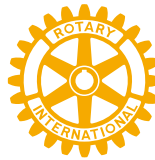


Governor's MONTHLY LETTER 2021

2

Rotary

District 2750



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

February 2021



Governor's Message

Rotary International
District 2750 2020-21 Governor

Yuichi Fukuhara

“Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish.”

A hot topic of late has been US President Joe Biden's Cabinet staffing choices. With Biden having promoted a large number of both women and people of color to key positions in that Cabinet, their inclusion, which emphasizes diversity, is a night-and-day difference from the Cabinet under former President Donald Trump. Granted, with the American people having chosen an African-American man as President in the past, this might come as no surprise. At the same time, when comparing this diversity-minded Cabinet with that of Japan, I cannot help but marvel at how so many different races reside in the US. The fact is that Japan had also declared that it will achieve a women's participation rate of 30% in all sectors of society by 2020 per the target set by the “Headquarters for the Promotion of Gender Equality” under the Cabinet Office. In reality, however, women only account for 3.4% of officers at listed companies (figure from 2019). Even among National Diet members, the women's participation rate is 24.3%. Cabinet members under Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga's administration are no exception either, with women accounting for a paltry two out of the 20 total members minus the Prime Minister in 2020. In the “Gender Gap Index” (GGI) for 2020, which was announced at the 2019 World Economic Forum as an indicator of the degree of women's participation, Japan ranked 121st out of 153 countries. Incidentally, first place was occupied by Iceland, with the US unexpectedly ranking low at 53rd place (though this will likely improve under the Biden administration) and China and South Korea ranking 106th and 108th place, respectively.

The phrase “Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish.” is an excerpt from a commencement address given at Stanford University by Steve Jobs in 2011. I imagine some of you have heard it before. What Jobs is saying is that is necessary to remain “foolish” rather than become “smart” in order to give rise to innovation. Remaining “foolish” in this case means sticking to your beliefs even if you are considered “foolish” or “cavalier” by others. I see Jobs' words as a message telling us that the key to innovation lies in diversity

founded on a lack of fear of being different from others.

The importance of diversity has also been proven on a biological basis. Living beings engage in relationships with each other as they live. Such a relationship could be one of helping other out, much like bees and flowers do, just as it could be one of the mighty preying on the weak. Taking that one step further, like relationships, the environment that blesses living beings with the likes of light and water also impacts those beings greatly. After the birth of homo, or the species of man (in the form of the Peking Man, the Java Man and other primitives) roughly 2.5 million years back, Neanderthal man went extinct about 40,000 years ago, and we, as the current species of man known as Homo sapiens, became the sole homo remaining. In that respect, the level of diversity of species of mankind is extremely low. From a biological perspective, one could therefore argue that we would be better off not fighting over the color of our skin, issues with sex, wealth disparity, differences in religion or beliefs, and the like.

In that context, our activities as Rotarians take on a greater weight. One movement that we are currently promoting is supporting the environment. It is essential that we push forward with that movement in order to preserve the diversity of living beings, reduce endangered species, and safeguard our ecosystem going forward. Additionally, when pondering the future of mankind, there is little argument about how meaningful activities to give relief to people who are destitute and disease-stricken throughout the world and help provide equal opportunities for learning to children in unfortunate circumstances are. That being said, what do we need to work harder on? The answer, I believe, is raising our GGI. Of particular note are the “Award for Opening up Opportunities for Women” and “Award for Development of Woman Membership,” which we established in 2020-21 as Special District Awards as an attempt to boost that index. As a result, our district has maintained the top women Rotarian ratio out of the 34 districts in Japan.

I have advocated a “barrier-free mentality” as being “all people regardless of the different impediments, physical or mental attributes or lines of thinking that they may have, mutually working towards deepening understanding and communicating and supporting each other from a position of equality.” Man tends to feel pride in being superior to others. Moreover, man also has a habit of staying clear of people whose opinions or beliefs are different from their own. On the other hand, we at this wonderful organization that we call the Rotary Club have overcome a number of differences to pursue activities in which over 1.19 million Rotarians from more than 200 countries across the globe work together to forge a peaceful society in which people join hand in hand. In 2021, the Year of the Ox in the Chinese zodiac, let us take surefooted steps towards that goal one step at a time.

District 2750 Membership Report December 2020

Club Name	Regular meeting	Member quantity			Club Name	Regular meeting	Member quantity			
		July 1, 2020	End of Dec. 2020	Variations			July 1, 2020	End of Dec. 2020	Variations	
Chiyoda Group					Yamanote West Group					
Rotary Club of Tokyo-South	3	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	3	35	36	1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Shimbashi	3	56	54	-2	Rotary E-Club of District 2750, Tokyo Yoneyama	3	34	33	-1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Akasaka	3	45	45	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo Daikanyama	2	28	28	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Minato	3	32	31	-1	Tama South Group					
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Azabu	1	15	17	2	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Hachioji	2	63	62	-1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Global	2	20	20	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Machida	3	57	56	-1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Sunrise Shiodome	3	16	16	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Hino	4	34	33	-1	
Ginza/Nihonbashi Group					Rotary Club of Tokyo-Hachioji West	3	111	110	-1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Ginza	3	180	182	2	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Machida-Naka	2	28	26	-2	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Nihonbashi	3	204	203	-1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Hachioji East	2	32	33	1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Tsukiji	3	69	69	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Hachioji South	3	78	77	-1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Nihonbashi East	3	41	42	1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Machida-Salvia	3	35	36	1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Chuo	3	203	202	-1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Tobihino	3	22	22	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Nihonbashi West	3	45	44	-1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Machida East	3	30	30	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Ginza New	3	79	79	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Hachioji North	1	43	43	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-City Nihonbashi	3	38	36	-2	Tama Middle Group					
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Chuo Shin	2	56	60	4	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Tachikawa	3	119	119	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Akebono	2	20	20	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Koganei	2	38	37	-1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Sanno	4	36	38	2	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Kokubunji	3	32	32	0	
Keihin Group					Rotary Club of Tokyo-Mitaka	1	42	39	-3	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Haneda	2	55	55	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Akishima	2	55	53	-2	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Shinagawa	3	41	42	1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Kunitachi	3	47	45	-2	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Omori	3	35	39	4	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Tachikawa Kobushi	0	87	90	3	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Shinagawa Chuo	2	30	29	-1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Inokashira	3	23	23	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Denenchofu	2	48	48	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Akishima Chuo	4	48	48	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Konan Marine	3	18	17	-1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Musashi Kokubunji	2	42	42	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Osaki	2	24	26	2	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Koganei-Sakura	3	25	26	1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Kamata	1	59	64	5	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Kunitachi Shiroume	2	17	17	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Keihin	3	26	26	0	Rotary E-Club of Tokyo Peace Wing	4	23	23	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Denenchofu Midori	2	18	18	0	Tama East Group					
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Shirokane	3	24	27	3	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Fuchu	3	55	55	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Takanawa	2	23	20	-3	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Chofu	2	64	62	-2	
Yamanote East Group					Rotary Club of Tokyo-Tama	3	20	21	1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-West	3	197	195	-2	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Komae	1	14	13	-1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Josai	3	67	69	2	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Inagi	3	28	26	-2	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Seinan	4	44	43	-1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Musashi Fuchu	1	39	35	-4	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Harajuku	4	17	16	-1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Tamagawa	1	20	18	-2	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Suginami	3	41	39	-2	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Tama Green	3	29	29	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Jingu	3	24	24	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Chofu Murasaki	3	66	64	-2	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Ebisu	3	117	112	-5	Rotary Club of Tokyo i City	2	18	18	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Hiroo	3	24	24	0	Pacific Basin Group					
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Shibuya	1	35	37	2	Rotary Club of Guam	4	*52	51	-1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Roppongi	2	53	52	-1	Rotary Club of Saipan	3	*40	44	4	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Atago	4	31	31	0	Rotary Club of Tumon Bay	2	*59	55	-4	
Yamanote West Group					Rotary Club of Northern Guam	2	*31	31	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Setagaya	3	44	44	0	Rotary Club of Pohnpei	2	*18	16	-2	
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	5	*15	14	-1	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Setagaya South	2	97	90	-7	Rotary Club of Truk Lagoon		8	8	0	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Jonan	2	13	14	1	Rotary Club of Pago Bay Guam E	2	*23	25	2	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Yamanote	0	70	69	-1	Total in Japan - 89			4,364	4,346	-18
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Seijo Shin	2	31	31	0	Total in 2750 dis. - 98			4,624	4,606	-18
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Aoyama	2	16	15	-1						

* shows the provisional data.