

Press Release:

Rotary Club of Raffles City 30th Anniversary Dinner

Rotary in an integrated Singapore

The Rotary movement started in Chicago, Illinois way back in 1905. Since then this service organization has grown from strength to strength as an international organization of business and professional persons with a mission of providing humanitarian service fostering goodwill and peace worldwide.

Rotary came to the shores of Singapore in 1930. Since then more than twenty Rotary clubs have been formed with the Rotary Club of Raffles City being chartered on 13 August 1980. Low Sie Joon, who is still active in the club was the Chartered President and the late Christopher Sharp was the Vice-President. The Club's current membership reflects a diversity of culture, religion and nationality typical of a cosmopolitan Singapore.

In today's globalised world, the spirit and values of Rotary remain as relevant as ever. As countries become more open to global flows, the integration process has emerged as a crucial factor in nurturing harmonious societies. Such integration challenges are nowhere more pronounced than in the global city of Singapore where immigrants and skilled workers live cheek by jowl with Singaporeans. Accompanying the undeniable and cultural benefits these foreigners bring to our shores are tensions and insecurities felt by citizens.

The first Rotary Convention was held in Chicago in 1910 and a century later, the Rotary Club of Raffles City celebrates its 30th Anniversary this year on Friday 13th August at The Ballroom, Hilton Hotel at 7pm. The Theme for the evening is "Rotary In An Integrated Singapore". It aims to highlight Rotary's core values of cosmopolitanism and integration. These values have put the club in good stead throughout its history, and the evening's program in keeping with these principles will continue to facilitate the integration process in Singapore.

The entertainment program organized by the club aims to highlight the multilingual and multicultural aspects of Singapore. The Object of Rotary is "Ideal of Service", and the motto is "Service before Self". One of the Four Avenues of Service in Rotary is Community Service. Rotarians undertake to improve the quality of life in their community by providing assistance to youth, the aged and handicapped. With this in mind the Rotary Club of Raffles City has designated the Straits Times Pocket Money Fund and the Dyslexia Association of Singapore which was started as a Community Service project of our club in 1989 to be the recipients of funds raised this evening.