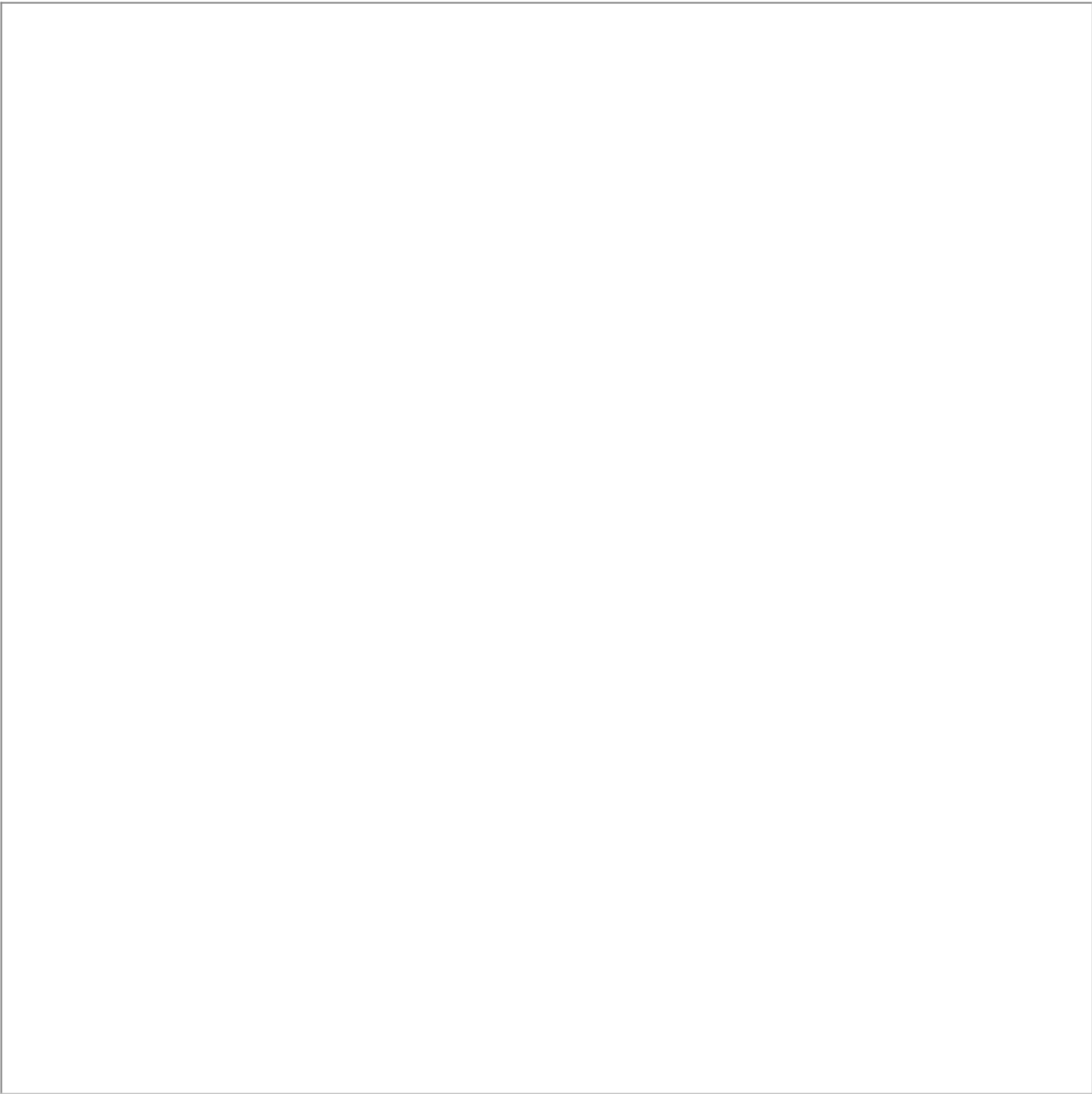


World Water Summit - Panel Event



WORLD WATER SUMMIT – PANEL EVENT

Uniting For Good — Working Together to Have a Greater Sustainable Impact

Moderator

Ann Marie Kimball, M.D., MPH

Epidemiologist & pioneer in electronic disease surveillance
Vice Chair, Rotary COVID Task Force
Washington State, USA

Ann will emphasize the critical importance of WASH in health centers and hospitals, as well as in rural communities where preventable blindness is linked to flies and other unsanitary conditions. She will share field experiences from Sudan and other regions where this work has had a significant impact.

Featured Panelists

Angela Benson, M.D.

Chair, Rotary Action Group of Reproductive, Maternal & Child Health
Liberia

Angela will discuss the life-saving importance of WASH for mothers and babies, highlighting the impact of preventable deaths linked to inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene. She will also share insights from her work in Liberia, including collaborations with UNICEF and WHO.

Gloria Ann Evans, Ph.D., FNP

Board Member, Blindness Prevention Rotary Action Group
International Rotary Fellowship of Healthcare Professionals
North Carolina, USA

Gloria will focus on how WASH relates to preventable blindness, specifically addressing eye infections caused by poor sanitation and lack of clean water, and share strategies from her global Rotary work.

Deb McCaslin, MM, PDG

Founding Member & Treasurer
Rotary Action Group for Girls' Empowerment
Nebraska, USA

Deb will address menstrual hygiene's role in helping girls attend school, along with the importance of having reliable clean water and the impact of the Zimbabwe borehole project on health and development.

Aziz Memon

Chair, National PolioPlus Committee & RI PolioPlus Committee
Past TRF Trustee
Pakistan

Aziz will highlight the mangrove restoration initiative in Sindh following the 2010 floods, focusing on climate resilience and protecting vulnerable coastal communities.

Event Details

World Water Summit – Taipei

Saturday, June 13

Morning Session

Register Now

www.wash-rag.org/wws18-water-and-vulnerable-environments/

Clean Water Changes Everything

Provisional Program from World Water Summit -Saturday 13th

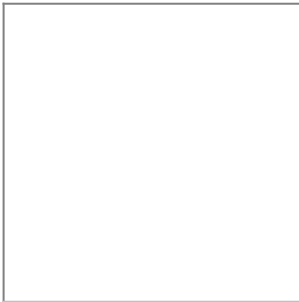
By Michael Fernando on Saturday, April 11, 2026

Provisional Program

World Water Summit, Taipei

Saturday 13 th June 2026

08.00-12.00



08.00 Registration and Refreshments

08.30 PRIP Gary Huang (Guest of Honor)

08.40 Wade Nomura: Reforesting the denuded watershed in Guatemala

08.55 Kaloy Manlupig (Volunteer CEO Safe Water for Every Child, Philippines)

Safe Water in the Most Vulnerable Environments: Lessons from Communities at the Margins.

09.10 Steve Bender (ESRAG)

09.25 Brian Ashworth (Honorary CEO Disaster Aid Australia)

09.40 Iryna Odyntsova (PP RC Dnipro Novyii), in conjunction with DG Olha

Paliychuk (DG Ukraine)

09.55 Steve Werner: WASH RAG Ambassador Program

10.05 PRID Faiz Kidwai: SMART Villages Project

10.20 Questions

10.30 Refreshment Break

11.00 Rotary Action Group Panel (Panel Moderator: Dr Ann Marie Kimbal)

12.00 Close

People of Wash Photo Contest

By Justine Wienken on Saturday, April 11, 2026

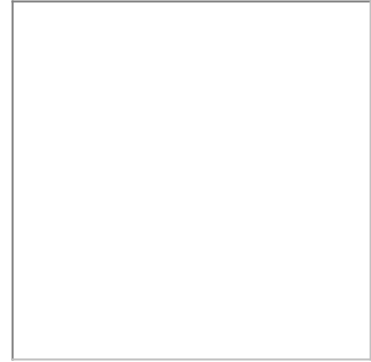
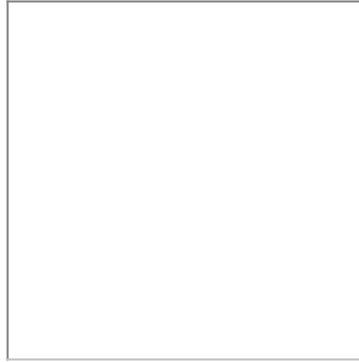
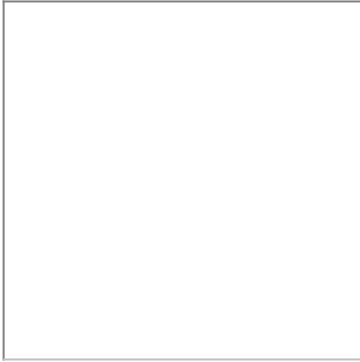


The 2025–26 People of WASH Photo Contest invites participants to showcase the impact of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in action around the world. Submit your photo for a chance to be featured in the contest and help highlight the importance of clean water and sanitation in improving health and communities globally.

Winners will be announced at the 2026 WASH-RAG Annual Meeting!

People of WASH Contest Submission Form

[See our website for more details](#)



A Life-Changing Gift of Water in The Gambia

A Life-Changing Gift of Water in The Gambia
by Steve SideInyk



This is a powerful and deeply moving account of what can happen when dedication, collaboration, and compassion come together to meet a critical human need.

In the villages of Jamagen and Jamal Balow in The Gambia, access to clean water was a daily struggle. Residents had to hand-pump water or walk long distances in extreme heat, impacting not only their health, but also their ability to grow crops and care for animals. The need was urgent—and undeniable.

Through the leadership and vision of Steve Sidelnyk, a member of the Rotary Club Ukraine Unity, that need be met. Working alongside key partners including Papa Tunkura, Yusef Tunkura, and William Jackson of the Hereford Institute (UK), a plan was set into motion to bring sustainable, accessible water to these communities.

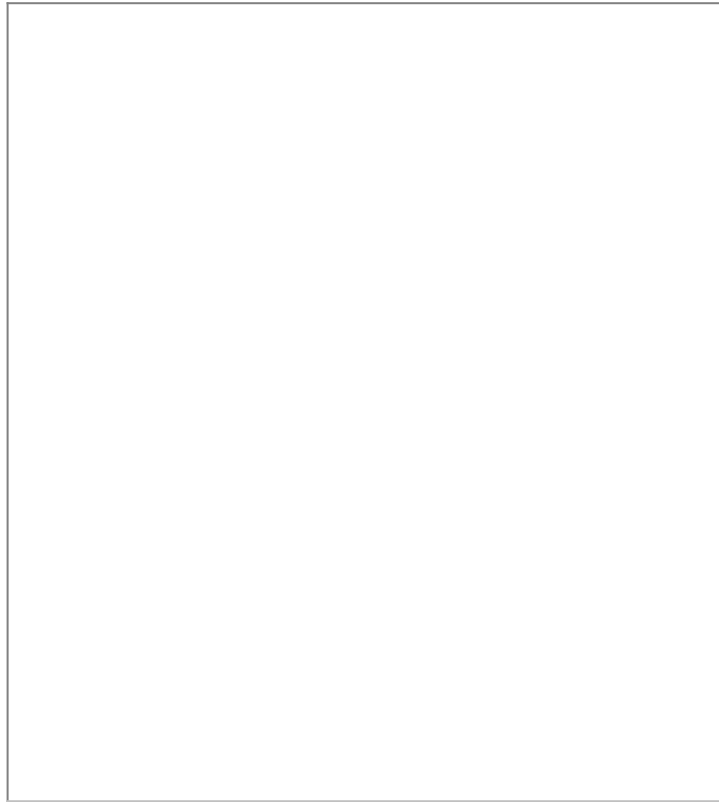
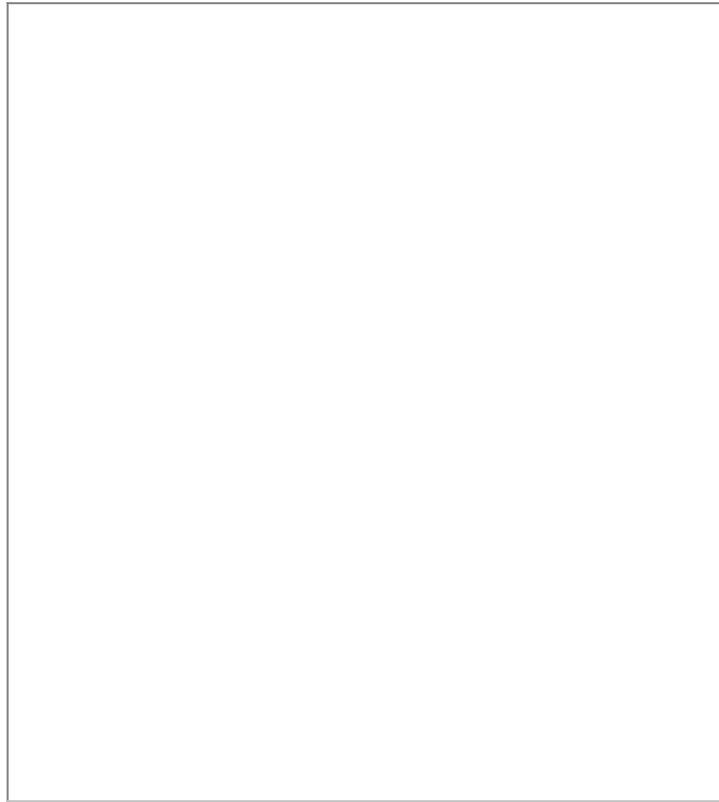
The solution was both simple and transformative: solar-assisted boreholes, constructed with the support and expertise of the local engineering company MSA. Work began in December 2025 under challenging conditions, with intense heat and a narrow window before the rainy season. Despite these obstacles, the project moved forward with determination and resilience.

By February 15, 2026, the boreholes were complete—and with them came a profound change. For the people of the community, access to safe drinking water has brought not only improved health, but also new opportunities for education, livestock care, and self-sufficiency.

The inauguration was filled with emotion—expressions of gratitude through songs, speeches, and heartfelt gestures, including the gifting of a goat. For those involved, it was a reminder that the true impact of this work goes far beyond infrastructure; it lies in the human connections formed and the hope restored.

This project stands as a testament to the power of Rotary and WASH initiatives to transform lives. It also serves as a model for future efforts, with hopes to expand similar projects to other communities in The Gambia.

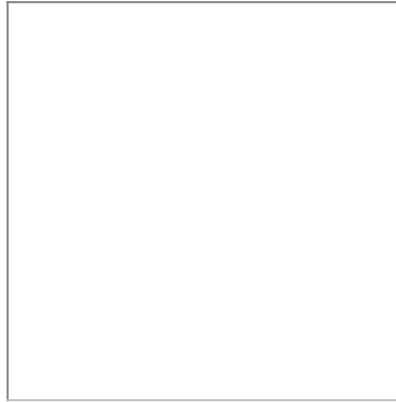
Sometimes, the most meaningful change begins with something as simple—and essential—as water.



The Wash Rag AI Corner

By Stewart Martin on Saturday, April 11, 2026

The WASH AI Corner by Stew Martin, Technical Officer



How do people best learn about Global Grants? Would it help to have a summary of Global Grants in under 4 [here](#).

Have you read all the documents RI/TRF has created for you to understand Global Grants? Do you understand really well? Here's a [link to over 25+](#) docs our Technical Officer found on Rotary.org. Want to read them all, this month?

Wouldn't it be nice to have an entertaining podcast to summarize the key insights? Such as ... *Why* does TRF International, club sponsors? Is good infrastructure and gear enough? How can we achieve actual transformation of a community? Why do we do thorough Community Assessments? How can projects be sustainable?

Well, thanks to NotebookLM analyzing those same 25+ docs, now you can listen to [this 20-minute 2-person](#) podcast. Pretty cool, huh? Share it with your team, see what they say.

Do you know about Global Grants? Take [this quiz](#) and see how you do.

Next what tools and indicators actually measure the success and impact of a project? How long do you need to see if the Outcomes actually happen? How long to ensure long-term sustainable Impact is achieved? Think on that this week ... and let's compare our thoughts in the next issue.

Global Impact-WASHRAG'S Commitment to Clean Water and Sanitation

By Kumaraswamy Sivakumaran on Sunday, April 12, 2026

Global Impact — WASHRAG's Commitment to Clean Water and Sanitation

Introduction: The Rotarians are aware of the need for potable water, sanitation, and hygiene in poor countries around the world. Much of the population is dispersed in rural areas, farmlands, and mountainous areas. To enhance the lives of these people, the members depend on donations from a variety of donors as well as the Rotary Foundation for grants.

To receive matching funds from the Rotary Foundation, the clubs must focus on the four building blocks of a project: input, output, outcome, and impact. The schematic figure below illustrates the four blocks:

Building Blocks to Impact

[Read More](#)

A Briefing: Rotary Global Grants and Project Management

By Stewart Martin on Saturday, April 11, 2026

Rotary Global Grants: Creating Lasting Impact Worldwide
Stew Martin



Rotary Global Grants support large-scale international projects that deliver sustainable, measurable change in communities around the world. With a minimum budget of \$30,000, each project is built on a strong partnership between local and international Rotary sponsors.

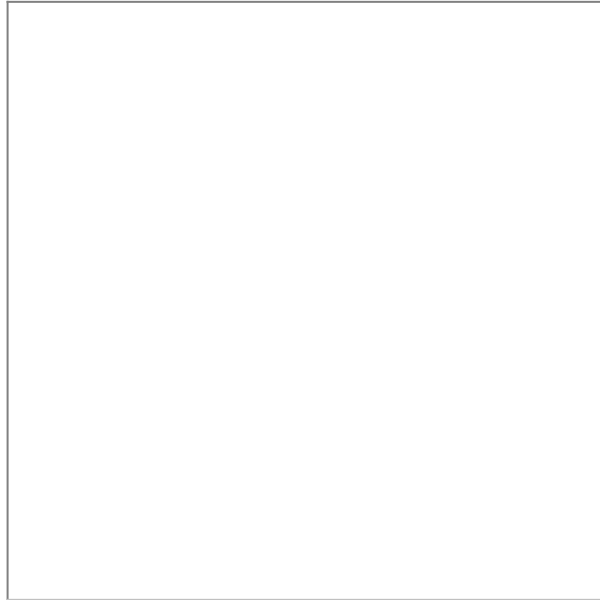
These grants focus on seven key areas, including peacebuilding, health, education, economic development, environment, and gender equality. A core requirement is **sustainability**—projects must be designed to continue benefiting the community after funding ends, beginning with a thorough community needs assessment.

Rotary emphasizes **measurable results**, using a “Theory of Change” framework to track progress from initial to long-term impact. Financial accountability is also critical, with strict guidelines for funding, reporting, and recordkeeping.

Supported by expert oversight and a structured grant process, Rotary Global Grants empower clubs to create lasting change across the globe.

WASH

By Patrick Coleman on Saturday, April 11, 2026



District 3000 WASHRAG Sees Membership Growth

District 3000 WASHRAG is gaining strong momentum, thanks in part to Ambassador Jeyapaul, who recently brought in new members: Setumadava, Rajendran, and Kanniappan. This growth reflects an increasing commitment to water, sanitation, and hygiene initiatives within the district.

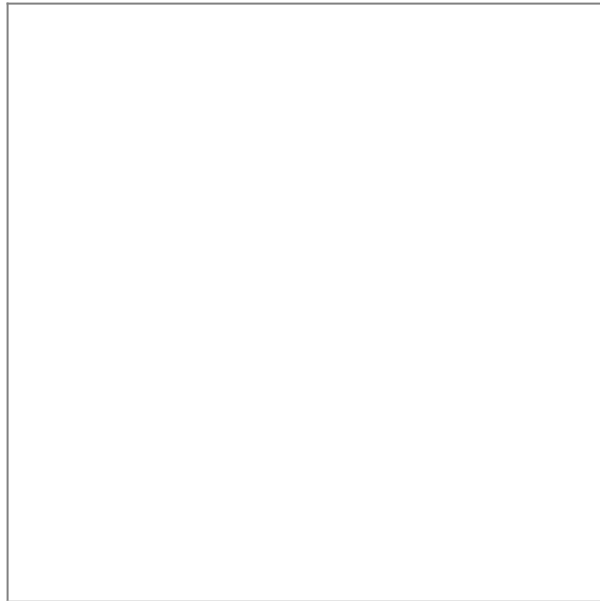
Building on this success, there is an opportunity to highlight the impact of WASHRAG Ambassadors more broadly. A few Ambassadors who have successfully recruited new members could make for a compelling future article, showcasing their effective outreach and inspiring others to expand membership.

This effort could be supported by sharing a call for contributions via WhatsApp or raising the idea in the next meeting, encouraging others to share their successes and strategies.

Expanding participation remains a key priority, as broader engagement helps amplify the impact of WASHRAG in communities around the world.

Ambassadors Connect and Celebrate at WASH Symposium

By Justine Wienken on Saturday, April 11, 2026



Ambassadors Connect and Celebrate at WASH Symposium

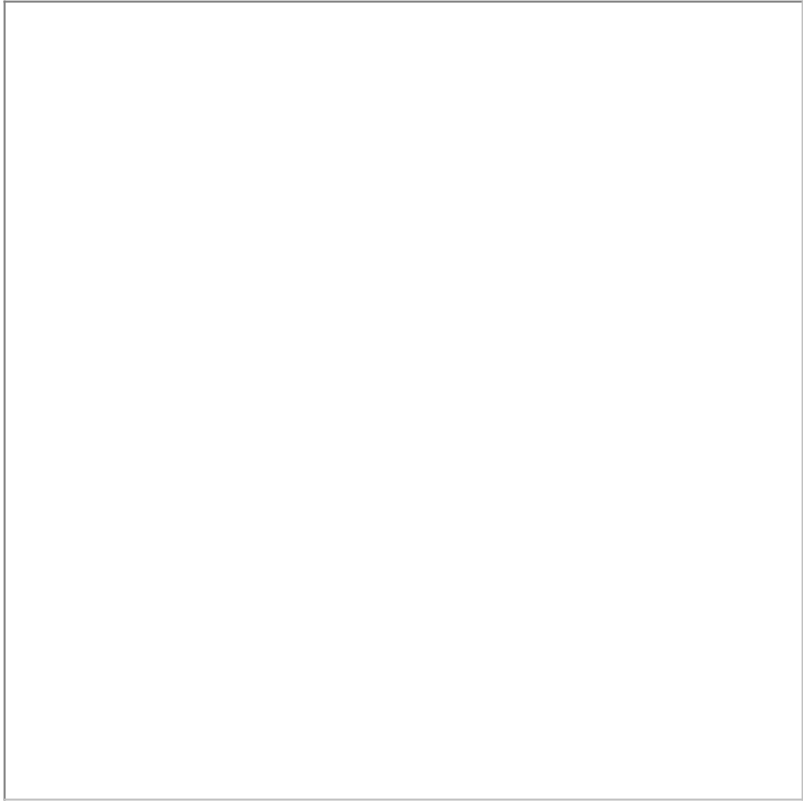
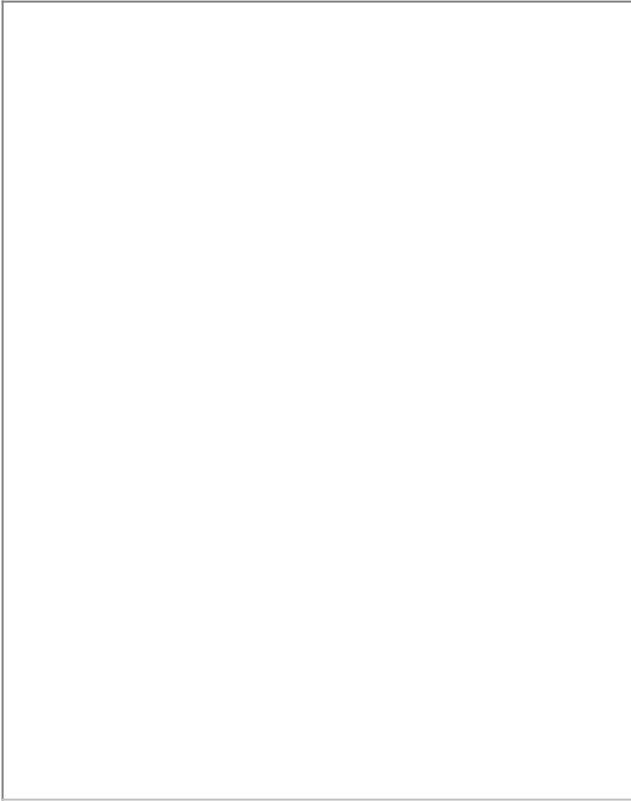
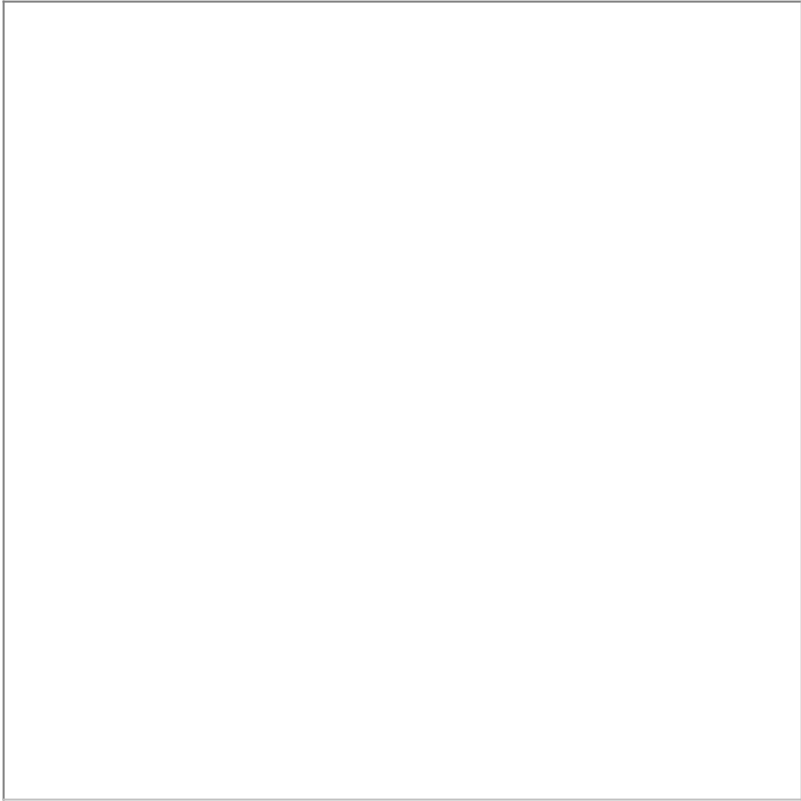
It's always inspiring to see WASHRAG Ambassadors connecting—and recently, two Ambassadors had the chance to connect in person, a reminder of the strong relationships and shared passion that drive our global network.

That spirit of connection was also evident at the **16th Annual WASH Symposium**, where a wonderful group of Ambassadors gathered, including Rich Fisher (5440), Reggie O'Brien (5470), Rob Maher, Peter VanArsdale (5450), Patty Iversen (5450), Gilbert (7040), Chris Roesel (6040), Yaouba Ibrahim (9150), and two new Ambassadors, Pauline Egan (5280) and (5680). Their presence reflects the growing energy and commitment behind WASHRAG's mission.

A special highlight: Yaouba Ibrahim was recently in the United States to attend a ceremony at his Embassy in Washington, DC, where he received the prestigious Service Above Self Award from Rotary International—an incredible honor recognizing his dedication and impact.

Moments like these remind us that while our work spans the globe, the connections we build along the way are just as powerful.

- 1) Yaouba with Ambassador Etoundi Essoumba, celebrating the Service Above Self Award
- 2) Ambassador Ibrahim and his consular staff (in blue jacket) with Dc Rotarians
- 2) Ibrahim & DC Rotarians briefing the ambassador and his assistant



Meet Richard Onono WASH-RAG Operations Committee – Membership Chair 2026-29

**Meet Richard Onono
WASH-RAG Operations Committee – Membership Chair 2026–29**



My story began in 2004 when I joined the Rotary Club of Nakuru. At the time, the club had developed a holistic project approach popularly known as “6T,” where qualified beneficiaries received trees, toilets, tanks, training, banking—all leading to transformation. With overwhelming international support, the Rotary Club of Nakuru completed 400 water projects. Given my training in water engineering, this model greatly appealed to me.

From an ordinary member, I grew to become Club Secretary, Club President, and later Assistant Governor. Throughout my journey, my passion for WASH continued to grow. When TRF introduced the WASH in Schools program (WinS), Kenya was selected as one of the pilot countries, and I was nominated as the lead coordinator for Western Kenya.

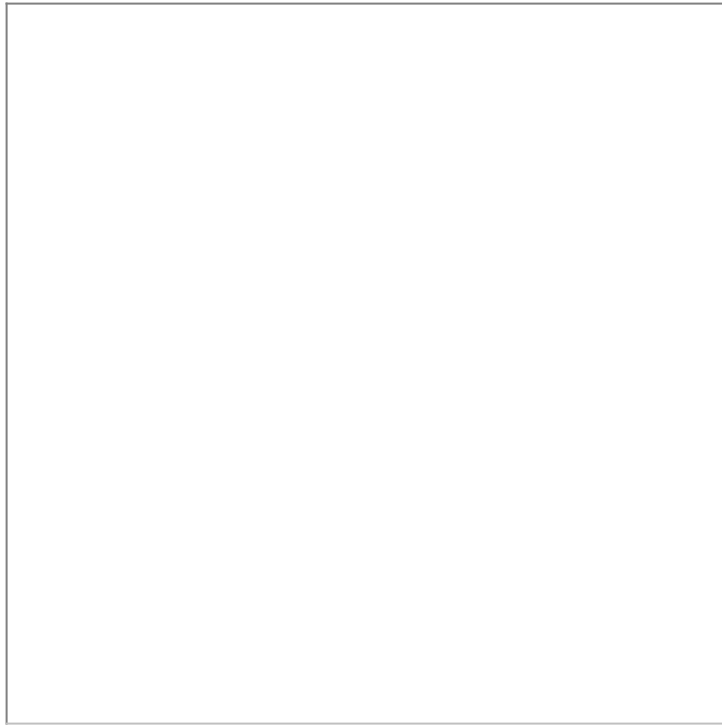
As I became more deeply involved in WASH, I was admitted as a WASH Cadre member, where I had the opportunity to participate in desktop reviews as well as serve as a site interim visitor to various countries in Africa. I also joined the TRF team where I later became an ambassador for my district, D9212. In this role, I have reviewed WASH projects and acted as a TRF unofficial reviewer for a WASH-RAG project in Cameroon.

I hold a Master’s degree in Project Management and am married with three children: June, Peter, and Eliana.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude for the nomination as the next Membership Chair, and I look forward to serving the best. Richard Onono

World Water Summit 18 - Water & Vulnerable Environments

Monday, March 23, 2026



Venue: Courtyard by Marriott, Taipei: No 359 Section 7 Zhongxiao East Road, Nangang District, Taipei City, T

Date: Saturday 13th June 2026

Time: 08.00-12.00 (Taipei Time)

Ticket Cost:

\$60 (USD)

Rotaract Members \$30 (USD).

REGISTRATION CLOSES 1 JUNE

Register Here:

<https://www.wash-rag.org/wws18-water-and-vulnerable-environments/>

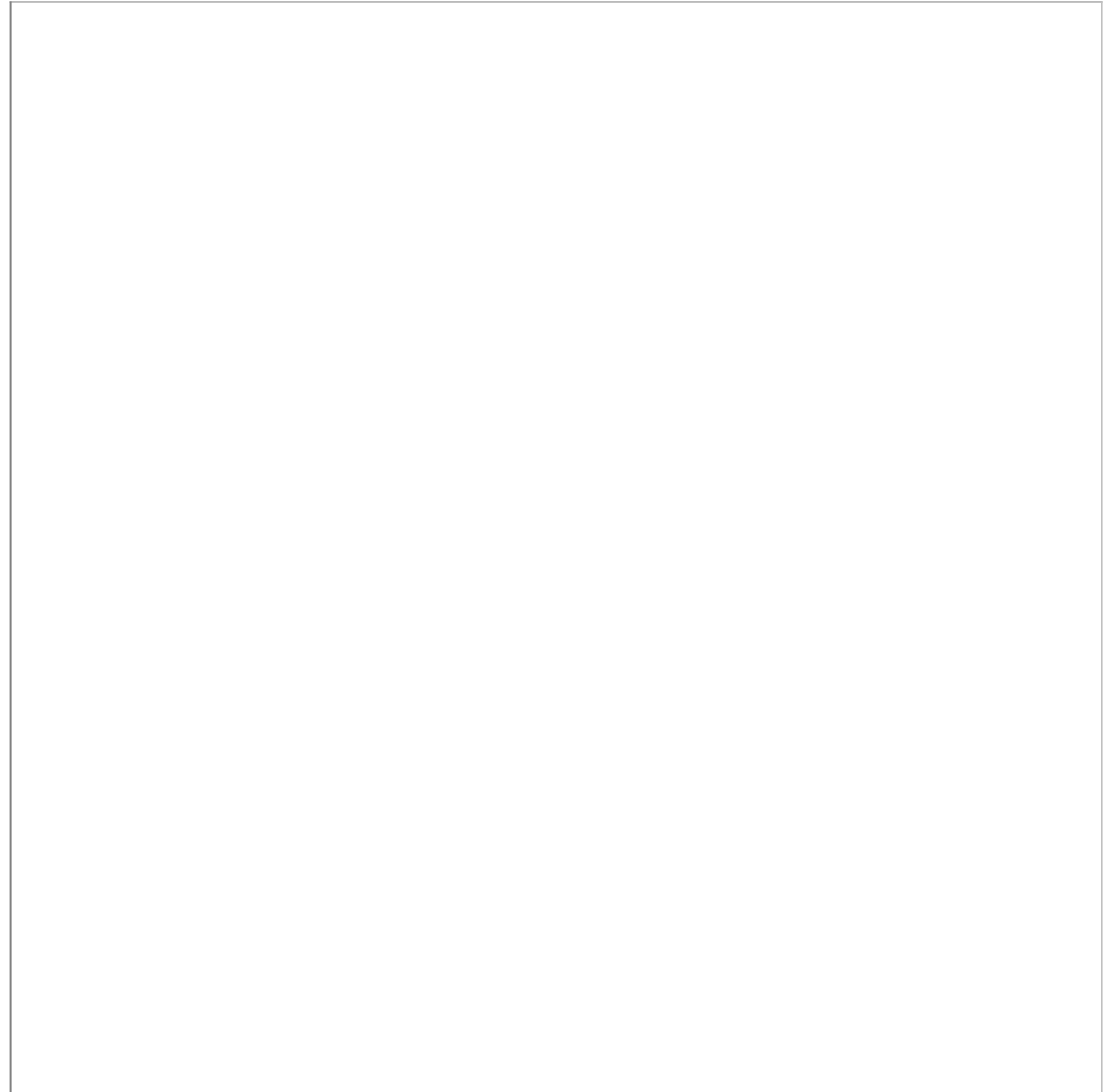
As Chair of the WASH Rotary Action Group World Water Summit, it gives me great pleasure to invite you to the World Water Summit, WAVE (Water and Vulnerable Environments), hosted by PDG Wade Nomura.

We have a fantastic lineup of speakers, led by Past Rotary International President Gary Huang, based in Taipei.

The program also includes:

Faiz Kidwai	Rotary International Director	Smart Villages Project, Pakistan
Brian Ashworth	Honorary CEO	Disaster Aid Australia
Wade Nomura	Past District Governor	Reforestation The Denuded Watershed in Guatemala
Kaloy Manlupig	Voluntary CEO	Safe Water for Every Child (Philippines)
Steve Werner	WASH RAG	Ambassador Program/Programme
Steve Bender	Rotary Action Group	Environmental Sustainability
Iryna Odyntsova	Past President RC Dnipro Novyji	Water Fountain Project in Ukrainian Schools

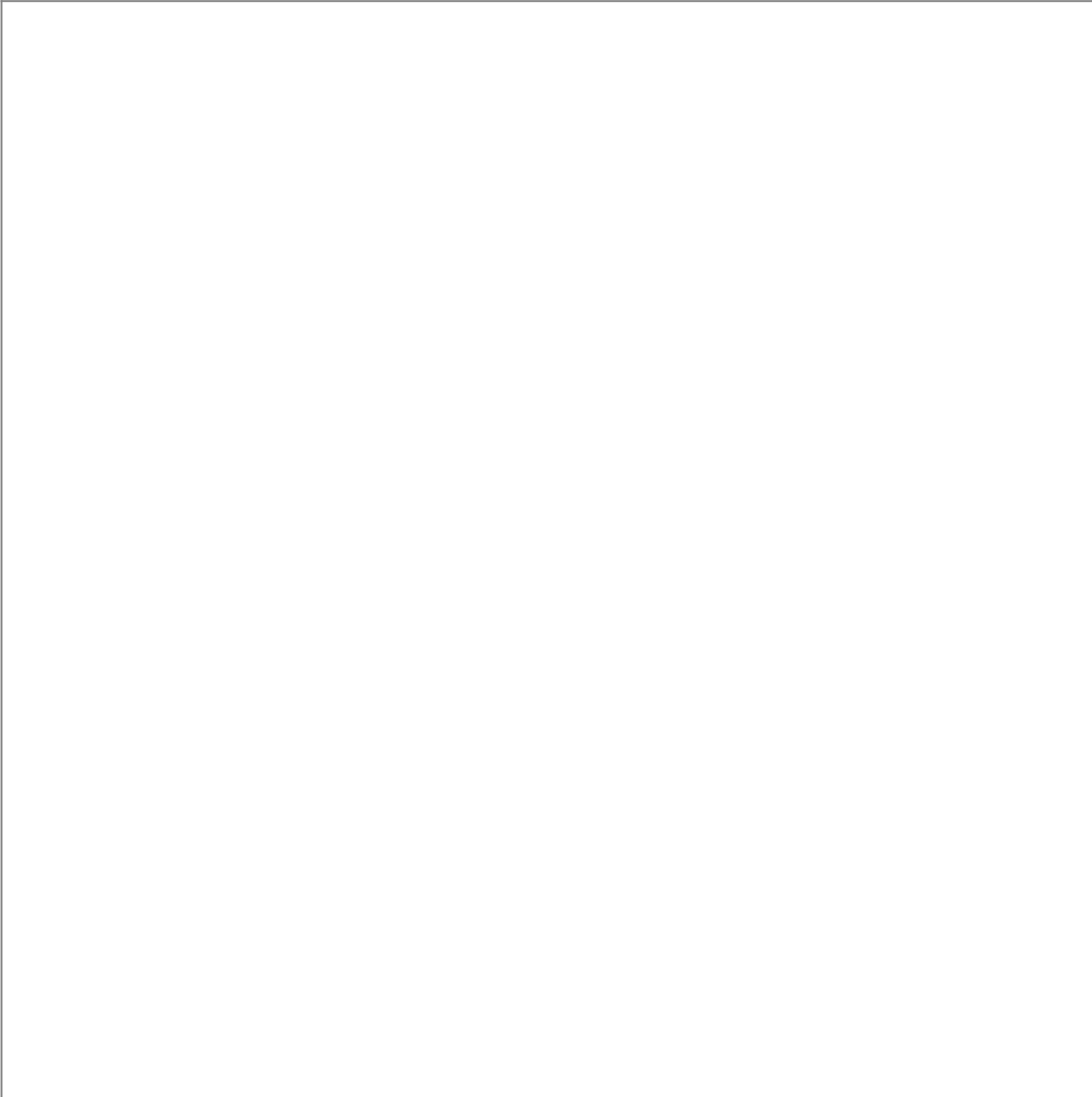
Olha Paliychuk	District Governor	Water Fountain Project in Ukrainian Schools
Rotary Action Group Panel Discussion		



Please do join us in Taipei.

Michael Fernando
Chair, World Water Summit

BREW + WASHRAG = Fellowship with Impact



[Read More](#)

Footer

Submit your stories, videos, and pictures for upcoming Newsletters to us at info@wash-rag.org.

WASH-RAG reserves the right to edit stories for length and content. By submitting a story you give us permission to make public your contact information including but not limited to your email or club's website.

The WASH Rotary Action Group is pleased to consider partnerships with any corporate supporter. Due to the unique water sources and water provision, accepting corporate support does not imply an endorsement of any particular technology. Rotarians, Rotary Clubs, and Rotary partners must evaluate any technology to determine if it is the best for the conditions where the program will be implemented. The WASH Rotary Action Group can provide guidance on how different technologies work best, but Rotarians and Rotary clubs must decide how to implement their program.

This Rotary Action Group is recognized and operates in accordance with Rotary International policy, but is not controlled by, Rotary International. To learn more please contact the WASH Rotary Action Group by email at info@washrotary.org
Thank you.

WASH Rotary Action Group | USA