordinary role to play.

The Rotary journey in Moldova

The Rotary movement began in Chişinău in the 1998, with the establishment of the first Rotary Club in Moldova. Since then, Rotary has grown and developed across the country, with clubs and Rotarians now active not only in the capital, but also in cities such as Soroca, Cahul and Comrat, among others.

Over the years, Moldovan Rotarians have increasingly understood the power of international cooperation. We have become more active in developing Intercountry Committees, creating bridges between Rotary members from different countries and transforming friendships into long-term cooperation.

Today, we are taking another important step: working toward the creation of an Intercountry Committee between the Republic of Moldova and the United States of America.

For me, this is much more than the creation of another Rotary structure. It is the next chapter of relationships that have already existed for many years.



A friendship across the Atlantic

For more than 25 years, Moldova and the State of North Carolina have shared a remarkable partnership. The official bilateral cooperation began in 1999 and has developed into a strong relationship involving healthcare, education, academic exchanges, humanitarian assistance, professional training and many other areas.

Rotary has become an important part of this story.

For more than 14 years, Rotary members and healthcare professionals from Moldova and North Carolina have worked together through projects, professional exchanges, humanitarian assistance and, particularly, nursing cooperation.

One of the most beautiful examples of this partnership has been the series of Global Grant projects developed between Rotary clubs in North Carolina and Rotary Club Chişinău Centru, District 2241 Romania and Republic of Moldova.

Among these GG are:

2014 –GG152883 –Nursing Moldova

2016 –GG1746134 –Nursing Collaboration between North Carolina and Moldova

2018 –GG1872768 –Nursing Collaboration between North Carolina and Moldova

2021 –GG2099865 –Nursing Collaboration between North Carolina and Moldova

These projects have created much more than training opportunities. They have created professional friendships and a continuous exchange of knowledge between nurses and healthcare professionals on both sides of the Atlantic.

Today, regular webinars continue to connect nurses from North Carolina and Moldova, allowing them to share experiences, discuss challenges and learn from one another.

This is the true spirit of Rotary: people serving people, learning from one another and building relationships that last.

The nursing collaboration has also been recognized for its impact on healthcare education and professional development in Moldova.

From friendship to action

Our cooperation has not stopped with professional exchanges.

In 2022, Rotary Club Greensboro, Rotary Club Guilford, Rotary Club Summit in Greensboro and Rotary Club Wilmington East, together with Rotary Club Chişinău Centru, joined efforts in a humanitarian project that brought a container of approximately 11,700 kilograms of medical supplies and equipment to Moldova.

The donated equipment and supplies were subsequently distributed to dozens of medical institutions across the country.

For a country where many healthcare institutions continue to face shortages of equipment and resources, such assistance is not simply a donation. It represents dignity, support and hope for healthcare professionals and for the people they serve.

Another meaningful project connected Moldova and North Carolina through education and access to knowledge.



The Scientific Medical Library of Nicolae Testemițanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy, together with eight other university libraries across Moldova, received technical equipment—including notebooks, printers and supplies—from Rotary Club Wilmington East, District 7730, as part of the broader North Carolina–Moldova partnership.

These projects demonstrate what can happen when Rotary clubs decide to look beyond their own communities and work together for a common purpose,

A partnership that continues to grow our relationship with North Carolina has also created opportunities to bring people together at the highest levels. In October 2023, we had the great honor of welcoming North Carolina Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall, together with nurses from North Carolina, to Rotary Chisinau Centru meeting.

Secretary Marshall has been one of the strongest and most committed friends of Moldova within the North Carolina–Moldova partnership. Her personal dedication has helped bring together hundreds of American volunteers and partners involved in medical, educational, humanitarian and development projects in Moldova. The partnership between Moldova and North Carolina was renewed in 2024, reaffirming the commitment of both sides to continue and expand cooperation.

And the story continues.

This summer, new connections were created during the visit to Moldova of Angela Bendorf Jamison, Past District Governor of District 7710, and Leah Flach, both members of the Rotary Club of Wake Forest, North Carolina.

New friendships are becoming new opportunities. New conversations are becoming new projects. A new Global Grant and a new horizon. Just recently, we received extraordinary news.

The Rotary Foundation has approved Global Grant GG2686088 –“Oncological Reconstruction with Modern Microsurgery Methods,” a project dedicated to the Institute of Oncology in Chișinău. The project will be implemented by Rotary Club Chișinău Centru, as the host club, together with our international partner, Rotary Club Honolulu Sunset, District 5000, Hawaii. This project is another powerful example of how Rotary connects communities across thousands of kilometers.

It also reminds us that our cooperation with the United States is not limited to one state or one city. The possibilities are much broader. The next chapter: an Intercountry Committee between Moldova and the USA

The ocean separates Moldova from the United States. But friendship has never been measured in kilometers.



Over the years, we have received humanitarian assistance, welcomed American volunteers and professionals, developed Global Grant projects, organized professional exchanges, held regular online meetings and, most importantly, built friendships.

Now we want to give these relationships a stronger and more sustainable framework.

We are working toward the creation of an Intercountry Committee between the Republic of Moldova and the United States of America.

I believe an ICC can become a bridge connecting Rotary clubs, districts and Rotarians from both countries. It can help us discover new partners, develop new Global Grants, encourage youth exchanges, support professional and cultural exchanges, strengthen humanitarian cooperation and create opportunities for Rotarians to meet not only through projects, but also as friends.

Our goal is not simply to do more projects.

Our goal is to build lasting relationships between people and communities.

Because every successful Rotary project begins with a conversation.

Every partnership begins with trust.

And every friendship begins when someone reaches across the distance and says: How can we help each other?

A shared commitment to peace

At a time when our world needs understanding, solidarity and peace more than ever, Rotary has a unique opportunity to bring people together.

Moldova may be a small country, but our aspirations are not small.

We believe in cooperation.

We believe in friendship.

We believe in service. And we believe that when people from different countries come together with an open heart and a common purpose, geographical distance becomes irrelevant.

The ocean separates us — but friendship unites us. For me, the creation of an ICC between Moldova and the United States is not the beginning of our relationship.

It is the continuation of a story that has already been written through years of service, generosity, professional cooperation and friendship and I am confident that the best chapters are still ahead of us.

CREATE LASTING IMPACT!



ICC Russia -Serbia & Montenegro: Inspiration from personal meetings!

By Olga Kholmogorova – ICC National Chair for Russia

The Russian Rotarians are equally eager to make time to visit Rotary clubs during their travels within own country and abroad. We'd been corresponding with Marko Mitrašinović, the ICC NC for Serbia and Montenegro, since the spring, but the meeting was postponed until a personal meeting took place at the Rotary Convention in Taipei between Svetlana Zhukova, PDG 2223 for 2025-2026 and Veliša Stomatović, PDG 2483. At the House of Friendship the correspondence immediately began about a specific small project: arrival to St. Petersburg of Jelena Prokopović, a young talented artist and Rotarian from the RC Novi Sad Alma Mons. Jelena spent about two months working on her project, making eight oil paintings and numerous drawings, all portraits. She will donate some of the paintings to clubs in our District to benefit Rotary projects!.

Jelena spoke about her city, Novi Sad, the second largest city in Serbia, located on the banks of the Danube. The Rotary Club Novi Sad Alma Mons primarily develops projects in the areas of education, culture, ecology, and community support.

In particular, the funds from the well-known auction project "More Than Wine" are donated to support creative institutions, including the Academy of Arts in Novi Sad, where Jelena graduated. Together with other Rotary clubs in the region, the club is participating in the purchase of computer equipment and modern facilities for Novi Sad schools. The club implements urban environmental projects, including initiatives to protect and support the urban bee population.

By a remarkable coincidence, at the same time, our Rotarian, Major Donor Alexey Svetlikov, and his family were traveling through Montenegro and Serbia! I'm especially pleased to announce that Alexey Svetlikov will serve as the Chair of the ICC Russia -Serbia and Montenegro from the Russian side.



I have asked the Rotarians involved in the ICC to share their views:

Veliša Stamatović, Immediate Past DG 2483 Serbia and Montenegro:

"It was very nice opportunity and great possibility to host Rotarians from St-Petersburg and to speak about restarting collaboration between clubs and Districts from Russia on one side and Serbia and Montenegro on the other side.

We were privileged to meet Alexei Svetlikov, Past President of RC St-Petersburg White nights in Belgrade and speak about potential collaboration between our clubs and Districts. Few directions were highlighted as next step for building relations. Both sides will do their best to visit each other for some special events that each side is organizing in their own clubs and cities. Good experiences should be shared between clubs in order to develop Rotary in both Districts. Few potential mutual projects were discussed too, especially in fields of Ecology, Medicine, Education and Global grants. Both sides agreed that first step should be the goal to spend more time together online and in real, to introduce more Rotarians from both Districts to each other and to organize some official visits.

As an example for great start of our friendship and great relations we would like to highlight the friendship between Past District Governors Svetlana and Veliša, as well as very good communication between national ICC coordinators from both Districts, Olga and Marko.

Our District would like to show thankfulness to members of RC "St-Petersburg. White nights" for hosting our talented Rotarian and painter from RC Novi Sad Alma Mons -Jelena Prokopović in their club and for providing her support while staying in St-Petersburg. We hope that Jelena's visit and charity auctions together with Rotarians from St. Petersburg would be excellent example how good people can join together and make good things happen.

We are very open for collaboration and truly looking forward for next steps in making it."

Jelena Prokopović, RC Novi Sad Alma Mons, Serbia:

"This is my first trip to Russia, to St. Petersburg. Since me being an artist, it is very pleasant to connect to this artistic city, a city of great artists! I like it very much, of course.

To live here in Pushkinskaya10, and to work here, to meet contemporary artists, that are also working and living here, it is something that made this experience much higher. When I was younger, I always wanted to come here, so my wish came true. This art residency fulfilled my artistic needs. I hope to come back.

I felt a very warm welcome in the Rotary Club St Petersburg. White Nights. During my stay I joined the club twice for their meetings. Hope, that some of Rotarians will come to Serbia for the 20th anniversary of the RC Smederevo on October 9th this year."



Alexei Svetlikov, RC St-Petersburg White Nights, ICC Chair Russia -Serbia & Montenegro

“At the end of July 2026, in the warm atmosphere of one of Belgrade's most significant places we met with Veliša Stamatović, Past Governor of the District of Serbia and Montenegro. Veliša shared his experience implementing a large-scale project to provide equipment to schools in Montenegro thanks to two Global Grants totaling \$400,000.

Veliša considers his achievement of visiting almost all clubs over the past year, assessing each club's strengths and weaknesses, and assisting in the development of clubs in need of support to be significant in his work as Governor. He also shared his experience of balancing the duties as a Governor with running his own business. The most important thing is the desire to change the world for the better and help those in need.

Achieving these goals, in fact, energizes him and contributes to the success of his business. One of the main outcomes of the meeting was an agreement on further collaboration with our district, 2223 Russia, participation in joint projects, and visits to Rotary



clubs and conferences. We very much hope for future meetings and collaboration with our Rotarian friends in Serbia and Montenegro.”



2026 Peace Award Highlights

How Intercountry Committees Achieved Greatness Together.

By PDG Günes Ertas – ICC Executive Council – Communications Working Group Lead

Rotary Intercountry Committees (ICCs) demonstrate that international collaboration turns shared ideals into tangible, life-changing action.

By bridging districts, nations, and cultures, ICC partnerships create sustainable solutions to global challenges. The diverse roster of initiatives participating in the 2026 ICC Peace Award highlights how cross-border cooperation fosters resilience, understanding, and positive peace

Building Bridges and Historical Memory

Physical journeys and cross-border exchanges break down long-standing barriers and honor shared heritage:

- The West Front Way Trail: The GB & I/France ICC coordinates with local authorities and départements to install a contiguous path from the Swiss border to the Belgian coast, transforming historical front lines into pathways for reflection.
- Encounters Across Borders: The Austria–Germany–Italy–Malta–San Marino ICC (ICC AGIMS) promotes direct cross-border dialogue through the Cycling for Peace project.
- Intercontinental Connection: The Rome –Mecca Cycle Tours initiative bridges continents to foster peace and intercultural understanding.

Empowering Youth and Developing Future Leaders

Investing in the next generation is central to sustainable peace building across multiple ICC initiatives:

- Peace Education: The Nigeria–Great Britain & Ireland ICC collaborates with the Rotary Club of Aladinma–Owerri to deliver The Peace Education Project.

- Leadership and Positive Peace: The UK– Romania ICC equips emerging leaders through the 21st Century Skills Development Positive Peace and Leadership Focus project.
- Youth Summits and Civic Action: The Netherlands–Ukraine ICC connects young peacemakers through the Youth Peace Summit, while ICC Haiti drives community engagement with Youth for Peace and Civic Action in the Centre Department (YPCA-Centre).

Environmental Stewardship and Sustainable Community Development

Environmental sustainability and civic progress serve as foundational pillars for stable, peaceful societies:

- Ecosystem Restoration: The Russian Federation–Italy/Malta/San Marino ICC supports international volunteerism to revive the forest on Olkhon Island.
- Marine Preservation: The Finland–ItalyICC advances BASRAN (Baltic Sea Action Network of Rotarians), uniting Rotarians across nine Baltic nations.
- Ecological Innovation: The Canada–Egypt ICC leads Eco Rise for Peace: Turning Waste into Opportunity, Dignity and Hope.
- Smart Infrastructure: The Pakistan–Germany ICC advances sustainable community development through the Smart Villages initiative.

Healthcare, Humanitarian Relief, and Community Protection

Targeted humanitarian partnerships directly address vulnerable populations and critical community needs:

- **Healthcare Infrastructure:** The Italy–Russia ICC coordinated the establishment of an X-Ray Room at the Kedane Meheret Hospital in Ethiopia.
- **Support for Children:** The Italy–Palestine ICC provides vital aid for deaf children in Bethlehem, while the Southern Africa–Rotary GB&I partnership runs Safer Children, Stronger Communities in South Africa.
- **Cultural and Disaster Solidarity:** Across other regions, vital work continues through the Italy Malta San Marino–Guinea Bissau ICC's The Taste of Peace, the Russia–Germany ICC's Music for Peace, the Ukraine–USA ICC networking sessions, and the Türkiye& USA ICC's resilience initiative We Will Survive.

Whether restoring ecosystems, establishing historical peace trails, equipping hospitals, or training youth leaders, Intercountry Committees turn international friendship into lasting peace. The projects represented in the 2026 Peace Award prove that when nations work side by side under the banner of Rotary service, their collective impact reaches far beyond borders.



The "Throne Day" in Palermo

strengthens the friendship between the Kingdom of Morocco and Rotary

By Antonio Giunta –D2110 Chair of the Intercountry Committee Italy, Malta, San Marino-Morocco

The celebration of the anniversary of King Mohammed VI of Morocco's accession to the throne has always symbolized the unity of the Kingdom, as well as confidence in a future marked by cooperation and brotherhood among peoples.

This year, in keeping with this tradition, the Kingdom of Morocco General Consul in Palermo, Her Excellency Maryem Nassif, organized a splendid celebration for the occasion on July 30, 2027.

The Throne Day celebration, on its 27th anniversary, was held at the timeless ruins of the Church of Santa Maria dello Spasimo (Palermo Italy) in the presence of approximately 200 guests, including the Deputy Mayor of Municipality of Palermo, Dario Falzone, and numerous other civil, military, religious, diplomatic, academic, and civil society authorities.

After the performance of the Italian and Moroccan national anthems and the official speeches celebrating the accession to the throne of the King Mohammed VI, in a magical atmosphere under a starry sky, amidst music, dance, and Moroccan songs, typical dishes rich in flavor and color were served, delighting the palates of those present.

The celebration was also an important opportunity to strengthen the already strong bonds of friendship between the Kingdom of Morocco and Rotary District 2110 (Sicily-Malta).

Among the many invited dignitaries, the Consul extended a particularly warm welcome to District 2110 Governor Lina Ricciardello, who was present at the National Throne Day with the PDG Goffredo Vaccaro, the DGE Casimiro Gaetano Castronovo, the Italian President of the Italy ML, SM-Morocco Intercountry Committee Antonio Giunta, District Treasurer Alfredo Nocera, the President of the RC Palermo Annibale Chiriaco, the President of the RC Palermo Baia dei Fenici Mario Cassarà, the President of the RC Palermo Teatro del Sole Mariafrancesca

Franco, the President of the RC Palermo Agorà Luisa Di Silvestri and many other Rotarians.

The presence of Archbishop Vito Rallo, Apostolic Delegate of the Holy See in Morocco and honorary member of the RC Mazara del Vallo, was also significant, testifying to the interreligious tolerance practiced in this country.

The Consul's invitation to the National Throne Day was the best possible demonstration of the awareness that H.E. Maryem Nassif has of the commitment supported by Rotary and in particular by our District 2110 in Morocco, through the many humanitarian projects carried out over the past 15 years and the strong friendships established with Rotarians and Moroccan institutions.



Another aspect of the friendship that exists between Rotary and the Kingdom of Morocco is highlighted by the fact that His Majesty King Mohammed VI accepted (an extraordinary event) on October 4, 1999, the nomination of Honorary President of Rotary by Abdelkrim Benomar, Governor pro tempore of the Maghreb District 9010, and that the Rotary District 9010 Congress is always held in Morocco under the High Patronage of His Majesty the King and in the presence of an important representative.

The friendship between Rotarians in Morocco and Italy was born in 2006 through the personal story of a Moroccan woman, Samira Elyamani, who, at great financial sacrifice, took her son Ayoub, who was seriously ill with thalassemia, from a village in the province of Rabat to the Galiera Hospital in Genoa.

Samira's story highlights that in those years, thalassemia in Morocco was often undiagnosed or inadequately treated, and that hundreds of children died each year from a curable disease. Rotarians in Genoa, led by Paolo Gardino, decided to launch a project to control thalassemia in Morocco.

The "Thalassemia-Morocco" project extended to other Italian Rotary Districts, including our own District 2110, which has always been at the forefront of this great initiative thanks to the foresight of the late PDG Concetto Lombardo.

Four Matching Grants and seven Global Grants were awarded in Morocco.

The "Thalassemia" Project involved ten hospitals in Morocco (Rabat, Casablanca, Oujda, Marrakech, Tangier, El Jadida, Taroudant, Fez, and Larache), two bone marrow transplant centers at the "Centres Hospitaliers Universitaires" in Marrakech and Casablanca, and two blood transfusion centers (Rabat and Oujda). Four hospitals in Italy (Genoa, Turin, Palermo, and Trapani) were also involved.

The last Global Grant/VTT awarded in Morocco was GG2464128 "Cardioprotection de Rabat avec DsAE et Formation de Secouristes et des Instructeurs BLSD" with a \$42,000 endowment obtained with resources from the Rotary Foundation, Italian Districts 2110 and 2080, Moroccan District 9010, RC Palermo Teatro del Sole, and RC Rabat Excellence.

The project was completed in Rabat on February 10, 2026, through the efforts of a Vocational Training Team composed of five Rotarians from District 2110: Goffredo Vaccaro (team leader), Maurilio Carpinteri, Antonio Giunta, Pietro Leto, and Antonella Lombardo.

The Global Grant enabled the dissemination of first aid and early defibrillation among the population of Rabat, Morocco, with the goal of significantly increasing the chances of survival for those suffering cardiac arrest in environments where defibrillators were placed and donated.

The defibrillators were donated and installed in the following centers:

- 1) Rabat Psychiatric Hospital,
- 2) Rabat Hospital for the Care of Deaf Blind Children,
- 3) Moulay Abdellah Prefectural Hospital in Mohammedia,
- 4) Mohammed V University of Rabat,
- 5) Rabat Golf Club
- 6) Center for Integration and Employment Support for Young People with Down Syndrome in Rabat.

Fundamental to the realization of this project was the collaboration of Rotarians at the local level and in particular of: Najat Lecheheb, President of RC Rabat Excellence and of PDG El Jilali Antari.

The importance of this Global Grant is further evidenced by the fact that this project was recently presented with a comprehensive and extensive video on July 3, 2026, at the "ICC 3rd Africa Peace Forum" in Casablanca, in the presence of the International President of the Executive Council of the Intercountry Committees, Annemarie Mostert, and the Governor of District 9010, Younes Saih.

Thanks to the cooperation between Rotarians of Italy and Morocco and specifically the RC Rabat Excellence, the Maghreb District 9010, the Italian Districts 2110 and 2060 and the CIP ItalyMorocco on 2 March 2024 the drinking water supply project was completed in the Agadir Iznaguen village, located in the Al Haouz province at an altitude of 1,224 metres in the Atlas mountain range south of Marrakech.

Within the "Thalassemia-Morocco" Project, the last project completed was in February 2024 with Global Grant/VTT GG2234268: "Création d'un Centre de Diagnostic et Traitement de la Thalassémie à l'Hôpital Lalla Meryem à Larache" with the local lead club being RC Casablanca Mers Sultan (D.9010), chaired by Mohamed El Iraqi, and the international lead club being RC Palermo Baia dei Fenici (D.2110), chaired by Francesco Muceo.

Districts 9010 (Morocco), 2110 (Italy), 2080 (Italy), 1730 (France), and many RRCCs in Morocco, Italy, and France, as well as the Rotary Foundation, also contributed to this Global Grant.

The project was implemented through the acquisition of medical equipment and training provided by an interdistrict team (D.2110 and D.2080) of Rotarian doctors composed of Goffredo Vaccaro (team leader), Antonio Giunta, Gabriele Andria, Rossella Ricciardi, Federico Bizzarri, and Giuseppe Masnata. The training was requested to improve knowledge of the use of the equipment received and to keep up to date with the latest scientific developments in the diagnosis and treatment of thalassemia.

The importance of the "Thalassemia-Morocco" project was also recognized through the scheduled presentations on the topic that the organizers of International Rotary Conferences chose to include in the official program.

The progress of the Thalassemia Project in Morocco was presented at the following international Rotary conferences:



1) Institute Zone 20B, October 2014 in Marrakech, with speaker Maurizio Triscari and in the presence of International President Gary Huang.

2) Presidential Conference on Disease Prevention and Treatment, February 2016 in Cannes, with speaker Paolo Gardino and in the presence of International President K.R. Ravi Ravindran.

1) 1st Rotary African Summit, March 2018 in Marrakech, with speakers Antonio Giunta and Salvatore D'Angelo in the presence of International President Ian Riseley.

The friendship between Rotarians in Morocco and Italy has also been strengthened through the signing of the following twinning agreements:

- 1) RC Tanger Espoir and RC Palermo Baia dei Fenici in Tanger on May 10, 2015, with
- 2) RC Palermo Baia dei Fenici and RC Casablanca Mers Sultan in Palermo on May 3, 2019, with Presidents Franco Dones and Zhora Benali
- 3) Districts 2110 (Sicily-Malta) and 9010 (Morocco- Tunisia-Algeria-Mauritania) in Palermo on July 12, 2025, with Governors Sergio Malizia and Khaled Fourati
- 4) RC Rabat Excellence and RC Mazara del Vallo in Rabat on February 14, 2026, with Presidents Najat Lecheheb and Calogero (Lillo) Giorgi.

A further boost to the strengthening of the friendship between the Rotarians of Italy and Morocco were officially appointed on June 6, 2022, with the establishment of the Italy-Malta-San Marino/Morocco Intercountry Committee.

This was followed by the official appointment of Antonio Giunta (District 2110) as President of the Italian-Malta-San Marino National Section, and PDG El Jilali Antari (District 9010) as President of the Moroccan National Section.

Presidents Zineb Chaoudri and Raffaele Parlato
The delivery of the Charter took place in the presence of Cyril Noirtin, president of the CIP Rotary International Executive Committee pro tempore, during a Zoom ceremony attended by PDG Alessandro Pastorini, national coordinator of CIP

Italy, Malta and San Marino, DGN Saadia Aglif, national coordinator of CIP Morocco, Gaetano De Bernardis, governor of District 2110 and Leila Roubache, governor of District 9010.

The officialization of the Constitution of CIP Italy-Morocco can only strengthen the existing bonds of friendship between the two peoples and promote new joint actions in the name of solidarity between peoples.

CIP Italy-San Marino-Malta/Morocco has thus joined the network of 400 existing CIP Rotary clubs, and this will certainly further strengthen the bridge of solidarity we have built over the years between the two shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

We will have the opportunity to promote new joint projects, to expand friendship and intercultural understanding between the two countries and ultimately to promote the peace that is sorely needed in these times.

In this regard, we will be happy to reciprocate the invitation extended by H.E. Maryem Nassif and to welcome the members of the Rabat Excellence Rotary Club—and others—to Mazara, on the next October, for the “Rotarian Invocation” event, a celebration of peace and brotherhood among peoples and interfaith dialogue



End Plastic Soup and the Intercountry Committees (ICCs):

Connecting Local Action to Global Impact a strategic opportunity for the Rotary Intercountry Committees

By Nada Ghanem – Lead of Strategic Partnerships Working Group 2026 -2028

Plastic pollution is one of the clearest examples of a challenge that is **simultaneously local, international and global.**

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), an **estimated 19–23 million tones of plastic waste enter aquatic ecosystems every year**, contaminating rivers, lakes and seas. Without meaningful action, this leakage could almost triple by 2040.

[\(UNEP -UN Environment Programme\)](#)

The scale of the challenge is therefore considerable. Yet it also creates an opportunity: an opportunity to connect communities, organizations, scientific knowledge and Rotary clubs across borders around a common and highly visible cause.

This is where the **Rotary Intercountry Committees (ICCs)** can bring particular added value.

Not by replacing existing Rotary structures or environmental organizations, but by doing what ICCs are specifically designed to do:

1. **Connecting people, clubs and countries so that local initiatives can gain an international dimension. A scientific challenge –and a common framework for action**

Plastic pollution is much more than the waste that we can see. The OECD estimated that **22 million tons of plastics leaked into the environment in 2019 alone**. Of this, 6.1 million tones reached rivers, lakes and oceans. The OECD also estimates that 109 million tons of plastics have accumulated in rivers and around 30 million tons in the ocean.

[\(OECD\)](#)

The sources are diverse. Poorly managed waste is the largest source of microplastic leakage, while microplastics also come from tyre and brake wear, synthetic textiles and other less visible sources. (OECD)

This scientific evidence points to an important conclusion: **clean-up operations are valuable, but they are only one part of the solution.** Prevention, education, behavioral change, improved waste management, innovation and the sharing of knowledge are equally important.

And this is precisely where an international network can make a difference. Scientific knowledge can be shared. Successful local solutions can be documented. Experiences can be compared.

Projects can be adapted to different cultural and geographical contexts. The objective is therefore not to impose one global model, but to create a global network of local solutions.



2. The international dimension –the natural role of ICCs

A piece of plastic discarded in a street can enter a drainage system, reach a river and eventually the sea. Rivers are a major pathway through which plastic reaches the ocean, and the process can continue over years or even decades. (OECD)

Yet the solutions often begin locally.

This apparent contradiction is precisely where ICCs can play an important role.

ICCs already provide a framework for cooperation between Rotary clubs in different countries. They create relationships, encourage mutual understanding and make it possible for clubs to work together beyond national boundaries.

The partnership between the **ICC Executive Council and End Plastic Soup**, formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding signed in February 2024, provides a particularly strong basis for this approach. The agreement was designed to mobilize the ICC network, encourage worldwide cooperation, raise awareness among young people and adults, and facilitate joint projects that may potentially be supported through District and Global Grants. ([EndPlasticSoup](#))

The opportunity now is to make this international network increasingly visible through practical projects.

Imagine an ICC connecting clubs in several countries around a common river basin, coastline, school programme, community campaign or plastic-reduction initiative.

The implementation remains local.

But the **experience, partnerships, visibility and learning become international.**

This is the multiplier effect that ICCs can provide
One club acts.

**Two clubs cooperate.
An ICC connects them.**

**Several countries learn from one another.
The experience becomes replicable.**

3. From environmental action to Rotary growth

There is another dimension that deserves particular attention: **the potential impact on the Rotary ecosystem itself.**

End Plastic Soup can be much more than an environmental project.

It can become a point of connection between Rotary and people who are not yet part of our traditional Rotary environment.

Young people concerned about climate and environmental issues, scientists, teachers, universities, entrepreneurs, municipalities, environmental associations and responsible businesses can all become partners.

A club working with a university may reach new communities.

A Club working with schools may engage a new generation.

A club working with a municipality may increase its local visibility. An ICC connecting such initiatives internationally can give them an additional dimension and a much broader narrative. This is important for Rotary's future.



Rotary growth is also about increasing relevance, visibility, partnerships and opportunities for people to discover Rotary through meaningful action.

Plastic pollution is an exceptionally visible example of a broader principle:

more clubs connected, more international partnerships created, more young people involved, more communities reached, more ideas shared—and more people discovering the value of Rotary.

That may ultimately be the most strategic opportunity offered by End Plastic Soup.

End Plastic Soup can help ICCs connect local action to global impact—and, in doing so, help connect Rotary to the next generation of members, partners and communities. One club can act.

An ICC can connect.

A network of ICCs can multiply the impact. And Rotary grows when its connections create meaningful action.

Two important dates ahead

12 September 2026 –Portugal and Europe: a major End Plastic Soup and Rotary action day, providing an excellent opportunity to connect local initiatives across countries and demonstrate the power of international cooperation.

2 to 9 November 2026 –Monaco: another important opportunity to bring together Rotary, ICC and End Plastic Soup partners and further strengthen our international network.



From Fiscal Governance to Positive Peace:

How Effective and Impactful is Positive Peace by IEP?

By Ambp. Roy-Stanley Chijioke Nwafor-Country Director, IEP Nigeria

Building Institutions That Drive National Prosperity
Yesterday, the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP) Nigeria had the privilege of holding a strategic engagement with the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) to explore opportunities for institutional collaboration that advance good governance and sustainable peace in Nigeria. Our discussions focused on the critical role that strong public institutions, evidence-based policymaking, and sound fiscal governance play in fostering a more peaceful, resilient, and prosperous nation.

We also explored potential collaboration with the Commission's Planning, Research and Statistics, Human Resource, and Allocation Directorates, with follow-up engagements planned to identify and implement concrete areas of partnership.

At IEP, we recognize that Positive Peace is sustained by well-functioning institutions, transparency, accountability, equitable resource allocation, sound public policy, and inclusive development. These principles closely align with the constitutional mandate of RMAFC and Nigeria's broader aspirations for effective governance and national development. I extend my sincere appreciation to the Executive Chairman of RMAFC for the warm reception and for being ably represented by three distinguished Special Advisers, whose valuable insights and commitment greatly enriched our discussions. A simple way to understand Positive Peace in fiscal governance: Imagine a state government struggling to pay workers' salaries.

Infrastructure projects are abandoned, public services begin to decline, businesses lose confidence, and communities grow increasingly frustrated. The immediate reaction is often to ask for more money or emergency financial intervention.

But a more important question is: Why did the

system reach this point in the first place? Were revenues accurately assessed and transparently mobilized? Were national resources allocated using reliable data and objective evidence? Did planning, research, and statistics identify fiscal risks before they became crises? Was the workforce adequately trained and equipped to manage public resources efficiently? Were institutions collaborating to ensure accountability, transparency, and value for money? If the answer to these questions is "No," then the fiscal crisis began long before salaries went unpaid or projects were abandoned.

The visible crisis is often the result of deeper institutional weaknesses. This is where Positive Peace becomes essential. Strong institutions, evidence-based planning, transparent resource allocation, capable public servants, and accountable governance create the conditions for sustainable development, public trust, and national stability.

Just as emergency funding can provide temporary relief, Positive Peace addresses the underlying institutional conditions that prevent fiscal crises from occurring in the first place. Sound fiscal governance is therefore more than balancing budgets—it is about building the institutional foundations that strengthen public confidence, prevent instability, and promote lasting peace and prosperity. This engagement reaffirms an important truth: peace is not merely the absence of conflict — it is the outcome of strong institutions, responsible fiscal governance, inclusive policies, and collaborative leadership. As we move forward, IEP Nigeria remains committed to strengthening partnerships with public institutions, revenue-generating agencies, academia, civil society, and development partners to advance evidence-based solutions that build a more peaceful, resilient, and prosperous Nigeria. Together, we can build institutions that strengthen peace and create lasting national prosperity

Agronomists and Veterinarians Without Borders (AVSF):

Investing in the Women and Men Who Feed the World

As the world's population is expected to approach 10 billion by 2050, agricultural, climate, and food security challenges have never been greater. Yet a significant part of the solution already lies in rural communities across the globe, in the hands of millions of smallholder farming families who produce most of the world's food while often remaining among its most vulnerable populations. It is alongside these communities that **Agronomists and Veterinarians Without Borders (AVSF) has been working for nearly fifty years.**

Founded in 1977 and recognized as a public interest organization, AVSF is a French international development NGO that mobilizes agronomists, veterinarians, agricultural technicians, and rural development specialists to support farming communities throughout Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Its mission is straightforward: to help rural families earn a dignified living from their work while preserving the natural resources on which their future depends

A Strong Conviction: Family Farming Is Part of the Future

Contrary to common misconceptions, family farming remains the world's primary source of food production. Nearly 70% of the food consumed globally is produced by small-scale farmers. Yet these producers often struggle with poverty, degraded natural resources, limited access to markets and finance, and are among the first to suffer the consequences of climate change. To address these challenges, AVSF promotes a development model based on agroecology, the economic empowerment of rural communities, and the strengthening of farmers' organizations. The goal is not to create dependence on international aid but rather to enable communities to become active drivers of their own development.

AVSF advocates for ambitious smallholder and agroecological farming systems capable of contributing sustainably to food security in both rural and urban areas, reducing poverty and inequality, and fostering the social and economic empowerment of rural women, men, and young people.

Concrete Actions in Rural Territories

AVSF's approach is built on a simple principle: working with local communities, not for them. In the rural regions where it operates, AVSF works alongside farming families to strengthen their autonomy and improve their living conditions over the long term. Its activities focus on:

- Promoting agroecological farming practices;
- Improving livestock production and animal health services;
- Supporting sustainable management of natural resources;
- Strengthening access to land and water;
- Developing agricultural value chains and fairtrade opportunities that provide better incomes for producers;
- Reinforcing farmers' organizations and their ability to defend the interests of rural communities;
- Supporting populations affected by climate change, natural disasters, and food crises.



AVSF teams also operate in particularly fragile environments affected by natural disasters, climate shocks, or conflict. In post-emergency contexts, they help families rebuild their livelihoods and strengthen their resilience to future crises

Creating Lasting Impact

What makes AVSF unique is the combination of high-level technical expertise and a human-centered development approach.

When livestock keepers gain access to local veterinary services, when a cooperative improves product quality and reaches new markets, or when irrigation systems secure harvests despite recurring droughts, entire families gain autonomy and food security, while local territories benefit from sustainable economic development. Beyond its direct beneficiaries, AVSF projects contribute to biodiversity conservation, the reduction of inequalities, and climate change mitigation through the promotion of agroecological and sustainable farming practices.

Why Should ICC Identify with AVSF's Mission?

Beyond development assistance, AVSF addresses several key priorities that are at the heart of Rotary's commitment to service: poverty reduction, local economic development, food security, sustainable access to natural resources, environmental protection, and community strengthening. Its approach emphasizes education, capacity building, and local ownership, promoting sustainable solutions through partnership and shared responsibility. These values resonate strongly with Rotary's vision of creating lasting, positive change in communities around the world.

To learn more or support AVSF's work:
www.avsf.org

AVSF is supported and recognized by numerous international partners, including the French Government and the European Union, as well as nearly 10,000 private donors, foundations, and corporate sponsors. In France, the organization has been accredited by the "Don en Confiance"

independent certification body since 2006, recognizing its standards of transparency and sound financial management.

Key Figures

- Nearly 50 years of commitment to family farming.
- More than 700,000 beneficiaries reached every year through farming families, cooperatives, and producers' organizations.
- Over 80 projects implemented simultaneously worldwide.
- Operations in 23 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean.
- Approximately 290 staff members and experts, with 90% originating from the countries where AVSF operates.



Joining Hands to Help Keep Children Safe

How Rotary Intercountry Committees are sharing the MBIMB Programme around the world

Three years ago, Rotarian Nancy Abdelhadi, a valued member of the My Body Is My Body Foundation Board, introduced the MBIMB Programme to Annemarie Mostert, the current ICC President. That meeting marked the beginning of a wonderful partnership. Annemarie has since become a valued member of the MBIMB Foundation Board, helping to strengthen our connection with Rotary and championing child-safety education internationally.

Through the international connections created by Rotary Intercountry Committees, MBIMB has since been introduced to Rotarians and community leaders in South Africa, Hungary, Portugal, Romania, India, the Caribbean and many other countries. This is the true strength of ICCs: bringing people and nations together, sharing knowledge and turning goodwill into meaningful action.

The My Body Is My Body Programme is a free, award-winning, internationally recognised musical body safety programme for children aged 3–12. Through positive songs, animated videos, activities and supporting resources, children learn about body safety, feelings, safe and unsafe behaviour, peer pressure, bullying, secrets, and the importance of asking for help.

Most importantly, children learn that they have the right to feel safe, that they can speak up if something worries them and that they should continue telling trusted adults until someone listens and helps.

The programme is available in 35 languages and has been shared with more than three million children across over 60 countries. Its simple and flexible format allows teachers, parents, social workers, Rotary members, community leaders and others working with children to use the resources within their own communities.

Early childhood education has an important role to play in strengthening child safety. When children are given clear, age-appropriate information from an early age, they are better able to understand their feelings, recognise behaviour that may be unsafe and

know where to go for help.

Body-safety education also opens channels of communication between children and the adults who care for them. It helps create an environment in which children feel heard, supported and more confident about speaking up. While education alone cannot prevent every instance of abuse, it is a vital part of a wider safeguarding approach involving informed adults, responsive organisations and protective communities.

The MBIMB Programme can be easily implemented by Rotary clubs using our free, ready-to-use resources and flexible community-based approach. To learn more or explore how your club can become involved, please contact Chrissy Sykes at chrissy@mbimb.org. ICCs are helping to make this education accessible by introducing MBIMB to Rotary networks, connecting us with trusted community partners and encouraging Rotarians to share the programme in their own countries. Every new introduction can lead to a school becoming involved, a teacher receiving resources, a parent beginning an important conversation or a child learning that it is always right to ask for help.

This partnership demonstrates what can happen when international friendship is transformed into practical action. By working across borders, languages and cultures, ICCs are helping communities unite around a shared belief: every child deserves to feel safe, valued and heard.

When we join hands, share our knowledge and use our connections for good, we can change children's lives. Together, Rotary ICCs and the My Body Is My Body Foundation are helping to build safer, stronger communities—one conversation, one song and one child at a time.



Across Borders, For Every Girl:

ICC and RAG4GE Unite for Girls' Empowerment

There are moments in Rotary when a signature represents far more than an agreement. It represents a promise.

In Casablanca, the Rotary Intercountry Committees (ICC) and the Rotary Action Group for Girls' Empowerment (RAG4GE) celebrated the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding—bringing together two global Rotary networks with a shared belief in the power of collaboration across borders. For RAG4GE, that promise is simple but ambitious: **leave no girl behind.**

The Rotary Action Group for Girls' Empowerment, Rotary's newest action group, was created to mobilize Rotarians, Rotaractors, partners, experts and communities around one critical population: **girls from birth through age 18.** Its vision is to improve the quality of life for girls around the world while fostering empowerment, equity and equality through action and advocacy.

Why girls? Because the experiences and opportunities available during childhood and adolescence can shape an entire lifetime. When girls are educated, healthy, safe, economically prepared and empowered to use their voices, the impact reaches far beyond one individual. Families become stronger. Communities become more resilient. Futures change.

RAG4GE organizes its work around five interconnected priorities: **Education; Health & Wellness; Safety & Well-Being; Economic Enhancement & Security; and Advocacy & Engagement.**

Rather than asking every Rotary club to begin from scratch, RAG4GE seeks to identify effective programs, build partnerships, connect expertise and provide practical resources that clubs and districts can adapt, replicate and scale in their own communities.

One powerful example is My Body Is My Body (MBIMB), a partner of both ICC and RAG4GE. This free, internationally used child-safety program

uses music, animation and simple, ageappropriate messages to help children understand body safety, recognize unsafe situations and know that they can speak to a trusted adult. MBIMB reports that its resources have reached millions of children and are available in numerous languages around the world.

Through the **RAG4GE: My Body Is My Body Champions Program**, Rotarians can complete training, introduce the resources to schools and youth-serving organizations, and help bring a proven, practical prevention tool into their own communities. It is exactly the kind of project Rotary does well: accessible locally, adaptable across cultures, and scalable globally.

That is where the partnership between ICC and RAG4GE becomes so powerful. ICCs build relationships and understanding across countries; RAG4GE brings a focused global network, expertise and resources for action. Together, we can help proven ideas travel across borders and reach the girls who need them most.

Every Rotary member has a role to play. Bring your experience, your connections, your club and, most importantly, your commitment to creating a world where every girl has the opportunity to thrive.

Join the Rotary Action Group for Girls' Empowerment and help us **leave no girl behind.**

[Join RAG4GE at GirlsEmpowermentRAG.org](http://JoinRAG4GEatGirlsEmpowermentRAG.org)



Today's Leaders, Today:

How an ICC with ASEAN is Going Beyond Borders

We often celebrate youth as tomorrow's leaders or our hope for a better tomorrow. Throughout the world, however, there are youth leaders making measurable impact in their communities right now.

What if we created opportunities for shared learning alongside these youth leaders as colleagues, today instead of holding out for someday in the future?

In 2024, a Global Grant featuring an Intercountry Committee (ICC) partnership with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), explored that very question. What began as a vision by [PDG Dato Bindi Rajasegaran](#), supported by Mediators Beyond Borders International (MBBI) as the Coordinating Partner, has expanded to successfully inspire youth leaders from all eleven ASEAN countries. This hybrid program, designed and facilitated by MBBI, was hosted by Sunway University in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and included other partners such as the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFP).

Mediators Beyond Borders International, a Service Partner of Rotary (2018-24), has been collaborating with local partners to create global impact for almost twenty years. Their people centered and integrative approach focuses on supporting those in the heart of conflict with multi-disciplinary tools including trauma-informed peace building. The Rotary ASEAN Youth Peacebuilder Program (RAYPP) is MBBI's second Global Grant in the region. The first focused on training women mediators, who joined a global network of Women in Mediation.

Similarly, the ASEAN Youth Peacebuilders will join a network of community peacebuilders trained by MBBI around the world, including over 100 community mediators supported by another Global Grant in Southern Africa, which was created in partnership with the current President of the ICC Council, PDG Annemarie Mostert.



The Rotary ASEAN Peacebuilder's Program is a hybrid training program featuring four distinct phases:

1. In the first phase, applicants apply in partnership with a local Rotary Club and are individually interviewed to select the most active participants and to begin to welcome them into community.
2. In the second phase, 60 finalists met weekly online for three months. They learned from a variety of instructors (including several Rotary Peace Fellows) and self-facilitate weekly, small group discussions. The purpose of this phase (in addition to building group cohesion) was to ensure content was delivered online so that valuable, in-person time was strictly experiential. The final 45 participants were selected based on attendance and participation.
3. For the third phase, the cohort met for 12 days at Sunway University in Kuala Lumpur. Here, they

gain hands-on experience in subjects such as conflict transformation and mapping, cross-cultural competency, mental health awareness, the Pillars of Positive Peace, and worked in teams to develop their services together.

4. In the final phase, the youth return to their communities to implement their projects while checking in monthly, including coaching by MBBI facilitators.

Current impact projects include leading online mediation training for youth in Myanmar, running education awareness initiatives in Cambodia, and addressing gender violence in Indonesia. The participants have even self-organized into their own alumni association. The success of the first cohort has inspired a second Global Grant to launch in Spring of 2027. The hope is that this program soon becomes a model for replication and fosters peace through connectivity throughout the region.



IEP-ICC Partnership

By Nada Ghanem – Lead of Strategic Partnerships Working Group 2026 -2028

Dear Fellow Rotarians and Peace Builders,

We are thrilled to share an inspiring update on our global mission to foster sustainable goodwill. The IntercountryCommittees (ICC) have officially strengthened their collaboration with the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)

<https://learnpeace.org//> Together, we are turning the ideals of peace into measurable, communityled actions worldwide.

Bridging Nations, Building Positive Peace

For decades, the IntercountryCommittees have served as vital bridges between nations, proving that personal relationships can dissolve historical divides. By partnering with the IEP—the world’s leading think tank dedicated to analyzing peace— we are equipping our network with world-class, data-driven strategies. This alliance focuses on Positive Peace: Building the specific attitudes, institutions, and structures that sustain peaceful societies.

Impact in Action: Our Joint Initiatives

By combining IEP’s analytical data with the ICC’s grassroots execution, we are successfully launching concrete peace projects across borders:

The Franco-German Youth Peace Summit: Applying the IEP Positive Peace framework, this ICC initiative brought together 100 young leaders from both nations to design community conflict resolution toolkits.

The Balkans Peace Academy: A joint training project where ICC members and IEP experts certified 50 Rotarians in Positive Peace pillars, enabling them to launch targeted economic development projects in post-conflict zones.

Every Action Counts

Every Rotarian involved in an Intercountry Committee plays an essential role. By combining research with action, we are creating a safer, more resilient world.

Because every partnership leads to peace, this month we are sharing news about our partners:

End Plastic Soup <https://endplasticsoup.org/fr/>

Agronomeset vétérinaire sans frontières
<https://www.avsf.org>

My Body is My Body
<https://mbimb.org/>

Rotary Action Group for Girls’ Empowerment
www.GirlsEmpowermentRAG.org, and

Rotary Youth Peace Builders Program
www.rayppalumni.org

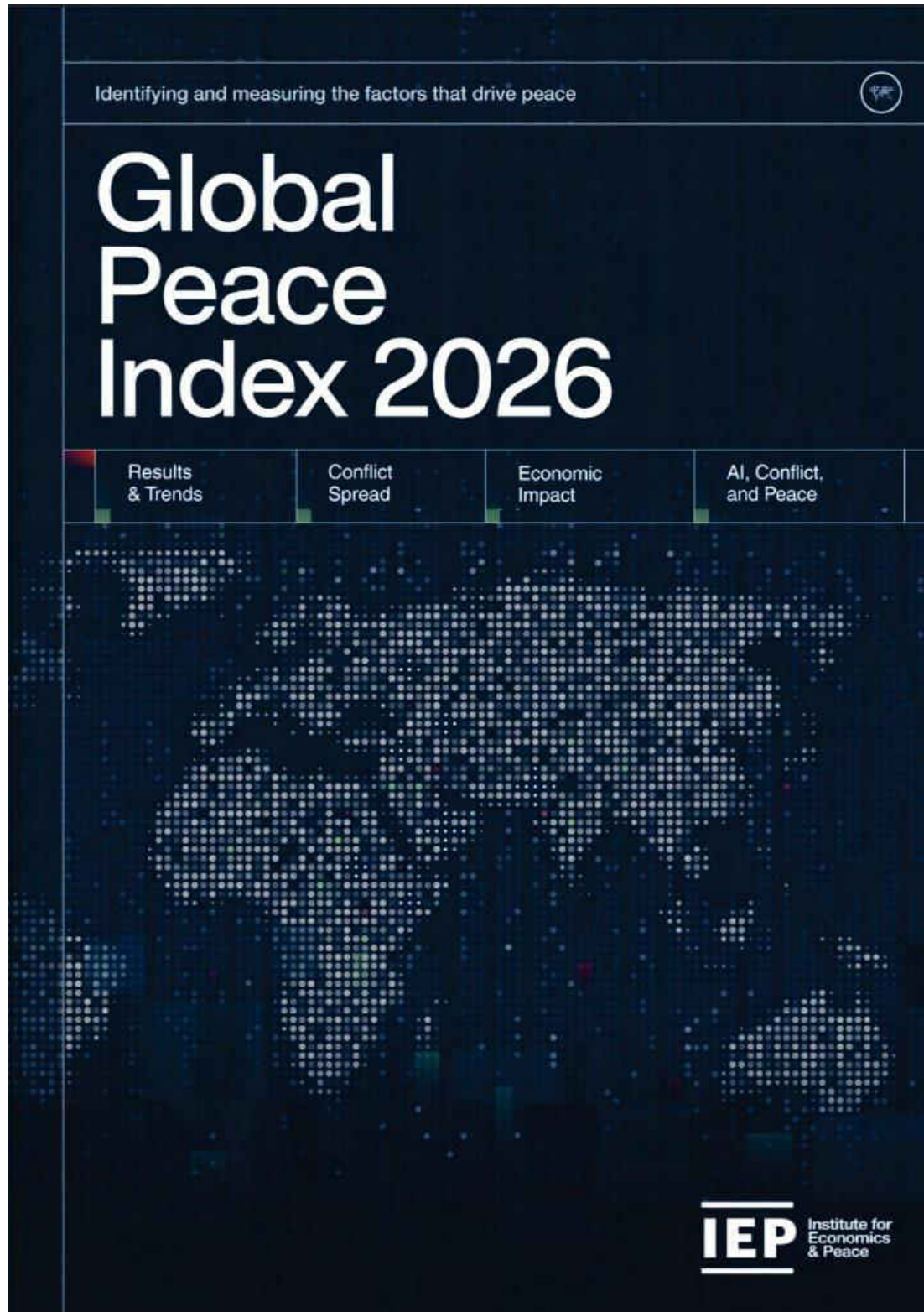
Thank you for your unwavering dedication. Together, we are not just wishing for peace—we are actively building it.

In service,

The Intercountry Committees Executive Team
Partnership Chair
Nada Ghanem

Global Peace Index 2026

[Click on The Cover To Read](#)



Bulgaria and South Africa Strengthen Rotary Ties Through a New ICC Partnership

By Region 25 ARPIC Arkan Apturahman

On 17 June, during the meeting of the Rotary Club of Sofia International, an agreement establishing the Intercountry Committee (ICC) Bulgaria–South Africa was officially signed, marking the beginning of a promising partnership founded on friendship, peace and international cooperation. During the meeting, the new Global Grant project, "Surgery for Life," led by the Rotary Club of Vidin in partnership with the Rotary Club of Sofia International, was also presented.

The signing took place during the visit of our dear friends from the Rotary Club of Blouberg–Helene Visser, Jacqueline Claddon and Graham Claddon. The agreement was signed by PDG Nina Miteva, National ICC Coordinator for Bulgaria, together with the ICC Chairs of both countries –Hristina Malchevska (Assistant Governor) and Helene Visser (Past Assistant Governor).

The international visit was made possible through the invaluable support of Claude Badan, President of the Rotary Club of Sofia International, together with club members Inna Badan, Teodor Totev, Domagoj Stefan and Boris Boynov, a former Rotarian. Their dedication and warm hospitality played a significant role in ensuring the success of the visit and in strengthening the growing partnership between Bulgaria and South Africa.

The occasion also celebrated the successful completion of the Global Grant project "Paradise for Children," implemented with the generous support of District 9350 (South Africa), together with additional contributions from the Rotary Club of Blouberg and the Rotary Club of Port Alfred. On 18 June, the South African delegation visited the Rehabilitation Centre for Children with Onco-Haematological Diseases in the village of Opitsvet, where they witnessed first-hand the project's positive impact on the children and their families.

This important milestone is yet another example of the power of international cooperation within Rotary. It demonstrates how partnerships between clubs and districts across continents can create sustainable solutions, deliver meaningful humanitarian projects and bring lasting benefits to local communities.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our friends from South Africa for their support, trust and friendship. Their commitment to service and international cooperation has made possible both the establishment of this new ICC partnership and the successful implementation of the Global Grant project.

Together, we continue to demonstrate that Rotary friendship knows no borders and that Service Above Self is far more than a motto—it is a daily commitment that transforms lives, strengthens communities and creates lasting impact around the world.



Nearly 100, Still Serving!

Dr John Barath's Gift of Care to Ukraine

By James Onions – ICC Executive Council – Learning & Development Working Group Lead

Never too old to serve: one Rotarian's generosity turned compassion into practical help.

Dr John Barath, an accomplished dentist and a founding member of the Rotary Club of St Augustine in Trinidad and Tobago, will celebrate his 100th birthday in January 2027. His story is not simply about longevity, but about recognising suffering and choosing to act.

Moved by the suffering in the war zones in Ukraine, Dr Barath donated a mobile dental unit at his own expense. It could be taken to remote villages, communities near the front line and, when needed, to people unable to reach conventional dental facilities.

The photograph of Dr Barath standing proudly beside his packed equipment is especially powerful: he appears ready to fly with it himself. Other images show the mobile dental vehicle and its carefully planned interior, and the ICC team who transported, revealing how one generous idea became a working treatment facility.



Dr Barath in Trinidad with the suitcases of dental equipment

ICC BRIDGING BORDERS

From the Caribbean to Great Britain and Ireland, and onward to Ukraine

ICC cooperation transformed a personal gift into service.

The Intercountry Committee linking Rotary GB&I and Rotary in the Caribbean has developed trusted links between the 24 nations of District 7020 and District 7030 and the 24 Districts of Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland. One of those nations is Trinidad and Tobago, home to the Rotary Club of St Augustine.

The initiative began late in 2022, with the Caribbean and Great Britain and Ireland ICC and the Rotary Club of St Augustine in D7030. They linked to their ICC chair in England, Michael Ramcharan in D1145. Working with his National Chair, James Onions, Michael was linked to the

Rotary GB&I – Ukraine ICC, where Tony Preston transported to ICC member Borys Bodnar in RC Ukraine Unity-D2232. In fact, Tony delivered the equipment directly into eastern Ukraine, to then DGE Myron Uhryn, who could put it to immediate use.

In Ukraine, Dr Myron Uhryn, another accomplished dentist, and the Sanatsia Charitable Foundation had already developed the “Trident Dental” and “Elephant” projects to deliver mobile dentistry. For the previous eight years, their volunteer dentists, doctors and maxillofacial surgeons had treated children, civilians, former captives and others living in areas deeply affected by war. They helped all –including the children remaining in the Donbas area, especially for urgent treatment.

Dr Barath's gift helped professional care travel to the people who needed it most.

"We were amazed at the extent of Rotary's reach when, in the first year of the full-scale invasion, we received suitcases containing a mobile dental unit from far away Trinidad and Tobago. We were very grateful to all involved, to the donor Dr John, James Onions and my good friend Tony Preston of RC Ukraine Unity, who brought it to Ukraine from London."

DGE Myron Uhryn, RC Lviv.

Dr Barath's generosity has given Dr Uhryn's medical teams a practical means of bringing essential dental care closer to people affected by war. His gift demonstrates how compassion, combined with Rotary cooperation, can cross continents and become real service. Two Rotarian dentists dedicated to service.

This story carries two connected lessons: service has no retirement age, and ICCs can knit together people, clubs and countries across both borders and enormous distances.

Those ICC links were vital in getting the mobile dentistry to where it could be used. In this case, new deep friendships developed along the way, triggering many more actions. These included deep friendships between many involved and support from RC St Augustine for a global grant project in England.

"Let John's example become our call to action:" Do not wait for the perfect moment or assume that someone else will respond. Look around, identify one need and take one practical step. Offer a skill, make a connection, contribute a resource or support someone already serving. **"We are never too old, too distant or too limited to make a difference."** Service has no retirement age, and a willing heart can still change lives.

Thanks to everyone involved.



Sergii Zavadskyi, Dirk Lustig and James Onions from Rotary GB&I -Ukraine ICC



Michael Ramcharan (left) working with St Augustin RC



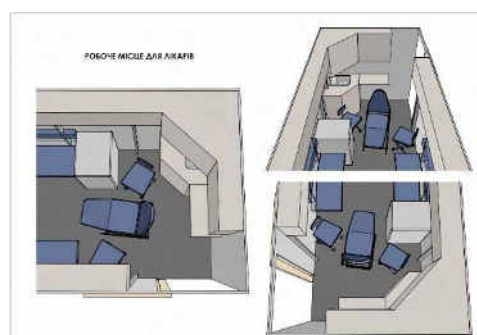
From the left
Borys Bodnar,
DGE Myron Uhryn
(RC Lviv)
Tony Preston and
Steve Sidelnik
(RC UkraineUnity)



Tony Preston on
a delivery to
DGE Myron Uhryn



Mobile dental clinic



Mobile dental
clinic interior

Serbia & Montenegro Delegation

Visits to Georgia USA Strengthened ICC Connections

By Region 25 ARPIC Aleksandar Radojičić

Rotarians from District 2483 made several visits in USA. Here are some of the highlights

RC Belgrade Čukarica and RC Ruma: Visit to Rotary Club Chicago 1

On Tuesday, May 12, PDG Danilo Ljevnaić organized a visit by PDG Vladimir Matić, DGN Vladimir Lalošević and Jelena Lujić from RC Ruma to Rotary Club Chicago 1. PDG Vladimir Matić informed the attendees about ICC activities and implemented Global Grants. He especially thanked RC Chicago 1 as an international partner for the successfully implemented Global Grant with RTC Stara Pazova.



RC Belgrade Čukarica and RC Ruma: Visit to Rotary International Headquarters

PDG Vladimir Matić, DGE Vladimir Lalošević, PDG Danilo Ljevnaić and Jelena Lujić used their stay in Chicago to visit the Rotary International headquarters in Evanston near Chicago. Aleks Irićanin from PI RI was an excellent host.



ICC Section Georgia/USA and Serbia and Montenegro: Participation in the District 6900 Conference in Atlanta

Representatives of District 2483, PDG Vlada Matić and DGE Vladimir Lalošević participated in the District 6900 Conference in Atlanta, where during a rich two-day program they had the opportunity to present the results and future plans of ICC cooperation between Georgia/USA and Serbia and Montenegro to a large number of Rotarians. During the conference, numerous discussions and meetings were held with representatives of the district leadership and Rotarians from the clubs of District 6900, including DG Steve Ivory, DGN Buck Buchanan, PDG Gordon Stewart and DRFC Bob Hagan.



A special focus of the discussions was on the development of ICC cooperation, support for Global Grant projects, exchange of experiences and possibilities of future mutual visits and joint activities between clubs and districts.

Representatives of District 2483 had the opportunity to talk to a large number of Rotarians during both days of the conference, through work at a promotional booth, about potential projects and ways to strengthen international cooperation.

On the second day of the conference, special attention was paid to youth, public image, membership and Global Grant projects, through several thematic sessions and workshops. A very important meeting was held with DGE Cynthia Edwards, during which it was agreed to organize a joint ZOOM meeting with representatives of Districts 6910 and 6920, with the aim of defining future models of cooperation with District 2483.

In addition to the working part of the program, participants also attended a service action, as well as numerous social and entertainment events organized by the conference hosts. Special thanks are extended to Dave Bernard and Judy Chan for their warm hospitality and support during their stay in Atlanta. The conference ended with a gala dinner and the traditional awarding of awards to the most successful clubs and individuals for their results achieved in support of the Rotary Foundation, once again confirming the importance of international cooperation, networking, and joint action within the

global Rotary community.

RC Ruma and RC Belgrade Čukarica: Visit to the Rotary Club North Cobb, USA

The Rotary Club North Cobb in Georgia was visited by Vladimir Lalošević and Vladimir Matić from the Rotary Club Ruma and the Rotary Club Belgrade Čukarica. The meeting started at 7 am, and the club has 107 members, and over 70 of them attended the meeting. A large number of projects and activities were discussed, and the meeting had an extraordinary atmosphere. After the presentation of our projects and plans, the club flags and gifts were exchanged with the president, Jose Gonzalez.

Continuing the visit to Georgia at 12 o'clock, they attended a meeting of RC Roswell, which with 250 members is one of the largest in the District 6900 Atlanta. The hosts were DRFC Bob Hagan and PDG Lee Hollingsworth.



RC Ruma and RC Beograd Ćukarica: Visit to Rotary Club Hartwell, USA

RC Hartwell hosted representatives from our District, Vladimir Lalošević from RC Ruma and Vladimir Matić from RC Beograd Ćukarica as part of their visit to the USA, District 6900 Georgia. At the meeting, we exchanged club flags and gifts and talked about opportunities for cooperation.

Friends from RC Hartwell are very interested in visiting our District, helping with some of our Global Grants and hosting some of our students in the GRSP program.

RC Ruma and RC Beograd Ćukarica: Visit to Rotary Club Atlanta, USA

Representatives of RC Ruma and RC Beograd Ćukarica, Vladimir Lalošević and Vladimir Matić, had the honor of being guests of RC Atlanta, which with 505 members is the largest club in Georgia.

Club President Kathy Waller introduced our representatives to the attendees at the opening of the meeting, from whom they received thunderous applause.

The main guest of the meeting was the Mayor of Atlanta Andre Dickens who spoke about the achieved results and plans of the city that has hosted the Olympics and the Rotary Convention and will now host the World Cup in soccer. It was also an opportunity to talk and exchange club flags with the president of the club Kathy Waller and club members Clark Dean, a candidate for Governor, Ryan Wilson who twice led the campaign for Mayor Dickens and with DRFC Bob Hegan who was the main host together with Dave Bernard. Of particular importance was the working meeting with Carlos Pagaogo, president of the Coca Cola Foundation.



Districts 2475 and 2485 Signed Intercountry Committee Agreement in Rhodes

By National Chair ICC Albania-Kosovo Erida Hysnelaj

A significant milestone in international Rotary collaboration was celebrated during the Rotary District 2475 Conference, held on the island of Rhodes, Greece, with the official signing of an Intercountry Committee (ICC) Agreement between Rotary District 2475 (Greece) and Rotary District 2485 (Albania and Kosovo).

The signing ceremony brought together the District Governors, Past District Governors, Rotary leaders, and Rotarians from both districts, highlighting a shared commitment to strengthening friendship, cooperation, and service across national borders. The establishment of the Intercountry Committee marks the beginning of a long-term partnership designed to foster closer relationships between Rotary clubs in Greece, Albania, and Kosovo. Through this collaboration, the two districts will encourage joint humanitarian projects, professional and cultural exchanges, youth initiatives, and activities that support Rotary International's mission of creating lasting change in communities.

More than a formal agreement, the ICC represents a commitment to building bridges between people, promoting goodwill, and advancing international understanding through meaningful service. It reflects Rotary's enduring belief that friendship is the foundation of peace and that collaboration across borders can create a greater impact than any district can achieve alone.

The ceremony, held in the historic setting of Rhodes, symbolized the spirit of unity that defines Rotary. Participants expressed their enthusiasm for future joint initiatives and reaffirmed their dedication to working together in support of Rotary's shared values and Areas of Focus.

The partnership between District 2475 and District 2485 is expected to strengthen connections among Rotarians, inspire innovative service projects, and create new opportunities for fellowship and international cooperation. It stands as an excellent example of how Rotary continues to connect communities, build lasting friendships, and make a positive difference throughout the world.



Italy and India: A Cultural Bridge Beyond Borders

By Cristina Rodondi -Delegate D2050 CIP Italy Malta San Marino -India

Connections between Italy and India often emerge in the most unexpected contexts and are far more numerous than we might imagine. A meaningful example was brought to my attention by my friend Prof. Urmila Chakraborty, an honorary member of my Rotary Club Brescia Next, who has long promoted knowledge of Indian culture and the thought of Rabindranath Tagore. She introduced me to the birthplace and small museum dedicated to Father Mario Rigon in Villaverla, near Vicenza.

I thus discovered one of the most fascinating stories of dialogue between our country and Bengal.

Father Mario Rigon was the first, and perhaps the only, translator to make Tagore's works available in Italian by translating them directly from Bengali, without the mediation of English.

His long missionary experience and deep connection with Bengal enabled him to gain profound knowledge of a complex and extraordinary culture, making him a genuine bridge between East and West. His expertise and openness toward the Bengali world were also recognized by Rotary, which awarded him the prestigious Paul Harris Fellow recognition during the year in which the Italian Carlo Ravizza served as Rotary International President.



The birthplace of Father Mario Rigon in Villaverla.



On the left, the Paul Harris Fellow certificate; on the right, the medal of the prestigious Rotary recognition.

Urmila Chakraborty was already familiar with Father Rigon's work and activities, having studied Tagore's life and thought in depth. The intellectual meeting of these two cultural paths demonstrates how literature and dialogue among peoples can create genuine and lasting relationships between India and Italy.

Tagore, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913 and born in Bengal, is one of the most authoritative figures in world culture. It is significant to remember that Father Rigon carried out much of his mission in present-day Bangladesh, which until 1947 was part of India and belonged to the great historical region of Bengal. Beyond the political divisions that emerged over time, Bengal continues to constitute a shared cultural and linguistic reality between India and Bangladesh.

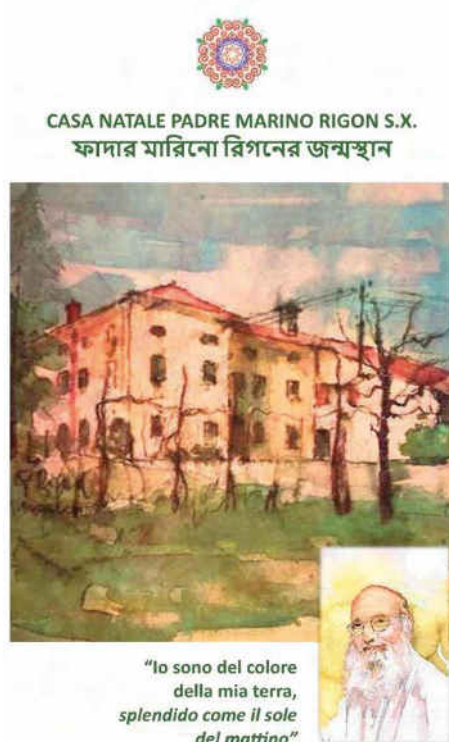
But why does Tagore remain so important? His greatness lies not only in poetry, fiction, or philosophy, but in his vision of humanity as a single and indivisible reality. According to Tagore, there is no 'us' opposed to 'them,' nor one universe separate from another. Human beings transcend nationality, citizenship, and religious affiliation. Starting from

the cultural and religious syncretism that characterizes the Indian tradition, Tagore arrived at a truly universal conception of the individual and of coexistence among peoples.

This vision shows a strong affinity with the founding principles of Rotary International, which promotes friendship among people from different cultures, mutual understanding, and the building of peace through service. Tagore's idea of a common humanity, free from prejudice and division, directly recalls Rotary's commitment to peace, dialogue, and international cooperation. It is therefore no surprise that Father Mario Rigon, interpreter and disseminator of Tagore's thought, found natural recognition within Rotary.

The visit to Villaverla and the memory of Father Rigon preserved by his family, especially his niece Alessandra, and by all those who had contact with this great man, testify that the bond between Italy and India is not merely a relationship between countries. It is a story of people, cultures, and shared values rooted in the past and which we can continue to cultivate for the future.

Birthplace and Tagore Study Centre.



AMICIZIA

Mi hai chiamato in casa
E mi hai fatto conoscere cose
sconosciute;
Il lontano l'hai fatto vicino,
l'estraneo fratello.

Lasciando la vecchia dimora
muoio al pensiero della nuova vita
dimentico che Tu sei sempre
Antico nel nuovo,
Il lontano hai fatto vicino,
l'estraneo fratello.

Nella vita e nella morte,
nell'universo
dove mi condurrà,
o Onnisciente,
Tu mi farai conoscere tutti.

Se conosco Te nessuno mi sarà estraneo;
non ci saranno necessità né legami:
posso vedere
che Tu unisci tutti in Te.
Il lontano l'hai fatto vicino,
l'estraneo fratello.



R. Tagore Raccolta GHITANGIOLI
Traduzione di Padre Marino Rigon S.X.

Casa natale Padre Marino Rigon - Via Zanella, 62 Villaverla (VI)
Mail: centrostuditagore@gmail.com Tel. 335 6886537

Informational poster of the birthplace of Father Marino Rigon in Villaverla.

The Rotary club of Kiev Balzac with the help of dedicated Rotarians from ICCs USA, France, Ukraine were able to send a group of 15 Ukrainian orphans from the war in rehabilitation summer camp in South of France.

This project touched my heart deeply knowing the suffering of those kids who lost one or 2 parents in the awful war in their country. You can see them on the picture visiting Carcassonne, my hometown. With emotion I imagine them learning about the traps of a medieval city under Charlemagne, my city's history, and learning how sweet it is to be at peace with no bombs, no drones.

Peace is just beautiful! How lucky we are to live in peace in a free country. In spite of difficulties (fire, heat wave, interdictions) the French Rotarians made it happen for those traumatized children. I am so proud of those Rotarians!

This is my Rotary moment!



Living Legacy for Organ Donation

By Anil Srivatsa

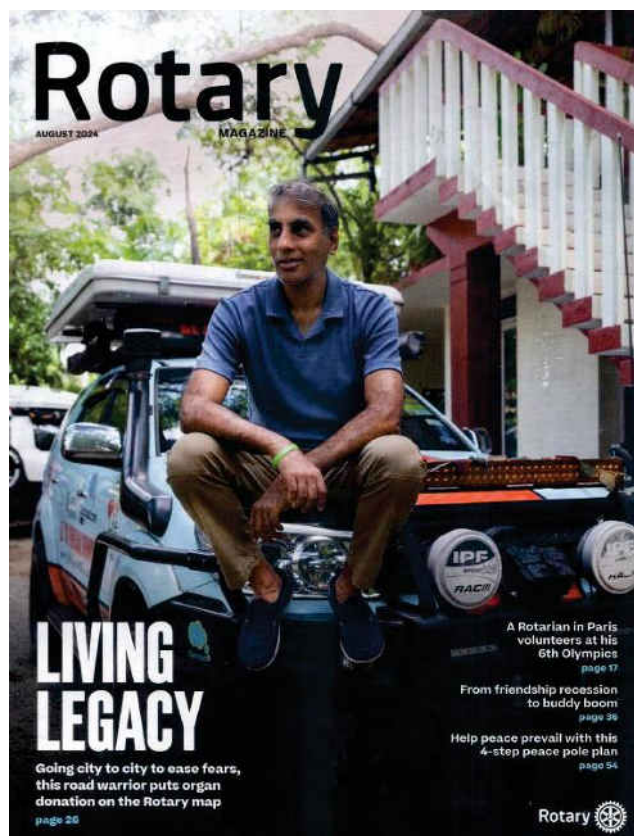
Post a successful corporate career as the former CEO of India Today's FM Radio division, the former CEO of Punjab Kings IPL cricket and co founder of Radiowalla Public Ltd. (NSE) is now an Entrepreneur as CEO of Sochcast.com Anil's current mission is most significant

Anil, after donating his kidney to his brother 10 years ago, he embarked on a mission to ensure NO one dies waiting for an organ. With a Goal to reach a million potential donors driving around the world with the message of organ donation and love.

Anil has so far reached over 300000 plus people via over 1000 lectures. He has driven across 69 countries in the past 8 years and is currently on a mission to unite Rotary for organ donation. He was flagged off by Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta at the Rotary International Convention in Houston and is currently driving to the Next convention in Calgary Canada and then to Germany to compete for India at the World Transplant games in Aug 2025. Anil is a triple gold medal winner for India in the 2019 and 2023 games.

Anil is the founder and Charter President of the world's first Rotary Club of Organ Donation (2021). The co founder and current VP of Rotary Action Group Blood and Organ Donation, he was a Rotary Youth Exchange Student in 1984-85 to Smithers, Canada. Founder and Charter President of Rotary Club of Plainsboro, NJ USA (2002) and Rotary Club Bangalore Social, India (2019). Appeared on the cover of the August 2024 issue of The Rotary Magazine for his work on Organ Donation awareness.

[For the full Story follow the link](#)



When the Waters Rose, Rotaractors Stepped Forward

By Vatsal Khimasiya

In July 2026, relentless monsoon rains swept across Gujarat, a state in western India. Rivers overflowed their banks, roads disappeared beneath floodwaters, homes were submerged, and thousands of families were left without food, drinking water, electricity, and other essentials.

The need was immediate. So was the response.

Across District 3060, which serves communities in Gujarat and neighboring parts of western India, Rotaractors began organizing relief. Nine clubs — Mahemdabad, Bharuch, Harijyot, Vapi Riverside, Surat East, Umbergaon, Navsari Young Turks, Valsad, and Vapi — came together through **Project Sahay**, coordinating their efforts with Rotary clubs, charitable organizations, donors, and local volunteers.

Some prepared fresh meals. Others assembled ration kits, arranged drinking water, sorted supplies, coordinated transportation, or travelled to communities cut off by flooding.

The work reached communities across Bharuch, Mahemdabad, Navsari, Valsad, Vapi, Umbergaon, Pipariya in Silvassa, and nearby villages.

Families received cooked meals, food supplies, blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, utensils, hygiene essentials, medical supplies, clothing, and other necessities.

By the end of the response, **more than 15,000 people had been reached**. Rotaract Members contributed **more than 1,500 volunteer hours**, while **over ₹16 lakh (approximately US\$19,000)** in relief was delivered.

But the numbers only tell part of the story.

Some families arrived carrying buckets and plastic containers to collect a warm meal. Elderly residents thanked Rotaractors with tears in their eyes. Children smiled despite having lost much of what was familiar to them.



For the Rotaractors, these moments put the work into perspective.

A relief kit meets an immediate need. A meal provides nourishment. A blanket provides warmth. But in the aftermath of a disaster, receiving help also carries another message: you have not been forgotten.

Bhavya S Shah, District Rotaract Representative for District 3060, said:

“Project Sahay was never about the number of meals we served or the relief kits we distributed. It was about ensuring that every family affected by the floods knew they were not alone. Every helping hand carried a message of hope and compassion.”

The response also showed the value of local collaboration. Rotaractors brought volunteers and energy; Rotary members contributed experience and connections; community organizations offered local knowledge; and donors helped turn resources into relief.

For many of the young Rotaractors, the floods became a lesson in leadership.

There was no time for perfect plans. Roads became inaccessible, needs changed quickly, and supplies had to keep moving. Rotaract Members organized, adapted, solved problems, and continued.

Leadership, in those circumstances, was not about a title. It was about seeing what needed to be done and doing it.

When the waters rose, these young people did not wait for someone else to respond.

They stepped forward.

And for families facing the uncertainty left behind by the floods, that may have been the most important message of all: **someone was there.**



Broadening Knowledge of ICC

By Giampaolo Latella- RPIC 2027/30 Region15 -Legal Advisor Executive Council

A treasure that is still little known. A precious asset, an essential part of being a Rotarian, which, to paraphrase Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, is "invisible to the eye". We are talking about the ICC, in this writer's opinion one of the highest and most authentic expressions of the Rotary spirit: an international network of people united by an ethical value system and the desire to serve above self.

The ICC therefore needs to communicate and make itself known. Not an easy goal in an age where communication dominates every sphere. However, we must try to make our community more aware of the opportunities offered by ICCs. These opportunities span a wide range of interests from social relationships to business, and most importantly, strengthening the capacity to design and execute international service projects. The equation is simple: more ICCs can also mean more Global Grants.

In this challenge, we have one advantage: the audience we need to address is simply the Rotary family. We do not need to navigate the open seas. We just need to follow the route, calling at the "ports" of interest: making ourselves known to members, clubs, and districts. A widespread, grassroots effort is needed to spread awareness that, at an institutional level, the ICC exists within Rotary International.

We are convinced that if all or most Rotarians were aware and fully knowledgeable of what InterCountry Committees are, how they work, and the opportunities they offer, many more Rotarians would get involved.

Today, technology offers countless tools to facilitate communication at negligible costs, starting with social media, which never the less require particular care and attention when used. Today, a single post can go viral—and if it isn't carefully prepared, it can backfire. It would be important to carefully select content, images, and videos, asking oneself first and foremost: "What message do I intend to convey with this post? And is this content consistent with the goals of the ICC?" Often, the enthusiasm for sharing

our experiences leads us to overlook the small details that make a difference. The most useful advice in these cases is to avoid compulsive posting, wait a few hours after a meeting concludes, and select the text and images with care.

Another important aspect is compliance with Rotary International's communication guidelines, which many Rotarians, Clubs, and Districts often forget to follow. These guidelines are also essential for projecting an external image based on Rotary's visual identity, a true calling card.

Among the various available tools, publishing periodic newsletters is highly recommended, as it strengthens relationships within each ICC community and allows information to circulate more rapidly.

The rest comes down to interpersonal relationships within the microcosm of each ICC, thanks to shared business interests, local needs, commercial ties, and cross-cultural exchange. All of this allows us to build together the dream of a Rotary community that, thanks to InterCountry Committees, is truly ready to fully realize Paul Harris's vision and that motto which, for each of us, is a way of life: Service Above Self. For peace.

For the common good. For humanity.



Beyond Borders: From Two Homes to One Rotary Bridge

By Nancy El Mahdy - ICC Egypt- Morocco Chair D2451 / D9010

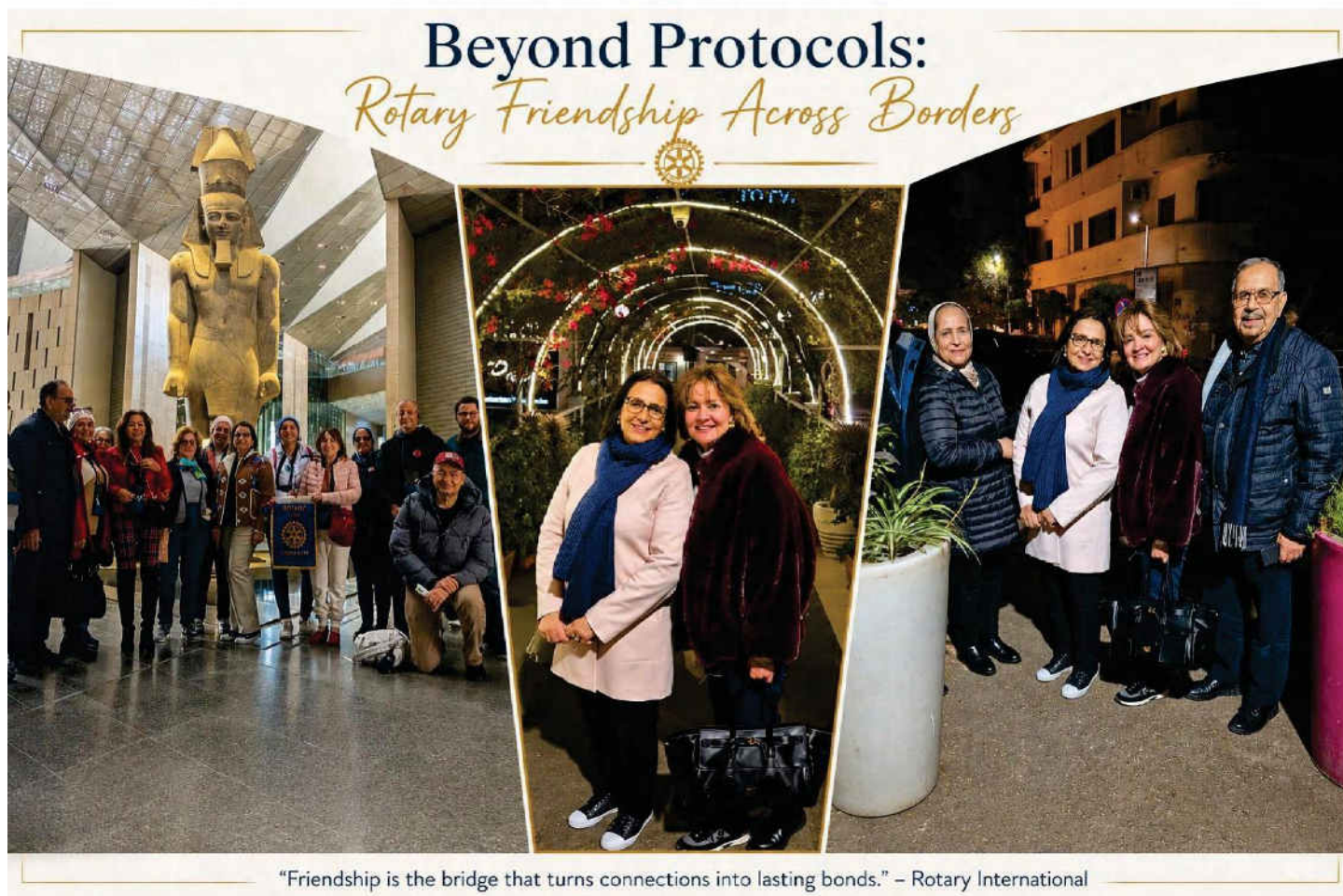
For more than thirty-five years, Egypt and Morocco have been woven together in my life in ways that are both deeply personal and profoundly meaningful. I was raised in Egypt, where my roots and identity were shaped, while my life became equally intertwined with Morocco through my marriage to a Moroccan diplomat, my family and children, and years immersed in diplomatic life.

As a Rotarian in District 2451, Egypt, I was keen to give this lifelong connection between my two homes a wider purpose through Rotary, bringing Egypt and Morocco together through an Intercountry Committee a natural meeting point between personal ties, international understanding, and Rotary service.

On October 4, 2019, that commitment took institutional form with the signing of the ICC protocol between District 2451, Egypt, and District 9010, Morocco, during the Rotary Zone Institute, held at the Savoy Sharm El Sheikh. Yinka Babalola was attending the zone institute also in the presence of RI president -Elect/ Holger Knaackat that time and a distinguished Moroccan delegation, and alongside PDG Dr. Sherif Waly; PP Soheir Wahib, National Coordinator, ICC Egypt; and PDG Saadia Aglif, representing Morocco, I had the privilege of representing Egypt. A connection rooted in my own life had become a Rotary bridge dedicated to friendship, service, and international understanding.

From Protocol to Action

Since that signing, the bridge between Egypt and Morocco has remained active and vibrant, sustained year after year through Rotary cooperation, fellowship, and meaningful people to - people connections. The activities of the 2025- 26 Rotary year offer a glimpse of that continuing journey.



From October 15–22, 2025, Cairo hosted the Egypt–Morocco Rotary Friendship Exchange, coordinated by the ICC Egypt–Morocco Committee in collaboration with the Rotary Friendship Exchange Committee, chaired by Jean Mautran, and our Moroccan counterparts. Around 18 Moroccan Rotarians spent a truly memorable week with their Egyptian Rotary friends—visiting clubs, exchanging Rotary experiences and ideas, enjoying outings together, and sharing the wonderful warmth of Rotary friendship and daily fellowship. It was Rotary friendship across borders at its most genuine: connecting, sharing, discovering one another, and simply enjoying being together.

Between October and February, three twinning protocols were signed between Egyptian and Moroccan Rotary clubs, extending this relationship from districts to clubs and creating further opportunities for lasting cooperation. The third, signed on February 26, 2025, gave this spirit of twinning a particularly significant dimension.

Egypt welcomed a delegation of eight senior Moroccan Rotarians, including PDG Saadia Aglif, representing the Moroccan side of the ICC Egypt–Morocco protocol, and P. Souad Debagh, President of Rotary Rabat Doyen, D9010. As Chair of the Egypt Chapter of the ICC Egypt–Morocco, I had the great pleasure of welcoming the delegation, coordinating their visit, arranging the twinning between Rotary Cairo Elite, D2451, and Rotary Rabat Doyen, D9010, and facilitating their meetings with District 2451 leadership.

The twinning was celebrated at one of Cairo’s leading hotels in the presence of current and past District Governors, making it a wonderful and memorable Rotary occasion and giving the celebration a special sense of continuity. Among them were PDG Dr. Sherif Waly, under whose governorship the original Egypt–Morocco ICC protocol was signed, and PDG Abdel Hamid El Awa, whose continuous support and close



Egypt–Morocco Rotary Friendship Exchange — Cairo, October 15–22, 2025

engagement have accompanied the ICC's activities between Egypt and Morocco throughout the years, and who was subsequently selected to serve on the ICC Executive Board with responsibility for International Expansion. Their presence connected the origins of the partnership with its continuing growth—from one protocol to an expanding network of Rotary relationships between the two countries.

This spirit of exchange has naturally flowed in both directions. Egyptian Rotarians also traveled especially to Marrakech to attend the D9010 District Conference, carrying the same spirit of friendship and fellowship from Cairo to Marrakech and adding another memorable chapter to the growing relationship between our two Rotary communities.

As the ICC enters a new chapter under the leadership of Annemarie Mostert, President of the ICC Executive Council, we look forward with confidence to further strengthening the spirit of international understanding, friendship, cooperation, and peace that lies at the heart of the ICC mission.

Looking ahead, the Egypt–Morocco ICC remains committed to strengthening this bridge—expanding connections between Rotarians, clubs, and communities, and creating further opportunities for fellowship, service, and meaningful collaboration. Built on friendship and sustained by mutual respect, this partnership reflects the enduring spirit of Rotary: advancing international understanding, fostering goodwill, and bringing people and nations closer together.

Beyond borders, the journey continues—strengthening a Rotary bridge between Egypt and Morocco, one relationship at a time.

Nancy El Mahdy

- The Rotary Foundation Fund Development Committee-Member
- Cadre Technical Coordinator
- Peace Building & Conflict Prevention -Cadre Technical Advisor
- Economic Development
- Chair –Egypt Section, ICC Egypt–Morocco, D2451 / D9010
- Charter & Board Member –AIRF (Artificial Intelligence Rotary Fellowship)
- Board Member at RAG4GE
- Past President –Rotary Club of Cairo East, D2451



Signing of the ICC Egypt-Morocco Protocol — Savoy Sharm El Sheikh, October 4, 2019



Twinning Protocol Signing - Rotary Cairo Elite, D2451 & Rotary Rabat Doyen, D9010 - February 26, 2025

Helping Kids and Veterans with Medical and Mental Rehabilitation

By Rost Lukach Rotary Ukraine (District 2232) Trainer - Rotary Club of Kyiv-Capital Past President, Executive Director

Sokol Summer Camp

Mostly, the participants were from local refugee families and also from local neighboring area families who have fathers/mothers in the Defense now. At first, a group of teenage leaders received training in teamwork and agenda coordination, and then participants received training in paramedical help if something happens, and the Camp Program started on!..

Our RC President and Treasurer visited the Camp. They say they were impressed with the level of positive emotions, happiness, and family spirit they felt there. Children received special training on medicinal herbs, sports games, leadership training, and of course, dancing :)

On the final evening, they had a farewell concert see the videos in the Facebook album.

Please, see more photos and some videos from the Farewell night concert on our Rotary club Facebook page / Photo Album / SOKOL Camp2026
<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1049107027484405&type=3>

Donors: Anna Beria (200EUR), RC Hammenhogs (50000SEK), RotarySwedenHelpUkraine/RID2335 (5250USD) Children and their relatives are VERY Grateful to you, our friends!



What Can I Do?

By Edward Wayne Jr. - Founder and Director of The Bridge of Life.

Before I tell you about what my wife, Tanya, and I have been doing in Ukraine, I should explain how we ended up here.

I grew up in Houston, Texas, and was fortunate in business. I built a company that eventually became multinational, and about thirty-five years ago, I sold it.

Suddenly I had time, energy, and some financial resources. And I began asking myself a simple question:

What can I do with them that might make a difference in somebody else's life?

That question eventually took me to the Balkans during the wars surrounding Kosovo and Serbia. One telephone call led to another, and within about forty-eight hours I found myself helping establish a camp for displaced men, women and children in Macedonia.

I had no idea where that decision would lead.

But one thing led to another.

After the war, I became involved in developing a pediatric oncology unit in Serbia. Later came humanitarian work following the tsunami in Thailand, the earthquakes in Nepal, and work involving children and adolescents in Myanmar.

Different countries. Different problems. But essentially the same question:

There is a problem in front of us. Is there something practical we can do about it?

Then came Ukraine.

In February 2022, Tanya and I were considering an entirely different humanitarian project when Russia launched its full-scale invasion.

We decided that whatever experience, energy and resources we had were probably more useful here.



So we came to Ukraine.
Our plan was to stay for about three months.
We're now in our fifth year.

Apparently, Tanya and I are not very good at three-month plans. Ukraine became our home, and once again, one thing led to another.

One of our early projects involved children receiving psychiatric treatment in Lviv. Immediately outside their clinic was an unused enclosed courtyard.

We looked at it and asked:

Why couldn't that space become part of their recovery?

So we transformed it into a secure outdoor park where children could experience fresh air, nature, physical activity and, perhaps most importantly, simply be children for a while.

That led us to Dzherelo, which serves children with serious physical and developmental disabilities. We created an inclusive outdoor park designed around the children rather than expecting the children to adapt to the equipment.

We built swings that could safely carry children in wheelchairs and a merry-go-round capable of carrying several wheelchairs at once.

The engineering was complicated.

But once the children started laughing, the engineering didn't matter anymore.

That taught me something I have seen repeatedly during thirty-five years of humanitarian work:

The importance of a project is not determined by its price tag. It is determined by whether somebody needs it.

And one thing led to another: Building hospital rooms and wards, more playgrounds, building modular schools for mentally and physically challenged children, food delivery to Kharkiv, Nike purple jackets and clothes delivery to the eastern villages, and so on...



And then came the dogs.

I had seen the impact of therapy-dog programs in the United States and wondered whether something similar could work in Ukraine.

We found extraordinary people in Lviv, established professional training and medical standards, worked through hospital requirements, and eventually received permission to introduce therapy-dog teams into Ukrainian hospitals and rehabilitation centers. That was the moment I understood these dogs were doing something far more important than making pleasant hospital visits.

We later began bringing them to wounded soldiers and other patients undergoing rehabilitation. I have watched a terribly wounded soldier slowly stroke Alto and then smile when the dog looked into his eyes.

One of those dogs is Alto.

There is one little boy I will never forget.

He had been at school with his mother when a Russian attack occurred. His mother threw herself over her son to protect him.

She was killed.

The little boy lost an arm.

By the time we saw him at the Super humans rehabilitation center, his physical treatment had been successful, but he had lost far more than an arm. He had lost his mother, his home and much of the world he understood.

He sat silently behind a glass door, rolling a ball back and forth.

Then he saw Alto.

We opened the door.

Alto went directly to him.

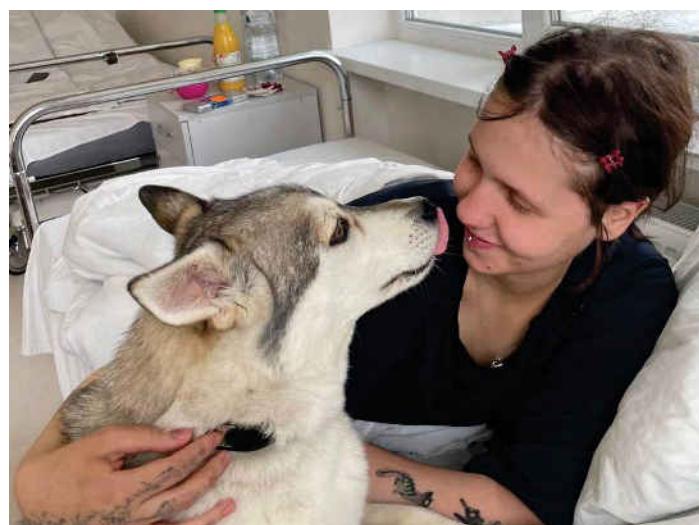
The little boy wrapped his arm around the dog. Then he looked at his father and, for the first time

since the attack, he spoke.

He said:

Daddy. Dog.

Two words.



No speech.

No complicated machine.

Just a wounded human being and a dog.

Perhaps dogs understand something human beings occasionally forget. They don't care about nationality, religion, politics, rank, disability or injury.

They simply see another living being.

Our work has also included supporting trained medical volunteers working in dangerous areas, helping obtain ambulances and equipment, and moving humanitarian supplies where they are needed.

And then there was our 1997 Toyota 4 Runner. Does it look impressive?

We had owned that Toyota for twenty-eight years. Our children knew it. Tanya and I had traveled around the world with it. It was almost part of the family.

Eventually we realized it could be more useful as an extraction vehicle in eastern Ukraine, traveling on roads where ordinary ambulances sometimes could not go and helping medical teams bring wounded people out.

Giving it away was surprisingly emotional.

But our old family member wasn't retiring.

It had a new job.

There is a lesson in that old Toyota.

Humanitarian work doesn't always look impressive.

Sometimes humanitarian work looks like a twenty-eight-year-old Toyota.

The important question isn't:

Does it look impressive?

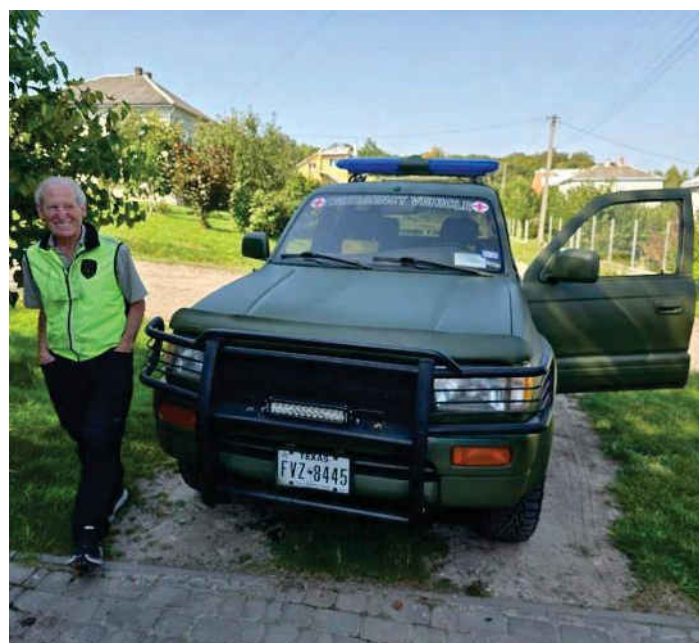
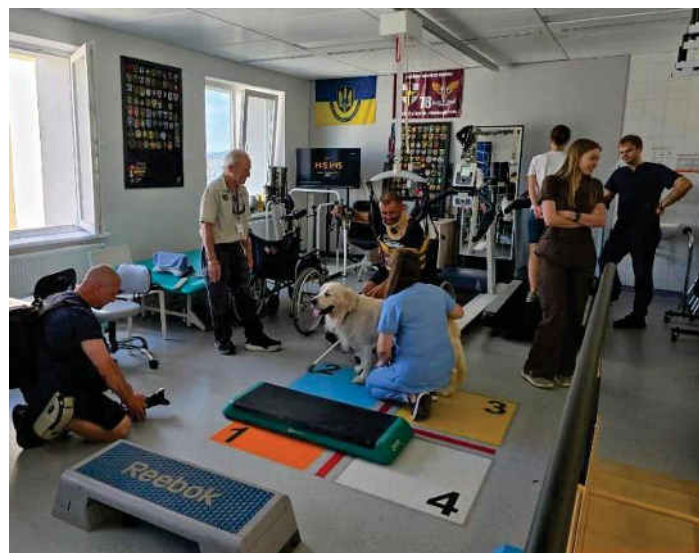
The question is:

Will it do the job?

Over the years, Tanya and I have also learned that good intentions are not enough. Humanitarian work requires accountability and humility. Know where assistance goes. Know who receives it.

Listen to the people who actually understand the problem.

Know what you know —and know what you don't know.





Sometimes your greatest contribution is simply connecting somebody who has a problem with somebody who knows how to solve it.

And that brings me back to Rotary.

Rotarians already understand service. It is built into the organization.

Not everyone needs to come to Ukraine.

Not everyone needs to build a children's center, train a therapy dog or move an ambulance across a border.

But everybody has something.

Time.
Knowledge.
Experience.
Relationships.

An idea.

Resources.

Sometimes simply the willingness to make a telephone call.

When I sold my company thirty-five years ago, I asked myself:

What am I going to do now?

Eventually I realized there was a much better question: **What can I do?**

There is an enormous difference.

What am I going to do? is about me.

What can I do? is about the person standing in front of me.

You don't have to change the entire world.

Look around your own community. Look at your

profession. Look at the people you know and the abilities you have accumulated over a lifetime.

Then ask yourself: **What can I do?**

Maybe the answer seems very small.

That's all right.

I have spent much of the last thirty-five years watching how one small act led to another.

And I can tell you: It adds up.

Tanya and I came to Ukraine believing we would stay for three months.

We are still here.

And almost every morning begins with essentially the same question:

What can we do today?

We don't always know the answer.

But we're still asking the question.

And perhaps that is what keeps us going.



Congratulations

Andreas Strub appointed as Rotary International Representative to the European Union

We are delighted to announce that **Andreas Strub, Section Chair ICC BeLux – Germany, has been appointed by the President of Rotary International as Rotary International Representative to the European Union.**

This important appointment reflects Rotary's ambition to strengthen its dialogue and cooperation with international institutions and to further promote Rotary's values and impact at the European level.

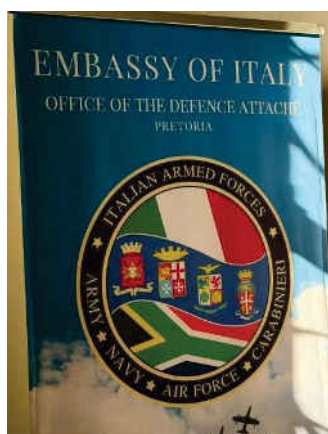
The ICC community can be very proud to see Andreas take on this important responsibility. His international engagement and strong commitment to Rotary make him an excellent representative for this role.

Please join us in warmly congratulating Andreas and wishing him every success in this new responsibility!



Greetings from South Africa

So awesome for Shereen and Annemarie to connect with Pierangelo & Jenny... fellow Rotary Intercountry Committees members at the Italian Embassy in Pretoria, South Africa. Meeting in person is the best



Artificial Intelligence Rotary Fellowship

(Click on The Cover Page Below to Read The Latest Article in Rotary Magazine)

A fellowship that bridges innovation and service. AIRF exists at the intersection of emerging technology and humanitarian service. We empower members to understand AI, apply it responsibly, and integrate it into Rotary projects that create measurable, real-world impact across communities. AIRF turns AI into practical value for service. We

help members learn, collaborate, and build solutions that improve real outcomes—while keeping ethics and inclusion at the center.

Join The Artificial Intelligence Rotary Fellowship -
Artificial Intelligence Rotary Fellowship

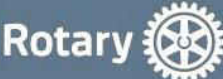
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The bots you're looking for



Work With Rotary Experts

Rotary has organised its experts into two groups; the professionally experienced cadre of technical advisers and the Rotary Action Groups.



WORK WITH ROTARY EXPERTS

Consult a Rotary expert for assistance with your service project. Connect with members of **The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers and Rotary Action Groups** through your **District Resource Network**. Each group of Rotary experts can help your project succeed. Find out more about what each group offers.



**CADRE OF
TECHNICAL
ADVISERS**

WHO THEY ARE

Cadre members are Rotarians around the world who have professional experience and expertise in Rotary's areas of focus or financial auditing. Cadre members receive online and in-person training from Foundation staff and guidance and oversight from Rotary staff and Cadre leadership.



**ROTARY
ACTION
GROUPS**

WHO THEY ARE

Rotary Action Groups are independent, Rotary-affiliated organizations whose members have expertise in a particular subject that may include or relate to one of Rotary's areas of focus.

HOW THEY CAN HELP

- ▶ Advising Rotary members who are planning or working on Rotary Foundation grant projects, especially on topics like community assessments, sustainability, and financial management.
- ▶ Establishing monitoring and evaluation plans that safeguard Foundation funds, reviewing global grant applications, and evaluating projects on behalf of The Rotary Foundation Board of Trustees.

DISTRICT INTERNATIONAL SERVICE CHAIR

WHO THEY ARE

- ▶ District international service chairs encourage dialogue about international service and motivate clubs to get involved in international service and plan higher quality, sustainable projects and grants.
- ▶ Manage and connect clubs with regional coalitions of experts (**District Resource Networks**) to serve as project mentors. Recruit and leverage local TRF Cadre and Rotary Action Group members to join the **District Resource Network**.

HOW THEY CAN HELP

- ▶ Connecting clubs with the District Resource Network of local subject matter and project experts.
- ▶ Identifying resources to support clubs with their service goals, projects, or global grants.
- ▶ Helping clubs find international project partners.
- ▶ Publicizing success stories and promoting the best practices.

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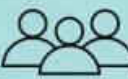


the CADRE

YOUR PROJECT PLANNING EXPERTS

70+ COUNTRIES 

80+ LANGUAGES 

500+ MEMBERS 

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION CADRE OF TECHNICAL ADVISERS is a network of Rotary members with professional expertise in Rotary's areas of focus and financial auditing who work to strengthen the impact of Rotary Foundation global grants and projects.

CADRE MEMBERS CAN ASSIST WITH:

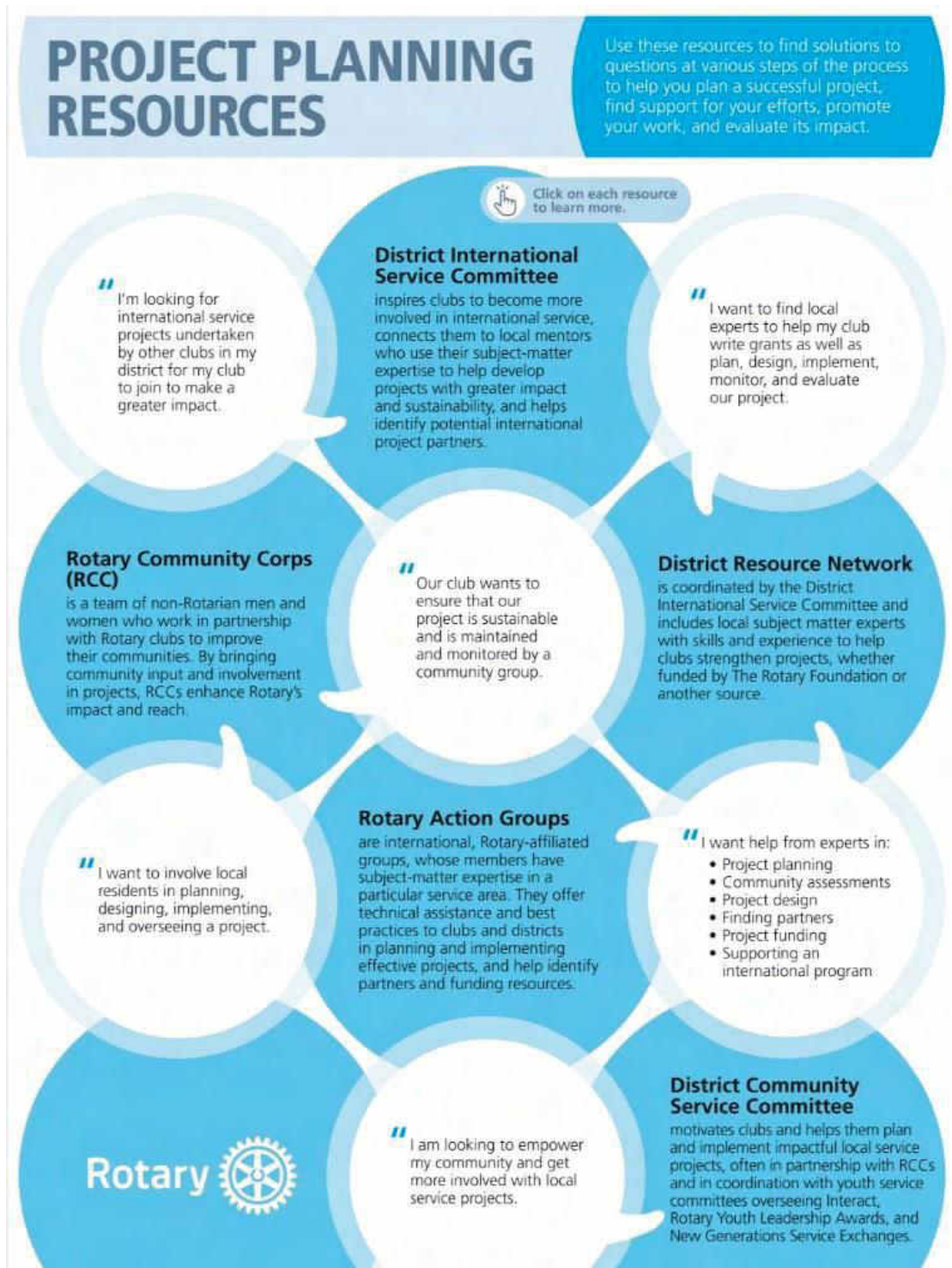
- Project planning and implementation guidance
- Community assessment design
- Sustainability elements
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Area of focus questions
- Financial management practices

Rotary 



Project Planning Resources

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Rotary Community Corps Infographic

Click on The Cover Page Below To Explore More



The infographic is titled "ROTARY COMMUNITY CORPS" and features a blue header with the Rotary logo. The main content is divided into two columns. The left column contains text about RCCs, their goals, and a call to action. The right column features a photograph of two women working together, with two yellow callout boxes containing statistics. The first box states "13,000+ ROTARY COMMUNITY CORPS GLOBALLY". The second box states "RCCS ARE LOCATED IN 103 COUNTRIES 272 DISTRICTS 300,000 VOLUNTEERS MOBILIZED FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS".

Rotary 

ROTARY COMMUNITY CORPS

Rotary Community Corps (RCCs) are teams who work in partnership with Rotary clubs to improve their communities. Membership in an RCC is open to any adult in the community who shares Rotary's commitment to service but is not a Rotary member. Each RCC is sponsored by a Rotary club.

RCCs are formed to help address community needs through service, whether the needs are short-term or ongoing. RCCs are active everywhere Rotary is present: in urban and rural areas, and in developed and developing countries.

WHY ROTARY COMMUNITY CORPS

Empower Communities
By sponsoring RCCs, we empower community members to take the lead in addressing their needs.

Enhance Your Club's Service Impact
Partnering with RCCs increases your club's ability to make a lasting difference. Projects are more sustainable and have greater impact when community members are involved in planning, implementation, and long-term oversight.

Expand Your Club's Reach
RCCs open Rotary to a wider audience, give your club the opportunity to work with community volunteers, and help you develop deeper relationships with your community.

Diversify Participation & Develop Leaders
Through RCCs, you can diversify participation in your service activities and develop new leaders in the community.

ROTARY COMMUNITY CORP GOALS

- ✓ Promote sustainable solutions to community needs
- ✓ Support community members in addressing community needs while recognizing their unique ability to identify pressing concerns and appropriate solutions
- ✓ Develop partnerships between Rotarians and non-Rotarians in a joint effort to strengthen the community

TAKE ACTION: www.rotary.org/rcc

13,000+
ROTARY
COMMUNITY
CORPS GLOBALLY

RCCS ARE LOCATED IN
 **103**
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Rotary Friendship Exchange

Click on The Cover Page Below To Explore More



ON A ROTARY FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE, YOU'RE NEVER JUST A TOURIST.



You get to genuinely experience another culture, guided by friends in Rotary. Exchange participants take turns hosting and visiting one another, forging friendships that last a lifetime.



Friendship Exchange participants travel as individuals, couples, families, or groups, and may include Rotary members and nonmembers. Prospective exchange teams communicate with one another in advance to decide on the purpose, format, timing, logistics, and duration of each visit.



All exchanges are funded by the participants and their districts, and hosts are not expected to assume a significant financial burden.

Visitors are rewarded with warm hospitality and an international travel experience unlike any other.



An exchange can be the starting point for a long-term international relationship between clubs. Participants often use their new friendships as the basis for partnering on service projects that create lasting change.



Exchanges also offer unique chances for cultural immersion and interchange. Some incorporate educational opportunities for professionals of any age to build global understanding and boost vocational and leadership skills. They can include cultural experiences, vocational activities, fellowship opportunities, and much more.



Interested in finding potential exchange partners? Contact a district Rotary Friendship Exchange chair, or take advantage of opportunities to connect with Rotarians from other parts of the world at the annual Rotary International Convention and other events.



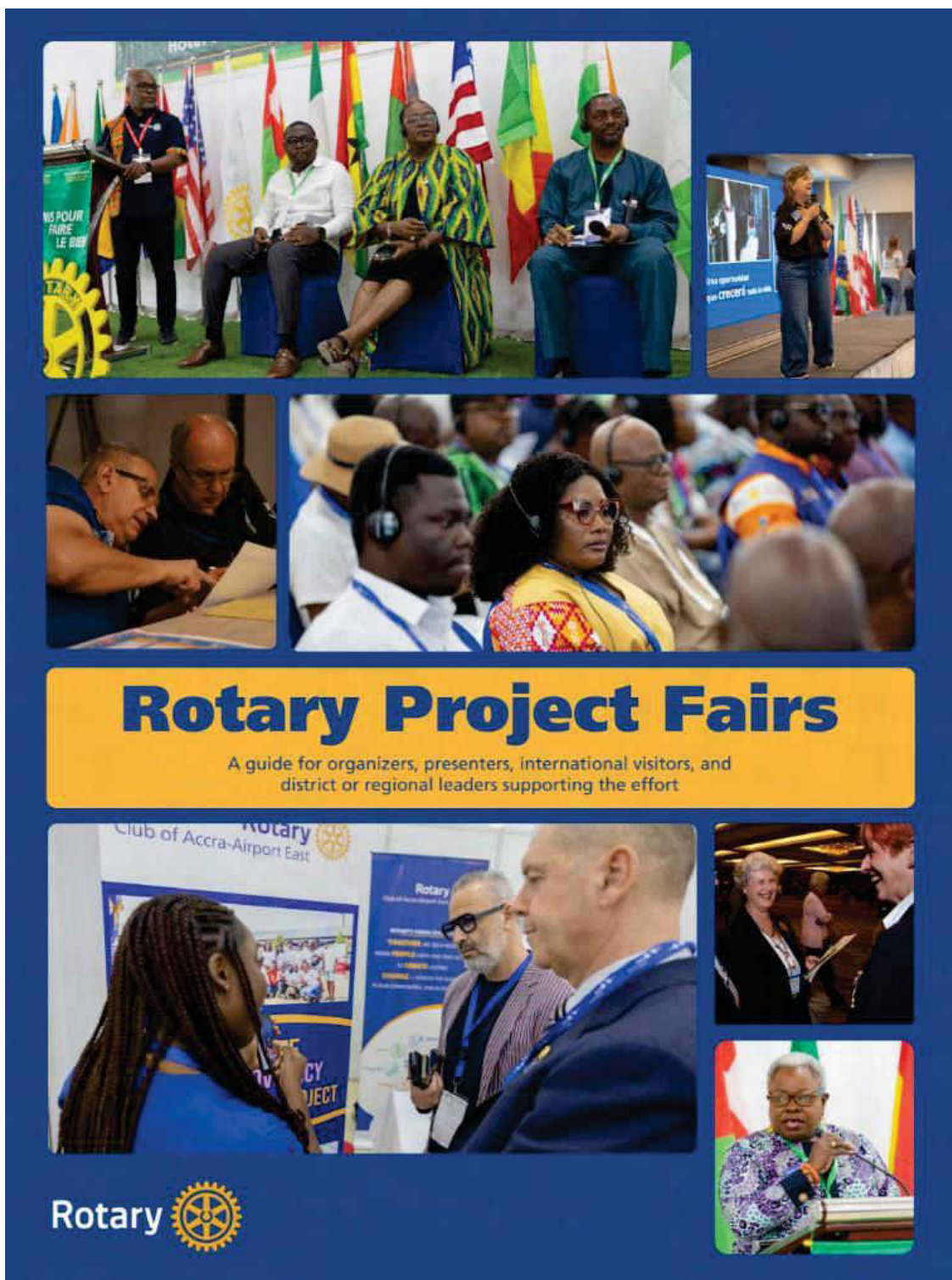
For more information, go to rotary.org/en/our-programs/friendship-exchange.

715-EN—(1019)

Please Visit following linksto explore more
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<https://share.google/nljoIpTQBTqEA4Pu>
Rotary Learning Center Courses.pdf
<https://share.google/slAdgCqLgDBEBtgZF>

Rotary Project Fairs Guide for Organisers

Click on The Cover To Explore More



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<https://share.google/nljvoIpTQBTqEA4Pu>
Rotary Learning Center Courses.pdf
<https://share.google/slAdgCqLgDBEBtgZF>

Webinar Announcement

Rotary International is excited to share registration is now open for the 17 September webinar, **Maximizing Engagement through Rotary Programs!**

“Rotary programs offer valuable opportunities to empower and support emerging leaders, build international relationships, and expand your impact in the community. Join us for a webinar to discover new ways to personalize your own Rotary experience through Rotary’s programs, including opportunities to strengthen your leadership skills, learn from peers, build meaningful connections, and create lasting change locally and globally. Go to Rotary.org/webinars to learn more.”



**DESIGNING YOUR ROTARY EXPERIENCE
TO MAXIMIZE ENGAGEMENT**

Rotary  17 September 2026
11:00 AM CST

- ✓ For all members and alumni
- ✓ Learn about Rotary programs
- ✓ Build meaningful connections

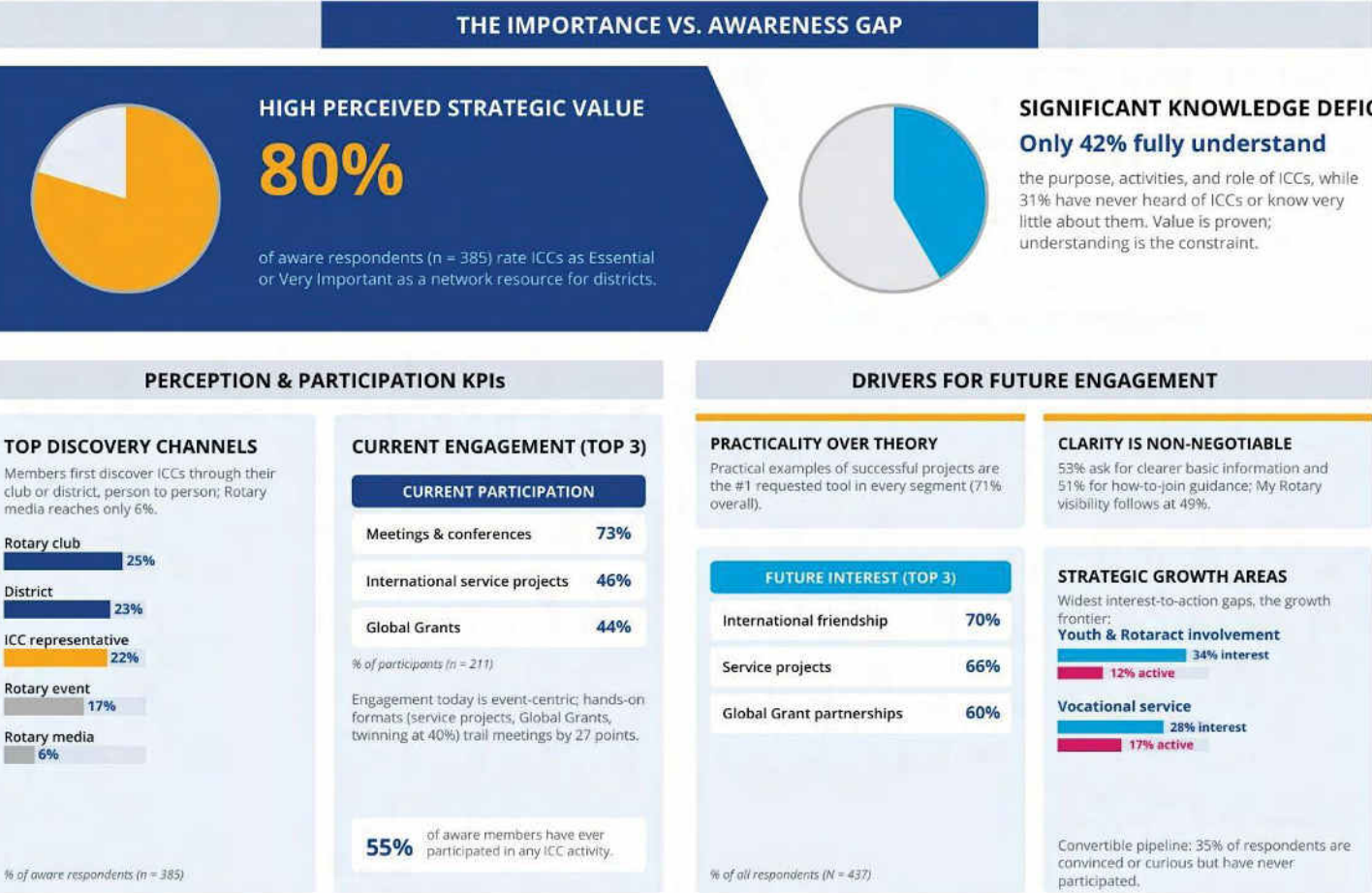
Register Now

[ROTARY.ORG/WEBINARS](https://Rotary.org/webinars)

Latest Info on ICC Perception Survey

By Dr Mohamed Yasser Ibrahim, Innovation Working Group, ICC 2026-2028

ICC Perception 2026: Bridging the Gap Between Essential Value and Member Awareness



ICC PERCEPTION SURVEY 2026 | EXECUTIVE REPORT TO THE COUNCIL | WAVE 5 (20 AUGUST 2026)

The Mandate Is Clear: Convert Conviction into Participation

437 Rotarians across 134 districts confirm near-universal awareness and conviction; the gap, and the opportunity, is activation

Prepared by PP Dr. Mohamed Yasser Ibrahim, Innovation Working Group, ICC 2026-2028 | Data as of 20 August 2026

437

respondents from 134 districts

88%

aware of ICCs

80%

rate ICCs Essential or Very Important

55%

have participated in an ICC activity

90%

open to learning more via DRN or DISC

THE BOTTOM LINE

The Rotary community does not need to be persuaded that Intercountry Committees matter; it needs a clear path to engagement. Across five survey waves, conviction metrics have held steady at about 80 percent, while the share of favorable-but-inactive respondents has grown to more than one in three. The 2026-2028 program should therefore shift resources from awareness-building to activation: embed ICCs in district and club training, publish evidence of impact, and open a defined entry pathway for the 151 respondents who are convinced or curious but have never participated.

SIX INSIGHTS FROM THE DATA

1. Awareness is saturated; depth is the binding constraint. 88% know of ICCs, yet only 42% claim full understanding, and the instruments closest to member experience are least recognized: twin clubs (42%), Friendship Exchanges (43%). The brand is known; the offer is not.

2. Participation is broad but shallow. 55% of aware respondents (n = 385) have participated, but 73% of that activity is meetings and conferences. Hands-on formats trail: service projects 46%, Global Grants 44%, twinning 40%, and Rotaract activity 12%, compared with 34% expressing youth interest.

3. The activation pipeline now holds one in three respondents. Warm Prospects (25.2%, n = 110, all rating ICCs Essential or Very Important, none ever activated) plus Curious Observers (9.4%) form a 35% conversion pool that dwarfs the unaware segment (11.9%).

4. Discovery runs through people, and clubs have overtaken districts. The club remains the leading discovery channel (25% versus 23% for districts, 22% for ICC representatives, and 6.5% for Rotary media), a reversal of Wave 1; content must therefore reach club podiums, not only district offices.

5. Content demand converges on proof and pathways. Practical project examples lead every segment (71% overall); clearer basic information (53%) and how-to-join guidance (51%) have overtaken newsletters (42%), which fell 11 points since Wave 1 as colder audiences entered the sample.

6. The open-ended record demands institutional embedding. Of 100 substantive comments (148 coded), 39% call for training and district sessions, 36% for visibility and media, and 32% for leadership and district integration; this wave's asks target DG training and district assemblies. A small senior voice (6 comments, mostly Champions) still flags inactive committees.

EXHIBIT 1 Core indicators are stable while the sample has nearly tripled and internationalized

Indicator	Wave 1 (22 Jul)	Wave 4 (13 Aug)	Wave 5 (20 Aug)	Change W4 to W5
Respondents (N) / districts	137 / 73	428 / 130	437 / 134	+9 / +4
Aware of ICCs	89.1%	87.9%	88.1%	+0.2 pp
Full understanding of ICC role	49.6%	41.4%	41.6%	+0.2 pp
Participated in ICC activity	67.2%	54.5%	54.8%	+0.3 pp
Essential or Very Important	81.1%	79.5%	79.7%	+0.2 pp
Open to learning more (Yes or Maybe)	89.3%	90.2%	90.4%	+0.2 pp
Discovery via club (top channel)	11.5%	25.8%	25.2%	-0.6 pp
Demand: regular newsletters	52.6%	41.1%	41.6%	+0.5 pp
Demand: clearer basic information	49.6%	52.8%	52.6%	-0.2 pp

Source: ICC Perception Survey waves of 22 July (N = 137), 13 August (N = 428), and 20 August 2026 (N = 437); Waves 2-3 omitted for space; awareness-dependent items on aware base (n = 122 / 376 / 385); pp = percentage points.

WHAT CHANGED SINCE THE PREVIOUS REPORT, AND WHY IT MATTERS

Composition explains the record; the fundamentals are flat. Only 9 respondents were added since 13 August, each from a different district (including Belgium, the United States, and West Africa), and they arrived warm: all aware, six already participating, eight rating ICCs highly. Every headline metric moved by 0.2 to 0.3 points, the quietest week of the fieldwork. The five-wave record now spans a cold expansion (Waves 2-3), a warm one (Wave 4), and a stable tail; each swing tracked who joined the sample, never a change in underlying sentiment. Response volume is plateauing: the survey has likely saturated its reachable audience, and the sample can now be treated as the study's final shape.

Conviction is composition-proof. While knowledge metrics diluted as the sample broadened, valuation did not: Essential or Very Important has held within a three-point band around 81% across all five waves, and openness to learning more has stayed above 89% throughout. This stability across cold and warm additions alike is the strongest evidence in the study that demand for ICCs is structural rather than an artifact of surveying insiders.

The audience structure is tilting toward activation. Since Wave 1, the Champion share has fallen 7 points (36.5% to 29.1%) while Warm Prospects have risen 11 points (14.6% to 25.2%) and now nearly equal Champions in absolute terms (110 versus 127). The survey added convinced non-participants faster than activists throughout; the activation backlog is the study's structural legacy, and the channel mix shifted with it, clubs overtaking districts as the first point of discovery.

EXHIBIT 2 Warm Prospects are the fastest-growing segment across the five waves

Segment (share of N)	Wave 1	Wave 4	Wave 5	n (W5)	Trend
ICC Champions	36.5%	28.3%	29.1%	127	falling
Warm Prospects	14.6%	25.2%	25.2%	110	rising
Engaged Participants	23.4%	19.6%	19.2%	84	stable
Unaware	10.9%	12.1%	11.9%	52	stable
Curious Observers	8.8%	9.3%	9.4%	41	stable
Disengaged Aware	5.8%	5.4%	5.3%	23	stable

Source: rule-based segmentation on familiarity, participation, importance, and interest items; consistent definitions across waves.

RECOMMENDED INITIATIVES, PRIORITIZED

#	Initiative (horizon)	Evidence base	Success metric
1	ICC Project Story Library: 20-25 documented cases with partners, funding, and outcomes (0-90 days)	Top request in every segment (71% overall); with training, the leading qualitative theme (39%)	Library live; cases cited in district events; download and reuse tracking.
2	Embed an ICC module in the district training calendar: PETS, assemblies, GETS, and institutes (0-6 months)	39% of substantive comments request training and sessions; district integration named by 32%, with DG training and assemblies the newest asks	Number of districts with a scheduled ICC session (target: 50 in year 1)
3	Warm Prospect activation pathway: one named contact, one relevant example, one defined first step, plus monthly onboarding webinars (0-6 months)	110 convinced non-participants (25% of sample), 100% rating ICCs Essential or Very Important; pool grew 11 pp since Wave 1	Conversion of Warm Prospects to first participation by the next survey wave (target: 25%)
4	Club-level starter kit: a one-page 'What is an ICC' explainer and how-to-join guide for club presidents (0-90 days)	Clubs are the leading discovery channel (25%); clearer information demanded by 53%, guidance by 51%	Kit distributed via club officers; understanding score in next wave (target: above 45%)
5	Rotaract track: youth seats in ICC boards and a joint project format (6-12 months)	34% interest versus 12% activity, the widest interest-to-action gap; Rotaract discovery channel emerging (3%)	Rotaract participation in ICC activity (target: double to 24% of participants)
6	Governance refresh: leadership rotation norms, annual activity reporting, and published impact measures (6-12 months)	Champion-voiced concerns on inactive committees and founder entrenchment; 'what have you achieved in 76 years'	Share of ICCs reporting activity annually; first global impact statement published

Method: online survey, five cumulative waves closing 20 August 2026; N = 437 unique respondents (blank export rows excluded; latest submission retained per e-mail); awareness classification validated against the Looker Studio pivot in Waves 1-3 (zero mismatches; no pivot export supplied since); open-ended thematic coding per Braun and Clarke (2006), 148 comments, multi-code. Prepared for the ICC Executive Council by PP Dr. Mohamed Yasser Ibrahim, Innovation Working Group, ICC 2026-2028; data as of 20 August 2026. Formatted per the ICC Visual Identity Guidelines (May 2026): Open Sans headings, Georgia body, official Rotary color palette. rotary-icc.org | @rotaryicc

ICCs – THE PEACE CONNECTION

ICC at Rotary European Action Summit Breakout Session | 12 Sept 2026

What if peace begins with one simple conversation across borders? That is how the first Intercountry Committee (ICC) started in 1950, bringing French and German Rotarians together after World War II.

More than 75 years later, that idea is more relevant than ever. Across Rotary, ICCs are gaining new momentum.

New connections are being made, partnerships are growing and Rotarians are rediscovering the power of friendship across borders. On 12 September, we bring that energy together. And you'll want to be in the room.

"In a world where divisions are growing, Rotary needs places where people can meet across borders, build trust and turn dialogue into action."

That is the unique strength of ICCs. The Rotary European Action Summit is our opportunity to connect, exchange ideas and shape what comes next." Annemarie Mostert, ICC Executive President 2026-2028.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ROOM?

Expect 90 minutes of ideas, interaction and new connections:

- Opening remarks by Rotary International President Yinka Babalola (subject to availability)
- Learn from long-term Rotary partner, the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)
- A dynamic Youth Peace Summit pitch
- An interactive discussion connecting ICCs, the Rotary Action Group for Peace and Rotary's Peace Building and Conflict Prevention efforts
- Meet author Pauline Siebel and discover her fresh perspective on peace
- Bring your own ideas and connections into the conversation

This is not a session where you simply sit and listen. You are part of it.

WHY NOW?

ICCs are experiencing new international momentum—connecting countries, generations and Rotary networks.

Be inspired by ideas emerged or what new connections started. Be there when it happens. Continue the conversation at the ICC Promotion Booth, connected with the Peace Booth in the House of Friendship. Meet ICC representatives from around the world and discover where your international Rotary connections could lead.

SAVE YOUR SEAT

Participation in ICCs –The Peace Connection is free, but only available to registered participants of the Rotary European Action Summit 2026. Both Registrations!! before 5 September are required:

<https://rotary-european-action-summit-2026.yellenge.nl/>

(Full Congress Registration or Day Ticket)

<https://rotary-icc.org/event/rotterdam-summit-2026-icc-breakout-session/>

You must be there to be part of what happens next....

InterCountry Committees (ICC's) Connecting for Peace

@ Rotary European Action Summit Rotterdam
Saturday, 12. September 2026

LIMITED SEATS & REGISTER BEFORE 5. SEPTEMBER 2026

Date: Saturday, 12. September 2026

Venue: WTC Rotterdam

Time: During Summit lunch break

Costs: Included for Summit or Saturday dayticket

- ✓ Inspiring and interactive program
- ✓ Lunch provided
- ✓ Group photo & certificate (@booth)

BOTH REGISTRATIONS REQUIRED!



Rotary European
Action Summit

rotary-european-action-summit-2026.yellenge.nl



InterCountry Committees
Breakout Session

rotary-icc.org/event/rotterdam-summit-2026-icc-breakout-session/

The ICC Dinner Event & WASH Action Conference in conjunction with WASH-RAG

Dear ICC members,

I would like to personally invite you to join us for a scintillating evening on **Friday 11 September 2026 at the Postillion Hotel & Convention Centre WTC Rotterdam**

Programme:

WASH Conference starts: 17h30

Hosts: Dilip Mirchandani (WASH Coordinator Europe), PDG Bas Hendriksen (Director WASH-RAG)

1. It all starts with WASH: video presentation
2. Introduction to WASH-RAG: S.N Srikanth (WASH-RAG Chair)
3. WASH-RAG presentation video
4. VEI CEO Toine Ramaker (VEI, world leading organization implementing Water Operator Partnerships)
5. I.H.E. Graham Jewitt (IHE Delft Institute for Water Education - the largest international graduate water education facility in the world)
6. District Governor Ben Ewals (the Water Governor) on how WASH is organised in his district and how WASH-RAG can help
7. Dr. Reem Abd EL Meguid (advisor to UN agencies, and Egyptian government ministries on ESG strategy, climate adaptation, and organizational development).

Panel discussion on the importance of WASH & how it can be organized in Rotary at a District level: CEO Toine Ramaker, District Governor Ben Ewals, Graham Jewitt, Dr. Reem Abd EL Meguid

Mediator: PDG Kathleen Van Rysseghem (Region 22 Rotary Foundation Coordinator 2022-2025)

Question and answers session

19h00: The ICC-WASH-RAG-PAUL HARRIS SOCIETY Dinner Event: a tasty Italian buffet extravaganza

Conference + Dinner Event 75/-eur pp

Dear Fellow ICC leaders, those who will join us in Rotterdam, please book for the ICC session on 12th September.

On the 11th, there is another event arranged by WASH and ICC section chair. You have an opportunity to participate by buying your ticket.

There will be an ICC booth in the house of friendship. Please participate and meet us there.

<https://www.eventbrite.be/e/wash-rag-action-conference-dinner-event-tickets-1997269322308?aff=oddtcreator>

Save The Date

Meetings in Liège on 19 September 2026

Dear friends,

During our recent meeting in Casablanca for the « 3rd Africa ICC Peace Forum » and the D9010 leadership ceremony, I informed you of the events my club was preparing to celebrate its 100th anniversary, and I invited you to participate.

On Saturday, September 19, alongside the festivities, the ICC Belgium + GD Luxembourg/Germany will hold its semiannual meeting in person. **Anne-Marie Mostert** (Rotary E-Club of Eagle Canyon South Africa), President of the ICC International Executive Council 2026-2028, will honor us with her presence. The day's program will be adjusted to allow her time

to present the objectives of her mandate, **"Uniting Rotarians Across Borders."**

We are actively working on preparing a program, and you will receive all the necessary and detailed information by mid-August. But without further ado, knowing that our meetings will begin at 9:00 AM and continue into the early afternoon, we recommend booking a room as soon as possible at one of the suggested hotels and perhaps even participating in the other 100th anniversary events. These are excellent opportunities to make or reconnect with many people. ([See Attachments](#))

For better organization, we would appreciate it if you could confirm your attendance as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance.

Marcel TILKIN -RC Liège

marcel.tilkin.2@gmail.com

+32 494 804 888

Rotary Club de Liège

INVITATION

VENDREDI 18 SEPTEMBRE 2026
de 18h00 à 20h00

LIEGE-EXPO
Place Louis de Geer, 2
4000 Liège

Le Rotary Club de Liège a le plaisir de vous convier au

Cocktail
célébrant le
100^{ème} ANNIVERSAIRE
de la présence du Rotary à Liège

Cocktail non dinatoire
(bulles, vins, sofas, grignotage)

Présentation d'actions Rotariennes
et exposition d'œuvres produites par
de jeunes artistes liégeois du collectif
« archive.art »

TENUE DE VILLE SOUHAITÉE

Nous espérons avoir le plaisir de vous accueillir
nombreux, membres, conjoints et amis,
pour célébrer cet anniversaire.
De nombreuses délégations Rotariennes des
4 Districts belgo-luxembourgeois et d'autres
Districts de par le monde sont annoncées.

RÉSERVATION

Merci de confirmer votre présence
avant le **31 août 2026** :

via le site du Club :
www.rotary-liege.be

ou par e-mail à :
rotaryliege2160@gmail.com

PARTICIPATION AUX FRAIS

26,00 €
à verser sur le compte du Rotary Club de Liège
BE90 2400 4371 1032 - GEBABEBB
avec la mention :
« cocktail 100^{ème} + nom et prénom »
Le paiement tenant lieu de réservation.

VASTE PARKING
voisin du bâtiment

Rotary Club de Liège

INVITATION

SAMEDI 19 SEPTEMBRE 2026
dès 18h00' jusqu'à 24h00'

LIEGE-EXPO
Place Louis de Geer, 2 - 4000 Liège

Le Rotary Club de Liège a le plaisir de vous convier à la

Conférence Rotarienne
donnée par Alain van de Poel
précédant la soirée de

Gala
célébrant le
100^{ème} anniversaire
de la présence du Rotary à Liège

Tenue de ville + noeud papillon

Nous espérons avoir le plaisir de vous accueillir
nombreux, membres, conjoints et amis,
pour célébrer cet anniversaire.
De nombreuses délégations Rotariennes des
4 Districts belgo-luxembourgeois et d'autres
Districts de par le monde sont annoncées.

Repas 3 services et vins

Présentation d'actions Rotariennes
et exposition d'œuvres produites
par de jeunes artistes liégeois du collectif
« archive.art »

RÉSERVATION

Merci de confirmer votre présence
avant le **31 août 2026** :

via le site du Club :
www.rotary-liege.be

ou par e-mail à :
rotaryliege2160@gmail.com

PARTICIPATION AUX FRAIS

100,00 €
à verser sur le compte du Rotary Club de Liège
BE90 2400 4371 1032 - GEBABEBB
avec la mention :
« gala 100^{ème} + nom et prénom »
Le paiement tenant lieu de réservation.

VASTE PARKING
voisin du bâtiment

Save The Date

Waves of Peace – Webinar Rotary on 21 September 2026

Onde di Pace Waves of Peace

— WEBINAR ROTARY —

Un dialogo in musica tra i giovani d'Italia e di Palestina
A dialogue in music between the young Italian and Palestinian musicians

LE VOCI

Amwaj Choir
HEBRON · BETHLEHEM

Note di Classe
NOVI LIGURE

Istituto Effetà Paul VI
BETHLEHEM

CON LA PARTECIPAZIONE DI
Featuring



Stephanie Urchick
PRIP



Olayinka H. Babalola
RIP · videomessaggio



Francesco Arezzo
PRIP

21 settembre 2026 · 21 September 2026
Giornata Internazionale della Pace · International Day of Peace
ore 18:00 (6:00 PM CEST) · Zoom Platform
tinyurl.com/ondedipace
Meeting ID 883 3946 2698 | Passcode 2032





SOSTIENI LA RACCOLTA
[A kindergarten to restore hope to Gaza](https://galundme.com/ifa-kindergarten-to-restore-hope-to-gaza)
galundme.com/ifa-kindergarten-to-restore-hope-to-gaza



ROTARY INTERCOUNTRY COMMITTEES

Michel Davoudian : ICC Executive Council Vice-Chair 2024-2026, D2452 DGE 27-28

PALESTINE • SPECIAL FEATURE

September 2026

PEOPLE OF ACTION

From Emergency Aid to Rebuilding Hope in Palestine

As Rotarians — People of Action — we cannot remain idle while a genocide unfolds before our very eyes. Where governments hesitate, our humanity must speak; where borders close, our solidarity must find a way. Palestine is one of the 9 countries of the District 2452 to which I belong.

What we started and why we had to pause

Last year, the ICC Executive Council, ICC Jordan coordinator & clubs, the **Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation** (in charge of transport) and the **Rotary Action Group for Peace (RAGFP)** joined forces with ICC Palestine to feed children trapped by famine in Gaza. The response from Rotarians worldwide was immediate.

The famine was — and still is — officially confirmed by the United Nations. Yet the closure of the border crossings and mounting local obstacles made it impossible to deliver the food we had forecast. The project had to be suspended.

The need did not disappear; only our route to answer it did.

Redirecting every euro to a new lifeline

Rather than let those funds sit idle, ICC Palestine, together with our partners, has redirected the first monies collected toward a project that *can* reach children today: **“A Kindergarten to Restore Hope to Gaza”**. We allocated 5000 € to this project.

Led by the **Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem**, this initiative reopens the Latin School in Gaza City to welcome **150 children aged 3 to 5** — Christian and Muslim alike — alongside some 850 primary and secondary students. It marks the transition from mere survival to genuine recovery: clean water, safe classrooms, qualified educators, and the psychological care these children so desperately need.

A Global Grant — led by Rotary Genova Sud Ovest & Rotary Bethlehem

Advanced through the **Italy–Palestine ICC** and the **Italian Chapter of the RAGFP**, the 12-month Global Grant aligns with two of Rotary’s seven areas of focus — *Basic Education & Literacy* and *Water, Sanitation & Hygiene*. The Rotary Foundation will contribute to:

- Optimising the kindergarten’s **clean-water system**
- Providing **educational and psychomotor materials** (stationery, wooden toys, learning kits)
- Launching a **safe school-bus service** so the journey to school never costs a child their safety

LEAD CLUBS

Genova Sud Ovest & Bethlehem

BUDGET

≈ USD 50,000

DURATION

12 months

BENEFICIARIES

150 children, ages 3–5

SEE THE OPPOSITE PAGE

“Waves of Peace” — A Concert for Peace

Young **Israeli and Palestinian musicians** share one stage — another meaningful step on the long road to peace. We warmly invite every Rotarian, family member and friend to attend, listen, and stand with them.

▶ [Full programme on the facing page](#)

Clubs & Districts: please join in

Contribute to this Global Grant, endorse it in your district, or simply share this appeal. Every gesture converts our conviction into real classrooms, real water, real hope.

Project & donation details:

gofundme.com/f/a-kindergarten-to-restore-hope-to-gaza

Lead : ICC Italy - Palestine · in partnership with ICC Jordan, ICC Armenia, RAGFP & the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem

Save The Date

3rd Peace Symposium on 21 September 2026

À L'OCCASION DE LA JOURNÉE INTERNATIONALE DE LA PAIX

Rotary  |  Amicale du Rotary
pour la Francophonie

Rotary  Paris Balard

NOUS AVONS L'HONNEUR DE VOUS CONVIER AU

SYMPOSIUM POUR LA PAIX TROISIÈME ÉDITION

SUR LE THÈME DE

LA FRANCOPHONIE : VECTEUR DE PAIX

DEUX TABLES RONDES THÉMATIQUES AUTOUR
D'AMBASSADEURS DE MULTIPLES PAYS FRANCOPHONES
ET DE PERSONNALITÉS ENGAGÉES

TABLE RONDE 1
**LANGUE, CULTURE
ET DIPLOMATIE**

TABLE RONDE 2
**JEUNESSE ET
ÉDUCATION**

21/09/2026
18H30
20€

SALLE CORTOT
78 RUE CARDINET
75017 PARIS

UNE SOIRÉE D'ÉCHANGES DE HAUT NIVEAU
RYTHMÉE PAR DES **INTERMÈDES MUSICAUX**
RÉCITAL DE HARPE - PIANO - CHANT LYRIQUE
AMICALEROTARYFRANCOPHONIE.ORG/SYMPOSIUM



Rotary  Paris Académies

Rotary  Paris Haussmann

Rotary  Vallée de l'Orge

Rotary  Paris Agora

(Click on The Banner to Find out More)

Save The Date For Three Days in Cairo

TRF Seminar with Special ICC Session on 23-25 October 2026



The Rotary Foundation  **CREATE LASTING IMPACT**

ROTARY DISTRICTS
2451 • 2452

ONE EVENT, TWO DISTRICTS
ONE SHARED VISION
WHERE ROTARY LEADERS UNITE
TO **CREATE LASTING IMPACT**

The Rotary Foundation Seminar

 **23-25**
OCTOBER 2026

 **EWART MEMORIAL HALL**
THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO (AUC)
CAIRO, EGYPT



DR. HISHAM SHAWKY
DISTRICT GOVERNOR
2026-2027
DISTRICT 2451



MAY MONLA-CHMATILLY
DISTRICT GOVERNOR
2026-2027
DISTRICT 2452



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

TOGETHER, LET'S
CREATE LASTING IMPACT



SCAN TO VIEW
EVENT DETAILS

Save The Date For Three Days in Cairo

TRF Seminar with Special ICC Session on 23-25 October 2026

The
Rotary
Foundation 

**TRF SEMINAR
PROGRAM**
— DISTRICTS 2451 & 2452 —

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

23RD – 25TH OCTOBER 2026 | CAIRO, EGYPT

DAY 1
23RD OCTOBER 2026

AN ENCHANTING
EVENING ON THE NILE


Welcome Dinner
aboard Nile Maxim



Begin your Cairo experience with an elegant evening cruising along the legendary Nile, enjoying dinner, spectacular views of Cairo by night, and a taste of authentic Egyptian entertainment and hospitality.



DAY 2
24TH OCTOBER 2026

AN INSPIRING DAY
AT HISTORIC AUC


The Rotary Foundation
Seminar 2026
Ewart Memorial Hall –
AUC Tahrir Square

CELEBRATING
END POLIO DAY



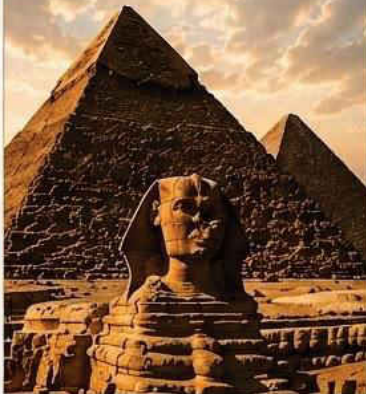
A day of inspiration, meaningful dialogue, and Rotary fellowship, concluding with an elegant dinner within the historic AUC premises.



DAY 3
25TH OCTOBER 2026

A JOURNEY THROUGH
EGYPT'S TIMELESS TREASURES


Pyramids of Giza •
Grand Egyptian Museum



Step into the heart of ancient Egypt with an unforgettable visit to the legendary Pyramids of Giza, followed by a journey through thousands of years of history at the magnificent Grand Egyptian Museum.



Conclude the experience with a memorable lunch at 9 Pyramids Lounge, surrounded by breathtaking views of the Pyramids.



Save The Date

International Rotarian Ecological Conference –31 October 2026

On behalf of the ICC Russia -India and the Green Committee of D2223, we are pleased to invite Rotary and Rotaract clubs to participate and present their projects related to the water resources! Following the First Ecological Forum in 2025 with 12 project from four countries, this year we expect much wider involvement on a more specific topic!

II INTERNATIONAL ROTARIAN ECOLOGICAL CONFERENCE
«ROTARY FOR A GREEN FUTURE!»

JOIN US!

TOGETHER WE CREATE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



NEW KNOWLEDGE & INSPIRATION
Gain valuable insights and fresh ideas.



INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS
Find partners and expand your global network.



SUCCESSFUL PROJECT EXAMPLES
Learn proven cases and best practices.



EXPERT OPINIONS
Hear from leaders and top specialists.



PITCH YOUR IDEA
Get support to turn your ideas into reality.



OCTOBER 31, 2026
Saturday



ONLINE CONFERENCE (ZOOM)



PARTICIPANTS FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES
Russia, Belarus, India, Italy, Germany, USA and others.



FREE PARTICIPATION!



REGISTRATION OPENS
SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

An excellent opportunity to present your environmental project to the international community, share your successful experience with peers and find like-minded partners for joint initiatives.



TOGETHER WE CONSERVE WATER AND CREATE A BETTER FUTURE FOR NEXT GENERATIONS!



OCTOBER 31, 2026
Online Conference (Zoom)

ORGANIZERS:
Rotary
EcoCommittee
District 2223

Rotary
Club of Krasnodar
District 2223







Rotary Club
of Pune Sports City
(India)

II INTERNATIONAL ROTARIAN ECOLOGICAL CONFERENCE
«ROTARY FOR A GREEN FUTURE!»

YOUR PROJECT CAN BE HERE!

Present your environmental project to the international Rotary community.



Present your project to clubs around the world



Share your successful experience in environmental initiatives



Find partners for joint actions



Inspire others and gain international recognition



REGISTRATION OPENS
SEPTEMBER 1, 2026



Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interact club members from Russia, Belarus, India, Italy, Germany, the USA and many other countries are invited to participate.



OCTOBER 31, 2026
Online Conference (Zoom)

ORGANIZERS:
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EcoCommittee
District 2223

Rotary
Club of Krasnodar
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Rotary Club
of Pune Sports City
(India)

Official Statement –Africa Zone Institute



7th ALL AFRICA
ZONE INSTITUTE
UGANDA 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ZONE INSTITUTE 2026 RESCHEDULED TO NOVEMBER 26-28, 2026

KAMPALA, UGANDA — The Convenor RID Emmanuel Katongole and Co-Convenor Past Trustee Geeta Manek, together with the Host Organising Committee and in consultation with RI President Yinka Babalola, announce the rescheduling of the Zone Institute to November 26-28, 2026. The recent Ebola outbreak in Uganda and the travel uncertainties faced by delegates from some countries, including quarantine requirements upon their return, informed the difficult but necessary decision to reschedule the event. Although Uganda has since been officially declared Ebola free, this decision was taken to provide certainty for our delegates and ensure that everyone can participate with confidence.

We are therefore pleased to announce the revised dates:

- **Zone Institute: November 26-28, 2026**
- **Governor Elects & Governor Nominee Learning Seminar: November 24-25, 2026**

We are grateful for the overwhelming response with more than 1,000 delegates already registered. All existing registrations, including hotel bookings, will automatically be transferred to the new dates.

With Uganda now officially declared Ebola-free and travel certainty restored, we warmly invite **those who have not yet registered to do so by September 30, 2026 at the current rate.**

We look forward to welcoming you to an inspiring programme of learning, fellowship, networking and shared experiences that will strengthen and grow Rotary and enrich us all.

We look forward to welcoming you to Uganda this November for an unforgettable Zone Institute. Let us all rise with a rising Africa as we grow to serve.

For any inquiries, contact us on email : secretariat@africazoneinstitute.org

END

africazoneinstitute.org

Official Statement –Africa Zone Institute



POUR DIFFUSION IMMÉDIATE

L'INSTITUT DE ZONE 2026 REPROGRAMMÉ DU 26 AU 28 NOVEMBRE

KAMPALA, OUGANDA — Le coordinateur RID Emmanuel Katongole et la co-coordinatrice et ancienne administratrice Geeta Manek, en collaboration avec le comité d'organisation hôte et en consultation avec le président du RI Yinka Babalola, annoncent le report de l'Institut de zone du 26 au 28 novembre 2026. La récente épidémie d'Ebola en Ouganda et les incertitudes liées aux voyages auxquelles font face les délégués de certains pays, notamment les obligations de quarantaine à leur retour, ont motivé cette décision difficile mais nécessaire de reporter l'événement. Bien que l'Ouganda ait depuis été officiellement déclaré exempt d'Ebola, cette décision a été prise pour offrir de la certitude à nos délégués et garantir que chacun puisse participer en toute confiance.

Nous sommes donc heureux de vous annoncer les dates révisées :

- Institut de zone : 26-28 novembre 2026
- Séminaire de formation des gouverneurs élus et des gouverneurs nommés : 24-25 novembre 2026

Nous sommes reconnaissants de l'engouement suscité par cet événement, avec déjà plus de 1 000 délégués inscrits. Toutes les inscriptions existantes, y compris les réservations d'hôtel, seront automatiquement transférées aux nouvelles dates.

L'Ouganda étant désormais officiellement déclaré exempt d'Ebola et la certitude des voyages rétablie, nous invitons chaleureusement les personnes qui ne se sont pas encore inscrites à le faire d'ici le 30 septembre 2026 au tarif actuel.

Nous nous réjouissons de vous accueillir pour un programme inspirant d'apprentissage, de fraternité, de réseautage et d'expériences partagées qui renforcera et fera grandir le Rotary tout en nous enrichissant tous.

Nous nous réjouissons de vous accueillir en Ouganda en novembre prochain pour un Institut de Zone inoubliable. Élevons-nous tous avec une Afrique qui s'élève alors que nous grandissons pour servir.

Pour toute question, contactez-nous par e-mail:
secretariat@africazoneinstitute.org

FIN

africazoneinstitute.org

Save The Date

Presidential Peace Conference in Kigali, Rwanda

History is about to be written in the heart of Africa.

With immense pride and excitement, Rotary in District 9150 honored to invite Rotarians from all Africa, and around the world to join us for the Rotary Presidential Peace Conference, taking place in Kigali, Rwanda, from 25–27 February 2027.

This landmark event will bring together Rotary leaders, Peacebuilders, partners, and changemakers who share one common purpose: Building lasting peace through service, dialogue, and collaboration.

Rwanda, a nation that has become a global symbol of resilience, reconciliation, and hope, is proud to host this extraordinary gathering.



Mark your calendars today!

This is more than a conference; it is an opportunity to celebrate Rotary's commitment to peace while experiencing the warmth, innovation, and beauty of the Land of a Thousand Hills.



Stay tuned!

More exciting announcements, keynote speakers, registration details, and program highlights will be revealed in the coming months.

We can't wait to welcome you to Kigali in February 2027!

Together, let's create hope, strengthen peace, and make history in Africa.



Save The Date

London Peace Conference on 6 March 2027

ROTARY PRESIDENTIAL PEACE CONFERENCE LONDON, ENGLAND – SATURDAY 6 MARCH 2027.

<https://rotarypeaceconference.london> Email: rippc.london@gmail.com

The 2027 Rotary Presidential Peace Conference headlining RI President Olayinka Babalola is on 6 March 2027 in London, England. The Conference will emphasise President Olayinka's call to **"Create Lasting Impact"**. Stressing personal transformation as foundational to broader impact, he said that **"To make this vision a reality, we must acknowledge and unleash the change within ourselves"**. Rotary's **Seven Areas of Focus** intertwine with the **UN Global Goals** to form a **Global Impact Framework**. The Conference will underscore the **Shared Pathways to Sustainable Peace** highlighting both sustainable development and Rotary's Peace Mission.

DATE & TIME: Conference – Saturday 6th March 2027: 9am (registration), 10am start – 3.30pm end.
Optional Gala Dinner - Saturday 6th March 2027: 7pm start – 11pm Carriages.

VENUE: Leonardo Royal Hotel – London Tower Bridge, 45 Prescott Street, London E1 8GP, UK.

REGISTRATION FEES: Early Bird Rate: **Conference: £75. Conference & Dinner: £150.** (ends 30th Nov 2026).
1st Dec 2026 – **Conference Fee: £100; Conference & Dinner: £200.**

The Gala Dinner is optional and only open to Conference Delegates.



(Click on The Banner to Find out More)

Save The Date

Georgia ICC Meeting on 23-26 April March 2027

Click on the Pictutes for details

ICC Georgia Summit 2027 (draft)

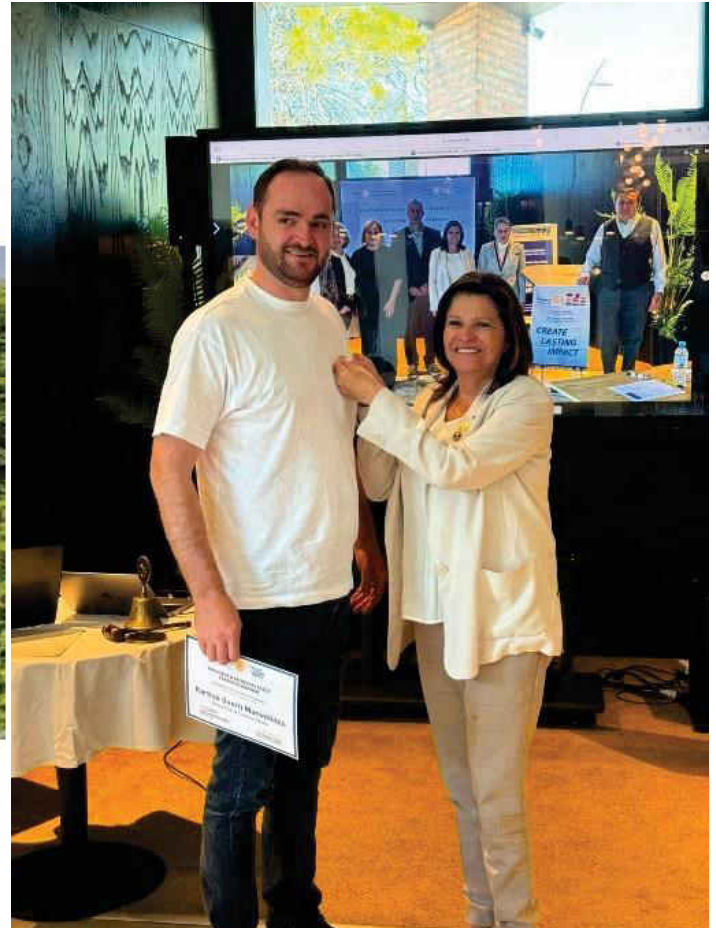
Building Bridges for Peace and Friendship

Tsinandali Estate, Georgia 23–26 April 2027 250–400 Participants

ICC Leaders & Rotarians Worldwide Friendship • Peace • Cooperation



The ICC Georgia Summit is an international gathering of ICC leaders, Rotarians and friends from around the world. Over four days, participants will exchange ideas, build partnerships and experience Georgian hospitality at the historic Tsinandali Estate.



DG May Monlaw with Kartlos Iveti from Georgia



Announcement for Rotary Fellowships & Rotary Action Groups regarding 2027 Barcelona Rotary Convention

Greetings,

It was wonderful to see so many Action Group and Fellowship leaders and members in Taipei. As planning begins for the 2027 Rotary International Convention in Barcelona, we are sharing important updates and resources to help you prepare. Due to the unique planning circumstances surrounding the 2027 Convention, some arrangements will differ from past conventions, so please take a moment to review the information below

Registration

Convention registration is expected to open in September 2026. More information will be posted as it becomes available on Rotary's convention website.

Call for Breakout Session Proposals

Is there a project, initiative, or other engagement or impact-related topic you want to share with attendees? Discuss ideas with your team and coordinate breakout proposals from your Action Group or Fellowship. The call to submit breakout session proposals is expected to open in mid-September and close in late-October. Decision letters will be shared in December. For more information on IC27 Breakout Sessions, please visit the convention website or contact

ConventionBreakouts@rotary.org

House of Friendship Booth Applications

Action Groups and Fellowships will have the opportunity to apply for one complimentary House of Friendship booth, one complimentary 3x3 meter House of Friendship booth. House of Friendship applications are expected to open in late-September with booth award letters expected by early-February 2027. Please coordinate within your group to submit one application and avoid duplicates.

In preparation for your booth application, please ensure that all of your group's branding adheres to the Visual Identity Guidelines



House of Friendship HUBS

Action Groups will once again have an opportunity to host or co-host with other Action Groups an area of focus HUB. More information regarding HUBs will be available in the coming weeks. For questions regarding the House of Friendship, please contact Exhibitor@Rotary.org

Meeting Rooms

As a result of the accelerated planning timeline for the 2027 Rotary Convention in Barcelona, meeting room space within the convention venue, Fira Barcelona Gran Via, will not be available for Rotary Fellowships and Rotary Action Group annual meetings or board meetings.

If your Fellowship or Action Group wishes to meet during the convention, your officers will need to secure meeting space offsite. Each Fellowship and Action Group is responsible for all costs associated with your offsite meeting or event, including, but not limited to, catering, audio visual equipment, security, transportation, and venue rental.

While this is different from past years, it also provides greater flexibility to create a meeting experience that best meets the needs of your members, schedules, and objectives.

To support your planning, Rotary International has compiled a list of suggested venues and contact information. For additional options or local recommendations, contact:

- Host Hospitality Team:
HostHospitality@rotarybarcelona2027.org

- Roberto Torregrosa (RI Liaison for Unofficial Affiliated Events):

roberto.torregrosa@rotary2202.org

- Carolina Massague:

carolina.massague@rotary2202.org

If you would like to promote your convention-adjacent meetings or events through the event mobile app, please submit your meeting plans to Gianna at rotaryfellowships@rotary.org and we will coordinate with the UAE team to promote these meetings on the convention website and convention app.

Thank you for your collaboration and flexibility as we work together to deliver a successful convention experience in Barcelona.

We look forward to seeing you in Barcelona!

Best regards,

RI Programs Staff



BARCELONA 2027

Events In 2026-2027 With Possible ICC Participation As of 6 August 2026

27-30 August Recife Brazil

Institute for Zones 23A and 24

27-30 August Colombus USA

Institute for Zones 30, 31

3-6 September Arizona USA

Institute for Zones 26 and 27

4-6 September Palanga, Lithuania

Rotary Action Summit 2026

8-13 September Rotterdam, Netherlands

Rotary European Summit

22-24 October Quito, Ecuador

Institute for Zone 23B & Region 30

22-25 October Jacksonville USA

Institute for Zones 33,34

30 October-1 November Melbourne Australia

Institute for Zone 8

7 November Cairo, Egypt

District Foundation Conference

10 -17 November Nigeria

Project Fair

13-22 November India

Project Fair

26-29 November Kampala, Uganda

7th All Africa Rotary Zone Institute

9-13 December Pattaya Thailand,

Institute for Zones 1B, 9 and 10

14-20 December Colombo Sri Lanka,
(<https://rotaryinstitute2026srilanka.com>)

Institute for Zones 4, 5, 6, 7

3 February 2027 London, UK

Presidential Peace Conference

25-27 February 2027 Kigali, Rwanda

Presidential Peace Conference

26-30 June 2027 Barcelona, Spain
Convention

Rotary International

September 2027 Bari, Italy

Rotary European Summit

*** October 2027 Sanremo (Italy)**

ICC International Conference

*** Provisional**

**AFRICA
RISING**
Grow to Serve

Rotary
Zone 22 

7th ALL AFRICA
ZONE INSTITUTE
UGANDA 2026

**SPEKE RESORT
MUNYONYO - KAMPALA**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
ZONE INSTITUTE 2026
RESCHEDULED

November 26-28, 2026

380 US\$
Rotarians
Spouses
Guests

220 US\$
Rotaractors

Secure your seat NOW.
Register on:
africazoneinstitute.org

**UP TO
SEPTEMBER 30**

Rotary

European Action Summit



TO BELONG

THE POWER OF
CONNECTION AND ACTION

ROTTERDAM 2026

Thank you for reading the third edition of The Bridge – ICC Update.

We sincerely appreciate your interest in the work of the Intercountry Committees (ICC) and your commitment to building friendships, fostering international understanding, and advancing Rotary's vision of service above self.

We hope the stories, achievements, and updates shared in this edition have informed, inspired, and strengthened the bonds that unite Rotarians across borders.

Together, we continue to build bridges of peace, collaboration, and goodwill around the world.

Thank you for being part of our journey. We look forward to sharing the next edition with you.

The Intercountry Committees Executive Council (ICC)

