



Rotary  **ROTARY CLUB OF COLOMBO SOUTH**

Chartered on 7th October 1978

Month of July is designated as the Start-up Month of the Year



Joseph Jayaseelan assumed duty as the 44th President of RC of Colombo South from 1st of July 2020. A dedicated Rotarian is all out taking the club to greater heights. He doesn't need any introduction as he is very well known in Sri Lanka. President Joseph a veteran and a

professional in the field of his choice earned high reputation in the industry of Chartered Accounting and Tax Consultant. President Joseph joined our club in 2015 with the good intention to serve communities in accordance with Rotary's motto 'Service above Self'. He held many responsible positions in the past and was an asset to the club rendered invaluable service.

President Joseph is a vibrant personality professionally qualified rendering outstanding service. Our club is indeed delighted to have him as the president for the Rotary Year 2020/2021. He assumed his duty during the time of crisis created by the fateful COVID19 put the whole world into bad situation. Sri Lanka is no exception as everything came to a standstill which became a challenging time for Rotarians as a whole. Our club pledged the confidence on President Joseph which we are confident that he will rise to the occasion with his able team of the board. We are pleased to inform that President Joseph with Secretary successfully participated in the PET/SET workshop.

President Joseph Jayaseelan is a fellow member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, also holds a bachelor's degree in Business Management from the University of Kelania. In addition to being a Chartered Accountant, he is a fellow member of the Institute of Taxation of Sri Lanka as well. He has shown an outstanding professional and academic record while pursuing chartered accountancy studies.

His area of specialization has been taxation. He was an active member of the Institute of Taxation of Sri Lanka and in the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka, as well. Consequently, he has dedicatedly engaged in promoting activities of the Institute of Taxation – Sri Lanka, where, he served as a council member and also held the post of honorary secretary and he had served as the vice-president of the Institute of Taxation of Sri Lanka. At the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka, he functioned as a faculty member, also represents the Tax Committee as an member. He counts over 15 years of experience in the mercantile sector and in the public practice

President Joseph is happily married to Vasanthi Saminadan and blessed with two daughters Akshaya Jayaseelan and Savindya Jayaseelan. We wish him good luck for his future endeavour as the Club President.

RI President's Message - July 2020



**Holger Knaack
President 2020-21**

This does not seem like a time for great optimism, but it has to be. Long before Rotary was founded, the world dealt with great crises that tested humankind's ability to progress and endure. In the age of Rotary, the world has faced many more catastrophes; however, we have survived, and every step of the way, Rotary has helped the world heal. Every great

challenge is an opportunity for renewal and growth. I revealed the theme of Rotary Opens Opportunities at the International Assembly in San Diego just as the COVID-19 crisis was beginning, but these are words that I have believed for many years.

Rotary is not just a club that you join; it is an invitation to endless opportunities. We believe in creating opportunities for others and for ourselves. We believe that our acts of service, large and small, generate opportunities for people who need our help, and that Rotary opens opportunities for us to live a richer, more meaningful life, with friends around the world, based on our core values.

Governments and institutions are gaining a greater appreciation for the types of public health partnerships that are critical to our work.

People stuck at home, eager for greater connections and hungry to help their communities, are now embracing the values we have promoted since our beginning.

All of this is positive news, but just because there are greater opportunities than ever for Rotary to thrive does not guarantee that we will succeed. The world is changing rapidly — and was doing so even before this crisis. People were starting to move away from regular lunch meetings and toward online gatherings. Friendships were being cultivated and revived in social media relationships even before most of our meetings moved to Zoom

and Skype. Younger generations have a strong desire to serve — but have questioned whether they could play a meaningful role in organizations like Rotary or whether they might make a bigger impact forming different types of connections. Now is the time to put everything on the table, test new approaches, and prepare Rotary for the future.

The COVID-19 crisis has forced all of us to adapt. This is good, and our new Action Plan specifically calls on us to improve our ability to adapt. But adaptation is not enough. We need to change, and change dramatically, if we are to face the challenges of this new age and provide the Rotary the world so desperately needs.

This is our great challenge, not just in the next year but into the foreseeable future. It is up to us to remake Rotary for these new times — to wholeheartedly embrace the ideas, energy, and commitment of young people eager to find an outlet for idealism. We must become an organization fully enmeshed in the digital age, not one that simply looks for online ways to keep doing what we have always done.

The world needs Rotary now more than ever. It is up to us to make sure that Rotary Opens Opportunities for generations to come.

The Rotary Foundation Trustees and Rotary International Board of Directors have both unanimously approved adding a new area of focus: supporting the environment. Supporting the environment becomes Rotary's seventh area of focus, categories of service activities supported by global grants. It joins peacebuilding and conflict prevention; disease prevention and treatment; water, sanitation, and hygiene; maternal and child health; basic education and literacy; and community economic development.

MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT GOVERNOR



**DG Ajith Weerasinghe
2020/2021**

As we step into a new Rotary year, “Business as usual” is no longer exists and we as Rotarians, I believe we need to think in novel and creative ways about how we will re-introduce ourselves to the communities, address and reinforce community relationships.

Priorities will evolve and we will see many changes in Rotary with all the individual clubs finding ways to maintain membership engagement during a time we have had to stop in-person meetings. We need to learn how to manage projects under these circumstances and serve our communities with the same commitment and zeal, whilst adopting to the New Normal. Overall, I trust we need to right now work towards creating a New Rotary Normal in and around us.

I am happy to say that the “challenge of change” has been well adopted by our Rotary Clubs and Rotarians, who have been resilient, determined and carried out lots of humanitarian activities during this pandemic period.

We had our very first virtual Rotary District Assembly that had all Rotarians putting their time aside to log on and spend a day towards Rotary. We had our Membership Development seminar and the Grants Management seminar both virtually, showcasing record numbers of participation, all of which confirmed the commitment and passion of our Rotarians, where I observe not only the active involvement but also the enthusiasm, they showed throughout the programme. Highest quality of speakers including the RI President Holger Knaack himself attending the event together with our own PRIP Ravi, both the Directors in our region Dr. Bharat Pandya and Kamal Sanghvi, Directors Elect, TRF Trustee and many more added the colour to

our programmes and that was really a rare opportunity! Each of the events were designed to inspire Rotarians who have taken up leadership roles in their respective clubs and to motivate them towards moving forward and taking the brave steps in their Rotary journey.

I have also seen clubs launching impressive projects that are geared in contributing immensely towards managing and overcoming the pandemic and serving the whole nation whilst extending their helping hands for those who needed assistance during the lockdown.

Sighting all this dazzling projects, it has given me a great confidence that I can count on each of you and look forward to a fabulous Rotary year where my Brave Titans, The Comrades in Service will continue to serve their communities for its betterment following MOH guidelines to prevent you, your loved ones and the whole society from this deadly virus.

So let us keep adapting and moving forward and not wait for opportunities to knock, but create the opportunities instead, where we make a move and transform the community around us. The doors are now open, come in, let us together make this world a better place!



ABOUT THE NEW DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Multiple Paul Harris Fellow, Ajith Weerasinghe has taken the reins as the new Governor of Rotary - Sri Lanka & Maldives. Born and bred in Negombo, he has bagged many accolades during his tenure in Rotary, including Best Rotarian. A major donor of Rotary.

He is the CEO/Director for four companies - CIC Feeds (Pvt) Ltd., CIC Vetcare (Pvt) Ltd., CIC Poultry Farms Ltd., and CIC Bio Security Breeder Farms Limited. An old boy of Maris Stella College, Negombo, Weerasinghe is a versatile personality who served in the Disciplinary Committee of Sri Lanka Cricket, President of the Veterinary Pharmaceutical Importers' Association, President, Old Boys' Association of Maris Stella and President, Ave Maria Convent Welfare Society of Negombo.

His diverse talents will help Governor Weerasinghe to lead the 2,000 Rotarians, 5,800 Rotaractors and 6,200 Interactors of Sri Lanka and Maldives.

One of the key initiatives that he will drive on the theme 'Rotary creates opportunities' is the project 'STOP THE SPREAD', which supports the government's efforts to manage the Covid-19 virus in the country.

The project will lead to the Covid-19 Control Environment Certification awarded by the Sri Lanka Standards Institution, Ministry of Higher Education, Innovation and Technology.

"We must move away from health and hygiene to livelihood development so that Sri Lanka will have a V shaped economic recovery in 2021 Weerasinghe stressed.

PRESIDENT TRAINING SEMINAR IN JUNE 2020



VETERAN ROTARIAN PP PHF. JEENO SINGARAYER ASSUMED AS THE CLUB SECRETARY



A versatile veteran Rotarian PP Jeeno assumed as club secretary to spearhead Club's objectives under the able leadership of President Joseph Jayaseelan. Such combination is the need of the hour in the dark gloomy situation created by COVID19 that had ravaged the country. PP Jeeno is

specialised in Agrarian Development was instrumental in carrying out many national projects to uplift the standard of agriculture. Rtn. PP. PHF. Jeeno Singarayer was born and brought up in Jaffna.

He had his primary education at St. Antony's College Kayts and his secondary education at St. Patricks College Jaffna. He completed his Diploma in Irrigation Engineering at University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka and successfully completed Masters in Geoinformatics, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka and joined the Department of Agrarian Development in 1983. He continues to work in the Department for the last thirty-seven years. Presently he is working as a Senior Engineering Asst. at the Department of Agrarian Development, Colombo, responsible for the mapping and database in GIS and Remote sensing unit utilizing high precision Global Positioning (GPS) System which is a remarkable achievement to have introduced modern technologies to uplift the standard of management of agricultural sector.

A devoted Rotarian joined Rotary club of Trincomalee in 1997/98, served as Director Vocational Services, Director Community Services and as Secretary of the Club thrice. He served as a President of Rotary Club of Trincomalee in the year 2005/2006 and served as District chairman for Youth Exchange in the year 2007/2008 for the District 3220. He actively involved in relief activities and rehabilitation projects for the poor during the last 12 years is a great testimony. His contributions in the construction of 35 permanent houses in Varothaya Nagar for the poor families and in

mobilizing the supports to the Tsunami victims are noteworthy to be mentioned here.

He is happily married to Anne Rohini and working as an Agriculture Specialist at World Food Programme, United Nations, Colombo. Our club is indeed proud to have PP Jeeno as a senior member as he is always an asset to Rotary.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish him well to pursue club activities to take the club to greater heights.

THE FOUR WAY TEST:

- 1. Is it the TRUTH?**
- 2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?**
- 3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**
- 4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?**

A MESSAGE FROM FOUNDATION TRUSTEE



I believe that RI President Holger Knaack's theme, Rotary Opens Opportunities, fits the times so well. You might ask how that can be, given all the turmoil happening around us today. The following story,

paraphrased from British author Alan Watts' telling of a Taoist parable, helps explain why.

Once there was a farmer whose horse ran away. That evening, all of his neighbours came around to commiserate. They said, "We are so sorry to hear your horse has run away. This is most unfortunate." The farmer said, "Maybe."

The next day, the horse came back, bringing seven wild horses. In the evening, everybody said, "Isn't that lucky. What a great turn of events. You now have eight horses!" The farmer again said, "Maybe."

The following day, his son tried to break one of the horses, and while riding it, he was thrown and broke his leg. The neighbours said, "Oh dear, that's too bad." The farmer responded, "Maybe."

The next day, officers came around to conscript people into the army, and they rejected his son because he had a broken leg. Again all the neighbours said, "Isn't that great!" Again, the farmer said, "Maybe."

What we learn from this is that nature is immensely complex. It's impossible to tell whether anything that happens is good or bad, because you never know what the consequences will be. All we can know is that with every action and reaction, there is an opportunity — a chance to live our values, express our desires, and take action to make the world a bit closer to the way we want it to be.

The Rotary Foundation is our conduit to make those meaningful changes. Through the Foundation, we do our part to help rid the world of

polio. In addition, we can help support important Covid-19 projects and prepare the world for the massive vaccination effort that will be needed soon. And we can help keep some continuity in service to people in need when so many regular services are being disrupted.

Will this be Rotary's great moment to become an even stronger organisation in the 21st century? Maybe. Is this your great opportunity to live your values? Maybe! It's up to you and me.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Ravi".

K R Ravindran
Foundation Trustee Chair

PROJECTS DURING THE MONTH OF JULY

We have provided a paddle Sink, Face Masks and Hand Sanitizers and Foot Bath Carpet to Dr. Thanninayagam Tamil Vidyalayam, a under privileged primary school in Borrella on the request of the Principal of the School.

There are about 150 primary student benefit out of the project and as you all aware ROTARY becoming the key initiative in STOP the SREAD in Sri Lanka.

The cost of the project was around Rs. 30,000/- and contributed by the Rotary club members of Colombo South.



UPCOMING PROJECTS.....

1. Water and Sanitation Project at Mathugama with the budget of around Rs. 150,000/-.

Around 80 families living in Mathugama area, classified under very low-income category lack proper sanitation facilities. The need was identified by the priest of a local Church. The Rotary Club of Colombo South will help them build at least three toilets.

The project is funded by the members contribution and the project is chaired by PDG George.

The project will be handed over in the first week of September

This project will be used to cover multiple areas with more funding such as maternal health, literacy and education etc.

This will be **FAMILY OUTING DAY!**

for RC Colombo South and have dates free during first week of SEPTEMBER.

2. Stop the Spread Project at Wellawatta Railway Station with a budget around Rs.65,000/-

After identifying the need to install the paddle sink in the Wellawatta Railway Station, Rotary Club as initiated to install about 5 paddle sink suitable to be used in the Railway Station.

As per the Station Master, Saman, there are about 10,000 passengers passes this Railway Station.

The project would cost around 65,000/-. The project will be funded by members of the Rotary Club Colombo South.

This project will also be used as a ROTARY Branding tool to make awareness among public to stop the VIRUS spread in the Country.

GREETINGS FOR CLUB MEMBERS!

Birthday greetings.....

PP Sara is celebrating his birthday on 5th August

PE Arul is celebrating his birthday on 16th August

PDG George's spouse Anne Evangeline celebrating her birthday on 8th August

Wedding Anniversaries greetings.....

IPP Sepalika celebrating her wedding anniversary on 2nd August

President Joseph celebrating his wedding anniversary on 23rd August

PP Rathnasothy celebrating his wedding anniversary on 27th August

PP Jeganathan celebrating his wedding anniversary on 29th August