Sample Rotary Club and District Water Projects

Water Filtration Technology - Honduras
The Rotary Clubs of Danlí, Honduras (D-4250) and Brattleboro, Vermont (D-7870) in collaboration with Pure Water for the World, a non-governmental organization (NGO) formed by Vermont Rotarians, received a 3-H Grant to introduce a simple but effective water filtration technology to rid drinking water of *E.coli* and other pollutants in central Honduras, where intestinal illnesses are approaching epidemic proportions. The project will locally manufacture and install over 4800 gravity-fed, slow sand water filtration units for use in homes, schools and rural health centers in 108 communities within 40 km of Danlí; install three larger community filtration systems, each benefiting up to 160 homes; train local technicians in this water purification system; provide anti-parasite medication to local school children after they have access to potable water to rid them of existing parasites; promote community-based education campaigns about the importance of hygiene and drinking clean water; and build a local fund to continue expansion of the pure water project to other areas of Honduras. By October 2005 the project will directly benefit over 28,000 persons in 4,646 homes, 108 rural clinics and 108 elementary schools.

Water Conservation Development - Bulacan, Philippines
The Rotary Clubs of San Rafael and San Ildefonso, Philippines (D-3770) and the Rotary Club of Armadale, Australia (D-9470) collaborated with the Save Water – Save Lives Foundation, the Soil and Water Conservation Foundation, and other local groups to construct a series of 12 check dams to halt erosion and downstream environmental degradation from deforestation flooding, to provide irrigation systems for farming, and to improve farm income. Twelve new Rotary Village Corps were formed, making a total of 21, one for each check dam, to manage water allocation, establish community plant nurseries and community bamboo and firewood lots. Training was provided to farmers and Rotary Community Corps' and a revolving loan fund was established. The three-year project will enable 3,000 subsistence farmers to produce a second or third crop each year, thereby increasing their long-term income.

Solar-Powered Irrigation – Haiti
The Rotary Club of Cap Haitian (D-7020) and District 7910, USA received a 3-H Grant to drill wells and construct solar powered pumping systems for crop production, with 3-4 pumps each in 30 project sites. Once the water is pumped into tanks, the farmers will carry out the irrigation by filling their watering cans and watering the crops by hand. The project will provide the Haitian people access to a reliable water supply and teach them to use the new water resources to produce food for themselves and their community. The project will organize farmers into cooperatives that will market crops.

Arsenic Contamination - Bangladesh
Rotary District 3280 (Bangladesh) and the Rotary Club of Brisbane West and Rotary District 9600, Australia received a 3-H Grant to address the problem of arsenic-contaminated water in Bangladesh through testing of current water sources, community organization and education, provision of alternative sources of water and safe water technologies. Each village will select appropriate technologies based on their own needs and situation. The project will be implemented in coordination with the Department of Public Health Engineering, local government offices, other NGO's and UNICEF. Upazilla Aresenic Mitigation Committees will

be formed in each of 5 government sub-districts (Upazillas) and many villages will also form their own local Village Arsenic Mitigation Committees. The project is designed to train 500 health workers in arsenicosis recognition, management and treatment, and another 500 villagers will be trained to test water sources. An estimated 5 – 8,000 units for alternative water supply will be installed.

The Guatemala Wells of Hope Project - Guatemala
The Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada, is undertaking a project to drill 30 wells in the Jalapa District of Guatemala to provide potable drinking water and irrigation water for remote villages in that country. Stable deep-water wells will provide year-round water supply and allow for multiple crops. Benefits include better nutrition through varied and more plentiful food supply, better health through elimination of parasites and contaminants found in the surface water now consumed, and reduction of malaria from man-made mosquito breeding grounds. An additional benefit will be that with more efficient agricultural land use, less land will be deforested to produce food, with living trees reducing erosion and mudslides.

Water Wells – Tanzania and Malawi
WaterAid, a UK charity, is a project partner of Rotary International in Britain and Ireland (RIBI) in several African countries including Malawi and Tanzania, where RIBI-area Rotarians are helping to establish sources of safe drinking water. In the last year alone, Rotarians in Britain and Ireland raised more than £186,000 (approximately US$342,184 at current exchange rates) to fund the construction of water wells in 22 Tanzanian villages. The joint effort is now raising more funds to help provide clean water to rural Malawians.

Potable Water Delivery Systems – India
The Rotary Clubs of Bombay Mid-Town (D-3140, India) and Flensburg (D-1890, Germany) via a Matching Grant have provided potable water delivery systems to the tribal villages of Bhadoli and Dhukstan, Maharashtra, India by digging bore wells and installing a pump and water storage tank(s) in each location. Previously, when local wells dried up from March through June women walked over 2 miles to and from to fill a 1-gallon pot with contaminated water, which is a major source of diseases in these villages. Many of the 4,000-plus beneficiaries now have safe water within 25-30 feet of their residences, with the option of extending pipes from these Rotary-installed systems directly to their homes.

Water Conservation Awareness - France
The Rotary Clubs of Douai Sud and Douai Val de Scarpe in District 1670, France, joined forces to teach children responsible water use and to promote awareness among parents and teachers. The clubs took advantage of the water curriculum developed by Rotary clubs in Belgium (District 2170), which utilizes Smurf cartoon figures to bring the educational message across. In addition, the clubs recruited the Prochanko group to perform the musical "Koffi and the Water Drop." In the musical, an African immigrant boy named Koffi, who is now living in France, remembers the arid desert of Africa and wants to do something to help the crops grow. A little cloud hears his wishes and tells him her secrets as they follow the path of a magical water drop from the sky to the earth. The clubs worked with the National Department of Education, the Department of Education in the Douai region, City of Douai, the Nord Artois Picardie Regional Water Authority, school authorities, and parents.

Environmental Awareness and World Peace & Understanding – Japan and Russia
In the absence of any formal environmental treaty between Japan and Russia, the Rotary club of Nemuro West (D-2500) Japan, is inspiring citizens of the two countries to find ways of taking

care of their shared environment. Located in the Hokkaido region of northern Japan, the club is at the forefront of efforts to clean polluted rivers and re-forest large swather of Hokkaido. Environmental degradation in the region has been accelerated by a large-scale farm project of the Japanese government and the resettling of large numbers of Japanese who emigrated from the neighboring South Kuril Islands, which have been ruled by Russia since World War II but are still claimed by Japan. The club also held educational seminars to educate students in both countries about the shared environmental problems and responsibilities of Russia and Japan.

Zone 23/24 Clean Water Initiative Project

Rotary Club of Estes Park, Colorado, USA, Cholera Plus Project

Learn about more projects by visiting RI's Community Projects Database.