



**By Wade Nomura on Wednesday, March 11, 2026**



## Water is Life

### Message for the Operations Chair

I recently was invited to RIMEX (Rotary International Mexico), which is the largest Rotary event in Latin America. The event was moderated by Foundation Chair Holger Knaack, General Secretary John Hewko, RI Director Salvador Rizzo, and many past Directors.

The topic I was asked to speak on was “Connections, the Success of Financing Service Projects” during the closing session. The goal was to expand our networks, thereby expanding potential financial partners beyond Rotary, but to do so as the organizations with similar interests and missions to “Create Lasting Impact.”

As a horticulturalist, I compare these networks to trees. Trees will grow and thrive if they are cared for. If they are neglected, they will die. If you care for them regularly, they will thrive and become a beautiful landmark that will outlast the propagator. Stay in contact with them as you would a close friend or family member, and they will be with you always.

As WASHRAG members, we will find many people who have the same passion for service as we ourselves have, but not as many as we need, so we can have a greater impact on what we do as WASH warriors.

Let's hear more stories about your experiences with successful network development.

Please also sign up for the World Water Summit in Taipei (details in this issue).

Stay well, stay blessed, and grow your networks to benefit our WASH efforts.

Wade Nomura

WASHRAG Operations Team Chair

TRF Cadre and Global Regions Coordinator



## Global Goals, Local Action: Rotary Commemorates the United Nations

By Ciera Martin on Wednesday, March 11, 2026

**"The United Nations was not created to take humanity to heaven — it was created to take humanity to earth."  
Melissa Flemming, UN**



At a recent global gathering, WASH-RAG Ambassadors and Rotary leaders highlighted the urgent sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) issues. Hosted by Ambassadors Richard Chinn and Ciera Mart with Rotarians, Interact reps, and global partners, welcoming new Ambassadors committed to water initiatives. Rotary International President Francesco Arreza's visit emphasized the organic water security and sustainable development. While progress on the UN Sustainable Development worldwide, only 27% of targets are on track for 2030. Rotary fills vital gaps by uniting government and society to implement solutions. WASH-RAG advocates reaffirmed that meaningful change requires leadership—principles at the heart of Rotary's mission.

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## **Water Scarcity and It's Impact on Women and Children in Wa**

By Christopher Roesel on Thursday, March 12, 2026



In South Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sister Rose is leading a transformative community-driven sanitation project. Villages facing high rates of diarrheal disease are achieving open-defecation-free status through household-by-household promotion, guided by respected elder women. Once sanitation coverage is complete, Rotary-supported committees are managed locally by women-led committees. The project not only improves health and safety but also strengthens community ownership, creating sustainable change. This initiative is detailed in the full article on Sister Manuella.

[Read More](#)

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# Without Water, We Could Not Make Coffee

By Patrick Coleman on Wednesday, March 11, 2026

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Water is essential to life. As Patrick Coleman of the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Rotary Action Group reminds us, without water, even something as simple as making coffee would be impossible. The human body is about 60 percent water and can typically survive only about three days without it. Dehydration quickly leads to serious health decline, organ failure, and death. Beyond individual health, the absence of water would devastate society. Schools would collapse, diseases would spread rapidly, agriculture would fail, and economies would suffer. Entire ecosystems would decline as rivers dry up and forests disappear. This reality highlights the importance of the work being done by WASH-RAG members, who are helping bring clean water, sanitation, and hygiene to communities around the world. [Read More](#)

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## Flow

By Justine Wienken on Wednesday, March 11, 2026



### World Water Day Special Event

*FLOW: For Love of Water Movie Screening*

On internationally recognized days dedicated to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, such as World Toilet Day and World Water Day, WASH is hosting virtual screenings of films that highlight ongoing issues in this sector.

World Water Day is Sunday, 22 March 2026, and the [eClub of WASH](#) will be screening virtually the award-winning film 'Love of Water.' The film explores how politics, pollution, and corporations are impacting the world's water crisis problems, FLOW provides practical solutions.

The film will be officially shown on a high-quality custom video link on **22 March 2026 - 2 pm Eastern / 6 pm UTC** for 60 minutes. (NOTE: the video link will be available for viewing for a 24-hour period, to allow viewing throughout the day.)

After the movie and a short break, viewers are invited to join a Zoom call starting at 4 pm Eastern / 8 pm UTC for a Q & A session to discuss the film and the water crisis. This session will be recorded and posted to the [eClub of WASH](#) website.

Tickets are \$10 to attend the movie screening and Q & A. Purchase tickets here: [Link](#)



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## Using AI to learn about MHM

By Stewart Martin on Thursday, March 12, 2026

Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH), also called Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM), is an important part of reproductive health and hygiene education in schools. Teaching students about menstruation from the age girls begin menstruating through adolescence ensures girls can manage their periods safely, privately, and with dignity. Education should include both girls and boys to ensure silence and stigma are replaced with understanding and respect.

A recent example showed how AI tools like ChatGPT can help explain MHM basics to new members of Rotary. The AI response outlined key elements of an effective program: education, proper facilities, access to hygiene materials, and community support. While not perfect, AI can provide a quick starting point for Rotarians designing school WASH programs. Look at resources for finding strong WinS training and implementation partners. ??

[Read More](#)

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# President's Message -The Reach of Community A

By Justine Wienken on Thursday, March 12, 2026

## Extending Rotary's Reach Through Freshwater Action



Freshwater connects every community on Earth, yet rivers, lakes, and streams are increasingly under pressure from climate change. Rotary clubs around the world are responding by taking local action that contributes to global

One powerful example comes from the **Rotary Club of Panamá Nordeste**, which brought **solar-powered** water treatment to Indigenous communities in the remote Darién region of Panama. With help from international Rotary partners, communities who once relied on untreated river water now have reliable access to clean drinking water. The project improved the health of children, and strengthened community resilience.

This kind of work reflects Rotary's growing global effort to protect freshwater through the **Community Action** partnership with the **United Nations Environment Programme**. Rotary and Rotaract clubs worldwide are protecting wetlands, and collecting data to measure the impact of their work.

Learn how Rotary clubs are protecting freshwater and how you can get involved:  
[communityactionforfreshwater.org](https://communityactionforfreshwater.org)

— *Message from Francesco Arezzo, President, Rotary International* ?? [Read Original Article](#)

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## Programs and Projects Teams Activities

By Kumaraswamy Sivakumaran on Thursday, March 12, 2026

Programs and Projects Team Activities

### Reviewing Global Grant Applications

The WASHRAG Projects and Programs Team coordinates the review of Global Grant applications submitted by first screened for completeness and then assigned to a member of the Cadre of Technical Advisors who is also detailed technical review. The reviewer evaluates whether the proposal aligns with Rotary's Global Grant requirements and provides recommendations to strengthen the application. If the suggested revisions are incorporated, the WASH Fund will move forward toward the grant. This review process is intended to improve the likelihood of approval by The Rotary Foundation and does not guarantee approval. The review must be completed before submitting the application to the Foundation.

### Funding Hydrogeological Studies and Environmental Impact Assessments

Many WASH projects that involve drilling wells require preliminary hydrogeological studies to confirm groundwater supply can meet community needs. Water quality must also comply with World Health Organization guidelines. Many countries require Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA). Because The Rotary Foundation does not fund EIAs, WASHRAG provides limited support: USD 600 at the start and USD 600 upon completion and approval of the EIA.

### Providing Technical Advice

Rotary members preparing Global Grant proposals may contact WASHRAG for technical guidance. Our team includes technical experts who can assist in addressing project-related technical challenges.



## Why WASH-RAG Membership Matters



Joining the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Rotary Action Group (WASH-RAG) empowers members and professionals with expert guidance, global partnerships, and practical resources to impact WASH projects. From strengthening Global Grant success and funding of long-term community health, education, and safety, WASH-RAG helps members move from vision to change. Read the full article to learn how WASH-RAG can amplify your impact with

# World Water Summit 18 - Water & Vulnerable Environ

***CLICK TO REGISTER TODAY!***

**Registration: \$60 USD -- Rotaractors: \$30 USD**



**SATURDAY,  
June 13, 2026**

8:00 – Noon

China Standard Time (CST) UTC+8

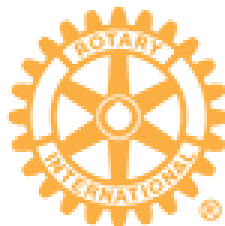
**Courtyard by Marriott Taipei**

No. 359, Section 7, Zhongxiao E Rd

Nangang District, Taipei City, Taiwan 11561

*The WWS18 venue is located at the Nangang stop on the Bannan Line which is one stop west of*

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16**

**6 PM - 10PM**

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# Menstrual Hygiene Day

**Menstrual Hygiene Day  
May 28**



*click image to learn more*

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