

Governor's
MONTHLY
LETTER **2020**

10

Rotary
District 2750



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

October 2020



Governor's Message

Rotary International
District 2750 2020-21 Governor

Yuichi Fukuhara

**“Happy families are all alike;
every unhappy family is unhappy in
its own way.”**

It's hard to believe that we have already entered the month of October, which marks four months since I assumed my District Governor post. I imagine that you are all vigorously pursuing your Rotary Club and community activities even in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. October is Community Economic Development Month at the Rotary. Moreover, although our celebration has been delayed until next year, 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Rotary Club in Japan. Adding to this already considerable number of events is World Polio Day on the 24th. Is this a reflection of autumn being harvest season? Back to the topic of community economic development, which is irrefutably the current key to Japan's economic comeback, that development is also a challenge that our towns and cities suffering amid the COVID-19 pandemic face in their own revival efforts. That topic will be the focus of my message this month.

The phrase in the title of this month's message is the very first passage in the work "Anna Karenina" by Russian novelist Leo Tolstoy. Where community economic development is concerned, I feel that the opposite of this holds true: "Happy families are happy in their own way; every unhappy family is alike." Meaning, in the case of Japan, "unhappiness" in communities inevitably takes the same form: an ebbing population, a graying society and the economic decline that comes with it. Conversely, "happy" communities are happy in their own individual way. For example, by consolidating its once-dispersed urban functions into a compact city, Aomori Prefecture has found success. Another example is Toyama

Prefecture, which used railways to organically link its similarly-dispersed urban functions, and proceeded to expand upon them.

Also, as covered daily by the media as well, an issue that we certainly need to address now with haste is the stagnation of the hotel, food, beverage and customer service industries due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of you may feel that capitalism dictates that it is only fitting that the strongest will survive. Even Tokyo's Ginza district derives a large part of its charm from the ingenuity and originality of the numerous proprietors based there. Do stereotypical outlays of large amounts of capital really result in the creation of towns or cities that people want to visit over and over? The Japanese government claims that it is seeking to realize 60 million visitors in inbound traffic in the future. However, if our towns and cities are not created in a way that compels non-Japanese visitors to visit them time and time again, reaching that target will be an impossibility.

Given that, perhaps unexpectedly good ideas for urban development would come to us if we tried looking at the rich charm of places across Japan, from the tangible to the intangible, from the same perspective as non-Japanese individuals. For example, we could develop transit infrastructure that non-Japanese people find easy to use, enhance historical buildings as well as contents such as anime and cosplay, publicize local dishes with unique characteristics, or provide heartfelt hospitality or Japanese cultural learning experiences. Doing so, I imagine, would present us with an opportunity to apply our barrier-free mentality.

In that sense, I feel that the workings of a positive economic cycle will start if we as Clubs make it our policy to forge spiritual bonds and protect and nurture our local communities. Through their activities in the form of amity and service, Clubs foster relationships of trust with members of the community and create formidable bonds. An ideal system in my eyes would be one in which we as individuals who wish to see the revival of our local governments, economic circles, towns and cities join hands to establish a network of bonds akin to a spider's web and work across barriers to ponder the forward development of regional society and the regional economy. As I touched upon in the beginning of this message, Japan's very first Rotary Club was founded a century ago on October 20 with the Tokyo Rotary Club. I want to take this opportunity to reevaluate the meaning and significance of that founding.

District 2750 Membership Report August 2020

Club Name	Regular meeting	Member quantity			Club Name	Regular meeting	Member quantity			
		July 1, 2020	End of Aug. 2020	Variations			July 1, 2020	End of Aug. 2020	Variations	
Chiyoda Group					Yamanote West Group					
Rotary Club of Tokyo-South	1	184	187	3	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Jiyugaoka	2	16	16	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Shiba	3	56	57	1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Yoneyama Yuai	3	35	36	1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Shimbashi	2	56	56	0	Rotary E-Club of District 2750, Tokyo Yoneyama	2	34	34	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Akasaka	3	45	46	1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Daikanyama	2	28	27	-1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Minato	2	32	31	-1	Tama South Group					
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Azabu	2	15	16	1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Hachioji	3	63	64	1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Global	0	20	20	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Machida	3	57	57	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Sunrise Shiodome	2	16	17	1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Hino	3	34	34	0	
Ginza/Nihonbashi Group					Rotary Club of Tokyo-Hachioji West	3	111	110	-1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Ginza	3	180	180	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Machida-Naka	1	28	28	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Nihonbashi	0	204	206	2	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Hachioji East	4	32	33	1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Tsukiji	0	69	68	-1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Hachioji South	3	78	78	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Nihonbashi East	3	41	42	1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Machida-Salvia	3	35	35	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Chuo	4	203	206	3	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Tobihino	3	22	22	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Nihonbashi West	0	45	45	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Machida East	2	30	29	-1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Ginza New	3	79	81	2	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Hachioji North	0	43	43	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-City Nihonbashi	3	38	38	0	Tama Middle Group					
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Chuo Shin	3	56	59	3	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Tachikawa	2	119	121	2	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Akebono	3	20	20	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Koganei	3	38	37	-1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Sanno	3	36	36	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Kokubunji	2	32	33	1	
Keihin Group					Rotary Club of Tokyo-Mitaka	3	42	41	-1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Haneda	2	55	55	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Akishima	3	55	55	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Shinagawa	3	41	42	1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Kunitachi	3	47	47	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Omori	2	35	37	2	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Tachikawa Kobushi	3	87	89	2	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Shinagawa Chuo	2	30	30	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Inokashira	3	23	24	1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Denenchofu	3	48	48	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Akishima Chuo	3	48	48	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Konan Marine	3	18	18	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Musashi Kokubunji	3	42	42	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Osaki	2	24	25	1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Koganei-Sakura	2	25	25	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Kamata	1	59	59	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Kunitachi Shiroume	3	17	17	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Keihin	3	26	26	0	Rotary E-Club of Tokyo Peace Wing	3	23	23	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Denenchofu Midori	2	18	18	0	Tama East Group					
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Shirokane	4	24	28	4	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Fuchu	1	55	56	1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Takanawa	2	23	22	-1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Chofu	1	64	64	0	
Yamanote East Group					Rotary Club of Tokyo-Tama	0	20	21	1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-West	3	197	196	-1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Komae	1	14	14	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Josai	2	67	68	1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Inagi	1	28	28	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Seinan	2	44	44	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Musashi Fuchu	0	39	38	-1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Harajuku	3	17	16	-1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Tamagawa	2	20	20	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Suginami	2	41	40	-1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Tama Green	0	29	29	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Jingu	2	24	24	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Chofu Murasaki	0	66	67	1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Ebisu	1	117	117	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo i City	1	18	18	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Hiroo	2	24	24	0	Pacific Basin Group					
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Shibuya	2	35	37	2	Rotary Club of Guam	4	52	52	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Roppongi	2	53	53	0	Rotary Club of Saipan	4	40	42	2	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Atago	3	31	31	0	Rotary Club of Tumon Bay	1	59	58	-1	
Yamanote West Group					Rotary Club of Northern Guam	2	31	31	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Setagaya	2	44	45	1	Rotary Club of Pohnpei	3	18	19	1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Meguro	3	33	33	0	Rotary Club of Palau	2	14	16	2	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Seijo	1	17	17	0	Rotary Club of Guam Sunrise	4	15	15	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Setagaya South	2	97	95	-2	Rotary Club of Truk Lagoon		8	8	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Jonan	2	13	16	3	Rotary Club of Pago Bay Guam E	2	23	23	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Yamanote	1	70	71	1	Total in Japan - 89			4,364	4,395	31
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Seijo Shin	3	31	31	0	Total in 2750 dis. - 98			4,624	4,659	35
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Aoyama	2	16	15	-1						