



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

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Club Number : 15228

The Midtowner

Bulletin of Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown: R.I. District 3080

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President
Raj Kumar Luther

Secretary
Amarjit Singh

Editor
Dr. V. J. S. Vohra

Volume XXXVI No. 41 Dated: April 10, 2012

PROGRAMME

Baisakhi Celebrations

Master of Ceremonies: Ms. Harleen Kaur

D/o Secretary Rtn. Amarjit Singh

Rotarians, along with Spouses, Children and Grandchildren are requested to enjoy the Celebrations

The meeting will be followed by cocktails

Friday, April 13, 2012

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

Carbon Footprints

A New Paradigm for Indian Industry

In the club meeting on April 06, 2012 there was no guest speaker as we had an internationally acclaimed scientist, our own President (2003-04) Rtn. Dr. S.K. Sharma, Professor Emeritus in Energy Research Centre, Panjab University, Chandigarh, to give a presentation on Carbon Footprints. Prof. Sharma was invited to a meeting of the experts from 25 countries held at Hanoi, Vietnam on January 13-14, 2011 to discuss the roadmap problems and the developments in carbon foot printing, water-foot printing and sustainable development. Professor Sharma was the leader the Indian delegation to this Conference, organised by International Standards Organization. Professor Sharma also headed the Indian delegation to the ISO meeting on greenhouse gases in Italy from January 18-21, 2011, in which representatives from 127 countries deliberated on the new international standard on carbon foot printing and water foot printing.



PP Prof. Dr. S.K. Sharma

Professor Sharma is the former Dean University Instructions, Panjab University. He had played a pioneering role in the development and implementation of green technologies in India and abroad. He was consultant with the F.A.O., Commonwealth Secretariat, UNICEF and European Union, and in a number of countries in Asia and Pacific for technology transfer in green technologies. He was

also invited by the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh as a Member of the Advisory Board on Energy and Environment. He was a visiting professor at a number of universities in USA, Canada and U.K., and is a Fulbright Scholar. He is also the former President of the Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers and fellow of Institute of Engineers in India. In January 2012 he was awarded the most prestigious H.L. Roy Memorial oration award.

Backed by impressive power point presentation, Dr. Sharma explained that Climate change, as a result of global warming,

has become a major focus of the governments, public and corporate debate due to its catastrophic consequences for the society. The main cause of global warming is the addition of significant quantities of Green house gases as a result of burning of fossil fuels and other activities in to the atmosphere, ever since the industrial revolution, which began nearly 150 years ago.

Dr. Sharma said Global warming is the result of absorption of heat dissipated by earth by GHG and re-radiating of some of that heat downward. He predicted, "The global temperature will rise by 2-4.5 °C by the end of this century due to excessive increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere." He warned, "This unprecedented increase will severely affect the global hydrological system, ecosystem, sea level and crop production resulting in catastrophic impact on the biodiversity, socio-economic and physical well being of the people. The impact will be more pronounced in the tropical countries like India."

Under Kyoto protocol industrialized countries agreed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 5.2% from 1990 to 2012. However, they are finding it difficult to meet the Kyoto protocol commitments. As a result, they are pressing the developing countries to take definite commitments to reduce their GHG. Copenhagen conference was a step in that direction. In order to pre-empt the game plan of developed countries, India and China announced the voluntary commitments to reduce their carbon emissions. India has agreed to a 20-25% cut in Carbon Intensity on the 2005 level till 2020 at Copenhagen conference. This means that India will have to reduce carbon intensity by 150% of what we reduced in last 15 years

Studies conducted by European union have projected that as a result of harsher environmental regime which has been put in place due to drastic reductions cut accepted by them will increase the price of their products vis –a vis imported products from countries, especially BRICK countries, which do not have stringent GHG emissions law.

In view of this, developed countries want that all developing should make similar commitments to reduce their GHG and should introduce equivalent carbon costs for the production of all traded goods. Otherwise, they fear that carbon intensive

industries might move outside the region (carbon leakage) to other countries which are not required to make carbon emission cuts.

President Sarkozy and Angela Merkel jointly wrote to UN General Secretary, "It would be unacceptable for the efforts of the most ambitious countries to be undermined by carbon emission released by lack of or insufficient action by other countries". Sarkozy claimed that "we would not accept goods that fail to conform to our environmental standards", adding, "In future we will levy a climate tax at European border". Carbon footprint is going to be a tool to decide the quantum of the climate tax.

Prof. Sharma said, "Carbon Footprint is defined as the total amount of CO2 and other greenhouse gases, emitted directly or indirectly over the full life cycle of a process (Cradle to grave)." This includes Extraction, Production and refining of raw material, Utilities and transport, manufacturing Process, supply chain, maintenance, use, disposal and recycle as per new carbon footprint standard ISO 14067. Such a standard will have serious repercussions on Indian industry, as carbon footprint of power, transport, raw material extraction and purification, ware housing, supply chain and disposal are much higher in India due to lack of clean energy sources and other efficient infrastructure. The cumulative effect of these parameters will result in higher carbon footprint of the products manufactured in India, as compared to the same products manufactured in developed



From one Professor to another! Rtn. Prof. I.S. Dua presents a memento to PP Rtn. Prof. S.K. Sharma. Looking on are President Rtn. R.K. Luther and Secretary Rtn. Amarjit Singh.

countries. This will give developed countries a handle to create technical barriers to trade in form of carbon tax on the products having higher carbon footprint.

European Countries are bringing legislation to put Border carbon Tax as a mechanism to compensate for environmental and economic distortions caused by climate policy differences between developed and developing countries, so as to prevent



PP Prof. Dr. S.K. Sharma presents wedding anniversary gift to R'ann Pripal & Rtn. R.P.S. Gulati.



PP Prof. Dr. S.K. Sharma presents punctuality award to Rtn. Vinay B. Aggarwal.

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carbon leakage. Products will be taxed according to their embodied GHG emission as per carbon foot prints

Large supply chains like Wall Mart and Tesco have already taken steps in this direction to outsource materials with lower carbon footprints. Greater public awareness about global warming in developed countries will make user opt for the products with lower carbon foot prints. Thus, it is essential that Indian manufacturers should recognise this great threat to their exports and initiate measures to face this challenge and take action to reduce the carbon footprints of their products.

Prof. Sharma pointed out the recent actions of EU are making border carbon tax a reality. European Union has begun charging airlines using EU airports for carbon emissions from January 01, 2012. It is estimated that around 4,000 airlines will pay the EU for carbon emission. However, 29 countries have signed a joint declaration in Moscow on February 22 to oppose the EU's carbon tax plan. Undeterred by this action of developing countries, EU has announced additional shipping

emissions tax also.

In view of this manufacturers will have to take decision regarding selection of more efficient raw materials, utilities, manufacturing processes, transport, ware housing, supply chain, use and final disposal so that carbon foot print of their product is small.

There are going to be regulatory measures by the Indian Government for ushering a low carbon economy and fulfilling its international commitments to reduce carbon intensity by 25 percent by 2020.

Prof. Sharma concluded, "Carbon footprint clock is ticking fast for Indian enterprises. They must take early action so that their exports are not hurt adversely."

Rtn. Prof. Dr. I.S. Dua, while recalling his long association with Prof. Dr. S.K. Sharma in Panjab University, Dr. Dua thanked him for giving a very comprehensive and a very educative presentation on Carbon footprint.

Mantra for Fitness !!!

President R.K. Luther narrated an interesting conversation he had with Dr. R.K. Jaswal, Director, Cardiology at Fortis Hospital, Mohali, who advised that one of the main culprits for our health problems is the food that we eat. We actually need 25% of what we normally consume. President Luther remarked that the rest of 75% food which we consume is to help the

doctors to run their clinics and hospitals! Before the digestive system is able to absorb the food we had taken earlier, we put more stress on the system by having more meals, and when the system is pressurized we have health problems. Therefore, the mantra for fitness is to eat only when you are hungry and eat only 25%.

RCC honours Blood Donors

Rotary Community Corps of Khuda Ali Sher and Youth Club organized a Sanman Samaroh on March 30, 2012 at Diwan Hall



Blood donors being honored.

of village Khuda Ali Sher. Kuldeep Singh welcomed the Chief Guest Mr. Animul Rehman Khan, Sr. Programme Officer of



Commonwealth from Bangladesh and all the participants.

On this occasion Blood donors who had donated blood more than ten times and blood donor families in which three are more members are regular blood donors, were honored. Mementoes and gifts were presented to them.

Bhupinder Singh, President of Youth Club & RCC thanked Rotary Club of Midtown Chandigarh for their selfless and continuous financial support for the last six years.

On this occasion Youth Coordinator NYK Dr. Gurmail Singh Bajwa, Member Zila Parishad Gurdial Singh, Sarpanch Bhupinder Kaur, Panch Kuldeep Kaur, Cashier Ravinder Singh, Gen. Secretary of Youth Club Soni Singh were present. Youth Club Vice President Gurpreet Singh Somel thanked the Guests and participants.

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Divine of Wisdom

Rtn. Ashok Kumar Puri, Secretary Elect (2012-13) informed that Her Holiness Anand Murti Guru Maa shall be in Chandigarh to shower Divine of Wisdom, Love and bliss through her Discourses from 19th April to 23rd April 2012 from 6 pm to 8

pm daily adjoining to Ryan International School, Sector 49-B, Chandigarh.

All Rotarians are invited to the Programme on the dates and time mentioned above.

RI President's message – 2012

Source : www.rotary.org



RI President Kalyan Banerjee

My dear brothers and sisters in Rotary,

In this issue, you will read about what Rotary is doing to combat one of the most pressing humanitarian crises facing us today: hunger. It is, I think, common knowledge that when we talk about food shortages, the problems we face are nearly always local. There is more than enough food produced in our world to feed everyone in it. The problem is getting the food where it is needed, and helping people in the poorest regions achieve food security.

In so many parts of the world, subsistence farming practices are the only way food can be acquired, and a few months of poor weather, or even a single storm, can mean catastrophe. It is unfortunately also the case that the parts of the world where food supplies are the most vulnerable are often those that receive the least attention when disaster does strike.

But this is one of the greatest advantages of Rotary: our local presence in so many parts of the world, and our ability to see, and react to, crises when they occur. More important than this, however, is our commitment to a long-term approach to addressing the root causes of hunger.

There is a great deal that all of us in Rotary can do about global hunger, but as always, we rely on the work of local Rotarians to bring help to where it is needed the most. And there is little question that when we look at the world today in terms of poverty and hunger and extreme material want, the place we need to be looking first is Africa – which is why Africa is also where we should be looking to expand.

Rotary's Reach Out to Africa initiative seeks to increase Rotary club membership in Africa, mobilize African Rotarians to address local needs, and raise awareness of African issues among Rotarians in more developed regions. It is just one way to connect the people who need help with the people who want to give it but may not know where to begin.

There is no question that the obstacles to global food security are significant. But they are not insurmountable, and the Rotary model is perhaps one of the most promising paths forward for development – if we continue our work to build Rotary into an ever more effective agent of global change.

Birthday of Rotarians

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Rtn. R.P.S. Gulati | April 13 |
| Rtn. Maharaj Baksh Singh | April 14 |
| President Rtn. R.K. Luther | April 15 |
| Rtn. Brij Mohan Gulati | April 18 |
| Rtn. Mrs. Kanan Diwan | April 20 |



Wedding Anniversary

R'ann Gurpreet & Rtn. Jagpreet S. Chadha April 18

Punctuality Draw

Won by Rtn. Vinay B. Aggarwal



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