

Tech Talk



Newsletter of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers • April 2013

2012-13 Technical Coordinators

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Message from the Chair

Michael Webb

Our work safeguarding the funds donated to The Rotary Foundation continues. The number of grants approved by the Trustees in 2011-12 was an impressive 2,308, which includes 1,621 Matching Grants, 347 District Simplified Grants, and 233 global grants. This resulted in 151 cadre assignments, the most since 2007-08 — including 26 technical reviews, 36 interim site visits, and 49 financial audits. In 2012-13, we have already tallied 90 cadre assignments.

I am often asked what types of problems cadre members encounter during assignments. These are among the ones we find:

- Diversion or embezzlement of funds
- False documentation
- Irresponsible management
- Ineligible contributions
- Conflicts of interest
- Individuals monopolizing grants
- Falsified membership records

Of course, these do not necessarily occur all at once, and such problems are encountered in only in a minority of grants.

Also, I am extremely pleased that, due to the efforts of cadre Vice chair Francis “Tusu” Tusubira and others, the roster of cadre members living in Africa has increased fourfold in recent

times, now totaling 64 Rotarians.

I thank you all for your hard work on behalf of the cadre.

I hope that you will be able to attend the cadre training seminar in Lisbon, Portugal, on Friday, 21 June, preceding this year’s RI Convention.

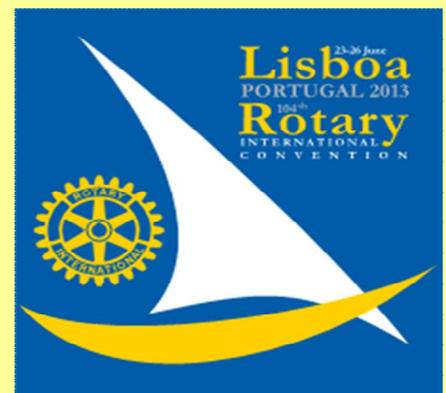
Regards,

Mike

-Save the Date- Friday, 21 June

The next cadre training will be held on Friday, 21 June, during the 2013 RI Convention in Lisbon, Portugal.

All cadre members are welcome to attend, as well as any Rotarians interested in becoming cadre members or learning more about the stewardship of Rotary Foundation grant funds. More details will be shared as the date approaches.



In Our Own Words

Undertaking a Cadre Mission to St. Lucia

Paul Derstine, Rotary Club of Bonds Meadow (Westminster), Maryland, USA; District 7620



The project will replace the current inoperative water tank (left) with a new storage and distribution system (right)

Editor's note: Some identifying details, such as names of the project location and sponsors, have been omitted, to ensure confidentiality.

As a member of the cadre, I completed an advance site visit for a water storage and distribution project on the Caribbean island of St. Lucia in October. Three critical elements enabled me to accomplish my mission:

Technical familiarity: While I am not an engineer, I have enjoyed a career in economic and community development that included managing construction of potable water catchment and distribution systems in the Caribbean and Africa. A significant part of my work was focused in Haiti, where I engaged with people speaking a Creole language somewhat similar to the Creole of St. Lucia. Combining my work experience and my Rotary involvement with club- and district-level interests in international work, I felt comfortable accepting the mission to engage with Rotarians joined by a common interest to improve the water distribution system for a community in northern St. Lucia.

Mission support from the senior cadre coordinator: A crucial element

supporting the mission was the comprehensive and useful advance packet of materials received from Senior Cadre Coordinator Christian Pepera. The packet provided a framework and focused indicators designed to guide a cadre member undertaking an advance site visit. Information contained in the Volunteer Agreement and Matching Grant Terms and Conditions, and particularly in the Evaluation Form template, was exceptionally valuable, enabling me to compile 75 detailed points of inquiry/verification deemed important to address.

On-the-ground preparation by the sponsoring Rotary clubs and supporting districts: I hit the ground running, starting with a warm airport reception from project committee members representing two very

committed and experienced Rotary clubs, which provided their full support throughout my mission. St. Lucia Rotary clubs have undertaken numerous projects, including a significant recovery project in the southern part of the island following Hurricane Thomas in 2010. That recovery project, led the local Rotarians, with the support of five districts in the United States, to focus on storm damage to the water storage and distribution system, and ultimately the application that I was sent to evaluate. The Rotarians conducted a comprehensive analysis of problems, and planned each project element with club members, community and political leaders, and technical experts. After securing other funding, the comprehensive proposal was submitted to The Rotary Foundation. A complete binder containing the background analytical work, the proposal, and the agenda designed to support my mission was made available to me upon arrival. I was able to satisfactorily follow through on my points of inquiry/verification, and complete my mission and evaluation report on time.

This well-designed, broadly supported Rotary water project was approved and is underway: This is how Rotary is to work!

Recent Cadre Visits



Past District Governor Teotimo "Onye" Reyes visited a 3-H project that is producing and distributing bio-sand water filters in Cambodia

In Our Own Words

Evaluating a Vocational Training Team (VTT) Project in Timor-Leste

Patricia Canning, Rotary Club of Ballajura-Malaga, Australia; District 9455



Patricia Canning (second from right) with the hospital's obstetric team during her visit to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

Editor's note: Some identifying details, such as names of the project location and sponsors, have been omitted, to ensure confidentiality.

It is with great appreciation that I recount my cadre assignment in Timor-Leste to evaluate a vocational training project providing basic and refresher training to birthing staff at a hospital.

I was thrilled to be invited to undertake this visit, and collected quite a bit of medical equipment to take with me, kindly donated by a hospital in my native Australia. The project was relevant to me, as I work in this field, and I did some research to find statistics on maternal and child health.

This project, which involved Rotarians from East Timor and Eastern Australia, was designed to provide training for midwives and doctors who provide maternity care in the provincial areas of Timor-Leste using the United Nations Family Planning program. The grant was approved to fund five vocational training visits over a three-year period and would include both tutorials and hands-on training using models and role-playing.

The training focused predominantly on antenatal care, identification of high-risk pregnancies, and emergency

obstetric management, including treatment of post-partum hemorrhage, unexpected birth positions, and neonatal resuscitation and stabilization.

All the participants, who included midwives and medical staff, confirmed that the training provided significant benefit to the community and to their own professional development.

The hospital management was committed to ensuring that the staff benefited from these scheduled vocational days. The participants, committed to refreshing their skills, were passionate and enthusiastic about their increased knowledge and its potential for improving outcomes for their communities. At the completion of the training, each participant was excited to receive an accreditation certificate.

During my visit, the hospital's medical specialist confirmed that positive outcomes had been observed already — the midwives were more confident and the community was in a much better place.

Before I reached Timor-Leste, the communication I'd received was mostly electronic, so I did not fully know what to expect. Also, I was not able to meet with as many people as previously planned, but one has to adapt to such situations.

Over two days, I met with 22 staff members, including the hospital's director of nursing and numerous midwives and medical specialists. I was told that two patients had had to be transferred to Dili, the capital of Timor, because there wasn't enough suture material. The transfer, which took three to four hours by road, was a traumatic situation.

This has led me to seek assistance for Timor-Leste from Rotary clubs in Western Australia.

In spite of the limited resources available, however, the hospital staff feel

passionately about caring for their patients, and do a tremendous job.

Overall, my role as an interim monitor for this project has been extremely positive: I have gained much information, and I am seeking support for the peoples of Timor-Leste. I have given several presentations and will continue to promote the work of Rotary and the cadre.

Recent Cadre Visits



Past District Governor Himanshu Thackkar (left) evaluated a 3-H project that provided vocational training and microcredit opportunities in India.

New Processes for Cadre Members

Cadre members will experience some changes to the assignment process, because new grant management software is being adopted by The Rotary Foundation.

Beginning in April 2013, assignments involving global and district grants will require cadre members to sign in to Member Access to accept or decline invitations and complete their evaluations. The assignment process for Matching, 3-H, and District Simplified Grants will continue under the current system. Step-by-step instructions to assist with the new process will be made available to all cadre members, and a demo of the new online process will be shared at the training in Lisbon.

Striving Towards Sustainable Results



Peter Blaine evaluated a global grant project that is providing water tanks, latrines, and hand-washing facilities to schools in Tanzania

Sustainability means different things to different organizations. For The Rotary Foundation, sustainability means responding to community problems by providing long-term solutions that the benefiting community can maintain after grant funding ends. Sustainable projects take many forms, yet all display the following characteristics:

Community needs and strengths —

Sustainable projects are well planned, involve the collaboration of multiple project participants, and suit the needs and values of beneficiaries. Grant sponsors should

- Demonstrate that beneficiaries have provided input on the project and explain how this information was gathered
- Identify local organizations, community groups, or government agencies that will be involved in project activities

Materials and technology —

Sustainable projects employ durable materials that are accessible, ready to use, and environmentally sound. Grant sponsors should

- Purchase project materials from local sources if possible
- Confirm that spare parts (if applicable) are readily available

Funding — Sustainable projects ensure that a reliable source of funding exists to maintain project outcomes after the grant is complete. Sponsors should do one of the following:

- Introduce or support practices that generate income for ongoing project funding
- Confirm the presence of preexisting sources of consistent project funding

Knowledge — Sustainable projects increase capacity by helping communities acquire new skills, knowledge, and behaviors. Sponsors should

- Ensure that new initiatives are coordinated with training, education, or community outreach campaigns
- Consider how new skills will be passed on to future beneficiaries

Motivation — Sustainable projects provide tangible incentives for community ownership of project activities and outcomes. Sponsors should

- Confirm that beneficiaries have a well-defined role in carrying out project activities
- Identify local individuals in leadership positions who will monitor outcomes and ensure continuity of services

Monitoring and evaluation —

Sustainable projects are designed to ensure clear and measurable outcomes. Sponsors should

- Establish clear project goals and relevant baseline data
- Identify critical project measures and the method that will be used to collect this information

Global grants should incorporate practices from each of the areas above. For

examples of projects that demonstrate these sustainability practices, go to learn.rotary.org and view the course titled “Building a Global Grant,” or contact a Rotary grants staff member to discuss how to incorporate these practices into your project. For more information on sustainability and planning and implementing effective grant projects, download the [Grant Management Manual](#).

As part of its commitment to providing sustainable services, The Rotary International-USAID International H2O Collaboration commissioned an external review of its water and sanitation interventions between February and July 2012. The Rotary Foundation will be announcing the results of this sustainability check in April 2013.

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