

Rotarians have long dreamed of creating a Rotary sponsored academy to promote world understanding and peace. Over the past 25 years, a variety of initiatives have been proposed to make this dream a reality.

- In 1996 under the leadership of Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Rajendra Saboo, a committee was formed to consider the concept of an educational center, institute, or university dedicated to Paul Harris as a way of commemorating the 50th anniversary of his death in 1947.
- Composed of four Rotarians with professional backgrounds and experience in higher education, this committee explored a variety of academic models and ultimately recommended the creation of Paul Harris Centers for International Studies at several universities worldwide.
- In 1999, the Trustees approved the plan to partner with universities to establish the Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution. The centers were so named to increase public awareness of Rotary's commitment to peace and because Paul Harris's name is not well known outside of the Rotary world.

### **Objective of the Program**

- 1. To advance research, teaching, publication and knowledge on issues of peace, goodwill, causes of conflict and world understanding. This scholarship may involve consideration of issues as diverse as population and the environment, technology and science, world politics and economics, religious and cultural traditions, educational opportunities, health, hunger and poverty.**
- 2. To provide advanced educational opportunities for a group of Rotary Scholars, chosen from various countries and different cultures, in order to advance knowledge and world understanding among potential future leaders of government, business, education, media and other professions.**
- 3. To establish a program through which The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International and the member clubs of Rotary International may become increasingly effective in promoting greater tolerance and cooperation among peoples, leading to world peace and understanding.**

- One option is a Master's Degree program. The Master's Degree program is **building the leaders of tomorrow**.
- There are 5 Rotary Peace Centers at 6 universities around the world hosting this program.
- The programs range from 15 to 24 months and study timelines differ according to each university's academic calendar.
- To apply, a Bachelor degree or its equivalent is required, and eligible candidates must have **at least three years of paid or volunteer experience** in the field, although six years of work experience in the field is the actual average for the highly competitive Master's degree program. Each year 10 new fellows are selected for each center.

**The founders of the Rotary Centers designed the program as a multi-institution partnership between The Rotary Foundation and leading universities around the world. They viewed this partnership as the best approach to achieve the Rotary Peace Centers program objectives. Rotary partners with 6 outstanding Universities at 5 centers offering fellows a Master's Degree in Peace and Conflict Resolution or a related field (e.g. International Law and Development Policy, Public Health, Urban Planning)**

The Rotary Peace Centers program was created with four primary components in mind at each center:

1. Core courses about Peace and Conflict Resolution
2. Courses and research to support a fellow's area of interest or specialization
3. Applied Field Experience (Internship). AFEs at UN, Red Cross, Human Rights Watch, The Hague, International Palestinian Youth League, Save the Children
4. Annual Peace Seminar at each university which provides an opportunity for fellows to share research

The second option is a professional development certificate. The certificate program is strengthening the leaders of today. Certificate participants have at least 5 years of experience in the field. The certificate program is located at the Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. The programs last 3 months and includes up to 3 weeks of field study. There are two sessions per year each which has up to 25 fellows.

- Launched in 2006 as an alternative to the Rotary Centers for International Studies program.
- Caters to middle- to upper level professionals who could arrange to be away from their employment for just a few months,
- provide a lower cost option to The Rotary Foundation and more immediate returns on Rotary's investment in world understanding and peace.
- Rotary Center at Chulalongkorn University will continue to offer two training sessions each year, January-April and June-August.
- All course work is conducted in English, and Chulalongkorn is the only Rotary Center at which Rotary World Peace Fellows do not need to secure admission to the university itself

#### Alumni

- The Rotary Peace Centers program has over 900 alumni.
- 95% of these alumni work in areas related to peace and conflict resolution. The graph shows the percentages of where peace fellows are working. Peace fellows are also scattered across the globe on every continent.
- 34% are in North America, 22% is Asia, 20% is Europe, 9% is South America, 6% is Africa and 6% is Australia/Oceania.
- some examples of what peace fellows are doing: World Bank analyst, Media monitoring analyst for NATO, Civil affairs officer with the UN mission in Nepal.

#### Selection Procedure

In the beginning of the year, clubs and districts recruit potential applicants. A guide for Rotarians is available on the Rotary Peace Centers web page. Through May clubs will interview, select and endorse applicants. Club Presidents and a sponsor counselor will sign the application and then send the application to the district-level. Districts will then interview, select and endorse candidates. DGs and DRFCs must endorse the application and send completed application to The Rotary Foundation preferably via email. All applications are due by 1 July. District DG, DRFC and club presidents will receive a confirmation when a completed application is received. Please note that incomplete applications will not be processed until all material is received. Complete applications are processed through 15 September. Districts may submit any number of qualified, endorsed applicants. The Rotary Peace Centers Committee selects up to 60 Master's Fellows and up to 50 certificate Fellows in October. All applicants and their supporting Rotarians will be notified of applicant's status by early November.

Note: Applications submitted each 1 July are for the upcoming year master's degree fellowships and upcoming January and June professional development certificate fellowships. Example: Applications due 1 July 2013 are for Master's degree fellowships starting in 2014-15 and certificate programs in 2014.

The Rotary Peace Centers Major Gift Initiative shares the stage with PolioPlus as one of TRF's highest priorities. Unlike PolioPlus, which is a broad-based initiative, the Rotary Peace Centers Initiative emphasizes gifts of \$50,000 or more.

The focus of this Major Gifts Initiative is endowed gifts. In addition to the \$90 million endowment goal, an additional \$5 million in term (fully expended) gifts has been included as a goal to help with the immediate expenses of running the program.

Approximately 2,600 individuals from throughout the world have contributed gifts and commitments to The Rotary Peace Centers. DDF transfers to the endowment also support the initiative.