

Put Your Best Foot Forward For Peace

Rotary Foundation of India may be an extended arm of The Rotary Foundation in India. However, its role is not limited to the management of funds or stewardship issues that arise. Here, under a single roof, is the essence of quality leadership, drawn together and integrated for doing good in the world, especially in India. The threads, which in modern times, have made this the most consistently important voice wherever the art of managing The Rotary Foundation is discussed.

As the members of Rotary Foundation of India (RFI), the first task is to make the institution perform and make the contribution for the sake of which it exists. RFI's performance of its specific mission is also society's first need and interest. That is peace. The world does not stand to gain but to lose if the performance capacity of The Rotary Foundation is diminished or impaired.

The popular slogan nowadays is "It is not enough for an organisation to do well; it must also do good." Doing good for The Rotary Foundation means bringing in peace through the various service opportunities envisaged in the Future Vision Plan.

Working for peace means that The Rotary Foundation has to acquire whatever competence is needed to take responsibility for its actions. We have to develop a respect in the community that we are good in delivering measurable results. When The Rotary Foundation works for global peace, polio eradication or total literacy we must do so because there is a social need. This must be coupled by putting good people on the task and support them adequately.



The Rotary Foundation tends to allocate resources according to global needs. This is perfectly correct. But far from being a threat to a developing country such as India, this is potentially our trump card. India, which has now grown into a major donor country, must raise more money for The Rotary Foundation and match it with worthwhile global projects that will attract more and more global grants. During the year 2013–2014, we have to surpass the US \$17 million mark in giving and attract more projects in our country.

We have to put our best foot forward while working for peace. This is because it is unlikely we can understand what the task involves. We cannot afford to do the wrong things that will result in damage rather than in good. Peace is an intangible area. The strength of The Rotary Foundation is accountability and measurability. Hence, while working for peace it is essential to define goals clearly and measurably for specific partial tasks. The success of our work in the area of peace will be appreciated only when the task is identified and defined. The next step is setting of goals and measuring our performance over a period of time.

The mission of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education and the alleviation of poverty. Since every programme of RI and The Rotary Foundation is beautifully designed with peace as the end result, it is the responsibility of every member to learn to work for peace.

The first step while working towards global peace can be taken by 1,26,000 Rotarians in India. Over 3,000 years ago the Hippocratic Oath of the Greek physician read, *primum non nocere*. It means, "Above all, not knowingly to do harm." Citizens of the world must see every Rotarian take a pledge that they can promise that they will not knowingly do harm. This pledge can become the focus of rallies and awareness programmes in schools, colleges and institutions. This, I think, is the basic rule of professional ethics when we put our best foot forward for peace.



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2013–14
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2007–09
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