



ROTARY DAY

Building Peace with Rotary and UNESCO

Inter-Country Committees' Peace Initiatives

Under the patronage of Gary Huang, 2014-15 RI President

Maison de l'Unesco, Paris, France

4 April 2015

DECLARATION

Purpose

Members of Rotary, through their history, achievements, ethical standards, and friendly network, have been working towards civil peace for nearly a century. Their hands-on projects and humanitarian work have a lasting impact.

In order to quell the increasing threats to peace, Rotary, an apolitical and non-religious organization, must strengthen its influence on society through membership growth, sustainable projects within its areas of focus, and the dissemination, outside of Rotary, of its ideas and values.

Proposals

The participants in this conference are making the following proposals to Rotary International:

- The youth programs of Rotary (Rotaract and Interact) and of The Rotary Foundation are opportunities to promote peace. Under the momentum given by youth in their search for justice and fraternity, the idea of "living together" will prevail. It is vital that the voice of young people be heard and taken into account in districts and international conferences.

- The Rotary Peace Centers and their fellows bring an invaluable contribution to Rotary's peace culture. The Rotary Foundation should increase its leadership and look for innovative funding sources and/or partnerships to create new centers and to test in the field its ability to solve conflicts.

- The initiative launched 27 years to eradicate polio proved its effectiveness. Indeed, Rotarians are about to keep their promise and give children a world without polio. Drawing from this experience, Rotarians, willing to serve their communities, are considering three other areas where similar initiatives could be relevant: universal access to education, safe water and sanitation, and local economic development to fight poverty.

- Today, 1,225,000 Rotarians, men and women, professional and economic leaders, in 34,560 clubs in 182 countries, embody the spirit of their elders. Rotarians already took part in the creation of international institutions because they shared the same vision for the future of mankind. Rotarians are now eager to cooperate with the United Nations and UNESCO as part of the UN post-2015 development agenda.

- The idea of creating awareness and of restoring relations damaged by decades of conflict led French and German Rotarians to create in 1950 the first Inter-Country Committee. Today, a network comprised of 300 committees contributes to world understanding, to peace initiatives through service, and to an approach to conflict resolution based on mutual understanding. Inter-Country Committees are a program Rotary must expand to further peace.

Resolution

On this day, 4 April 2015, at Maison de l'Unesco in Paris, France, Rotarians reaffirm their commitment to sustain civil peace through Rotary's culture. This encourages loyal and fair behaviors, the respect of human rights, mutual understanding, sustainable social and economic progress, and ethical governance. All these elements help build the social cohesiveness of a country, which is a prerequisite to peace.
