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THE WATERFRONT

Club website: www.kuchingcentralrotary.org

THIS IS THE WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE *ROTARY CLUB OF KUCHING CENTRAL*, KUCHING, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA; ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3310; CHARTERED ON 23RD DECEMBER 1986.

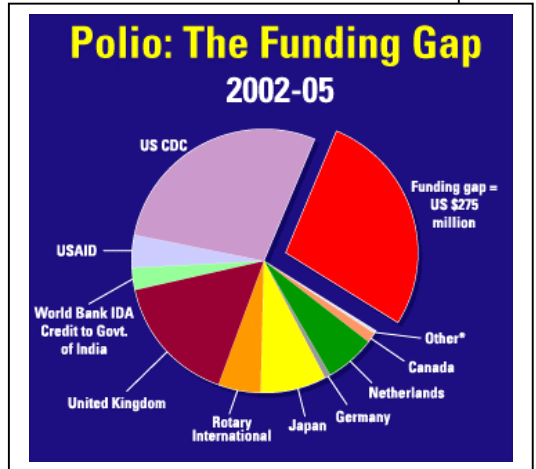
WEEKLY LUNCHEON MEETING AT 1PM EVERY SATURDAY (EXCEPT PUBLIC HOLIDAYS) AT THE RIVERSIDE MAJESTIC HOTEL, KUCHING, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA

Polio Eradication Status



here are significant reasons to be optimistic about achieving our goal of global polio eradication by 2005.

1. The number of polio cases has been reduced by a projected 99 percent since Rotary and partner agencies formed the global polio eradication initiative — from 350,000 in 1988 to fewer than 1900 in 2002.
2. Three of six regions of the world are free of the wild poliovirus.
3. Despite intensive surveillance efforts, one of the three types of viruses (Type II) that cause polio has not been seen since 1999. Could it be that it has already been eradicated? The World Health Organization will continue to promote active surveillance to determine this possibility.



Nevertheless, significant challenges lie ahead, including immunizing all children — even those in remote, conflict areas — maintaining political commitment to polio eradication, and meeting a funding gap of US\$275 million.

Given the tremendous progress so far achieved, the prospects of achieving global polio eradication by the year 2005 are high.

Rotary looks forward to providing all children with a permanent gift — a world free of polio. For more statistical information on polio eradication, download Rotary's

http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdfs/polio_facts.pdf

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REVISED RI DUE CYCLE & PAYMENT

At its October 2003 meeting, the RI Board of Directors shortened the collection cycle for payment of semiannual dues to RI. Under the new system, clubs will receive notification of past due amounts at 90 days and will be terminated at 180 days unless they have satisfied their financial obligations to RI. Terminated clubs will be required to pay a fee of \$10 per member to be reinstated. Any terminated club that is not reorganized within 270 days from the due date must pay a charter fee as a newly admitted club.

These changes are consistent with across-the-board measures taken to cut costs and improve efficiency throughout the association this fiscal year. While the majority of Rotary clubs remit their semiannual dues in a timely fashion, about 8,000 clubs — more than 25 percent — maintain balances greater than US\$250 past the 90-day mark. Under the previous system, reminder letters were sent to these clubs, followed by suspension letters sent by registered mail to clubs that remained in arrears after 180 days and termination of those clubs that failed to comply. Administrative costs for these procedures amounted to approximately \$7,180 annually. In addition, an estimated 3,400 staff hours have been dedicated to this cumbersome collection process.

In today's uncertain economic climate, when Rotary International faces cutbacks in all phases of its operation, including service to clubs and districts, such generous collection policies have become increasingly difficult to maintain or justify. Dues are the primary source of revenue for RI and are used to support many services provided to members, as well as RI programs and the budgets for district governors. Like any business, RI cannot operate efficiently if its key source of income — more than \$2 million in this case — is consistently delayed for an unreasonable length of time.

Some Rotarians have expressed concern that the new policy will result in a loss of clubs. To reduce this risk, RI is committed to working with clubs to streamline their business operations. One valuable resource is the new club and district administration software, which is available as a free download from the Rotary Web site's [Member Access](#) area (login required). The software can help clubs with billing, completing semiannual reports, and mailing invoices. In addition, RI offers clubs the option of paying dues online, simplifying the process and encouraging more timely payment. Clubs are encouraged to work with their district governors or RI club and district administration representatives for further assistance in adjusting their business processes to conform to the new cycle.

What is Rotary Foundation alumni....

Rotary Foundation alumni are important members of the Rotary family. These former Ambassadorial Scholars, GSE team members, and grant recipients (Grants for University Teachers, Grants for Rotary Volunteers, and Discovery Grants - now part of Individual Grants), are excellent Foundation advocates who can make effective presentations at club and district events. Many alumni are interested in joining Rotary as well.

Districts can receive a report listing their Foundation alumni (in club order) by e-mailing the Alumni section at alumni@rotaryintl.org.

Learn more about Foundation alumni: <http://www.rotary.org/foundation/alumni/index.html>

DISTRICT 3310 AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Recognition plays a strong role in motivating Rotarians to serve. An excellent way to inspire clubs toward outstanding service efforts is to recognize an outstanding community service project in your district with a Significant Achievement Award, and other District Awards that are available (see District Directory pages 71-74).

The club will be competing ***in at least*** two District Awards namely the **Best Club Bulletin Award** and the **Best Club Website Award**.

Therefore to improve the quality of the newsletters and the website, all members are encouraged to contribute in terms of articles and photos.



PP Able Chieng, taking a deep breath during the Career Talk for the Interact Club of Kuching High.

PP Ee Guan Teck 'singing' his way.



Rtn Andrew Chong receiving a memento from President Sylvester Fong. Looking on with envy is Rtn Thomas Ngu at the

WHAT'S ON- IN THE ROTARY CALENDAR?

	WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	CONTACT
1	Rotary Foundation Seminar	Johor Bahru	6 Dec'03	PP. Polycarp Teo Sebom
2	PIBAKAT (Swak Society for Parents of Handicapped Children)	Jln. Ong Tiang Swee	14 Dec'03	PP. Patrick Yu
3	RYLA (Hosted by R.C. of Kuching)	Sarawak Cultural Village, Damai	12-15 Dec'03	PP. Bobby Chai
4	1 st Rotaract & Interact Conference	Suntec City Convention Hall, Singapore	9-11 Jan'04	PP. Bobby Chai
5	Golf Fellowship at District Conference	Singapore	9 Jan'04	Rtn. Thomas Ngu
6	District 3310 Conference	Suntec City Convention Hall, Singapore	10-11 Jan'04	Rtn. Thomas Ngu
7	14 th District Assembly (Hosted by R.C. of Melaka)	Melaka	April 2004	Rtn. Thomas Ngu
8	International Avoidable Blindness Conference (Hosted by R.C. Singapore East)	Suntec City, Convention Hall, Singapore	1-2 May'04	PP. Polycarp Teo Sebom
9	2004 Rotary International Convention	Osaka, Japan	23-26 May 2004	PP. Polycarp Teo Sebom
10	2005 Rotary International Convention	Chicago, Illinois, USA	19-22 June 2005	TBA
11	2005 Rotary International Convention	Copenhagen, Denmark & Malmo, Sweden	11-14 June 2006	TBA

Notes: Events printed in italic bold are new events which have just been included in this issue. TBA= To Be Announced.

2003-2004 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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