



## Issue 245 - November 2022

### Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

I have been supporting a number of Rotary Clubs for Interact - chartering of new Interact Clubs, installation of new office bearers, etc. During these programs, I conduct orientation sessions for the young members to help them get better insights on Interact Clubs and a broader understanding about Rotary.

When asked, most of the young students share that they haven't heard of Rotary earlier. That's when I draw their attention to the Polio immunization campaigns since each of these students have taken polio drops when they were younger. And that's where they relate to Rotary when they learn that all of these Polio immunization campaigns have been supported by Rotary and its members.

Among all the various projects that are being supported by the Rotary Foundation, the Polio Eradication program continues to be the most significant one. We wish that polio would have been eradicated by now, but we continue to be "this close" to ending polio. Which means that our fight needs to continue, and we all need to keep supporting the Rotary Foundation through our contributions.

November, being the Rotary Foundation month, is the ideal occasion to make our contribution. Donate today!

Rotary Regards,





**Jeetendra Sharma**  
**Editor-in-Chief**  
**RGHF's Our Foundation Newsletter**

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## Trustee Chair's Message

Many of you will recall my challenge to Rotary clubs when I was RI president in 2017-18: to plant one tree per member to help the environment. Thanks to you, we estimate over 4 million trees went into the ground in Rotary's name — quite a forest indeed.

This month, as we celebrate The Rotary Foundation, let's remember that each Foundation project is much like planting a tree. With each sapling of hope, health, and peace we plant through the Foundation, we make an investment in the future that will one day grow into something even greater.

Such a tree was planted by Rotary in Sri Lanka, where more than 2,000 children born annually with a congenital heart defect can now get a corrective surgery that allows them to survive to adulthood. Local Rotarians identified the need to make the surgery more available and effective, and rallied 17 Rotary districts around the world to contribute District Designated Funds. After the Foundation matched those funds, a total global grant of \$365,000 was used to create the first human heart-valve tissue bank in Sri Lanka, with the government providing the building, staffing, and supplies to ensure its sustainability.

Visiting this life-saving facility in 2017 was an unforgettable experience for me. But I have seen countless other great "trees" planted across our seven areas of focus. We planted PolioPlus in 1985 and it has grown into one of the greatest public health initiatives in history, helping reduce cases of wild poliovirus by 99.9 percent. Seven Rotary Peace Centers around the world have also taken root and are now bearing fruit as scores of peacebuilders and community leaders go forth with the skills to make the world more safe and secure.

Charity Navigator, an independent agency, has given The Rotary Foundation its highest ranking for more than a decade. Why? Our overhead expense level is much lower than most similar organizations — 91 percent of gifts to the Foundation go to programs and operations. Not only are we efficient stewards, but Rotary's requirement of a community-needs assessment for global grants helps ensure the sustainability of our projects over the long term. And the Foundation is a charity you can trust because it is run by your fellow Rotarians.

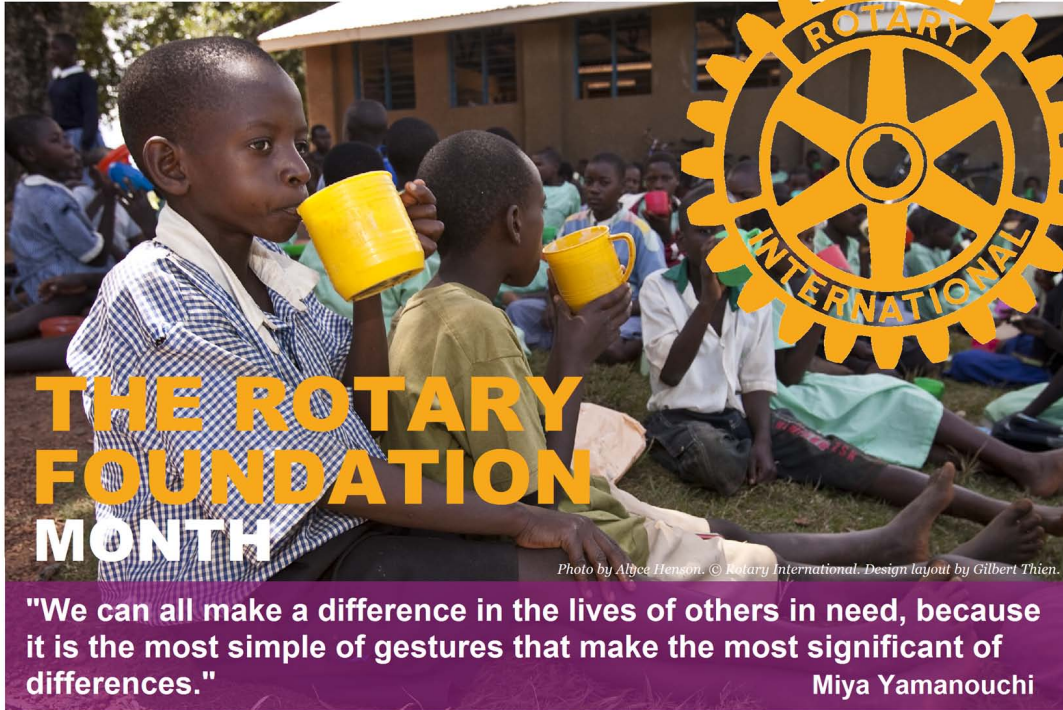
However, only about 38 percent of members actively support our own organization's great charity. We can and should do better. Just as I challenged you to plant trees as president, as Foundation trustee chair I would like to challenge each club to make a giving plan for our Rotary Foundation this year.

Imagine our impact — Rotary's great forest of hope and peace that will flourish — and please give today.



## Ways to celebrate Rotary Foundation Month

NOVEMBER IS



EVERY  
ROTARIAN  
EVERY  
YEAR

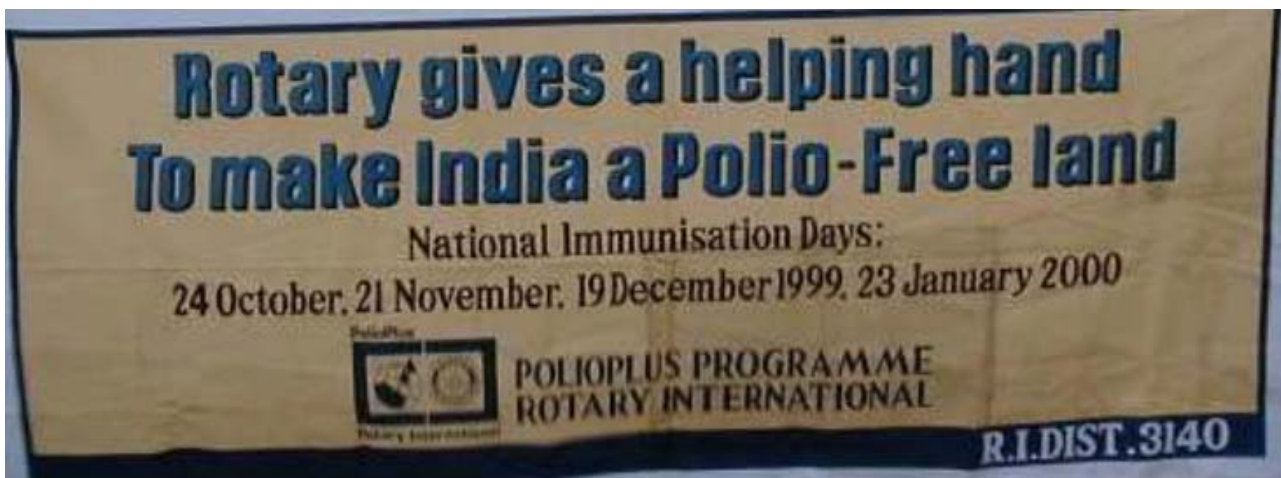
TAKE ACTION: [www.rotary.org/give](http://www.rotary.org/give)

Generous gifts to The Rotary Foundation help create lasting change in communities both nearby and around the world. In honor of Rotary Foundation Month in November, we're asking club and district leaders to thank donors and reflect on the good that their donations make possible. Here are three ways you can celebrate Foundation Month:

1. [Make a special gift](#) to the Foundation on Giving Tuesday, 29 November. The top clubs in fundraising, participation, and online giving will be featured on My Rotary. [Take a look](#) at last year's honorees.
2. Help others in need by [giving the gift of Rotary](#) anytime during November.
3. Take time during a club meeting to show members how the Foundation transforms gifts into service projects that advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace by fighting disease, improving the quality of education, protecting the environment, alleviating poverty, and more. Invite a Foundation scholarship recipient or a community member who was involved in and benefited from a grant project to speak about its impact on their life.

## A Page from History – Polio Immunization in India: Year 2000

*By Dr Morihiko Narukawa, District Governor 1999-2000 District 2640*



Seventy-three staff members from District 2640 took part in the National Immunization Days (NIDs) in Mumbai, India on January 23, 2000.



*Press Conference*

### **Preparation...Support from District 3140 in India**

PDG Nakajima of the International PolioPlus committee was the only member who had practical experience. Therefore, the International Committee and International Committee members from India worked together with the District Governor and PDG Nakajima to prepare for NIDs. Members from District 2650 who had accumulated experience in this kind of activity were kind enough to give us lectures twice. After two orientations from PDG Nakajima and demonstrations of vaccination by Dr. Kinoshita, the chairperson of the PolioPlus committee in District 2640, and after the inaugural meeting, the details of the entire process was finally made clear.



*District 3140 India and District 2460 Japan – Friendship and Service Exchange*

**The Night before Vaccination...Good Times at Friendship Night**

The night before the vaccination, a Banquet was held for us by the members of District 3140. PDG Nakajima hosted the Friendship Night with his fluent English, with speeches from District 3140 District Governor Dr. Bagadia and District 2640 District Governor Dr. Narukawa, and many bonds and friendships were created.

At the end of Friendship Night, the staff from India gave us hats and aprons to wear when we administer vaccines, and gifted us neckties commemorating the year 2000. Their warm-hearted and considerate care for us impressed us deeply.



*Volunteers from District 2460, Japan*





*Polio Immunization Booths*

### **Large-Scale Vaccination... Determination to Prevent another Outbreak of Polio**

The 73 staff members were divided into 3 groups, got on the three buses, and left for three different destinations in Mumbai, India. Indian Rotarians waited for us with 25 cars at a relay point, and they drove three of us in each car to different vaccination booths. The group led by PDG Kameoka went to three different booths. Houses there were ones which they almost hesitated to enter, and provided little more than protection from the weather.







*Children being immunized*

However, one of the first things that impressed them the most was the serious look on one mother who was waiting in line holding her young daughter's hand. They felt a compelling sense of their mission of preventing young children from getting polio when they looked at the lovely round eyes of the children who opened with their mouths as big as they could with a touch of anxiety.

Then, they heard an explanation from a nurse at the Doshi Nursing Home and visited a girl who was recovering from surgery. They cannot forget her waving back to them after they waved to her as they were leaving the facility. That was the moment when they became keenly aware of the necessity of practice in the field.

# Sunday

## Afternoon

### Hoping for a polio-free world

BY A STAFF REPORTER

77 Japanese Rotarians are currently in the city to participate in the National Immunisation Day scheduled to be held today. This is part of the Rotary's initiative against polio; a total of 7,000 centres have

a total of half a million cases worldwide. Today, there are a mere 15,000 cases in the world," he said. He cited the example of China, which used to register 500 cases every year, but now is completely polio-free.

Dr. Morihiko Narukawa, governor

dollars were collected by way of donations supported by polio-free nations, including the US, Japan, Canada, Denmark, Norway and Belgium.

According to Mr. Rajkumar Bagadia, the district governor, "We are hoping to immunise around one crore children below the age of five. The purpose of the visit by the Japanese Rotarians is to study and evaluate the immunisation programme and consider means of strengthening it to achieve total eradication. They will be divided into three groups of around 25 persons each, and will visit three specific areas - Dharavi, Deonar and Ghatkopar."

He added: "Finally, when a 'zero case level' is achieved for three consecutive years, the International Commission for Certification of Polio Eradication certifies a polio-free status. We are optimistic that we will receive that status soon."



● Japanese Rotarians Dr. Morihiko Narukawa and Jichiro Frank Nakajima with the district governor, Rajkumar Bagadia.

been set up. According to Jichiro -Frank Nakajima, a trustee of the Rotary Foundation in Japan, the organisation hopes to make the world polio-free by the year 2005. "The eradication project was initiated in 1985, when there were

of Rotary, added that although Rotary initiated the project in 1985, organisations such as the UN, WHO, UNICEF and the US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, helped a lot in this crusade. "120 million US dollars were required for this project. Finally, 240 million

### Efforts to know composition of iron pillar

TIRUCHIRAPALLI, (PTI): The Indira Gandhi Centre For Atomic Research, (IGCAR) at Kalpakkam near Chennai, will undertake a detailed study of the 'wonder-iron-pillar' in New Delhi to unravel the mystery behind the pillar remaining corrosion-free for centuries, the IGCAR director Placid Rodriguez has said.

Talking to PTI here yesterday, he said the department of science and technology (S & T) had entrusted IGCAR with the project to study the composition of the pillar.

It would also assist the Archaeological Survey of India in their efforts to preserve objects of historical importance, including ancient artefacts, sculptures and

icons. IGCAR would also help the National Museum in Delhi to make fingerprint picturisation of art objects by using specialised radiography and fluorescent analysis.

Under another scheme, the department of S & T has asked IGCAR to take fingerprint photos of the rare sculptures, icons and other bronze art pieces at the Madras museum. Training for the museum personnel in taking fingerprint photos would also be given, he said.

The construction of a 500 MW phototype fast breeder reactor by IGCAR at Chennai would be taken up by 2001, he added.

### NRIs get top-level posts in World Bank group

WASHINGTON (PTI): Two Non Resident Indians have been promoted as vice-presidents in the World Bank group in recognition of

president, portfolio management, while Dr Vinod Thomas, director of the World Bank Institute, has been promoted as vice-

IFC's capital markets department in 1997. As director of treasury operations, she served as treasurer of the corporation with

#### Newspaper Report

#### After the Vaccination...A Lot of Friendship and Support with goodwill

Lastly, I would like to write about my impressions of the first large-scale vaccination in District 2640 which was put into practice thanks to the support and volunteer work of many people. The enthusiasm and the ability to get things done as shown by the 70 plus members was phenomenal.

To participate in a project in a foreign country requires an international way of thinking. In that aspect we owe a good deal to PDG Nakajima who organized the project by communicating with friends and acquaintances of his in India. The kindness and the flexible organizing ability of the members of District 3140, who accepted the project willingly, was impressive. The District Governor Dr. Bagadia described it as 'friendship,' but its bedrock is a spirit of service and the enthusiasm to stamp out polio, which I deeply admire.

At first, I didn't get the full picture of the connection between the funding of this big project and myself, but after setting my point of view I came to understand clearly. Those who played leading roles in this project were little children fighting against polio and their parents. All of us made a resolution to take part in the project and make every effort to support it from now on.



**Dr Morihiko Narukawa**  
**Past District Governor (1999-2000)**  
**District 2640, Japan**

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## **The endgame: What will it take to eradicate polio?**

**We are close to making polio the second human disease to be eradicated, but what will it take to finally consign this killer disease to the history books?**

Both were exceptionally talented researchers, so united in their desire to rid the world of polio that they inoculated themselves and their families with disabled versions of the virus. Yet the rivalry between Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin was intense, with Sabin once suggesting that Salk's efforts could be achieved in a kitchen sink.

The source of their hostility was a disagreement about the best way to immunise people against polio. Salk believed the answer lay in a "killed" virus vaccine – where the virus particles had been chemically inactivated, so they could no longer replicate or cause disease. Sabin favoured using a "live" oral vaccine – one containing live, but weakened, virus particles that could replicate but couldn't cause paralysis.

Salk's inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) entered human trials and was approved first. But it was Sabin's oral polio vaccine (OPV) that became the global workhorse in polio eradication efforts and has been largely responsible for driving polio to the brink of extinction. However, polio isn't gone, and the combination of COVID-19, ongoing conflict and political turmoil, has given polio the space it needed to fight back. Now, as polio eradication approaches its endgame, it is a combination of Salk's and Sabin's approaches that experts are hoping will prove to be humanity's winning hand.

Read the full story here: <https://polioeradication.org/news-post/the-endgame-what-will-it-take-to-eradicate-polio/>

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**2023 International Peace Conference**

# IMAGINE PEACE. BUILD PEACE.



## 2023 INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE

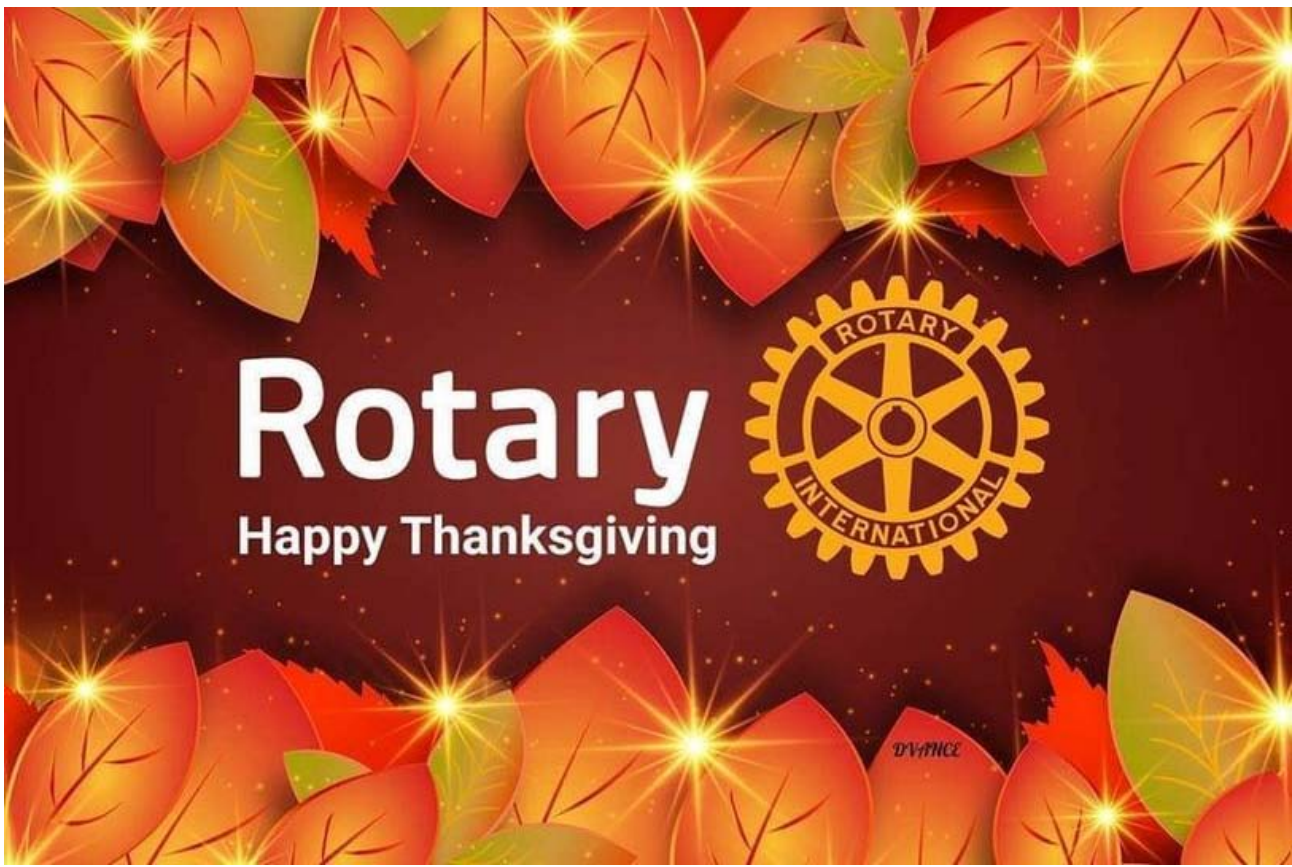
Join us May 4-6, 2023, in Birmingham, Alabama

An International Peace Conference and Rotary Peace Fellow Symposium will take place on 4-6 May 2023 in Birmingham, Alabama, USA. The [2023 International Peace Conference](https://www.peaceconference2023bham.com/) will bring together peace fellows, Rotary members, and distinguished leaders in academia, government, public safety, religion, business, and community service to share ideas and propose solutions to some of society's most complex challenges.

The event includes a special symposium on 4 May with programming and connection opportunities for peace fellows and Rotary members. Attendees can even meet ahead of time through a series of online pre-symposium meetings between fellows and Rotary members.

To learn more and register, visit: <https://www.peaceconference2023bham.com/>

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## Our Foundation Newsletter



This newsletter is published by the Rotary Global History Fellowship. The comments and stories in this newsletter do not reflect the opinions of Rotary International, The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International or any other Rotary related organization.

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