

Governor's MONTHLY LETTER



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UNITE FOR GOOD

Rotary International District 2750 2025-26 Governor *Yasushi Tanaka*

Supporting Ukraine

The invasion of Ukraine by Russia on February 24, 2022, was an event that profoundly shook global peace and order. In this month's Governor's message, I would like to reflect on the four years since then, sharing the path District 2750 of Rotary International has taken in supporting Ukraine, together with my own experiences.

In November 2022, our District conducted a needs assessment of Ukrainian evacuees who had sought refuge in Japan, listening carefully to their "true voices" on the ground. This led, in May 2023, to concrete assistance for those who had fled to Poland. Utilizing Rotary Foundation District Designated Funds (DDF), members of our District Rotary Foundation Committee and Rotaractors traveled to Poland to deliver relief supplies directly. This initiative symbolized intergenerational collaboration and action in its truest sense.

In 2024, we continued our efforts, ensuring that the light of support did not fade. That year, members of the Foundation Committee and Rotary Foundation scholars studying in Germany and Hungary visited the region. Through information shared by one of these scholars, we learned of a school established in Hungary for Ukrainian children who had taken refuge there—the Hungary & Ukraine Bilingual Primary and Secondary School. Our support for this school clearly demonstrated the strength of Rotary's global network. Protecting children's education is an investment in the future and one of the most certain paths toward peace.

In March 2025, the Tokyo Sanno Rotary Club utilized a District Grant to provide computers and other equipment to this school, contributing to the enhancement of its educational environment. Later that year, in November, I visited Hungary as District Governor to observe the school firsthand. Following this visit, a decision was made to pursue continued support through a Global Grant. This marked an evolution from one-time assistance to sustainable and strategic engagement.



Another important turning point for me personally was attending the Peace Conference held in Istanbul in February 2025. There, I had the opportunity to

engage in direct dialogue with Past RI President Holger Knaack. During our conversation, he asked, "Why does Japan not have an ICC (Intercountry Committee)?" This question was a profound awakening for me. An ICC is Rotary's official framework for fostering friendship and cooperation between countries, aimed at promoting sustained international understanding and peacebuilding. Inspired by this insight, I began to seriously consider the potential for ICCs in Japan. Subsequently, ICCs were established between several Japanese districts and Ukraine, and District 2750 joined this initiative. This step signified not merely an extension of humanitarian assistance, but a shift toward building lasting relationships. Our activities have thus evolved—from delivering material aid to establishing enduring partnerships grounded in friendship and trust. District 2750 has advanced to a more essential stage of peacebuilding.



The significance of this series of initiatives can be summarized in four key points:

1. Effective support grounded in a commitment to on-site engagement.
2. Intergenerational collaboration involving Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Rotary Foundation scholars.
3. A long-term vision of safeguarding the future through educational support.
4. A step toward building a foundation for sustained international friendship and peace through participation in the ICC.

The ultimate purpose of Rotary is world peace. Ensuring that children displaced by war can continue their education, and maintaining bonds of friendship between nations—District 2750 has put both into practice over these past four years. Our journey sends a powerful message to the world: peace is built not by prayer alone, but through action. This initiative is not merely humanitarian assistance; it is a noble endeavor that nurtures trust and friendship across borders and plants the seeds of peace for the next generation. It truly embodies the very values of Rotary.

Let us continue our efforts to support the reconstruction and future of Ukraine.

