



rotary club of Baguio

BAGUIO CITY, PHILIPPINES

R.I. DIST 3790, CLUB NO. 16863

Chartered on 21 February 1938

Telefax No. (6374)442-3799

E-mail: rcbulletin@yahoo.com

URL: rcbaguio.d3790.org

THE CAÑAO

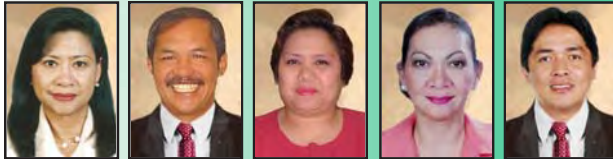
A Celebration of Service

The Rotary Club of Baguio meets
at the Baguio Country Club
every Saturday at
12:30 to 2:15 p.m.



OFFICIAL CLUB BULLETIN Volume LX Number 02 14 July 07

TODAY'S SPEAKERS



PP Veeh PN Bert Dir. Cecille Dir. Mia Dir. Emil

Topic:
RCB Const./Bylaws, Directors' Update

PROGRAMME

12:00 M.	Fellowship
12:30 P.M.	Call to Order Pres. Raffy Chan
	Invocation-Reflection The Prayer
	Pambansang Awit (Everyone)
	Rotary Hymn (Everyone)
12:40	Entertainment Rtn. Angie Visperas
12:50	Intro of VR&G Rtn. Ike Dulnoan
12:55	Finest Moment P P Diony Claridad
1:10	Raffle Draw Treas. Marilyn Barredo
1:15	Members' Time (Anyone)
1:20	President's Time Pres. Raffy Chan
1:25	CLUB ASSEMBLY
1:50	Open Forum
2:15	Pilipinas Kong Mahal (Everyone)
	Adjournment Pres. Raffy Chan

Dir. Cecille Apostol
Program Coordinator

Retrospector Sec. Uwe Koeller

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FOR NEXT WEEK

21 July 07

GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER

PDG ALVIN GONZALES

Topic: Protocol

PROGRAMME PARTICIPANTS

Program Coordinator	Dir. Emil Dayrit
Invocation- Reflection	Sometimes...
Entertainment	IPAG Linda Winter
Intro of VR&G	PP Chris Peralta
Finest Moment	PP Alfred Laygo
Intro of GHS	PP Benny Sunga
Response	Rtn. Herb Meadows
Retrospector	PP Johnny Zarate

JULY IS LITERACY MONTH

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



**Rex regnant sed
non gubernat.**

Pres. Raffy Chan

Welcome to the seventieth year of the Rotary Club of Baguio!

Last week's RCB induction has become an eye-opener of sorts. To all who attended and saw how we (the members) brought the program together—most of the comments I have heard were positive, particularly on our innovation on the opening Invocation-Reflection and our extensive use of PowerPoint to better present almost all program segments. To me, the number on man-hours that have been spent in bringing our induction together was the main difference between success and otherwise—we did well because many have painstakingly sacrificed their time to assure that we were well prepared for the induction. This has been our third “baptism of fire” (after doing our Christmas Party and Golf Fellowship) for the club; and we seem to be doing quite well. Thanks to the many to whom we owe our success. Again, I thank Rtn. Flo Bayquen for being our over-all chair and all the others who assisted in “making it happen.”

This humble RCB servant-leader of yours, has the honor of being your sixty-sixth president (yes, I did count the number of those who came before me). I am extremely proud of my lineage as RCB president. Being in a list with the likes of Ikong Reyes, Tatay Ding Bautista, PDG Carling Santiago (among the old); Benny Sunga, Doming Valencia, Veeh Balajo (among the young); and my favorite Frenchman—Gerard Audineau, is definitely an honor. This is not to say that those not included in the foregoing enumeration are of lesser vintage; all RCB past presidents are of equal stature and all deserve our unending respect—for making the RCB what it is today. We toast to our Rotary forebears.

It is interesting how we have started our term by transgressing into the time-frame of IPP Gerard. He has graciously given us permission to “take over” two of the last meetings in RY 2006-07 (specifically those on the 9th and 23rd of June to present the Proposed Program and Budget for this RY 2007-08). Again, we thank IPP Gerard for his willingness to support the initiatives of the new RCB Board of Directors (BOD). Thankfully, he remains among our active club leaders and will definitely be among the people I will continue to rely on for help during this Rotary year.

We now find ourselves ahead on the matter of drawing up a program and budget for this Rotary Year. With all of the Committees and Subcommittees formed, and the club budget now duly approved by the Board, we start this year post-haste.

The “ball” is now pretty much in the hands of our Directors and Guides who now currently face the challenge of fleshing-out the items enumerated in our Matrices of Implementation for the year.

Allow me to share the admonition given to me by our esteemed adviser—PP Veeh Balajo: to continually possess the virtues of *patience, humility, civility, open-mindedness, and diplomacy*. I will now call these the “cardinal tenets” for my year as your president. Closely akin to the ten-commandments, my personal challenge will be to continually live by these “key words”. Thanks, Veeh....

Our Latin axiom for this week— “Rex regnant sed non gubernat.” Literally means: The king reigns but does not govern. My interpretation: one may be the leader of an organization, but because obedience (governance) cannot be mandated upon members, unless he is attuned to his fellow-workers, he will be ineffective with his task in bringing the organization's programs to fruition.

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

In appreciation of Pres. Raffy's Commitment to Serve, as verbalized during our Seventieth Induction Ceremonies last Saturday, 07 July 07; his Acceptance Speech is published in full below.

EIC Dhory Vicencio

Governor Owens and Spouse Nila, IPP Gerard, and other dignitaries in the head table, esteemed PDGs present, fellow Rotarians and Anns, friends, ladies and gentlemen—Good Evening!

It has been said that a speech should be like a woman's skirt—long enough to cover the subject, but short enough to be interesting. Rest assured that this prepared acceptance speech conforms with the foregoing: of sufficient length to get my message across but short enough to be interesting and not to bore you.

I have just recently re-discovered a passion for Latin. Having been a student of the language since I was twelve, while in the Classical Section at the Saint Louis University Boys' High School; we had the distinct honor, or shall I say—the additional challenge of having the Latin language added to our daily study chores. We did survive four years of studying Latin and I am happy to say that forty years later I have recently rekindled my interest through the collection and study of Latin quotes & sayings.

Allow me to share one of the best quotes I have found; and frame my talk on the Latin adage: Respice, Adspice, Prospice—which has been accepted as the RCB year's thrusts and Club Motto. (BTW: The correct pronunciation is to do the "C" as a "K"; hence—Respike, Adspike, Prospike.)

RESPICE- Look to the Past: I pay tribute to those who have come before me. The members and leaders of old, of this seventy year old Rotary club have made it what it is today. We constantly pay homage to our Rotary forebears, always reconciling with the rich and illustrious past that we have. We take up the challenge that what we do today, will become part of RCB history tomorrow.

ADPICE- Look at the present: My special destiny and challenge is to be the president of the RCB during its first year of deploying the Club Leadership Plan, the RI-recommended club structure in the new century of Rotary. Re-inventing the oldest club in District 3790 will certainly have its challenges, as change is often difficult among those who take solace in what has constantly been accepted as the norm. I am particularly honored to be your leader during this very critical transition time. Rest assured that I take this role seriously and will do everything within my capacity to make our club better in every way that I could.

PROSPICE- Look to the future: As the first heptagenarian club in our district, we again have our work cut out for us. The challenges that we face as we prepare and brace ourselves for our diamond jubilee (five years from now) in 2012, is something that we will need the support of most of our members. We will constantly take stock of our current strengths as a club; continually nurturing the bonds of fellowship; and indeed, continually **Sharing Rotary** with fellow-Rotarians, friends, family, and each person we encounter.

As the oldest club in our Rotary district, we must continually and consistently reconcile with the responsibility of leading by example; in very much the same manner as this club has done for almost seven decades now.

I draw inspiration and strength from all who continue to give their love and support to me—my family. Particularly my wife Josie (my number one friend, critic, ally and supporter); my sons: Richie, Ray, and Ralph; my favorite daughter Jamie; and my two grandsons Jasper and Justin. My Rotary Family <may I request all RCB members and all RCB Rotary Anns/Spouses to rise>: Let us all continue to SERVE WITH PASSION for Rotary—with the firm conviction that each one of us can—and really does make a difference.

In front of you, I seek Divine Intervention, make my commitment, and say: It is with a profound sense of humility that I accept the honor to be the President of the Rotary Club of Baguio on its Seventieth Year.

I thank you.

INDUCTION RETROSPECT



The Meeting That Was 07 July 2007

EIC Dhory Vicencio

The 70th Induction Ceremonies of Rotary Club of Baguio was held on 07 July 2007 at the Baguio Country Club Ballroom.

It was a lovely evening as everybody was dressed in black and white and looking forward to an enchanting affair.

The Program Coordinator was no other than, PP Doming Valencia who was superb as ever. IIPP Gerard called the meeting to order at promptly 7:07 PM, thus the magical night begins....

The singing of Pambansang Awit was followed by the Invocation-Reflection with PowerPoint presentation of the reflective song "If Today". The Rotary Hymn was chanted by everyone holding hands together, swaying with the tune of this Canseco composition. Dinner was served thereafter. Everybody enjoyed the sumptuous dinner and the mood music played by the band.

At 7:45 PM, PP Doming was obliged to start the program (even if some are not yet done with their dinner). The Introduction of Visiting Rotarians and Guests was pulled off by PP Mike Pearson with innovative props. Even with his oversized flashcards, PP Mike was brilliant in his introductions.

Then, IIPP Gerard commenced the turnover of gavel by saying few words of thanks and inspiration. IP Raffy awarded to IIPP Gerard the Leadership Award he truly deserves. IP Raffy accepted the gavel and the President's pin and delivered his acceptance speech.

The new Secretary of RCB, Sec. Uwe Koeller presented the Officers and Directors of Rotary Club of Baguio for RY 2007-08. The induction followed, with DG Owens Torres as the Inducting Officer.

At this juncture, IIPP Gerard is now IPP, while IP Raffy is now President. The switching of seats signifies this important event.

The Turnover of Rotary Anns Club of RCB was next in the program. RAIIPP Maylene Dayrit gave a candid speech in her usual chic self while RAIP Cely Ladilad uttered heartfelt acceptance speech.

The new Secretary of Rotary Anns Club of RCB, RA Sec. Cynch Meadows presented the Rotary Ann Officers for RY 2007-08. The induction followed, with DG Spouse Nila Torres as the Inducting Officer.

At this juncture, RAIIPP Maylene Dayrit is now RAIPP, while RAIP Cely Ladilad is now RA President.

The Introduction of Guest of Honor and Speaker was given by no other than President Raffy Chan who was brief and accurate. The Introduction was categorized in five (5) descriptions: beloved husband, dedicated father, successful businessman, admired Rotarian and inspirational speaker.

Indeed, DG Owens Torres is an inspirational speaker as he uttered words that struck the hearts of Rotarians. His address is full of rousing words which do not only inspire his listeners but challenge them as well. He imparted true definitions of leadership and cited remarkable deeds for a true Rotarian Leaders.

Pres. Raffy rendered an ingenious Response as he presented lyrics of song as his response to the inspirational speech of DG Owens Torres. The Response / song lyrics is from "He ain't heavy, he's my brother" of the Hollies. After which, Pres. Raffy handed to DG Owens the Plaque of Appreciation.

Everybody sang the Pilipinas Kong Mahal and Pres. Raffy adjourned the program.

The much awaited part two (2) of the affair followed with the raffles and entertainment. The Part Two Coordinator is Rtn. Chris Faelnar who encouraged everyone to shake off some formalities and have fun.

Entertainment was indeed full of "entertainment" as Rota-kid Estelle mesmerized everyone with her songs including "It's Over" as dedicated to his dad, IPP Gerard. Our melodious RAPP Josie Chan performed exquisitely with the band. The surprise number of awesome RAIIPP Maylene Dayrit was sensational. Our Pres. Raffy joined in and rendered love songs. The "Men In Black" of RCB, namely PP Chris Peralta, Rtn. Herb Meadows and Rtn. Chris Faelnar were dazzling. Who would expect that these Rotarian gentlemen are professional performers in their own way? Wow!!!! That is all I have to say, especially with the "My Girl" song.

The raffle draws came in between the entertainment performances. Lots of people win and our very own PN/Dir. Bert Talco a.k.a *President of Luding* bagged the much-awaited grand prize – 21" TV.

It was an evening to remember...meeting of friends, celebration of success, investiture of leaders, sharing of laughter and most of all strengthening of commitment to be of service...to couple the Rotary dream with hard work to make ROTARY DREAM A REALTY.

INDUCTION SCENES

Images from Last Week's Meeting 07 July 2007



Images by
Sec. Uwe Koeller



Captions by
EIC Dhory Vicencio



The Program Coordinator PP Doming Valencia was simply superb.



Our newly inducted President now sitting beside District Governor Owens Torres.



It was an emotional turnover of Presidency from IPP Gerard to Pres. Raffy.



The induction of President Raffy and the Directors of RY 2007-08.



The newly inducted Directors and Officers of RCB were all smiling right after the induction.



Pres. Raffy handed the Plaque of Appreciation to our DG Owens Torres.



RA Pres. Cely Ladilad handed a token of appreciation to DG Spouse Nila Torres.

INDUCTION COLLAGE



SECRETARY'S NOTES



**Uwe's Update for
07 July 07**

Secretary Uwe Koeller

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARIES

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY GREETINGSTO :

Rtn. Ike Dulnoan : July 15
RA Narlyn Talco : July 16
RAPP Linda Valencia : July 19

May you have many more to come!

FOR THE RECORD: 07 JULY 07

Rotary Spouses:

RA Pres. Araceli Ladilad, RAPP Josie Chan, RAPP Yolly Faelnar, RAPP Lou Gesner, RAPP Louie Claridad, RAPP Cynthia Meadows, RAPP Maya Peralta, RAPP Linda Valencia, RA Nitz Palma, RA Susan Oriña, RA Sally Koeller, RAPP Coring Visperas, RAPP Dolly Cid, RA Terry Audineau, RAPP Louise Schlaaff, RAIPP Maylene Dayrit

Rota-Kids:

Jolina Chan Alebin, Raymond Earl Chan, Ralph Erich Chan, Jasper Andrei Alebin, Justin Ezechiel Alebin, Adrian Mark Alebin, Estelle Isa Audineau

Visiting Guests:

Atty. Rene Rondez- *Guest of Pres. Raffy Chan*
Francisco Paraan- *Guest of Pres. Raffy Chan*
Peter Ng- *Guest of Pres. Raffy Chan*
Evelyn Ng- *Guest of Pres. Raffy Chan*
Jesus Renato Brazil- *Guest of Pres. Raffy Chan*

Visiting Rotarians:

RCB North: Pres. Conrad, Sec. Budz Royeka, AG Danny Torres, Rtn. Joyce Lam, Rtn. Dennis Lam

RCB South: Pres. Benny Balajadia, Sec. Tancy Duldulao, PN Joseph Bayquen, PP Ernie Olivia, Dir. Lita Soriano, Rtn. Dam Soriano, Asst. Treas. Beth Ong, IPP Dori Caguicla, Dir. Ohmee Cortez

RCB Sunrise: Pres. Vangie Mole, Sec. Pinky Yuvienco, Treas. Cristy Bersola, CP Manny Yap, RA Helen Yap, Rtn. Joseph Rimando, Cluster Sec. Rey Abellada, Rtn. Rodel Limcuando, Dir. May Vilaga, Dir. Erwin Simpauco, PP Charles Baguilat, RA Arlene Baguilat

RCB Metro Baguio: Pres. Tom Morado, Asst. Sec. Jun dela Cruz, RA Pres. Gemma dela Cruz, PP Eric Rodriguez, PP Tom Panis, PP Teop Malapit, Rtn. Jun Bustillos

RCB Summer Capital: Pres. Don Liquete, Sec. Jocon Conception, DGN Oyan Villanueva, Rtn. Ed Mindaros

RC Downtown Session: Pres. Ely Bautista, Sec. Danny Quinones, PP Sonny Estavillo, RAPP Cora Estavillo, Rtn. Soc Lising, Dir. Morris Palaroan, PPAlex Rimando

RC La Trinidad: Sec. Willy Begay

RC Dagupan: Sec. Edwin S. Aguirre, PP Leon Palaganas, Treas. Jad Damaso

RC Dagupan: Pres. Joey Solomon, Rtn. JM Logan, Rtn. Ronan Oy, Dir. JB Valero

RC Urdaneta North: PE Joel Cordia, Rtn. Perf Reclusado, Rtn. Roda Corda, Rtn. Julius Chua, Rtn. Mary Grace Macaranas, Rtn. Erwin Renata

RC San Fernando City North : Pres. Wally Abuan, IPP Hans Staldes, Dir. Efren Tejano, Dir. Rey Littaua, Treas. Pops Celino

RC Metro San Fernando L.U. : Pres. Annie Sanglay, AG Lito Gongona, Rtn. Edna Dacanay, Rtn. Sheila Sadangsal

RC Central Tarlac: Pres. Henry Ocampo, Sec. Loy Cunanan, Rtn. Henry Co, PP Mai Ocampo, PDG mar Ocampo, Aud. Ester Balagtas, Treas. Sylvia delos Santos, Rtn. Leslie Taroc, Rtn. May Catherine Co, PE Mercy Dioquino

RC Central Pangasinan: DG Owens Torres, DG Spouse Nila Torres, PP Pepe Sanchez, Treas. Odie Padilla, DS Mely Alfonso

RC Southern La Union: Pres. Grace Mc Callum, Dir. Maritess Owafin, PP Rogie Ramires, Asst. Janet Chan

We missed you last 07 July 2007:

Rtn. Jody Alabanza (*exc*), Dir. Emil Dayrit, Rtn. Naas Demyttenaere (*mu*), Rtn. Herb Hayes (*sl*), Rtn. Ali Morales, PP Roger Naz (*mu*), Rtn. Joe Ramos (*exc*), PP Benny Sunga (*mu*), PP Johnny Zarate (*mu*)

MAKE-UPS

02 July 07 – Induction RC of La Trinidad: IPAG Linda Winter, IPP Gerard Audineau, Pres. Raffy Chan, VP Ben Ladilad, Sec. Uwe Koeller, PPDhiony Claridad, Dir. PN Bert Talco

03 July 07 – Induction RC of San Fernando, La Union, Inc.: PDAG Linda Winter, IPP Gerard Audineau, Pres. Raffy Chan, Sec. Uwe Koeller, Treas. Marilyn Barredo

04 July 07 – Induction RC of Baguio Summer Capital: IPAG Linda Winter, IPP Gerard Audineau, Pres. Raffy Chan, Sec. Uwe Koeller, Treas. Marilyn Barredo, PP Roger Naz, Rtn. Herb Meadows

04 July 07 – RCB Sunrise Meeting: Rtn. Naas Demyttenaere, PP Johnny Zarate

05 July 07 – Induction RC of Metro Baguio: IPAG Linda Winter, IPP Gerard Audineau, Pres. Raffy Chan, Sec. Uwe Koeller

06 July 07 – Induction RC of Baguio North: IPAG Linda Winter, IPP Gerard Audineau, Pres. Raffy Chan, Sec. Uwe Koeller

06 July 07 – RC Vigan Meeting: PP Roger Naz

07 July 07 – Ballroom Preparation for Induction: IPP Gerard Audineau, Pres. Raffy Chan, Dir. PN Bert Talco, VP Ben Ladilad, Treas. Marilyn Barredo, Rtn. Herb Meadows

11 July 07 – RCB Sunrise Meeting: Rtn. Naas Demyttenaere, PP Benny Sunga, PP Johnny Zarate

11 July 07 – RC Makati Poblacion, Induction: IPP Gerard Audineau, Pres. Raffy Chan

ON LEAVE

Rtn. Pam Perkins



The Meeting That Was 30 June 2007

PN Bert Talco

A TOAST TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF BAGUIO UNDER PRESIDENT GERARD AUDINEAU

Life is full of sunrises and sunsets. After three hundred sixty five long days of Rotary, the fruitful term of Pres. Gerard ended with a big bang!

Pres. Gerard promptly called the meeting to order and after which PP Chris Peralta, being the Program Coordinator for the day, obliged Incoming Rotary Ann President Cely Ladilad to give the invocation. It was automatic that after the fervent singing of the “Pambansang Awit” everybody present joined hands to form a circle for the singing of the Rotary Hymn. This practice of joining hands was an innovation during the term of Pres. Gerard.

PP Lito Pangilinan, the RCB Balladeer, started entertaining the group by singing two (2) songs, “Broken Vow” and “The Prayer”. Later, the crowd listened with awe when Rota-kid Estelle sang professionally the song “How Could You Say You Love Me”. Pres. Gerard was indeed very happy for such rendition of his “Diamond” daughter.

Director Mia Cawed, after aptly introducing the personalities at the head table, gave special mention to all of the Rotary Anns as well as the guests during the Introduction of visiting Rotarians and Guests.

At the Finest Moment, PP Lito Pangilinan had a “flat rate” comprehensive fining of Php 50.00 each from all of the Rotarians present. Though practically all have fully paid their fines for the year, still a lot of benevolent Rotarians dipped into their pocket for their contribution to the coffers of the Club.

Well-selected items as prizes were awarded to lucky donors during the raffle draw. It seems that some people really have all the luck notwithstanding the fact that IPP Mike got two (2) of the major prizes! Of course, you still have to buy tickets to make sure that you will win a prize.

There were a lot of members who made use of their privilege during Members’ Time. Comments and announcements were made. AG Linda talked about the Cluster Night, PP Doming commented on the raffle and the good attendance (31 Rotarians and 12 Rotary Anns), Secretary and Incoming Vice Pres. Ben Ladilad acknowledged the donors of prizes for the

Induction Raffle Draw, PPLito likewise did the same for the donors of bottles for the incoming induction affair, IPP Mike appealed to the members and officers to attend some of the inductions of the different Cluster and Sister Clubs, IP Raffy, as a follow up answer to this call, made a commitment that he will attend all of those important Induction Ceremonies as the emissary of the RCB, Rotarian Flo Bayquen made final announcements anent the RCB induction and last but not the least, was the good news announced by Dir. Emil with regard to the ninety-nine (99 %) percent collection of the Cañao advertisements leading to a Php 64,000.00 income.

The evaluation of the Rotary Year under IIPP (Immediate Incoming Past Pres.) Gerard ensued. As far as Baby Rotarian and AEIC Dhory Vicencio was concerned, it was a “Great” Rotary Year. According to her, because of the Strong Passion of IIPP Gerard to serve, the Rotary Club of Baguio rose to Greatness. PP Diony Claridad, on the other hand made his evaluation based on the Four Way Test of Rotary. Is it the truth? Will it be fair to all concerned? Will it build Goodwill and better Friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? His evaluation was to the affirmative. Indeed, for the Rotary Year that was, RC Baguio has remained a symbol of Service, strong as ever. Based on a veteran’s observation, the RCB remained as such because it operates like a well oiled machine. Each member, under the leadership of a passionate President and his Board, contributed his/her expertise to make things happen. The enormous awards received by the Club will validate his statement.

At President’s time, IIPP Gerard took the pleasure of giving inspiring words to recognize the contribution of all the members during his term. Twenty (20) members were accorded the Everlasting Award, eight (8) members for the Presidential Award, thirty-seven (37) members for the Special Award. All fifty (50) members, including the secretary, were given token of appreciation. By now, I bet that these very beautiful and uniquely designed tokens are already displayed in the offices or in the homes of the worthy recipients.

Each happy and contented, Rotarians sang “Pilipinas Kong Mahal” with fervor before IIPP Gerard banged the gavel to signify the end of the last meeting of Rotary Year 2006-07 at exactly 3:10 in the afternoon. What a way to end another Great Year of Rotary!

CHEERS to IIPP Gerard for a memorable Rotary Year and another of its kind under IP Raffy.

SCENES WE LIKE TO SEE

Images from Previous Week's Meeting 30 June 2007



Images by
Sec. Uwe Koeller



Captions by
EIC Dhory Vicencio



Rotarian gentlemen at the head table are definitely enjoying the club's meeting.



RA Terry with lovely daughter Estelle paused for a pic with IP Raffy, PP Doming and their Anns.



Lady Rotarians and Anns are hands together while singing the Rotary Hymn.



Plaques and tokens filled a long table for Rotarians and Anns from Pres. Gerard.



President Gerard helped Secretary Uwe to carry his plaques and token.



Pres. Gerard gave an award to the very deserving RCB Chorale.



The enchanting Rotary Anns received a recognition from Pres. Gerard.

FEATURE



Literacy, A Cause of Concern

PP Veeh Balajo

Did you know that . . . (from the LITERACY RATE WORLDWIDE MAP)

- **TOTAL WORLD AREA** is 510.072 M sq. km., with **LAND AREA** of 148.94 M sq. km (29.2%) & **WATER AREA** of 361.132 sq. km. (70.8%).
- **LOWEST POINT** is **BENTLEY SUBGLACIAL TRENCH** (-) 2540 m., but in the oceanic realm, **CHALLENGER DEEP** in the **MARIANA TRENCH**, (-) 10,924 m. below surface of Pacific Ocean. **HIGHEST POINT** is **MOUNT EVEREST**, 8850 m.
- .the **world** is now thought to be **4.55 billion years old** (1/3 of the 13-billion age estimated for the universe)
- **WORLD POPULATION** (as of July 2006) is 6,525,170,264.
- **AGE STRUCTURE (M>F)** : 0-14 YRS = 27.4%; 15-64 YRS = 65.2%; **65 YRS & OVER = 7.4% (F > M)**
- **MEDIAN AGE** = 27.6 YRS, M = 27 YRS., F = 28.2 YRS.
- **POPULATION GROWTH RATE**= 1.14%
- **LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH** - TOTAL POPULATION = 64.77 YRS., M = 63.16 YRS., F = 66.47 YRS.
- **TOTAL FERTILITY RATE** = 2.59 CHILDREN / WOMAN
- **RELIGIONS** (as of 2004): **CHRISTIANS** = 33.03% (Roman Catholics=17.33%, Protestants=5.8%, Orthodox=3.42%, Anglicans=1.23%), **MUSLIMS** = 20.12%, **HINDUS** = 13.34%, **BUDDHISTS** = 5.89%, **SIKHS** = 0.39%, **JEWS** = 0.23%, **OTHER RELIGIONS** = 12.61%, **NON-RELIGIOUS** = 12.03%, **ATHEISTS** = 2.36%
- **LANGUAGES** (as first language, as of 2004): **MANDARIN CHINESE** = 13.69%, **SPANISH** = 5.05%, **ENGLISH** = 4.84%, **HINDI** = 2.82%, **PORTUGUESE** = 2.77%, **BENGALI** = 2.68%, **RUSSIAN** = 2.27%, **JAPANESE** = 1.99%, **STANDARD GERMAN** = 1.49%, **WU CHINESE** = 1.21%
- **LITERACY RATE** : **TOTAL** = 82%, **M** = 87%, **F** = 77% (by 2015, projected is 86%)
ILLITERATE = 785M ADULTS (2/3 of these are in INDIA, CHINA, BANGLADESH, PAKISTAN, NIGERIA, ETHIOPIA, INDONESIA & EGYPT). 2/3 are WOMEN.
EXTREMELY LOW LITERACY RATES = SOUTH & WEST ASIA (70% M vs. 46% F), SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (68% M vs. 52% F), & the ARAB states (43% M vs. 57% F)

Based on the UNESCO 2006 Global Monitoring Report, the **GLOBAL YOUTH LITERACY RATE** rose from 75% in 1970 to 88% in 2004 due to expanded access to formal schooling, more schools, and better access to schools.

WOMEN'S LITERACY : In less well-developed areas, women “continue to struggle in all forms of education. As of 2006, 64% of ALL ILLITERATES are women. As more attention is brought to issue and more programs are catering to girls’ education, this gap will soon diminish.”

It’s noteworthy that ROTARY INTERNATIONAL is making LITERACY a “priority in recognition of its importance and the profound, lasting benefits it conveys.” The ROTARY INTERNATIONAL LITERACY AND NUMERACY TASK FORCE have worked worldwide with a number of education ministries and other organizations “to promote improved teaching methods for learners at all levels, from primary to adult.” Raising basic literacy levels, particularly among women is still a priority for many Asian countries. And, as we all know, ROTARY INTERNATIONAL has women’s education as one of its priority areas.

I do take pride, and at the same time feel humbled, that I belong to such a noble and philanthropic organization, the ROTARY INTERNATIONAL, don’t you???

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