



May 2008

I am pleased to submit the following report on the activities and initiatives of Rotarians and Rotary clubs during the third quarter of this Rotary year.

Executive Summary

Two aspects of Rotarians' water activities are emerging as we review the trends of the past few years:

- There has been a steady increase in the number of clubs and districts becoming engaged in water and sanitation projects—even though this is not always apparent from the formal reporting that has been requested every quarter.
- A move towards bigger, more holistic projects and programs

The increase in water activity is due to many factors. Undoubtedly the most important has been the **consistency of messages from successive presidents**—from PRIP Glenn Estess to RIP Wilf Wilkinson today. Clubs and districts need more than a year to shift gears and launch new projects/programs. Repeating the emphases helps all clubs to come on-side. Partly as a result of this consistency, seminars on water and/or sanitation have become de rigueur at nearly all district conferences and many zone institutes. In summary the consistency of the message is critical to effective performance at the club and even at the district level.

The second trend is a move towards **larger projects and multi-year programs**—even though this may not “fit” The Rotary Foundation model in its present form. This trend has been encouraged by many governors in developing countries, to appoint gatekeepers to control the wanton creation of projects, and even clubs, in order to receive Matching Grants.

Some examples of these multi-year programs are:

- The Nakuru Water & Sanitation Program (NWSP) in Kenya, which was launched in 2002 with a series of Matching Grants and support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). After three years of short-term project funding, CIDA has committed to three years' program funding. This complements contributions from Rotary clubs in Canada, USA and Europe.
- Districts 9250, 9270, 9300, 9320 and 9350 have come together to lead a major water and sanitation program in South Africa. The program will be based on rainwater harvesting but will complement this technology as appropriate. All Rotary clubs in South Africa will take ownership of the



program under the direction of PDG Tom Borrill. They will partner with many local organizations including ABSA (the community and social development arm of one of the countries' largest financial services organizations, with over 11,000 volunteers), the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Department of Education, Provincial Water Boards, the Water Institute of South Africa and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

- A similar program is being formulated by Rotarians and NGO allies in the Republic of Madagascar.
- Programs of the Rotary India Water Trust in northern India, again primarily based on rainwater harvesting.

Communications

Communications between clubs, district and zone coordinators through the Water Resource Group channel has always been hit and miss. Some coordinators, especially those who are PDGs, do have a reach beyond their own district. They are better able to interact with other districts and request information on projects and offer advice and suggestions. Others, lacking this reach, find it very difficult to gain any credibility beyond the borders of their own district. We recommend that, wherever possible, the zone coordinators be PDGs.

Increasingly, WASRAG is filling the communications gap. Being a “bottom-up” organization it complements the Water Resource Group. The data base of over 5000 Rotarians enables horizontal communication across clubs and districts. It greatly facilitates Rotarians' search for suitable projects or information on technology. Recently for example, when seeking information on Rotary projects reducing conflict, we received over 100 replies describing how this had occurred in many countries.

Another example illustrates the point. A Rotary club in the USA wanted to undertake a water project in Sierra Leone. Not finding anything in the RI website they contacted WASRAG to ascertain if any other club was working in that country. Coincidentally WASRAG had just received a memorandum from another club in the USA that had established linkages in that country. We were able to link the two clubs and through that linkage, enabled the club to make contact in Sierra Leone.

A similar exchange took place earlier this year when a Rotary club in the USA wanted to work in the strife-torn Lake Turkana area of Kenya. We were able to put the club in touch with a district in Spain already working there.

In view of this growing capacity of some RAGs to meet the needs of Rotarians and clubs, it is appropriate to ask whether some of the resources currently devoted to “resource groups” might be better directed to the appropriate RAG?



In the following section we highlight information received during this quarter on water and sanitation activities in the Rotary world.

Zone 3- Z.C. Morihiko Narukawa

The International Service/WCS committee in D-2660 holds an “International Service/WCS chairman meeting” twice a year for all clubs. The purpose - to plan and share information about water projects etc.

Eighteen clubs are actively engaged in water projects in this district. The focus is Southeast Asia, notably Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Taiwan and Cambodia. Projects include wells, purification, storage tanks. Over 10,000 people, mostly students have benefited. The district would like to help people in Myanmar but the imposition of sanctions prevents the use of TRF Matching Grants.

Zone 5- Z.C. Shekhar Mehta

R.C. of Nigdi-Pune is partnering with D-7040 (Z-22) to build 1-10 borewells around Urulikanchan to provide clean accessible water to a number of rural villages

Zone 7A-Z.C. Peter D. Rostron

D-9630 the R.C. of Carindale is undertaking a major project to protect creek banks, planting trees, enhancing mangroves and testing the quality of the water which feeds into a major fishing and spawning area.

The Loganholme club, in partnership with clubs from other districts in Australia and USA is implementing rainwater harvesting and 19 tanks in four villages on Viti Levu, Fiji.

Another major project involving clubs for Australia, USA and Bali is the East Bali Poverty project to bring safe water to over 15,000 people and 19 hamlets.

D-9500, R.C. of Adelaide West, has completed a project to bring water to two villages in Kassala State, Sudan. The Safe Water Saves Lives committee is supplying a “SkyHydrant” with plumbing and storage equipment to an aboriginal community health centre.

D-9520 has signed an agreement with WaterAid Australia to implement a water supply system in Timor Leste.

D-9600 has been very active under the leadership of District Coordinator Jan Lawton:

- Recent completion of an arsenic mitigation project in Bangladesh;
- Many projects in Papua New Guinea - water supply in Bukapena, wells in Rabaul, water supply system to an island in Malaita province where previously villagers brought water by canoe, an ongoing programme on Bambanga island implementing water and sanitation systems to schools.

Zone 8-Z.C. Brian E. Foley

The Rotary Pacific Water For Life Foundation (RPWFLF), largely funded by corporate sponsors, in conjunction with the Rotary club of Suva East is leading a major program to bring clean, safe water to needy communities in Fiji and the South Pacific.

Zone 10-N.E. Africa Z.C. Shifarrow Bizuneh

Nothing has been heard from this zone but much is happening in South Africa where there is no formal zone coordinator below the Area Coordinator, Mohamed Abdulla.

The major initiative is under way in South Africa where districts 9250, 9270, 9300, 9320 and 9350 are cooperating on a \$6 million program to bring sustainable water to hundreds of villages.

The plan to supply clean water throughout Uganda is moving ahead. The team has been approved to submit an application for a 3-H Grant. They are currently raising the \$30,000 for the Matching Grant.

In Kenya the Nakuru Water & Sanitation Program (NWSP) is moving ahead despite the arrival of 150,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as a result of the post-election clashes. Funding has been secured for three years. Over 1300 rainwater harvesting tanks have been built by the local RCC under supervision of the Nakuru Rotary club.

Zone 10-West Africa Z.C. Marie-Irene Richmond Ahoua

Zaguiga, a village of 2000 people in Cote d'Ivoire, received a pump in 1975. Then, in 1980 the pump broke down. Since then the village was without potable water despite many appeals to the authorities. The Rotary club of Dalou Centre-Ouest heard about the problem. It took charge of rehabilitating the pump, raising all the needed funds within the club. Re-opening the pump in December 2007 was the occasion of great joy in the community.

The R.C. of Abidjan-Riviera repaired several wells in communities in the interior of the country. Funds for this work were raised from the sale of pineapples by the supporting French clubs.



The R.C. of Dapaong (D-9100) reports an interesting consequence of a well-drilling project in the savannah of northern Togo (supported by D-5960, Minnesota). The cantons of Kourietre and Poissongui had been in conflict for over 25 years. Following the inauguration of a well in one of the cantons, the other chief paid a visit having heard that the purpose of Rotary was goodwill and understanding. This visit, and the celebration of water led to a reconciliation of the two chiefs of these villages.

Zone 10-North Africa Z.C. Naima Smires Kettani

Eco-Villages is a program to bring water, sanitation and education to some 3000 villagers in Morocco. The underlying problems resulting from a lack of safe water were high illiteracy, especially among young women, and emigration of young people to the cities to find work. The program consists of building a pipeline, controls, water fountains, storage tanks and toilets. It also embraced training in personal hygiene and agriculture. The program is supported by Rotary clubs in Morocco, France and Italy.

Zone 13-Z.C. Robert Gekiere

D-2170 is supporting the promotion of the book of water-related photographs by Belgian photographer, Dieter Telemans.

R.C. of Mechelen Opsinjoor is supporting a potable well project in D-3210, Trivandram, India.

R.C. of St-Genesius, with the help of a Matching Grant, is alleviating the water crisis in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

D-2000 has committed substantial resources to water projects. The first, in the Kibera Slum, Nairobi, is supplying and training in SODIS technology. The second is supplying Katadyn filters in North-east Thailand.

Zone 21-Z.C. Manuel Martinez Arteaga

The island of Hispaniola was severely impacted by tropical Noel and Olga last year. The community of Sabaneta de Yasica is supplying Rotary water filters to 200 households in the village of Villa Arriva, a community that was severely flooded. In addition, they are now funding and transporting food to the villagers.



Zone 22 East-Z.C. Elizabeth M. (Bette) Miller

D-6380 (Zones 22/28) under the leadership of Eileen Heasley has put much emphasis on water and sanitation. Each club has been encouraged to appoint a “Water Champion”. The district conference featured a workshop – with the water champions and the district water coordinator- as well as a plenary session on water. The result of this emphasis is that 16 clubs are committed to water projects in the Dominican Republic, Thailand, Tanzania, Nepal, Philippines, Ecuador and India. In addition several clubs are engaged in cleaning up the local watershed.

Zone 22 West-Z.C. Del W. Paterson

D-5020 reports that 19 clubs are committed to water projects in Uganda, Mexico, Sierra Leone, Peru, Malawi, Guatemala, Zambia and Honduras. The projects include building pipelines, drilling wells, installing a water tank and pumping system, and upgrading the municipal water system.

Zone 23-Z.C. Arvind Phukan

D-5030, R.C. of University District of Seattle is sponsoring one of the major water projects in this zone - the Ethiopia Water Program - which is now entering its third phase. The success of this program, with its proven template, is encouraging other clubs to join this initiative. Tacoma #8 R.C. will sponsor the next phase. The program will bring safe water and sanitation and improved health and livelihood to 100 villages in north-east Ethiopia. It provides a good example of how Rotary clubs in two districts can cooperate effectively with World Vision Ethiopia, World Vision USA and the Hilton Foundation.

D-5100 reports over 37 clubs engaged in water/sanitation projects in El Salvador, Bali, Thailand, Honduras, Guatemala, Philippines, Tanzania and the Ukraine. The combination of one large program and several small projects demonstrates how Rotary is evolving into a major player on the water scene.

Zone 25-Z.C. Ronald A. Goodsite

D-5450 has a very effective water/sanitation program bringing benefits to the developing world. The key to this success is a strong Water Task Force with representatives from clubs throughout the district. Major projects include helping the R.C. of Mzuzu to resuscitate a water system in Malawi, implementing a low-tech water system in Uganda, supplying bio-sand filters to Christas island, a watershed management program in Maharashtra and well projects in Burkina Faso.



Zone 26-Z.C. Kim A. Holland

D-5830/930 are working in Honduras to rehabilitate an old dam in the mountains and pipe the water to a 26,000 gallon tank they are building. The water will then go through a slow-sand filter to supply the villagers in the barrio.

Zone 27-Z.C. Holly Callen

D-5970 reports a number of projects, primarily in Africa:

R.C. of Cedar Falls with assistance of six other clubs is supporting a well-drilling project in Tanzania.

R.C. of Dubuque is supporting a bore-well program, also in Tanzania.

R.C. of Mason City is working in Togo to repair 36 wells.

R.C. of Cedar Rapids West is seeking a water opportunity in Ghana.

D-6440, R.C. of Evanston Lighthouse is supporting a project in Aba, Nigeria to bring safe water, install toilets and teach personal hygiene to 21 secondary schools. Over 45,000 students will benefit directly and over 250,000 people will benefit from improved hygiene practices.

Zone 28-Z.C. Lawrence S. Wright

The major activity in this zone is the annual “Thirsting to Serve” conference hosted by D-6290.

Attracting over 250 participants, many from other districts and zones, it has stimulated many water and sanitation initiatives. This district has been largely responsible for the successful promotion of the “Bio-Sand” filter—especially in the Dominican Republic and Honduras. Discussions are currently under way with Z.C. Rekha Shetty to develop a capability to produce and distribute the filter in India.

Zone 29-Z.C. Jane A. Molloy

D-6110, R.C. of Tulsa continues to support a well-drilling project in Nicaragua which, to date, has completed well over 100 wells and another 30 expected to be completed this Rotary year. A major challenge facing this project has been the intractability of the Nicaraguan government customs officials.



Zone 30-Z.C. Jerry W. Fox

A large number of clubs in several districts in this zone are engaged in water/sanitation projects:

D-6560: wells, piping and pumps in Malawi, pedal pumps in Mexico, potable water tanks in El Salvador.

D-6580: water systems in El Salvador, water to an orphanage in Uganda, safe water in Honduras, Myanmar and Haiti.

D-6690: clean water in Guatemala, Honduras, India and supplying a drilling rig for Honduras.

D-6740 - tube wells in India, rainwater harvesting in India, wells in Puna, water to an orphanage in Myanmar.

D-6780 - 22 clubs are engaged in a variety of projects and countries including water pumps for Haiti, wells in Ghana, filtration in Guatemala and Thailand.

D-6800 - several clubs are supporting wells and pumps with Living Water in Honduras

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In summary, Rotarians are responding to your call and that of your predecessors to focus on water, and to “Share Rotary”. Much still remains to be done however. Many clubs still are unable to identify and implement a water project—even with the assistance of other Rotary clubs in the district or after hearing requests from Rotarians in Africa, Asia and Latin America. We believe that the formation of the Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group is providing the leverage and knowledge needed to address this humanitarian challenge more effectively.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Denham, General Coordinator,
Water Resource Group, 2007-08