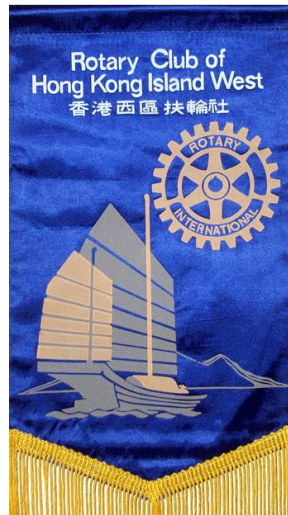


The Birth of The Hong Kong Island West Rotary Club in 1954

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The Rotary Club of Hong Kong Island West (香港西區扶輪社) was admitted to Rotary International on 12 April 1954. It is the 4th Rotary club formed in the British Crown Colony Hong Kong and was by then a non-districted club. Later on 1 July 1960, it became one of the 16 constituent Rotary clubs from Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macao to form the new District 345 of Rotary International (re-numbered to District 3450 on 1 July 1991). The Club was organized under the baton of then Rotary's Administrative Advisor to China George E. Marden (馬頓) (*Hong Kong*), and the charter was presented from the hands of Rotary International President's Special Representative Wei Tsen-Fu, Charlie (韋增復) (*Taipei*). Technically speaking, the Club was given birth by 2 former Shanghai Rotarians: (1) "Gem" George E. Marden (*Shanghai Rotary Club President 1928-1929; District 57 Governor 1949-1950; Rotary International Director 1951-1952*), and (2) "Charlie" Wei Tsen-Fu, (*Shanghai Rotary Club President 1946-1947; District 97 Governor 1948-1949*). Moreover, there was a past governor moved from Hong Kong Rotary Club to join the charter membership---Dr. Li Shu Fan (李樹芬醫生), Governor of the 96th District 1947-1948. The Charter Presentation Evening was held jointly with the Rotary Club of Hong Kong Island East (香港東區扶輪社). Read the story on Page 5 the article 《Hong Kong Has Twins》.

During an official visit of Rotary International President Joaquin Serratosa Cibils (*Montevideo, Uruguay*) to Hong Kong in November 1953, he suggested the extension of more clubs since there were only 2 clubs in the then British Crown Colony: Hong Kong Rotary Club (香港扶輪社) and Kowloon Rotary Club (九龍扶輪社). Immediately after the presidential visit, the Rotary Club of Hong Kong decided to sponsor two new clubs, one in each of the Western and Eastern districts of the Hong Kong Island, and two extension committees were appointed. For the Western district, after a few months' work of the committee, a new club formed under the name of the "Rotary Club of Hong Kong Island West", of which its inaugural meeting was held on Friday, 26 March 1954. The first provisional regular Club meeting was held on Friday, 2 April 1954 at the Golden Dragon Restaurant (金龍酒樓), presided by Charter President Fung Hon-Chu (馮漢柱). The membership application was soon approved and was admitted to Rotary International on 12 April 1954.



Gold Dragon Restaurant (金龍酒樓), the most deluxe Chinese restaurant in the Western District---Venue of the first provisional meeting of the Hong Kong Island West Rotary Club on 2 April 1954. The site today is Golden Centre since 1991.

By provision of rules of those old years, the service territory of a Rotary club must be declared on the application form. Hence, the territorial limits of the Hong Kong Island West Rotary Club were written like this:

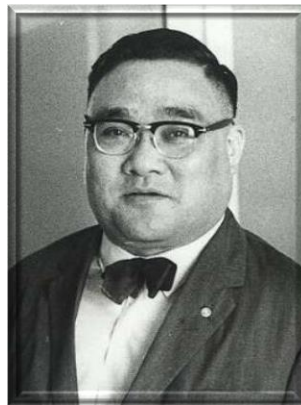
“All that of the Island of Hong Kong west of the eastern territorial boundary and north of the southern territorial boundary -- The eastern territorial boundary is defined by a line drawn between the Victoria Peak and the Queen Victoria Street. This boundary shall travel along Queen Victoria Street northeastwards until it reaches Victoria Harbour. The southern territorial boundary is defined by a line drawn between the Victoria Peak and the Junction of Pokfulam/Mount Davis Road; this boundary shall travel along Mount Davis Road westwards until it meets Victoria Road, and the boundary shall travel further from this point in a straight line up to where the western harbour boundary meets the Hong Kong Island and any further extension thereof”.

Hong Kong Island West Rotary Club is the first Cantonese speaking (粵語) Club in Hong Kong, in China, and in the world. It is also one of the earliest clubs in Asia in sponsoring Rotaract soon after its inception in 1968---The Rotaract Club of United College (聯合書院扶輪青年服務團). United College of Hong Kong (香港聯合書院) is one of the three constituent colleges of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (香港中文大學) in 1963. There may be some reasons that aroused the Club’s decision on the sponsorship of such a youth organization:

- (1) The then United College campus was located at Bonham Road (般咸道) of the Western District;
- (2) The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of United College was District 345 Governor (1961-1962) Dr. The Honorable Fung Ping-Fan, CBE, KStJ, HonLLD (CUHK), JP (議員馮秉芬博士), who was also an Ex-officio Council Member of The Chinese University of Hong Kong.



Campus of United College on Bonham Road (1962-1971)



The Charter President of The Rotary Club of Hong Kong Island West, The Honourable Fung Hon-Chu (議員馮漢柱太平紳士), O.B.E., J.P. (27 January 1911–9 August 1994), was a businessman and Chairman of the Li & Fung Limited (利豐有限公司) -- a global supply chain manager primarily for US and EU brands in Hong Kong.

Fung was born in Canton (*Guangzhou*) (廣州) in 1911 as the third son to Fung Pak-Liu (馮柏燎), the founder of the Li & Fung Limited. He joined the family business as manager and arrived in Hong

Kong in 1935 and set up a branch there in 1937. He succeeded his father as the director of the Li & Fung in 1945. In 1975, he became the chairman of the Li & Fung.

In community services, Fung was also president of the Hong Kong Cotton Merchants Association (香港棉業商會) and member of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries (香港工業總會). He became a director of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (東華三院) in 1951 and became its chairman in 1953 before he joined Rotary. He was also vice-chairman of the Hong Kong Football Association (香港足球總會); chairman and president of the South China Athletic Association (香港南華體育會).

Fung was appointed by Hong Kong Governor Sir Robert Brown Black (香港總督柏立基爵士) an Unofficial Justice of the Peace for Hong Kong (香港非官守太平紳士) since 1960.

From 1960 to 1966, Fung was appointed an Unofficial Member of the Urban Council of Hong Kong (香港市政局非官守議員). In 1962, he was first appointed as provisional member of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong, and became the full Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council (香港立法局非官守議員) in 1964 until 1970.

Fung's contributions to the Colony was recognized by the British monarch. He was decorated the Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1965 by Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom.



1 April 1953 --- Chairman Fung Hon-Chu (馮漢柱主席) delivers the inaugural speech at the installation of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Board of Directors 1953-1954 (東華三院癸巳年董事局).



Hong Kong Has Twins

THE British Crown Colony of Hong Kong, for all its fame and importance astride one of the major trade routes to China, is not very large. Its total area is 391 square miles; the area of Hong Kong Island itself is only 36½ square miles.

Yet on that latter speck of land there are three Rotary Clubs: the mature mother Club of Hong Kong, and its new twin sons, "East" and "West."

In business since 1930, the Rotary Club of Hong Kong long ago looked for niches for new Clubs—and found it and filled same in Koowoon on the mainland and in near-by Portuguese Macao. Very recently it turned its attention to its own island—and found two more niches. Thus there came into being the Rotary Clubs of Hong Kong Island East and of Hong Kong Island West.

"East" entered Rotary on April 6, 1954, "West" six days later. While officially they were *in* Rotary as of the date of the Board admission action, there still remained the matter of charter presentation. Since they sprang from the same parent within a week of each other, what more fitting than a joint charter night?

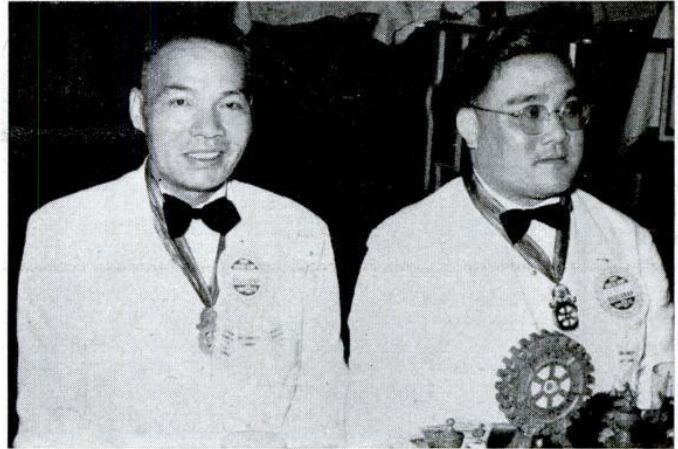
So that was what happened. They packed a large hotel ballroom with 450 Rotarians, guests, and friends; and staged a program which included Cantonese songs presented by a popular opera star, a flute solo, and a repertory

of modern songs sung by a film star. Rotarian T. F. Wei, acting on behalf of Rotary International Administrative Advisor G. E. Marden, presented the charters. The two Clubs resulted from a suggestion made by Joaquin Serratosa Cibils during his Presidential visit in November, 1953.

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Though Hong Kong has been British territory since 1841, it has ancient links with China—and for many years the Rotary Club of Hong Kong and the Ro-

tary Clubs of China had a somewhat special affinity. The first Club formed on Chinese soil was Shanghai, born in 1919. By 1936 there were ten more Clubs—in such major centers as Amoy, Canton, Tientsin, and Tsingtao. By 1940 there were 25 Clubs. None of these Clubs exists today. There are no Rotary Clubs in the People's Republic of China. But in Free China on the Island of Formosa there are three highly active Rotary Clubs—with more in immediate prospect.



The men who lead the twins: John Yuen (left), President of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong Island East, and Fung Hon-Chu, who presides at meetings of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong Island West.



As guests enter the gaily decorated hotel ballroom, they tarry to pen register

Charter members of the "West" Club (left) and those of the "East" (right) flank Special Representative T. F. Wei (speaking).

