



ROTARY INSTITUTE 2019

MANILA

PROCEEDINGS

CHAPTER 7

**THE EVENING EVENTS**





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## THE

### EVENING

### EVENTS

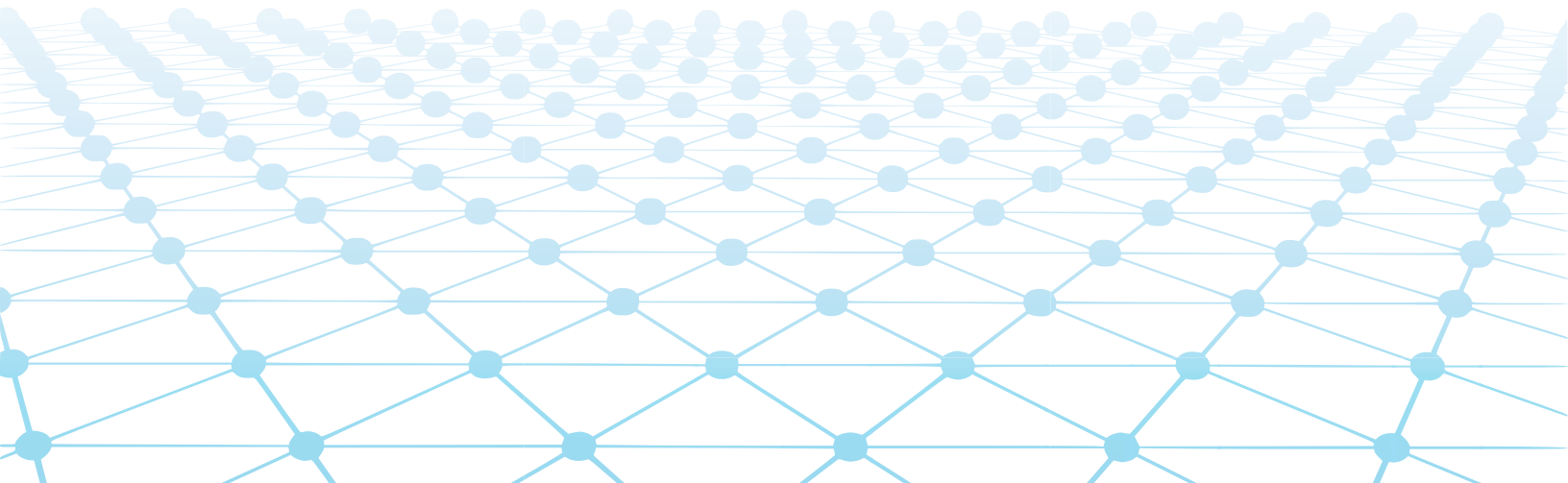
ROTARY INSTITUTE 2019


**MANILA**

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As soon as the sun rose, the Rotarians were up for the morning sessions of the 2019 Manila Rotary Institute; and as soon as it had set, the Rotarians were dressed for the evening events.

The morning discussions were invigorating and made the MARI delegates all the more excited for the evening programs that guaranteed good food, great company, world-class entertainment and nonstop dancing.

# The Cultural Night: A Cultural Awakening and A Celebration of the Philippines' Economic Strides

**T**he Cultural Night commenced right after the Opening Ceremonies on the first day.

The Philippines opened with a breathtaking performance of *Ragragsakan* of the Kalinga and the *Singkil* of the *Maranaos* from Mindanao. The Rotarians from **District 3820** may not be professional cultural dancers but they beautifully showcased the vibrant and diverse culture of the Philippines.

Chair of the Cultural Night Institute Vice Chairman, Past District Governor (PDG) **Edna Sutter** was then called to deliver the welcome remarks. She recognized the hospitality of the Filipino Rotarians and acknowledged the presence of international Rotarians. She wished everyone would derive a sense of community from the event.

She then called DG **Bernadette “BH” Herrera** of D3780 to introduce the event's guest of honor and keynote speaker, Department of Finance Secretary **Carlos**



DG Bernadette Herrera



PDG Edna Sutter



Finance Secretary Carlos "Sonny" Dominguez III



Convenor RID Rafael "Raffy" Garcia III, Finance Secretary Carlos "Sonny" Dominguez III, Chair PDG Isidro "Sid" Garcia, RIPE Holger Knaack TRF Trustee Sangkoo Yun



**“Sonny” Dominguez III.** DG BH Herrera commended the secretary for his commitment, perseverance, passion, and service to the country.

Secretary Sonny Dominguez, who is a member of the **Rotary Club of Manila** won the applause of the crowd with his opening line, “I find that my most important speeches always begin with the phrase, ‘My fellow Rotarians.’ He commended Rotary International for its deep commitment to social service.

As Finance Secretary, he reported the economic accomplishments of the Duterte administration including the strong annual GDP growth of 6-7%, poverty reduction and a sustained high growth rate. Secretary Sonny is counting on Rotarians to help spread the word on the country’s impressive economic growth.

Convenor RI Director (RID) **Rafael “Raffy” Garcia III** with Spouse **Minda**



and Chair PDG **Isidro “Sid” Garcia** and spouse **Teresita** handed the secretary a token of appreciation. RID Raffy Garcia and Chair PDG Sid Garcia then led the celebratory toast. RI President-Elect (RIPE) **Holger Knaack** and TRF Trustee **Sangkoo Yun** joined them onstage to mark the start of the cultural performance competition.

The groups would be judged according to cultural authenticity of performance and costume, audience interaction and impact, concept, and connection to the “*Connect. Collaborate. Create*” theme of the institute. The winner, picked by TRF Trustee **Sangkoo Yun**’s spouse **Eunson Yun**, RIPE **Holger Knaack**’s spouse **Susanne Knaack**, and RID **Stephanie Urchick**, would take home US\$2,000.

With almost each performance, RI President-Elect (RIPE) Holger Knaack was pulled to the stage to perform with

the Rotarians. A real trouper, the spritely president-elect hopped on to the stage with a big smile.

Bangladesh was up first, followed by Pakistan's first group, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan's second group, Taiwan District 3502, Taiwan District 3481, and lastly, Thailand. Bangladesh had a sparkly dance performance while Pakistan wowed the audience with a mime.





Hong Kong filled up the stage with a beautiful Chinese song while Indonesia prepared a Bali dance. Malaysia performed a cheery song then Pakistan's second group amazed the crowd with four different cultural dances. Taiwan District 3502 showcased an all-female folk dance for welcoming spring while Taiwan District 3481 took the entire audience to a concert with beautiful harmonies.



The Filipinos in the audience were awed that they sang a Filipino song, *Dahil Sa Iyo*, with a perfect accent. Thailand was last with a dance performance that displayed the colorful Thai festivals, temples and other beautiful landmarks.

All the performing groups were acknowledged and returned to the stage one by one. With much applause and no surprise, the singing Taiwan District 3481 took home the bacon.

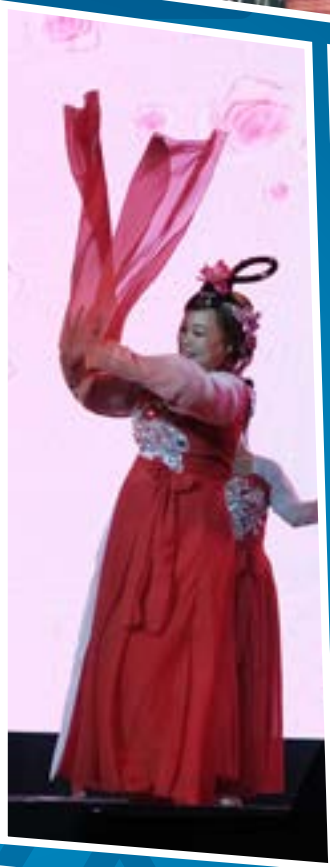
It was finally time for everyone to take the dance floor and dance to the live band music.



“

**With much applause and no surprise, the singing District 3481 Rotarians from Taiwan took home the bacon.**





# GALA NIGHT

CAPTURING THE GLITZ AND  
GLAMOUR OF THE GATSBY  
PERIOD AND REMEMBERING  
THE FIRST POLIO VACCINE  
IN THE PHILIPPINES  
40 YEARS AGO

“**The Philippines is the first country to have a Polio immunization grant from Rotary.**”

**T**he Manila Rotary Institute’s Gala Night was a celebration that capped the Institute’s second day.

Delegates wore their best Gatsby-inspired outfits, while onstage, dancers and singers captured the flamboyant Gatsby parties accompanied with breathtaking pyrotechnic and smoke effects. The evening offered free Dalmore, Jura, and Whyte & Mackay whiskey, and wine.

Everyone sang in chorus for the birthday of Spouse **Minda Garcia**, the lovely wife of Convenor RID **Raffy Garcia**. Past President **Reggie Nolido** of Rotary Club of Makati gave a brief recap of the





Polio Commemorative Program held earlier on the same day at his club's clubhouse in Guadalupe Viejo, Makati, where 40 years ago, then RI president **James L. Bomar Jr.** put the first drops of vaccine into a child's mouth, and ceremonially launched the Philippine poliomyelitis immunization effort funded by Rotary's first Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grant at a cost of about US\$760,000 (USD 2.39 million in today's value).

Incumbent Health Secretary **Francisco Duque III** together with RIPE **Holger Knaack** and other dignitaries reenacted the historical distribution of polio vaccines to Filipino children who were invited to the event and re-signed the landmark document.

As the Rotarians were finishing their dinner, PDG **Ursula “Chit” Lijauco**, chair of the Gala Night, took to the podium and announced that five precious paintings with a value of P480,000 (about US\$9,500) will be raffled off, thanks to the donation of Gallery Genesis owner PDG **Ernesto “Ernie” Salas**. PDG **Aziz Memon** from Pakistan also made a generous donation of 1,000 copies



“Through decades of commitment and work by Rotary and our partners, more than 2.5 billion children have received the oral polio vaccine.”





"For 33 years TRF has accumulated has accumulated experience, knowledge, and established accountability, transparency and credibility in its operations."

of the Directory of Rotary Governors in the zones represented in the institute.

DG **Nelson Aspe** introduced the next speaker, Past RID and TRF Trustee **Sangkoo Yun**, who said that for 33 years, **The Rotary Foundation (TRF)** has accumulated experience, knowledge, and established accountability, transparency and credibility in its operations.



Rotarians can still add to this legacy: add to the good of humanity, add to assure a peaceful world, add to the initiative to deliver Rotary’s promise to the children of the world to eradicate polio, and add to the effort to increase membership, diversify Rotary, understand differences, increase tolerance, and work towards a common goal of peace in the world. “We all have our own personal life purposes,” said TRF Trustee Sankoo Yoon, but what Rotarians can do is to “add onto our personal life purposes—a greater purpose for doing good to our community.”

When the program was over, the Institute delegates danced the night away to the lively music of the “Route 70” band.





GALA NIGHT  
2019 MAJILA ROTARY INSTITUTE

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# GALA NIGHT

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*The Roaring*  
**TWENTIES**



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