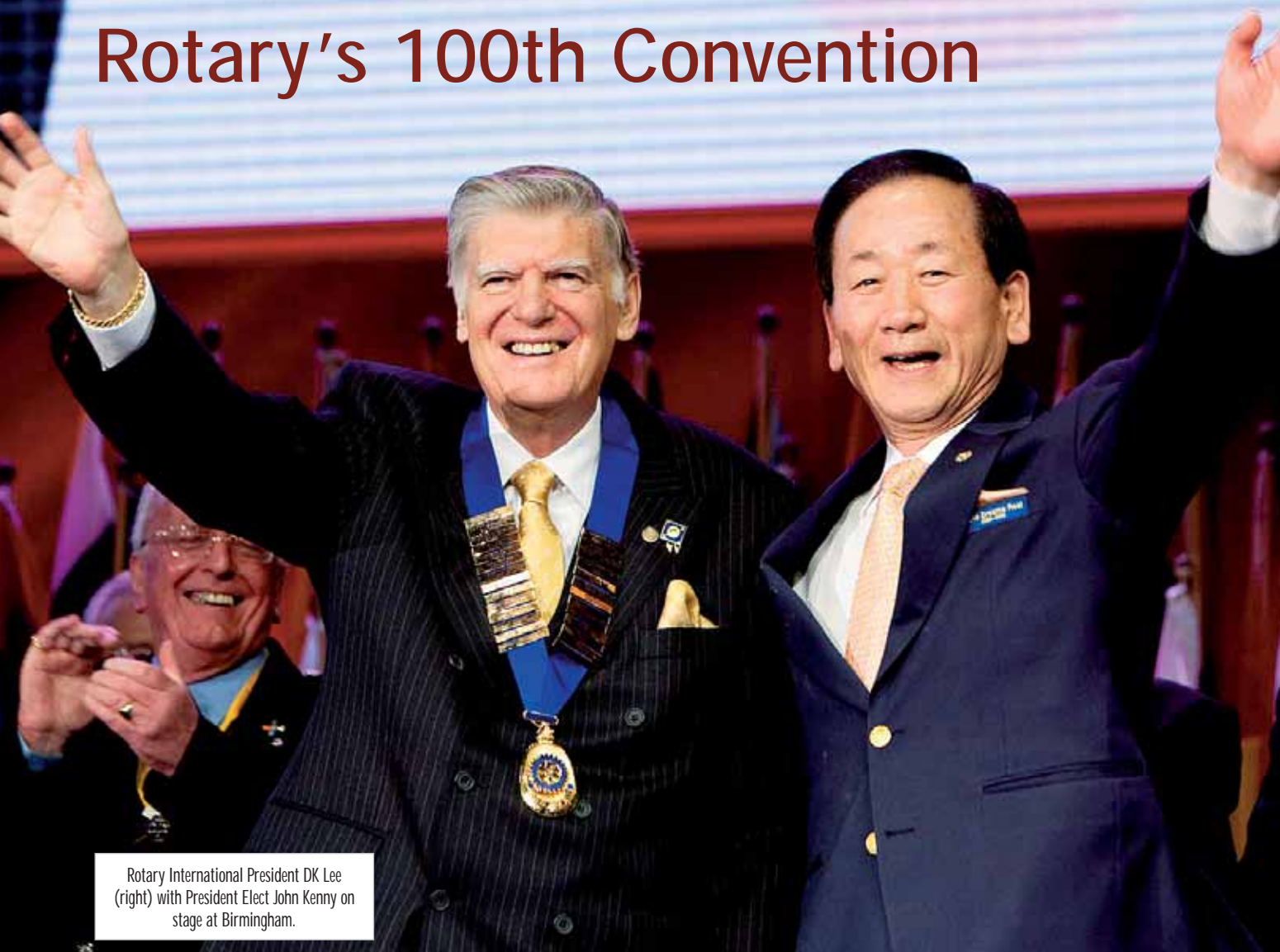


Rotary's 100th Convention



Rotary International President DK Lee (right) with President Elect John Kenny on stage at Birmingham.

“Child mortality is down 27 per cent. There have been improvements in all regions, including the poorest countries, and much of the gain can be attributed to the simplest of interventions – vaccines, nutritional supplements, bed nets and better hygiene. At the beginning of last decade, 10.7 million children died every year, most in developing countries and most of preventable causes. Malnutrition and lack of access to sanitation and safe water were behind more than half of the deaths.”

Such were the passionate words of RI President Dong Kurn Lee during the first plenary session at Rotary International's historic 100th Convention in Birmingham, England, from June 21 to 24.

President Lee told the packed opening session “I believe with all my heart that Rotary's work over the last decades has

played a role in these improvements. I hope with all my heart that we will continue to do so in the years and decades ahead.

“I am confident that your caring will continue to inspire your good work. I am confident that with your determination and expertise, and with Rotary cooperation, you will continue the kind of service that helps the lives of so many children.”

He recounted several personal experiences of his Rotary service with children in extreme health care situations and thanked Rotarians for what they had done to “Make Dreams Real” during the 2008/09 Rotary year.

“I thank you for your work in water, health and hunger, and literacy. I thank you for helping to save children the only way it can be done – one life at a time!”

Almost 16,000 Rotarians, partners and

friends from more than 150 countries gathered in Birmingham for the event.

The 100th Convention opened in dramatic style with a surprise appearance by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. See Page 6 for coverage of his comments.

Rotary International General Secretary and Master of Ceremonies Ed Futa was first on stage when he welcomed Convention patrons and introduced the opening plenary session. He called on Rotarians to “look to the future of our planet – END POLIO NOW”!

He pointed out several important features of Rotary's 100th Convention – to farewell DK Lee as the first RI President from Korea, to welcome John Kenny as the first RI President from Scotland, the return of the Convention to England after 25 years –



A children's choir comprised of singers from Britain and Korea proved a moving feature of the East Meets West entertainment theme.

all of which opened the way for an exciting “East meets West” theme.

“Be inspired, have fun”, he told the audience.

Throughout the Convention, Rotarians enjoyed the celebratory spirit and fellowship that prevailed in the House of Friendship.

A huge array of booths provided information on club and District projects, official Rotary resources, Rotary fellowships and action groups, souvenir and licensed merchandise vendors, and a variety of commercial retail booths.

A giant, colourful carousel created wonderful atmosphere as guests entered the House of Friendship. Relaxing patrons enjoyed continuous entertainment on a large stage at the rear of the friendship hall – including novel cooking demonstrations by finalists of the English Rotary young chef competition.

The City of Birmingham has been transformed in recent years and is now an attractive hub of the busy midlands area of England.

With the Convention centre at the Birmingham airport, most Convention patrons stayed in downtown Birmingham and enjoyed the free train and bus transport facilities every day.

The pre-Convention program began on June 16, with the much publicised Rotary World Peace Seminar – featuring Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, a Nobel Peace Prize recipient from South Africa.

Other pre-Convention events included a Rotary Alumni celebration, the 2009 Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) seminar, a Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group (WASRAG) summit meeting, another International Institute, Youth Exchange Officers meeting and banquet, and a Rotaract meeting.

The appearance of the UN Secretary-General was undoubtedly a real highlight of the Convention and, following his address to the opening plenary session, he was presented with Rotary's Polio Eradication Champion Award by RI President Lee

and Chairman of The Rotary Foundation Jonathan Majiyagbe.

Ban said he was deeply humbled by the honour and dedicated the award to the three polio immunisation volunteers killed in a suicide bomb attack in Afghanistan in 2008.

He also paid tribute to all the Rotarians who had sacrificed time and effort to take part in immunisation drives – volunteering in hostile areas, working through storms, droughts and disasters. He said this vast army of volunteers had brought the world close to the goal of eradicating polio.

In his final official speech as Rotary's President-Elect, John Kenny said, “We in Rotary have potential that is unmatched by any other humanitarian organisation in the world.”

“We can bring health to the sick, education to the illiterate, water to the thirsty, and sustainable livelihood to the poor and hungry. We can help those closest to us and those in the farthest corners of the earth.



Then Chairman of The Rotary Foundation Jonathan Majiyagbe, left, with Hollywood actress and UNICEF goodwill ambassador Mia Farrow, and Past RI Director John Thorne, of the Rotary Club of North Hobart, Tas.

“All this we can do – if only we choose to . . . and that is why, in the 2009-10 Rotary year, I selected the theme, *The Future of Rotary Is In Your Hands*. The future of Rotary is being decided every day, in every one of our clubs, by every one of you!”

The new President said he did not propose to introduce new programs to Rotary. He said he believed strongly in the autonomy of the Rotary club and in the ability of each club to determine where and how it should serve best.

“Water, health and hunger and literacy will be our emphases in the year ahead. They will be our emphases because they are the areas in which we can do most with our abilities and resources – and because they are the areas in which the world has the greatest need.

“If Rotary is to be relevant in the 21st Century, it must tackle these real problems of water, health and hunger and literacy. We must strive for continuity in the years ahead – which is why your Board of Directors, after consultation with clubs and Districts, adopted the Rotary International Strategic Plan.

“This plan is designed to strengthen and proclaim the core values of Rotary: service, fellowship, diversity, integrity and leadership.”

John Kenny is a member of the Rotary Club of Grangemouth, Scotland, and he confirmed Rotary’s dedication to the challenge of a polio-free world.

“Until the day the earth is declared polio-free, this work must be our first priority and our main focus. It is up to us to finish the job!”

Presidential Nominee Ray Klinginsmith, of the Rotary Club of Kirksville, Missouri,

USA, was elected as president of Rotary International for 2010-11 by voting delegates during the fourth plenary session.

Klinginsmith – who will become Rotary’s 100th president – thanked the audience, saying his election completed a long Rotary journey of nearly 50 years that began with a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship.

Awarded a scholarship to study at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, the new President-Elect said he had the good fortune to travel 16,000 miles throughout Africa and visit 35 Rotary clubs in four different countries.

“Therefore, I am pleased to stand here today as a product of The Rotary Foundation,” he added.

Eight Rotarians – including Stuart Heal, of the Rotary Club of Cromwell, New Zealand – who will serve as RI Directors in 2010-12 were declared elected during the same plenary session. RI General Secretary Ed Futa also declared elected the nominees for District Governor in 2010-11 and announced the officers for Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland in 2009-10.



Rotarian Darrell Gaukroger, seated, of the Rotary Club of Cooma, NSW, enjoyed his experience as accompanist for the Rotary World Youth Choir at the Convention Inter Faith Service. He is pictured with RI President DK Lee, right, and choir conductor PDG Chungsam Doh of the Rotary Club of Morro Bay, California, USA.

Third day of the annual Convention is traditionally The Rotary Foundation day.

Chairman of the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation Jonathan Majiyagbe acknowledged the grim reality of recent stock market losses and resultant challenges, but emphasised some of TRF's positive achievements –

- Some 100,000 people in the Dominican Republic who have access to clean water because Rotarians have provided 20,000 filtration units;
- More than 4000 people in Uganda benefiting from a multi-faceted Health, Hunger and Humanity project that provided mosquito nets, agricultural supplies and livestock for a communal farm, vocational training and equipment, water systems, and educational materials.
- Nine thousand people living in the Kibera slums outside Nairobi, who now have a water supply and sanitation facilities, thanks to another TRF Health, Hunger and Humanity grant.
- A total of 23 schools have been built by TRF grants to help Sri Lankan Rotarians and 12,000 students rebuild communities after the devastating tsunami.

The Chairman made special emphasis on the END POLIO NOW campaign.

He said the Gates Challenge resulted in \$US555 million of new money being available to deliver the final blows against

A successful 'down under' breakfast was one of the real highlights of the Convention for Kiwis and Aussies. Superbly organised by PDG Don and Joan Cox of the Rotary Club of Broadmeadows, Vic, the breakfast attracted support from no less than five RI presidents – past, present and future. From left, they are Frank Devlyn (2000/01), Bill Boyd (2006/07), DK Lee (2008/09), Ray Klinginsmith (2010/11) and Glen Kinross (1997/98).



the polio virus.

“We are broadcasting to the world that we must end Polio now, and the world is listening. Already, we have reached \$90,757,451 . . . and 34 cents. Every penny counts and I can promise you every penny of the challenge money will be directed towards polio eradication.”

An impressive line-up of guest speakers during the four days of the Convention left a lasting impression on attendees: –

- Clarissa Brocklehurst, UNICEF's chief of water, sanitation and hygiene, told the Convention that infrastructural problems such as lack of access to clean water and improved sanitation also

require collaborative solutions. She said about one billion people worldwide lacked access to safe drinking water and a further 2.5 billion didn't have proper sanitation. Brocklehurst said diarrhoea, which can be caused by poor sanitation, was the leading killer of children after pneumonia and added that the three sectors of taps, toilets and soap are related, inseparable, and vital to all communities.

- ShelterBox founder, Tom Henderson of the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard, Cornwall, England, received a standing ovation from the day-two audience. He said ShelterBox had provided shelter for more than 800,000 people in 57 countries as a result of natural disasters since 2001. He said he had 1.2 million friends in 32,000 offices around the world. When disaster struck, he simply lifted the phone and contacted a Rotary friend for advice. Tom also made the important point that ShelterBox was creating awareness of Rotary and attracting new members in many communities.
- UK Secretary of State for International Development Douglas Alexander praised Rotary for its Polio eradication program and said the British Government had now pledged £540,000 to the campaign. He acknowledged that Rotary was “nearly at the top of the mountain” with just four endemic countries remaining. He suggested that Nigeria – where more children are crippled than anywhere else in the world – represented the greatest challenge. He explained that Governors of the 36 Nigerian states had grouped



Entry to the House of Friendship had plenty of 'wow factor' with a full size musical carousel in operation. PDG Alan and Masie Grady from the Rotary Club of Granville, NSW, did not let the age of most riders inhibit them.



RI President Nominee Ray Klinginsmith delighted the audience with stories from his 50 years of Rotary involvement in his acceptance speech.

together to put special protection in place and more than 26 million children had now been immunised. “The World together needs Rotary’s voice – when Rotarians speak, world leaders listen,” he said.

- Alex Buchanan, of the Rotary Club of Melbourne, Vic, was honoured on Rotary Foundation Day with the presentation of the 2008-09 Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award for his work – in recognition of his creation of the high- protein Australian milk biscuit and high- energy biscuit, principal component in Australia’s international food aid program (see story, Page 52).
- Hollywood actress and UNICEF goodwill ambassador Mia Farrow told the Convention she understood the devastation of polio and the importance of eradicating the virus. Farrow survived polio as a child and adopted a son from India who had contracted the disease. She focused the second half of her address on promoting the health and safety of children – a message that dovetailed with President DK Lee’s emphasis on child mortality – with special emphasis on the children of Darfur, Sudan.
- During the fourth plenary session, primatologist and humanitarian Dr Jane Goodall stressed the goals that her organisation shared with Rotary

and called for increased collaboration. She said the Jane Goodall Institute for Wildlife Research, Education and Conservation sponsored the Lake Tanganyika Reforestation and Education scholarship fund and provided family planning instruction from peer educators who lived in poverty near Gombe. She said the women had a life of their own now and looked to a future where their children would not suffer the way they did as young people.

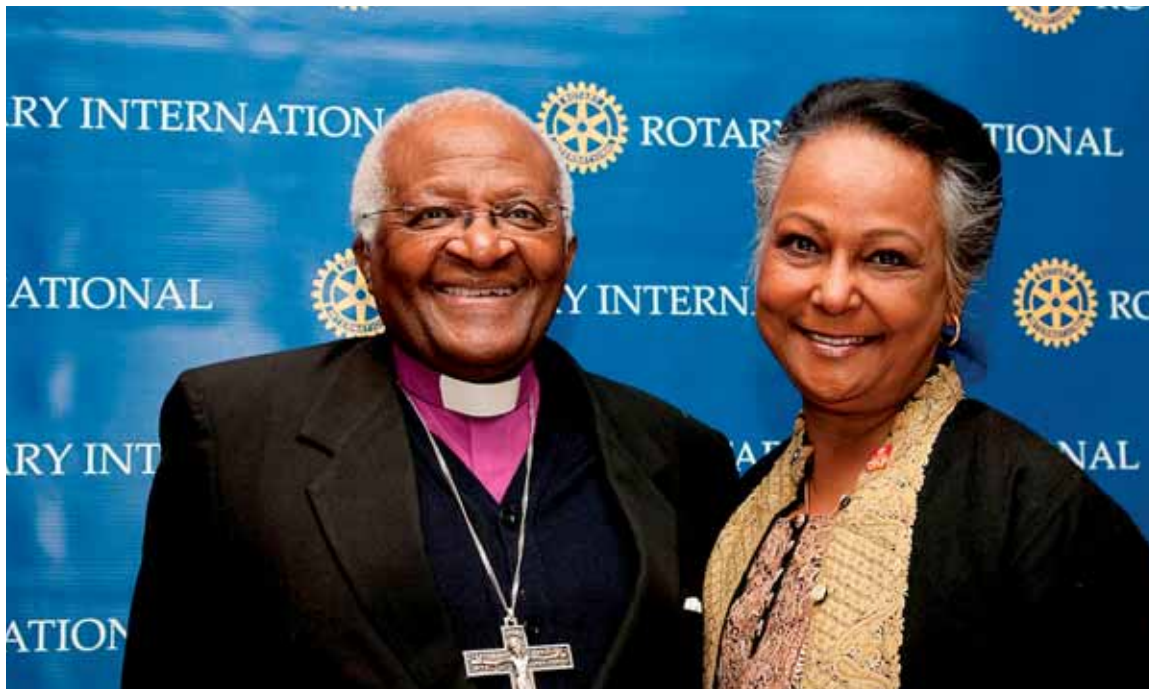
- A further call to action came from Deepa Willingham, of the Rotary Club of Santa Ynez Valley, California, USA, who also

discussed the problem of extreme poverty. She described three broad categories of poverty – extreme, moderate and relative – and stated half the human population of the world currently lived on less than \$US2 a day! Inspired by the 2004-05 Rotary theme, *Lend a Hand*, Willingham developed a special project, *Promise of Assurance to Children Everywhere* (PACE Universal) which now helped about 130 young girls who might otherwise become part of the sex trade.

- In addition to the appearance of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, there was a real “down under” flavour at the Rotary



Man of the moment, Alex Buchanan of the Rotary Club of Melbourne, Vic, at the ‘down under’ breakfast with PDGs Pat Galligan, left, and Peter Kaye, of Queensland, right. Alex was honoured with the 2008/09 Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award during the Convention.



Two star performers on the speakers' list were Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa at the pre-convention Peace Symposium and Deepa Willingham of the Rotary Club of Santa Ynez Valley, California, USA.

World Peace Symposium. David Chick, a 2005-07 peace fellow from Australia discussed his field experience in Papua New Guinea, where he worked as a Director for Pacific Programs at AusAID. Isabela Pereira reported on the dramatic change in the lives of people of Timor-Leste since she arrived there in April, 2008, as a governance officer with the United Nations Integrated Mission. Pereira, who studied as a 2005-07 Peace Fellow at Universidad del Salvador in Buenos Aires, Argentina, said there were 60 displaced persons camps when she arrived in Timor-Leste but all were now gone.

The Birmingham Convention Host Organising Committee offered several outstanding special ticketed events – in addition to the traditional special luncheons and home hosting evening.

Opera diva Catherine Jenkins was the star performer at a five-star concert on Saturday night. Patrons delighted at the colour and pageantry – including jousting by knights of old – at a special evening at wonderful Warwick Castle on Sunday night, while downtown Birmingham staged performances by the Birmingham Royal Ballet, the Treorchy Male Choir and the unique *East Meets West* variety show.



Fun and friendship abound at Conventions. Here Sergeant-at-Arms Danny Scanlan of Arizona, USA, threatens to take PDG Ken and Margaret Linkhorn of the Rotary Club of Takapuna, NZ, and Governor Jack and Adrienne Davies of the Rotary Club of Howick, NZ, into friendly custody!

The END POLIO NOW logo was projected on to the side of the Birmingham Central Library during the Birmingham Greets Rotary night on the Tuesday of Convention week.

There was a strong attendance of

Rotarians from Australia and New Zealand at the Convention and many were involved in the conduct of booths and workshops.

Rotarians Toni Stevens (Rotary Club of Morristet, NSW) and Darrell Gaukroger



RDU combined resources with Travel 41 to organise a small but successful Convention tour. Members of the tour group Patricia Smith, left, PDG Peter Sandercock, DG Alex McHarg, Pam Sandercock, Ann Aitken and Pam McHarg, with one of many regal host couples at the Warwick Castle evening.



Many convention patrons from 'down under' were involved with commercial stalls and project booths in the House of Friendship. Jamie Costello, of Costello's Opal Discovery Centre in Sydney, shares a light-hearted moment with staff members Julie, left, and Kate.

(Rotary Club of Cooma, NSW) were accomplished performers on the House of Friendship stage. Darrell also provided musical accompaniment for the Rotary World Choir at the Convention Interfaith Service on June 20.

RI Director John Lawrence and Janet, of the Rotary Club of Brisbane Planetarium, Qld, joined forces with PDG Don Cox and Joan of the Rotary Club of Broadmeadows, Vic, to organise an outstanding "Down Under" breakfast on the opening Sunday morning of the Convention.

Some 200 patrons from New Zealand and Australia enjoyed

fine food and musical entertainment, along with a cavalcade of guests from other countries.

Included among the guests were no less than five past, present and future RI Presidents – DK Lee, Ray Klingensmith, Bill Boyd, Frank Devlyn and Glen Kinross.

In his moving closing address, President DK Lee thanked Rotarians for striving to *Make Dreams Real* during the year and then asked everyone "to share his beautiful dream... a dream of a world where every child has the chance to play, grow and learn – free of hunger, disease and want". ■

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DG Sue Rowell (District 9450, WA), left, and Veronica Devereux of the Rotary Club of Western Endeavour, WA, strike a delightful pose with Wei Soo, General Manager of the Global Poverty Project. Under DG Sue's guidance, District 9450 hosted a morning tea in the House of Friendship to promote the Global Poverty Project – along with splendid new environmental initiatives 'treemission' and 'Days of Change' coming out of WA.