

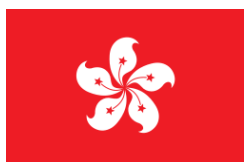
Rotary Extension from Hong Kong to Mongolia

Hong Kong Rotary Club sponsored Tuul Rotary Club in 2004

By Herbert K. Lau (劉敬恒) (Rotary China Historian)

Founder & Honorary Member, The Rotary Club of Tuul, Mongolia

23 February 2024



It was 20 years ago this date, the Rotary Club of Tuul (Туул Ротари клуб 圖拉河扶輪社), the 4th Rotary Club in the capital city Ulaanbaatar (Улаанбаатар 烏蘭巴托) or the 5th in Mongolia (Монгол Улс 蒙古國) was admitted to Rotary International on 23 February 2004 with Club #64595. The organizing work of the Club was actually taken in the fall of 2003 when the population in Ulaanbaatar was more than 850,000.

Mongolia in the Year of 2003

In 2003, Mongolia was navigating a critical period of economic transition, structural reform, and severe environmental challenges. The year was marked by the aftermath of a devastating winter freeze (dzud), major steps toward land privatization, and international collaborations.

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- **Poverty Alleviation:** In July 2003, the government finalized its comprehensive Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to systematically counter widespread income disparities

Politics and International Affairs

- **Human Rights Action:** The State Great Khural (the Parliament of Mongolia) passed a landmark national resolution establishing workplace safety standards, environmental accountability rules, and strict corporate human rights indicators.
- **Global Literacy Initiative:** On the international stage, the United Nations launched the UN Literacy Decade (2003–2012), a global program originally championed and introduced via an official diplomatic initiative by Mongolia.
- **Cultural Celebrations:** The traditional Mongolian New Year, Tsagaan Sar (Year of the Sun / Наян), was celebrated from 2-4 February 2003.

Education and social welfare needs in Ulaanbaatar

In 2003, Ulaanbaatar faced acute education and social welfare needs driven by massive rural-to-urban migration following severe winter disasters (dzuds) and the economic hardships of the post-Soviet transition.

Education Needs and Challenges

The influx of migrant families overwhelmed Ulaanbaatar's public infrastructure, forcing the education sector to adapt to rapid expansion.

- **Severe School Overcrowding:** Schools in Ulaanbaatar lacked the physical capacity to handle the expanding population, forcing institutions to run two or even three daily shifts to accommodate students.
- **Underfunded Infrastructure:** Academic institutions suffered from deteriorating facilities, a shortage of teaching materials, and inadequate heating during harsh winter months.
- **Rising Dropout Rates:** Economic pressures forced many impoverished and migrant children to drop out of school to help their families earn income through informal labour, such as scavenging or street vending.
- **The “Ger District” Gap:** Newly established, unplanned nomadic tent (ger) settlements on the city's periphery completely lacked local kindergartens and primary schools.

- **The Rise of Street Children:** A major humanitarian concern in 2003 was the significant population of homeless “street children” living in Ulaanbaatar’s underground heating pipe networks to survive sub-zero temperatures.
- **Eroded Benefit Values:** Due to economic volatility, the real purchasing power of state-issued social allowances and pensions dropped significantly, failing to cover basic nutritional and survival needs.
- **Lack of Social Work Infrastructure:** The country lacked a formalized, professionalized domestic child protection and family support network to safely manage and track vulnerable mobile families.



2003 -- A panorama view of Ulaanbaatar looking from the Zaisan Memorial



Rotary Can Lend a Hand 伸出援手

In 2003, Rotary International was offering these regular programs: (1) Interact Club; (2) Rotaract Club; (3) Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA); (4) Youth Exchange; (5) Rotary Community Corps; (6) World Community Service; (7) Preserve Planet Earth; (8) Rotary Friendship Exchange; (9) Rotary Fellowships. Additionally, there were bursary programs offered by The Rotary Foundation: (1) Matching Grants for International Cooperation Projects; (2) PolioPlus; (3) 3-H Grants; (4) Ambassadorial Scholarships; (5) Rotary Volunteers; (6) Group Study Exchange (GSE).

Very likely, there were adequate Rotary resources to help building a better world. The question left was to have more Rotary clubs to make the best use of these resources and to carry out suitable projects in order to address the needs in Ulaanbaatar.

Birth of The Rotary Club of Tuul

The Beginning

Since 2002, Herbert K. Lau has already helped to form 3 Rotary clubs in Mongolia. Two are located in Ulaanbaatar: Khuree Rotary Club (Хүрээ Ротари клуб 庫倫扶輪社) (28 February 2002), and Niislel Rotary Club (Нийсл Ротари клуб 尼斯奈爾扶輪社) (18 July 2003). The other is Zuunmod Rotary Club (Зуунмод Ротари клуб 崇茂德扶輪社) (18 July 2003) located in the Tov Province (Төв аймаг). Certainly, to a city with population over eight hundred thousand, there were room and need to have more Rotary clubs for service.

Soon after the charters presentation to the 2 clubs of Niislel and Zuunmod by District 3450 Governor Jones Wong (王仲熹), Herbert K. Lau, District Extension Chair, paid another visit to Ulaanbaatar again in the autumn of 2003.

This

also interested in the global network of Rotary. Therefore, AGA was making contacts with Rotarians and Rotary clubs in the city. As introduced by Battsetseg, AGA have had meetings with members of Zuunmod, Khuree and Niislel Rotary clubs, and was given the handbooks of “Club Secretary” and “Rotary Extension Manual”, etc., for in-depth study. Battsetseg further elaborated that, after observing her experience in Rotary, leaders of AGA would like to have the same opportunity to be connected with the Rotary World so that members would be more effectively to absorb the outside resources globally and to serve better locally. The ultimate goal was to transform AGA into a Rotary Club.

Organizing Process in Action

With Lau’s consent, a private meeting was immediately arranged with the leaders of Altan Gadas: Professor R. Gonchigdorj (Раднаасүмбэрэл ГОНЧИГДОРЖ), President; D. Dorligjav (Дамбий ДОРЛИГЖАВ), Chairman; Ya. Sanjimyatav (Ядамсүрэн САНЖИМЯТАВ), Director; and S. Mendsaikhan (Сономцүрэн МЭНДСАЙХАН), Executive Director. After the briefing on “What Is Rotary” and the opinions exchange, it was agreed to have some of the qualified AGA members be organized to form a new Rotary Club making the Association to have a formal link with the international organization of Rotary, and partnering in achieving the common goals to building better communities.

The next day, several dozens of interested members were called to get together in the hall of AGA. Herbert K. Lau conducted a 3-hour seminar on the Object, Service Ideals and Organization of Rotary, with Battsetseg being the interpreter. After one more talk with in-depth discussion on the other day, Professor R. Gonchigdorj gave a very encouraging and positive concluding remarks to the “potential Rotarians”.

In Ulaanbaatar, “Tuul” refers to the Tuul River (Туул гол), the essential waterway that flows directly through the southern part of Mongolia’s capital city. The Tuul is considered sacred to the Mongol people. The river is a central landmark of Ulaanbaatar. The word “Tuul” itself holds immense geographical, cultural, and linguistic significance to the people of Ulaanbaatar. Today, it defines the geography of Ulaanbaatar, separating the main city center from the southern mountainous districts (*see map on Page 3*).



Organization of New Club Survey (Extension Survey)

MEMBERSHIP IN ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

NAME OF LOCALITY Ulaanbaatar City, Mongolia.
(community, state/province/prefecture, country)

Please describe the various aspects of the locality in each of the categories below:

POPULATION

800,000

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

2002 Gross Domestic Production - US\$1,231 million
2002 Gross Domestic Production per capita - US\$ 500
2002 Gross National Income - US\$ 1,298 million
2002 Gross National Income per capita - US\$ 528

PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES, ACTIVITIES, AND INSTITUTIONS

Cashmere production ; Carpet production ;
Beverage production

OTHER SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

There are more than 100 NGOs related to social service sectors.
There are also Lions Clubs International and JCI
Currently, there are 3 Rotary clubs in the same city.

FORMER ROTARIANS (LIST NAMES AND FORMER CLUBS)

None

LOCALITY DESCRIPTION (if additional space is needed, please attach another page)

Within the territory of Ulaanbaatar, the capital city of Mongolia.

NUMBER OF ROTARY CLUBS IN THE SAME LOCALITY (if none, the nearest Rotary club)

Three

POSSIBLE SPONSOR CLUB(S)

The Rotary Club of Hong Kong, Hong Kong.

☐ New club will not have a sponsor club.

Surveyor's Evaluation

I verify that I have visited this locality and found it suitable for the formation of a new Rotary club.

15 January, 2004

Signature Herbert K. Lau

Date

District Governor's Decision

This locality ☒ is ☐ is not capable of supporting a Rotary club.
The sponsoring Rotary club(s) will be the Rotary Club of

Hong Kong

Name of Special Representative Mr. L. Gombo

Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

In his capacity as the District 3450 Extension Chair, on 23 January 2004, Herbert K. Lau sent out his instruction to 2 district officers in Mongolia (both from Ulaanbaatar Rotary Club):

(1) Lkhamjav GOMBO (Лхамжав ГОМБО), Assistant Governor

(2) Mishigdorjiin OYUNCHIMEG (Мишигдоржийн ОЮУНЧИМЭГ), District Secretary

It is my pleasure to inform that I have received from a group of 43 Mongolians a DRAFT New Club Application Form for Membership in Rotary International. I have met each and every one of these gentlemen and ladies before during one of my business trips to Ulaanbaatar. They have been listening to me for 3 hours about Rotary, and have had watched the video of «Introduction to Rotary». I was told that this group of community leaders was motivated by President Sh. Battsetseg (The Rotary Club of Zuunmod) 6 months ago to form a new Rotary Club. From then on, they have been meeting frequently according to the guide books I have given to them. These books are: «Rotary Extension Manual»; «Club Secretary Handbook» and «Organize New Rotary Clubs».

While I am still vetting the application, I am pleased to invite you to visit as soon as possible this Provisional Rotary Club of Tuul, and to provide your experience and guidance in the procedures of forming a new Rotary Club. At the same time, please also help them to prepare for the visit of the District Governor as well as the District Extension Chairperson on February 4 in the afternoon at the Altan Gadas Association. We would like to meet the Board of Directors and to provide a short training by you two in conjunction with the District Governor.



Sponsor from Hong Kong

The Rotary Club of Macau (澳門扶輪社) was first approached to be the new club sponsor. On 18 November 2003, Herbert K. Lau sent the warm invitation to the Club via President Synthia S. N. Chan (陳思雅). However, the Club decided not to take the offer.

After some considerations and facts finding, Lau suggested the sponsor would better be the Club#1 --- the Rotary Club of Hong Kong (香港扶輪社)---home of remarkable politicians, professors, and business leaders. As there was the question from members: Why not the extension in the Chinese mainland, so, Lau arranged a frank discussion with President Selwyn Mar (馬紹援) who put forth the proposal for decision of the Hong Kong Rotary Club.

Upon the strong recommendation by Lau, Board of Directors of Hong Kong Rotary Club was happy to be the sponsor of this new Mongolian Club, the 5th Club in the country, or the 4th Club organized by Herbert Lau in Mongolia. On 12 February 2004, President Mar sent a general notice to all members:

It is my pleasure to invite each and every one of you to attend the regular luncheon meeting on Tuesday, 17 February 2004, and to endorse a decision laid down by the Board of Directors: To sponsor a new Rotary Club in Mongolia---The Rotary Club of Tuul.

It is my pleasure to inform that our Club received from District Governor a New Club Application form for Membership in Rotary International. We have been invited to sponsor this new Club which is claimed to be the remarkable one in D.3450. The Club is composed of 43 community and business leaders from the capital Ulaanbaatar. There will be at least 2 outstanding statesmen in the charter membership: (1) Mr. Dorligjav who was a Deputy Prime Minister; and (2) Dr. Gonchigdorj who was a Vice-President of Mongolia. Please refer to the below attached "Who is Who" about these gentlemen. The new group of potential Rotarians have already been organized for the last 6 months, and they have already received at least 6 hours of training conducted by Herbert K. Lau, District Extension Chair.

"Tuul" is the name of the major river running west-eastward through the city of Ulaanbaatar. Tuul River is equally the

(USSR). He then returned home and graduated in 1988 from the National University of Mongolia with a law degree. He joined the government service first at District Procurator's Office of Ulaanbaatar from 1988 to 1989, followed by one year as researcher at the research center under the Mongolian Revolutionary Youth League Central Committee. In 1990, he was elected Vice Chairman of the Mongolian Democratic Party, and became a Member of the Parliament---State Great Khural---as well as the Small Khural. From 1990 until 1992, he was elected to serve the state as Deputy Prime Minister, and then Minister of Defense from 1996 to 1998. He then moved to the industrial/commercial sector as Director of Erdenet Corporation from 1998 to 2000. Since February 1994, he is the President of the Mongolian Script Association.

- (2) R. Gonchigdorj – He is the Speaker of the Mongolian Parliament since 1996. He obtained in 1975 the degree of Doctor of Science from the National University of Mongolia majoring in Physics and Mathematics. A professor in the University from 1975 to 1978, and then from 1978 to 1990 he served as Director of Physics & Mathematics Institute of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences. From 1990 to 1992 he served the state as Vice President. He is one of the few legislators who is now serving his 3rd term consecutively in the Mongolian Parliament.

After the consent obtained from members present at the 17 February 2004 meeting, Hong Kong Rotary Club President Selwyn Mar (馬紹援) and Secretary Frankie Lam (林敬新) signed the New Club Sponsor Form:



New Club Sponsor Form
MEMBERSHIP IN ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

The Rotary Club of Hong Kong

Our membership voted on 17 February, 2004 to sponsor a new Rotary club,
(date)

likely to be known as the Rotary Club of Tuul, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
(community, state/province/prefecture, country)

☐ Our club agrees to be the sponsor club. We will assist in its formation, help with the

Upon the recommendation by Herbert K. Lau, the Rotary Club of Hong Kong decided to allocate a budget of HK\$30,000 for gift items in 3 categories to support the new Club:

- (A) A reserve of US\$2,000 to support the first approved Matching Grants project;
- (B) The Charter Fees of US\$645 for 43 members;
- (C) The balance amount would be used to purchase necessary Rotary items, such as pins, banners, meeting equipment, etc.

For category (C), Lau was invited to acquire those necessary items from franchised suppliers in the overseas. Here below was the items list:

(Supplier 1) Toye, Kenning & Spencer Ltd., England

(1) 1 unit – President Pendant w/collaret	HK\$ 1,170
(2) 1 unit – Secretary Pendant w/collaret	\$ 1,170
(3) 1 unit – Sergeant-at-Arms Sash	\$ 820
(4) 1 unit – Charity Box	\$ 1,545
(5) 1 unit – Lectern	\$ 2,040
(6) 50 pcs – Man Lapel Badge	\$ 750
(7) 50 pcs -- Lady Brooch	\$ 1,500

(Supplier 2) Rotary Down Under, Australia

(1) 1 unit – Brass Table Gong & Mallet	\$ 725
(2) 1 unit – Visitor Book	\$ 110
(3) 100 pcs – Visitor/Guest Card	\$ 55
(4) 100 pcs – Visiting Rotarian Card	\$ 55
(5) 100 pcs – Induction Certificate	

Counting the dates, Lau indicated to Kordek that there was a wish to have the Club be chartered on “The Anniversary Day of Rotary”. With tacit understanding, Kordek gave the “green signal” that the date “may be reserved”.

Eventually, the whole set of application documents was finalized:

- (1) Organization of New Club Survey (Extension Survey)
- (2) New Club Sponsor Form
- (3) New Club Application Form (with Charter Members List)

District Governor Jones Wong endorsed the application and dispatched via *SpeedPost* on 18 February 2004 to Rotary International Secretariat, enclosed with a bank draft amounting US\$645 being the charter fees. As advised by Lau, District Governor put this request formally in his covering letter:

It has been the wish of all charter members that if the date of admission could be adjusted to fit in 23rd February 2004, which is the 99th Anniversary of Rotary. If that can be true, then the members of Tuul will remember the Birthday of Rotary every year and which will be the birthday of the Club simultaneously.

In order to expedite the process, Lau faxed the documents to Kordek for her immediate execution. Good news came very fast. Actually, the Rotary International Board of Directors had approved the admission on Friday, 20 February 2004. In the early morning of Saturday, 21 February 2004, this piece of e-mail came from One Rotary Center in Chicago:

Dear District Extension Chair Herbert:

Just a brief note to let you know that the Rotary Club of Tuul, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, has been admitted to membership in Rotary International with admission date that you requested – 23 February 2004, 99th anniversary of Rotary. The Club’s admission to the family of Rotary is a joyous occasion not only for the clubs in your district, but for all Rotary clubs world-wide.

My best wishes to you and all

Two days later on Monday, 23 February 2004, Dora Kordek informed Herbert K. Lau:

Just a note to let you know that the charter certificate for the new club has been sent via special courier to the governor last Friday. DG Jones should be receiving it shortly.

The Rotary Club of Tuul, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, was admitted to Rotary International on 23 February 2004---the 99th Anniversary of Rotary---with Club #64595. It became a member of Rotary International District 3450, sharing the Presidential Theme of the Year “Lend a Hand”.



gift of life

Proud to be a member of Rotary International, the Rotary Club of Tuul is a pioneer humanitarian group in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. It focuses on major community health and social projects.

Immediately after the Charter was granted, action without hesitation in responding to the community need, the Club launched its first dignitary on-going project---Gift of Life in healing Children’s Hearts. Collaborating with Rotary Clubs in the Republic of Korea, Tuul Rotary Club ran from 2004 to 2014 helping over 300 Mong



2005 – Herbert K. Lau visited The Rotary Club of Tuul to meet the 4 children who had just received the “Gift of Life”---recovery from congenital heart defects after surgery in Korea.

APPENDIX



New Club Application Form

MEMBERSHIP IN ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

The provisional Rotary Club of Tuul, Ulaanbaatar, MONGOLIA
hereby applies for membership in Rotary International and confirms that the club

1. Will abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of Rotary International
2. Has adopted the Standard Rotary Club Constitution prescribed by Rotary International as the club's constitution and will abide by its provisions
3. Will always have bylaws that are in harmony with the constitutional documents of Rotary International, including the Standard Rotary Club Constitution
4. Will not become a member of, or assume obligations of membership in, any organization other than Rotary International
5. Shall maintain the obligations of a member club in Rotary International and be subject to the jurisdiction of Rotary International

The signatures of the president and secretary of this provisional club attest to this club being organized in accordance with the constitutional documents and policies of Rotary International and that the information in this application is accurate.

Club President's Signature	<u>Dorligjav</u>	Date	<u>4 Feb 2004</u>
Club Secretary's Signature	<u>Otgonsuren</u>	Date	<u>4 Feb 2004</u>

We, the governor of District 3450 and the provisional club's special representative, concur that this application meets the requirements set forth in the constitutional documents of Rotary International and the policies of the RI Board of Directors and do hereby endorse this club's application for admission to the association. All members of the provisional Rotary club have participated in an appropriate orientation and education program under the guidance of district leaders and members of the sponsoring Rotary club.

- Locality of The Rotary Club of Tuul is within the territory of the city of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- The Club is in a country excused by the RI Board from subscribing to 《The ROTARIAN》 magazine or any regional magazine.
- There was 43 charter members in The Rotary Club of Tuul, with 36 men and 7 women.
- Regular weekly meeting was held on every Thursday, 6 p.m., at Altan Gadas Association, Seoul Street, Sukhbaatar District, Ulaanbaatar.
- List of Charter Officers and additional Directors (with *classification*):

President – Dambii DORLIGJAV (Дамбий ДОРЛИГЖАВ) (M) (*Community Service*)
(Head, Altan Gadas Association)

Secretary – Avirmed OTGONSUREN (Авирмэд ОТГОНСҮРЭН) (F) (*Nature Conservation*)
(Specialist, Institute of Geocology, Mongolian Academy of Science)

President-Elect – Dambii DORLIGJAV

Treasurer – Yadamsuren SANJIMYATAV (Ядамсүрэн САНЖИМЯТАВ) (M) (*Public Service*)
(General Secretary, SUMO Association)

Vice-Presidents –

-- Norov ALTANKHUYAG (Норовын АЛТАНХУЯГ) (M) (*Magazine Editing*)
(General Director, 《Altan Gadas》 magazine)

-- Erdene GANBOLD (Эрдэнэ ГАНБОЛД) (M) (*Civil Engineering*)
(Director, Gantech Service Co., Ltd.)

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Lend a Hand

