



Rotary

Inter-Country Committees  
Comités Inter-Pays

Minutes of the conference on line for the 70th Anniversary of ICC  
May 23, 2020 - 7,00 PM EEST - Using the Zoom platform  
By Ovidiu Cos

From one of the participants posted in chat:

“Probably much beyond our expectations in the beginning of this year our motto “Rotary connects the world” gains its importance! This is for all of us probably the biggest challenge of our lifetimes. Therefore, our engagement in promoting peace, but also in connecting different countries in a time of confinement and closed borders puts to evidence how effective our commitment needs to be and how relevant giving hands to fellow men and women. This crisis surely will be overcome but our achievements in uniting the whole world in good causes and effective projects will remain”

The 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ICC Program virtual celebration was attended by almost 200 Rotarians from around the World.

Rotary anthem<sup>9</sup> (sound), ICC 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary card (visual)

The meeting it was opened by the Chair of ICC Executive Council Ovidiu Cos who underline the importance of the date 23<sup>th</sup> of May, which is the birthday of ICC, 70 years ago, when in Strasbourg it was opened the first ICC between Germany and France. The Chair Ovidiu Cos told about today, after 70 years when the ICC is a true program of Rotary International, mentioned in the 2020 COP, and consist in more than 350 ICCs who are working on country based activity for bilateral humanitarian and peace efforts, using programs and initiative fitting into RI strategic plan. Today appreciations on the world wide it is happened also as a result of the President of Rotary International Mark Malloney and President Elect of RI Holger Knack help and support. The Chair Ovidiu mention also about the fact that now we can start ICCs at the national level and also at subnational level which is important and easiest now to create ICCs in the large countries like USA, Canada, Brasil, India etc. The chair mentioned about the true extension of ICCs in Asia, India and Pakistan just opened ICC, China, Taiwan, South Chorea and more countries are more and more engaged in ICCs.

RI President Mark Maloney address a welcome message to audience and emphasize the importance of this milestone for ICC and recommend to all Rotarians to stay connected and to serve the communities on this pandemic time, enounced once more time the 2020-2021 RI theme „ Rotary Connect the word,, The president of Rotary International Mark Malloney congratulated ICCs for finding an innovative way to stay and celebrated connected on this

online platform. The President mentioned also that we Rotarians we will continuing to act together even than we will need to keep social distances.

The RI President was followed by the speech of President Elect Holger Knack who congratulate this initiative of online meeting. The President Elect Holger which Happy anniversary to ICCs and he said that now more than ever the ICCs are very important because this unique program open opportunities for a peaceful world. And all this begin 70 years ago when the French and German Rotarians decided to initiated the first ICC. The President Elect Holger highlight the ICCs and announced the Preconvention event on June Taipei on Friday June 11, 2021 "Intercounty Committees: Opening Opportunities for Peace building". The President Elect Holger it sure that the ICC Preconvention Event will open opportunities for more ICCs in the world.

Several RI Directors where present and spoke about the importance of ICCs in promoting connections and friendships.

RID Francesco Arezzo told us that 70 years of ICCs is a Great Anniversary. Started by France and Germany after the Second world War it was so important on the friendship field and environment of peace. Director Francesco enfazise the impotence of ICCs connection into Rotary, and using the ICCs we can connect the world underline Director Arezzo . It is necessary to continue to have this kind of ICCs connection between countries.

RI Director Elect Katerina Kotsali Papadimitriou said about the great day of this celebration of ICCs . ICCs should be promoted at all RI events and congratulate all the Rotarians involved in ICCs.

PRIVP Serge Guteiron, past Chair of ICCs Executive Council said about the equal importance of opening of ICCs in 50s with the founding of UN and UNESCO. The internationality of ICCs are more and more importance to the world peace and understanding. The ICCs also have a role in the extension of Rotary in the Central and Estern Europe. Now ICCs are in all continents and the chairs who are leading now the Executive Council of ICCs can be the third age of ICCs existence in order to maintain the world peace .

PRIVP Celia Giay from Argentina bring greetings from all the South America ICCs, and said about what happy she is to be part of this Peace through service ICC group. PRIVP Celia invite all to participate at the virtual 2020 RI Convention and to 2021 Taipei RI Convention. She invite also to the continuity of working in ICCs.

PRID Safak Alpay, congratulate the audience and emphasize the importance of ICC peace connection for our communities.

PRID Gidi Peiper start talking about the importance of the first ICC between France and Germany for all the ICC History of keeping peace through the world , and he said that he is a member of Taipei ICC committee for the Preconvention Event and he will work hard for a successful event.

RI Director Miguel Angel Martinez Pereyra was happy to be connected , he send congratulations and greetings from Argentina.

ICC Chair Elect Cyril Noirtin emphasized the importance of the Taipei event in Taiwan. ICC are demonstrating that they are a driving force in Rotary towards Peace and understanding for building a better World. And the fight anti COVID-19 reinforce his motivation to do more and more on ICC field. We will demonstrate that ICCs are a driving force in our initiative to world peace.

Secretary General of ICC Executive Committee Dana Moldovan spoke about the development of ICCs in USA and how this new crisis of COVID 19 can become an opportunity to better promote ICCS as now our meetings are virtual and so it is easier to participate and connect.

Chair Nominee Mohamad gave his support to ICCs and its future development for another successful 70 years. He is proud of the solidarity action of all ICC members. Today the ICCs are more significant.

Treasurer Marcel Tilkin Past ICC NC BE-LUX reminded us that for the Executive Committee to be able to organize events and promote ICC Program it is important for all ICC sections to remember and pay the dues.

We heard messages from Past ICC Chairs Tony Polsterer and Andrej Ludek.

National Coordinators from France Bertrand Baranovski and Germany Udo Noak spoke about their long collaboration and work together for 70 years as well as other and ICC members from both countries that started the ICC program.

ICC NC India Deepak Talwar send greetings from Asia, from India and emphasize the importance of ICC India – Pakistan for Peace in the area.

NC China Richard Li spoke about restarting of Rotary in 2006. Now they have almost 30 Clubs and two successful ICCs China Austria and China Switzerland. Also explained that Shanghai is only one-hour flight from Taipei and invited all to visit.

Many NC Coordinators spoke about the success of the ICCs in their respective countries:

UK- James Onions, Austria – Paul Jankovits, Russia- Olga Kholmogorova, Be-Lux -Natalie Canada- Nevine Yassa , Turkey- Murat Celik, Switzerland- Pierre Graden , Armenia- Ashot Karpetyan, Tunisia - Hamadi Siala , Rep of Moldova- Luminita Gavriluta , Morocco –Saadia Aglif , Serbia – Vladimir Matic , Danmark –Anette Lowert , Portugal- Artur Almeida , Pakistan – Faiz, Belarus- Alexander Bezberdy, Ukraine – Myroslava Novosilska , Past ICC NC Pavlo Kaskadamov and PDG Serghyi Zavatski the International Chair Ukraine, South Africa – Helene Visser.

PP Bruno Scovazzi the ICC Web master send greetings from Italy and himself to all the ICC family at this anniversary moment.

Past ICC General Secretary PDG Antonio Strumia was happy to be connected with the ICC actual Executive Council.

Many ICC members of different sections spoke as well:

Carmen Cuneo ICC Coordinator USA – Russia – this successful ICC has 20 districts in USA, Olga Zmiyivska. ICC Chair Ukraine – Be-Lux, PDG Cristi Jurj, ICC Romania – Germany, Claudine who is trying to start a new ICC USA – Ukraine. Peter Adler about ICC Austria – Croatia. PDG Jean Piere Noirtin about France –Ukraine Traian Strambu – ICC Romania – Great Britain.