

YOUTH SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORT

DR HOH SEK TIEN, Youth Service Director 2017/18

Youth Service Committee is a team of passionate and dedicated Rotarians who believe in the *positive* change that youth and young adults can bring to the community they serve. Through **Interact** and **Rotaract**, our youths learn the values of Service, Fellowship, Diversity, Integrity and Leadership, the 5 core values of Rotary, which enable them to contribute in a significant and meaningful way to the community.

As YSC Director, I set out three objectives at the start of the year:

1. **Strengthen** the foundation built by our senior members;
2. **Deepen** the relationship between our 10 Interact clubs, 3 Rotaract clubs, and the Rotary Family at large;
3. **Challenge** our youths to greater heights while not losing sight of the fundamental values of Rotary – by producing a joint signature project across all Interact clubs, which they can call their own.

I am pleased to report that we achieved all these and more.

Football Plus Project: Our club started the year with the launch of the Football Plus project. The project kicked off to a good start by being the first ever YSC project that was accorded a Global Grant (GG 1746937). The project aimed to impart positive life values integrated in football training of at-risk and disadvantaged children with the ultimate aim of encouraging them to persevere within the school system, to avoid conflicts, so that they can complete their education and become productive members of the society.



Installations: Our Rotarians attended the Installations ceremonies of all our Interact clubs and Rotaract Club of Singapore.



Interact Coordinating Committee (ICC): The Interact Coordinating Committee (ICC) comprises all the Interact Clubs in Singapore. The ICC Board is elected from the Presidents of the Interact clubs. Positions in the ICC include President, Secretary, Treasurer and two committee members. The ICC's mission is to serve as a platform for inter-club collaboration and dissemination of information amongst the Interact clubs. As part of its mission, it also aims to organize a joint signature projects for all the clubs.





Interact Leadership Training Camp ILTC 2017:

This year the camp was unique in many ways. For the first time, Rotary Club of Singapore partnered Youth Corps Singapore to launch a completely new programme which included new elements such as ageing simulation, social inclusion dialogue, cross cultural communication in addition to leadership training. The camp location was also a first, with Temasek Polytechnic’s Glocal Connect Village serving as host of the 3D2N stay-in camp.



The camp, which started on 28 July and ended 30 July 2017, was attended by 57 Board members from 15 Interact Clubs across Singapore. It also saw the introduction of a special “Lunch with your Rotarian Advisor” session and the election to form the new board of the Interact Coordinating Committee (ICC).



Rotaract Betesda Orphanage Project: The Rotaract Club of Temasek together with some of our Rotarians visited the Betesda Orphanage Home in Batam and carried out educational activities with for the orphans. Project was in collaboration with VSC.



Bukit Gombak EAGLES Interact’s Zoobilee 24 Sep 2017:

Bukit Gombak EAGLES Interact in collaboration with CSC brought wheel chair bound residents from their community for a fun-filled outing to the Zoo.

Rotary Flag Day 28 Oct 2017: Our Interact clubs came out strongly throughout the day to raise funds for the Rotary Flag Day and that included staying right till the end to ensure that every single coin was counted.



ICC meeting 15 Nov 2017: Held at Hwa Chong Institution, the ICC had a good meeting where different clubs from across Singapore came together to present their projects. 80 members from 16 different schools attended. The meeting kicked off with ice breaker games which, though alien to us Rotarians, were refreshing. The presentations were well thought out, outlining the work done, their plans and challenges faced. Our Rotarians and representatives from Youth Corps Singapore were also present. Overall, a very well organized meeting by the Interactors.





Rotaract Club of Singapore's First Aid Demo and Health Screening 6 Dec 2017: Our Rotaractors from RACSG which comprises mainly Nursing Students from NUS join us for weekly lunch meeting. They conducted a pre-lunch health screening and performed a FIRST AID demo during the meeting. They also sold cookies to raise funds for the Sapulot project. In the words of President Keith: It was "very successful and generated a great buzz".



Christmas Joy and Grit 10 Dec 2017: We had two back to back events. Both involved young beneficiaries. The first event was a visit to the Gift of Love Home by our Interactors from Hwa Chong, Yishun JC and National JC.

The second event was the Football Plus competition @ Turf City where our little Football Plus beneficiaries competed in the Junior league. What better way to kick off the year end holidays than to share our joy with the less fortunate.



Christmas Spirit and Year End Joy: Bukit Gombak EAGLES Interact organized a Christmas party for residents in their community on 23 Dec 2017. Meanwhile, Tanjong Katong Girls School organized an Interact Day of Fun @ Lee Ah Mooi Home.



Meeting with School Principals, Teachers and board members: Our members met the new Raffles Institution Principal, Frederic Yeo on 2 Feb 2018. This followed our earlier meeting with the school's Interact Board and their teacher advisors where they presented an admirable list of projects, some completed, many planned and all of which will be executed before the completion of their term. Raffles Interact is easily one of the biggest clubs in Singapore with 160 members. They have learnt to harness their strength in numbers. Our Rotarians also attended the board meeting of HCI Interact on 16 May 2018. They reported projects with catered to an impressive array of beneficiaries ranging from the young, the old, the disabled, the marginalized and the dying.

8th YSC meeting cum Meet Our Interactors and Teacher Advisors Night 22 Feb 2018: As part of our efforts to engage our teacher advisors and student Interactors, we invited them to our 8th YSC meeting which was held at the Metropolitan YMCA. Great turnout with 5 teacher advisors and 16 Interactors from the BODs of ACSI, Anderson JC, Catholic JC, Bukit Gombak Eagles, Global Indian East Coast, Raffles JC Interact clubs.



Football Plus Global Grant Finale 3 March 2018: Our funds were utilized for the training of 20 trainers to benefit more than 100 children from the Macpherson precinct. Ms. Tin Pei Ling, MP for Macpherson graced the event.

Bukit Gombak EAGLES Interact's "Books of Hope" project (*Winner of the the District's Best Interact Project): Member from the Bt Gombak EAGLES Interact and Rotaract Club of Swinburne Sarawak collaborated to bring books collected in Singapore and Sarawak to beneficiaries in schools around the town of Kuching, Sarawak. The project was supported by RC Singapore and RC Kuching Central. This project was awarded the "Best Interact Project" at the Rotary District Awards.



Bukit Gombak EAGLES Recruitment drive 14 April 2018: Bukit Gombak EAGLES Interact, our first and only community-based Interact Club, had a very successful recruitment drive this year. Those members who graduated from the club will move on to Rotaract Club of Temasek and assume greater roles in the newly resurgent club.



Swimarathon in collaboration with VSC 29 April 2018: Our Interactors helped out with registration and functioned as lane marshalls at the Swimarathon organized by VSC.

KS Mehta Award Essay Competition 23 May 2018: This year's essay writing competition was on the topic of "How my Interact journey made a difference", a meaningful topic which was in line with this year's Rotary theme: "Making a difference". The winners were from Hwa Chong Interact and Bukit Gombak EAGLES Interact. Mrs Mehta presented the awards to the winners.

ICC Signature Project “GREY CAN STILL PLAY” 17 March 2018 (*Winner of the District’s Best Family of Rotary Programme): This was a one-day community service event which brought together 100 needy seniors from the Eunos/MacPherson neighbourhoods and 227 Interactors from 14 different Interact Clubs in Singapore for a day of fun and meaningful interaction. The project included a “mass house cleaning activity” of homes of the needy seniors in the Eunos-Macpherson area in the morning, followed by engagement activities with the seniors by the youths through a “Carnival” which included activities such as games, handicraft making, singing and a lunch party.



The project was organised by the Interact Coordinating Committee (ICC) together with the Rotary Club of Singapore, Youth Corps Singapore and Metropolitan YMCA with funding support from Foundation of Rotary Clubs Singapore’s ROTARY HAPPINESS FUND, Canon and Management Development Institute of Singapore (MDIS). The event was held on Saturday, 17 March 2018 with The Honourable, Ms Tin Pei Ling, Member of Parliament for MacPherson gracing the event as Guest of Honour during the Carnival segment at the Samtas Hall of the MDIS at Stirling Road.



Some of the activities of our Interact and Rotaract Clubs with Rotarians: These include the Raffles Interact Dine in the Dark (DITD) 27 May 2017 and Live in the Dark (LITD) (11 May 2018), the Hwa Chong Interact Hunger Trials (21 April 2018), Charming CNY Spirit in collaboration with CSC (27 Jan 2018), and the Rotaract Club of Singapore's Project Sapulot 2017.



Rotary District Awards 2017/18: This year, we received a bumper harvest of awards. 11 Projects were submitted and all won awards. I am pleased to announce this year's winners at the Rotary District Awards 2017/19 for our Interact Club Projects as well as winners for KS Mehta Award Essay Competition.



ACS (Independent) Interact
Gold (Guilin China overseas VIA trip)

Catholic Junior College Interact
Gold (Overseas Learning Project)

Victoria Junior College
Gold (Walk for Rainbow)
Gold (Inter-Action)
Silver (Interact Challenge)

Bukit Gombak EAGLES Interact
Gold & "Best Interact Project"
(Books of Hope)
Silver (Zoobilee)
Silver (Christmas party)

Raffles Interact
Gold (Youth Got Heart)
Gold (Dine in the Dark)

ICC*
"Best of Family of Rotary Programme" (GREY CAN STILL PLAY project).

*For this remarkable achievement, special mention should be made of this year's ICC Board which comprises Presidents of the following Interact Clubs: Hwa Chong Institution, ACS Independent, Global Indian International School Queenstown, St Joseph's Institution International, Yishun Junior College. For clubs which won, I would like to extend my congratulations! For those that missed out on the awards this year, I want to emphasize that the work that they did definitely made a difference to those that they served, and touched the hearts of many. **To YSC and all who served with the YSC: Keep up the good work!**