



ROTARY INSTITUTE 2019

MANILA

PROCEEDINGS

CHAPTER 3

**THE OPENING  
CEREMONIES**



Convenor RID Rafael "Raffy" Garcia III, Chair PDG Isidro "Sid" Garcia, RF Trustee/PRID Sangkoo Yun and RIPE Holger Knaack raise their hands in a demonstration of unity and friendship as the audience cheers.



# CHAPTER 3 THE OPENING CEREMONIES

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A brass band welcomes the crowd with spirited music, such as "Sweeter than Wine."





**M**ore than twelve months of grueling preparations led to this: an elegantly dressed ballroom that welcomed delegates from Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Finland, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Macau, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the People's Republic of China, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, South Korea, the United States of America, and the host country, the Philippines.

It was the opening of the 2019 Manila Rotary Institute (MARI) and at four in the afternoon of November 29, the Rotarians, donned in their national costumes, entered the Marriott Grand Ballroom.



Huge percussion instruments add to the ebullience of the opening ceremonies.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE DIGNITARIES

The stage backdrop cut into half to reveal the night's dignitaries:

Rotary International Director-Elect **Virpi Honkala** and Spouse **Matti** from Finland, Rotary International Director-Elect **Chi Tien Surgeon Liu** and Spouse **Grace**, Past Rotary International Director **Rafael Hechanova**, Past Rotary International Treasurer and Past Rotary International Director **Frederick Lin**, Past Rotary International Director **Guiller Tumangan** and Spouse **Leticia**, Past Rotary International Director Dr. **Saowalak Rattanaovich**, Past Rotary International Director **Jackson SL Hsieh** and Spouse **Juliet**, Past Rotary International Vice President **Michael McGovern**, Rotary International Director **Stephanie Urchick**,



RIDE Virpi Holanka  
and Spouse Matti



RIDE Chi Tien Surgeon Liu  
and Spouse Grace



PRID Rafael Hechanova



PRIT/PRID Frederick Lin



PRID Guiller Tumangan  
and Spouse Leticia



PRID Saowalak  
Rattanavich



PRID Jackson SL Hsieh  
and Spouse Juliet



PRIVP Michael McGovern



RID Stephanie Urchick

2019 Manila Rotary Institute Chairman Past District Governor **Isidro "Sid" Garcia** and Spouse **Teresita**, 2019 Manila Rotary Institute Convenor Rotary International Director **Rafael "Raffy" Garcia III** and Spouse **Minda**, The Rotary Foundation Trustee Past Rotary International Director **Sangkoo Yun** and Spouse **Eunson**, and Rotary International President-Elect **Holger Knaack** and Spouse **Susanne**.

The dignitaries waved with enthusiasm as they headed to their respective tables.





Chair PDG Isidro "Sid" Garcia  
and Spouse Teresita



Convenor RID Rafael "Raffy" Garcia III  
and Spouse Minda



RF Trustee/PRID Sangkoo Yun  
and Spouse Eunson



RIPE Holger Knaack and Spouse Susanne



## 1920s

## 1950s

## 1980s

### ROTARY THROUGH THE DECADES

The lights dimmed and smoke quickly filled the stage. The screens showed **Paul Harris**, the acknowledged founder of **Rotary** in circa 1905. Photos of **Arch Klumph**, who founded **The Rotary Foundation** in 1917, were shown in quick succession. The screen shifted to the City of Manila in 1919, where the first Rotary club in Asia, the **Rotary Club of Manila**, was established. Men in suspenders and hats, and women in sparkly dresses danced onstage—freezing the audience with amazement.



1990s



2000s



2019

Each time a new decade was introduced, the dancers appeared onstage with performances reminiscent of the times. But aside from their stellar moves, the Rotarians were glued to the screens that traced the growth of the Rotary worldwide. **The Rotaract** was born followed by decades of fighting polio. At present, Rotary has grown into a network of over 1.2 million members with a prominent role in promoting global peace and honing its culture of fellowship, integrity, diversity, service, and leadership.

## THE FORMAL OPENING

The sound of trumpets filled the ballroom as four Institute dignitaries, Convenor RID Raffy Garcia III, Chair PDG Sid Garcia, TRF Trustee Sangkoo Yun and RIPE Holger Knaack were once again summoned to the stage. After



Convenor RID Raffy

Garcia and Chair PDG Sid Garcia officially called the Opening Ceremonies to order, they raised each other's hands in unity.

A brass band marched onstage with perfect cadence to the spirited tune of "*Sweeter Than Wine.*"

The stage became quiet as Susanne Knaack led the invocation. She urged everyone to continue creating lasting change within themselves and for the communities they should be grateful to serve.

LEFT: More drums add exuberance to the opening ceremonies. RIGHT: Convenor RID Rafael "Raffy" Garcia III, Chair Isidro "Sid" Garcia, RF Trustee/PRID Sangkoo Yun and RIPE Holger Knaack clap their hands to the beat of the vibrant music. MIDDLE: Susanne Knaack leads the invocation in a solemn moment. BOTTOM: Rotaractors carry the flags of the participating countries.



The entry of colors was up next with Rotaractors waving the flag of each participating country followed with the flags of the Rotary International Institute, Rotary International, and the Philippines. The national anthems were played.

PDG Sid Garcia formally welcomed the delegates. He emphasized the 2019 MARI Theme: *Connect, Collaborate and Create*—which is the heart of the Rotary experience in serving global communities. He promised that the 2019 MARI will be filled with new ideas that the Rotarians can take home.

Institute Vice Chair for Promotions PDG **Rolando “Oyan” Villanueva** led the roll call of all participating countries with each group cheering at the top of their voices.

“  
**So as we celebrate the way Rotary connects the world, let’s get to work that Rotary remains a beacon of hope for the generations to come.**

**– RIPE Holger Knaack**





Mayor Imelda Calixto-Rubiano presents the key to Pasay City, to RIPE Holger Knaack, assisted by Convenor RID Rafael "Raffy" Garcia III and Chair PDG Isidro "Sid" Garcia.



## MESSAGES

The Pasay City Mayor, Honorable **Imelda Calixto-Rubiano**, delivered her keynote message. “Rotary has uplifted the lives of many people in its exemplary record of service above self,” she said. She invited the delegates over to Pasay and other areas of Manila to experience Pinoy Christmas. She then called RID Raffy Garcia and PDG Sid Garcia to assist her in officially handing the key of the City of Pasay to RIPE Holger Knaack.

RID Raffy Garcia then thanked the organizing committee for their year-long efforts.





According to him, the success of the 2019 MARI will hopefully secure the Philippine Rotary's bid for the 2026 RI Convention.

RIPE Holger Knaack took the stage next and spoke about Rotary's future. He ensured continuity by working closely with the Rotaractors. There is a need to reach out to younger members and to strengthen Rotary through innovative approaches and solutions.

“So as we celebrate the way Rotary connects the world, let's get to work that Rotary remains a beacon of hope for the generations to come,” RIPE Holger Knaack said. PRID Rafael Hechanova Sr. presented him with a plaque of appreciation.

Rotary Institute Secretary **Rufino “Penny” Policarpio III** gave a few administrative reminders before RI General Secretary **John Hewko's** video message was played. Secretary Hewko stressed the need of the Rotary to adopt a new club and membership mindset.

The Opening Ceremonies was adjourned promptly by Convenor RID Raffy Garcia.



RIPE Holger Knaack



PRID Rafael Hechanova



PDG Rufino "Penny" Policarpio



Convenor RID Rafael "Raffy" Garcia III




# Opening Ceremonies





# ROTARY INSTITUTE 2019

MANILA

Rotary   
Zones 1B, 9,10 (A,B,C)

