



June is Fellowship Month

By Wade Nomura on Wednesday, May 13, 2026

From Right to Left: DG Gabriel Rodriguez, PDG Jorge Arao, His wife Cuca, and me

Recently, I was invited to speak at the District 4100 District Conference in Los Mochis, Sinaloa. District 4100 is in Mexico that is directly over the border.

My topic was "Building Bridges of Change and Transforming Communities Through Rotary", as requested by the committee, which is a perfect fit for our Rotary International June Theme of "Fellowship Month".

The conference included over 550 participants and went from Thursday to Sunday.

The conference was a mix of informational speakers, to project sharing, to outstanding social events.

Why do I say this is related to Fellowship month?

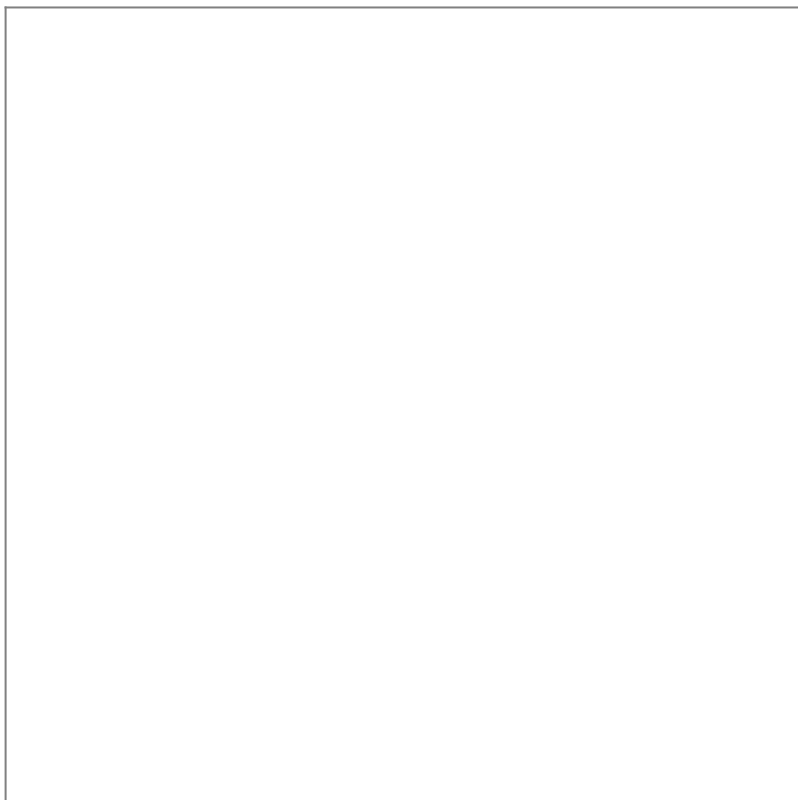
I was asked to invite a contingent of members from our district to their conference next year to share our projects with theirs in an effort to create partnerships within our clubs. The 2027 conference will be in Ensenada on May 13-15.

This was a result of my presentation, which was very well received. The presentation just before mine was on Artificial Intelligence (AI Intelligence), and I jokingly asked the presenter if he could make me look younger (see photo).

My aide was PDG Jorge Arao, who was of Japanese descent and whose family came here in the early 1900s, to Mexico instead of the US, like my family. We are also DG Classmates, so all these connections kept coming up.

Rotary friendships can leverage your projects and create networks globally. Please consider taking advantage of these connections and consider using a Global Grant for your community projects, because all it takes is an international partner for one.

The success of any project is when it becomes sustainable, then becomes a continuing program that keeps growing. It is essential to continue nurturing these friendships if you want your projects to succeed. These projects should be seen as an investment to assist a life-long friendship.



AI Version of a "Young" Wade after they found out I was a BMX Champion

Rotary South Pacific Wash Scholarship

By Chuck Fisher on Wednesday, May 13, 2026

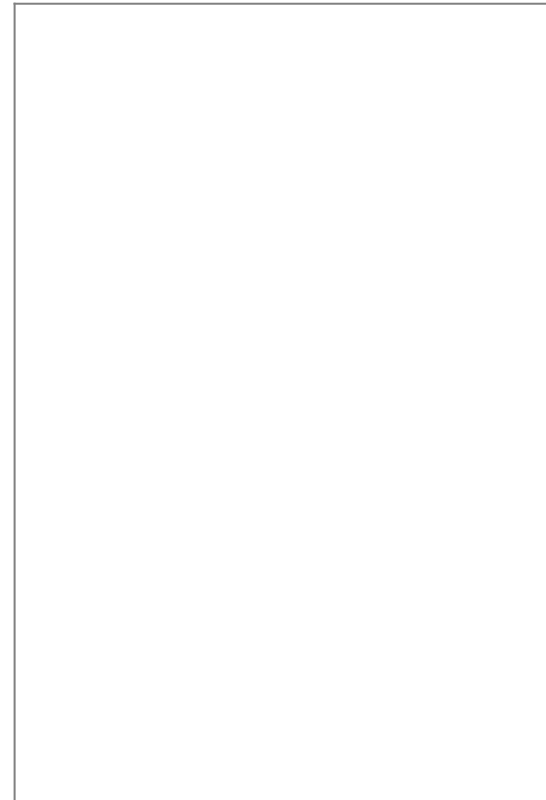
D9999's eClub of WASH and D9620 are seeking RCs and Districts to partner with us for the 2nd annual Rotary WASH Scholarship/s.

Patrick Pagkale, from the Island of Fiji, has been selected as the inaugural Rotary South Pacific WASH Scholar and will begin his studies at Griffith University's International WaterCentre in July, 2026.

When asked where he saw himself after completing his studies, Patrick first thanked Rotary for the opportunity. "Upon completion of my Master of Integrated Water Management (MIWM), I see my role as strengthening the leadership of WASH in Pacific Communities so they can shape and secure their own safe water future. My main focus is building local skills and confidence—supporting water operators, village committees, and community leaders with the tools to manage and maintain their WASH systems independently." Find out more below:

<https://www.rotarywashclub.org/scholarship>

Check in with Chuck Fisher at the World Water Summit in Taipei.



World Water Summit: Registration Closing June 1st.

By Michael Fernando on Wednesday, May 13, 2026

With just over a month to go until the 18th WASH Rotary Action Group's World Water Summit, in Taipei, I look forward to seeing many of you there on the morning of Saturday, 13th June; please do take this final chance to get one of the limited spots. Registration is 60 US\$ (30 US\$ for Rotaractors).

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

This year, our theme is WAVE (Water and Vulnerable Environments). The Summit shall be opened by Past Rotary District President, Gary Huang, and includes a fabulous lineup of speakers/panelists from all five continents. It takes place at the Courtyard by Marriott, Taipei, located just one stop from the House of Friendship, which will open straight after the summit.

Speakers and panelists include Brian Ashworth (Honorary CEO Disaster Aid Australia), Faiz Kidwai (Past RI District Governor, Pakistan), Steve Bender (from Environmental Sustainability RAG), Steve Werner (Chair, Ambassadors Committee WASH RAG), Odyntsova (Ukraine), Olha Paliychuk (District Governor, Ukraine), Angela Benson (Chair, Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health RAG), G. Ann Evans (Blindness Prevention RAG), Deb McCaslin (Girls' Empowerment RAG) and Aziz Memon (Chair, Plus Committee, Pakistan and Past TRF Trustee).

Please do join us in Taipei.

Michael Fernando
Chair, World Water Summit
WASH Rotary Action Group

People of Wash Photo Contest

By Justine Wienken on Saturday, April 11, 2026

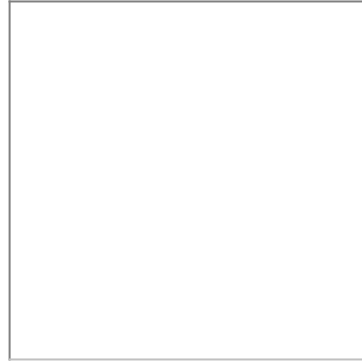
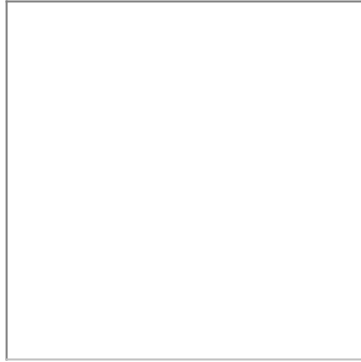
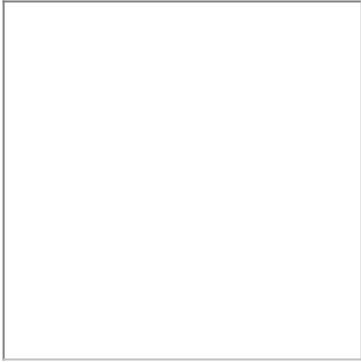


The 2025–26 People of WASH Photo Contest invites participants to showcase the impact of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in action around the world. Submit your photo for a chance to be featured in the contest and help highlight the importance of clean water and sanitation in improving health and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



Member Spotlight: Jeyapaul Chellamuthu

By Justine Wienken on Wednesday, May 13, 2026

We are pleased to recognize **Jeyapaul Chellamuthu** from the Rotary International family for his outstanding leadership and commitment to service.

About Jeyapaul

- **Name:** Jeyapaul C. Chellamuthu
- **Age:** 76
- **Education:** Chemical Engineer with a Master's in Business Administration
- **Professional Experience:** 50 years across a variety of industries

Rotary Involvement

- **Rotary Club:** Rotary Club of Madurai Star
- **District:** District 3000, India
- **Rotary International Role:** TRF Cadre for WASH and Environment

Rotary Leadership Roles

Jeyapaul has served in several important leadership positions, including:

- Finance Committee Chairman
- Grants Subcommittee Chairman

Recognition & Service

- **Major Donor** to The Rotary Foundation
- **Ambassador** for WASH-RAG
- **Member** of ESRAG

We thank Jeyapaul for his decades of professional excellence and his continued dedication to humanitarian service through Rotary.

New Member Recognition

By Justine Wienken on Wednesday, May 13, 2026

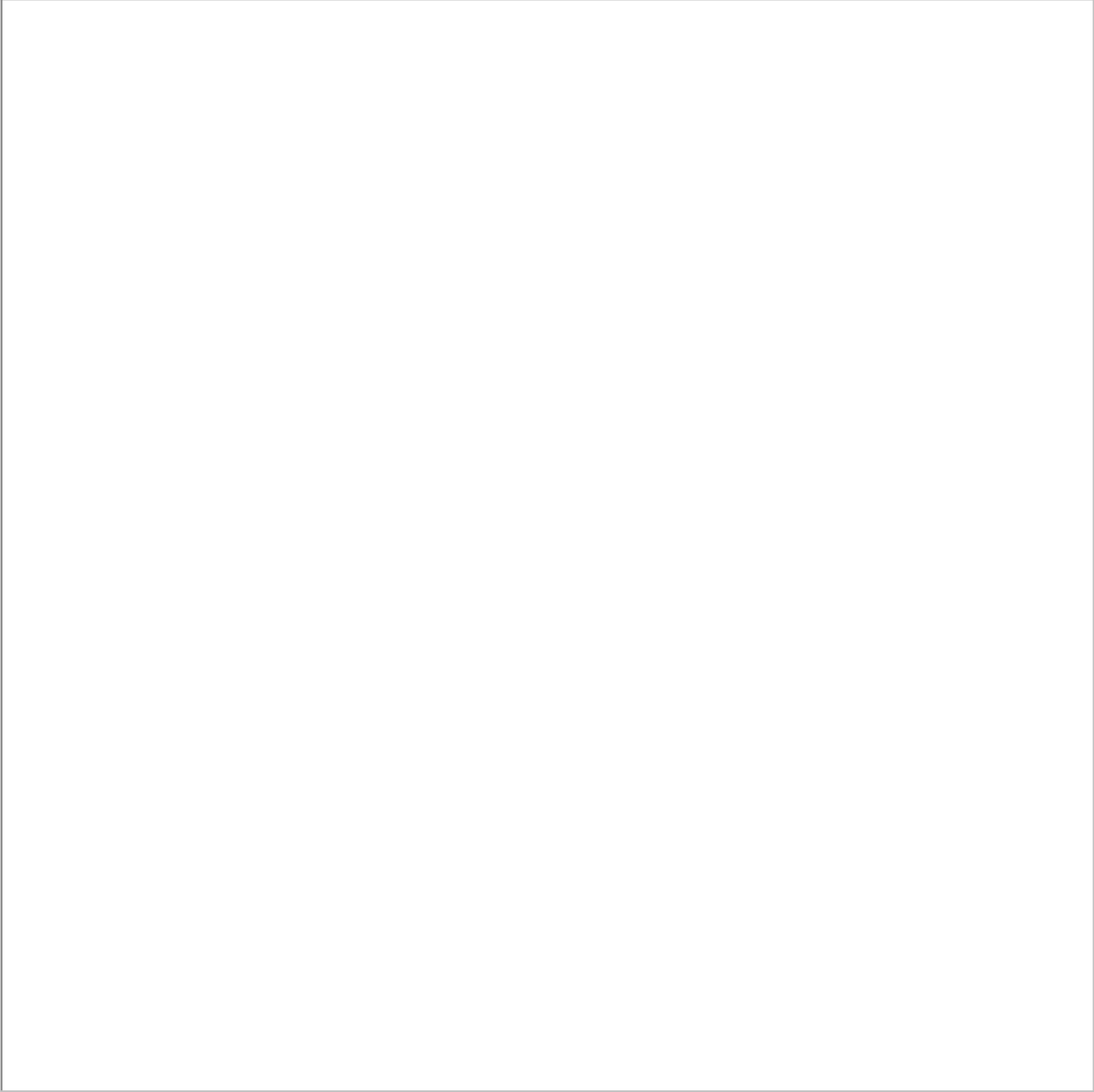
We are proud to recognize the following dedicated Rotary members from District 3000, India:

- **S.L. Setumadava** — Rotary Club of Madurai Star
- **Kanniappan K.** — Rotary Club of Madurai Star
- **Rajendran V.** — Rotary Club of Usilampatti



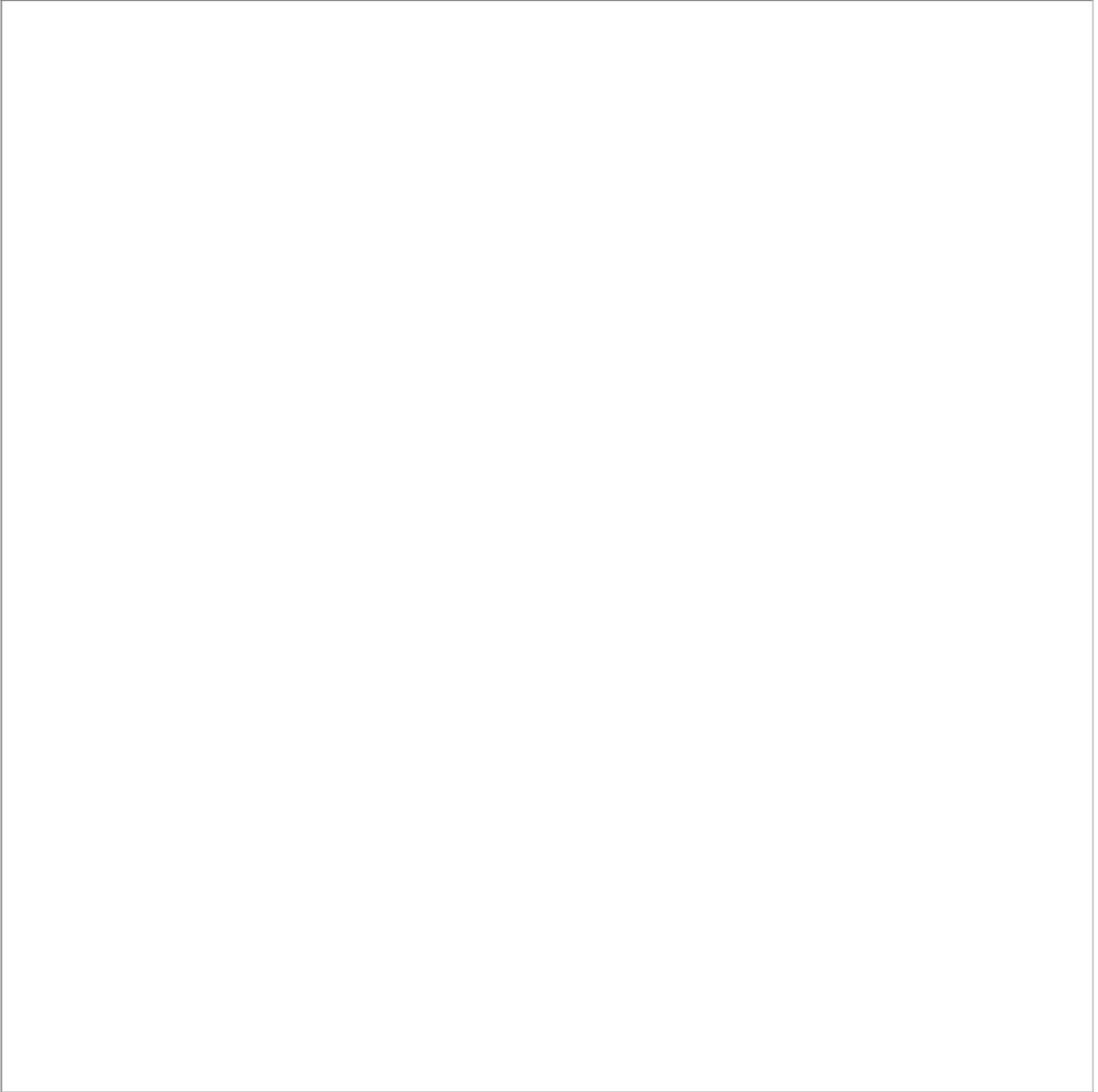
Thank you to Ambassador Jeyapaul for bringing these new WASH-Rag members into our Rotary network and dedication to expanding service and fellowship.

BREW + WASHRAG = Fellowship with Impact



[Read More](#)

By Justine Wienken on Saturday, April 11, 2026

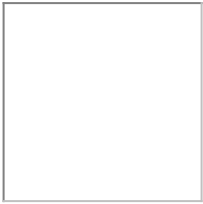


WORLD WATER SUMMIT – PANEL EVENT

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

Moderator

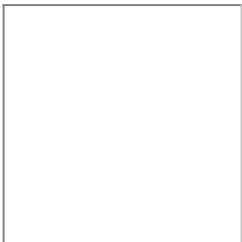
Ann Marie Kimball, M.D., MPH
Epidemiologist & pioneer in electronic disease surveillance
Vice Chair, Rotary COVID Task Force
Washington State, USA



Ann will emphasize the critical importance of WASH in health centers and hospitals, as well as in communities. She will also share field experiences from Sudan where blindness is linked to flies and other unsanitary conditions. She will also share field experiences from Sudan 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 significant number of preventable deaths linked to inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene. She will also share insights from her work including collaborations with UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO).

G. Ann Evans, Ph.D., FNP
Board Member, Blindness Prevention Rotary Action Group
International Rotary Fellowship of Healthcare Professionals
North Carolina, USA



Gloria Ann Evans will focus on how WASH relates to preventable blindness, highlighting how poor sanitation and lack of clean water can lead to eye infections and vision loss. She will also share prevention strategies and insights from her work in blindness prevention.

Deb McCaslin, MM, PDG
Founding Member & Treasurer
Rotary Action Group for Girls' Empowerment
Nebraska, USA



Deb will address the importance of menstrual hygiene in enabling children—especially girls—to attend school well as the critical need for reliable access to clean water. She will also highlight the borehole project in Zimbabwe on improving health, dignity, and educational opportunities for girls.

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



Aziz will highlight the mangrove restoration initiative in the Sindh Valley, a project launched in response to the floods. He will share how this effort is contributing to environmental recovery, climate resilience, and the protection of 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

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 nature of 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@wash-rag.org. Thank you.