The Birth of District 345 Rotary International
■ China, Hong Kong and Macao

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"Non-districted clubs in China, Hong Kong (Crown Colony) and Macao have been constituted into a new district, No. 345." -- This is quoted from the Annual Report 1959-1960 by the Rotary International General Secretary George R. Means. Hence, on 1 July 1960, the number of districts in the Rotary World increased to 267 as a result of the decision. This was 55 years ago.

The above statement could only be so concise to describe the District within a very long report of several dozens of items in 70 pages. The more precise description as administered by the first District 345 Governor would be like this: "The code No.345 is allocated to a new group of 19 Rotary clubs with – 14 clubs located in the Taiwan Province of the Republic of China, 4 clubs in the British Crown Colony Hong Kong, and 1 club in the Portuguese Territory Macao." The old rule in those years, to be qualified to form one District the minimum number of clubs was 15. Practically speaking, geographically, these 19 clubs were spread on both rims of the Taiwan Strait -- 5 clubs of Hong Kong and Macao on the west while the other 14 clubs on the east.

Development on the Western Rim – Hong Kong and Macao

Within these 19 clubs mentioned above, Hong Kong Rotary Club (香港扶輪社) was the eldest. So, the story is better to begin with this Club.

When the Rotary Club of Hong Kong was admitted to Rotary International on 20 February 1931, it was a non-districted Club. The Club was directly supervised by the Secretariat of Rotary International in Chicago, U.S.A.

1933-1934-1935 (non-Districted)

In 1933-1934, until 30 September 1935, Ernest F. Harris (*Shanghai*) (*Life Insurance*) was appointed Honorary Commissioner to supervise clubs in the Republic of China, the British Crown Colony Hong Kong, and The Philippine Islands (U.S.A. Protectorate).

Ernest F. Harris (Shanghai) (上海扶輪社)

1935-1936 (81st District)

On 1 October 1935, The Rotary Club of Hong Kong became one of the 15 constituent clubs in forming the new 81st District of Rotary International. The District Governor was Dr. Chengting Thomas Wang (王正廷博士) (*Shanghai*) (*Diplomat*).

Dr. Chengting T. Wang (Shanghai) (王正廷博士) (上海扶輪社)

The other 14 clubs were: 11 clubs from the Republic of China; and 3 clubs from the Philippine Islands (United States Protectorate):

The Republic of China (中華民國)

(1) Shanghai (上海); (2) Tientsin (天津); (3) Peiping (北平); (4) Canton (廣州); (5) Hangchow (杭州); (6) Tsingtao (青島); (7) Tsinan (濟南); (8) Foochow (福州); (9) Amoy (廈門); (10) Hankow (漢口); (11) Nanking (南京).

The Philippines

(1) Manila; (2) Cebu; (3) Iloilo

1936-1937 (81st District)

At the year beginning, the District Governor was Dr. Chengting T. Wang (王正廷博士). But he resigned on 1 August from Rotary International because of mission to U.S.A. as Ambassador of the Republic of China. Dr. Fong Foo-Sec (鄺富灼博士) (*Shanghai*) (*Educationist, R.I. Director 1933-1934*) was then appointed to fill up the vacancy.

Dr. Fong Foo-Sec (Shanghai) (鄺富灼博士) (上海扶輪社)
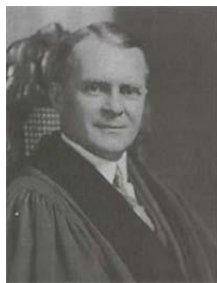
1937-1938 (96th District)

To cater for the future Rotary development in China, 3 new districts 96th, 97th, and 98th were created for China, Hong Kong, Macao, and the Philippines. The Rotary Club of Hong Kong became a member of the new 96th District.

Composition of the 96th District -- China [that portion including the provinces of Fukien (*Fujian*) 福建, Kwangtung (*Guangdong*) 廣東, Kwangsi (*Guangxi*) 廣西, Kweichow (*Guizhou*) 貴州, Yunnan 雲南]; and Hong Kong 香港; Macao 澳門; The Philippines.

Dr. Fong Foo-Sec (鄺富灼博士) (*Shanghai*) served as Districts 96-97-98 Governor (3 in 1).

1938-1939 (96th District)

On 1 July 1938, the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands was allotted back to the 81st District. The 96th District remained to be South China, Hong Kong and Macao. Dr. James McClure Henry (香雅各博士) (*Canton*) (*Educationist – Lingnan University*) was elected District Governor.

Dr. James McClure Henry (Canton) (香雅各博士) (廣州扶輪社)

1939-1940-1941 (96th District)

District 96 Governor was still served by Dr. James McClure Henry (香雅各博士) (*Canton*). However, most of the provinces in this District were already battle fields due to the Japanese invasion. James was even interned by the Japanese Army.

1941-1942 (96th District)

The governors in districts 96, 97, 98 were not duly elected in territories occupied by the Japanese forces. Past District 97 Governor Tan Wei-Hseuh (譚偉學) (*Shanghai*), served as the governors' representative for the still active 5 clubs (Chungking 重慶; Chengtu 成都; Changsha 長沙; Sian 西安; Hong Kong 香港) in the unoccupied part of China. Hong Kong Rotary Club was disbanded in 1942 after the Japanese occupation.

Tan Wei-Hseuh (Shanghai) (譚偉學) (上海扶輪社)

1942-1943-1944-1945-1946 (96th District)

No governors were elected from the 3 districts due to the Pacific War. Dr. Chengting Thomas Wang (王正廷博士) (*Chungking*) was appointed Administrative Adviser for China to keep in touch with those functioning clubs in various western provinces.

At the end of the War, Hong Kong Rotary Club was re-admitted on 25 April 1946 to Rotary International.

1946-1947 (96th District)

The World War II and the Second Sino-Japanese War were over, Dr. Chengting Thomas Wang (王正廷博士) (*Chungking*) (*Rotary International Director 1944-1946 / 2nd Vice President 1945-1946*) served as Governor for Districts 96-97-98 to assist reinstatement of those disbanded clubs during the wartime.

1947-1948 (96th District)

Dr. Li Shu-Fan (李樹芬醫生) (*Hong Kong*) (*Medical Service*) served as District 96 Governor -- the first Hong Kong Rotarian served as Rotary International officer.

Hong Kong Rotary Club was the first time host of District Conference.

Dr. Li Shu-Fan (Hong Kong) (李樹芬醫生) (香港扶輪社)

1948-1949 (96th District)

District 96 Governor: HUANG Kuang (黃光) (*Canton*) (*Finance-Foreign Exchange*)

HUANG Kuang (黃光) (Canton) (廣州扶輪社)

There had been 12 clubs in the same District, though several of them were not functioning during and after the wars: (1) Hong Kong (香港) 1931; (2) Canton (廣州) 1932; (3) Foochow (福州) 1933; (4) Amoy (廈門) 1933; (5) Swatow (汕頭) 1936; (6) Wuchow (梧州) 1936; (7) Kunming (昆明) 1937; (8) Kweilin (桂林) 1944; (9) Kweiyang (貴陽) 1945; (10) Macau (澳門) 1947; (11) Liuchow (柳州) 1948; (12) Kowloon (九龍) 1948.

1949-1950 (57th District)

In the Rotary World, many districts had been dissolved during the World War II. Commencing 1 July 1949, Rotary International decided to re-organize and to re-number all districts. The 3 districts in China were re-numbered from Districts 96, 97, 98 to Districts 57, 58, 59.

District 57 Governor was "Gem" George Ernest Marden (馬頓) (*Hong Kong*) (*Tug & Tow Service*). Gem was Shanghai Rotary Club President 1928-1929. He moved to Hong Kong after the War.
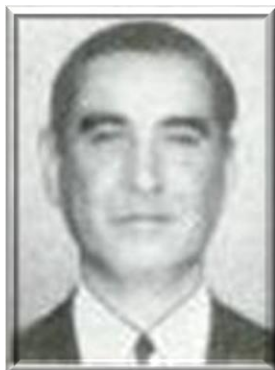

George Ernest Marden (Hong Kong) (馬頓) (香港扶輪社)

1950-1951 (57th District)

District 57 Governor was Dr. Pedro Guimaraes Lobato (洛巴托博士) (*Macau*).

Macau Rotary Club hosted the ever first District Conference in Macao, and was the last Conference of the 57th District which was later dissolved in 1951.

Dr. Pedro Guimaraes Lobato (Macau) (洛巴托博士) (澳門扶輪社)

The Korean War began on 25 June 1950. The People's Republic of China (中華人民共和國) and the U.S.A. were in hostility. That made China mainland was no longer either socially or politically feasible for the normal function of Rotary activities. Due to conditions unfavorable in the China mainland, Rotary International decided that District 57 (South China; Hong Kong; Macao) and Districts 58-59 (Central & North China) should be dissolved with effective from 1 July 1951. Later, all remaining Rotary clubs in China mainland were terminated in January 1952. Any remaining Rotary clubs in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao were considered as non-districted clubs. Rotary International President appointed an Administrative Advisor to the Board to supervise these clubs and to extend new clubs within these 3 territories.

Ultimately, as in January 1952, the remained functioning were only 4 clubs altogether in Taiwan (臺灣) (1); Hong Kong (香港) (2); and Macao (澳門) (1).

The Rotary Club of Hong Kong carried on the Rotary extension on its side. In 1954, the Club sponsored twin clubs in the city: Hong Kong Island East Rotary Club (香港東區扶輪社) and Hong Kong Island West Rotary Club (香港西區扶輪社).

Development on the Eastern Rim – Taiwan

Since October 1945, Taiwan became a province of The Republic of China (中華民國). This gave the opportunity of Rotary extension from Mainland to this beautiful island. Commencing from 1948, Taipei, capital city of the Province, was the only site of Rotary activity in Taiwan until 1953, when clubs were chartered in Keelung (基隆) and Tainan (臺南), respectively.

The organizing of Taipeh Rotary Club (later renamed as *Taipei*) (臺北扶輪社) in 1948 was not a beginning but rather a continuation of Rotary movement in the Republican China since 1919 from Shanghai. Rotary Taiwan was started anew in Taipei with the assistance from the former Kunming Rotary Club (昆明扶輪社) members. The Club members, who had found refuge from the civil war in Taiwan, began meeting again in February 1948, and encouraged new men of multi-nationalities to join their group. On 9 October 1948, Taipeh Rotary Club was admitted to Rotary International, Charter No. 6968, but non-districted.

Rotary in Taiwan went on its own development. November 1953, Keelung Rotary Club (基隆扶輪社) was admitted to Rotary International. January 1954, Tainan Rotary Club (臺南扶輪社) was the next following.

The Map of Taiwan on the next page shows in 1956 -- 10 cities or xians (*counties*) were having 11 Rotary clubs with 433 members: Taipei (臺北) (1948); Keelung (基隆) (1953); Tainan (臺南) (1954); Kaohsiung (高雄) (1954); Hsinchu (新竹) (1954); Pingtung (屏東) (1955); Chiayi (嘉義) (1955); Taipei West (臺北西區) (1955); Ilan (宜蘭) (1955); Taichung (臺中) (1955); and Changhwa (彰化) (1956).

TAIPEI
TAIPEI WEST
KEELI
HSINCHU
ILAN
TAICHUNG
CHANGHWA
CHIAYI
TAINAN
KAOHSIUNG
PINGTUNG

T A I W A N (FO...

The Birth of District 345

Rotary clubs in Taiwan were also non-districted until 1960. The minimum number of clubs required to form one district was 15. As in 1956, there were already 11 clubs in Taiwan. On the other hand, across the Strait, there were altogether 5 clubs in Hong Kong and Macao: Hong Kong (香港) (1931); Macau (澳門) (1947); Kowloon (九龍) (1948); Hong Kong Island East (香港東區) (1954); Hong Kong Island West (香港西區) (1954).

Petition initiated by Taipei Rotary Club, led by E. T. Chu (朱倚天), to the reinstatement of the district status formerly enjoyed by the Chinese clubs was proceeded. However, the Rotary International Board of Directors decided in 1956 that in view of geographical and financial consideration, "the Rotary clubs of Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao shall not be constituted into a Rotary district at this time." There was no discouraging. The 16 clubs reiterated their petitions continuously in 1957, 1958, and 1959. Ultimately, in January 1960, Rotary International granted district status with No.345 to a new group of 16 Rotary clubs. In the next few months, 3 more clubs joined the group: Taipei North (臺北北區); Fengshan (鳳山) and Taipei Northwest (臺北西北區). So, on the establishment date 1 July 1960, the total number was increased to 19 with – 14 clubs located in the Taiwan Province of Republic of China, 4 clubs in the British Crown Colony Hong Kong, and 1 club in the Portuguese Territory Macao.

Commencing 1 July 1991, all Rotary districts are to be identified with a 4-digit number system. This was initially accomplished by adding a zero at the end of each current District number. Since then, District 345 was changed to District 3450 until today.

District 345 Governor

The inaugural District 345 Governor 1960-1961 was Kwo Keh-Ti (郭克悌) (*Taipei 臺北扶輪社*) (*Education*) (*Professor in the Department of Hydropower Engineering of National Taiwan University 國立臺灣大學*). Kwo was formerly a member of Shanghai Rotary Club (上海扶輪社) since 8 January 1935. On 3 March 1948 he chartered the Mukden (Shen Yang) Rotary Club (瀋陽扶輪社) in the northeastern China, and served as president until 1949 before he moved to Taiwan. Kwo joined the Rotary Club of Taipei and served as its president in 1952-1953. In 1958-1959, Kwo was appointed by Rotary International to serve as Administrative Advisor to the Board responsible for the supervision of all non-districted Rotary clubs located in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao.

Kwo Keh-Ti (Taipei) 郭克悌（臺北扶輪社）

Beginning from the formation of the District, there was a gentleman agreement made between the Rotary clubs on both rims of the Taiwan Strait, that the District 345 Governor would be elected in alternative years from either side of the Strait. So, subsequently in the next Year 1961-1962, Kenneth Fung Ping-Fan (馮秉芬) (*Hong Kong 香港扶輪社*) (*Banking*) was elected Governor.

This gentleman-agreed tradition was carried on until 1 July 1987 when the District 345 was allocated entirely to Hong Kong and Macao only. During this period, there was one Governor elected from the Portuguese Territory Macao -- Nuno Maria Roque Jorge (左立基) (*Hou Kuong 濠江扶輪社*) (*Architect*), 1985-1986. His successor was the last one from Taiwan – Gary C. K. Huang (黃其光) (*Taipei*) (*Marine Insurance*) 1986-1987.

The Regional Magazine in Mandarin Language

The 《*Rotarian Quarterly*》《扶輪季刊》in Mandarin language, which was numbered 23 of the Rotary regional magazines, was published in Taipei, Taiwan, by and for Rotarians of China, Hong Kong, and Macao, and their new Rotary District 345. The Editorial Board was given birth by the 7th Intercity Forum on 29 March 1959 held in Taipei, Taiwan, with representatives from 16 Rotary clubs in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and

Macao. It was resolved that "Sunny" Chang Shen-Fu (張申福) (*Taipei*), would be the Convener of the Preparation Committee for the Editorial Board. Other 3 members were E. T. Chu (朱倚天) (*Taipei*), Hari Harilela (夏利萊) (*Kowloon*), and Henry Chang (張獻勵) (*Hong Kong Island East*; *newspaper publisher*).

The first issue, dated 1 April 1960, contained news from the 17 clubs of the area, Rotary information and nine articles from 《The Rotarian》, all of course, translated into Chinese. "*This is rather daring attempt made by a very small number of Rotarians during a short space of time,*" wrote Sunny Chang, Chairman of the Editorial Board. The 《Rotarian Quarterly》 spoke Mandarin and one read it vertically from right to left.

The publication of this official regional magazine (changed to monthly in July 1991) offers the Taiwanese members, of whom Mandarin is their native language, the better avenue in receiving the Rotary information, and the platform for mutual interflow and communications. However, for those members in Hong Kong and Macao who prefer to read English, they might take the liberty on the subscription of the official magazine 《The Rotarian》 from the World Office.

Cover of the 《Rotarian Quarterly》 Issue July 1974

Communication Languages

With the publication of the Chinese quarterly magazine, plus the monthly District Governor's newsletter in between the months, these written papers solved the problems in the Rotary information circulation. Members in the District could all read either Chinese or English, if not both languages.

However, there were hurdles in speech communication. All members in Hong Kong and Macao could either speak English or Guangzhou dialect (Cantonese), if not both languages, but not Mandarin. In Taiwan, members were fluent in Mandarin but rare in spoken English nor Cantonese. Obviously, there would be verbal communication hurdles when conducting the district conferences and assemblies, etc. In order to remove the communication gaps, normally, there would be a team of volunteer simultaneous interpreters for 3 languages on duty the 2-3 days meetings and trainings.

APPENDIX

Evolution of the Territories
from Rotary International District 345 to District 3450

Rotary International District 345

<u>1 July 1960 – 30 June 1978</u>
(A) Republic of China
      —-the portion of Taiwan Province
(B) British Crown Colony Hong Kong
(C) Portuguese Territory Macao

<u>1 July 1978 – 30 June 1987</u>
(A) Republic of China (Taiwan)
      —-the portion including Taipei City, Taipei County, Keelung, Ilan, and Taoyuan
(B) British Crown Colony Hong Kong
(C) Portuguese Territory Macao

<u>1 July 1987 – 30 June 1991</u>
(A) British Crown Colony Hong Kong
(B) Portuguese Territory Macao

Rotary International District 3450

<u>1 July 1991 – 30 June 1997</u>
(A) British Crown Colony Hong Kong
(B) Portuguese Territory Macao

<u>1 July 1997 – 19 December 1999</u>
(A) Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, People's Republic of China
(B) Portuguese Territory Macao

<u>20 December 1999 – 30 June 2000</u>
People's Republic of China---the portion including
      (1) Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
      (2) Macao Special Administrative Region

<u>1 July 2000 – 15 June 2001</u>
(A) Mongolia
(B) People's Republic of China---the portion including
      (1) Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
      (2) Macao Special Administrative Region

<u>16 June 2001 – 7 February 2006</u>
(A) Mongolia
(B) People's Republic of China---the portion including
    (1) Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
    (2) Macao Special Administrative Region
    (3) Beijing
    (4) Shanghai

<u>8 February 2006 – 30 June 2013</u>
(A) Mongolia
(B) People's Republic of China---the portion including
    (1) Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
    (2) Macao Special Administrative Region

<u>1 July 2013 – Today</u>
(A) Mongolia
(B) People's Republic of China---the portion including
    (1) Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
    (2) Macao Special Administrative Region
    (3) Guangdong Province