

Dear Rotarian Friends,

I am pleased to inform you that from the 24th to the 30th of August 2009 the “**5th ITFR World Tennis Championship – Rotarians’ Tennis Meeting**” (International Tennis Fellowship of Rotarians – www.itfr.org) will take place in **Wien** (Austria).

This initiative will be an important occasion for all Rotarians, who play or who are fond of tennis all over the world, to meet each other *according to* the motto “**Score an ace with Rotary ... for a winning Service!**”. Tennis’ principles perfectly share the Rotarian spirit, the legality and fair-play used in tennis, make this sport suitable for the rotarians aims.

ITFR is so a privileged instrument to promote **friendship** and **solidarity** all over the world. The presence of Rotary International in all continents (168 Countries) gives ITFR the opportunity to network with members of different nationalities having the same Rotarian objectives and the same interest in tennis.

As all Rotarian initiatives, this important event (which will take place in Austria for the first time) will be not only an important achievement for the Fellowship and for the Rotary, but it will also give support to specific initiatives of solidarity thanks to the ITFR that organizes this tournament. In particular, funds raised during the event will go to finance the most important humanitarian project of Rotary International that is “**PolioPlus Program**” (www.rotary.org; www.polioeradication.org) and the important project of Districts 1910 and 1920 which hosts the event and that is “**The Srebrenica project**” for a Rotary Medical Center in Srebrenica City (www.rotary.at).

The international event has obtained moral support from the most important institutional organizations. Therefore I firstly thank the Mayor **Michael Häupl** and with him the City Administration of Wien that without hesitation and with enthusiasm has supported ITFR in this ambitious project hosting Rotarian friends from all over the world in this wonderful city.

I thank with particular gratitude **Francesco Ricci Bitti**, I.T.F. President (International Tennis Federation), **Jaques Dupré**, President of European Tennis Federation (Tennis Europe), **Ernst Wolner**, President of Tennis Austria (Austrian Tennis Federation), **Adam Helfant**, A.T.P. Executive Chairman and President (Association of Tennis Professionals), **Dennis Van Der Meer**, P.T.R. President (Professional Tennis Registry), whose moral support has given indisputable prestige to the Championship.

My sincere thanks to the Rotary International Governors of the District 1910 **Bobby Nemling** (2008/09) and **Peter Krause** (2009/10), and of District 1920 **Peter Morawek** (2008/09) and **Kurt Angerer** (2009/10), and to the Presidents and Members of Clubs of Wien who with an intense Rotarian spirit have organized this event. A special thank to Colony Club and their owners **Ernst Polsterer** and **Ernst Scholdan**.

Last, but not least, I wish to thank **Josef Gudenus**, ITFR Austria TD and Tournament Director of 2009 ITFR WTC, and the Organizing Committee, which with great enthusiasm, passion, skill, has made possible the realization of this unique event.

I am sure that we will spend an unforgettable week of Rotarian friendship/fellowship all together, in this wonderful city and country, renowned all over the world for its extraordinary historical and artistic beauty.

I hope to meet you in great numbers “in action” to pursue the common Rotarian action in order to score another ... “ace”!

Marco Marinaro
ITFR Chairman