

Official Newsletter of
Rotary Club of Manila

balita

ISSUE NO. 3970 | JULY 13, 2023

GUEST SPEAKER



FELINO "JUN" PALAFOX, JR.

Principal Architect-Urban Planner and Founder, Palafox Associates
President and Founder, Palafox Architecture Group, Inc.
APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) Architect

Kabalita

Taking a closer look at Vision 2050 for our country is a perfect way to kickstart a Rotary year that is meant to create and propagate HOPE around the world. For truly, how do we nudge our minds to the sunny side if not accompanied with a positive vision and vivacious expectation of what is to come? How do we paint a scintillating future without a canvass of hope? And how do we create hope if not through vision and action? In fine, hope, to be created and infectiously spread around the world, must be sprinkled with an audacity to dream, resoluteness to act, and unrelenting faith in one's ability to transform such vision into reality.



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Board of Directors and Executive Officers for
RY 2023-2024 | Editorial Board for RY 2023-2024

PROGRAM TIMETABLE

2nd Weekly Membership Meeting

Rotary Year 2022-2023

Thursday, July 13, 2023, 12:30 PM

MANILA POLO CLUB

MODERATOR: RTN. RAMI CHAHWAN

Part I

12:00 PM	Registration	
12:30 PM	Call to Order	PRESIDENT RAFAEL M. ALUNAN III
	Invocation and Special Prayers	PAS HENRY GO
	Philippine National Anthem	AVP of RCM Members
	The Four-Way Test	RTN. JOHN TAN
	Manila Rotary Hymn	RCM WF Music Chorale
	Acknowledgment of Guests	
	Welcome Song	RCM WF Music Chorale
	<u>RC Manila Birthday Celebrants for the week</u>	
	July 9	RTN. BOBBY BHALLA
	July 10	RTN. INGMAR BERTELSEN
	July 13	RTN. JOEL VALDES
	MALIGAYANG BATI/HAPPY BIRTHDAY SONG	RCM WF Music Chorale
	PRESIDENT'S TIME	PRESIDENT RAFAEL M. ALUNAN III

2nd Weekly Membership Meeting

PART II INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER

RTN. WARREN SO

Address

ARCHITECT FELINO "Jun" PALAFOX, JR.

Principal Architect-Urban Planner and Founder, Palafox Associates

President and Founder, Palafox Architecture Group, Inc.

APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) Architect

TOPIC: VISION 2050: THE PHILIPPINES, A FIRST WORLD ECONOMY

OPEN FORUM

PRESENTATION OF THE CERTIFICATE
OF APPRECIATION

PRESIDENT RAFAEL M. ALUNAN III
PP & DGE JOAQUIN C. RODRIGUEZ, SR.
Programs Committee Chairman

2:00 PM **Closing Remarks and
Meeting Adjournment**

PRESIDENT RAFAEL M. ALUNAN III

Philippine Rotary Hymn

RCM WF Music Chorale



VISION 2050: THE PHILIPPINES, A FIRST-WORLD ECONOMY

GUEST SPEAKER'S PROFILE



FELINO "JUN" PALAFOX, JR.

Principal Architect-Urban Planner and Founder, Palafox Associates
President and Founder, Palafox Architecture Group, Inc.
APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) Architect

EXPERIENCE:

- 51 years of experience in architecture;
- and 49 years in planning
- in 40 countries
- was name-hired as Architect-Urban Planner, Senior Town Planner and also the first Filipino and the only Southeast Asian architect-urban expert for the planning of Dubai

LECTURES IN:

- More than 20 countries

VISITED AND OBSERVED:

- More than 1,000 cities in 72 countries across the 7 territories

led Palafox Associates and Palafox Architecture group to carry out,

- more than 1,800 projects in 40 countries;
- design and architecture of more than 20 million square meters of building floor area;
- the planning of more than 51 billion square meters of land.

more than 200 awards and recognitions, including

- six conferred doctorates, Honoris Causa
- UAP Dubai Design Awards' Global Filipino Architect First Lifetime Achievement Award (Dubai, UAE; June 2023);
- 48 Heroes of Philanthropy in Asia (Forbes Asia Magazine);
- Gusi Peace Prize 2011 Laureate for Architecture Excellence and International Urban Planning
- November 2017, three Top Outstanding Filipinos for the field of Architecture (JCI Senate);
- November 2018, Best Book on Professions for "The Philippines Towards Resilient Cities and Communities" in the 37th National Book Awards;
- 2019 Outstanding Professional of the year in the field of Environmental Planning (Professional Regulatory Commission)
- Palafox being the first Filipino architectural firm in the Top 500, 300, 200, 100 Architectural Firms in the World (London-based World Architecture Magazine);

GUEST SPEAKER'S PROFILE

- only Southeast Asian architectural firm in the Top 100 Largest Practices in the world;
- 2012, and the 8th in the World for Leisure Market Sector,
- first to be ISO-certified in
 - architecture,
 - urban planning,
 - landscape architecture, and
 - interior design
- and among the first firms to be ISO-certified in engineering and project management

EDUCATION:

- Harvard University;
- University of the Philippines;
- University of Santo Tomas;
- SVD Christ the King Seminary.

ORGANIZATIONS:

Active member of international and national organizations including

- Fellow, Member Emeritus of the United Architects of the Philippines;
- Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) Vice President for Trade Mission
- PCCI Director for Environment, Climate Change, Infrastructure, and Construction;
- Fellow, Regional Leader, and Regional Representative of the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (Chicago, IL, U.S.A.);
- Member, Urban Land Institute (Washington, D.C., U.S.A.);
- Member, Chicago Architecture Foundation (Chicago, IL, U.S.A.);
- International Associate, American Institute of Architects (San Francisco, U.S.A.);
- American Planning Association (Chicago, IL, U.S.A.);
- Member of the US Green Building Council;
- Member of the Harvard Alumni Association (Cambridge, MA, U.S.A.);
- Member of the German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (GPCCI Philippines);
- Chairman of the Environment and Urban Development Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines;
- Member, International Council of Shopping Centers (New York, U.S.A.);
- Governor, Global Peace Association-Philippines;
- Trustee of Philippine Business for the Environment and Swiss Input.
- Past Chairman and President of the National Real Estate Association;
- Past President of the FIABCI International Real Estate Federation;
- Past President of the Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners;
- Past President, past Governor, and Life member of the Management Association of the Philippines;
- Past President/Chairman of FIABCI Philippines;
- Governor and Past Trustee of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines

Architect Jun Palafox is a renowned global architect, urban planner, environmental planner, lecturer, speaker, thought leader, and author.

EDITOR'S NOTE

OUR YOUTH. OUR HOPE. "The Youth is the hope of our future." Who will ever forget this timeless quote from our National hero, Dr. Jose Rizal? Indeed, even to our generation today, this still has an unmitigated impact and relevance. Rotary International, too, know this to be true as it is has in fact included youth service among its areas of focus.

As we begin our collective journey in this hope-creating year, programs that prioritizes, protects and promotes the welfare of young adults and youth around the world should be highlighted. After all, our youngsters are the future and hope of the world. Some reports indicate that there are about 1.7 billion young people, accounting for 25 % of the global population. They may account for only 25% today, but they are 100% of the world's future.

The history of Rotary's work with young people dates to the 1920s, when many clubs took part in an international event known as Boys' Week. The first Boys' Week was held in New York City in May 1920 by the Rotary Club of New York and other local groups. The event was part of an effort to promote youth development in education, citizenship, health and hygiene, and vocation. Rotary's involvement in Boys' Week and also eventually in Girls' Week spanned decades. But even after it ceased to sponsor these events, Rotary's involvement in youth-related programs continued with more vigor in the decades that followed. Eventually, in 2010, Youth Service became Rotary's fifth Avenue of Service, which is truly a multi-faceted avenue with many opportunities to serve, change lives, and create hope.



Raoul C. Creencia
Editor-in-Chief, balita

Rotarians recognize the positive change that young people bring about through leadership development activities, community and international service projects, and exchange programs that enrich and foster world peace and cultural understanding. This is manifested by numerous laudable programs that focus on youth and developing future leaders and Rotarians – programs such as Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), Rotary Youth Exchange, New Generations Service Exchange, and Rotary Scholarships. Rotary also has two additional club types that are focused on developing youth: Interact Clubs, which are for youth ages 12-18, and Rotaract Clubs, which are for young adults ages 18-30.

Each year, Rotary connects thousands of young people to a global network of people of action. As members of Interact clubs, they learn about "Service Above Self" and

EDITOR'S NOTE

make a difference in communities at home and abroad. At RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) weekends, they learn skills that help them succeed as community leaders and in life. And students on a Rotary Youth Exchange, whether a Long-Term year-long program or a Short-Term experience lasting four to eight weeks, learn a new language, discover another culture, and truly become global citizens. In a worldwide scale, about 500,000 young people participate in Rotary Youth Service programs every year.

With this active interaction with the youth and young adults, Rotary International has adopted a policy of ensuring the protection of these youngsters. In this regard, Rotary's *Statement of Conduct for Working with Youth* is unequivocal, thus: "Rotary International strives to create and maintain a safe environment for all youth who participate in Rotary activities. To the best of their ability, Rotarians, Rotarians' spouses and partners, and other volunteers must safeguard the children and young people with whom they come into contact and protect them from physical, sexual, and psychological abuse."

Rotary's above-quoted statement of conduct shows the resolve to: a) demonstrate Rotary's commitment to youth; b) prevent incidents of abuse or mitigate their effects; c) protect the long-term viability of youth programs; and d) strengthen the trust of participants and their families.

As we all strive to fulfill our mission to create hope in the world, let us vigilantly protect the hope of our future, our youth and young adults, especially those who look up to us as role-models and mentors. Let us constantly be reminded of the slogan coined by the Rotary International Board of Directors in 1949: "Every Rotarian an Example to Youth."



PRESIDENT RAFFY ALUNAN'S INDUCTION SPEECH

Greetings: In the interest of time, I will dispense with protocol considering that everyone that needed to be acknowledged have been flashed on the screen and their names called out.

A pleasant good afternoon!

In behalf of our Board of Directors and Officers, may I first thank with all my heart all of you who came today to join us in our induction ceremony, in particular:

- Our special guests with speaking parts – Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Midas Marquez; former Rotary International Directors Guiller Tumangan and Raffy Garcia; and newly installed District Governor Lilian de la Cruz;
- Our landlord and sponsor, Mr. Willie Ocier, Chair of Belle Resources (our eternal thanks to you Willie for enabling us with your gracious magnanimity to hold our induction in the COD);
- Our Immediate Past President who has set for us a high bar of performance, Hermie Esguerra, and his commander-in-chief, the equally accomplished Immediate Past Governor of District 3810, Joyce Ambray;
- The indefatigable induction Chairman, VP Reggie Yu and Director Mike Albaña, who handled the entire process with aplomb like the professionals that they are in their respective fields.
- Those superlatives also apply to Ms. Ina Garcia, Banquet Director and COD's hospitality team; Red Rod Productions; our valuable outsourced technical crew and service providers;
- Our generous donors and benefactors, including our members who funded our souvenir program;
- Our printer and good friend, Mr. Sol Yuyitung, whose patience and dexterous handling of last minute changes deserves a two thumbs up;
- District officers, especially SDG Gary Pua and District Exec Sec Marni Sy;
- My fellow Hope Creating Presidents;
- Our brothers and sisters from Rotary Club of Hong Kong Kowloon East led by its President Chung Wai Keung;
- Members of the Council of Past Presidents of RCM;
- and last, but certainly not least, our Secretariat headed by Ms Anna Kun Toledo who I teasingly consider as RCM's de facto President for life.



PRESIDENT RAFFY ALUNAN'S INDUCTION SPEECH

Secondly, may I express my deep gratitude to the 275 VIPs in the room, that's all of you, from here and abroad, Rotarians and non-Rotarians alike, for spending some of your precious time with us.

I'm personally connected to each of you and the organizations you lead or represent, one way or the other, past and present.

With your kind indulgence, I'd like to out single some of them with all due respect to those whose names I want to call out but won't be able to due to time constraints.

- DoTr Secretary Jaime Bautista; [DND Secretary Gilbert Teodoro];
- [Ambassador of the Philippines to the USA Jose Romualdez; Ambassador of the Philippines to the PROC Jaime Flor Cruz;]
- Philippine Red Cross Chairman Richard Gordon
- Ramon Magsaysay awardees Antonio Oposa and Sister Eva Fidela Maamo
- Hong Sung Chon, founder of the Philippine Taekwondo Association and former Chairman of Kukkiwon, the official governing body for taekwondo
- Philippine Sports Commission Chairman Richard Bachmann
- Philippine Council for Foreign Relations Chair Ambassador Jaime Bautista and President Alejandro Flores;
- HKSAAPI Chairman Dr. Noel Leyco;
- Mr. Oscar Reyes, Chairman of Pepsi-Cola Products Philippines
- MAP President Benedicta du-Baladad
- Chairman and CEO of The Manila Times Dante "Klink" Ang II
- General Jose Magno (representing the the Special Forces and Scout Rangers community of the Philippine Army)
- Commanding General of the Philippine Army Lt. General
- General Avelino Razon, President of the PMA Marangal Class of 1974, and representing the Philippine National Police community, particularly the Special Action Force.
- PP Danilo Abinoja, President of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, himself a Mistah of PMA Class '74

May I especially acknowledge the love of my life - my wife, my love, my queen Elizabeth; my children present here today - Katrina Gonzalez, Barni Escaler, Rafa and Amina Alunan and Alexi Sarmiento, and two of my precious grandchildren, Paulina Gatmaitan and Elisa Sarmiento.

I will now proceed with my speech in faithful obedience to my wife's instruction to keep it short and simple.... after that long prologue.

PRESIDENT RAFFY ALUNAN'S INDUCTION SPEECH

Lao Tzu, China's most revered ancient philosopher, and author of "The Way of Virtue", said:

"New beginnings are often disguised as painful endings."

Indeed, **while every sunset is an opportunity to reset, every sunrise begins with new eyes.**

As we start a new Rotary year, we must turn over that proverbial new leaf and trust the magic of new beginnings.

While we had our fair share of ups and downs, tensions and friction, which is normal in any organization composed of imperfect humans, our Club ended RY 2022-2023 on a high note with many outstanding achievements worthy of emulation.

Credit goes to IPP Hermie Esguerra with his record-setting performance that brought glory and recognition to RCM and District 3810 under PDG Joyce Ambray; and our hard-working members and committee chairs whose passion for service and fellowship stimulated the Club.

Save for a couple of changes, the same Board of Directors and Officers will continue to serve in RY 2023-2024, ready to regroup and reboot to deal with the ebb and flow of change.

A new chapter in RCM's life is waiting to be written – new questions to be asked, new people to welcome, new challenges to take on, new initiatives to be embraced, and above all, fresh opportunities to rediscover our brotherhood in loving fellowship.

I took the oath to serve the Club as Primus Inter Pares of this year's Board of Directors and Officers. Older, wiser and fortified by our previous year's extraordinary journey, we will focus our energies this year to CREATE HOPE IN OUR CORNER OF THE WORLD.

We will endeavor to work selflessly, enrich our relationships and extend our reach to those who believe that life does get better by change, and not by chance.

My fellow directors and I look forward to opening new doors and charting new pathways with the full support of our officers, committees and illustrious membership. You'll be the wind beneath our wings.

How do we proceed to create hope? I refer you to French philosopher Gustav Le Bon who said:
"The only religion of mankind is, and always has, been hope."

Hope is the moral value that enables us to believe in the good of humanity, even when we ourselves have been hurt. Hope enables us to be generous, kind and giving to others.

PRESIDENT RAFFY ALUNAN'S INDUCTION SPEECH

Hope must begin with us, fueled by a vision to produce outcomes that make life better for all the lives we touch. Hope creators don't wish, nor wait, for things to happen – they have a concrete plan and the means to make it happen: willpower, know-how and follow-through.

Hope helps people cope better with stressful times and adapt better to serious personal challenges. There's so much we can do to bring hope to persons with disabilities, special children, and those hanging on to dear life as they risk all to survive their daily nightmares.

Newly installed Rotary International President Gordon McNally said this: "Peace is the soil where hope takes root." He's rallying Rotarians worldwide to promote peace, help the afflicted and sustain initiatives. The end-goal is lasting change for a better life – in diversity, equity, inclusion and justice for all.

For lasting change to take root, we must be the change we'd like to see in others – in our families, the youth, our communities, the nation and, most of all, in the world. We serve selflessly by giving and not wanting anything in return.

Martin Luther King asked the essential question: "What are you doing for others?" John F. Kennedy expressed it differently: "Ask not what the country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." Along with RI President McNally's rallying cry, theirs is a collective call to action to create hope in the world.

Hope is ethical. It is a moral virtue embraced by those who strive to make the right choices, protect the common good, promote good behavior and avoid harm. They possess optimistic minds focused on positive outcomes. They energize that desire with anticipation.

We Rotarians have no better nonpartisan, nonsectarian ethical guide than our **4-Way Test** of the things we think, say and do. It's for us to use in weaving a tapestry of personal and professional relationships, using as our springboard the **Five Avenues of Service** at home and abroad:

- **Club Service** to strengthen the Club anchored by caring relationships and an active membership development plan.
- **Vocational Service** that calls on every Rotarian to work with integrity and to selflessly offer their time, skills and resources for the betterment of society.
- **Community Service** encourages every Rotarian to find new ways of improving the quality of life of their Club's stakeholders.
- **International Service** exemplifies Rotary's global reach in promoting peace and understanding through volunteerism, social projects and network building.

PRESIDENT RAFFY ALUNAN'S INDUCTION SPEECH

- **Youth Service** recognizes the importance of empowering the youth and young professionals through leadership development programs such as Interact, Rotaract, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and the Rotary Youth Exchange.

And there's **Rotary's 7 Areas of Focus** for which grants can be obtained. These areas reflect critical humanitarian issues and needs worldwide, over and above Rotary's iconic global campaign to eradicate polio that it rolled out in the Philippines in 1979. These are:

- Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution
- Disease Prevention and Treatment
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Maternal and Child Health
- Basic Education and Literacy
- Community Economic Development
- Environment

At this juncture, let me float a life-saving project that I believe we must champion, with Governor Lai's full endorsement and support, in partnership with the Management Association of the Philippines and other socially responsible organizations. This is **"The campaign against Malnutrition and Child Stunting"**.

There are lives to be rescued and they are in the millions. There are over 3-million undernourished children that have yet to be served, most especially, those within the first 1,000 days of their fragile lives.

"The campaign against Malnutrition and Child Stunting" intersects with several of Rotary's Areas of Focus such as Maternal and Child Care; Disease Prevention and Treatment; and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.

There are other potential synergies that can be explored. For example, we could raise funds by obtaining a Rotary grant, muster the Rotary Community here and abroad, and obtain the buy-in of philanthropists and socially-conscious entities searching for a worthy enduring project.

We could also help build awareness through mass and social media and medical missions, about the benefits of nutrition and the consequences of malnutrition, for the education of society's uninformed sectors.

Ending malnutrition will give hope to many families and communities living in desperation and dejection. And it will give our country a fighting chance to raise the level of its functional knowledge, productive energies, and confidence to build a bright future.

PRESIDENT RAFFY ALUNAN'S INDUCTION SPEECH

Apart from malnutrition, at least 1 in every 100 Filipinos has an autism spectrum disorder. Worse, depressive symptoms and PTSD afflict untold millions of Filipinos. They have no inner peace, no peace of mind, nor peace of the soul. They, too, need all the help they can get.

My family also has its share of medical health issues. They have no one to turn to. The handful of therapists, psychologists and psychiatrists needed by countless Filipinos are being lured to foreign shores.

So, we cope and adapt. We shower them with love as they return it in kind their own way. Love begets love. It binds us firmly together as we find ways and means to give them hope.

Creating hope springs from a deep reservoir of love. As Jesus Christ counseled: "Love thy neighbor as thyself." Indeed, without love, we won't be able to deliver and sustain selfless service to others.

After all love is a biological necessity. We can't live without it. Love starts here in our 242-member strong Club, the first in Asia. Many clubs see us as their beacon on the hill. They look to us for leadership by example.

And so with that, may I ask District Governor-Elect Jackie Rodriguez and Immediate Past President Hermie Esguerra to please rise and stand alongside each other, followed by every Rotarian in this room who I implore to also rise.

Please turn to the Rotarian beside you. Now, place your hand on each other's shoulder (one shoulder will do, not too close to each other, to avoid misinterpretation or incrimination). Look each other in the eye with a loving smile, and repeat solemnly after me:

"We are Rotarians. We will live by the tenets of the 4-Way test. We will care, share and dare for each other. We will act in the spirit of unity, solidarity and teamwork. We will strive to reform, perform and transform for the common good. Our love springs forth from the love that we have for each other and humanity nothing more, nothing less. So help us God."

You may now embrace each other without purpose of evasion or invasion and give yourselves, according to Erap, a standing ovulation!

Please pray for our success and fulfillment as we will pray for yours. God bless the Rotary Club of Manila, District 3810, Rotary International and the Republic of the Philippines! God bless you all, and thank you for everything.

INAUGURAL MEETING: A RECAP

July 6, 2023



From left: Mr. Nick Sotelo, Lt. Gen. Edgard Arevalo, AFP (Ret.), and Col. Rannie Sevilla



From left: Mr. Nick Sotelo, Pres. Raffy Alunan, Atty. Tony Oposa, and Col. Rannie Sevilla



From left: **Lt. Gen. Edgard Arevalo, SFP (Ret.), Mr. Dante "Klink" Ang, III** (Chairman, Manila Times), **Mr. Alejandro Flores** (President, Philippine Council for Foreign Relations)



From left: **Major Gen. Jose Magno, AFP (Ret.)**, Vice Chair of Citra Metro Tollways Corporation; **Major Gen. Ruben Carandang AFP (Ret.)**, **Col. Rannie Sevilla**, and **Capt. Astrolito Romulo C. del Castillo**



From left: **AKS Bing Carrion**, **Pres. Raffy Alunan**, **PP Kily Aguilar**, and **FL Sharon Bediones**



From left: **Lt. Gen Edgard Arevalo (Ret.)**, **Pres. Raffy Alunan**, and **Mr. Klink Ang**



Rotaract Club of Dela Salle and Rotaract Club of Manila with **VP Reggie Yu** and **IPP Hermie Esguerra**



From left: **PDG Rudy Bediones**, **VP Reggie Yu**, **Pres. Raffy Alunan**, **IPP Hermie Esguerra**, and **Lt. Gen. Edgard Arevalo AFP (Ret.)**



From left: **PDG Alex Cureg**, **Pres. Raffy Alunan**, **AKS Bing Carrion**, and **Atty. Mylene Creencia** (spouse of BLA Raoul Creencia)



From left: **Dir. Jujut Enriquez**, **Dir. Albert Alday** and **PP Archit Bartolome**







From left: **Star Rtn. Edgard Cabangon**, **Pres. Raffy Alunan**, **DGE Jackie Rodriguez**, **DOTr Sec. Jaime Bautista**, **PDSAA Bollie Bolton**, **PDG Jimmy Cura**, and **Mr. Klink Ang**

From left: **DGE Jackie Rodriguez**, **PD Alvin Lacambacal**, **DOTr Sec. Jaime Bautista**, former committee chair and co-chair of Save Pasig River Committee **PD Beda Fajardo** and **Atty. Tony Oposa** (former member)



From left: **PP Chito Zaldarriaga**, **Rtn. Caloy Serapio**, **PLM Pres. Emmanuel Leyco**, **PAS Henry Go**, **Rtn Anton Mauricio**, **STAR Rtn. Edgard Cabangon**, and **Rtn. Inov Talusan**



RCM members (clockwise): **Rtn. Nico Valencia, Rtn Raul Canon, Rtn. Marius Angara, Rtn. Che Soler, Ms. Irish Orbe, Rtn. Juan Montel and PAS Joel Valdes**



(Clockwise) **PP Naomie Lachica, Dra. Dulce Gust** (spouse of the late PP Gert Gust), **PP Chito Zaldarriaga, Rtn. Caloy Serapio, PLM Pres. Emmanuel Leyco, PAS Henry Go, STAR Rtn. Edgard Cabangon, and Ms. Sharon Tan**



From left: **Pres. Raffy Alunan**, **Supreme Court Associate Justice Midas Marquez**, **RC Makati Past President Arch. Jun Palafox**, **IPP Hermie Esguerra** and **PRID Guillen Tumangan**



PDG Edmond Aguilar and
IPDG Joyce Ambray



PDG Ernie and **FL Celene Choa**



PDG Vince Carlos, **PDG Danny Yu**, **PDG Paco Atayde**
and **PDG Josie Ang**



Family of **Pres. Raffy Alunan**



Pres. Raffy and Mrs. Elizabeth Jalbuena Alunan with Mr. George Go (FG of PDG Rosie Go)



Pres. Raffy and Mrs. Elizabeth Jalbuena Alunan with Dr. Sharon Reyes - President, Alejandro Medical Clinic (left) and **Sr. Eva Fidela Maamo** (Ramon Magsaysay Awardee)





Pres. Raffy Alunan introducing **Supreme Court Associate Justice Midas Marquez** to **Spouse Elizabeth Jalbuena Alunan**



Pres Raffy Alunan introducing **IPP Hermie Esguerra** to **Spouse Elizabeth Jalbuena Alunan**



From left: **DAD Joseph Uyching**, **FG Johnny Elorde**, **PDG Liza Elorde**, **IPDG Joyce Ambray**, **SDG Ken Khoo**, **PIP John Sy**, and **CGA Kerwin Ferrer**



From left: **Internal Auditor Nick Locsin**, **FG Johnny Elorde**, **IPDG Joyce Ambray**, **FL Sharon Bediones**, and **PDG Rudy Bediones**

Rotary Club of Kowloon East at the 104th Handover and Induction Ceremonies of Rotary Club of Manila



Rotary Club of Manila's sister club for over three decades, The Rotary Club of Kowloon East, attended the 104th handover ceremonies.

Rotary Club of Kowloon East was represented by **Pres. Chung Wai Keung**, **IPP Mo Wai Kei**, **PE Chan Sing Hung**, **PDG Peter Wong Shiu Hoi**, **PP Albert Poon Sui Cheong** and **PP David Yau Yuk Ming**.

With the RCKE delegation are **IPDG Joyce Ambray**, **IPP Hermie Esguerra**, **Pres. Raffy Alunan** and **PRID Raffy Garcia**





From left: **PDG Rudy Bediones**, **PRID Raffy Garcia**, **IPDG Joyce Ambray**, **IPP Hermie Esguerra**, **PRID Guillen Tumangan**, and (seated) **Associate Justice Midas Marquez of Supreme Court of the Philippines**

From left: **STAR Rtn. Edgard Cabangon**, **Ms. Sharon Tan** and **Associate Justice Midas Marquez**



From left: **IPP Hermie Esguerra**, **IPDG Joyce Ambray** and **Mr. Emmanuel Leyco** (HKSAAPAPI Chair and President, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila)



From left: **SDG Mon Yupangco**, **Pres. Raffy Alunan**, **DCC Roland de Guzman**, **PDG Lyne Abanilla**, and **PDG Connie Beltran**



From left: **DCC Roland de Guzman**, **DGE Jackie Rodriguez**, **Hon. Jaime Jimenez Bautista** (Secretary of Transportation of the Philippines), **AKS Bing Carrion**, and **SDG Mon Yupangco**

The Handover Program



Ms. Katarina Rodriguez and **Mr. Edu Manzano**, the Program Moderators of the 104th Handover Meeting.



Pres. Hermie Esguerra called the 104th Handover Meeting to order.





RCManila Foundation, Inc. President Willie Peliño led the members and guests into a prayer of thanksgiving, invoking the grace of the Lord for blessing its members and guests.



The **RCM World Famous Music Chorale** led the members and guests in singing the Philippine National Anthem.





Dir. Mike Albaña led Rotarians to pledge and to live by The Rotarian Pledge and Rotary's way of life through the Four-Way Test.





Sec. Edwin Hernandez acknowledged the presence of dignitaries, visiting Rotarians and guests of members.





The members of the incoming board were presented to the membership and guests before the charging rites, officiated by **Past RI Director Guillier Tumangan**.



Past RI Director Guillier Tumangan danced to the tune of Voltes V as he was called to the stage to prepare the directors and officers for their respective roles.



Past RI Director Guillier Tumangan reminded the directors and officers of their affiliation with the mother Rotary Club in Asia, and their duties as directors and officers of Asia's mother Rotary Club.

The charging rite by
**Past RI Director
Guiller Tumangan**



District Governor Lilian H. dela Cruz inducted the directors and officers of the Board of the Rotary Club of Manila.



Pres. Rafael "Raffy" M. Alunan III was inducted by **Supreme Court Justice Midas Marquez**.



Supreme Court Associate Justice Midas Marquez congratulated **Pres. Raffy Alunan**.



IPP Hermie Esguerra presented the President's Pin and the Gavel of Authority to **Pres. Raffy Alunan**.



Pres. Raffy Alunan presented the Leadership Award to **IPP Hermie Esguerra**.



Pres. Raffy Alunan put on the Immediate Past President's pin and name badge on **IPP Hermie Esguerra**.

Sec. Edwin Hernandez and **SAA Nagi Zeitouni** prepared for the turnover of the Imagine Rotary banner, to be turned over by **Pres. Raffy Alunan** to **IPP Hermie Esguerra**.





IPP **Hermie Esguerra** received from **Pres. Raffy Alunan** the President's name badge and Imagine Rotary banner.



Past District Governor Obet Pagdanganan introduced **President Raffy Alunan** before the president's formal address.



President Raffy Alunan's inaugural address



Leaders to Create Hope for the club and the District, led by **DGE Jackie Rodriguez** and **IPP Hermie Esguerra**, together with Rotarians in the club and Rotarian dignitaries.





RCManila Foundation, Inc. Immediate Past Chairman Pepo Nunez presented the members of the incoming RCMFI Board of Trustees for their official oath-taking.



Pres. Raffy Alunan, together with VP Reggie Yu and Sec. Edwin Hernandez, presented the Token of Appreciation to District Governor Lilian H. dela Cruz, Past RI Director Guiller Tumangan and Past RI Dir. Raffy Garcia.



Joining Pres. Raffy and Spouse Elizabeth Alunan were (from left) Major Gen. Ernesto Carolina (former PVAO Chair), Lt. Gen. Edgard Arevalo, AFP (Ret.), Major Gen. Jose Magno, AFP (Ret.), Major Gen. Ruben Carandang, AFP (Ret.), AKS Bing Carrion, PDG Sammy Pagdilao.



The **RCM World-Famous Chorale** serenaded **Pres. Raffy** and **Spouse Elizabeth Alunan** with their favorite songs.



Pres. Raffy Alunan adjourned the inaugural meeting.



Pres. Raffy and Spouse Elizabeth Alunan with the Diplomatic and Security Community



The family of Pres. Raffy and Spouse Elizabeth Alunan



Katrina A. Gonzalez, Barni A. Escaler, Rafa J. Alunan, Amina A. Alunan, Alexi Alinan, Ms Paulina Gatmaitan and Ms. Elsa Sarmiento

Meet Your “Hope Creators”

RC Manila Board of Directors and Officers for RY 2023-2024



Standing from left: Sergeant-at-Arms Nagi M. Zeitouni, Assistant Treasurer Karlo Eugene Josef "Karlo" M. Castro, RCManila Foundation Inc. President Wilfredo "Willie" M. Peliño, Treasurer Paul Joseph "PJ" M. Garcia, Secretary Edwin H. Hernandez, Board Legal Adviser Raoul C. Creencia, Assistant Board Legal Adviser Teodoro "Teddy" Y. Kalaw IV, Internal Auditor Arsenio "Nick" Z. Locsin, Sergeant-at-Arms Jason M. Bogovich, and Assistant Internal Auditor Jordan M. Pizarras

Seated from left: Director Antonio "Tony" S. Lopez, Director Albert S. Alday, Director Michael Jaey "Mike" C. Albaña, Immediate Past President Herminio "Hermie" S. Esguerra, President Rafael "Raffy" M. Alunan III, Vice President Reginald "Reggie" T. Yu, Director Johnny N. Chotrani, Director Eduardo "Jujut" V. Enriquez III, and Director Albert "Hans" C. Palacios

MESSAGE FROM RI PRESIDENT R. GORDON R. MCINALLY

Welcome to Rotary Year 2023-2024!



Dear Rotary member,

Even as we face new and serious challenges, Rotary takes care of its members and those we serve, works to build lasting peace, and embeds belonging and inclusion in everything we do. That is why I am asking everyone in Rotary to Create Hope in the World.

You can start by telling people about what Rotary means to you. Use these graphics on your favorite social media platform and add text or a video about your Rotary experience to share why you're proud to be a Rotary member.

Pushing polio eradication to the finish line

This is a critical year for polio eradication efforts as Rotary and our Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners are aggressively working to interrupt transmission of the poliovirus in the remaining endemic countries and other areas.

Polio eradication is Rotary's top humanitarian priority until we deliver on our promise to protect children everywhere from polio. We had the audacity to take on this mission, and we have the tenacity to finish the job.



How can you take action? Learn more and donate at endpolio.org.

Prioritizing mental health



This year, we're prioritizing projects that aim to support mental health. This effort is deeply personal to me. I know what it's like to see someone close to me suffer in silence. I have also witnessed the power of personal connections, the value of discussing emotional and mental well-being, and the lifesaving impact of preventive care and treatment.

Research shows that performing acts of kindness is one of the most effective steps any of us can take to protect our wellbeing and make us more resilient to all the challenges we encounter in life. And by building peace within, we become more capable of bringing peace to the world.

How can you take action? Download the [Prioritizing Mental Health](#) brochure to learn how you and your club can support mental health. Also consider connecting with the [Rotary Action Group on Mental Health Initiatives](#).

Fostering peace

Building peace is the essence of Rotary. Many of our service projects foster the conditions for [Positive Peace](#). We work tirelessly to overcome barriers and create new connections among people. This year, we'll introduce virtual international exchanges for members to build those vital connections even further.

Peace isn't just a dream, and it's not passive. It's the result of working hard, earning trust, and having open conversations that may be difficult. Peace must be waged persistently — and bravely. Everything we do, across all our areas of focus, has the potential to foster the hope that can make peace possible



How can you take action? Become a peacebuilder by getting involved in virtual exchanges or signing up for the [Rotary Positive Peace Academy](#).

Creating a welcoming club experience



The spirit of connection and purpose should inspire every Rotary member. When club leaders focus on offering an excellent club experience, we retain more members and attract more prospective members. We must make our clubs as welcoming and engaging as we can.

Our goal is to create a sense of belonging, from our club meetings to every service activity we offer. We need to continue creating inclusive, welcoming environments where

everyone can be their fully authentic selves. All people of action need to be able to imagine a place for themselves in Rotary — it's up to us to ensure that they can do so.

How can you take action? Learn more about [Rotary's diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts](#) and how you can help [create a club culture](#) (My Rotary account required) where everyone belongs.

As we begin this journey together, I take inspiration from Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns, who in the 18th century spoke of all the world becoming kin, promoting "Sense and Worth, over all the earth." This has long been my call to action, and I share it now with you.

Let us build peace within and spread it freely. Let us create belonging and imagine the future of Rotary afresh. Let us work together joyously as we *Create Hope in the World*.

R. Gordon R. McNally
RI President, 2023-24



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD



SINGAPORE | 25-29 MAY 2024
Register today at convention.rotary.org



Register at convention.rotary.org today and take part in Rotary's biggest event of the year.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RCM Rules in Focus

For the benefit especially of our new members, we are featuring in bite-size form some relevant provisions of the Rotary Club of Manila Constitution and By-Laws, as well as the RCM Code of Policies, to better understand and appreciate the duties and responsibilities of the RCM Board of Directors and Officers.

1. The Board of Directors is the governing body of the Club.

RCM Constitution, Article VI

Section 1 The governing body of this club shall be a board of directors to be constituted as the by-laws of the club may provide.

Section 2 Except as herein otherwise specifically provided the decision of the board in all club matters, shall be final, subject only to any appeal to the club. The board shall have the general control over all officers and committees and may, for good cause, declare any office vacant.

RCM By-Laws: Article II

Section 1 The governing body of this club shall be the Board of Directors, elected in accordance with Article I, Sec. 1 of these By-laws.

2. The duly elected members of the Board are duty-bound to serve the Club and attend Board meetings.

RCM Code of Policies (July 2003), Section 2.1.1.1 Attendance at Board Meetings:

All Board Members are required to attend all meetings of the Board held during their term of office.

RCM Code of Policies (July 2003), Section 2.1.1.2.2. Language

Board Meetings are to be held entirely in English.

RCM Code of Policies (July 2003), Section 2.1.1.2.3. Voting

All voting by the Board is to be held Viva Voce as mandated by our constitution. The President is only required to vote in tie-breaking situations.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RCM Rules in Focus

3. The RCM Board has the power to create Committees:

RCM By-Laws Article VII

Section 1 – (a) The President shall, subject to the approval of the Board, appoint the following standing committees for each of the four avenues of service: x x x

(b) The President shall also appoint one member of the Board as Chairman of each of the four standing committees. The Chairman shall be responsible for all activities of the particular standing committee and shall supervise and coordinate the work of all committees appointed on the various phases of the corresponding avenue of Service.

(c) The President shall, subject to the approval of the Board, appoint the following committees on particular phases of Club Service: x x x

(d) The President shall, subject to the approval of the Board, also appoint such committees that he may deem necessary x x x.

(e) All committees on particular phases of the four avenues of service shall consist of a Chairman and at least five members, unless otherwise specifically stipulated.

RCM Code of Policies (July 2003), Section 4.1.1

Committees are organized by the Board to address particular needs, obtain certain information, carry out specific tasks, or implement a definite Board policy within a set time.

Committees are, by their nature, advisory to the Board with delegated administrative functions, if any, as their prescribed terms of reference may provide.

4. There are three Ex-Officio Members of the RCM Board.

Article I, Section 2 of the RCM By-Laws enumerates three ex-officio members. They are: Secretary, Treasurer and Sergeant-At-Arms.



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RCM Members' Attendance Report RY 2023-2024

JULY 2023	<u>JULY 6, 2023</u> INAUGURAL MEETING
All Members Present	71
Make Up	0
Less: Exempt from Attendance	2
On Leave	0
Total Active Members	69
Total # of Members	239
TOTAL ATTENDANCE %:	29%
ROTARACTORS	15
MEDIA	0
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	7
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG	27
GOHS / GS	1
Visiting Rotarians	83
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	66
Others	
Total attendees	270

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

List of Members Who Have Paid Their Annual Dues for RY 2023-2024

(As of July 12, 2023, 4:00 PM)

FULLY PAID

1	Alberto, Raymund Arnold S.
2	Acosta, Crispiniano "Cris" G.
3	Alday, Albert S.
4	Alingog, Aldous "Rex" A.
5	Benedicto, Sixto "Noy" T.
6	Canon, Raul
7	Carranceja, Arvin Arik
8	Castro, Karlo Eugene Josef "Karlo"
9	Coyiuto, Robert, Jr. "Jun" G.
10	Cureg, Alexander "Alex" P.
11	De Castro, Johnny
12	Dy, Manuel "Manny" C.
13	Eldebs, Issam "Sam"
14	Esguerra, Herminio "Hermie" S.
15	Fajardo, Beda G.
16	Fernandez, Antonio Jaime Jose V. "JJ"
17	Follosco, Ceferino, Jr. "Jun" G.
18	Garcia, Paul Joseph "PJ"
19	Garcia, Theodore
20	Garcia, Victor
21	Guevara, Domingo, Jr. "Boy" S.
22	Hallerbach, Mathias
23	Ibuyan, Benedict Julius "Ben"
24	Jucaban, Jeric J.
25	Kalaw, Teodoro Alejandro IV "Teddy" A. Y.
26	Lacson, Sebastian "Basty"
27	Laya, Jaime "Jimmy" C.
28	Lee, Richard "Dick" L.

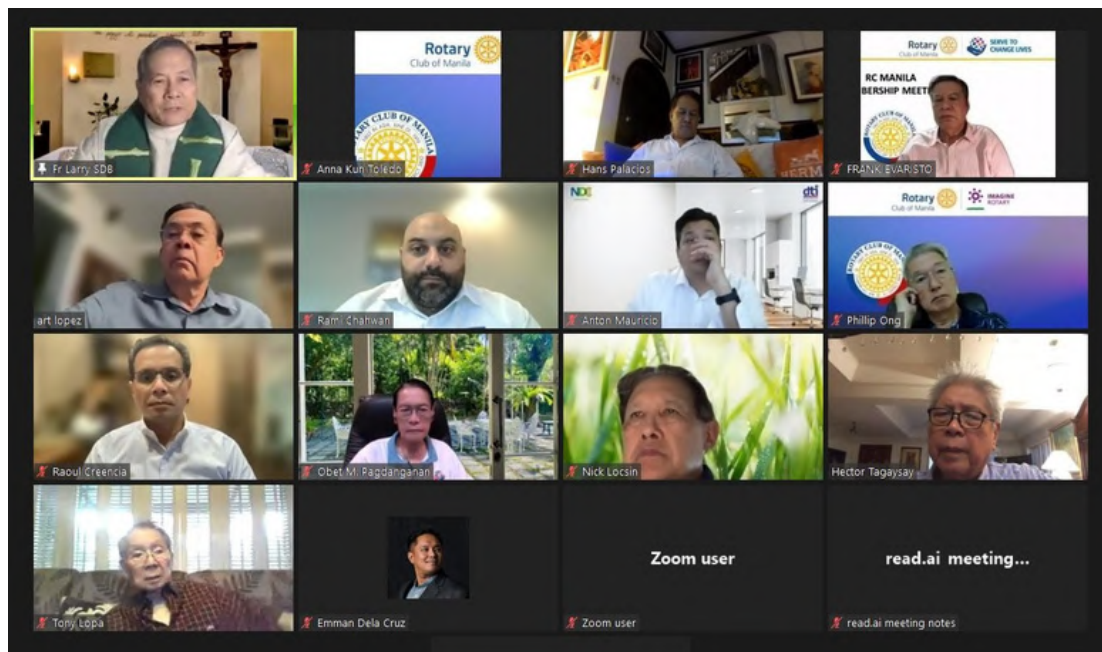
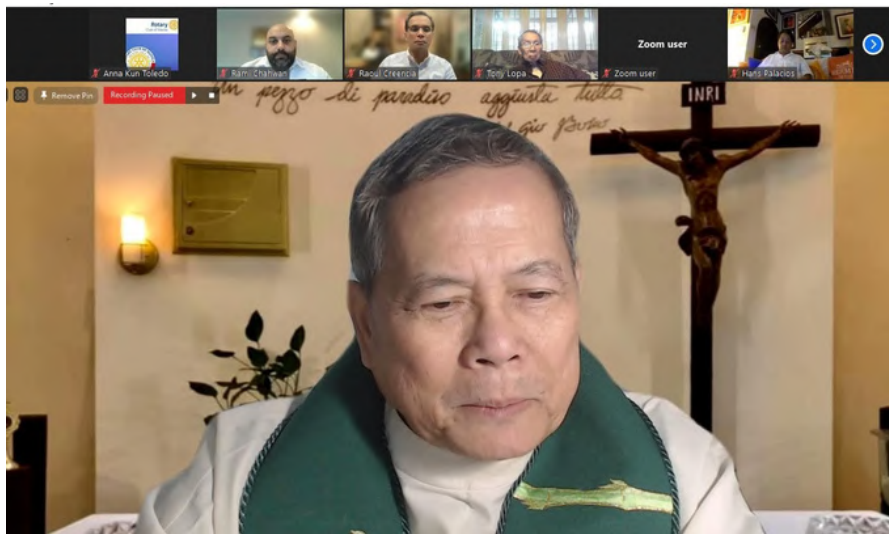
29	Liamzon, Romeo Thaddeus "Thad" R.
30	Lim, David Eduardo Ty
31	Lopez, Arthur "Art" M.
32	Macapagal, Michael
33	Mangalile, Senen
34	Mendoza, Estelito "Titong" P.
35	Montel, Juan Manuel C.
36	Patterson, Colin David
37	Pineda, Jr., Patricio "Bebot" F.
38	Preysler, Fausto, Jr. R.
39	Reynolds, David John "Dave"
40	Rodriguez, Joaquin "Jack" H.
41	Rodriguez, Joaquin "Jackie" C.
42	Romualdez, Jose Manuel "Babe" G.
43	Rono, Marlon
44	Roxas, Michael
45	Shimoda, Shigeru
46	Syjuco, Jose, Jr. "Joey" A.
47	Tagaysay, Hector "Chito"
48	Talampas, Jose Angel "Joel"
49	Talusan, Ferdinand "Inov"
50	Tamayo, Victor "Butch" L.
51	Tejuma, Michael "Mike"
52	Valencia, Rodolfo "Rod" G.
53	Vasquez, Evaristo "Junjie"
54	Villarica, Henry R.
55	Yap, Enrique, Jr. "Rickie" Y.
56	Zialcita, Xavier "Xavy" Y.

PARTIALLY PAID

1	Enriquez, Eduardo III "Jujut" V.
2	Eugenio, John Emyl "Emyl" G.
3	Valdes, Joel C.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

First Friday Novena Mass



The First Friday Novena Mass was held last Friday, July 7, 2023 via Zoom with Rev. Fr. Larry Tan, SDB. Present were VP Reggie Yu, Dir. Hans Palacios, BLA Raoul Creencia, Internal Auditor Nick Locsin, AS Rami Chahwan, PDG Obet Pagdanganan, PP Frank Evaristo, PD Art Lopez, PD Phil Ong, PT Chito Tagaysay, PAS Henry Go, PDSAA Tony Lopa, Rtn. Emman dela Cruz and Rtn. Anton Mauricio.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Food Tasting and Last-minute Preparations for First Weekly General Membership Meeting for R.Y. 2023-2024



Food tasting and last-minute preparations for the up-and-coming first Weekly General Membership meeting for R.Y. 2023-2024 with officials of the Manila Polo Club. With yours truly are Stanley Musni, MPC Banquet Supervisor; Rhona Magtubis, Representative for Hizon's Restaurant (consessionaire); Anne Sadang, MPC F&B Director; and DGE Jackie Rodriguez, Programs Chairman.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Joint Induction and Turnover of the Rotary Club of Manila Magic and the Rotaract Club of Manila



DGE Jackie Rodriguez administered the oath of office to the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Manila Magic on Saturday, July 8, 2023 at the Centennial Ballroom A of the Manila Hotel.

DGE Jackie Rodriguez advised Rotary Club of Manila Magic President James Que, whose parents were by his side during the event, about his responsibilities as the new club president.



DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Joint Induction and Turnover of the Rotary Club of Manila Magic and the Rotaract Club of Manila



President Raffy Alunan was the Guest Speaker at the Joint Handover and Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Manila Magic and the Rotary Club of Manila.



Manila Rotarians, namely Rtn. Arik Carranceja, Dir. Mike Albaña, PD John Cutter, Rtn. Inov Talusan, DGE Jackie Rodriguez, PD Oscar del Rosario, DCC/Dir. Albert Alday, Rtn. Caloy Serapio, Rtn. Paul Koh and VP Reggie Yu, together with President Raffy Alunan (who had to leave earlier), attended the Joint Induction and Turnover of the Rotary Club of Manila Magic and the Rotaract Club of Manila. Together with them in the picture are the newly-inducted members of the Board of Directors of the Rotaract Club of Manila led by President Arvin Reyes.

PRESS COVERAGE

The Manila Times®

New president of Rotary Club of Manila

🕒 July 6, 2023 👁 70



Rafael Alunan 3rd is inducted as the 2023-2024 president of the Rotary Club of Manila during its 104th induction and turnover ceremonies at the Grand Ballroom of the City of Dreams in Parañaque City on Thursday, July 6, 2023. PHOTOS BY J. GERARD SEGUIA



PRESS COVERAGE

New president of Rotary Club of Manila

🕒 July 6, 2023 👁 70



PRESS COVERAGE

The Manila Times®

Alunan to Rotarians: Be the change you want to see in others

By Alexandra J. Furio | July 7, 2023 | 60



NEW ROTARY PRESIDENT Rafael Alunan 3rd (right) is inducted as the president of the Rotary Club of Manila during the 104th Induction and Turnover Ceremonies held at the Grand Ballroom of the City of Dreams in Parañaque City on Thursday, July 6, 2023. PHOTO BY J. GERARD SEGUIA

"We could help build awareness through mass and social media and medical missions, so that we can spread the information about the benefits of nutrition and the consequence of malnutrition," he said.

"And it will give our country a fighting chance to raise the level of its functional knowledge, productive energies, and confidence to build a bright future," Alunan said.

He said his leadership will focus on peace building and conflict prevention and treatment, maternal and child health, water, sanitation and hygiene, community economic development, basic education and literacy and supporting the environment.

He urged prominent people to be "the change you want to see in others."

"Hope is ethical. It is a moral virtue. Promote good behavior and avoid harm," Alunan said.

He thanked his predecessor Herminio Esguerra and the other members of the club's board of directors and executive officers.

RECOGNITION CORNER



PDG Vince Carlos delivering the charging message before the Officers and Board Members of the Rotary Club of Makati West, of which his son Dax Carlos is the Hope-Creating President.

RECOGNITION CORNER



RC Manila Foundation Trustee/Rtn. Paco Magsaysay was the Commencement Speaker at the graduation of San Pablo College last Thursday, July 6, 2023.

RECOGNITION CORNER

Congratulations,

Rtn. Philip
Wombwell



ABOUT SUNRISE SPRINT

The Sunrise Sprint (or S2) is a short distance triathlon series featuring a 750m open-water swim in open water, 20km bike ride and a 5km run.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The International Beat

IA Nick Locsin

Chairman, International Relations Committee



The Annual Rotary International Conventions promise opportunities to connect with old friends, make and develop new friends, meet Rotarians from the world over to exchange views and facts relevant to Rotary and its members, enjoy a venue where like-minded people get together to share ideas, information on global issues and products and souvenirs to be appreciated by Rotarians, and talk just about anything relevant to a 21st century Rotarian. And then there is the opportunity to experience and enjoy the offerings of a global city.

The 2023 RI Convention held in the last week of May in Melbourne, Australia gave us all of the above and more. We connected with friends from Europe, the Indian subcontinent, China, Japan, Thailand, Singapore, Taiwan, Hongkong and from North America..... the United States and Canada.

We made new friends from as far as Africa. The four day convention allowed us access to new ideas and information from the general sessions and breakout seminars/talks that were the core of the convention.

RC Manila Rotarians had a “station” at which we could sit and chat with old friends. The Circle of Centennial Rotary Clubs (CCRC) had booth #432 at the House of Friendship,. At this “station” many Rotarians passed by.....we made new friends. A benefit we had as a member of the CCRC was the opportunity to reconnect with Rotary leaders. We had visits from three RI Past Presidents: Gary Huang, Holger Knaack, and Shekhar Mehta.

Spending a few days in the presence of so many amazing Rotarians from the world over helped us see and feel how the wheels of Rotary are turning today in the 21st century.

The House of Friendship also allows us a leisurely look into what many other Rotarians are doing from all areas of the world. Many Rotary Action Groups managed booths to give themselves access to all the Rotarians attending the convention. All in all, we had a fun and interesting few days in the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Center. We also had the rare opportunity to sit in a world famous venue, the Rod Laver arena. For two weeks in January of every year, millions of sports fans watch the Australian Open tennis played in this now familiar site. As a tennis player and fan, this was a treat for me.

In addition to all the foregoing, the convention gave us the opportunity to bond with fellow Manila Rotarians. At this year's convention, President Raffy Alunan, BLA Raoul Creencia and wife Myls, Treasurer PJ Garcia, PDG Rudy Bediones and his lady Sharon, and myself bonded over meals and attended sessions together. Surely, our friendships deepened, as the saying goes: "*mayroon na kaming pinagsamahan.*"

My brothers in RCM, the memorable trip to Melbourne that we had can be replicated. And this is there for every Rotarian to avail and take advantage of.

RI holds a convention every year in May-June. The 2024 convention will be in the Asian city of Singapore. I encourage everyone to make preparations for and to attend this event filled with opportunities for all of us. If you book your Convention entrance ticket early, if you book a hotel early and if you book flights many months in advance, you can cut your travel costs by at least 25%. You will also have more options for flights and accommodations.

Let us treat ourselves to a fun and memorable experience. Let us enjoy and bond in a truly first world city. Let us support the activities of the Circle of Centennial Rotary Clubs. And let us support our longstanding sister club, RC Singapore. The RI Convention will come to Manila in 2028. The support we can get then, from our sister clubs could be of great assistance to us. Let us show our support to them now, so that they too will want to reciprocate and support us then.

Your International Relations Committee is here to help. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if we can be of any assistance in convincing any of our members to get together and go to Singapore. We are here to serve.

On to Singapore 2024.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Nick Locsin
Chairman, International Relations Committee



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

RC Kowloon East Hosts Dinner at East Ocean Restaurant



RC Kowloon East hosted a dinner on Thursday, July 6, 2023, at East Ocean Restaurant in the Bay area. The restaurant is located on Abueva St. corner Cabrera St., near the City of Dreams.

Present were DGE Jackie Rodriguez, Pres. Raffy Alunan, VP Reggie Yu, BLA Raoul Creencia, PDG Vince Carlos, Asst. Sec. Rami Chahwan, International Relations Chair PD Nick Locsin and PD John Cutter.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Grants Chairman Aries Balanay Attends Rotary Club of Thimpu Meeting



Grants Chairman Aries Balanay attended the meeting of the Rotary Club of Thimpu and exchanged bannerettes with Rotary Club of Thimpu Grants Chairman Singhey Gyamptsho last July 11, 2023 at the Druk Hotel in Thimpu, Bhutan.



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President

HERMINIO S. ESGUERRA
Immediate Past President

REGINALD T. YU
Vice President

Directors

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ARSENIO Z. LOCSIN
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JORDAN M. PIZARRAS
Assistant Internal Auditor

ANNA KUN TOLEDO
Executive Secretary



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