

RI president welcomes convention goers

I'm happy to welcome the family of Rotary to the 95th annual Rotary International Convention. Registration figures indicate that this will be one of the largest Rotary conventions ever, perhaps even topping the former record holder, the 1978 Tokyo Convention, by some 5,000 registrants. These figures reflect the deep commitment of Japanese Rotarians and their eagerness to host an event that will also break records in fellowship and inspiration.



Many exciting activities await you—at the host organization events beginning tonight as well as at the plenary sessions and the two other convention venues. I encourage you to take advantage of everything this convention has to offer. Like the best family reunion, this convention promises to bring together old friends and welcome new ones.

We will also be exploring the many ways that Rotarians have worked to *Lend a Hand* over the past year. The Club and District Projects Exhibition at the Rihga Royal Hotel offers a dramatic illustration of these efforts. Let this convention also be the start of new service ventures. Talk to other Rotarians about their club projects. Meet Rotarians from other countries and find a partner for the Centennial Twin Clubs Program. And most of all, *Lend a Hand* in friendship to fellow members of the family of Rotary.

Jonathan B. Majiyagbe
President, Rotary International

春は花 夏 ほととぎす In the spring, cherry blossoms,
秋は月 in the **SUMMER** the cuckoo.
冬雪さえて 冷しかりけり In autumn the moon,
and in winter the snow, clear, cold.
—「本来面目」道元禅氏 (1200~1253) — “Innate Spirit” the priest Dogen (1200-1253)

In recognition of the convention background theme of the four seasons, this famous Japanese poem by a 13th century Zen priest highlights the natural progression of changing seasons—an experience that is shared by all cultures and unaffected by world politics.

Opening plenary session will inform, inspire, and entertain

The 95th annual RI Convention will open Sunday afternoon with a performance by Kongoryu, a Noh theater group that incorporates elements of dance, drama, music, and poetry. Dr. Genshitsu Sen, Convention Committee chair, will call the convention to order. Joining him onstage will be Osaka Prefecture Governor Fusae Ohta and Osaka Mayor Junichi Seki, who will welcome Rotarians to the city and region.

The traditional and inspirational ceremony presenting all the flags of the Rotary world will be followed by the introduction of RI President Jonathan B. Majiyagbe, who will address the convention, welcoming participants. The entertainment feature will spotlight two acclaimed Japanese opera stars—soprano Shinobu Sato and tenor Taro Ichihara—with an orchestra, followed by Brazilian, African, and Japanese percussion artists.

Host Organization events

From tranquility of a traditional tea ceremony to the thrills and excitement of Universal Studios, the Host Organization Committee (HOC) has arranged ticketed events to please any interest.

Rotarians will immerse themselves in Japanese culture during Saturday's sightseeing tours to nearby Kyoto. Visitors to this ancient city will enjoy the scenic tranquility of the Kyoto Japanese Gardens, a traditional tea ceremony at Heian-Jingu Shrine, and a welcome party.

For those not participating in Kyoto Day, an evening host welcome concert will be performed by the world-famous NHK Symphony Orchestra at NHK Hall.

On Monday evening, participants can take part in a festival along the Dotonbori



On Saturday, Rotarians have an opportunity to visit the ancient city of Kyoto.

River in downtown Osaka. Another popular activity, a cruise to Kobe, has unfortunately sold out and is no longer available. On Tuesday, the Host Committee will hold the Evening Park Festa event at Universal Studios Japan™.

Tickets that are still available to any host event can be purchased at the HOC Ticket Sales Booth located on the plaza level of the Convention Center.

Convention Count

43,740 Registrants / 95 Countries

* as of 21 May

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



Preconvention events

International Institute participants, Youth Exchange officers (YEO), and Rotary Foundation alumni arrived early in Japan to take part in a variety of memorable preconvention activities held at the OICC. The Institute and the YEO meeting began on Friday and continue today, 21-22 May. The Rotary Foundation Alumni Seminar and Reunion will be held this afternoon, 1500-1600, with a reception following.

Atsushi Takahashi, president and CEO of the Sumitomo Trust and Banking Company Ltd., will speak on business ethics in Japan and the Asian and Japanese economy during Saturday's International Institute, open to past, present, and incoming RI officers.

Obtaining student visas, training host parents, and utilizing ROTEX students are among the topics being discussed by the Youth Exchange officers at the 2004 YEO meeting organized by the 2003-04 Youth Exchange and Osaka Host Organization committees.

Attention first-time convention goers

Anyone attending his or her first Rotary convention should participate in one of the two special orientation sessions on Saturday. Held in Event Hall D/E on the third floor of the Convention Center, the first session, 0930-1030, will be conducted in Japanese only, and the second session, 1400-1500, in English only.

Enjoy a Japanese tea ceremony

Rotarians have an extraordinary opportunity to experience a traditional Japanese tea ceremony with English translation, compliments of Convention Chair Genshitsu Sen, a 15th generation grand tea master. The tea ceremonies will take place throughout the convention, 22-26 May, in the main lobby of the Rihga Royal Hotel.

Please note the correct telephone number for the Transportation Booth is 6441-6930.

- **Wherever you go, carry your program book** with you as your guide. You'll find times and locations for workshops, names of speakers at plenary sessions, and maps of the Rihga Royal Hotel.
- **Badges must be worn** for admittance to all convention events and areas, including the House of Friendship.
- **Sergeants-at-arms**—easily identified by their red coats and red or white hats—are stationed throughout the Convention Center to answer your questions and guide Rotarians. The Sergeant-At-Arms (SAA) Office is located on the seventh floor of the OICC.
- **All plenary sessions** and other meetings will be conducted in English. Simultaneous interpretation at the plenary sessions will be offered in French, Japanese, Korean,

Mandarin, Portuguese, and Spanish, transmitted over FM radio frequencies. Personal radio receivers will be available for a nominal fee at the Simultaneous Interpretation Booth on the third floor of the Osaka Dome or the fifth floor of the OICC. Check your program book for the booth schedules.

- **Internet Service Area** located on the second floor of the Rihga Royal Hotel in the Kaede room, offers participants the opportunity to check their e-mail and surf the Web.
- **Consult your Transportation Guide** to find out about the RI shuttle bus service between your hotel, convention venues, and host events. If you have questions, stop by the Transportation Booth on the lobby level of Rihga Royal Hotel.

Convention venues

The convention venues include three exceptional sites: Osaka International Convention Center (OICC), Osaka Dome, and Rihga Royal Hotel. The OICC will house registration services, the International Institute, workshops, and discussion forums. All plenary sessions will take place at the Osaka Dome, and the House of Friendship, Secretariat Services, and other booths will be housed in the Rihga Royal Hotel.

The OICC and the hotel are located next to each other and are connected by a covered walkway. A free shuttle bus service between the Rihga Royal Hotel/OICC and Osaka Dome will be available. Additionally, free shuttle bus service will



Osaka International Convention Center (OICC), also known as Grand Cube Osaka, houses registration services, the International Institute, workshops, and discussion forums.



Pictured on the left of the Convention Center is the Rihga Royal Hotel, where you'll find the House of Friendship, Secretariat Services, and other booths.

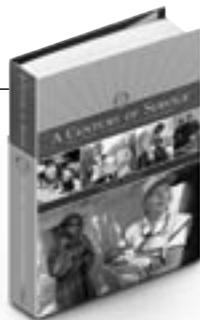
be available between select hotels and the OICC. These buses will be reserved for visitors from abroad as Japanese Rotarians are encouraged to use Osaka's excellent public transportation system, which serves the three convention venues. Numbered shuttle bus routes will be organized based on hotel locations.

For more information, refer to your *Transportation Guide*. If you have questions, please stop by the Transportation Booth located in the lobby of the Rihga Royal Hotel.

Centennial book signing

Current, past, and future RI presidents will gather on Monday from 1500-1630 to sign copies of *A Century of Service: The Story of Rotary International*, the inspiring history book commissioned by RI for the Rotary Centennial. The signing will take place at the Convention Center on the first floor Plaza.

Special sales booths will be set up on the plaza outside the Osaka Dome on Monday from 0830-1230 and at the Convention Center from 1330-1630 prior to and during the centennial book signing. **All purchases made at the Osaka Dome must be in cash payments of yen only.** Credit cards (Visa, Master Card, JCB, and Amex only), along with cash payments in yen, will be accepted at all other locations. The book can also be purchased in the Rihga Royal Hotel at the Publications Sales Booth (Matsu



room, second floor) and Celebrating Rotary's Centennial Booth (Korin room, third floor) Saturday through Wednesday.

A Century of Service: The Story of Rotary International is now available in English and Japanese for ¥2,650 (US\$25). A limited-edition leather-bound volume is also available for ¥10,600 (US\$100). You may also order the book in French, Korean, Portuguese, or Spanish for delivery in July 2004.

Please note only one book per person will be signed and signings will be limited to the first 600 people.

SECRETARIAT AT YOUR SERVICE...

The RI Convention gives Rotarians a special opportunity to meet RI staff and learn about the many services provided by the Rotary International Secretariat (World Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, USA, and seven international offices around the world) and Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland. The Secretariat Services Area, which is located on the second floor of the Rihga Royal Hotel and staffed daily, includes the following booths:

Membership Services

Representing a number of regions, staff from Club and District Administration, Leadership Education and Training, and Membership Development are on hand to answer general questions about Rotary and discuss various issues. You can find their booth in the Ume room.

Publications Sales

Rotary's newest publications and videotapes are available to order or purchase in a variety of languages. New items include the Every Rotarian, Every Year video, the recently revised Historical Review of Rotary, and new member orientation publications, as well as the Rotary Centennial history book, *A Century of Service: The Story of Rotary International*. This booth is in the Matsu room.

Rotary World Magazine Press

Staff from *The Rotarian* and other official magazines in the Rotary World Magazine Press are on hand to explain how to submit material for publication and ways the magazines can assist clubs in planning their programs. Free copies of *The Rotarian* and many regional magazines are also available. You can find this booth in the Matsu room.

Public and External Relations

At their booth in the Matsu room, RI's Public and External Relations staff will be showcasing recent examples of national and international print and broadcast media coverage RI has received. Rotarians can pick up a copy of the hometown news release to complete and send to their local media. In addition, the booth will highlight Rotary's work with the United Nations and the international community. Various publications and other PR and ER tools are on display, and staff will provide consultation on ways to cooperate with other organizations and promote projects at the local level.

In Monday's At Your Service: The RI Programs and Rotary Foundation booths.

House of Friendship offers many attractions

Rotarians will find the social hub of the convention, the House of Friendship, on the third floor of the Rihga Royal Hotel. A tempting variety of Japanese foods will be available along with a large offering of goods and services for sale at booths hosted by Japanese businesses. The Korin room provides an ideal place to arrange to meet friends, and a message board is located nearby for Rotarians' use. Live local entertainment will be featured on the House of Friendship and OICC stages each day.

The House of Friendship is open the following hours: Saturday, 22 May, 0900-2000; Sunday, 23 May, 0900-1600; Monday, 24 May, through Wednesday, 26 May, 0900-1800.

Entertainment Schedule

Saturday, 22 May

OICC, 1F Plaza	
1630-1700	Girls Band HONEY SAC
1700-1730	Junior Dance Team Little Cat
1745-1830	Evening Concert Kansai University Brass Band
Rihga Royal Hotel, 3F	
1100-1130	Koto performance
1200-1230	Tour of Osaka Interactive Traditional Art
1345-1500	Japanese Poetry Reading
1500-1530	Ichigenkin (One String Koto)
1630-1730	Kayo Fujino Reading of Manyo (Japanese literature)

Sunday, 23 May

OICC, 1F Plaza	
1000-1030	Taiko (Japanese Drum)
1030-1100	Lion Dance
Rihga Royal Hotel, 3F	
1000-1100	Art of Obi (Kimono Sash)
1130-1200	Skit "Road to Eradicate Polio," D-2650 PEFC project
1200-1230	Japanese Dance
1230-1300	Tour of Osaka Interactive Traditional Art

* Program is subject to change.



Lend a Hand

“Smiles are badges of friendliness. There are plenty of them within you. Do not hold them captive. Set them free at the right times and places and their beneficent effects will carry to the very gates of eternity.”

— Paul P. Harris, Founder of Rotary

UNOFFICIAL AFFILIATE EVENTS

Saturday, 22 May

Far West Reception, Imperial Hotel, Peacock Room, 1600-1800

District 5960, Miyako Hotel Osaka, Kongo Room, 1800-2000

District 2770, Imperial Hotel, Empire Room, 1800-2100

Sunday, 23 May

Northland Breakfast Zones 27, 28, 31, and 32, Imperial Hotel, Peacock W. Room, 0700-0830

Rotary Fellowships Annual General Meeting, OICC, Rooms 1004-1005, 0900-1030

Rotarian Fellowship for Fighting AIDS, OICC, Room 1102, 1200-1400

Taichung Rotary Tea Party, Hotel NCB, Yodo Room, 1330-1500

Northern Lights Reception Zone 22, OICC, Room 1009, 1330-1530

District 7950 Welcome Reception, Rihga Royal Hotel, Italian Café Bar, 1830-2030

Regal Eagles Reunion, OICC, 12F, 1900-2100

Hamden Rotary, ANA Hotel Osaka, Manyo Room, 1930-2100

21st Century Governors Reception, Rihga Royal Hotel, Kiku Room, 1930-2100

Monday, 24 May

Asian Pacific Breakfast, OICC, Event Hall A/B/C, 0700-0900

Southland Breakfast, New Otani Hotel, Ho-o Room, 0700-0900

Hamden Rotary, ANA Hotel Osaka, Takasago Room, 0800-0930

International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians Annual General Meeting, OICC, Room 1102, 1700-1830

Osaka-Temmabashi Rotary Club, Rihga Royal Hotel, Crown Room, 1830-2000

Japanese Rotaract Meeting, OICC, Event Hall E, 1830-2100

Tuesday, 25 May

All Africa Breakfast, Hilton Hotel, Sakura Room, 0700-0900

Heart of America Breakfast, OICC, Event Hall A/B/C, 0730-0830

International Travel and Hosting Fellowship Annual General Meeting, 0730-0900

1995-97 Past RI Officers Reunion, Rihga Royal Hotel, Natural Garden, 1215-1400

International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians Annual General Meeting, Rihga Royal Hotel, Kiku Room, 1230-1530

Rotarian Fellowship for Population and Development, OICC, Rooms 1006-1007, 1400-1730

Humanitarian Service Resource Fellowship, OICC, Room 1001, 1430-1600

Rotarian Fellowship for Multiple Sclerosis Awareness, Hotel NCB, Yuki Room, 1500-1600

Wednesday, 26 May

South Asian Breakfast, Hotel NCB, Matsu Room, 0715-0845

Nordic Breakfast, Hotel NCB, Yodo Room, 0730-0900

Enter to win Rotary's history book at Centennial booth

Rotarians who visit the Celebrating Rotary's Centennial Booth can win a signed copy of *A Century of Service: The Story of Rotary International* just by signing the Rotary Centennial journal and dropping off their business card. The drawing will be held Tuesday and the winner announced during Wednesday's plenary session.

Located in the Korin room on the third floor of the Rihga Royal Hotel, the Celebrating Rotary's Centennial Booth also has this special history book, written for Rotary's centennial, available for purchase. Many other centennial-related materials are also available, including posters, promotional kits, and books.

While at the booth, have your photo taken alongside Paul Harris. A life-size cutout of Rotary's founder has been created just for the convention. So stop by the booth, record your club's centennial activities in the journal, and learn how Rotarians around the world are celebrating 100 years of service.

Interfaith Celebration Sunday

The Interfaith Celebration of Rotary's work for peace and its diverse religious makeup will be held on Sunday from 1000-1100 in Main Hall 5F of the Osaka International Convention Center. This year's ceremony will include a memorial service to honor past Rotary officers and their spouses who died during the previous year. Music will be provided by the International Fellowship of Rotarian Musicians and led by 2003-04 Fellowship Chair Chungsam Doh.