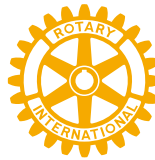


Governor's  
MONTHLY  
LETTER 2021

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Rotary  
District 2750



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

March 2021



## Governor's Message

Rotary International  
District 2750 2020-21 Governor

**Yuichi Fukuhara**

**“The highest good is like water.  
Water gives life to the ten thousand things  
and does not strive.”**

In Japan, March marks the end of fiscal and academic years, and is a time when graduation ceremonies and farewell parties are held. What about now, though, in the midst of this COVID-19 pandemic? Our District Conference, which was normally supposed to be held between February 22 and 23, was shortened to a one-day affair to take place on May 26. While I personally wanted to go ahead with the Conference as much as possible, given the current state of things, holding the Conference in the same manner we always have might be an impossibility. Moreover, the decision was also made to conduct the Rotary International Convention, which was slated to be held between June 12 and 16, using virtual means. Given how much I wanted to see everyone directly, this only compounds my feelings of disappointment.

Moving on, the United States' newly-inaugurated President Joe Biden has begun to take steps towards international cooperation, as evidenced by the nation returning to the Paris Agreement and calling off procedures aimed at removing it from the WHO. How will America proceed to come to terms with China? Looking at the news on TV, some people are saying that in the context of the issues involving Hong Kong and the Uyghurs, the conflict between the United States and China is akin to a struggle between liberalism and totalitarianism. At the same time, the reality is that China's gigantic market is a source of considerable profit for America as well as Japan. Additionally, over time, China has developed its economy amid a stable state of international affairs. A conflict between the United States and China, therefore, would not be in the interest of either side. I imagine that as a country that has shared ideology and religion with China over the course of the history of Asia, Japan's positioning is taking on increasing importance.

The above phrase in the title is by Lao Tzu, who is responsible for founding Taoism in the 6th century BC. Taoism is considered to be one of China's three great religions alongside Confucianism and Buddhism. Tying the nature of water into how people live their life, Lao Tzu taught: “Water … nourishes all things without trying to. But it will wear away rock, which is rigid and cannot yield… it assumes the shape of whatever vessel it is placed in and seeps and soaks through invisible crevices… it is content with the

low places that people disdain. Thus, it is like the Tao (The Path).” Almost contradictorily, China, which is Lao Tzu's birthplace, has advanced into the waters of the Spratly Islands and the Senkaku Islands to assert its maritime interests.

March is Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Month. While this news is slightly old, it was reported in the Guardian, a major English newspaper, that the Canal Saint-Martin in Paris, France was drained for cleaning purposes for the first time in fifteen years in 2016. All sorts of things were found at the bottom of the canal — bicycles, motorbikes, suitcases, shopping carts, tables, chairs, bedframes and more. I can't imagine that something like this is limited to France, and worry that at the bottom of the rivers and canals that we commonly enjoy when taking walks, jogging or taking pictures, similar things have been discarded. Assuming that applies to the Tama River in Tokyo as well, that means that we here in Japan's capital are drinking tap water taken from that river. That's the very same river that I used to swim in until I was in the second grade.

Earth is referred to as “the water planet.” It's puzzling, then, why problems with water shortages and water sanitation and hygiene occur on that planet even though it's supposed to have an abundance of that resource. The reason why is because fresh water, or water that we can use, only accounts for 0.01% to 0.02% of all water on the planet. The rest of it is almost exclusively made up of salt water (97.5%) or ice and glaciers found at the polar caps. What's more, the limited water that we can use is reaching a critical point due to the increase in the human population and the contamination that accompanies it. It is said that growth in our numbers has caused water consumption by mankind to reach triple the levels that they were 50 years ago. Moreover, where the issue of water sanitation and hygiene is concerned, it is said that the number of children around the world who lose their lives due to waterborne infectious diseases or unsanitary daily life water will reach around 5,000 per day.

Water shortages affect not only mankind but also biodiversity. Our excessive groundwater intake and deforestation has caused rivers to dry up and marshland and lakes to disappear. Numerous living things dependent on water that inhabited those locations are facing extinction or a threat to their survival.

Amid that situation, the Rotary Club has assisted movements to dig wells, provided equipment to purify water, and taken part in activities to supply drinking water in various areas around the world. Simultaneously, in our district, individual Rotarians have conducted campaigns to reduce plastic bottles and other plastic garbage so as not to pollute the seas and rivers, and have commenced efforts for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Month starting with areas that are familiar to them. With the COVID-19 pandemic that has engulfed the world, I imagine how hard it must be for anything other than the virus to capture people's attention. Still, we as Rotarians are determined to show something for our efforts. In the future, who knows — technology may come about that transforms salt water to fresh water at a low cost, or inexpensive materials to replace plastics that biodegrade once they are disposed of may be invented. People may count on developments in technology and new inventions, but until they come about, let us continue to do what we can in our immediate environment to protect water — “the origin of life.”

# District 2750 Membership Report January 2021

Club Name	Regular meeting	Member quantity			Club Name	Regular meeting	Member quantity				
		July 1, 2020	End of Jan. 2021	Variations			July 1, 2020	End of Jan. 2021	Variations		
<b>Chiyoda Group</b>					<b>Yamanote West Group</b>						
Rotary Club of Tokyo-South	1	184	187	3	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Jiyugaoka	0	16	16	0		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Shiba	1	56	59	3	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Yoneyama Yuai	3	35	37	2		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Shimbashi	0	56	54	-2	Rotary E-Club of District 2750, Tokyo Yoneyama	2	34	34	0		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Akasaka	1	45	45	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo Daikanyama	1	28	28	0		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Minato	1	32	30	-2	<b>Tama South Group</b>						
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Azabu	1	15	17	2	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Hachioji	0	63	61	-2		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Global	3	20	20	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Machida	1	57	56	-1		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Sunrise Shiodome	3	16	17	1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Hino	3	34	33	-1		
<b>Ginza/Nihonbashi Group</b>					Rotary Club of Tokyo-Hachioji West	3	111	110	-1		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Ginza	1	180	182	2	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Machida-Naka	1	28	27	-1		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Nihonbashi	0	204	203	-1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Hachioji East	0	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	201	-2	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Tobihino	4	22	22	0		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Nihonbashi West	0	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	1	38	36	-2	<b>Tama Middle Group</b>						
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Chuo Shin	2	56	60	4	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Tachikawa	0	119	117	-2		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Akebono	2	20	20	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Koganei	2	38	36	-2		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Sanno	3	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	1	55	53	-2		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Shinagawa	0	41	42	1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Kunitachi	1	47	45	-2		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Omori	1	35	39	4	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Tachikawa Kobushi	0	87	91	4		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Shinagawa Chuo	0	30	29	-1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Inokashira	0	23	23	0		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Denenchofu	1	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	1	42	42	0		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Osaki	0	24	25	1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Koganei-Sakura	0	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	1	24	27	3	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Fuchu	0	55	55	0		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Takanawa	0	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	195	-2	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Komae	0	14	13	-1		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Josai	3	67	67	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Inagi	0	28	27	-1		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Seinan	1	44	43	-1	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Musashi Fuchu	0	39	40	1		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Harajuku	1	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	1	29	28	-1		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Jingu	3	24	24	0	Rotary Club of Tokyo-Chofu Murasaki	0	66	64	-2		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Ebisu	0	117	112	-5	Rotary Club of Tokyo i City	1	18	18	0		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Hiroo	4	24	25	1	<b>Pacific Basin Group</b>						
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Shibuya	0	35	36	1	Rotary Club of Guam		*52	51	-1		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Roppongi	2	53	52	-1	Rotary Club of Saipan	4	*40	43	3		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Atago	1	31	31	0	Rotary Club of Tumon Bay		*59	55	-4		
<b>Yamanote West Group</b>					Rotary Club of Northern Guam		*31	31	0		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Setagaya	0	44	45	1	Rotary Club of Pohnpei		*18	16	-2		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Meguro	3	33	34	1	Rotary Club of Palau	2	14	16	2		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Seijo	0	17	17	0	Rotary Club of Guam Sunrise		*15	14	-1		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Setagaya South	1	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		*23	25	2		
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Yamanote	0	70	69	-1	<b>Total in Japan - 88</b>						
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Seijo Shin	0	31	31	0				4,364	4,341	-23	
Rotary Club of Tokyo-Aoyama	0	16	15	-1	<b>Total in 2750 dis. - 97</b>						
									4,624	4,600	-24

\* shows the provisional data.