

Meeting of the Inter-Country Committee India-Germany, German Chapter

November 30, 2012 Hotel Maritim, Berlin

Participants: P. Iblher, chairman, RID 1880, RC Nürnberg-Reichswald
Debasish Mitra, RID 3291, RC Calcutta Dhakuria, Kolkata, India
Thomson Thomas, RID 3211, RC Cochin Global, Kerala, India
Dr. Thomas Paul – RID 3211, RC Cochin Global, Kerala, India
Vinoos Devasia, RID 3211, RC Cochin Global, Kerala, India
Bettina von Buchholz, RID 1900, RC Lippetal
Werner Cordes, RID 1900, RC Hagen-Lenne
Bernd Dreesmann, RID 1810, RC Euskirchen-Burgfey
Annelie Fabry, IWC Coesfeld
Reinhard Fricke, RID 1870, RC Münster-St. Mauritz (teilweise)
Martin Gutsche, RID 1850, RC Oldenburg (teilweise)
Albrecht Hartge, RID 1880, RC Leipzig-Herbst '89
Franz W. Humpert, RID 1870, RC Mühlheim-Schloss Broich
Hubert Knapp, RID 1930, RC Baden-Baden-Merkur

1. Welcome

PDG Debasish Mitra, member of the Indian chapter and his wife Papia, three other Rotarian guests from, Kerala, India (named above), the spouses Waldtraut Fricke and Gundel Iblher and the nine present members of the ICC named above were greeted by P. Iblher. Since the room at Hotel Maritim was too small the spouses decided to leave the meeting.

2. Minutes of the meetings

The minutes of the meeting, held on May 5th, 2012, were accepted without change. Hubert Knapp RID 1930, accepted to issue the minutes of this meeting.

3. Indo-German projects presented at the Peace Forum

Members of the council presented four projects for the Peace Forum

- Fabry and Fricke: NISHTA, Promoting women's rights in the interest of social peace, West Bengal
- Dreesmann: Caring for the Elderly in Chennai
- Fricke, Iblher, Mitra: Jibontari, Hospital boat for islanders in the Ganges delta
- Cordes, Bettina von Buchholz: Save the girl child, Maharashtra



(a) NISHTA

This project offers social support and education for economic self-reliance for abused women and their children in 300 villages of West Bengal - a project started before 2008 already. The success and appeal of this project are enormous, that a second similar project is considered to be initiated in other regions. The project is supported today by 100 employees and 700 volunteers. D. Mitra will try to find more places for similar projects in India, since he thinks that with such projects, Global Grants can be promoted.

(B) A BETTER LIVE FOR YOUNG AND OLD

The project is conducted in a partnership between the RC Euskirchen-Burgfey and the RC Chennai KK Nagar. A Foundation Grant of 30.100 USD was achieved. The number of elderly people in India is growing and poor families often have not the means to support their children and the older generation (sandwich effect). No help by the state is available. Therefore in this project 60 senior people, who were lucky to find a place in an old age home funded by donations, are brought together, with children from disengaged families. The elderly act as grandparents for the social rehabilitation of the youngsters. Both groups cooperate organizing and doing the daily chores for their "New life" center. Rotarians help with infrastructure for energy, water, cooling and waste management. It is hoped that other similar projects will make use of this experience.

(c) JIBONTARI, FLOATING HOSPITAL

The population on 40 islands in the Indian Ganges delta region did not receive medical support for years. Under the guidance of D. Mitra and R. Fricke in 2010 therefore the RCs of Dum-Dum in Kolkata, India and Münster-St. Mauritz, Germany invested in a simple boat to offer basic medical care. This boat connects the islands in the Ganges Delta with approx. 300.000 people. A project supplement together with the RC of Nürnberg-Reichswald allowed for 1000 cataract operations for these people and in the mean time more money was collected to improve the situation of the people on the islands. Solar electricity, improvement of drinking water conditions and special care for women and children are considered.



(d) SAVE THE GIRL CHILD

For many years Werner Cordes, RC of Hagen-Lenne has been active with his wife in Maharashtra to foster girl children in rural areas against rooted customs of neglecting and even personal danger of life. The daily water organization often takes too much of the time of females, so that for instance their standard education is endangered. Together with the liberating effect of modern water distribution, special medical care is necessary to foster female social participation and self-reliance. W. Cordes is looking for German and Indian Rotarian project partners who will continue and revitalize these activities.

Explanatory note

To the disappointment of the members of the ICC, not all the activities mentioned, were presented at the Project Fair for which they had been supplied. The organizing RC of Berlin Mitte asked, how this could happen, explained that out of 276 projects offered, only 100 could be made available, because of space problems. The selection obviously only considered date of delivery thus annihilating a lot of positive Rotarian service energy.

4. Child from Uganda needs heart surgery

Before starting for the Berlin Peace Forum P. Iblher was asked by the RC of Germering for a Rotarian contact in India that could take care of a heart operation of a child from Uganda on a very short term. The German club will take care of all transportation costs. Debasish Mitra will organize a stay for the young patient in Kolkata. The three Rotarians from the RC of Cochin Global also offered their services.

5. Project cooperation with the RC of Cochin Global

The friends from Kerala are looking for a German partner for a school for the blind and had a matching grant proposal ready with a big contribution from the international partner. This kicked off a discussion of how to get into a fertile international cooperation. The Rotarian friends from Kerala were advised and accepted to first start personal relations with German partners and on this friendly basis then offer concrete project partnership.

6. Proposal for a matching grant project with an Indian RC as international and a German RC as host partner

Debasish Mitra again offered Indian support for a project in Germany especially concerning education and/or immigrant issues as a Matching Grant. In his position as DRFC of RID 3291 he is able to guarantee such cooperation and the allocation of means from his district (DDF). His term however ends on June 30th. That sets the time slot that restricts his offer.

7. Cooperation between the Indian and German chapters of the ICC

There was general agreement that all the districts of the partner countries should provide members for the ICC. Debasish Mitra will take care of the Indian side. The German side will further look for members of the districts still missing.

In this connection the website published by the German side is to be opened to the Indian friends so that the ICC gains a medium for information from both sides.

P. Iblher further proposed to publish mutual country and Rotary information in both the national Rotary magazines. Both sides are ready to do so and will consult with the editors Nehring and Bala how this could be achieved.

Explanatory note: P. Iblher spoke to Toni Hielscher (publisher) and René Nehring. They are ready to print an "India edition" in 2013 depending on the qualified input purveyed by the ICC. **8. Change in the ICC chair**

P. Iblher was chosen to act as Rotary zone coordinator starting July 1st, 2013. He, therefore, will step down from the German chair of the ICC and proposed Bettina von Buchholz as his successor. Born by the agreement of the members she accepted the new responsibility. In a short target statement she reported that, already as a little girl, she lived in Rourkela for some years. She emphasized that it is necessary to create more Indo German connections and friendship for a more intensive cooperation. She, therefore, has in mind to increase all kinds of exchanges between the two countries, to make more Rotarians to visit the two countries and to initiate more Rotarian invitations vice versa.

9. Next meeting

The next meeting of the ICC was fixed for Oct. 12th, 2013 at Frankfurt Restaurant Cosmopolitan.

The chairman summed up that this meeting was held in the spirit of this year's theme "Peace through Service" and thanked all the members present for their contributions and friendly cooperation. P. Iblher closed the meeting at 15:13.

Hubert Knapp

19.12.2012