



Speech at Taiwan Rotary Youth Exchange Convention

Rev. Shindo Kondo

Distinguished Governors, Rotarians. ladies and gentlemen.

In 1942, the Australian Air Force took off from Australia to attack the Japanese imperial military forces that had invaded and occupied Rabaul. During this operation against the Japanese military base in Rabaul, there was one Australian soldier who lost his eyesight due to an anti-aircraft fire. After the war, he became a Rotarian. He had the strong belief that such a tragedy should never be repeated. In 1958, when the RI Convention was held in Tokyo, he came to Japan in spite of his blindness. His objective was to start the youth Exchange between Australia and Japan. He wanted Australia to overcome the tragic experience of the war by promoting friendship between the Youth who are to lead both countries in the future. Responding to his wish, D270 Kurume Rotary Club of Japan decided to send a student to Australia. But it was not so easy. There was a strong objection from his own club to host a student from Japan, a former enemy. He persuaded each objecting Rotarian one by one, and finally succeeded in winning their agreement to host this student. In 1962, she came to Australia. Her name is Yoko Miyazaki, a girl of 16 and a first year student of Kurume Shin-Ai Girl's High School. And the Rotary Club that kindly hosted her was the Rosebud Rotary Club D982 Victoria, Australia. The name of this blind Rotarian who worked hard to realize the exchange is Donald Farkfar. This was the first exchange student in Rotary Youth Exchange between Japan and Australia.

As of 2010, 1791 long-term exchange students have participated in the Japan-Australia Youth Exchange Program over the past 20 years. Japan has exchanged programs with 49 countries. A total of 10108 students have participated and Australia is second in terms of the number of students exchanged, following the United States with which we exchanged 3864 students. According to the date of RI Headquarters, annual exchange of long term students is around 7,000, and Japan is involved in about 8 percent of those exchanges, 17percent of Japan's exchanges is with Australia.

The strong will of one Australian Rotarian, has led to this great achievement that has fostered close-ties between Japan and Australia.

The Youth Exchange Program became an official Rotary program in 1972. The YEO Reconvension, which is held every year just before RO Convention, also received its official status as a Reconvension the Rotary International Convention, which is, was invited by the RI Headquarters to its Mexico Convention in 1991.

Until the Seoul Convention, YEO had organized its International YEO Meetings independently to coincide with the timing and venue of the RI Convention. Arrangements for the venue, registration of participants and agenda of the meetings were all decided without any support from the RI.

As I have just explained, the Rotary Youth Exchange Programs has a long history. Let us take a moment to reflect on the program and ask us the following questions/. "What is the Rotary Youth Exchange Program? What is the proper way to manage the Rotary Youth



Exchange Program?”

Needless to say, Rotary is the world's largest and most prestigious service organization. Many Rotarians around the world offer their services for the people suffering from hunger and for the children in the least developed countries where every 8 seconds a child dies of unclean water. They serve to restore peace of mind to the victims of wars and to help the survivors of tsunami and other natural disasters who have lost their homes to support themselves. Rotary has been involved in the development of capable human resources. The first woman to become the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mrs. Sadako Ogata was also the first Japanese scholarship student of the Rotary Foundation. Rotary is an active member of the local community, and there are many Rotarians who are working to make their towns more safe and either in terms of the natural environment. You may often find the Rotary "s cogwheel logo in your own town s and villages. Rotary is contributing to the society in all parts of the world, working always for other people, for the local community, for he country and also crossing national borders.

Youth Exchange is one of these many activities of the Rotary. But it is also different from other activities in that this is the only program where the children of Rotarians are able to participate. Rotary is a service organization. Service means to serve for other people. THEY profit most who serve the best. Service for oneself is not included. And yet, the Youth Exchanges Program allows us to serve our own children. Why? The answer is found in the philosophy of this program.

The Youth Exchange Program originally started as a program of Rotarians themselves. I will give an example Let us assume that I, Shindo Kondo, had a Rotarian friend in United States, and that this American friend has a son similar in age to my son. So the two of us would decide to host each other's son for a year, I would take care of his take care of his son as my own son and he would do the same for my son. I other words, the two families would join efforts to raise our sons together so that they would become fine grown-ups. This is the starting point of Rotary's Youth Exchange Program. That is why the Rotary Foundation Scholarship uses the terms "international student" for its students, whereas the Rotary Youth Exchanges Program uses the term "exchange student" or "inbound" and "outbound". Furthermore, exchange students attend high schools in their host countries and they are basically not required to take any admission tests. In the case of an international Rotary Foundation student, he or she would have to pass the admission test. What is more interesting is that the rotary Youth Exchanges Program does not allow the host district or club to choose a particular inbound student. In principle, it will host a student who is sent by the sponsor district or club. All of these factors indicate that the Rotary Youth Exchange Program is not a study abroad program but a program intended to bring up children by means of mutual care. Rotarians join efforts to case for Rotarians' children, that is the original meaning of the Rotary Youth Exchange Program.

I have been involved in the Youth Exchange Program for 21 years. I have hosted 18 long-term exchange students and 5 short -term exchange student. At the District level, I have been serving as a district officer for Youth Exchange for 15 years and was the District Chairman for 3 years, and RI Youth Exchange Committee member for 3 years. May things happened over these years,

There was an inbound student boy who made a Japanese girl pregnant. There was an outbound Japanese boy who was sent back because she had kicked his teacher at school . This lit of troubles that come to my to my mind is almost endless.

Every time something happens, the issue is raised concerning the quality of the



students. "Can't we check the inbound students more thoroughly before they arrive in the host country?" "Do the sponsor district give detailed orientation to the student?" "We should request them to send us students of higher quality" etc, etc

Here are also some of the concerns expressed by the host families. "Why did he come? He doesn't even try to learn the language or do his school work" or "We thought it would be good opportunity to teach him about Japanese culture and history, but he is simply not interested." or "He doesn't mix with friends and stays in his room and is always at his computer." In the end, sometimes a student is sent back immediately because he or she is found to be not suitable as an exchange student.

Now, my fellow Rotarians, can we go back and reflect again on the original staging point of the Youth Exchange Program?

The objective of the Rotary Youth Exchange Program is to join our efforts in raising our children together so that they will become respectable adult. Some children may score good grades at school. Some may do better at sports. Some may be bright but selfish, some may be pretty and charming, some may not be as gifted. There are also children with physical disabilities. What is important, however, is to realize that your child will always be your child regardless of the positive or negative qualities. Are you going to cut off your relationship with your child because he does not score good grades at school or because he stays in his room all the time sitting at his computer or he was careless in making his girlfriend pregnant? Probably not. Although he or she may have problems that people may talk about, as a parent you will always love your child from the beginning of mankind.

All Rotary Youth Exchange Students are our children. They may cause all sorts of trouble, but we cannot simply say that they are no-good. We must love them and care for them as if we were their true parents. The Rotarians in outbound students side must work closely with the Rotarians in inbound students side to share information about the exchange student, and to think hard to find out the best way for that student by sharing the agony and the pain in addressing the problems when they occur. As a result, early return may be the best option for certain students, but for others it may be better to have them stay for the full period. The most important point is to think of what is best for the future of the student. This is the essence of Rotary Youth Exchange Program that emphasizes the child-rearing aspect.

Here, it is crucial for the host district Rotarians to have good relations with the sponsor district Rotarians based on mutual trust. The relationship between district chairpersons is especially important. The solid relationship built on mutual trust and friendship is what we rely on in sending our children to far away foreign countries. Before we question the qualities of our students and the thoroughness of the orientation given by sponsor district, there is something that we Rotarians must achieve. And that is to establish a firm bond of mutual trust and friendship among the Rotarians first. I hope we can say to our exchange student, "Don't worry, you will spend a wonderful year over there," because "it is my friend who is waiting for you in Japan" or "it is my friend who is hosting you in Taiwan." Rotary Youth Exchange students who experience the deep loving care of Rotarians are sure to grow up as fine goodwill ambassadors in the future, and will contribute to world peace by serving as a bridge between the host and sponsor countries.

Our first exchange student to Australia, Yoko Miyazaki, she has contributed to the understanding between Japan and Australia. She has become the goodwill ambassador of the world. And I would like to pay my deep respect to the blind Rotarian Donald Farkfar, for his noble ideals and passion toward peace, for his courage to act based on his belief. His very first exchange, only one though, has made that Australia is the second largest



Rotary Youth Exchange counterpart of Japan. The exchange between Japan and Taiwan is the same. The total number of exchange last 5 years is only 47. The number is small but number is not important. We are the nearest countries each other. We have a long history of friendship, though we Japanese has inflicted much pain on the Taiwan people in World War 2nd, which I, as one Japanese, am ashamed and wish to apologize. We Japanese have learned a lot from China, we have a very keen economic connection. And we have same color of skin, we use similar Kanji and more over we are both Asian people with Asian heat.

So, my fellow Rotarians gathering here today, in the field of Rotary Youth Exchange too, I believe we can do something, we can do something wonderful, if we get together though our exchange number is small. Because we know the number is not important. The important thing is our philosophy of Youth Exchange, which one blind Rotarian in Australia proved 48 years ago.

Lastly, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your invitation to the conference. Thank you for your attention.

RYEMT日本貴賓近藤真道先生演講稿譯文

各地區區總監、多地區基金會董事長、扶輪社社友、各位先生、各位女士大家好。

在1942年，澳洲空軍襲擊日本皇家軍隊，並入侵佔領Rabaul。在這次戰爭中，一位澳洲士兵由於對空射擊，不幸地造成眼睛失明。戰後，他成為一位扶輪社友，他堅信這樣的悲劇不應該再次發生。1958年，當RI年會在東京舉行時，儘管他已經失明，他還是前往日本，希望開啟澳洲與日本之間的青少年交換。他希望藉著提倡兩國青年的友誼來克服戰爭所帶來的悲劇。如他所願，日本D270地區Kurume扶輪社決定派遣一位學生到澳洲。但是這項計劃執行之初，並不是那麼容易，來自社內反對接待曾是敵人的日本青少年的聲浪不斷，然而他逐一說服反對此案的社友，終於贏取他們的同意，來接待這位日本學生。在1962年，Yoko Miyaziki，16歲宮崎同學就讀澳洲高中一年級。當時接待社是澳洲D982地區維多利亞Rosebud扶輪社。當年努力達成日本和澳洲青少年交換計劃的失明扶輪社社友叫Donald Farkfar。

直到2010年，在過去20年來，有179位長期交換學生參加日本澳洲青少年交換計劃。日本與49個國家配合交換學生計劃，目前總共有10,108位學生參與此項計劃。就人數而言，澳洲排名第二，其次是美國，交換人數是3,864位學生。根據RI統計，每年交換學生人數7,000名，日本大約佔了8%，而其中17%的學生都前往澳洲。所以，Donald Farkfar一位意志堅定的澳洲扶輪社友，成就了日本和澳洲二國密切的關係。

青少年交換計劃在1972年成為一個正式的扶輪計劃。每年RI年會之前，舉辦YEO年會。直到韓國首爾大會，YEO獨立地組織國際YEO會議，並與RI大會的時間和地點相符，包括會議、地點、參加人數與會議議程都由YEO來規劃。

YEP計劃已經實行了一段時間了，我們來思考下面幾個問題：“何謂YEP計劃？”、“如何正確規劃YEP計劃？”。

大家都知道，扶輪社是世界上最大又最負盛名的服務性組織。許多落後國家每8秒，就有一位兒童由於水源不乾淨而死，所以世界各地的扶輪社友極救貧窮孩童免於飢餓，幫助這些遭受戰爭迫害、大海嘯及自然天災的破壞而失去家園的倖存者，恢復心靈的平靜。扶輪社也參與了人力資源的發展。第一位成為聯合國難民事務高級專員的女士Sadak Qgata，她也是日本第一位扶輪基金女獎學生。扶輪社是地區稱職的社團，有更多的扶輪社社友投入天然環境的保護。今天在世界各地，看到扶輪徽章，表示扶輪服務已經超越了社區、社會及國界。

青少年交換計劃是扶輪活動之一，但它與其他活動不同之處，在於扶輪社友的子女可以共同參與。



扶輪以服務為宗旨，服務愈多，獲益愈大。扶輪社友的子孫參與這項計劃，正是此計劃的精神所在。

扶輪青少年計劃源起於扶輪社友。例如，我在美國有一位扶輪朋友，他的兒子與我兒子年齡相近，所以我們二個扶輪家庭決定互相接待一年。換句話說，這二個扶輪家庭共同盡心地教導這二位孩子，這是扶輪青少年計劃的源起。這就是為什麼扶輪基金獎學金，使用“國際學生”。而扶輪青少年計劃，使用“交換學生”或“歸國的”或“出國的”等字眼。還有，高中交換學生基本上不需要考試入學。更有趣的是，接待地區及接待社無權挑選交換的學生。基本上，就是要接待由地區派遣的學生。所以扶輪青少年計劃，並不是海外求學計劃，而是透過雙方家庭對孩子的關照，讓孩子在扶輪家庭中成長，這就是此計劃的原意。

我參與扶輪交換計劃已經21年了，曾接待18位一年期的，及5位短期的交換學生。參與地區交換計劃15年，擔任3年的地區主委及RI青少年交換計劃委員會委員3年，其中發生了許多事情。

例如：Inbound男學生與日本女孩交往，導致她懷孕。一位Outbound學生，在學校毆打老師，而被遣送回日本。這一類的列子，真是多得數不清。

每次問題一發生，“學生的品質”的議題，就再度被質疑。“難道不能更嚴謹地審核這些交換學生嗎？”、“地區對這些學生所做的行前訓練課程夠嗎？”、“我們應該要求對方派遣更好的交換學生嗎？”這類的問題，真是層出不窮。

接待家庭也有疑問，例加：“孩子為什麼要參加此計劃？又不肯學當地的語言，及學校的功課？”、“我們認為教他認識日本文化和歷史對他們有好處，但是他卻一點興趣也沒有。”或“他不跟其他人互動，只待在自己房間，使用電腦而已。”。結果，孩子因不適合當交換學生而被提前遣返。

親愛的扶輪社友們，讓我們回想扶輪交換計劃的原意吧！

扶輪青少年交換計劃的目的，是扶輪社友共同努力，培養出讓人尊敬的下一代。有些孩子可能在校功課很好，有些可能在運動方面表現傑出，有些孩子美麗又有天份，有些孩子可能是肢體殘障。然而，不管是正面或負面的因素，最重要的是他們仍是我們的孩子，難道因為成績不好，整天在房間裏玩電腦，或行為不當使女孩子懷孕，就切斷了親子關係嗎？不可能的，這就是人性，我們愛孩子。

參與交換計劃的學生都是我們的孩子，他們可能會製造一些問題，但不能斷定他們不好，我們應該像照顧自己孩子般的關心他們。扶輪社友們應該與Inbound和Outbound的學生一起分享經驗，共同解決問題。提早將孩子遣返也許是好的，但是讓他們完成一年的交換計劃，也許對他們會更好。所以最重要的是要思考怎樣處理問題，對孩子的未來是最好的。這正是扶輪交換計劃的本質。

派遣地區與接待地區的扶輪社友彼此之間的互信，非常重要。所以地區青少年交換計劃主委們建立彼此互信，更顯重要。也就是說，彼此建立在互信之下來進行交換計劃，那麼諸如孩子品質不好或行前訓練不足等的爭論，就可以迎刃而解了。我希望我們能對我們的交換學生說，“不用擔心，這一年你將會過得充實又愉快，因為我的扶輪朋友一定會好好接待你。”這羣扶輪交換學生，在扶輪社友們愛的關懷下成長。長大後，更是最佳的親善大使，搭起促進世界和平的橋樑。

日本派遣至澳洲的第一位交換學生Yoko Miyazaki，對日澳雙方促進了解貢獻很大。她也成為世界親善大使。在此，對這位失明的扶輪社友Donald Farkfar，我要致上最高的敬意。他對世界和平的理想和熱情，使澳洲成為日本青少年計劃的第二夥伴。日本與台灣的交換計劃也是一樣。過去五年，二個的交換學生人數是47位，人數雖少，但數字並不重要。台日雙方有良好的友誼，雖然二次世界大戰期間，日本曾入侵台灣，在此我深表歉意。但是我們彼此膚色相同，延用類似的漢字，而且我們是心繫亞洲，培養亞洲情。

今天扶輪社友們共聚一堂，在扶輪青少年計劃領域，雖然台日交換學生人數不多，但是二個仍能共創美好的未來。

最後，再一次感謝大會的邀請。謝謝大家！