



International Service Update

October 2009

The International Service Update provides news about World Community Service, Rotary Volunteers, and Rotary Community Corps, as well as disaster relief and recovery. Visit the [Service and Fellowship](#) pages on the Rotary International Web site, www.rotary.org, for more information.

Rotarians respond to disasters

Rotarians have been providing assistance in [Indonesia](#), the [Philippines](#), and the [Samoan islands](#) after a recent series of natural disasters. A path of destruction was left by an earthquake in Indonesia, two typhoons in the Philippines, and a tsunami in the Samoan islands. Rotarians responded with immediate relief and are now planning long-term recovery efforts. [Learn more.](#)

Upcoming project fairs

Rotarians in the Philippines and Guatemala invite Rotary club members around the world to attend their upcoming project fairs. Project fairs are a great opportunity to meet fellow Rotarians and learn about service projects in need of funding, volunteers, or donated goods.

[Project Fair Philippines](#)

Makati, Philippines
26 November

[Uniendo America Project Fair](#)

Antigua, Guatemala
28-30 January

New model project submission form

Quick Links



[World Community Service](#)



[Rotary Community Corps](#)



[Rotary Volunteers](#)

Country Profile: The Philippines

Country overview

The [Philippines](#) is a chain of over 7,000 islands off the coast of Southeast Asia, bordered by the Celebes, Philippine, South China, and Sulu seas. The majority of the country's 89.7 million people live on just 11 islands. Filipino and English are the two official languages, and Christianity is the major religion. The terrain is mountainous with many volcanoes; volcanic eruptions and earthquakes are common. Clothing, timber products, food, animals, chemicals, and electrical

Rotary clubs and districts can now use the ProjectLINK Model Project Submission Form to submit their model projects for posting on ProjectLINK. Model projects are completed service projects that other clubs and districts can refer to for inspiration and examples of best practices. The form is available as a Word document at www.rotary.org/projectlink. Although the ProjectLINK database is available in English only, clubs and districts may submit forms in English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish.

Rotarian Action Group joins Live Earth clean water initiative

Rotary International has authorized the Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group to lead Rotary's efforts in the [Live Earth](#) initiative to address the global water crisis. The initiative will launch on 13 October with an event in New York City and will continue until 18 April, which will be a day of concerts and water-related events in 25 cities and thousands of communities worldwide. Updates on how clubs can become involved will be available on the [action group's Web site](#) in the coming weeks. If your club is interested in participating or learning more, write to info@wasrag.org.

Rotary Volunteers in the Peruvian Amazon

Rotary Volunteer Ariel Cecotti, a member of the Rotary Club of Pilar, Santa Fe, Argentina, recently traveled to Santa Rosa, Peru, to help the Rotary Club of Iquitos, Loreto, with its community school project. The two clubs have developed a close relationship, which began during Rotary's centennial year. On the trip, his second to Santa Rosa, Cecotti was accompanied by his wife, Analia Ramos; Cristian Bender, a member of the Pilar club; and Bender's wife, Natalia Quinteros, all Rotary Volunteers.

Val Petersen, a member of the Rotary Club of Kaysville, Utah, USA, also served at the project site, where the volunteers worked on constructing and painting a library, bathrooms, and a cement playground for school sports activities. The Iquitos club has received support for the project from a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant, District 5420, and the Rotary Clubs of Tooele Valley, Park City Sunrise, and Vernal, Utah.. The volunteers paid for their own transportation, and the Iquitos club provided food and lodging. During their stay, the volunteers also participated in health and education efforts with a group from [YouthLINC](#), whose

machinery are the country's main exports.

The Medium-Term Philippines Development Plan 2004-10 was created to monitor progress toward achieving the [UN Millennium Development Goals](#) by 2015. While this effort demonstrates the country's commitment to these goals, the amount of money needed to meet them by the deadline is about US\$15 billion, which is beyond its means. About 43 percent of the population lives on less than \$2 a day; the country's high [poverty rate](#) may be the cause for the recent drop in net enrollment in primary school. Nonetheless, the overall enrollment for girls is higher than that of boys, representing a positive step toward the empowerment of women.

In its efforts to improve environmental sustainability over the past few years, the Philippines has been quite successful. The [Presidential Task Force on Climate Change](#) has taken action to prevent deforestation by cracking down on loggers and prompting reforestation efforts. Water and sanitation efforts have resulted in 93 percent of the population having access to [cleaner water](#).

Projects seeking assistance

Rotary clubs in the Philippines sponsor 1,327 Rotary Community Corps. There are also 69 World Community Service and Rotary Volunteers projects in the Philippines seeking support on ProjectLINK. These efforts are focusing on

executive director, Judy Zone, is a member of the Rotary Club of Holladay, Utah.



areas including water and sanitation, education, vocational training, food and nutrition, medical treatment, and microfinance. They are in need of contributions and volunteers.

To find more information on how to support these projects and others, please visit [ProjectLINK](#).

Concert to End Polio

Rotary International is teaming up with violin virtuoso and polio survivor Itzhak Perlman and the world-renowned New York Philharmonic to present the [Concert to End Polio](#), a benefit performance supporting the global effort to eradicate this disabling, sometimes fatal, childhood disease.

The one-night-only performance will be held on 2 December at 7:30 p.m. in New York City. All proceeds will go directly to Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge. Learn more and purchase tickets at www.rotary.org/endorpolioconcert.

Comments and Questions

Please e-mail your questions, comments, and suggestions for future issues to international.service@rotary.org. Inquiries about disaster relief should be sent to relief@rotary.org.



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