

Tech Talk



Newsletter of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers • November 2011

2011-12 Technical Coordinators

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Michael Webb (England)
Francis Tusubira (Uganda)

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Madhumita Bishnu (India)
John Thorne (Australia)

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(Taiwan)

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(Togo)
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WATER & SANITATION

Camilo A. Calvo (USA)
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Message from the Chair

Michael Webb

It is my privilege to chair The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers. We recently allocated the second batch of assignments for the Rotary year, and I am very pleased that we have been able to appoint some new cadre members to a site visit. They registered following the training seminar in Accra, Ghana, after hearing of our work within the Stewardship Department.

We are looking to increase cadre membership in the following areas:

- Auditors who speak Japanese, Italian, Korean, and Portuguese
- Auditors residing in North or Central America who speak Spanish
- Health and water/sanitation professionals
- Professionals from all sectors residing in Africa

I am sometimes asked what criteria are used in making assignments, apart from trying to share the appointments amongst all cadre members. Firstly, we have to align the expertise and language of a cadre member with the available project. Then we take into account attendance at training seminars, as well as the standard of previous

review and site visit reporting. It is important to remember that, because of the limited number of assignments and the specific requirements of each, it occasionally takes some time to find a project that matches a cadre member's skills and expertise.

The work carried out by the cadre is critical to ensuring that Foundation money, donated and raised by Rotarians around the world, is spent wisely, in a manner that benefits the proposed recipients.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Bangkok cadre training seminar on Friday, 4 May.

Please spread the word and encourage interested Rotarians to become members of the cadre by contacting [Christian Pepera](#) at The Rotary Foundation.

Regards,

Mike Webb



Carlos Esquerro evaluated a project providing agricultural assistance to farmers in Angola.

In Our Own Words

Monitoring for the Cadre: An Opportunity for Service Above Self

PDG James J. Yarmus, Rotary Club of Spring Valley, USA, District 7210



Beneficiaries access the potable water made available by a project in West Africa visited by PDG James Yarmus.

Editor's note: Some identifying details, such as names of the project location and sponsors, have been omitted, to ensure confidentiality.

I recently completed an assignment, this time in a West African country where water and sanitation, as well as health and hygiene training, are improving the lives of tens of thousands of individuals who live or work in communities that previously lacked these basic necessities.

As with similar projects I have evaluated in Latin America, the beneficiaries see Rotarian experts from other countries as humanitarians who give of themselves to improve communities in the project country. Whether the direct benefit comes from Rotary International, international development agencies, or the country's own Rotary clubs, the appreciation and jubilation are evident on the smiling faces of people who now have one more

reason to appreciate Rotary International.

My most recent assignment consisted of inspecting the progress on the ground, both from a construction schedule and costs perspective and a quality- and specification-compliance point of view. The project includes mechanical water access pumping of potable water from a remote source; the water is treated for full compliance with potable water standards and

"...the appreciation and jubilation are evident on the smiling faces of people who now have one more reason to appreciate Rotary International."

pumped to localized hand-pumping wells. Additionally, modern toilets and showers were provided at some locations. Where this was not possible, modern latrine technology was used to eliminate the sanitation problems associated with pollution, contamination, and hygiene issues that existed before Rotary intervened.

Rotary International is involved in such projects in Asia, Latin America, Africa, and elsewhere. The goals of the project I visited are typical of what Rotarians have been doing worldwide since Paul Harris called his peers to action in 1905. There is every indication that Rotary is helping people in remote communities learn modern health, hygiene, sanitation, and sustainable improvements — enabling them to use their own

willingness to advance to help themselves.

Dr. James Yarmus, a professional engineer, is a member of the Rotary Club of Spring Valley, New York, USA, and a past governor of District 7210.

Recent Cadre Visits



Edward Muchiimi evaluated a project providing potable water and health education to secondary schools in Nigeria.



RI President Kalyan Banerjee is offered the first drink from a well installed by a 3-H grant project that PDG Mark Doyle visited in Ghana.



Chalermchat Chun-In evaluated a project that provided potable water and hygiene education to these children in the Philippines.

Cadre Training and Recruitment Seminar

Accra, Ghana



Trustee Chair-elect Wilf Wilkinson delivers a presentation on the importance of stewardship.



Training participants discuss a case study during a breakout session.



More Rotarians attended the Accra training seminar than any previous cadre training event.

The cadre's recruitment-focused training seminar in Accra, Ghana, in August was a great success. The event, held to address the need for more cadre advisers from West Africa, was attended by more than 80 Rotarians, coming from all over the region, as well as South Africa, Uganda, and even the United States.

As of early November, 18 attendees have registered, and five more registrations were received as a result of attendees spreading the word. These new registrants help to correct the disparity between the low number of cadre members in Africa and the large number of projects that take place there. Having more African advisers helps us reduce the cost of each site visit and reduce travel times, which can be a burden on some cadre members. Particularly helpful are the newly registered French-speaking advisers, who can assess projects in Francophone countries. We have already begun assigning some of these new registrants to site visits this year.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this a wonderful seminar. For those of

you who missed this event, here are some quick highlights:

- Past RI President and Trustee Chair-elect Wilf Wilkinson offered his thoughts on the importance of stewardship. We are grateful that he decided to join us instead of visiting with the president of Ghana that morning!
- Sam Okudzeto, trustee vice chair and Future Vision Committee member, joined us in his home country for an enlightening presentation on the Future Vision Plan.
- Francis "Tusu" Tusubira, cadre vice chair and event moderator, provided insights into the cadre's needs and a list of the top 10 things to do during a site visit.
- Three experienced cadre members spoke about their field work and offered tips for best practices. Attendees also had an opportunity to ask many questions.

Remember, our next training event will be held on Friday, 4 May, in Bangkok, Thailand. We hope to see you there!

Save the Date!

Friday, 4 May 2012

2012 RI Convention

The next scheduled cadre training will be held on Friday, 4 May, at the Impact Center in Bangkok, Thailand. All cadre members are welcome, and the training is also open to all Rotarians attending the 2012 RI Convention.

Anyone interested in becoming a cadre member or learning more about the stewardship of Rotary Foundation grant funds is encouraged to attend this full-day training session. Additional details will be shared as the date approaches.



The Return of Low-Cost Shelter Projects

At their September meeting, The Rotary Foundation Trustees agreed to allow Rotary clubs and districts not participating in the Future Vision pilot to begin utilizing Matching Grants to fund low-cost shelter projects. This decision enables Rotarians to implement the housing projects in 2011-12 and 2012-13.

Low-cost shelter projects are technically complex, as they must provide clean water, sanitation, and a social infrastructure in order to be successful.

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Because of the various requirements necessary to construct a safe and sustainable residence, the Trustees also approved a set of guidelines that clubs and districts must follow in order to receive funding. A June survey of cadre members with construction and architecture backgrounds helped the Trustees shape the new guidelines.

Construction requirements include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Shelters may cost no more than US\$5,000 to build.
- Safe water and sanitation, if not included in the shelter, must be available within a reasonable distance.
- A minimum of five shelters may be constructed with a single grant award, and a maximum of 50 shelters may be constructed at a single site with total use of TRF funds.
- Incorporating a home maintenance plan as a means of ensuring the long-term sustainability of the shelters is encouraged. Such plans provide training for the individual, and collective upkeep and maintenance of construction elements like water wells, latrine blocks, roofs, etc.

The full list of guidelines and the Low-Cost Shelter Application Appendix are posted on the cadre shared site. They are also available to Rotarians on the [RI website](#).

Cadre members will be asked to help evaluate and monitor low-cost shelter projects, beginning with the review of all applications prior to approval.

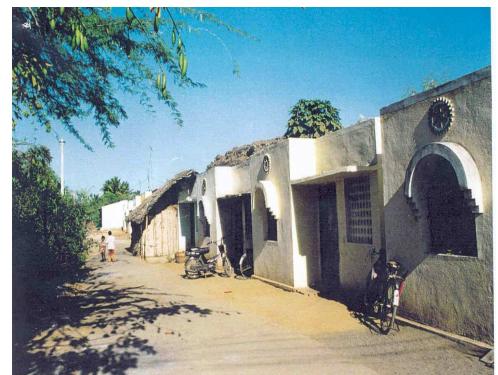
Cadre members will also make interim and postproject site visits to ensure

that the construction and utilization of the shelters is progressing as planned.

The reinstatement of low-cost shelter projects is an exciting development for the Matching Grants program, and another opportunity for The Rotary Foundation to use the expertise and professional knowledge of the cadre. If you have questions about the cadre's involvement in low-cost shelter grants e-mail [Christian Pepera](mailto:Christian.Pepera@rotary.org).



Low-cost shelters in Honduras built with a Matching Grant.



Low-cost shelters in India built with a Matching Grant.