

Governor's  
MONTHLY  
LETTER 2021

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Rotary  
District 2750



Rotary Opens Opportunities  
ロータリーは機会の扉を開く

April 2021



## Governor's Message

Rotary International  
District 2750 2020-21 Governor

**Yuichi Fukuhara**

**“It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is most adaptable to change.”**

For young people in Japan, April is a month of celebration due to all the entrance ceremonies that take place at schools from nursery schools and kindergartens to universities and at companies as well. However, given the current COVID-19 pandemic, one has to wonder whether those ceremonies will all be held online. For an elderly individual such as myself, April was not a particularly special month, but then again, it is the month in which the elderly will start receiving COVID-19 vaccinations. At the same time, since Taro Kono, Minister in Charge of Administrative Reform who is overseeing those vaccinations, has gone on record saying that supplies of the vaccine would be limited, there is no telling when my turn to get vaccinated will come.

Moving on, the lengthy quote in the title is a famous one from the theory of evolution by Charles Darwin, a natural scientist from England who was active at the beginning of the 19th century. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to change how we live and work. Still, is adapting in that matter connected to our evolution for the purpose of survival? The Economist has stated that as the promotion of IT has progressed with more people working from home, work style reforms have served to elevate productivity. It is also said that those advances in IT have resulted in narrower gender gaps and progress in gender equality. Clearly, these changes and evolutions are wide-reaching. Moreover, they have just begun.

There is one domain in which Rotary activities must become increasingly vitalized, even in the midst of this COVID-19 pandemic. That domain is the issue of “medical inequality.” The gap between developed nations and developing nations is also being treated as a problem with respect to the supply of the COVID-19 vaccine, a prominent topic as of late. For years now, we as Rotarians have engaged in activities to protect mothers and their children in impoverished countries by helping them receive vaccinations, handing out childbirth kits to them, endeavoring to improve their literacy and operating mobile clinics. The COVID-19 pandemic compounded these issues. My belief is that women and children cannot be allowed to die for preventable reasons.

This month falls on “Maternal and Child Health Month.” Examples of our service activities in Japan are providing support to “child cafeterias” that feed children who are unable to eat due to being poor and supplying masks to people in medical professions. These activities have been well-received, and it is my intention to continue them going forward.

On that note, a popular topic in the news these days is the question of whether Japan can develop the ability to domestically produce a COVID-19 vaccine with greater speed. As someone who perceived Japan’s medical sector to be advanced, I found the delays in that development unexpected. Over time, the world’s biologists have stressed that the paths of viruses and mankind intersect with a certain degree of probability — as evidenced by smallpox in the 6th century, the Black Death in the 14th century, the Spanish flu in the 20th century and now the novel coronavirus — and that pandemics such as these will inevitably occur. In Japan, since the 1950s, the government has taken initiative in putting water, sewage and garbage collection services in place, and local residents have created a sanitary living environment. These efforts have led to a positive outcome in the form of the reduced incidence of illness and infection. At the same time, because there have been less infections to research, the number of researchers in the public health sector who specialize in viruses has gone down. This is also said to be a cause behind the delays in COVID-19-related research.

The threat of infections still exists. Rather than depend on foreign countries, Japan, too, must properly support the research and manufacture of vaccines and a cure going forward. Where the current COVID-19 vaccines are concerned, a considerable gap continues to widen between countries that have successfully manufactured a vaccine, countries that will be supplied with vaccines and countries that will be unable to receive a supply of a vaccine due to cost-related issues. Each of those countries, without exception, contains people who are battling COVID-19: those in medical professions, those who are suffering after becoming infected, and those who live in fear of infection. We pray for a world in which health and educational disparities do not exist, and are doing what we can to make that world a reality.

We pray for a world in which information on how to manufacture a cure for COVID-19, should such a revolutionary thing be successfully developed in some country at this point in time, be shared with pharmaceutical companies around the world that are well-equipped for research, and the production of that cure can be carried out without delay.

While all of this may only exist in our imagination at this juncture, according to Kazuto Ataka, Professor at Keio University and CSO of Yahoo Japan Corporation, it is imagination that will build the future. This is documented in Professor Ataka’s book “Shin-Nihon” (“New Japan”). Moreover, famed brain scientist Kenichiro Mogi has also released a written work entitled “Mosoryoku” (“The Power of Imagination”). It seems to me that in our future world, people rich in imagination will be a valuable resource that benefits others. Or does that future world only exist in our imagination as well?

# District 2750 Membership Report February 2021

Club Name	Regular meeting	Member quantity			Club Name	Regular meeting	Member quantity			
		July 1, 2020	End of Feb. 2021	Variations			July 1, 2020	End of Feb. 2021	Variations	
<b>Chiyoda Group</b>					<b>Yamanote West Group</b>					
Rotary Club of Tokyo-South	0	184	187	3	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Jiyugaoka	1	16	16	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Shiba	0	56	59	3	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Yoneyama Yuai	4	35	37	2	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Shimbashi	0	56	53	-3	Rotary E-Club of District 2750, Tokyo Yoneyama	3	34	34	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Akasaka	0	45	44	-1	Rotary Club of Tokyo Daikanyama	2	28	28	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Minato	0	32	30	-2	<b>Tama South Group</b>					
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Azabu	0	15	17	2	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Hachioji	2	63	62	-1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Global	3	20	20	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Machida	0	57	56	-1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Sunrise Shiodome	3	16	17	1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Hino	4	34	33	-1	
<b>Ginza/Nihonbashi Group</b>					Rotary Club of Tokyo-Hachioji West	3	111	109	-2	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Ginza	2	180	181	1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Machida-Naka	0	28	27	-1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Nihonbashi	0	204	202	-2	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Hachioji East	1	32	34	2	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Tsukiji	0	69	69	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Hachioji South	4	78	77	-1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Nihonbashi East	0	41	42	1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Machida-Salvia	0	35	36	1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Chuo	0	203	197	-6	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Tobihino	2	22	22	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Nihonbashi West	2	45	44	-1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Machida East	0	30	30	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Ginza New	0	79	79	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Hachioji North	0	43	43	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-City Nihonbashi	0	38	36	-2	<b>Tama Middle Group</b>					
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Chuo Shin	3	56	60	4	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Tachikawa	0	119	117	-2	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Akebono	3	20	21	1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Koganei	3	38	37	-1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Sanno	1	36	38	2	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Kokubunji	0	32	30	-2	
<b>Keihin Group</b>					Rotary Club of Tokyo-Mitaka	0	42	39	-3	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Haneda	0	55	52	-3	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Akishima	0	55	53	-2	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Shinagawa	1	41	42	1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Kunitachi	1	47	45	-2	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Omori	0	35	39	4	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Tachikawa Kobushi	0	87	90	3	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Shinagawa Chuo	0	30	29	-1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Inokashira	1	23	23	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Denenchofu	0	48	48	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Akishima Chuo	0	48	48	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Konan Marine	1	18	17	-1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Musashi Kokubunji	2	42	42	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Osaki	0	24	25	1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Koganei-Sakura	2	25	26	1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Kamata	0	59	63	4	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Kunitachi Shiroume	1	17	17	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Keihin	0	26	25	-1	Rotary E-Club of Tokyo Peace Wing	4	23	23	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Denenchofu Midori	0	18	18	0	<b>Tama East Group</b>					
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Shirokane	4	24	27	3	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Fuchu	0	55	54	-1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Takanawa	2	23	20	-3	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Chofu	0	64	62	-2	
<b>Yamanote East Group</b>					Rotary Club of Tokyo-Tama	0	20	20	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-West	0	197	194	-3	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Komae	0	14	13	-1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Josai	4	67	66	-1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Inagi	0	28	27	-1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Seinan	0	44	43	-1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Musashi Fuchu	0	39	40	1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Harajuku	0	17	16	-1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Tamagawa	0	20	18	-2	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Suginami	0	41	39	-2	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Tama Green	0	29	28	-1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Jingu	4	24	24	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Chofu Murasaki	0	66	64	-2	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Ebisu	4	117	111	-6	Rotary Club of Tokyo i City	0	18	18	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Hiroo	3	24	25	1	<b>Pacific Basin Group</b>					
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Shibuya	0	35	36	1	Rotary Club of Guam	4	*52	51	-1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Roppongi	4	53	52	-1	Rotary Club of Saipan	4	*40	45	5	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Atago	3	31	31	0	Rotary Club of Tumon Bay		*59	55	-4	
<b>Yamanote West Group</b>					Rotary Club of Northern Guam	2	*31	30	-1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Setagaya	0	44	45	1	Rotary Club of Pohnpei	4	*18	16	-2	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Meguro	3	33	34	1	Rotary Club of Palau	2	14	17	3	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Seijo	1	17	17	0	Rotary Club of Guam Sunrise	4	*15	14	-1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Setagaya South	0	97	89	-8	Rotary Club of Truk Lagoon		8	8	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Jonan	0	13	14	1	Rotary Club of Pago Bay Guam E	2	*23	25	2	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Yamanote	0	70	67	-3	<b>Total in Japan - 88</b>			4,364	4,328	-36
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Seijo Shin	0	31	31	0	<b>Total in 2750 dis. - 97</b>			4,624	4,589	-35
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Aoyama	1	16	15	-1						

\* shows the provisional data.