

RCM's 7th for Rotary Year 2019-2020
Thursday, August 15, 2019, 12:00 PM, Manila Elks Club, Corinthian Plaza Building
Paseo de Roxas Avenue, Legaspi Village, Makati City
Officer-In-Charge/ Program Moderator : Rtn Cris Acosta

PROGRAM TIMETABLE

11:30 AM	Registration & Cocktails (WINES courtesy of Centennial Dir. "Bobby" Joseph)	Rtn Cris Acosta OIC/Moderator Pres. Jackie Rodriguez
12:25 PM	Bell to be Rung: Members and Guests are requested to be seated	
12:30 PM	Program Proper	RCM WF Music Chorale Rtn Ray Davis RCM WF Music Chorale All Rotarians
	Call to Order Singing of the Philippine National Anthem Invocator RCM Hymn The Four (4) Way Test Credo	
12:35 PM	Introduction of Guests/Visiting Rotarians/ Personalities Seated at the Presidential Table Welcome Song	Rtn Charles Madson RCM WF Music Chorale
12:40 PM	Aug. 17....PDSAA Val Aboy Aug. 20....Rtn Juan Montel Aug. 22....Rtn Richard Ang, Rtn Deo Villacorta Aug. 28....Rtn Francois Engelbrecht and Aug. 30....PDSAA Tony Montinola Happy Birthday Song	RCM WF Music Chorale
12:45 PM	Presentation of Plaque of Appreciation to Atty. Alfredo C. Lim President and Chief Operating Officer, PAGCOR	Pres. Jackie Rodriguez; IPP Susing Pineda RCM Centennial President RY 2018-2019 Pres. Jackie Rodriguez
12:47 PM	President's Time	
12:52 PM	Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremony for The Rotary Economic and Ecological Stratagem Joint Project of RCM and DENR TREES National Project	Sec. Roy Cimat Dir. Nonito Tamayo, Forest Mgmt. Bureau Pres. Jackie Rodriguez Dir. Raffy Alunan, III National Chairman T.R.E.E.S Dir. Raffy Alunan, III National Chairman, T.R.E.E.S
12:55 PM	Introduction of Guest of Honor and Speaker	
1:00 PM	Address : Hon. Roy A. Cimat Secretary Department of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR)	
	Public Forum	
2:00 PM	Response, Presentation of Token of Appreciation to Sec. Roy Cimat & Meeting Adjournment	Pres. Jackie Rodriguez

Issue No. 3803

August 15, 2019

MENDOZA CONFIRMS SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OVER
WEST PHILIPPINE SEA



GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER



Hon. ROY A. CIMATU

Secretary
Department of Environment
and Natural Resources

KABALITA

After an enlightening analysis on the sovereignty over the West Philippine Sea, it's time to know the environmental conservation and protection programs of the government's foremost Vanguard of the environment and Protector of our natural resources as he makes waves at Asia's First Rotary Club.

www.rcmanila.org



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DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu

A native of Bangui, Ilocos Norte, Secretary Roy A. Cimatu is a graduate of the public school system from the elementary up to high school. Despite this, he graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in the class of 1970.

His eagerness to learn made him attain more scholastic achievements. This includes graduating from the Infantry Officers Advanced Course in the Philippine Army Training Command where he topped the course with a rating of 97.27%, an academic record which remains unsurpassed in the college history. He also graduated from the United States Army Command and Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, USA.

He also furthered his education with a degree in Master in Business Administration from the Ateneo Graduate School of Business. A skilled pilot of a helicopter and a fixed – wing aircraft, he was also a recipient of the Cavalier Award from the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association and a Hall of Fame from the United States Command and General Staff college.

All these academic accolades can be attributed to both his parents who are both teachers by profession.

Being a Second Lieutenant, he was assigned as Company Commander in Patikul, Sulu during the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) attack against the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) under its founding chairman Nur Misuari.

In the 80s, meanwhile, he was sent to Northern Panay as Battalion Commander in Aklan, a place under the heavy influence of the New People's Army (NPA). The vicinity is a

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Official Newsletter of Rotary Club of Manila

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highway of the northern towns, especially in Ibabay, Aklan, which was heavily infested by the NPA. The same highway was a gateway to the present – day Boracay Island, to which his successful efforts to clear the area from threats led to the development of the top tourist destination spot in the country today.

He is also a Brigade Commander in Davao, Cotabato, and Sarangani, where he was promoted as a one – star general after his troops successfully rescued four hostages

kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf in Sarangani. As a Division Commander of the 4th Infantry Division, he lead his troops during the all – out war in Mindanao to capture the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) camps including Camp Abubakar under the Estrada administration in 2000.

His victories in the battlefield eventually led him to earn his second star and be awarded as the Distinguished Conduct Star, the second highest combat award, next only to the Medal of Valor. He then became Southcom Commander based in Zamboanga City as a three-star General.

Secretary Cimatu's ultimate recognition, however, is when he was appointed as the 29th Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in May 2002.

In his career as a civil servant, Cimatu was called again to serve the country when he was named as a Special Presidential Envoy to the Middle East with the rank of Ambassador. At the height of the US-Iraq war, his Middle East Preparedness Committee made sure that no overseas Filipino worker (OFW) was hurt, killed or displaced from employment because of the conflict. He was able to negotiate a successful release of a Filipino hostage named Angelo dela Cruz, who was kidnapped by Iraqi militants in Baghdad, Iraq in 2004. Cimatu received a Presidential Award because of his bravery and perspicacity as a strategist for the triumphant negotiation.

Following dela Cruz's freedom, Cimatu was also involved in the successful release of Filipino seamen held hostage in Somalia. His inherent wisdom and competence as a caretaker of OFWs led him to be reappointed as a Presidential Special Envoy to the Middle East by President Rodrigo Duterte, and joined him recently to the successful visit of Middle East this month.

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Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Today is a very special day. After many attempts, we were able to finally get the most hardworking Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to come and speak to us about his plans and programs. General Cimatu is not only the leading reformer of our previously bad handled ecology and environment program, but, has performed beyond any anticipated expectations. I have personally seen this gentleman in action and he is truly made of heroic material. Today, the Rotary Club of Manila proudly welcomes him and, finally, break bread with us. We join him in the effort, together with Raffy Alunan and Bobby Joseph, in cleaning our waters and greening our land. With nine hundred (900) clubs nationwide, working towards the same goal, we have a great chance to do this successfully. Lead the way, Secretary Cimatu! We are one with you.

Tomorrow is a great day for Rotary, as we begin THE ROTARY NATIONAL FOREST PARK Program with the first one going up in General Tinio. This is a project under the T.R.E.E.S. Program that will help build parks in municipalities nationwide. And towards this end, we are working with Secretary Cimatu and DENR, the LGU's in the area as well as other Rotary clubs.

Next week, we have a Town Hall Meeting. Everybody is looking forward to discussing the club directions, activities, attendance, forthcoming speakers and more. Please don't miss this opportunity to get together with all your fellow Rotarians. A Fellowship blast will follow at the same venue, the Manila Elks Club.

Don't forget the fireside chat with Rtn. Tito Ortiz at the Union Bank Board Room. This is the first in many years, thanks to Archib for reviving this.

Tickets are now on sale for the Battle of the Singing Legends of the Rotary Club of Manila versus the Singing Legends of the Manila Elks Club. Our team has Hermie, Dante, Thad, Oscar, Teddy and whoever can win for us. Our singers are raring to go with the full support from fellow Rotarians. Let us all be present to cheer them to victory. Our cheerleaders, Butch Marking and Jun Follosco have been practicing and will be ready to scalp the invaders.

We are looking for advertisers for the BALITA. We need just a few guys to help defray the high cost of our newsletter. Please help.

Best to all,

Jackie

RCM Members' Attendance Report, RY 2019-2020

Former Solicitor General - Past Director Estelito Mendoza

August 08, 2019

All members present	64				
Less: Exempt from attendance	7				
Total active members	57				
ADD: Make-Up *	2				
TOTAL	59				
Total # of Members	227				
Less: Exempt from attendance	28				
On Leave	12				
Total Active Members (Total Percentage Base)	187				
TOTAL ATTENDANCE %:	32%				
MAKE-UP					
Necrological Service for PT Jim Chua					
1 Ampil, Boy	4	Locsin, Nick	Fajardo, Beda		
Aquino, Armie	5	Lonzaga, Ner	10 Ocampo, Teddy		
Aventura, Nilo	6	Lopa, Tony	Policarpio, Jimmie		
2 Bautista, Jack		Marking, Butch	Policarpio, Rene		
Bediones, Rudy		Ong, Jason	Rodriguez, Jackie		
Follosco, Jun	7	Palacios, Hans	11 Salazar, Jorge		
3 Juico, Francis	8	Pascual, Abe	12 So, Warren		
ATTENDANCE REPORT	9	Pineda, Susing	Villaseñor, Nicky		
List of members and guests in attendance:					
		08,01,2019	08,08,2019		
RCM Members		64	50		
Members' Guests		10	3		
Honorary Members			0		
Club Guests		3	0		
Visiting Rotarians			3		
RC Manila Supreme 198		1	0		
Media			12		
Upsilon Sigma Phi			9		
Total		78	77		



DENGUE 2019

Elias D. Adamos, M.D.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said that the Philippines has the highest deaths from dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) as of August 8, compared to neighboring ASEAN nations, where the mosquito-borne disease has recently increased in incidence. Meanwhile, the National Capital Region, this year, has higher number of dengue cases, more than the average number of cases listed in the past five years (The Manila Times, August 14, 2019). "You're looking at 5,000 plus cases a week additional," Duque told reporters. On August 6, the government has declared a national dengue epidemic because of the dramatic soar in the number of cases.

What is Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF)?

Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever is transmitted via bite by a day-biting mosquito -- *Aedes aegypti*. Person-to-person transmission does not occur. Southeast Asia, including the Philippines, is an identified region in the world where the greatest risk for DHF can occur.

Signs and symptoms pointing to DHF

Fever, dehydration, big lymph nodes, joint pains, skin rash or small spots or dots in the body or extremities (small spots of hemorrhages appearing between two and five days after onset of fever), headache, abdominal pains, and convulsion (in some cases). Nausea and vomiting may be present. Tell your doctor for any signs of bleeding, such as one coming from the nose, bleeding gums, and easily bruised skin that are important signs in DHF and should never be missed out. Symptoms can usually last up to 10 days.

Complications and possible cause of death

The fatal consequence of DHF is bleeding or hemorrhage. Shock brought about by blood loss (hemorrhagic shock) is a known cause of death in DHF.

Treatment

The key to treatment in DHF is early diagnosis or detection for immediate institution of indicated treatment and prevention of complications.

Department of Health's 4S Strategy

1. Search and destroy mosquito breeding places;
2. Self-protection measures should be adopted in the form of insect repellent and protective clothing (long sleeves and long pants);
3. Seek early consultation on the first signs of the disease; and
4. Say yes to "fogging" if there is an impending outbreak.

On Dengvaxia: I did a little research on the Dengue vaccine and I found out that research for its use and applicability started in 1929. Sanofi is a well-refuted research pharmaceutical company. It's time for us to put up a fight against DHF! "The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling but in rising every time we fall (Nelson Mandela)."



MENDOZA CONFIRMS SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OVER WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

by SDG/Club Secretary/Dir. Albert S. Alday

Former Solicitor General and Former Minister of Justice Estelito Mendoza, a Past Director of the Rotary Club of Manila, categorically affirmed President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's pronouncements during his Fourth (4th) State of the Nation Address that "THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA IS OURS...NO IF'S AND BUT'S", last August 8, 2019 when he was Guest Speaker at the Joint Meeting of the Rotary Club of Manila and Upsilon Sigma Phi. After giving a historical rundown of how the definition of our National Territory in the 1987 Constitution came about in relation to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, he proceeded to discuss in detail how Republic Act No. 9522 which declared sovereignty and jurisdiction over the Kalayaan Islands and Bajo de Masinloc affected our sovereign rights over the West Philippine Sea. According to Mendoza, China has only taken exception over these two groups of islands. However, he noted that China did not question our sovereign rights over the other areas of the West Philippine Sea. This was patent in his speech when Mendoza quipped:

"When on April 13, 2009, the People's Republic of China in a "Note" submitted to the Secretary General of the United Nations in regard the enactment of Republic Act No. 9522 took exception only to the inclusion of Bajo de Masinloc and some of the islands and reefs of the Kalayaan Island Group as within our sovereignty and jurisdiction notwithstanding that they have been "part of the territory of China since ancient time", NOTHING MORE, China implicitly recognized that the resulting territorial sea, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf from Republic Act No. 9522 which constitute the West Philippine Sea are OURS."



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44	Go, Daniel "Danny" C.	25,000.00
45	Goerlich, Bodo	25,000.00
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48	Guevara, Ricardo "Ricky" S.	25,000.00
49	Hallare Jr., Delfin "Jun" T.	25,000.00
50	Hedeager, Knud	25,000.00
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70	Matschuck, Guenter "Gunter" G.	25,000.00
71	Mendoza, Estelito "Titong" P.	25,000.00
72	Montecillo, Daniel Gabriel "Dennis"	25,000.00
73	Montinola, Antonio "Tony" J.	24,500.00
74	Mueller, Klaus	25,000.00
75	Nakatsuka, Hiroki	24,500.00
76	Nones, Romeo "Romy" C.	25,000.00
77	Nunez Jr., Jose "Pepo" A.	25,000.00
78	Ong, Jason L.	25,000.00
79	Ong, Phillip "Phil" L.	25,000.00
80	Pagdanganan, Roberto "Obet" M.	25,000.00



RCM Champion Pres. Jackie Rodriguez and Upsilon Sigma Phi Fraternity Alumni Association Pres. Martin Romualdez, alternately, call the joint meeting to order.



Rtn. Ricky Guevara as OIC/Program Moderator, calls the sequence of the program of activities. Rtn. Thad Liamzon delivers an ecumenical invocation. PP Archib Bartolome, III leads fellow Rotarians in renewing its commitment to the Rotary Movement by reciting the Four (4) Way Test. Rtn. Jeric Jucaban introduces the guests, visiting Rotarians and personalities seated at the presidential table.



RCM Pres. Jackie Rodriguez and Upsilon Sigma Phi Alumni Association Pres. Martin Romualdez take their turns in announcing activities during the "President's Time."

Dir. Caloy Reyes does the honor, privilege and pleasure of introducing a fellow RCMer and fraternity brod, Atty. Estelito "Titong" P. Mendoza, E.P. Mendoza Law Office, Former Solicitor General, Republic of the Philippines, Past Director, Rotary Club of Manila, RY 1978-1981, as Guest Speaker.



PD/Atty. Estelito "Titong" P. Mendoza shared before his fellow Rotarians and guests, his thoughts on the subject of "Sovereign Rights of the Philippines over the West Philippine Seas", as a prelude to China's affirmation of President Duterte's declaration that the "The West Philippine Sea is Ours...No If's and But's" through its Note to the UN on the enactment of Republic Act No. 9522. An interactive public forum immediately followed right after his speech.



Among members who participated in the public forum were: **Rtn. Tong Payumo**, **PP Jimmie Policarpio**, **PD Beda Fajardo** and **Rtn. Dante Gierran**.

ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA

ANNUAL DUES 19-20

As of August 14, 2019

NO.	NAME	AMOUNT
1	Abastillas, Celso E.	25,000.00
2	Aboy, Valentino "Val" G.	25,000.00
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10	Assad, Joseph	25,000.00
11	Aventura, Avenilo "Nilo" P.	12,500.00
12	Aventura, Jr., Avenilo "Jun" L.	25,000.00
13	Bartolome III, Arsenio "Archit" M.	25,000.00
14	Bediones, Rodolfo "Rudy" P.	25,000.00
15	Bella Jr., Geronimo "Jun" Dela Paz	24,553.57
16	Benitez II, Conrado "Conrad" L.	20,000.00
17	Blanco, Manuel "Manny" M.	25,000.00
18	Bogovich, Jason M.	25,000.00
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23	Chua, Domingo "Doming" T.	25,000.00
24	Coyiuto Jr., Robert "Jun" G.	25,000.00
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26	Cruz, Ramon Jose "Monch" A.	25,000.00
27	Cureg, Alexander "Alex" P.	25,000.00
28	Cutter, John Michael "Michael"	25,000.00
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32	Del Rosario, Oscar	25,000.00
33	Desierto, Aniano "Ani" A.	25,000.00
34	Dominguez III, Carlos "Sonny" G.	25,000.00
35	Dy, Manuel "Manny" C.	25,000.00
36	Eldebs, Issam "Sam"	25,000.00
37	Engelbrecht, Francois	25,000.00
38	Enriquez III, Eduardo "Jujut" V.	24,553.57



Doctors "Nose" Best by PD Dr. John Cenica

A nose job (technically called a rhinoplasty) is surgery on the nose to change its shape or improve its function. It can be done for medical reasons -- such as to correct breathing problems related to the nose or correct disfigurement resulting from trauma or birth defects. It can also be done for cosmetic reasons, which will change the nose's shape and appearance.

Nose job is usually done as an outpatient procedure, meaning there is no overnight stay. You'll get general or local anesthesia. With general anesthesia, you'll sleep through the operation. With local anesthesia, you will be sedated and your nose will be numbed so you are relaxed and unable to feel the pain. During an operation, the surgeon makes an opening within the nostrils. In more difficult cases, the surgeon may also make incision across the base of the nose.

After a nose job, people usually wear a nasal splint for the first week. You can expect swelling and some bruising around the eyes after surgery that will begin to improve after the third day. It can, though, last up to two weeks. Expect your nose to have a little swelling, which probably only you and your surgeon will notice. This will go away over the next six months. The final shape of your nose will be apparent after it has completely healed. You should avoid strenuous activity for three to six weeks after surgery. You may return to your social activities as soon as within two to three weeks without any recognizable signs that you had a procedure done.

FIRESIDE CHAT

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

We are pleased to inform you that we are reviving the FIRESIDE CHAT with the end in view of creating a situation to enrich our Rotary togetherness with one another and at the same time learn from recognized authorities.

The first Fireside chat will be held on August 29, 2019 (Thursday) at 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm at the Union Bank Digital Office, Insular Life Bldg., Ayala/Paseo de Roxas, Makati.
(Also known as The Ark).

This will be done jointly with Rotary Club of Makati West .

Our speaker is Rtn. TITO ORTIZ, Chairman of Union Bank of the Phils and Founder and Chairman of Blockchain Association of the Philippines and Chairman of the Fintech Association of the Philippines.

This is a great opportunity to further learn Digital Banking.

Best regards.

PP Archit Bartolome
Chairman
Fireside Chat

Officer of the Day
Rtn. Jujut Enriquez



Champion Pres. Jackie Rodriguez delivers his response and presents PD Atty. Estelito "Titong" P. Mendoza, the replica of the bell and gavel set as a token of appreciation, which was followed that of Upsilon Sigma Phi Alumni Association **Pres. Martin Romualdez**.

RCM WEEKLY BIRTHDAY CELEBRANT/S



Champion Pres. Jackie Rodriguez presents Rtn. **Mike Guarin**, as a birthday celebrant, the birthday cake, amidst the singing by the RCM WF Music Chorale of the Happy Birthday Song.

YOUR FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

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AUGUST 22
Elks Club

7th Floor, Corinthian Plaza Building, Paseo de Roxas,
Makati, 1231 Metro Manila
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3:00 PM TO 7:00 PM
ROTARY WAY PHP500.00
includes booze + food + free corkage



REMEMBERING JIM...

by AS Rene Policarpio

The passing of an active member is never easy to handle emotionally, especially, if the individual leaves behind a record of 43 years of membership; 41 years of which have records of perfect attendance in club meetings. The person with a gentle spirit and such a presence as PT JIM CHUA will live forever in the hearts of RCMers.

Jim has been a friend, a mentor, an inspiration and a well-spring of knowledge to most of our members, generously sharing with us his 88 years of life experiences and resources.

In his final moments of life, he attended a club meeting and was wheeled out at the end of the meeting on a medical emergency. So much was his dedication to RCM. He was present on what was to be his last club meeting. Another perfect record for attendance. A couple of days after, PDG Rudy Bediones announced that PT Jim has passed away. Today, his seat will remain empty, but, his memory will live forever in the hearts and minds of RCMers.



DSAA Jason Bogovich attended the luncheon meeting of the Rotary Club of Kent last August 13, 2019 in Kent, Ohio, USA where he discussed the T.R.E.E.S. Project with them as the City of Kent in Ohio is known to be the "Tree City" because the headquarters of Davey Tree is located there. He presented the Centennial Book and Bannerette of the Rotary Club of Manila to **President Roger Sidoti**.

NEWSPAPER RELEASE

people&events THE PHILIPPINE STAR **Business B6**
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA
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RCM MOA WITH CITY OF MANILA: Rotary Club of Manila represented by its president Jackie Rodriguez (3rd from right), City of Manila represented by City Mayor Isko Moreno (3rd from left), signed a memorandum of understanding to undertake a national and functional the Rotary ecological and environmental strategem (tree) Planting Program with the City of Manila making it a mission to jointly improve the ecological condition of the city, thereby making it a pilot city in the country, that other cities to might follow. Shown with them at the signing ceremony are (from left) RC Pasay president Joey Ignacio, Raffy Alunan, Bobby Joseph, former city mayor Rtn Fred Lim and Rtn Hans Palacios.

The motto of the Rotaract program is "Fellowship Through Service." This concept is the core of all activities and service projects, and it unites every Rotaract member (Rotaractor) anywhere in the world. In Rotaract, the clubs conduct service projects while building and refining good working relationships with like-minded people. And this is how we establish effective teams within the organization.

In the book "Culture and Organizational Behavior," Sinha (2008) quoted McGregor (1960) on the characteristics of effective teams. Some of these characteristics are: (a) the atmosphere within teams is informal, relaxed, and comfortable getting the members quite involved and interested in the team; (b) the team has lots of free and frank discussions in which all members participate; (c) the task or objective is well understood and owned by the members;

(d) members listen to each other, every idea is given hearing, and members feel comfortable in placing any idea without being afraid of looking stupid; (e) members are free to disagree; (f) criticism is frequent, frank and is taken in good faith.

Perhaps it can be said that it is easier to unite members in a volunteer organization since each individual is drawn to participate in activities because of their shared interests and values. Their collective interest and passion spark good communication among members. And having good communication forms good teams.

However, good teams can be further enriched to become effective teams through fellowships, simple activities that engage and motivate members further. With more engaged and highly motivated members, an effective team is formed, and we are practicing this in Rotaract.

Fellowships can be as simple as sharing meals, going for coffees, unwinding after work, or sharing tasks in service projects. In doing such activities consistently, we build and strengthen relationships in the organization. We become comfortable in working with each other and really expressing our ideas and inputs. Hence, planning and implementing of service projects in the Rotaract Club are more enjoyable and exciting.

Looking back at the characteristics of an effective team, the key to having an effective team is doing fellowships. It is in knowing and understanding the members of the team outside functional tasks that we are able to establish and strengthen good working relationships. And it is in having working relationships that we have collaborative and effective teams.

For anyone who wants to be involved in making communities a better place for everyone or those who want to develop their professional skills, Rotaract is a good avenue to experience all of these and meet like-minded young professionals.

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PP Benny Laguesma, PP Boy Ampil, PD Armie Aquino, PS Jorge Salazar, PP Francis Juico, IPDG Rudy Bediones, PP Jimmie Policarpio and President Jackie Rodriguez delivered their respective eulogies, reminiscing the times they had with the late **PT Jim Chua**, last August 8, 2019 at Chapel 8, La Funeraria Paz in Quezon City.



Manila Rotarians at the necrological services



The late PT Jim Chua's son delivering the response in behalf of the bereaved family.



Manila Rotarians led by President Jackie Rodriguez presented the name badge and a tarpaulin bearing messages from his fellow Manila Rotarians to his bereaved family during the necrological services last August 8, 2019 at Chapel 8, La Funeraria Paz in Quezon City.

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FELLOWSHIP THROUGH SERVICE

posted August 11, 2019 at 07:00 pm

by Karla Patricia Ravida

One of the great ironies of life is this: He or she who serves almost always benefits more than he or she who is served."—Gordon Hinckle

Perhaps when one thinks of volunteer work, a common idea which comes to mind is simply participating in community service or outreach projects such as giving donations to an indigent community or relief goods to a community badly affected by floods or earthquake. And the participation to such project may be in a form of physically handing out the goods or giving monetary donations.

To be involved in such activities is said to be very beneficial. Mark Horoszowski, in his article "Surprising Benefits of Volunteering," mentioned five benefits of volunteering: (1) it makes one feel like they have more time, (2) it develops new skills, (3) it helps the body to be healthier, (4) it helps build the experience and (5) it makes one feel more love. And I want to add that these benefits are better achieved when the involvement in the volunteer organization is consistent.

For the past five years that I have been doing volunteer work with the Rotaract Club of Manila, a socio-civic organization for young professionals, I have gained new skills and went through different experiences in activities such as outreach projects, project management, public speaking and even travel and tours planning. And what keeps me hooked in this organization is its diverse membership, collaborative nature and exciting activities.

Rotaract stands for "Rotary in Action." Established in 1968, it is a program of Rotary International that caters to young students and professionals ages 18-31. The objective of this organization is to bring together young people to exchange ideas with leaders in their community, to develop their leadership and professional skills, and to have fellowship through service. Around the world, there are roughly 10,904 recognized and registered Rotaract Clubs. And these clubs are sponsored by Rotary Clubs.

In each Rotaract Clubs, the members decide how to organize and run the club, to manage their funds, and to plan and implement activities and community service projects through the leadership of elected and appointed officers. Their sponsoring Rotary Clubs provide guidance and support on how to manage the club and facilitate the activities.

The last one is to require students to plant a number of trees prior to getting their diplomas.

The last measure would require a graduating elementary student to plant five trees, a high-school graduate candidate to plant 10 trees, and a graduating college student to plant at least 20 trees.

Rodriguez said he presented these measures to Senate President Vicente C. Sotto III in the 17th Congress and is confident that these would get the approval of the current Congress.

"If there are 4 million graduates a year and they plant at least 20 trees, then that would be 80 million trees in a year. After 10 years that would be 800 million," he said.

"We lack about 3.7 billion trees. We cannot do it in one year or 10 years but we have to start somewhere," he added.
Value of a tree

Rodriguez said the value of one tree goes beyond the value of its fruit. Take for example a mango tree, with its fruit selling at P30 per piece, he added.

Citing expert estimates, he outlined the quantifiable socioeconomic benefits from planting a mango tree: P3 million worth of fruits in a 50-year lifespan; P23,800 worth of captured carbon dioxide annually and P28,200 worth of oxygen produced every year.

"That same tree would also produce P900 worth of fertilizer above ground from dropping leaves. And its roots system would hold 700,000 gallons of water," he said.

"And I if I am going to build a system that would hold the same amount of water for me, it would cost me around P2 million to P3 million," he added.

A mango tree has more economic benefits which are unquantifiable such as the fertilizer it produces underground, Rodriguez said.

"We always have two choices when we eat a mango: either we throw the seed away or plant it," he added. "I will have all those benefits in five years' time after planting one seed."

Rodriguez said he presented the same breakdown of benefits from a single tree to Sotto, who was left in a state of awe afterward.
Programs

Through RCM's The Rotary Economic and Ecological Stratagem (TREES), Rotarians are planting trees and advocating the activity not only nationwide but also globally. TREES is Rodriguez's brainchild program.

Aside from TREES, the RCM is also kick-starting this August its forest park project (FPP) that seeks to build a forest park in every town nationwide. The project will be launched in General Tinio, Nueva Ecija, some time this month.



IPDG Rudy Bediones, President Jackie Rodriguez and Rtn. Hans Palacios attended the **36th Anniversary and 37th Handover Ceremonies** of the Rotary Club of Manila San Miguel last August 8, 2019 at the Gloria Maris Shark's Finn Restaurant in Greenhills, San Juan City.



SDG/Club Secretary/Dir. Albert Alday and President Jackie Rodriguez attended the Second (2nd) Area Meeting of Rotary District 3810 last August 12, 2019 at the Golden Ballroom of OKADA MANILA in Parañaque City.



SDG/Club Secretary/Dir. Albert Alday in his capacity as Editor-in-Chief of the Governor's Monthly Letter (GML) held a meeting of his Editorial Board last August 12, 2019 at the Kiyapo Restaurant in OKADA MANILA, Parañaque City to reiterate the tasks of the various members of the board.



SDG/Club Secretary/Dir. Albert Alday spoke during the Second (2nd) Area Meeting last August 12, 2019 at the Golden Ballroom of OKADA Manila in Parañaque City on the Guidelines for the Governor's Monthly Letter (GML) in his capacity as Editor-in-Chief.



SDG/Club Sec./Dir. Albert Alday attended the **District 3810 Executive Committee (EXECOM) Meeting** last August 12, 2019 at OKADA MANILA in Parañaque City.



Dir. Bobby Joseph attended the **41st Annual Induction Ceremonies** of the Rotary Club of Metro Cebu last August 10, 2019 at the Seda Hotel in Cebu City.



A poem lovely as a tree

A visionary Rotarian lends a modern spin to Kilm-er's tribute to the tree, sharing its mind-boggling benefits—and why re-greening the country is a most urgent task.

By Jasper Y. Arcalas - August 11, 2019



AFTER winning the war on polio, the Rotary Club of Manila (RCM) is eyeing to win the battle against deforestation.

And, RCM plans to do this by pushing for legislative measures to raise awareness and mandate young Filipinos to plant trees in order to "re-green" the country, which has lost as many as 3.7 billion trees.



"We will be moving toward re-greening the country. And the initial strategy is the creation of laws and creation of awareness and consciousness [among Filipinos]," RCM President Joaquin "Jack" Rodriguez told the BusinessMirror in a recent interview.

"The widespread tree planting will come out automatically when the correct laws are in place," Rodriguez added.

Rodriguez explained that they are pushing for four legislative measures related to re-greening the country in the current 18th Congress.

One is providing a P100 incentive for every tree that a Filipino will plant anywhere in the Philippines. This measure, Rodriguez pointed out, would entice Filipinos, especially the so-called tambay (idle folk), to earn extra money.

Another measure is the mandatory teaching of ecology and environment in the fifth grade.

The third measure is requiring every single barangay nationwide to dedicate at least 10 square meters of land to become a seedling bank.