

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3780

GOVERNOR'S

MONTHLY LETTER

JULY 2025

A GRAND BEGINNING

District Induction Kicks Off a Vibrant Rotary Year

EQUIPPED TO LEAD

DISLAS Energizes Club Leaders with Vision and Purpose

READY TO RISE

President-Elects Gear Up for Impact at PELS



Editor's Note

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

As we turn the pages of this month's Governor's Monthly Letter, we are reminded of what makes this organization truly remarkable: a shared commitment to service above self, and the belief that even the smallest act of goodwill can ripple across communities and continents.

July is the month of leadership transitions — a time to honor past achievements and embrace the path ahead. To our new club officers, district leaders, and passionate volunteers:

your leadership is the spark that can light up lives. Lead with empathy, inclusiveness, and courage.

This year, let us focus not just on what we do, but how we do it — through collaboration, compassion, and unity. Let us amplify our impact by standing together — Rotarians, Rotaractors, and partners — as one global family, working hand-in-hand to lift others.

As we embark on this journey together, may we inspire each of us to believe that even the smallest act of kindness can ripple across communities and change the world.

Rotary is more than a network—it is a movement driven by compassion, leadership, and resilience. Whether you are leading a district project, mentoring young professionals through Rotaract, or contributing quietly behind the scenes, your impact matters. Each story in this edition is a testament to that.

May this issue inspire you, challenge you, and, above all, connect you more deeply with the Rotary spirit that unites 1.4 million members across the globe. Together, let us Unite for Good — As we set new goals and rekindle our passion for service this Rotary year, let us remember: great things happen when we unite for good. Let's continue to build bridges, foster peace, and serve with open hearts.

Together, there is nothing we cannot achieve.

Let's make this year one of connection, purpose, and positive impact.

Together, we unite. Together, we serve. Together, we do good.



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ABOUT THE GML

The Governor's Monthly Letter is the official publication of Rotary International District 3780, Quezon City, Philippines.



The GML is published each month to keep members in our district informed, engaged, and motivated to contribute to Rotary's mission of service and fellowship, as well as to continue to create a positive impact in the communities we serve and the world.



ON THE COVER:

A group photo of all attendees of the President Elect Learning Seminar held in scenic Jeju Island, South Korea.

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MESSAGE *from our* **DISTRICT GOVERNOR**

Greetings United Rotarians:

As we welcome the new Rotary year this July, I am honored to address you as your District Governor. Today, we stand at the threshold of renewed opportunities—a moment to celebrate our achievements and embrace the challenges ahead with vigor, optimism, and the spirit of "Service Above Self." Each one of you has played an essential role in building our legacy of compassion, unity, and community impact.

Reflecting on Our Journey

Over the past year, our clubs have demonstrated resilience, creativity, and immense dedication.

Despite some challenges, together we have:

- Launched initiatives that have touched countless lives in our communities.
- Strengthened our bonds and shared our experiences in meaningful fellowship.
- Fostered innovation in solving problems both locally and globally.

These achievements are not only milestones but also stepping stones that affirm our commitment to Rotary's core values. They remind us that every act of service, every moment of collaboration, elevates our collective purpose.



Together, let's unite
to transform
challenges into
opportunities and
continue to set a
shining example of
compassion,
teamwork, and
leadership.

Veronica Yu

Looking Ahead with Renewed Purpose

As we begin this new chapter, I encourage every club and individual to rededicate themselves to the noble ideals of Rotary. Let us harness our combined energy to:

- Initiate new service projects that address today's pressing challenges.
- Reinforce existing programs and explore innovative avenues for community engagement.
- Cultivate relationships that transcend our borders, uniting our local efforts with global impact.

I invite you to contribute your ideas and talents. Our strength lies in the diverse perspectives we bring together. In our pursuit of service, let each challenge inspire us to think creatively and act boldly—turning obstacles into opportunities for growth and lasting impact.

A Call to Action

In the coming months, we will introduce initiatives designed to spark innovation and deepen our impact on society. I urge you to actively participate in upcoming events, share your insights, and celebrate the successes along the way. Let us reaffirm our commitment to making a tangible difference in our communities and showing the world the enduring power of Rotary's values.

In closing, I am filled with immense pride and optimism as we embark on this new Rotary year. Together, let us transform challenges into opportunities and continue to set a shining example of compassion, teamwork, and leadership. Thank you for your steadfast dedication and for inspiring others to join in our mission.

Veronica Yu

District Governor

Rotary International District 3780

RY 2025 – 2026





Message from Rotary International President 2025-26

Cari amici,

Two weeks ago, I was in my living room playing with my grandchildren. A few days later, I was on a plane to Calgary, suddenly carrying the responsibility of leading this incredible organization. Life comes fast, but so often, it brings us exactly where we're meant to be.

We begin this year with a clear message;/ Unite for Good. It is a simple phrase, but a powerful one. Because behind every successful Rotary effort, every act of service, every new member welcomed, every global challenge met-there are two things that matter most: friendship and trust.

This is how we build strong clubs. It's how we create meaningful partnerships and transform global problems into local solutions. It's also how we lead-not through titles or applause, but with humility, humanity, and heart. But let me be honest with you-this kind of leadership is not always easy. We're human and yes, we make mistakes. We sometimes disagree, but in Rotary, we are called to something greater. let us reflect on the full vision of Rotary:

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

The last part is essential, because transformation doesn't start with strategy. It starts with character and the way we treat one another. It starts with how we listen, how we support, and how we serve.

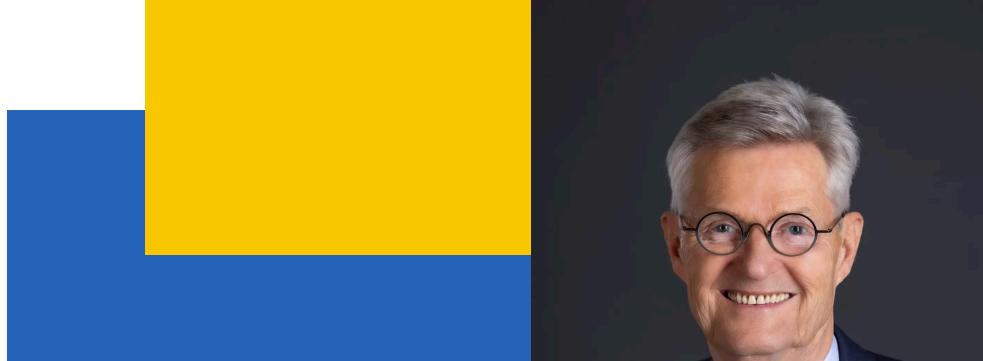
This year, I ask you to lead with that spirit. To grow Rotary through relationships. To make your clubs more welcoming, more flexible, more open to new ideas. To think big-but also to think beyond one year. Our term is short, but our impact can be lasting if we plan and act with continuity and vision.

Let us remember our key priorities: membership, polio and peace. We are closer than ever to ending polio. We cannot stop now. We must keep the promise we made to the children of the world. And as for peace-Rotary has been building it for over a century. Every clean water system, every youth exchange, every maternal health project is a step toward peace.

I joined Rotary as a young professional, eager to help but terrified of public speaking. My fellow Rotarians believed in me and encouraged me to take on new roles, and in doing so, Rotary changed my life. It gave me courage and purpose, but above all, it gave me you: my friends, my team, my family around the world.

So now, my friends...take out your dreams tucked away in a drawer, especially those you thought were too big or bold to achieve. Let's bring them into the light. Let's Unite for Good-for our clubs, our communities, and our world. And let's make this a year not only of service, but of joy, of connection, and of love.

Francesco Arezzo
President
Rotary International
RY 2025 – 2026



Message from Trustee Chair 2025-26

When you joined Rotary, chances are it was because you wanted to make a lasting difference. Arch Klumph felt the same way.

When he proposed The Rotary Foundation in 1917, he envisioned more than just a fund. He saw an enduring vehicle for Rotary members to serve their communities and create lasting change. More than a century later, that vision thrives, thanks to your dedication and to the Foundation's unique structure, which empowers members to identify and solve global problems at every level.

Today, I am not asking you for a donation. Instead, I invite you to look at The Rotary Foundation with fresh eyes. Imagine a charity governed by its own members. A global mission carried out by those very members. A foundation that reflects the shared values of its members — ensuring clean water and literacy for all, eradicating the scourge of polio, building local economies through entrepreneurship, and making the world more peaceful through conflict resolution training.

Doesn't this sound like an interesting charity? The Rotary Foundation is trusted around the world because we have earned that trust. After our successful Programs of Scale initiative in Zambia, the Gates Foundation and World Vision invited us to lead again — resulting in the \$30 million Rotary Healthy Communities Challenge across four African nations.

We are efficient, strategic, and guided by dedicated professional staff and passionate volunteers. Our Foundation consistently receives top marks from Charity Navigator. And the Gates Foundation matches our \$50 million annual commitment to polio eradication 2-to-1, depositing \$100 million into our account each year. That is trust, delivered.

Even in conflict zones, we are there. In Gaza, a single confirmed polio case triggered a humanitarian pause in the war, allowing health workers to vaccinate children and quell an outbreak. Rotary helped fund that urgent response. Once again, we proved to be a reliable partner in a crisis.

We can be proud that we made a difference. Now we look ahead to our ambitious \$500 million fundraising goal for 2025-26. We can reach it together, as we boldly support a Foundation that is doing bold things.

Rotary is not going anywhere, because Rotary is everywhere! That is our strength. That is our unique opportunity. Be part of the legacy of The Rotary Foundation. It is one that Arch Klumph would be proud of. It is a legacy that has changed the world and will continue to do so, as long as we are all part of it.

Holger Knaack
Trustee Chair
Rotary International
RY 2025 – 2026

Meet RI President Francesco Arezzo

RI's new president talks about his top Rotary moments, his goals as president, and his love of olive oil and opera.



BY ETELKA LEHOCZKY[®]

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



Francesco Arezzo was sitting with a friend at his district conference when he received a call, asking him to leave the room and join a Zoom meeting with the Rotary International Board of Directors. A few minutes later, Arezzo learned that he'd been chosen as RI president for 2025-26, the third Italian and the first from southern Italy to lead the global membership organization. Since the news hadn't been officially announced, he couldn't tell anyone. But soon, he noticed phones coming out all over the room.

"When the news arrived on social media at about 11 p.m., we were in the middle of the gala dinner," he says. "You can imagine more than 400 Rotarians all finding out on their phones. It was quite an unforgettable moment. All of a sudden, they all lined up to kiss me and offer their congratulations. I was deeply touched."

A week after the Board held a special session in June to select Arezzo to lead Rotary, he flew to Calgary, Canada, for the 2025 Rotary International Convention. There, he was warmly embraced by members from around the world. Thousands of attendees interrupted

WE LEAD NOT THROUGH TITLES OR APPLAUSE, BUT WITH HUMILITY, HUMANITY, AND HEART.

during his speech with ebullient applause at the closing session as he was officially introduced.

A member of the Rotary Club of Ragusa in Sicily, Arezzo has been part of Rotary for more than three decades. He has served as vice chair of the Joint Strategic Planning Committee, RI director, and chair of the 2023 International Convention Committee for Melbourne, among other leadership roles. Throughout his Rotary journey, Arezzo has supported initiatives that strengthen RI's impact and expand opportunities for engagement across generations. He has served as president of Fondazione Rotary Italia, a national initiative that makes it easier for Italian citizens to support Rotary's humanitarian projects around the world. The following interview was conducted during multiple conversations with Arezzo in Calgary — in the hallway during breaks, inside a minibus en route to a Rotary event, and at a makeshift office inside the convention hall, where Rotary members frequently stopped by to greet and hug him. Despite his packed schedule, he set aside time to talk with *Rotary* magazine about his life, his Rotary journey, his plans for the organization, and two of his other passions: opera and olive oil.





Q: You've worked as an orthodontist for many years. Are there things about your job that make you an effective Rotarian?

A: I've been a practicing orthodontist for 46 years now. I work mainly with young people, and it's very important to try to understand them before beginning treatment. You have to win their cooperation. Forging those relationships is one of the best aspects of my job.

Q: And you now have grandchildren of your own, right?

A: I have two wonderful grandchildren. The elder one, who's three years old, has my name: Francesco. The younger is one year old, and she has my partner's name. So we have another Anna Maria and another Francesco.

Q: You've been a Rotarian for more than three decades. Do you remember why you first wanted to join?

A: At the beginning, Rotary was just a place to meet new friends with different points of view. It wasn't until I became club president that I began to really understand Rotary. Now, when I speak to Rotarians, I tell them to change the verbs they use. You don't "go to" Rotary like you go to the cinema, where you sit and watch other people doing something. Rotary is something you do. You have to participate. And then you begin to grow.

Q: How have you grown in Rotary?

A: When my club first proposed that I become president, I didn't want to accept. I had a stutter, so I was terrified of being obliged to address my club. But it wasn't so bad. Then they invited me to be a district governor, and again, I didn't want to accept. But once more, they convinced me.

Now, when I think about the fact that I'm going to be the Rotary International president and speak onstage in another language, I understand how much Rotary has changed me in a positive and lasting way.

Q: How can Rotary convey a sense of this impact to members and potential members?

A: We have to improve our communications with club presidents, because they're on the front lines of dealing with members. While we do a wonderful job of instructing district governors in the importance of membership and new clubs, the district governor often speaks with a club president only two or three times a year. There are too many club presidents who don't have any idea why our membership goals are so important.

Q: What challenges do you anticipate you'll face during your term as president?

A: I'm very conscious that I'm beginning very late. Even if I begin studying problems and setting goals now, I can't do very much. Rotary isn't a scooter that can change direction quickly. It's like a big cruise ship: If you want to make a turn, you have to begin many kilometers in advance. I hope to work very closely with President-elect SangKoo Yun. I think SangKoo and I can create a two-year plan that will be really effective.

Q: What has been one of your most memorable moments in all your years in Rotary?

A: One moment that was very, very moving for me was when, as district governor, I organized a Rotary Youth Leadership Awards event for districts bordering the Mediterranean Sea: Italy, France, Spain, North Africa, Greece, Turkey. The problem was putting together Turkish and Italian young

people, because they looked at one another as very different. The first day was tense; it was clear that they didn't like each other. But after a few days, they began to discover that they had the same tastes and the same dreams.

When the last day came, they sang John Lennon's "Imagine" together and performed a skit they'd written about the cultural differences between their countries. It was one of the most beautiful things I can remember.

Q: In your professional life, you've led trade organizations for dentists and for olive oil producers. What group is most difficult to unite in a consensus: Dentists, olive oil producers, or perhaps Rotary members?

A: From my experience, it's the olive oil producers. Each producer of olive oil is strongly convinced that his olive oil is the best in the world. So they usually don't want to cooperate sincerely with others.

Q: How long have you been producing olive oil?

A: My family has produced olive oil for more than a century now. I am the last, I fear, because my daughters are not interested in this field.

Q: I understand you love opera also. What's your favorite opera or composer?

A: A composer I like a lot is Vincenzo Bellini. He was born in Sicily, and he died very, very young. He did only a few operas, but they are all of a very high quality. And of course, there are many other great composers — Puccini, Verdi, Mozart. It's hard to pick one.

**This article was adapted from Rotary International. Read the original at on.rotary.org/44CzZwU.*



Unite for Good

Rotary's New Message Sets the Tone for Purposeful Leadership and Meaningful Service



"Behind every act of service, every new member welcomed, and every global challenge met—there are two things that matter most: friendship and trust," President Arezzo shares.

As the new Rotary year begins, members around the world are welcomed by a fresh voice and a fresh perspective from Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo of Italy. This year, he brings with him a message that's simple yet deeply meaningful: "Unite for Good."

More than just a catchphrase, it's a powerful reminder of what makes Rotary unique. It's a call to strengthen our connections, work together more closely, and put kindness, service, and trust at the heart of everything we do.

A New Direction for Rotary Messaging

This Rotary year marks a major shift. For decades, each new president introduced a different theme each year, often accompanied by a new logo or graphic.

Starting this year, that's changing. Rotary International has decided to move away from the rotating annual theme model and instead adopt a single, consistent presidential message.

Why the change? It's part of a broader strategy to make Rotary's message clearer and more unified. A consistent message will make it easier for members and the public to understand what Rotary stands for, no matter where they are in the world. It also aligns closely with the Rotary Action Plan, which focuses on increasing our impact, expanding our reach, enhancing participant engagement, and adapting to the times.

BY PP AYA NICOLE CORPUS

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

What “Unite for Good” Really Means

At its core, “Unite for Good” reminds us that Rotary’s strength lies in our ability to bring people together. Whether we’re tackling local challenges or global issues, we make the most impact when we work side by side, rooted in shared values and mutual respect.

This year’s message encourages clubs to:

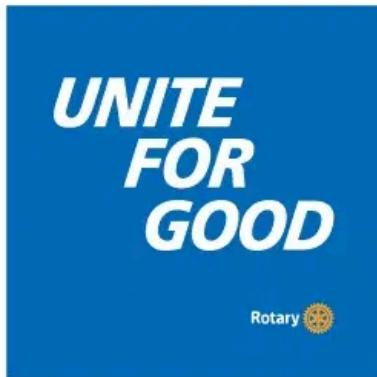
- Build stronger, more inclusive teams
- Foster meaningful partnerships
- Focus on continuity and long-term impact, not just short-term wins

President Arezzo emphasizes that real leadership isn’t about titles or applause. It’s about showing up with humility, listening to others, and putting service first.

Living the Message

The call to unite goes beyond club meetings and district events. It’s about being part of something bigger than ourselves. Rotary’s mission comes alive in every polio vaccine delivered, every clean water system installed, every scholarship awarded, and every act of kindness shared across cultures.

This year, President Arezzo encourages every Rotarian to focus on relationships. That includes reconnecting with members, reaching out to new ones, and strengthening ties with communities and partners. As he puts it, “Our term is short, but our impact can be lasting if we plan and act with continuity and vision.”



Moving Forward Together

“Unite for Good” isn’t just a message for this year. It’s meant to serve as a lasting guide for how we lead and serve. It encourages us to think beyond our own clubs, beyond our own districts, and see the bigger picture of Rotary’s mission in the world.

Let’s use this message as inspiration to:

- Make our clubs more welcoming and diverse
- Start new service projects that meet real needs
- Lead with empathy and courage
- And above all, support each other in creating meaningful, lasting change

As we step into this new Rotary year, “Unite for Good” gives us more than direction—it gives us purpose. It reminds us that our greatest achievements happen when we listen, learn, and work together.

Let’s bring out those bold ideas, revive the dreams we’ve set aside, and remember why we joined Rotary in the first place. Together, we can make this a year of connection, compassion, and powerful service.

July: A Fresh Start for Rotary Leadership

In the Rotary calendar, July marks New Leadership Month—a time of renewal, fresh beginnings, and inspired leadership. As the Rotary year begins, newly elected club and district officers officially take the helm, bringing new energy, ideas, and vision to their clubs and communities.

This month is more than just a handover. It's a celebration of service in action. From club presidents to district leaders, each new officer steps into a role built on Rotary's legacy of service above self. Strategic planning sessions, club assemblies, and vibrant induction ceremonies set the tone for the year ahead.



*District governors-elect participate in a workshop about sharing the value of Rotary.
International Assembly, 9 January 2024. Orlando, Florida, USA.*

New Leadership Month also invites Rotarians to embrace the annual theme set by Rotary International. It becomes a guiding light, shaping projects, goals, and fellowship.

"Leadership is about service, not titles," says District Governor Veronica Yu. "July challenges us to lead with purpose and heart."

For new members, July offers a first glimpse into Rotary's dynamic spirit. For seasoned ones, it's a chance to recommit. Ultimately, it's a reminder that great leadership isn't about doing more alone—it's about inspiring others to serve, grow, and create lasting impact. July is Rotary's call to action—loud, clear, and full of promise.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

A Grand Beginning

District Induction Kicks Off a Vibrant Rotary Year



Rotary International District 3780 marked a significant and inspiring milestone during its District Induction Ceremony held on June 28 at the elegant Okada Manila, with the powerful theme “Unite for a Cause,” the event brought together over 800 Rotarians, guests, and VIPs for an inspiring and elegant celebration of Rotary’s mission.

Dressed to impress in Oscar Awards-inspired formal attire, Rotarians from across the district came together for an unforgettable evening of glamour, fellowship, inspiration, and heartfelt giving. The event was more than just a celebration—it was a testament to Rotary’s enduring commitment to service.

The evening featured the Mass Induction of club officers across various Rotary clubs, a grand production showcase, and the much-anticipated Induction of our very own District Governor, Veronica Yu, the highlight of the night.

The event successfully raised a total of USD120,000.00 in donations, which will directly support the End Polio Program of Rotary International, a global mission Rotary continues to champion.

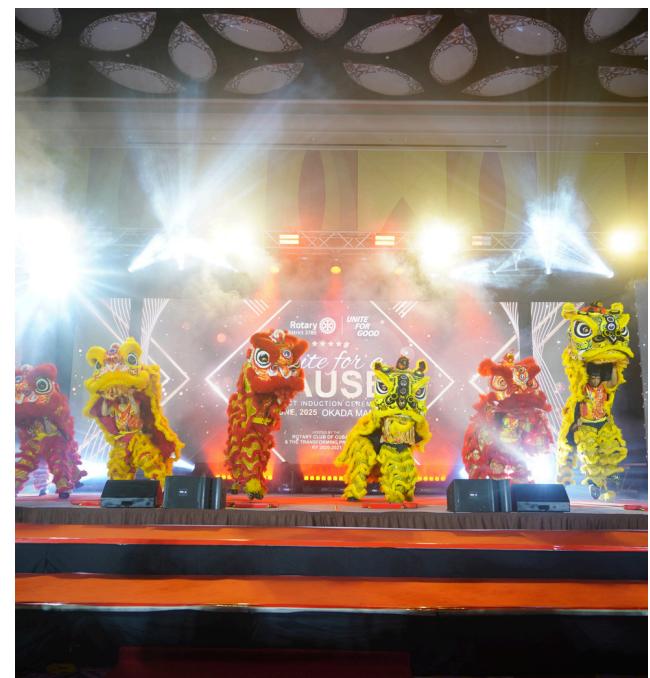
The ceremony was gracefully hosted by Rotary Club of Cubao, QC and the Transforming Presidents Batch, setting the tone for a year of unity and transformative leadership.



BY PE MARIJO GARCIA

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEFF AREVALO PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO

Clockwise from left: District Governor Veronica Yu leads the oath-taking of district officers, club officers, and members (Left and Top Right); a traditional Lion Dance ushers in good fortune for the new Rotary Year (Bottom Right); DG Veronica Yu with her spouse, Past District Governor Johnny Yu (far left), and daughter, Rotaract President Janine Yu, together with NAPOLCOM Comissioner Atty Rafael Calinisan, who officiated her induction (Bottom Photo).



Equipped to Lead

DISLAS Energizes Club Leaders with Vision and Purpose

BY ROTARY CLUB OF NEW MURPHY



QUEZON CITY — Rotary International District 3780 successfully held its 2025 District Learning Assembly on May 3, 2025, at the Novotel Hotel. The event gathered approximately 600 Rotarians to prepare 106 President-elects and their incoming club officers for Rotary Year 2025-2026 under the presidential theme, "Unite For Good."

Chaired by Past President Col. Rodrigo D. Bonifacio and hosted by the Rotary Club of New Murphy Cubao, the assembly was commended by District Governor Veronica Ho Yu for its excellent organization and the engagement of its future leaders.

A key highlight was an interactive session on leadership by motivational speaker Jonathan Yabut, which energized the attendees.

Equipped with new strategies and renewed inspiration, the incoming officers of the 106 clubs are now prepared to champion meaningful community projects. The assembly ensures they are ready to put the "Unite For Good" message into action in the year ahead.



READY TO RISE

President-Elects Gear Up for Impact at PELS



Held from March 21 to 24, 2025, in the breathtaking Jeju Island, South Korea, the President-Elect Leadership Seminar (PELS) of Rotary International District 3780 was an unforgettable experience of learning, fellowship, and inspiration.

Hosted by the Rotary Club of Entrepreneurs and Professionals QC (RCEP), and led by PELS Chair Sarah P. Deloraya, Co-chair Heddy Yu Tabao, and RCEP President Cynthia de Leon Sembrano, the seminar brought together 152 incoming Club Presidents under the leadership of District Governor Veronica Yu.

Top-caliber speakers—including Dr. Carlito Balita, PDG CW Hyun, and other esteemed PDGs—delivered powerful insights anchored on the theme “Leadership and Teamwork—Our Key to Success.”

The event was graced by two Governors, six South Korean DGEs, and a Rotary Foundation Trustee. A major highlight was the on-the-spot approval of a USD 100,000 Global Grant and the establishment of two international partnerships, showcasing the district's strength and collaboration.

The PELS concluded with the graduation of all President-Elects, ready to lead with renewed purpose. With Jeju's stunning scenery and the Rotary spirit in full force, the event set a new benchmark for future leadership seminars.



BY PE MARIJO GARCIA & PP BENJAMIN ROSARIO
PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEFF AREVALO PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO



Preparing to Lead

Empowering Rotary's Future Leaders in Taipei

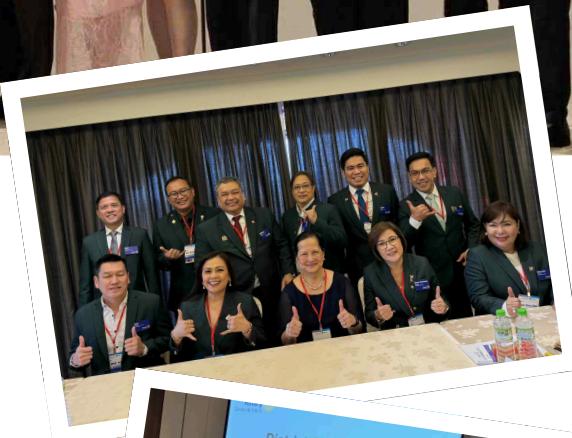
The Governors-Elect Learning Seminar (GELS), held on November 27–28, 2024 at the prestigious Grand Hotel Taipei, brought together Rotary's incoming district leaders for an intensive two-day leadership and learning experience. Organized by Rotary International Zones 1B, 9, and 10, this seminar was part of the larger Rotary Taipei Institute and served as a pivotal stepping stone for those preparing to take on the mantle of district leadership.

The event gathered 41 District Governors-Elect and 27 spouses and partners from across the three zones. Through a series of plenary sessions, workshops, and networking activities, participants deepened their understanding of Rotary's strategic priorities, governance, and the essential skills needed to lead with vision and impact.

Among the distinguished attendees was Governor Veronica Yu, then serving as District Governor-Elect. For her, the experience was not only an opportunity to connect with fellow leaders across Asia-Pacific but also a chance to gain valuable insights, exchange innovative ideas, and embrace best practices that would shape her own leadership journey.

"This seminar reaffirmed my commitment to lead with purpose and heart," Governor Veronica shared. "The knowledge and relationships built here will guide me in serving our clubs and communities more effectively."

As GELS 2024 concluded, participants returned to their districts with renewed energy and a shared commitment to advancing Rotary's mission. For leaders like Governor Veronica Yu, the lessons learned in Taipei are sure to leave a lasting imprint on their year of service and beyond.



A GLOBAL GATHERING OF LEADERS

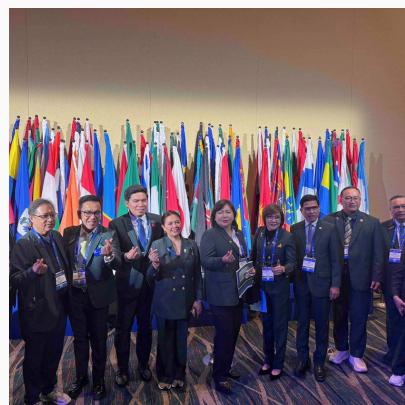
DG Veronica Yu Joins 2025 International Assembly in Orlando

From February 9 to 13, 2025, Rotary District Governor Veronica Yu, accompanied by her spouse, Past District Governor Johnny Yu, proudly represented District 3780 at the prestigious Rotary International Assembly held at Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando, Florida.

This annual global training event brought together incoming district governors from around the world for an unforgettable week of inspiration, collaboration, and preparation. The assembly featured engaging keynote speeches, thought-provoking breakout sessions, and meaningful cross-cultural exchanges—all designed to equip leaders with the vision and tools needed to guide their districts with purpose and heart.

The event included impactful addresses such as the Presidential Message calling on Rotarians to Unite for Good, as well as updates from RI leaders like General Secretary John Hewko, Foundation Chair-elect Holger Knaack, and Immediate Past RI President Stephanie Urchick. The presence of changemakers like Abigail Pratt of the Gates Foundation and Jeanine Buzali of Ashoka added powerful insights on health equity and inclusive leadership.

PDG Johnny Yu also took part in a dynamic partner program, proving that Rotary leadership is truly a family affair—deepening connections and strengthening support for an impactful year ahead.



Starting Strong

Pre-PELS Series Builds Strong Foundations for Future Presidents



The Pre-President Elect Learning Seminars (Pre-PELS) held across multiple venues in late 2024 and early 2025 served as an essential leadership primer for future Rotary club presidents. Aimed at equipping attendees with foundational knowledge ahead of the formal PELS, the series brought together a dynamic mix of learning, mentorship, and community-building.

PRE-PELS 1, held on August 20, 2024 at the Bellevue Hotel Manila, gathered future leaders from ten Philippine Rotary districts in a rare and impactful multi-district collaboration. The energy at the event reflected the commitment of Rotary's next-in-line presidents to serve effectively, guided by Rotary values and innovative thinking.

The momentum continued with PRE-PELS 2, hosted by Rotary Club of Cubao, QC, on September 21, 2024, at Seameo Innotech, which focused on the UFG (Unite For Good) Presidents. The seminar provided a more personalized setting, fostering deeper engagement and practical discussions on leadership roles.

PRE-PELS 3 took place at Storya Restaurant on October 19, 2024, hosted by RC Bagong Silangan, and PRE-PELS 4, hosted by RC Ayala Heights on January 25, 2025, at QC Sports, both continuing the mission of preparing UFGs through interactive dialogue and focused mentorship.



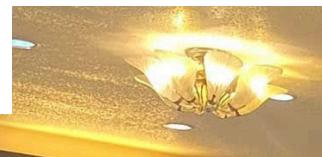
Each Pre-PELS event underscored Rotary's investment in leadership development, ensuring that future club presidents begin their journey with confidence, clarity, and a renewed sense of purpose.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEFF AREVALO PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO

TURNING IDEAS INTO IMPACT

Empowering Clubs to Make a Bigger Difference



On September 21, 2024, Rotary leaders gathered at SEAMEO Innotech, Quezon City for the Rotary Foundation & Global Grants Workshop, an essential learning event aimed at equipping clubs with the tools to create sustainable and high-impact service projects.



Hosted by the Rotary Club of Cubao, the workshop featured three highly respected speakers: Past District Governor Gina Sy, Past District Governor Rey David, and Past President Rene Cantos. Their expertise and experience offered participants a deeper understanding of The Rotary Foundation's mission, grant guidelines, and the process of developing projects that address real community needs.



As the main topic of the 2nd Pre-President-Elect Learning Seminar (Pre-PELS), the session was attended by (then) Presidents-elect, along with their club's TRF and Grants Chairs. Discussions covered best practices for preparing successful global grant proposals, ensuring transparency and accountability, and building collaborations across clubs and districts to maximize impact.

Beyond the technical aspects, the workshop served as a reminder of Rotary's unique ability to transform contributions into life-changing initiatives. By the end of the day, participants left with a renewed commitment to leverage The Rotary Foundation as a powerful catalyst for change — turning ideas into tangible results that uplift communities locally and globally.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEFF AREVALO PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO

EMPOWERED TO SUPPORT

Building a Unified, Skilled, and Inspired District Leadership Team

The District Team Learning Seminar of RID 3780 was held last March 8, 2025 at Citadines Hotel, Roces Avenue, Quezon City. Hosted by the Rotary Club of Broadway QC under the leadership of then MP Micar Caguiron and through the collective efforts of all it's officers and members, the training prepared the incoming district team for the term of Incoming District Governor Veronica Yu.



The event gathered more than 100 participants and featured distinguished guest speakers PRID Guiller Tumangan, ARC PP Josh Santos, LG Rey Pineda and other inspiring speakers, who shared valuable insights on leadership, service continuity, and Rotary's future goals. The seminar strengthened the capacity and commitment of district leaders to deliver impactful projects and support clubs in the coming Rotary year.

BY PP PRIME SISON





Catching up with Purpose

Special PELS Equips Incoming Club Leaders for a Strong Start

On April 12, the Special President-Elect Learning Seminar (SPELS) brought together Rotary's incoming leaders at the Quezon City Sports Club for a full day of learning, planning, and inspiration. Hosted by the District Team, this special session was designed for Presidents-Elect who were unable to attend the earlier President-Elect Learning Seminar (PELS), ensuring every incoming club leader is equally prepared to lead with confidence.

Under the convenorship of District Governor-Elect Veronica H. Yu, participants engaged in an energizing program that blended essential Rotary knowledge with practical leadership tools. The agenda included insightful presentations from a roster of experienced district leaders, covering topics such as strategic planning, The Rotary Foundation, membership growth, public image, and effective team leadership.

The seminar was not only about absorbing information—it also provided a platform for open forums, regional planning sessions, and networking opportunities among peers. By the end of the day, each participant walked away with a clearer vision for their year of service, a solid action plan, and stronger connections within the district.

SPELS once again underscored the district's commitment to supporting its leaders, ensuring that every President-Elect is ready to guide their club toward meaningful service and lasting impact.



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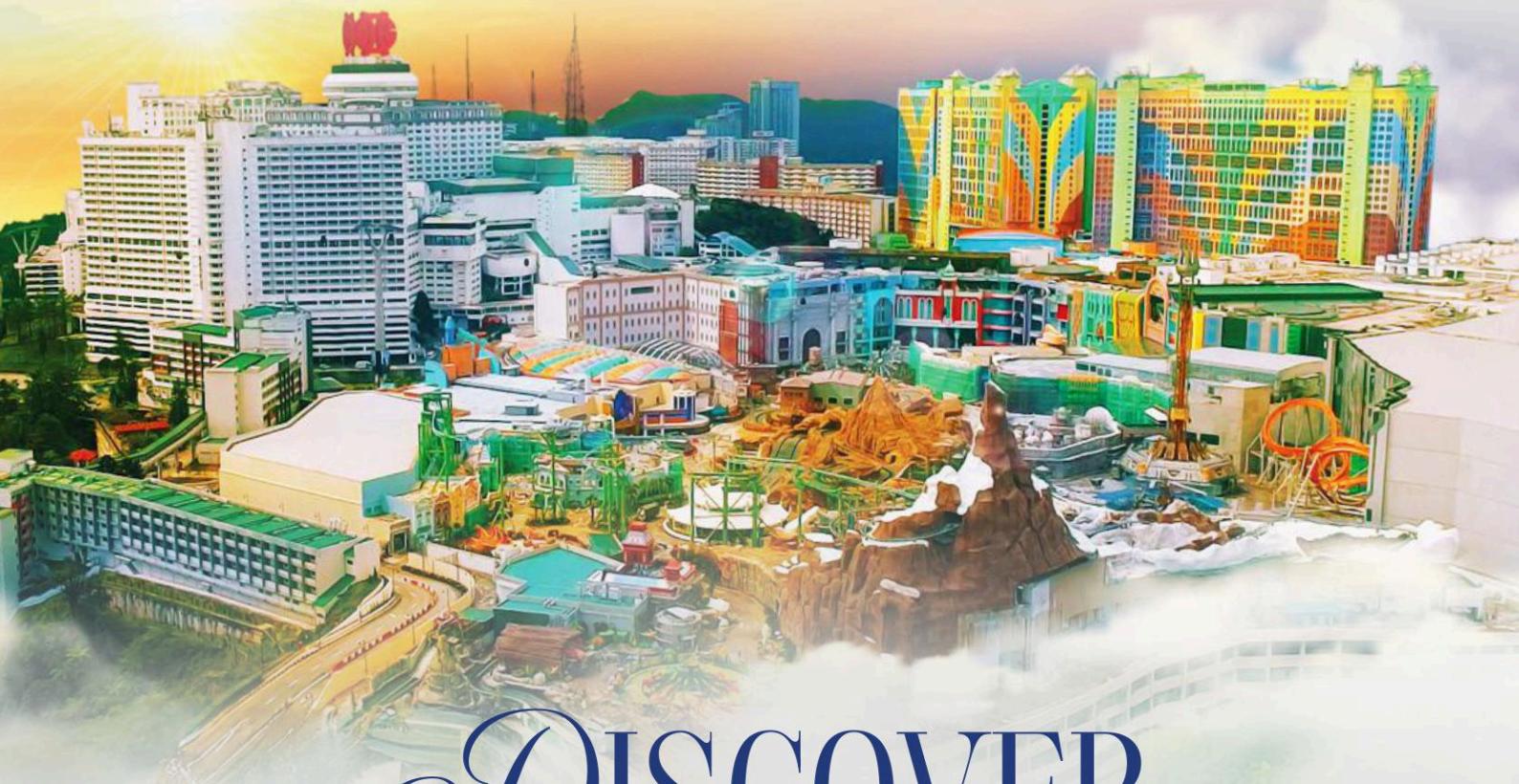
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